

“Working Together for a Better Community”

NEROCHE VILLAGES

Issue No 10

Newsletter

November 2013

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

Well thank goodness we finally had a decent summer and the chance to really get out and enjoy the beautiful Somerset countryside in its full glory. But don't stay indoors just because the nights are drawing-in. Autumn is a great season for dramatic colour as green gives way to vibrant reds, oranges and yellows. Try to get out to the local woods, kick your way through fallen leaves, just for the fun of it and take in vistas that were previously hidden behind thick foliage. And if it's raining – don some wellies and try a bit of stress relief therapy by jumping in puddles. It always brings a smile to my face!



Welcome to the tenth 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.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Foreword

By: Richard Davies

(Chairman of Trustees of Neroche Hall)



"We are delighted that Richard Davies, Chairman of Trustees of Neroche Hall, agreed to produce the Foreword for this month's Neroche Villages' Newsletter. It is an example of the cooperation that exists between the Newsletter Team and the Hall Committee, and the importance we place upon the symbiotic relationship that subsists between the two. Richard has resided in Curland since 2000; he joined the Neroche Hall Committee in 2008 and was elected Chairman of the Trustees in 2011."

It is with great pleasure that I accepted an invitation to write the foreword for this issue of the Neroche Villages' Newsletter. I am very proud to be a Trustee at the Neroche Hall and I know that my fellow Trustees, together with our co-opted members, feel the same way.

Community is a frequently used word in this day-and-age, and can mean many things to many people. Our community, although one which is spread across a large parish, comprises a rich mixture of people from all walks of life, and is one that often comes together in a number of different ways. The catalyst is often some type of event or function within the parish, and many of these are held at Neroche Hall; so there can be few who are not aware of the hall and its location but there may still be those who have never stepped across the threshold, for whatever reason.

One of my aims as a Trustee is to promote the use of the hall for both community and local events, as well as hiring it out to various individuals or organisations, whether it be for a wedding reception or a meeting. As a member of our local community, I find great satisfaction and reward in seeing the building used for local events. This is 'after all is said and done' the reason the building was given over to the Trustees through the Trust Deed, which was set up in 1978.

Since that time much has been done to improve not only the facilities and the fabric of the building but also to generate a wide and diverse use of the space. One must pay tribute to past and present Trustees for the building we have

today, and it is essential that we continue to look to the future. We are always looking to generate interest and new uses for the hall by encouraging new people to join our committee, as this invariably brings forward fresh and innovative ideas. It is important, therefore, as with any modern forward-looking organisation, that we develop rather than stagnate. If you feel you could contribute in some small way, please don't be afraid to get in touch and you will be sure of a warm welcome.

We are very lucky that the Neroche Villages' Newsletter is supportive in not only running advertisements for our forthcoming events but also in printing articles about them. Publicity is often the key to success, especially when trying to reach a wide audience, and the newsletter certainly meets that function, for which we are extremely grateful.

Finally, it only remains for me to say that it is always lovely to see new faces at our hall and I hope that you may feel you can spare the time to come and see us. We have several exciting events in the run up to Christmas and you will probably read about some of them within these pages.

Remember, you can always catch-up with us, and get news of what's going on now and in the future, by visiting our website at: nerochehall.org.uk

NEROCHE HALL JUMBLE SALE COORDINATOR REQUIRED

Here at Neroche Hall our jumble sale coordinator has, for many years, run a very successful operation, securing much needed funds for the hall and providing recycling, at its best, for the community. He has now decided to retire and we need an enthusiastic volunteer to take on the task in order for it to continue.

Traditionally, the jumble sale has taken place in January, providing people with the opportunity for a New Year clear-out but the date is flexible. In addition, there are regular volunteers who normally help on the day.

There is no need to be a member of the Neroche Hall committee but if you wish to join then you would be more than welcome. In addition, if anyone is interested in volunteering to help at the event, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

***If you think you may be able to help, please contact
Richard Davies 01823 480286 for a chat.***

Bickenhall, Curland and Staple Fitzpaine Scarecrow Festival 2013



In recent weeks, while driving around Bickenhall, Curland and Staple Fitzpaine, the sudden and unexpected appearance of scarecrows in all manner of guises has been a delight for locals and visitors.



In total, there were 15 scarecrow displays and this annual festival has quickly become a local tradition which, hopefully, will carry on for many years to come. This shouldn't be a problem if the makers maintain the inspiration, originality and "build quality" of this year's scarecrows.



Well done to everyone who was involved in the festival, especially the winners (by public vote):

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1st | The Pole Vaulter | (John Cooney) |
| 2nd | Little Miss Muffet | (Hannah Perry) |
| 3rd | The Guardsman | (Gaynor Carter) |

The organisers would like to thank the sponsors; BASC, Hannah May Hair Studios of Ilminster and the Greyhound Inn, Staple Fitzpaine. Money raised by the event has been donated to St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine.



Which Was Your Favourite Scarecrow?



Winnie The Super Witch



Bob-No-Fish



Big Fat Staple Wedding



The Professor



Starry Knight



Peter Pan



Gulliver



Mary, Mary



Retirement



The Exterminator



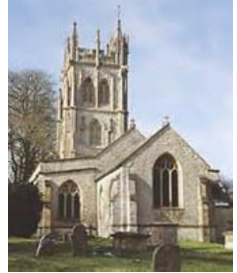
Little Red Riding Hood



Look Out

ST PETER'S CHURCH, STAPLE FITZPAINE

We normally leave the advertising of church services to the Parish Magazine and the benefice website; however, as we approach Remembrance Sunday and Christmas we thought that you might appreciate notification of the following special services and events.



Service of Remembrance - Sunday 10th November at 10.55am

Carol Service - Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm

Enjoy a traditional Christmas celebration followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Carol Singing Around the Villages - Saturday 21st December

Further details to be announced

Christmas Day Communion Service at 10.00am

*Using the Silver Curland Chalice
(a precious local ancient artefact)*

St Peter's Church is part of the 'Seven Sowers Benefice' of which further details can be found at www.sevensowers.org.uk

WINTER CRAFT FAYRE



NEROCHE PARISH HALL, BICKENHALL

16th NOVEMBER 2013

2.00pm to 4.30pm

Buy your Christmas presents here

Coffee, tea & refreshments on sale

*For details of tables & space
Contact Mrs A Brown Tel 01823 480441
Or email alison-anthony@battensfarm.fsnet.co.uk*

NEROCHE THURSDAY LUNCHESES 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 November, 5th December (Christmas Lunch - book
early as this one is very popular) , 2nd January, 6th February**

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 Peter's Church

Can YOU help?

*The Thursday Lunch team needs volunteers; not necessarily for cooking, but to assist with transport, serving and washing-up!
If you can help, please contact Alison on the above number.*



Could you offer someone a home far from home for just a day or two? HOST, a well-established charity, is hoping to hear from people who enjoy making others feel at home and who would love to meet interesting young adults from other parts of the world who are currently studying at universities in the UK and who want to understand this country better.

Invitations can be for a day, a weekend, or 3 days at Christmas. Sharing Christmas with someone who has little idea what Christmas is can be really special – and for the guest, much better than being on a deserted university campus. Invitations are urgently needed from volunteer hosts, no matter how far they live from a university. To find out more please see www.hostuk.org or contact local organiser Frances Good T: 01934 712606.

welcoming international students

COMING SOON TO NEROCHE HALL

FRIDAY 4th APRIL

NEROCHE TAKE ART

Presents

'Cosmic Sausage'

A fantastic evening of fun with these talented musicians and comic performers

Appearing as a gentle folk band and armed only with acoustic instruments, The Cosmic Sausages ambush their audience with a barrage of pop classics, circus, slapstick and crowd participation. They have performed their street shows over 250 times and appeared at Glastonbury five times.



For more info or '*Early Bird tickets*' call Anne

01460 234377 or Jane 01460 234410

Editor: This will be a great evening's entertainment, and likely to sell-out faster than the Rolling Stones 50th Anniversary concert in the O2 Arena last November. As a consequence, the Take Art committee has kindly agreed to give this advance Notice to readers of the Neroche Villages' Newsletter, to allow us to order our tickets early; you are strongly advised to pick-up-the-phone now!

BBC Art Competition - Local Winner



Amateur artist, **Lucy Howard** from Staple Fitzpaine, has been crowned the '2013 Art Competition' winner of the BBC TV programme 'The One Show'.

Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood, who, as well as being a musician, is an established and successful artist, chose Lucy's 'Cream Tea' picture as the winner from the four finalists in the studio and said that Lucy was a national gem.

Interview with Lucy Howard (by Alan Perrior)

Q. How and when did you enter the competition?

A. One evening, in July, I was watching The One Show with my children and saw the piece about the competition. Amateur artists across the UK were invited to enter a drawing or picture on the theme 'Where I Live' and I thought my picture 'Bloomin' Roast' (which shows me in frantic cooking mode) fitted the brief perfectly.

The initial 700 entries were whittled down to 24 pictures, these were then judged by a panel of professional artists and a curator of the national portrait gallery. The judges chose four finalists and gave them a further brief on the theme of 'British Summertime'.



I decided to paint a 'Cream Tea' picture using my husband and daughter as models. I was a bit worried as we were only given a week, which is not a long time to do a painting, especially in the summer holidays with the children at home.

The final four pictures were then judged again and Ronnie Wood picked mine, as the overall winner, live on the TV show.

Q. What's happened since the TV show?

A. After the show both pictures 'Bloomin' Roast' and 'Cream Tea' were exhibited at Salford Quays in Manchester.

I've had many requests for prints of the two pictures in the competition so I am getting prints made of these. I have approached art galleries in Taunton and Ilminster, with the view to exhibiting soon. I am working on a website and already have a facebook page Lucy Howard Art, [facebook.com/www.lucyhowardart.org](https://www.facebook.com/www.lucyhowardart.org).



Q. How long have you been painting and what inspires your work?

A. I have always drawn and painted but have only been painting seriously since January this year. I paint in acrylic on

board and am inspired by everyday things such as household chores and my garden; I tend to use my family and pets as models.

I am very much influenced by Stanley Spencer who I think is an incredible artist. I enjoy seeing people's response to my art and hopefully I can make them smile.



Q. What are your plans for your future as an artist?



A. Ideally I would like to be exhibiting regularly and producing prints, postcards and greetings cards as an affordable way to buy art. I have never exhibited before and only ever sold one picture.

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***All pictures in this article are
'Copyright - Lucy Howard'.***

News From Neroche Parish Council

Our new Clerk to the Parish Council, Gillian Midworth, has kindly agreed to produce a regular feature for our Newsletter



This is my introductory article for the Newsletter as I have recently been appointed as the new Clerk to Neroche Parish Council.

In addition to Neroche Parish Council, I have been undertaking the role of Clerk to neighbouring West Hatch Parish Council for seven years and I am also the Clerk to the small parish of Beercombe.

I look forward to working with everyone in the community of Neroche and becoming more familiar with the Parish. I find that walking a dog is a great way to learn about places and I often walk our dog along the Herepath and through Bickenhall. I can foresee that the dog will have even more exercise as I explore the parish further!

I have already become aware of the great community spirit within the Parish and a good example of this is the summer Scarecrow Competition. All my family enjoyed seeking out the scarecrows and voting for their particular favourite.

The summer months are often quieter for Parish Councils, after the busy time of Annual Parish Meetings and completion of annual accounts, but now that autumn is approaching, and the holiday season finishes, the workload increases.



The most recent Parish Council meeting took place on 12th September and a variety of issues were discussed. One item which will be of particular interest to parishioners is the introduction of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) within the parish.

The Parish Council has requested SIDs in two locations, opposite the Polo Ground (on Thurlbear Straight), and at Staple Fitzpaine (near New Road). Initial speed readings have been taken to ensure that the locations meet the criteria for installation. As a result of these readings, the location at the Polo ground qualifies for inclusion in the programme. This means that a SID will be installed for a period of two weeks on a regular basis (every four months).

The speed readings at Staple Fitzpaine were not high enough to justify automatic inclusion to the programme, but a secondary speed reading will now be taken using a SID. This will be installed for a two week period and will give a truer representative figure of the speed at which vehicles are travelling. The Parish Council has no dates as yet for the installation of these devices but if you see them appear on the roads, then you will know the reason why!

You may be aware that The Orchard Portman Nursing Home has recently announced the closure of all the nursing home beds in the older parts of the building. Nursing home beds will remain in the newer extension and the Pavilion Hospital will continue to operate. The Parish Council has invited representatives of the Orchard Portman site to the next Parish Council meeting on November 14th, so that we may learn of any future development plans for the site.



I would like to remind everyone that Parish Council meetings are public events and members of the community are invited to attend. The District and County Councillors are often in attendance and parishioners do have the opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of the meeting. The dates of the meetings are published on the website, so do come along if you wish to raise an issue or merely hear about what is happening in the parish.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY BINGO

**Friday
13th
December**



**6.30pm
for eyes down
7.00pm**

**NEROCHE HALL BICKENHALL
REFRESHMENTS RAFFLE
BICKENHALL & DISTRICT WI**

Focus on Local Business

We have two self-storage businesses in Neroche Parish: Blackdown Storage (part of Staple Farm Enterprises) at Staple Farm in Staple Fitzpaine (www.staplefarm.co.uk); and 'Parsons Self Store' at Seymour's Farm, Curland. This month's article features the latter, and we will cover Blackdown Storage in a future issue.

John and Suzanne Parsons have been running their self-storage business 'Parsons Self Store' at Seymour's Farm in Curland since 1999. They take great



pride in offering a top quality package, combined with highly competitive rates for the Taunton, Chard, Ilminster and Wellington area.

Because they live on-site, you won't be leaving your possessions in a remote, un-occupied location. Also, the Parsons are able to offer flexible times and seven-days-a-week access. All of this results in a high grade package of quality, cost and convenience

For those of us who have never used such a service, the best and probably simplest way of describing self-storage, is as a type of holiday-home for your very own, clean dry and secure

belongings. They will have their accommodation that can be hired for as long or as short a time as required. As the customer, you will have the ability to access your belongings as frequently as you wish, and at times that suit you.



'Parsons Self Store' units are suitable for document, household and business storage. They only store in fully insulated 20 foot ex-refrigeration, temperature controlled, fireproof containers or in timber containers undercover, in clean dry conditions. For the timber containers there is vehicular



access into the building, thus avoiding any issues with unloading in inclement weather. Their units range from 40 to 170 square feet, with costs ranging from £8 to £23 per week (all inclusive). They also have space for vehicles, boats, and anything else that might need storing. The versatility of the service offered, solves the problem of space for both household and business needs.

The Parsons business model is based on offering the best in affordability, reliability and security. They take great pride in having a large amount of repeat business from numerous, highly satisfied customers.

It is clear, that from ‘Parsons Self Store’ you can be sure to receive a warm welcome from a well-run and efficient family business. Moreover, there is a 10% discount if you are a Neroche Parish resident!



For more information go to www.parsonselfstore.co.uk

News from Churlbear School



At the end of the summer term, 24 of our Year 5 & 6 children, 2 members of staff and Cheryl Govier, children’s worker for the Benefice, set off from the school at 3.15am on their way to Le Mans in France to spend a week with our French partner school.

Among other activities, they learnt how to milk goats, visited a chocolate factory and enjoyed a visit to a local honey farm. Everybody had a fantastic time and teaching staff received many positive comments from members of the public for the students outstanding behaviour. We look forward to the next one!



Taunton Racecourse Owners Club

(The racecourse is the largest business in our Parish)

There is an opportunity for residents of our Parish to become involved in the world of racehorse ownership for the duration of the Taunton season. The Racecourse is looking to create an Owners Club, which will enable its members to enjoy the winter National Hunt season from the inside.

The 'Owners Club' will lease a horse, chosen by its members, from the yard of trainer Richard Woollacott at Nethercott Manor (near South Molton in Devon). The lease will last for the period November 2013 to April 2014 (inclusive).



The membership package will include: regular stable visits; newsletter and private area on the Taunton Racecourse website; frequent updates via email, video and telephone; certificate and metal badge; a complimentary owners badge when the horse runs at Taunton; ballot rights to 'Owners and Trainers Badges' when the Owners Club horse runs at other courses.



This is a wonderful and most exciting venture that any horse racing enthusiast would not wish to miss. It is also a great way of supporting our very own local racecourse.

If you would like more information about becoming a member of the Owners Club

then call Martin Higgs on 01749 671313 or 07831 752056, alternatively, drop him a note at businessclub@tauntonracecourse.co.uk

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

AT NEROCHE HALL



ON SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
STARTING 7.30PM

Get Christmas off to the best possible
start with an evening of song, verse
and prose, with lots of audience
Participation.

presented by

The Heritage Theatre Group

£5 entry (bar and snacks available)

Book your tickets by contacting:

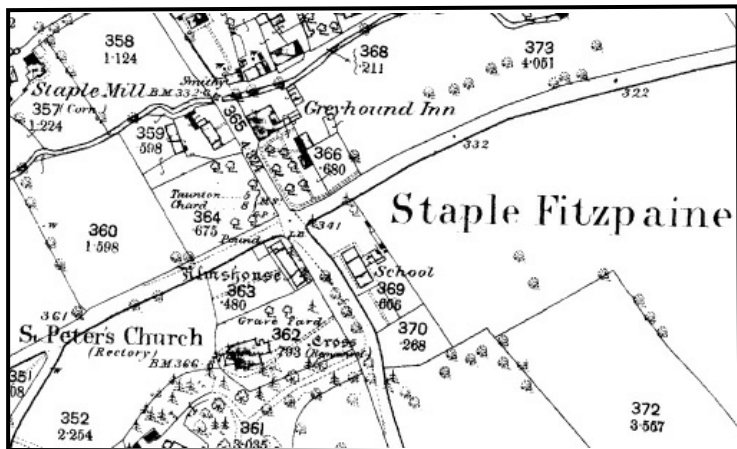
Nicky Baxter on 01823 480675 or
Richard Davies on 01823 480286 or
Colin Croad at colincroad@sky.com

Neroche Local History Group: The Lost Houses

Somerset has been inhabited over the millennia. Across on the levels, the Sweet track dates from the 4th millennium BC. In our own locality we know of two late Iron Age hill forts, one at Castle Neroche and the other at Orchard Hill. Both Bickenhall (*Bichehalle/halda*) and Staple Fitzpaine (*Staple/Estapla*) are named in the Domesday book.

We know that a Portman descendent Lady Rachel Portman lived in Bickenhall during the Tudor period. There are suggestions there was a medieval settlement along the Staple Ridge in the area of Ruttersleigh and Shute's Farm. And so the list goes on.

As a local history group we have become curious about the houses from the 18th and 19th centuries that have disappeared. Some are identifiable from the early OS maps.



Others are known about by locals who have lived in the parish all or most of their lives. Some come from people who have looked into their family history and searched for the family home or at least the site where it may have stood.

It is said that when you are searching for the sites of old houses, if you come across domestic plants, such as a gooseberry bush, it may well indicate the spot. A known site along Middleroom Lane is recognised by the signs of snowdrops and daffodils in the early spring months.

So as the history group, we are embarking upon a new and original research project. Through the efforts of many people we have so far identified in the region of about 20 lost houses.

The Victorian Census tells us that most people worked on the land and the largest number of them were agricultural labourers. Their small houses are likely to have been roughly built and may have only consisted of between two to four rooms.

One part of our study will be to try to work out what the houses may have looked like. Many of them were likely to have thatched roofs and may be similar to Stuckey's Cottage as shown in a painting from the late 1960s before the property was extensively redeveloped.



In November we will be reporting on our progress so far, so if you are interested or if you have any local knowledge or information that may help please come along to the meeting.

<p>Neroche Local History Group</p> <p>The Lost Houses</p> <p>Wed 27th Nov 7.30 at Neroche Hall</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All Welcome – Non Members £2.50</p>	
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Jane Hole jane.hole@tiscalli.co.uk

A message from Huw Jenkins (Police Sergeant to the Taunton Urban and Rural Neighbourhood Beat Team)



It pains me to say it but it's that time of year when the evenings are drawing in, and as such rural crime tends to rise as the daylight hours dwindle. With the autumn approaching we are all busy having our lawn mowers serviced for the long winter storage and ordering our central heating oil for those cold winter nights.

This is when our cunning criminal knows when to hit us hard-and-fast to take the newly serviced mower or to pop in to help themselves to the newly filled oil tank. So here are my top ten tips to hopefully help you avoid become a victim.

1)



Always try and have your oil tank secured with a padlock, and if you can, hide the location of your tank with wooden panelling, especially if your tank can be seen from the road.

2)

Fit an external security light with a sensor, there is no need to turn your home into Alcatraz prison, but let's try and put the criminals off by making your home look unappetizing and not an easy target.

3)

Ensure that your mowers are covered-up and away from prying eyes; you never know who might be looking down your driveway or over your hedge. If it's easy to be seen, it can be easy to steal.

4)

If you are not at home, make sure you close your shed or garage doors and lock them when you can.

5)

If you have gates to your property, let's keep them closed whenever possible and consider locking them at night.



- 6) Don't leave your vehicles unsecured at night, even in isolated areas car crime can be a problem. Don't leave valuables in the vehicle overnight, if there is nothing valuable or easy to grab inside, the criminal won't give it a second look.
- 7) Don't leave items lying about outside, such as ladders and tools. Let's not give the criminals the implements to make their job easier.
- 8) If you are popping out for the evening always try leaving a light on in the house to give the impression that someone is home.



The same for when you're away on that hard earned holiday, install some cheap, yet effective timers to turn those lights on and off whilst you are away.

- 9) If you have a dog, then advertise the fact by putting up a "beware of the dog" sign; there is nothing more off-putting than seeing a sign with a picture of a vicious dog to make someone walk-on-by. If you don't have a dog, then put a sign up anyway to give the impression that any unwanted visitor wouldn't receive a warm welcome.



- 10) Keep me and my colleagues apprised of suspicious activities in your area. If we don't know about what is happening, then how can we stop it? So, if it's urgent then dial 999, if it's not then call us on 101. Alternatively email us on ssntauntonurbanandrural@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk.

I hope this helps to keep you all safe in the coming months.

Take care

Huw Jenkins

TPS 2631 Huw JENKINS

Taunton Deane Borough Council News

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.

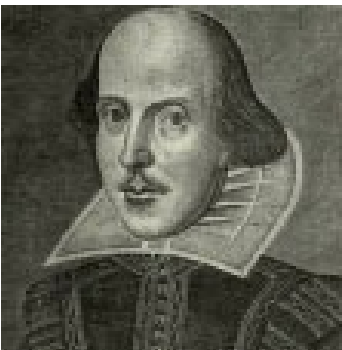
Potential Joint Management and Shared Services with West Somerset

I am often asked the question “*why is Taunton Deane exploring the potential for joint management and shared services with West Somerset Council?*” The answer is simple, to see if we can make savings that will protect front-line services most valued by the community we serve.

It is encouraging seeing that the numbers ‘stack-up’ and that substantial savings can be made through joint management and sharing services. A business case is being prepared that will be considered by authorities in October and November. It will be for all Councillors to make the final decision.



The first important step has been taken, the agreement to have a Joint Chief Executive, which already shows worthwhile savings. Clearly, both councils face immense financial challenges in the short and medium term. Joining management and sharing services will make substantial savings but will not provide the complete answer. Difficult decisions remain to be made as we approach the annual budget-setting process. The key point for me is that any money saved on management and back-office costs means more for you, the community that I represent, to provide the key services valued by so many.



Shakespeare Festival In the previous issue of your Newsletter, I mentioned William Shakespeare’s classic performances of *The Merchant of Venice* and *A Midsummers Night Dream*, being held on Castle Green. I was delighted to welcome the GB Theatre Company in early August for some absolutely superb performances.

It was not without its challenges for both performers and audiences, not least from an invasion of seagulls and the bus stops nearby! However, the general consensus from those who attended was one of great entertainment and truly excellent performances. We are certainly encouraging a return visit, hopefully on an annual basis.



‘Somerset Remembers’ Project I am sure many readers will be interested in a Government inspired initiative to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. It has led to the setting-up of the “Somerset Remembers” project, and further interesting details can be accessed at www.somersetremembers.wordpress.com. As part of this project, special commemoration goes to local recipients of the Victoria Cross. This has revealed that there has been only one Victoria Cross holder born in Somerset, and this just happens to be right next door to Neroche Parish in West Hatch. The recipient was John Collins VC DCM MM who was born at West Hatch in 1880. He was awarded the VC in 1917 for bravery during fighting in Palestine. John served with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and is buried in Merthyr Tydfil.

As somebody that was also born and brought up in West Hatch, this is of particular interest to me and I am trying to find out where the Collin’s family home was in West Hatch, without success so far, but will keep trying and let you know the outcome in the next newsletter.

I would also note we do have another famous VC holder buried at Hatch Beauchamp, Colonel John Chard VC, but he was born in Plymouth so is not a Somerset-born medal holder. He came to live with his brother who was a Clergyman in Hatch Beauchamp but was diagnosed with a terminal illness from which he died and was buried in Hatch Beauchamp churchyard.



The Brewhouse Theatre The good news is, the Council has agreed to acquire the building and is working with advisers and interested parties to try and establish the best way to secure a sustainable, affordable and fully operational theatre and arts centre. I really would like to see it up and running by Christmas but with the booking periods for shows, and the marketing required to be successful, a more realistic time will be early 2014 for a return to anything like normal business.



Please do not hesitate to contact me for any clarification or comment on the above or for any other queries in respect of Council services.

cllr.j.williams@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Email Alert Parish Notices

If you wish to be kept informed of all that is happening in the community (including: crime alerts; road closures; community activities; local events; important meetings etc etc) then why not add your email address to the 140 plus individuals that have already signed-up to the service. Your details will be kept secure, as all Email Alerts use the BCC address system so that nobody sees the full list.

If you are not on the list, then you are missing-out on 'up-to-the-minute' information on all that is important and happening in the immediate area in which you live.

To join, send an email to
wallytorrington@hotmail.com
with the message "please add me to the list".

We look forward to you becoming a fully-informed Neroche resident.

Neroche Friday Film Night

(in association with Moviola - entry £5)

Friday 22 November 2013 at 7.30pm



Summer In February (cert 12A)



Summer in February is an engaging and enjoyable British period drama enlivened by a strong script, stunning locations and great performances from Emily Browning, Dan Stevens and Dominic Cooper.

Directed by Christopher Menaul and adapted by Jonathan Smith from his own novel, Summer in February is set in 1911, in the Newlyn School artistic community on the Cornish coast. Emily Browning plays Florence, an aspiring painter, who finds herself torn between two men: reserved, kind-hearted land agent Gilbert (Dan Stevens) and tempestuous, womanising painter AJ Munnings (Dominic Cooper). However, after she impulsively accepts a proposal, she begins to realise that she's made a terrible mistake.

The film features a strong supporting cast that includes Shaun Dingwall, Hattie Morahan and Mia Austen as Dolly, a local nude model who's happy to pose naked for anyone that asks!

The director creates a strong sense of time and place, and Jonathan Smith's script does a great job with the central love triangle, not least because it pulls-off a couple of unexpected reversals; people get hurt, but not necessarily in the way you might be expecting.



In summary, Summer in February is an entertaining and powerfully emotional British period drama, with a strong script and superb performances from its three leads.

For bookings and further details:-

Anne Perry 01460 234 377 or Nicky Baxter 01823 480 675

A Few Notes from the Farming Community

By: Wally Torrington

As many of us living in the Parish do not fully comprehend the world of farming, in past issues of this Newsletter, local farmers have written about the work that they do and the problems they face. This month we are giving them a rest, and featuring a thought-provoking initiative recently launched by the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Stand on any piece of high ground in Neroche Parish, look as far as the eye can see, and there is no doubting that we live within, and are surrounded by, a hardworking and committed farming workforce.

The results of their endeavours are clear for all to see: well-tended and managed land; healthy farm stock; and a variety of crops.



For some it is a vocation, for others just a job, but the end result is the same – food for our tables. In addition, local farmers are major contributors to the well-being of the local Neroche community e.g. strong supporters of St Peter’s Church; active in local events (often allowing the use of their buildings, facilities and land); there to help when you need a hand; added to which, two full-time farmers sit on Neroche Parish Council.

Neroche residents will be pleased to hear, therefore, that the NFU has launched a ‘*Back British Farming*’ charter; in support of its new

campaign to turn-around a decline in the country's self-sufficiency (the UK currently produces just 62% of its own food, importing £37.6 billion of food and drink per year!). The NFU is hoping the public, together with politicians,



retailers, caterers, chefs, and restaurateurs, will sign the charter and pledge their support for Britain's farmers.

The campaign calls for more food produced by the nation's farmers to be sourced, stocked and bought in the UK. It also wants government support for farmers, in their challenge to

produce more food to feed the nation.

NFU President, Peter Kendall said *"The decline in self-sufficiency in many sectors should be a warning signal. As a nation we cannot simply go round the world chasing the cheapest deal for our food. Consumers are our best ally; I would ask them to continue showing their support by demanding of their local supermarket, restaurant and MP etc – what are you doing to back British farming?"*



Maybe it is for us rural dwellers, who live amongst the farming community, to take the lead, and hope that others will follow? Just a thought.



The Art of the Blackdowns Exhibition

(Which featured local Neroche Villages' artists)

The Art of the Blackdowns exhibition was held at Cotley Tithe Barn, Cotley, Nr Chard between 14th September and 6th October. Among the many amazing exhibits were two stunning pieces by Gillian Widden (Thurlbear) and Andre Wallace (Curland).

The exhibition, inspired by the heritage and landscape of the Blackdown Hills, encouraged exhibiting artists to examine a different facet of the social, physical and cultural environment, reflecting the importance for artists to

make work that is connected to the area they live in. The exhibition marked the finale of 'Skills Unearthed', a two-year project inspired by the industry and crafts of the Blackdown Hills; funded by 'Arts Council England' and 'Making it Local'



Gillian Widden's work, entitled 'Kings, Queens, and Buttons', was inspired by the teasel drying poles used by Somerset farmers. This artwork comprises six charred, ten foot high hazel poles, which have then been stacked with 'hands' (bunches) of wild teasels. Approximately 12,000 teasels have been used to create this artwork; 10,000 to 20,000 teasels

being an average day's cut for an adult teasel cutter. In an era that values all things technological, this piece reflects the hard physical work required to produce a successful cash crop.

Andre Wallace's 'work in progress' exhibit takes the form of a floating male figure set within a spatial framework, which suggests ecclesiastical architectural elements such as doors and windows. Andre explained "*I want the viewer to reflect on the work's presence and mystery, with the figure floating and rising within a structure that recalls the stillness of a church space.*"



Countryside Mobility

'Enabling easy access to the South West's beauty spots'

**Do you enjoy the outdoor life but can't get around
as well as you used to?**

Well worry no more.

Countryside Mobility enables access to countryside sites not far from your home here in Neroche, and further afield in other areas of Somerset and the South West.

They provide easy access to the South West's countryside for anyone who has difficulty walking, through a Tramper mobility scooter hire scheme.



The Tramper all-terrain mobility scooters and wheelchair accessible Wheelyboats provide 'access for all' to a wide range of wheelchair accessible outdoor attractions across the region.

"Explore the South West with freedom and ease. Access areas that may have been difficult or impossible in the past and experience everything that being outdoors in the region can offer".

You can become a Countryside Mobility member for £10 annually or £2.50 for four weeks. The membership card enables you to use a Tramper at any Countryside Mobility scheme site.

For more information go to www.countrysidemobility.org

Bickenhall & District WI

(By Nicky Baxter)

The Bickenhall & District WI summer programme continued, in August, with a number of members defying the slightly inclement weather to enjoy a delightful visit to Forde Abbey.



Forde Abbey, while being a property of grandeur, still retains the feeling of a family home, but with the addition of beautiful gardens and a spectacular gravity fed fountain.

Among items discussed at our September meeting were details of the annual Christmas Carol Service at Wells Cathedral, an update of the current

resolution about regeneration of High Streets, and the annual WI skittles tournament (let's hope we go a little further this year).



A sad farewell was said to Barbara Knight who has been a valued member and treasurer for a number of years. She was presented with a painting of the Somerset levels painted by fellow member Di Grabham. Barbara will be very sorely missed; we wish both her and David well in their move and we hope they will keep in touch.

The highlight of the September meeting was beautician and health expert Rhona Gilmore's fun and informative talk on healthy eating, in which she outlined the dangers of hidden sugar in many of the foods we eat. Rhona emphasised the need for a healthy diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables and the importance of buying local fresh produce where possible.



The competition for a healthy snack was won by Frances Alford.

Gardening Corner

(By Rebecca Pow)

Rebecca Pow, a local garden writer and broadcaster on national radio and television, has kindly agreed to write a regular column for our Newsletter on local horticulture and craft skills.



This summer, for once, the arable farmers in our community were able to gather their crops in safety, without the devastating downpours of the previous summer. And this year too, there was plentiful straw available to pass on to our livestock farmers for bedding, which is not always the case.

One rather unusual use for straw was showcased recently in our local garden, in the form of some giant straw apples, courtesy of skilful young sculptor, Bryony Tidball from nearby Martock. She specialises in working with straw to produce her unique sculptures, inspired by corn dolly folklore and an interest in making art out of what is essentially a by-product. Corn dollies were made in times-gone-by to ward-off evil spirits, and farmers kept them from one year to another to provide good omens for the following year.



Utilising old techniques, Bryony created her giant apples to form the focal point for an arty garden trail, in which our garden at Tuckers Farmhouse was included, during Somerset Art Week.

I was delighted, by the way, to welcome a number of Neroche-ites to the open garden event, albeit over the hill in Stoke St Mary. The garden trail was the first tie-up between the art week and National Garden Scheme charities, and illustrated what wonderful

backdrops gardens can be for art works. As well as the straw sculptures, a number of willow animals were also salted away in the garden to surprise visitors – everything from an elephant to a horse, some herons and a pair of startled deer. These were made by two gifted local artists, Fons Cousins from Blagdon Hill, and Elaine Marks from Martock. The individual art works were a real attraction, making great focal points.



Whilst not presuming to call myself an artist, I do, however, regard my garden as a kind of canvass where I have endeavoured to create a series of ‘natural’ pictures, with framed views and vistas to draw the eye and entice the visitor on through it. It’s a technique used in many of our great gardens and which I’ve been lucky enough to appreciate first hand whilst working on various TV gardening programmes over the years. Like many before me, I’ve stored up the ideas and tried to copy them!

Talking of filming, the first documentary I ever produced for television was made right here, in the early 1990s, for HTV, and focused on the great debate about whether the Blackdown Hills should be turned into an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It’s hard to believe that it caused so much controversy, considering how much the area has progressed since the AONB designation and how the countryside and its communities have benefited from the association in terms of the development of tourism, artisan craft businesses, local food



production, not to mention the spawning of the multitude of events and activities in the area. By the way, in the film, called ‘Blackdown Fever’, I was wafting around the hills on a bike in a tiered yellow skirt with frilly socks – a far cry from today’s image! (I wonder if anyone remembers it?)

Neroche Woodlanders. Local craft skills are being kept very much alive by the Neroche Woodlanders, whose main base and focus is Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine. I caught up with some of them recently, working with children at a Family Fun event.

I was struck by one little girl who was completely engaged doing something as simple as whittling a stick, with gentle encouragement from Woodlander, Gavin Saunders. No laptops, mobile phones or iPads in sight and the children seemed completely immersed in working with their hands, making crafts from greenwood, enjoying a brush with nature, finding out about forest conservation and learning about a way of life that is totally alien to them.



The on-going projects with children in Halcon, and also with the Taunton Association for the Homeless, are funded by Somerset County Council through Somerset Skills and Learning. They are really paying dividends, as Gavin from the Neroche team explained: “People find it therapeutic. The interesting thing is, it works for them. It’s different to their every day, it’s quiet and it’s peaceful. People feel at home very quickly, as a way of occupying their hands and sorting out their minds at the same time”

I couldn’t endorse that enough. Nature has a restorative and restful power. You can feel it in our beautiful landscapes and even in the garden on a wintry day when the plants are crispy with frost and the morning sun is just coming up. It costs nothing and it’s all around us, stop for a moment and breathe it in.

Find out more about Rebecca at www.rebeccapow.com

Taunton Flower Show - Local Successes

Anson Cup Winner

At the recent prestigious Taunton Flower Show, **Orchard Portman's Joy Garland**, won the 'Fun With Glass' Anson Cup class in the Novice Floral Art & Floristry section.

Joy commented *"This was my first exhibit so it was on a bigger scale than what I had created previously, it needed to fill a specified area and be viewed all round and judged from the front.*

I came up with a design using 5 mirrors forming a 'petal shaped' base which captured the reflection of colours and shapes of the flowers which I had wired into a metal candle ring encircling the inside of the glass bowl. The flowers and foliage were all placed in water with trailing ivy cascading down to the mirrors below. I enhanced the colours of pink and white further by inverting a pink glass dish as a stand and adding narrow pink ribbon around some of the mirrors.



*I was overjoyed to win the novice class and to receive the **Anson Cup**. I have just commenced a level 2 Floristry course at Cannington College today and am thrilled to have the opportunity to learn the theory and skills necessary to work creatively with flowers. I've always had a love of flowers, drawing and painting them and enjoying their wonderful scented displays."*

Curland's Rob Larkman also did exceptionally well at the show and said, *"My potato crop was very productive this year, particularly "Casablanca" and these came 3rd in the class. A dish of 10 raspberries came 1st as did my collection of three other fruits (cherries/blackcurrants/sylvan berries). A single 'Handel' rose also came 3rd. Sadly my home made blackcurrant jelly was up against stiff opposition and only made it as an also ran."*

Hatch Beauchamp & Neroche Garden Club

(by Maureen James)

At the September meeting of the Hatch Beauchamp & Neroche Garden Club, which was held at the Neroche Hall, Charles Dowding gave a presentation on 'Winter Vegetables'. Charles is a very accomplished speaker and surely inspired those at the meeting to get 'sowing and planting'. He is an advocate of 'no dig' gardening and illustrated his talk with comparison pictures of mature beds – one showing a bed that had been tilled by the traditional method and one of a bed which just had successive layers of composted manure spread on top. The crop in the 'undug' patch was way ahead, in health and growth, of the other. Truly food for thought! A measure of his popularity was the feedback from members with many comments and questions at the end of his presentation. As well as being a hands-on gardener who sells his produce to hotels and restaurants in the South-West, he is also a prolific author and has a number of books in publication.



The club's last meeting of the year, on 20 November, will take place at the Neroche Hall and will feature a presentation by Pam Martin on 'Home Made Wine'. There will be ample opportunity to sample the goods and, as always, tea/coffee and homemade cakes and biscuits will be served at the end of the evening. *All welcome.*



For more information on the Hatch Beauchamp & Neroche Garden Club please contact: Wendy Morris (01460 234445), Joy Larkman (01460 234237), Maureen James (01823 481111) or Paul & Donna Davies (01823 480298).

www.nerochevillages.org.uk

This is **YOUR** website covering the local parishes of Bickenhall, Curland, Orchard Portman with Thurlbear, and Staple Fitzpaine.

The website contains a wealth of information, including: local news; 'What's On'; local club details, societies and organisations; information on local churches; a history of Neroche; maps; useful telephone numbers and links to the Neroche Hall and Parish Council websites.

So, if you need to know where, when and what is happening in the area and who to contact, you'll find it on the website.

News From Somerset County Council

Ross Henley, our new Somerset County Councillor, has kindly offered to write a regular column for our Newsletter.

I have just made a visit to Thurlbear School and was very impressed by what I found. Thurlbear School has 209 pupils and has an excellent Head and staff. I was shown around the whole school and got to see the children in the classrooms being taught. The school have asked me to raise two issues at County Hall, which are speeding traffic outside the school and the slowness of internet access, which is causing problems. I have raised both of these issues at County Hall and will work with the school on these issues.



I have contacted the local Women's Institute to see if I can come along and introduce myself to them as your new County Councillor. In the villages I have represented for the last 8 years on the County Council I have always kept in touch with the local WI and other ladies groups.

I have also made contact with the Neroche Lunch Club organisers and will be attending the monthly lunch in November and looking forward to meeting lots of local residents at this event as well. I am amazed at the number of events at the Village Hall. I enjoyed the last quiz and fish and chip supper there earlier this year and am disappointed to not be able to go to the next one. One thing I am looking forward to attending is one of the film nights at the Village Hall. I love cinema and am really looking forward to watching a film in the hall.

Ross can be contacted on rlhenley@somerset.gov.uk

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Neroche Walking Group

If you are interested in joining this friendly and informal group as we explore our parish, we meet on the first Saturday of each month at 10am at Home Mead field (next to the Greyhound pub). Contact Sheila Green on 01823 480758 or Jane Hole on 01460 234410 for more details.



BICKENHALL & DISTRICT WI

OPEN MEETING – ALL WELCOME

Wednesday 13th November 2013



NEROCHE HALL

Nic Saintey

(who has appeared on both
BBC TV's 'Bargain Hunt' and 'Flog It')



Antiques Valuation

8.00pm (or 7.30pm if you want an item valued)

Nic Saintey is a Director of Bearnas Hampton & Littlewood of Exeter, with responsibility for marketing and advertising. He is also Head of the Ceramics and Glass Department.

Nic joined Bearne's in June 2000 to head up the expanding ceramic department, before joining the Board in 2003. His effervescent nature and wide experience has seen him regularly appear as an expert on the BBC's Bargain Hunt and Flog It programmes.

He undertakes regular talks and contributes articles to both Devon and Cornwall Life magazines. His interests particularly include pottery in general, but especially that produced in Donyatt and North Devon.

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 2013/14 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) :

2 Nov 13 'Fungal Foray 2' Location: Upottery

Hunt for wild fungi and learn how to identify a variety of local toadstools, from the weird to the wonderful. After the walk, you can choose to join David for a mushroom appetiser in the pub. 11am - 2pm



Cost: adults £5, under 18's £3. Optional mushroom appetiser £3 per head. Booking essential. Location: Sidmouth Arms, Upottery at ST 203079. For more information and booking: contact David

Allen on 01404 861394 or email leo@leoallen.plus.com

9 Nov 13 'Hedge-Laying Course' Location: Yarcombe

Learn to lay hedges in the Devon style. This is a very "hands-on" course taking place in the East Devon countryside. Each pair of students will team up with an experienced hedge-layer to lay a length of hedge on a Devon bank. Suitable for complete beginners and intermediate hedge-layers with an eye to taking part in our annual "Skills of the Hills" competition. 9am - 4pm. Cost: £35. Booking essential. Location: Meet at Village Hall, Yarcombe. For more information:

hedgecourses@bhha.info

or see the web site www.bhha.info



16 Nov 13 'Night-Walk and Owls' Location: Hemyock



A nature walk that starts in the light and finishes in the dark, led by naturalist Richard Whiteside. You'll be shown signs of nocturnal wildlife, and we'll try and see owls and other animals. Wear wellies and bring a torch. 4pm - 6.30pm. Cost: Adults £6, children £4. Booking essential. Location: Seville's Croft, Hemyock, EX15 3QX For more information: Contact Richard and Alison Whiteside, 01823 680931

17 Nov 13 'Make a Rustic Hedgerow Chair' Location: Buckland St Mary

With Ivor Hancock, discover how West Country folk used to make, strong, comfortable hedgerow chairs with materials from hedges, woods and gardens. The secret of their craft was in selecting the right shapes of branches for the different parts of their chairs. Cut green from the hedge these "grown components" had great inherent strength and produced a chair of proven strength and reliability. Materials and tools supplied.



Take home your own hedgerow chair. Cost: £50. Booking essential. 10am - 4pm Location: Village Hall, Buckland St. Mary. For more information: email craftcourses@bhha.info or see the web site www.bhha.info

30 Nov 13 'Explore the Stars' Location: Hemyock



Explore the wonders of the Blackdown Hills' dark night skies in the company of local astronomer Simon Ould. Sessions will include approximately one hour in a state-of-the-art mobile planetarium followed by guided stargazing outside (weather permitting, extra dome session if inclement). Bring warm clothing and flasks of drink. Telescopes/binoculars welcome.

Cost: adults £7, children under 16 £5. Booking essential.

5.30pm - 7.15pm (families with young children)

7.45pm - 9.30pm (older children and adults)

Location: Hemyock Parish Hall, For more information: Contact the Blackdown Hills AONB team on 01823 680681 or email blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk

7 Dec 13 'Hedgerow Christmas Decorations'

Location: Buckland St Mary

Angie Blackwell will show you how to use natural materials found in hedgerow, woodland, and garden to create a Christmas wreath for the front door or a decorative swag for the mantelpiece. The supporting framework materials for your creation will be supplied but you will be asked to bring your own decorative plant and shrub cuttings. If requested, a comprehensive kit of everything you will need can be supplied at a cost of £5 per workshop. Cost: £15 per person for each course, £28 for both courses. Booking essential. 10 - 12am and/or 2 - 5pm (2 half day courses) Location: Village Hall, Buckland St. Mary. For more information: email craftcourses@bhha.info or see the web site www.bhha.info



1 Jan 14 'Winter Nature Walk with Ash Faggot, Mulled Cider and Toasted Crumpets'. Location: Madford, near Hemyock



A nature walk through varied terrain and beautiful countryside, starting with some nature specimens and finishing with the burning of an ash faggot, mulled cider and toasted crumpets around a campfire. Wear wellies! Cost: Adults £8, children under 16 £5. Booking essential. 2pm - 5pm Location: Seville's Croft, Hemyock, EX15 3QX For more information: Contact Richard and Alison Whiteside, 01823 680931

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 November onwards, include:

22 November, Larry Miller;

30 November, Hells Bells do AC/DC; 5 December,

The Fab Beatles; 27 December, The Great Pretender with Brian Rock as Brian May; New Year's Eve, The Producers and the Pub's New Year Party (tickets include food). For full information on these concerts and many others, go to

www.squareandcompasspub.com



Taunton Racecourse (Next meeting 14th November).



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.

*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. 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. *avings* available for online booking. For full details of fixtures, ticket prices, facilities etc. go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk*

Ilminster Arts Centre

The Ilminster Arts Centre situated at the Meeting House in Ilminster has a full programme of exhibitions, concerts, workshops, crafts and produce

ILMINSTER
arts centre
AT THE MEETING HOUSE

markets, and a thriving craft shop and café. For full details of their forthcoming events and extensive programme, go to www.themeetinghouse.org.uk

Saturday 2nd November at 8.00pm (pre-show supper at 7:00pm)

'An Evening with Henry Blofeld – of Test Match Special!'

Tickets £16 (£26.50 including pre-show supper)

Saturday 30th November 9.30am - 3.30pm 'Antiques and Vintage Collectables Fair'

Saturday 7th December 9.30am to 2.00pm 'Local Craft and Produce Market'

Events For Your Calendar

November

- 2 Neroche Parish Walking Group (*see www.nerochevillages.org.uk*)
- 7 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (*see advert on page 8*)
- 13 Antiques Valuation (*see advert on page 37*)
- 14 Parish Council Meeting (*go to www.nerochevillages.org.uk*)
- 14 Taunton Racing (*go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk*)
- 16 Neroche Winter Craft Fair (*see advert on page 7*)
- 20 Hatch Beauchamp & Neroche Garden Club (*see article on page 30*)
- 22 Neroche Friday Film Night (*see advert on page 25*)
- 27 Neroche Local History Group - Lost Houses (*see advert on page 19*)
- 28 Taunton Racing (*go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk*)
- 30 Heritage Theatre Group (*see advert on page 17*)

December

- 5 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (*see advert on page 8*)
- 7 Neroche Parish Walking Group (*see www.nerochevillages.org.uk*)
- 12 Taunton Racing (*go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk*)
- 13 Christmas Family Bingo (*see advert on page 13*)
- 30 Taunton Racing (*go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk*)

January

- 2 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (*see advert on page 8*)
- 4 Neroche Parish Walking Group (*see www.nerochevillages.org.uk*)
- 9 Parish Council Meeting (*see www.nerochevillages.org.uk*)
- 31 Neroche Friday Film Night

February

- 1 Neroche Parish Walking Group (*see www.nerochevillages.org.uk*)
- 6 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (*see advert on page 8*)
- 28 Neroche Friday Film Night

*For further information go to the parish website
www.nerochevillages.org.uk*

*See, also, the many various events listed in the 'On Our Doorstep' article
on page 38 and the St Peter's article on page 6.*

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
December 2013	
25 th Dec (Christmas Day)	All collections - Friday 27 th Dec

Library Services

The mobile library no longer visits our parish.

However, anyone wishing to use Taunton Deane's Library Services should visit the libraries in Paul Street, Taunton or Ditton Street, Ilminster. Full details of opening times can be found on the website www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries or by phoning the helpline on 0845 345 9177.

As well as the thousands of Fiction & Non-Fiction books, facilities at the local libraries include; access to computers, DVDs, CDs, Fax Machine, Photocopier, Newspapers & Magazines and Talking Books.

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.

26 October to 3 November
21 December to 5 January
15 February to 23 February



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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