

Working Together for a Better Community

# NEROCHE VILLAGES Newsletter

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

Issue 32 - Summer 2019



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



# 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

*By Karen Learoyd*

This year's Annual Parish Meeting was held at Neroche Hall on Thursday April 26. Although the number of attendees was down on previous years, this was a highly informative evening, with some passionate interchanges between the floor and the audience! The residents were joined by a number of local representatives, including Rebecca Pow (our MP), David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council, John Thorne, our County Councillor, John Williams, then leader of Taunton Deane Borough Council and the majority of the parish councillors who are continuing in their posts.

A large number of local clubs, groups and organisations had stands around the hall including the Parish Council, Litter Action Group, St. Peter's Church, Neroche Hall, Local History Group, Women's Institute, Neroche Woodlanders, Thurlbear School, Communication Action Group, and the Garden Club.

Before the main event, there was plenty of time for everyone to chat to the stand holders, explore opportunities to get involved with the local groups and organisations, and to meet their MP and local Councillors.

Available, free of charge throughout the evening, were a fine array of canapes, cakes and refreshments including wine, tea and coffee, provided by the ladies of the WI.



*Ladies of the WI with their wares*

Jon Bell, Chairman of the Parish Council, kicked off the presentations with his informative Annual Report, which covered the year's events and issues. He thanked a number of councillors who stood down at the May elections, and noted that there will be vacancies, should there be candidates willing to take their places. Jon also mentioned that the A358 route proposal has been promised by the end of June – a number of residents mentioned they had received some 'interesting'

communication from Highways England regarding proposed environmental surveys.

This was followed by a presentation from David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council on the financial challenges being faced by the Council over future years. He confirmed that the 'hole' in finances reported in September 2018, has been addressed and that there are no plans to cut any front line services in the next 2 years, in spite of reduced Government funding and a need to increase spending on three main areas – the ageing population, people with learning disabilities and children in care – these account for 70% of the Council's budget.



*Jon Bell, Gillian Midworth and David Fothergill*



*Reviewing progress on the Fingerposts*

A short update on the Fingerpost project was provided by John Parsons, who thanked the team of volunteers helping with the restoration and renovation of the nine posts (three of which have been completed) and asked the attendees to 'open their pockets' to help with the fund raising.

Graham Long, a member of the Blackdown Hills Parish Network, outlined the history, and current situation with the broadband rollout as he understood it, in that

Gigaclear has mainly stopped work pending the outcome of a Government spending review, which is not yet scheduled. This provoked some discussion with John Williams and Rebecca Pow, who had different views on the state of play. However, it would seem that no-one in Neroche parish is currently on the rollout schedule.

Many thanks to:

- The Parish Councillors and volunteers who set up the hall ready for the meeting
- The WI for the delicious refreshments and cakes, and who also undertook all the washing-up at the end of the event
- The presenters and contributors to the formal part of the evening
- Everyone who took the time to attend, and engage with the APM



*Steve Gillan, Head of Thurlbear Primary School, with Karen Learoyd*

## Pop-Up Café

**St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine  
Every Friday, 10.30am to 12.30pm**

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



Meet old friends and  
make new ones

For more information contact

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



# 2019 Pancake Supper at Neroche

By Alison Brown



The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in aid of **ST PETER'S CHURCH, STAPLE FITZPAINE** took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at Neroche Hall. A jolly crowd of around 40 people gathered for a traditional supper of jacket potatoes, with Bolognese sauce, cheese & salad followed by pancakes with choices of toppings.

The delicious pancakes were made by Mark Pope & Carole Wensley-Dodd. Thanks go to both of them for their efforts. Most of us would take some time to make 10 pancakes let alone 50!

The traditional pancake tossing competition took place between courses, judged by Chris Dunn & Christabel Ager, and caused great hilarity and fun, with Sainsbury's best pancakes flying all over the place. Kath Michaels was judged the most "Stylish Tosser" and Tom Pope tossed the highest!



*Ladies at pancake party*

An intriguing quiz was set by Tami Boden-Ellis in which many struggled to find the answers and a certain amount of bargaining took place! The evening finished with a well-supported raffle, and the evening raised over £400 was raised for St Peters, due to the hard work and generosity of the cooks, and the involvement of those who attended.



*Kath: most  
"Stylish Tosser"*



*Winners 2019  
Pancake Party*

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## **Spring 2019 Fish 'n' Chips Quiz**

*By Alan Perrior*

The bi-annual Fish 'n' Chips quiz was held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in Neroche Hall. The hall started to fill up as soon as the doors opened at 7pm and within half an hour 16 tables of quizzers were ready to start and eagerly anticipating a fine evening's entertainment – and they weren't disappointed.



*Some of the quizzers in "deep thought" mode – obviously a tricky question!*

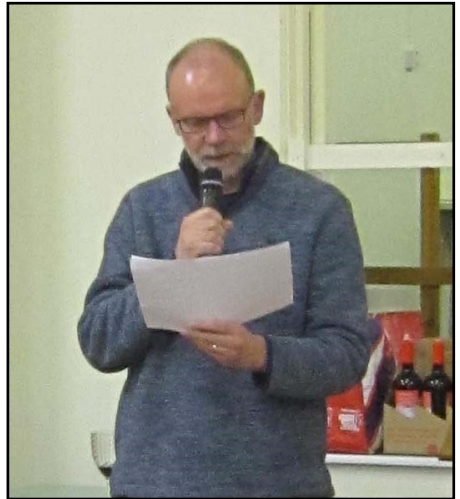
The quiz format was similar to previous years in that there were five rounds before the fish 'n' chips break, which was followed by a further 4 rounds of questions. However, there was no respite during the "meal break" as the quizzers were given a 'Famous Quotes' sheet to complete while they were eating. (Cue plenty of answer sheets liberally sprinkled with greasy finger marks, vinegar and tomato sauce!)

As they have done for previous quizzes, Layz Ricks positioned their mobile catering unit just outside the hall doors and managed to supply a variety of hot meals for the nearly one hundred hungry quizzers and helpers, they even included a vegetarian option on request. It's remarkable that they manage to get the orders in, fulfilled, and out to the quizzers in the time available.



Once again, the quizmaster, Andrew Morgan, created a fun, interesting and sometimes challenging quiz and he should be congratulated on the way he prepared and presented the evening; he was ably assisted by the scorers, Alison Brown and Julie Pope.

In line with current technological trends, Andrew set-up the music round (Cover Versions) on his "smart" phone and posed the questions by holding the microphone against the phone's speaker! Who needs a stereo system? This turned out to be one of the easier rounds with most teams scoring well except for the very last question – who knew that Barbra Streisand had recorded a version of David Bowie's 'Life On Mars'?



I wasn't able to get hold of the answer sheets after the quiz so I can't give any information on teams scoring full houses in any particular

round; or which categories were easier or harder than others, etc. I can tell you that of the 16 teams, no less than 8 teams scored 80 or over, with the winners scoring 85 points. So, right up to the very end of the quiz, eight teams were still in with a chance of winning.

In fact, two teams tied for the lead on 85 points; 'Order Order!' and 'Bar Boys'. The tie-break question resolved the final positions by asking "How long is the M5"? The M5 is approximately 162 miles long and Order Order! won by guessing 182 miles against The Bar Boys answer of 235 miles.



*The Tie-Break*

So, it's congratulations to **Order Order!** on their well-deserved victory. Let's hope they return in the autumn to defend the 'Brains of Neroche' title.

### RESULTS:

<b>Order Order!</b>	-	<b>85 points</b> <i>(winners on tie-break)</i>
<b>Bar Boys</b>	-	<b>85</b>
Only Fools With Horses	-	84.5
Raw Prawns	-	82.5
Young Ones	-	81.5
Dizzy Lizzies	-	81.5
Spring Lambs	-	81.5
Horses For Courses	-	80
Unfathomables	-	79.5
Forders	-	79
Give Us A Minute	-	77
We Thought It Was Speed Dating	-	76
Pop-Ups	-	73
One Less	-	73
Misfits	-	71
Quizzy Rascals	-	67

Overall it was another good evening's entertainment and a great fundraiser for the village hall.

Roll on the Autumn Fish 'n' Chips Quiz!





**The Winners – Order Order!** (left-to-right: Nicky and Chris Baxter, Don Ruffell, Sheila Green, Mike and Kath Michaels)



## ARE YOU NEW TO THE AREA?

Here are the different ways you can find out what's happening in Neroche from the Communication Action Group:-

**Neroche Newsletter** is delivered free to every household each quarter – full of upcoming events, articles on recent events, and updates from local Groups and leaders.

Contact us at [nerochenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nerochenewsletter@gmail.com)

**Neroche Villages Website** - the place for information from the Parish Council including planning applications, meeting minutes etc. You will also find information on local groups and clubs, events, News, local businesses, and details of the Blackdown Hills and Neroche Woodlanders.

[www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk)

**Neroche Email alert** – distributed every 3 to 4 weeks, bringing you information about local events, information from the Parish Council, and details of what's happening in our neighbouring villages. To sign up for the Email alert, just send your details to

[nerochemail@gmail.com](mailto:nerochemail@gmail.com).

**Welcome to Neroche**

# Farming Update

*By Mark Pope*



As we head from spring to summer the crops are generally looking good. We had a fairly kind winter, rainfall levels are down though, and the concern has to be when we will get the balance of the rainfall, we don't want to have a wet summer.

The spring barley was planted at the beginning of April and maize crops will be going in shortly. We planted the spring barley after having what is known as a cover crop in the ground until December. This is planted to help hold onto the nutrients in the soil and also help improve the soil structure. We did notice that there was a lot more earth worm activity, and also the fields seemed to have dried out after a spell of heavy rain a lot quicker than we would have expected.

The yellow fields you may have seen are flowering oilseed rape. The crop relies on bees to help pollinate it. The bees have not liked the cold frosty mornings we have had, and so were not in the crop as much in the early stages. We will have to wait until harvest to see what sort of pollination we had.

We now have new neighbours farming the land we previously farmed. The Parris's, from just on the edge of Taunton, now farm a large block of land from Staple Fitzpaine back towards Taunton.

In early Summer Julie and I plan to offer a guided farm walk around the farm looking at the different crops and the environmental work we do and finish off with a good breakfast at the farm. More details will be available in the Email alert at a later stage.

# Hatch Beauchamp and Neroche Garden Club

*By Wendy Morris*

Members of the Garden Club enjoyed a visit to Nynehead Court Gardens in April. These gardens are listed by English Heritage as being of historic interest as they date back to mediaeval times.

Over the years, plants and trees have been acquired from a wide range of sources to create a delightful blend of specimen trees, spacious lawns and attractive flower beds. Of particular interest among the trees are the Ginko (thought to be one of the finest in Somerset); the Sweet Chestnuts and the Tulip Tree which dominates the main entrance.

The Pinetum which is surrounded by a high brick wall contains a fascinating and impressive collection of specimen conifers though care must be taken if visiting the gardens on a very windy day.

Members also explored the Ice House which was built in 1803 and used to store ice from the river Tone until imported ice made this unnecessary.



The visit concluded with a very enjoyable cream tea in the orangery.





# SUMMER BARN DANCE

**NEROCHE VILLAGE HALL  
SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
2019 - 7.30pm**

**LIVE MUSIC – BAR – RAFFLE  
PORK ROAST & PUDDINGS**

**TICKETS: £10 in advance only**

**FROM:**

**[r.davies507@btinternet.com](mailto:r.davies507@btinternet.com)**

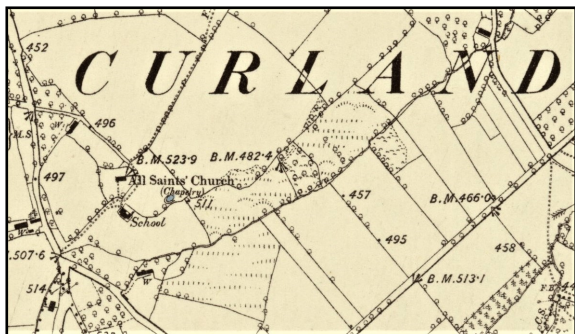
**01823 480286**



# School – The Best Days of Your Life? The Story of Curland School Part 1

By Jane Hole Neroche Local History Group

Catherine Savidge of Creech St Michael and Taunton died in 1830. Her will stipulated that a school was to be built in Curland. The school was situated at the top of the field opposite All Saints' Church in Curland.



OS Map dated 1887

Mrs Savidge was particular in her instructions about the school. It was to be called: *“The School of the Widow of George Sheppard Esq”*. It was for Twenty Poor Girls of that and the adjoining Parish of Staple Fitzpaine. The girls or scholars to be recommended by the

Officiating Ministers for the time being jointly of the Parishes of Curland & Staple Fitzpaine to remain at the School for any period not exceeding three years, and to be taught reading writing the first rudiments of accounts and needle work and I also direct that each scholar or girl shall on her admittance to the school have a plain blue serge gown two pair of black worsted stockings a straw Bonnet and suitable tippet and apron and such clothing to be renewed annually. The said School to be established in the three months after my decease and the children to attend the Church once a month”. A.D. 1830.

As the widow of George Sheppard, Catherine had married John Savidge only seven years before she died. John died a year later in 1831. Her executors all came from the Savidge family. It must have been a strange experience to enact a will about their in-law's previous husband. History research often turns up soap opera material!

Mrs Savidge was progressive in that she was keen to help 'poor girls' with reading, writing and basic accounts. Her encouragement of needlework would have been important. One of the ways women and mothers helped the family income in this period was in glove making.

Stitching the gloves was outsourced as a cottage industry in all our villages and the Victorian censuses confirm many young girls were involved in helping their mothers with this work.

As ever, Catherine's will raises many more questions for future research:

- Why did Catherine choose to build her school in Curland?
- What can we learn about Mary Knight, the school mistress for several decades?
- Is it possible to find anything out about the pupils?
- Did any of the girls who sewed gloves learn their skills at this school?
- What was the building like?

The field where the school stood was ploughed a few years ago. All sorts of pottery and glass fragments were collected from the site. There are plentiful pieces of Blue Willow and other china, parts of old clay smoking pipes, a buckle and old nails.



## Neroche Woodlanders at Young Wood

It's been a busy springtime in the woods. The birdsong has seemed more intense and varied than last year, and nesting activity has been frenetic. We even found a pair of blue tits had nested in a large fire glove, which had been left pegged on a line by our camp kitchen and after dark, the birdsong baton is passed each night to the tawny owls, who keep up a conversation into the early hours. Elsewhere, on the wildlife front, we've discovered some small but savage residents running about the woodland floor: spider-hunting wasps, which capture and paralyse spiders and drag them into a hole, to use them as living food for their grubs!

Amongst our human activity, we've successfully trialled a parent and toddler group this spring, called Young Saplings. These short, morning sessions support child development, nature connection, social interaction and good old-fashioned play, and have been popular. We intend to roll out this provision, so if you're interested do get in touch.

We're also beginning a new Greenwood Club, fortnightly on Tuesday evenings from 21st May, from 6 to 8pm. This will be a relaxed opportunity to practice green woodworking – whittling spoons, bowls, or trying the pole lathe – in the beautiful setting of our woodland camp. We provide all the tools and materials. Just drop us a line if you would like to come along.

Meanwhile as ever, anyone is welcome to join us on volunteer days at Young Wood, on the fourth Wednesday of every month. This winter we coppiced an area of hazel and wove fences around the coppice stools to protect them from browsing deer.



We also run volunteer days on local nature reserves on the second and third Wednesdays of the month. You can support Woodlanders' work by becoming a shareholder member – see [www.youngwood.org.uk](http://www.youngwood.org.uk) for details.

**Gavin, Jenny and the team at Neroche Woodlanders**

## **Do you Run a Local Business?**

**You could help the running of your Neroche Newsletter by advertising with us.**

**For a small fee, we will place your business flyer or card in with each edition, which is then hand delivered to 250 local houses and businesses.**

**If you are interested please drop us an email to chat about it: [nerochenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nerochenewsletter@gmail.com)**

### **Neroche Thursday Lunch Club**

**Neroche Hall  
12.30pm for 1pm**



**June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, September 5th**

Come along to Neroche Hall and enjoy a superb home-cooked lunch in wonderful company for just £6 per head (transport and special diets can be arranged). Meet old friends and make new acquaintances - ideal for both long term residents and those who have recently arrived in the community. A wonderful way to spend a weekday lunchtime.

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



# Neroche Heritage Fingerpost Project

*Jane Hole, Neroche History Group &  
John Parsons, Parish Councillor for Curland*

You may have noticed the very positive progress on the Fingerpost Project as you travel in the parish. Our stalwart team of volunteers have already donated several hundred hours to the project and there are many more to come. We have now fully restored three of the nine fingerposts. The process involves: cutting back the overgrown vegetation, cleaning and sanding down, spot treating the rusty areas, adding a rust proofing red primer, undercoating and painting. The post is painted white, then the upright is given its colour coat, and subsequently and painstakingly all the letters are individually overpainted in black.

We aim to tackle another three fingerposts in the coming months.

The restoration has highlighted a piece of local industrial history most of us knew nothing about. The name of the foundry, Sheldon of Wells, is proudly shown after years lost in layers of rust as is the county's name.



*From left to right: Sheldon Wells, Somerset Sign Rusty,  
Somerset Sign Completed*

## Castle Plain and Staple Hill Junction, Before, During and After Renovation



*From left to right: Castle Plain Rusty, Castle Plain in Progress, Castle Plain Finished*

## Curland and Broadway Junction, Before, During and After Renovation



*From left to right: Curland Broadway rusty, in progress, in primer, Finished*

# **Bowmen of Ina move to Taunton Vale Polo Club**

*By Hilary Collins*

The Bowmen of Ina Archery Club has been in existence for over 55 years and is a small friendly club of adult archers. Currently we have 23 members of mixed ability with some members shooting for the county, including Bickenhall resident John Learoyd, and others shooting just for fun.

At our new venue at the Polo Club, we will be shooting on Mondays and Fridays, April to September, and Sundays throughout the year. Up to now we have been restricted to shooting in the evening on weekdays and in the morning on Sundays. However, the Polo ground gives us the opportunity to expand these times, so we will see what happens in the future.

Once we have settled in our new venue, we will be looking to run Beginner's courses on Sundays, probably in the afternoon, although details have yet to be confirmed. The first course is looking to start mid-June and will last six weeks.

**If you are interested in finding out more about the club, please email the Secretary, Mr Hilary Collins at: [archery2019@xxxmail.me.uk](mailto:archery2019@xxxmail.me.uk) or telephone 07919 910974**



## **School Holidays**

**Half Term from 27-31 May**

**Summer Holidays from**

**24 July-1 September inclusive**

## News from your Village Agent



somerset  
village & community  
agents

At last it is the perfect time to get out in our open spaces and enjoy the goodness of fresh air, physical exercise, company of our neighbours and the wellbeing that we get from greenery around us. We are blessed in Somerset to have such easy access to a variety of incredible landscapes and public parks and now is the time to enjoy them. Footpaths are free to roam and the South West Tramper mobility scheme allows disability access to many beautiful sights for an annual £10 membership fee and small hire cost.



<http://www.countrysidemobility.org/membership> 01392 459222 or email [info@countrysidemobility.org](mailto:info@countrysidemobility.org). Don't forget the surgery led Health Walks for company whilst you explore the countryside. They run across Somerset so you could choose one further afield from your own parish for a change. Try [www.visitsomerset.co.uk/visitor-information/tourist-information/accessible-somerset](http://www.visitsomerset.co.uk/visitor-information/tourist-information/accessible-somerset). Also use our link [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) for information about things to do in your area. Remember you can access the internet in the library if you don't have access at home or call our carers service support number 0800 31 68 600.

**Gardening!** Don't turn to the next page and dismiss gardening! Even if you have a tiny garden or budget, you can start to feel the pleasures associated with growing your own vegetables or flowers. If you are short of a bit of cash, try the discount stores and buy pots to put next to your front door or on your window ledge. If you have a larger garden save your grass trimmings with a discounted compost bin from Somerset waste [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk). They also offer compost champions who will talk to community groups. Alternatively, buy a grow bag, sometimes as low as £1 from discount stores, plant directly in it and skip the cost of pots!

So what can you grow cheaply and easily with plenty of satisfaction? I may cause some debate here because I am not a skilled gardener, although I love putting a few of my left over old sprouting potatoes in the ground and later digging up lovely new ones. It is like buried treasure! I also love to pop in some petunias which flower beautifully



throughout the summer with little complication. As May continues, village plant sales appear. You can buy plants that have been brought on by more competent gardeners than myself at small prices to pop in those pots or grow bags.

Tools for the larger garden can be an expense. SHARE – a Library of Things in Frome hosts a wide range of items members can borrow for a small charge [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk). Perhaps you could consider setting up something similar in your area.

If you are inspired by this, you may be interested in a new scheme from our charity. CCS has won funding from The National Lottery Community Fund to facilitate the first village/parish-based Good Neighbour (GN) scheme in Somerset. The scheme is intended to partner willing volunteers and helpers with anyone needing help with small one-off tasks, such as lifts to medical appointments, dog walks, or even simply sharing a cup of tea and a friendly chat. The aim is to bring people together and help build strong relationships and connections within local communities so that they can support each other in a neighbourly way. [www.somersetccc.org.uk/somerset-good-neighbours](http://www.somersetccc.org.uk/somerset-good-neighbours).



07968 521746

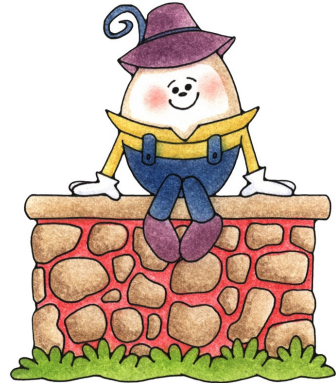
[cath@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:cath@somersetccc.org.uk)

I support unpaid carers in South East Somerset to connect them with community resources, support groups and personal support around benefits and allowances. We also have a team of Community Agents and Village Agents across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community. Please visit [www.somersetccc.org.uk](http://www.somersetccc.org.uk) and [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) or call me to find out who can advise you.

**Linda Burton | Village Agent | Tel: 01823 331222 |  
Mobile: 07931018019 | Email: [linda@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:linda@somersetccc.org.uk)**

# STAPLE FITZPAINE, BICKENHALL, CURLAND SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2019

The Theme is "From the Nursery"  
21st July - 28th July



**1<sup>st</sup> prize £50, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £25, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £10**

Enter your scarecrow and / or vote for your favourite  
Entries £5.00 per Household

**Entries close 13 July**

Voting forms in St Peter's Church Staple Fitzpaine during the festival

21<sup>st</sup> July Teddy Bears Tea 2.30 - 4.30 St Peter's Church  
Children and grown-ups welcome!

Teas en route 3 - 5 pm on 24th July at Staple Farm, Staple Fitzpaine

Presentation of prizes at a BBQ, 28<sup>th</sup> July at St Peter's Church

**Contact Alison Brown 01823 480441 or**

**[aabrown.battens@gmail.com](mailto:aabrown.battens@gmail.com)**

Proceeds to St Peter's Church

# News from Neroche Hall

*By Richard Davies, Chairman*

Many people within the five parishes of Neroche will, I hope, by now be aware of our hall through the medium of this Newsletter, either by reading my regular contribution or having attended one or more of the functions/ events which are held throughout the year.

I have often said that the hall is a valuable community resource which I believe enriches our lives. I am aware that many people have moved to this area over the last year or so although have probably never set foot over the threshold other than to cast their vote in local or national elections. With that in mind, I would like to encourage everyone to support the hall by coming to one or more of our events. The hall is a Registered Charity and as such has to rely entirely on your support to be maintained and continue for the foreseeable future.

The trustees are elected annually and comprise of local people from all backgrounds who each bring different skills and experience. However, this is not an exclusive club and we welcome new people with open arms. If you feel you have a few hours every month to contribute to your local community, then please get in touch with us. It is important to be inclusive and have a diverse board of Trustees to move forward with new and fresh ideas otherwise there is a danger of stagnation. We would like to encourage people of all ages and ability to consider joining us.

Film night has recently seen an unfortunate drop in attendances with one or two films being shown at a loss or just financially breaking even. This is clearly a situation that cannot continue as we are unable to subsidise films without a considerable dent to our funds. Karen Learoyd, who currently oversees our films, has recently distributed questionnaires in order to ascertain what type of films you would prefer screened. She would welcome feedback on this subject and her details can be found within this publication.



There will be a “Barn Dance’ style evening at the hall on Saturday 20 July 2019 with live music, a caller, bar and supper. Details of advanced ticket sales can be found within the Newsletter so please come along and enjoy a social evening of great entertainment.

I often talk about the need for maintaining the fabric of our Listed Building and earlier this year, all the committee came together with their paintbrushes to freshen up some tired paintwork in the hall and wash down some of the walls. Unfortunately, marks tend to appear from time to time with the frequent use by regulars and hirers, usually black shoe marks or blue/white tack despite the latter being banned!

We have also unfortunately just been informed, following one of our twice-yearly services, of a defect in one of our heating units and have been quoted approximately £1500 for the repair. This, sadly, comes on the back of a similar defect with one of the other units last year. We will be looking to try and reduce the cost, although this is yet another example of why we need to raise funds for such eventualities.

Hopefully the year will not provide any further financial pitfalls and we shall enjoy continued support from our community.

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## **Encouraging Learning at Thurlbear School**

***By Jo Moore (Business Manager)***

The Key Stage 1 class of Thurlbear CE Primary School have been delving into the fascinating theme of dinosaurs, fossils and natural history. At the school, we base our learning around ‘experiences’ which sit at the heart of the learning for 2 to 3 weeks. For this learning experience, the pupils travelled to Lyme Regis to visit the museum and fossil hunt for the ABC of the Jurassic period: Ammonites, Belemnites and Crinoids!

They then extended their research into dinosaurs and it culminated in the classes creating a Dinosaur Museum in school. This was incredibly popular and lots of families came in to visit. We have included some of our writing for you all to see how such practical experiences can inspire the thinking of these 7 year olds. At our school, we aim high and the expectation for these pupils – ranging from 6 and 7 years of age – was to stretch their use of vocabulary and sentence structure when engaging ‘the reader’.



## Writing by Serena Webb



27/3/19 I can write a recount about our Trip to Lyme Regis to find out about fossils

**Must:** write about each section of our trip in clear sentences

**Should:** use time connectives to show what order things happened in

**Could:** use expanded noun phrases and subordination to add detail

On Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March year 1 and 2 went to Lyme Regis to look for fossils because ~~the~~ our topic is dinosaurs.

First we jumped onto the coach we were all very excited to get to Lyme Regis it took about an hour.

When we got to Lyme Regis we hurried off the coach and walked to the museum. In the museum we met a man called Tom ~~we~~ we saw a gigantic Ichthyosaurus that you could never ~~see~~ imagine.

Next we met a man called Chris and he was in the meeting room. Chris ~~he~~ showed us Ichthyosaurus poo and in the poo was some fish scails. Chris also showed us the inside of a ~~am~~ ammonite and lots of other things.

Finally Then we all went on the beach to find fossils and before that we had lunch and I had crackers and got pudding or oreos it was very funny (!) I ~~did~~ ~~not~~

find some but some ~~did~~ didn't.

Finally we went back to school and it was the best trip ever! Would love to go again ~~!~~ wouldn't you?

## Writing by Harry Boobyer



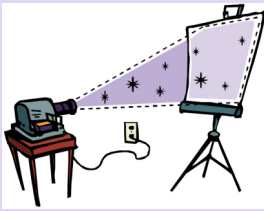
27/3/19 I can write a recount about our Trip to Lyme Regis to find out about fossils

**Must:** write about each section of our trip in clear sentences

**Should:** use time connectives to show what order things happened in

**Could:** use expanded noun phrases and subordination to add detail

On Friday 22nd of March year two went to Lyme Regis beach because we are learning about dinosaurs. We got on the coach and Mrs Lucas seated us. When we got to Lyme Regis the first thing we did was going to the Mrs Mary Anning's house. Was right under the Museum. In the classroom Chris told us all about a backbone of a Ichtyosaurus. He also showed us dinosaur poo. yuck! Then we went to the beach when it was 12 o'clock we had lunch. I had cheese sandwiches. I also had a rasun brunch bar. Finally it was time to go back to school. How I wish we had stayed longer. but if we did once we get back... it <sup>would</sup> have been night time. Would you want to go again?



**FRIDAY FILM NIGHT – Neroche Hall**

## **THE FAVOURITE**

**Friday 24th May @ 7.30pm**

Starring Olivia Coleman in her Best Actress Oscar winning role as Queen Anne, this is a tale of intrigue and ambition in the royal household of the 1700s. Sarah Lady Churchill (Rachel Weisz) sees herself supplanted in the Queen's favour, and bed, by the upstart Abigail Masham (Emma Stone), a young woman who will stop at nothing.



The Favourite is a hugely enjoyable comedy with fantastic performances from the lead actresses (all of whom were Oscar nominated), but be warned: it does contain some explicit language.

## **THE UPSIDE**

**Friday 28th June @ 7.30pm**

A remake of the 2011 French mega-hit *Intouchables*. *The Upside* is director Neil Burger's heartfelt comedy about a recently paroled ex-convict (Kevin Hart) who strikes up an unlikely friendship with the paralysed billionaire (Bryan Cranston) who employs him as his carer. Also starring Nicole Kidman as the billionaire's assistant.



**Bar and snacks available - Tickets £6.00**

**Contact Karen Learoyd 01823 480886 or just turn up**

# News from RSPCA West Hatch

*By Bel Deering – Centre Manager*

2019 has been busy right from the start with a steady stream of grey seal pups being admitted to the wildlife centre, and the animal centre filling up with dogs from a number of cruelty cases. Here are just a couple of examples of some of our recent stories.

## Contaminated Tawny Owl

In April, we admitted a very cold, sad and dirty Tawny owl that had been rescued from a slurry pit. It was hard to tell what condition the owl was in and if she would survive due to all the contamination. After being warmed up and given fluid therapy and rest she was washed in our specialist bird wash room. As you can see from the photos the slurry came off well and, after drying, a beautiful tawny owl appeared again.



*Contaminated owl on admission*



*Contaminated owl being washed*



*Contaminated owl after*



## Injured Hedgehogs

We have admitted several hedgehogs this year which have been injured by strimmers and lawnmowers. The hog shown here later had its wound cleaned under general anaesthetic and was then on painkillers and antibiotics until it healed.

We would like to appeal to all gardeners and allotment owners to check flower beds and the edges of lawns before strimming and mowing and to move log piles and compost heaps before burning to help save wild animal lives.



*Injured hedgehog*

## Fostering appeal – would you like to foster a dog in need?

You could help a dog like Rosie. When Rosie came to us a year ago she was in a pitiful state. She was in pain, scared and in need of time to heal. Luckily Rosie has been in a wonderful foster home where not only has she had time to mend physically, but she has learned to trust humans again. Fostering isn't easy. It can be emotionally hard, and requires time and lots of patience, but it also gives dogs like Rosie a second chance when they need it the most.



*Rosie Foster Appeal*

Things you may not know - we supply all the food, bedding etc you need and we can help towards travel expenses to and from the centre. We are on hand for behavioural advice and training (and can provide this in your own home), we provide all vet support,

and the dogs can come back to the centre while you go on holiday. All we ask is that you are ideally within a 20 mile radius, and that you are able to return for monthly vet checks. If you would like more info and an application form here is the link - <https://bit.ly/2RFYbMo>

## **Volunteer Gardeners Required**

We are looking for anyone with a few hours to spare to help us look after the centre grounds. Jobs would include weeding, mowing, and hedge trimming. Please get in touch if you would like to help – no experience required.

## **Can you help?**

We are looking for a number of items to help with caring for animals in both the wildlife and the domestic animal centre. Please get in touch if you can offer us any of the following:

- Lettuce and cabbage - for animals ranging from swans and ducks to rabbits and guinea pigs
- Shredded paper for bedding
- Original Fairy Liquid for washing contaminated animals
- Garden benches for our dog exercise areas

Another way in which you can help animals in 2019 is to take part in one of our fundraising activities. This year we have a number of events planned, including a sponsored cat cuddle, sponsored dog walk and our annual dinner and dance. For more information and to keep up to date just follow us on Face book at <https://www.facebook.com/RSPCAWestHatchAnimalCentre/>

Finally, we have a few talks scheduled for the year that you are welcome to attend. These are all free to attend although donations are welcome. Please book a place in advance so we know how many seats to put out!

12 Sept – Somerset Butterflies – Keith Gould of Butterfly Conservation  
4 Oct – Bat Echolocation Research – Athia Haron of The University of Bristol

If you would like to find out more or book a free place please email me on: [Bel.deering@rspca.org.uk](mailto:Bel.deering@rspca.org.uk)

## Forestry Focus

*By Rob Greenhalgh,  
Forestry Commission*



Earlier in the year we were selected as part of BBC Radio Somerset's 'Best views to welcome Spring' campaign. Staple Hill was nominated by a regular listener and selected along with other sites such as Ham Hill, Glastonbury Tor and Brean Down, as one of the iconic places to welcome the seasonal change.

It was great to have such positive exposure for the site and we hope it will drive more improvements to the area in the coming months. This goes some way to making us all feel a little better about our sites in the Blackdown Hills. Too often are we the target of fly-tipping and other forms of anti-social behaviour that you can forget just how special and important these sites are to our valued visitors, and the variety they offer all year round.

We are working towards improving the loop trail at Staple Hill and have a volunteering day planned on Wednesday 8th May. This will have been advertised in the Email alert, and we hope to report on a successful day in the next edition. We very much see this as a trial session, and one which we hope will encourage a regular group of volunteers to help and maintain this site going forward. If you would like to get involved, please contact Rob Greenhalgh on [robert.greenhalgh@forestryengland.uk](mailto:robert.greenhalgh@forestryengland.uk) or 07780 493753.

In other news, the work at Castle Neroche is now complete and we are starting to re-establish the footpath and bridle network that runs through the site. I have spent a good deal of time working alongside Somerset Rights of Way Officer, Les Braunton, Forestry England staff, local residents and regular visitors to try and understand the flow of traffic around the monument and its surrounding woodland. It is obvious that much of the signage in place is not reflective of the tracks and paths available to visitors. We will be looking to resolve this and install new signage to highlight the public footpaths, bridleways and permissive routes available to all of our users. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me on the above email or phone number and I'd be happy to discuss.

Happy summer!

# NEWS FROM NEROCHE VILLAGE COUNCIL

*By Gillian Midworth, Parish Clerk*



## **New Council**

With effect from 7th May, a new term of the Parish Council came into effect resulting in some changes.

Cllrs Chris Baxter, Lynne Spoor and Wally Torrington did not stand for re-election and on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank them for the commitment and contribution that they have made to the community during their time on the Council.

The Parish Council currently looks like this:

### **Bickenhall**

Caroline Parsons  
Marianne Bray  
Vacancy

### **Curland**

Adrian Aplin  
John Parsons  
Karen Street

### **Staple Fitzpaine**

Jon Bell  
Mark Pope  
Vacancy

### **Orchard Portman**

Mark Palmer  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

As you will see there are currently four vacancies on the Council and the Council is looking to fill these vacancies as quickly as possible.



## **A358 Improvements**

You may recall from a previous article that Neroche Parish Council had been invited to attend a Community Liaison Forum led by Highways England regarding the A358 improvements. The Forum has been set up to engage with the community outside of the formal consultation period. Unfortunately, there was very little new information forthcoming except confirmation that the Preferred Route announcement is still expected in the Spring which does not end until June 21st.

Further investigative work is continuing and landowners near to the existing A358 may have received letters requesting access to enable environmental and ecological surveys to be carried out.

Once the route is announced, the Parish Council will be consulting with the Parish before submitting a response so keep an eye out for details of any Extraordinary PC meetings that may be arranged. Details of any additional meetings will be published on the Neroche Villages website and via the email alert system.

In the meantime, improvements to Junction 25 of the M5 and the construction of the Nexus 25 Employment site has begun. The contractors are providing regular progress reports, which you may have seen on the Neroche Villages website and email alerts.

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

There is a separate report on the meeting in this edition of the Newsletter, although I would like to thank the contributors and exhibitors for attending and making the evening such a success.

In addition to the many parishioners who attended, all the Parish's local elected representatives were present, including Rebecca Pow MP. The main presentation was by David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council, so there was plenty of opportunity for parishioners to speak directly to their elected representatives and make their views known.

# Neroche MP's Briefing

*By Rebecca Pow*

Hello

Welcome to my spring update. First of all some good news (which you probably already know,) the Ministry of Defence has confirmed that Norton Manor Camp has been saved and 40 Commando Marines will be staying in Taunton. After three years of uncertainty following a decision to close the base, the MOD no longer intends to dispose of Norton Manor Camp as part of the Defence Estate Optimisation Programme. We all know people with associations at the camp which is held in such esteem locally and I am delighted that I was able to play a key role in this success.

I want to personally thank those who supported my concerted endeavour over many months to get this decision turned around. It was through building relations with the marines, the Minister overseeing the defence review and the former Secretary of State for Defence, that progress was made. The real game changer was getting the former Secretary of State to see the site for himself; making the economic case for retaining the camp both nationally and locally and highlighting the camp's perfect location. It demonstrates one should never give up and that as an MP with the strong support of the local community it is possible to make a difference. As if to demonstrate how professional the marines are at 40 Commando, shortly after the 'saving' of the camp their tremendous work in response to the Caribbean hurricane disaster in 2017 was recognised through the presentation of the Firmin Sword

of Peace and I was very proud to attend the ceremony.



*Former Secretary of State for Defence Gavin Williamson arrives to announce Norton Manor is saved*

## **A358 UPDATE**

My latest update from Highways England is that they will be reporting back on their preferred route for the A358 upgrade following the two consultations, by mid-June (they call this the end of spring). Further ecological surveying is underway on some land but Highways England have stated to me that this does not indicate any other than the 3 current routes are under scrutiny. At the time of writing some projects nationally are being moth balled on the grounds of cost benefit analysis, but I am led to believe this project is still scheduled.

## **POST OFFICE**

As our MP I've been involved in pressing to keep Taunton Post Office open following the demise of County Stores and I'm pleased to say it will remain in the old store for the foreseeable future. The Post Office is actively looking for a permanent arrangement and are currently in negotiation with the potential owners of the premises. The Post Office are committed to providing a full service in Taunton.

## **CYCLING**

Taunton has a cycle to work rate of 9% which is double the national average but many more people might be encouraged to take to their bikes if the cycle network was more comprehensive.

The Taunton Area Cycling Campaign has a commendable plan to double cycling to work in 20 years and I fully support their endeavours. They have produced an excellent map to link up current cycle ways and tackle hotspots. I am pleased cycle and pedestrian improvements were included in a recent bid to the governments' Future Highstreets Fund locally. It is also crucial that Somerset County Council's (SCC) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan sets out a clear framework for Taunton Garden Town. Whilst I support Government's Cycling and Walking Action Plan I'm talking to Transport Ministers to urge them to allocate funds not just to cities but to rural areas too.

## UK HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE VISIT

Whilst the former Secretary of State for Defence was in Taunton, I was also delighted to take him to the state of the art new UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) headquarters and to showcase the phenomenal work done here globally in the marine economy space. More recently, I also attended the official opening by The Princess Royal. I am working with the UKHO to make the case for securing a Geospatial hub and innovation centre in Taunton to build on the marine data gathering expertise of the UKHO. High tech centres like this will help our area to develop its own specialism and attract quality jobs. Similarly, I am supporting the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise bid for an Institute of Technology in the region, with a marine and nuclear focus, part of this bid is to develop a nuclear engineering centre at the University Centre in Taunton.



*UKHO's new Headquarters*

## BETTER BROADBAND

I continue to press Connecting Devon & Somerset to honour their commitment to 95% superfast broadband coverage. After Gigaclear announced significant delays at the end of last year it has been vital to extend the state aid beyond its 2020 deadline and following meetings with the Digital Minister, Margot James and Treasury Ministers, backed up by a strongly worded letter to the Chancellor supported by all Somerset and Devon MP's (apart from the Bridgwater MP) I have



received assurances that the state aid will be forthcoming pending the Spending Review. The effect of such an extension will be to provide CDS with the flexibility to either agree an acceptable revised timetable with Gigaclear to complete a new ultrafast full-fibre network or for CDS to pursue alternative full-fibre solutions for our residents and businesses.

## CLIMATE CHANGE



*Pledging my support for the UK to go net zero emissions on climate change before 2050*

I always say that as our MP I do everything I can to improve our lot here in the constituency, but my other focus in Westminster has always been the environment. I have managed, working with others, to secure extra protection for ancient woodland, a ban on micro plastics in cosmetics and care products; and getting the framework in place for better soil management is an ongoing endeavour. As co-chair of the All Party Group on Climate Change I've been working on this constantly. It, (and its biodiversity impact) is the biggest threat we face, and tackling it is urgent. At the time of writing, I have just done a PMQ calling for a before-2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions reduction target (this followed a letter I had already sent to the PM on this issue). I have also met with members of Extinction Rebellion and climate campaigner Greta Thunberg.

My own fears about the threats to the environment and society that climate change poses is shared by the many groups that have come to see me to discuss this. With their support I urged both the new council

here and Somerset County Council to declare a climate emergency and act accordingly. And I have raised concerns with the Chancellor himself and I'm heartened he has taken on some of my ideas in his recent Spring Statement; including calling for a review into biodiversity (something I gave a speech about recently). At the time of writing, this agenda is changing daily and we await the conclusions of the Climate Change Committee on reaching net zero sooner than the current target. Whilst good progress has been made under this Government: UK greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 25% since 2010, faster than any other G20 country; £52bn has been invested in renewable energy with 400,000 working in the low carbon economy, and fossil fuel heating is being phased out in all new homes. It's good progress but more needs to be done and rest assured I am working on it.

## **IN A SPIN**

I know that many local people are members of the WI (lovely cakes supplied at the Neroche Parish Meeting recently). I am pleased to be supporting the WI in their In A Spin Campaign, to tackle plastic microfibers, is gaining traction, (aided by also raising this in a PMQ), 700,000 plastic micro fibres wash out of our clothes, down the drain and into the marine habitat with every washing machine cycle, causing devastation to marine life and it needs tackling.

## **GOOD PROGRESS ON THE GARDEN TOWN**

Future plans for Taunton are regularly raised with me and I am confident that if we get the Garden Town concept right we have a real opportunity to create a place to live that we can all be proud of. The draft plan setting out the vision and style guide has just been out for public consultation. New thinking for our high-street is part of this too and I'm working with local businesses on this; applying for the new £600m Highstreets Fund, and a further £33m pot just announced for the SW may offer options.

## **FINALLY**

Well done to those involved in repairing the historic finger posts in the area. Somerset is one of just four counties that have retained these iconic sign posts and it would be a great pity if they disappeared.

# Safeguarding frontline services for two years

*By John Thorne*

Although I was raised in the Baptist family with an uncle, a grandfather, and great-grandfather who were lay preachers in the Church, I stepped away from religion and faith many years ago.

So, there is no real symbolism in the accompanying photograph of me outside a church!

It was just a nice scene and I thought what a good job had been done with the tower restoration. Plus, I may also add the pic to my internet dating profile.

On the other hand, there could for some be a symbolism, as recently I have been learning just how precarious has been the county council's financial position over the past 12 months, and it seems quite a few people may have been praying for help.

If they did, then their prayers seem to have been answered, as I am able now to tell you what a complete turnaround has occurred financially at County Hall.

A great deal has happened in the last 12 months, and much of it has been very fast-paced in the past few weeks. A year ago, the picture looked quite bleak and we were having to take decisive action to cut costs wherever possible and save money. This resulted in an emergency round of savings being passed in September, many of which were to frontline services relied upon by so many people, and we were heading into this current financial year with the situation only worsening and far more reductions being proposed.



You only had to look at what happened in Northamptonshire to see how bad it could have become. There, the County Council was overspending and had too little money in reserves to cope and effectively went bankrupt. The result was all non-essential spending was stopped, the council was put into special measures with three Government-appointed commissioners running it, £41.4 million of cuts are having to be made this year, and next year the council will be scrapped all together and replaced by a unitary authority.

Somerset, of course, was never in as bad a position as that, because we recognised the challenges and were stepping up to the plate to address them, and we also had healthier reserves than Northamptonshire. At least, that is what backbench councillors such as myself were repeatedly told at the time.

Now, however, I learn we were probably not too far away from such a scenario in Somerset and a lot of people in senior roles were having sleepless nights. Fresh financial eyes were brought in, and new ways of thinking were introduced and after turning around the situation, the finances quickly started to improve and momentum gathered. So much so, that we went from looking at overspending in the year just ended and having to make £19 million of savings, to underspending by around £2.5 million and reversing many savings plans, plus having £3.75 million extra available to spend on services this year.

It has been an absolute financial transformation which some might say is of Biblical proportions. To quote our Chief Executive recently: "We have moved from a council in crisis to a council looking optimistically forward to a financially sustainable future." The really exciting news - which at the time of writing Sky would call 'breaking news' - is, I can promise you no more cuts to frontline services in the next two years. Yes, it is a 'read my lips' moment (although, of course, I am aware that George Bush did later put up taxes!).

Progress has been down to a number of factors, including delivering on our savings plans (where previously many approved savings were not actually being achieved), better managing budgets to reduce the risk of overspends, and (a bit technical although hugely, hugely important for stability) rebuilding our general reserves fund. This time next year there is likely to be even greater change to report, as we are in the early stages of work to transform the look and feel of the council.

The aim is to improve the lives of our residents by being proactive and preventative, so people can stay independent for longer, can help themselves more, can tap into resources in their own communities, and when they do need help, they can access high quality care and support. We want to become a more digitally-enabled authority and there are exciting plans to look at using artificial intelligence, at robots, at new thinking, and at new approaches, as well as making the best of what we already have.

If I have not in the meantime been replaced by a robot, I will report next year on how the transformation is progressing.

And for those who may be wondering, no, I won't be attending mass any time soon.

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## **Events at Taunton Racecourse**

*By Karen Learoyd*



Even though there is no racing during the summer months at Taunton, the racecourse is still busy with other events including concerts, shows, exhibitions, private parties and weddings; it remains one of the most popular venues in the county.

### **Concerts**

There are two major music events being staged at the racecourse this summer, The (One and Only) Testical Festival in June, and then Razorlight headlining in August, supported by the Happy Mondays and Sophie Ellis-Bextor.

### **The (One and Only) Testical Festival is on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Once again, and back by popular demand, this Festival is designed to support men with testicular cancer in the South West. One stage, lots of acts and plenty of fun things to do.



It's in the Bag presents  
It's in the Bag

SUPPORTING MEN WITH TESTICULAR CANCER IN THE SOUTH WEST

The one & only

FESTIVAL FESTIVAL

22nd June 2019

Taunton Racecourse 12.00 noon to late

**toploader**

The *Lejlines* TWISTED VINYL  
Bandantree Heat Patrol  
ELVIS TRIBUTE huish BANDS

Tickets online from:  
[www.itsinthebag.org.uk/events](http://www.itsinthebag.org.uk/events)

Registered charity number: 1163735

Headlining is **Toploader**, supported by local band **The Leyliners**, plus:

**Twisted Vinyl | Bandantree | Heat Patrol | Elvis 56**

Festival tickets are available from [www.itsinthebag.co.uk](http://www.itsinthebag.co.uk)

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

**HAZZARD**

**RAZORLIGHT**

**HAPPY MONDAYS**

*Sophie Ellis-Bextor*

**Happy Mondays**

**SATURDAY 17 AUGUST**

**TAUNTON RACECOURSE**

WWW.TICKETMASTER.CO.UK - WWW.TAUNTONRACECOURSE.CO.UK  
PRESENTED BY V&A LIVE IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TALENT INTERNATIONAL

**Razorlight, Happy Mondays and Sophie Ellis-Bextor on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

Tickets from £33 are available from [www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk](http://www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)

**SOMERSET**

**COUNTY SHOW**

## Somerset County Show

The Somerset County Show comes to Taunton Racecourse on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be loads of things happening including:

- Full programme of equestrian events including the Shetland Pony Grand National
- Clay shooting and Gun Dog competitions
- Classic and Vintage Vehicles
- Cookery Demos
- Live Music
- Artisan Stalls
- Food and Drink Festival
- Children's Funfair

A great day out for all the family from 9am til 5pm each day, with plenty of Free Car Parking. Dogs are welcome, and there will be events all with entry available on the day.

Tickets are priced at £10 per adult, £5 per child or a Family ticket at £25 (2 adults, and 2 children). Further details and tickets are available from [www.tauntonracecourse.org.uk](http://www.tauntonracecourse.org.uk)

## **News from Bickenhall and District WI**

*by Jacqueline Kolkowski*

### **MEETINGS**

Our February meeting was a healthy one. Rhona Gillmore gave an interesting talk on how eating the right foods can benefit your health, it made us all think about the foods we eat!

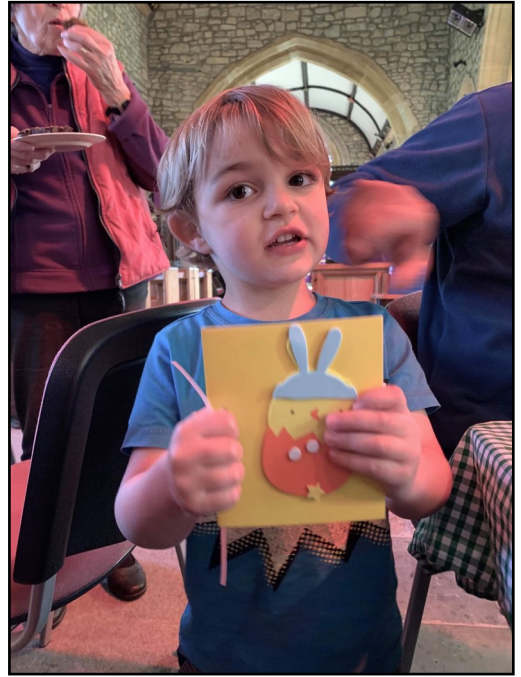
For our March meeting Jenny Barnham showed us how to produce a wonderful array of celebratory banners and wreaths by recycling a variety of materials. Jenny took up this craft following recovery from a stroke.

Due to the unavailability at short notice of our April speaker, we held a social event including a meal at the Greyhound following an enjoyable "Thank You Soiree" at St Peter's Church.

## EVENTS

The Pop - Up Café, which is held every Friday in St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine from 10.30am till 12.30pm, is still a great success. Many locals, walkers, cyclists, and tourists have all sampled our wonderful home-made cakes and savouries. They have enjoyed the chats and friendship found at these busy Friday mornings. Do come along we would love to see you.

In April, Pauline Phelps, Candy Janes, Peta Trot and Karen Morgan ran a children's Easter craft morning with wonderful cakes supplied by Tricia Dryden and Wyn Balance. It was a most enjoyable morning with the Mums and children, look out for more events being run by the church and the WI, during the Friday cafe.





On Good Friday the cafe opened later, after the Devotional Service. Many of the choir and congregation stayed for tea and cake, who could resist!

Members attended a Literary Lunch at the Somerset Cricket ground, the speakers were local authors Chris Ewan, a crime and mystery writer, along with crime writer Claire Donoghue. The speakers and the lunch were excellent.

Quiz at Westmonkton WI - The team of Pauline Phelps, Sheila Green, Marianne Bray, Frances and John Alford, enjoyed an excellent evening and quiz ending joint FIRST, but alas lost on the tiebreak.

## **SPORTING EVENTS**

Walking Netball, helping the WI get a Wiggle on! Pauline Phelps and Candy Janes have attended extra training held by Netball England for hosting the walking netball sessions. Our Tuesday sessions are run and organised by our hosts, although we have players attending from North Curry and Taunton Divas WI's.

We travelled to the Princess Royal Sports Centre at Wellington School to play with and against the Wellington WI ladies. It was an enjoyable and competitive evening, we played on a bigger



court than normal, so we needed to find that extra burst of energy, although we look forward to repeating the evening.

Ladies Day at Taunton Racecourse. Thanks go to Debbie Hards for organising another good day out at the races, a super day was had by the ladies with quite a few winners. The box next door had a group of very cheeky Chelsea pensioners who enjoyed the race meeting, as well as the company of the ladies.

Friendly Skittles Match. Wyn Balance arranged a friendly match against North Curry WI at the Bell Inn in Broadway. It was a very close fought match with us winning by 1 pin - a most enjoyable game followed by an excellent lunch in the pub.





# Events for your calendar

(Venue is Neroche Hall unless stated)

## May 2019

24 Friday Film Night - The Favourite

## June 2019

4 Neroche Hall AGM  
5 Greyhound Quiz Night  
6 Thursday Lunch Club  
12 Women's Institute  
22 Testical festival, Taunton Racecourse  
28 Friday Film Night - The Upside

## July 2019

3 Greyhound Quiz Night  
4 Thursday Lunch Club  
10 Women's Institute  
20 Summer Barn Dance  
20-28 Scarecrow Festival (last entries 13 July)

## August 2019

1 Thursday Lunch Club  
7 Greyhound Quiz Night  
14 Women's Institute

For latest updates visit [www.nerochevillages.org.uk/events-calendar](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk/events-calendar)

### Household Recycling & Refuse Collections

Week commencing 27th May and 26th August, all kerbside collection will be pushed back by one day



To check collection dates go to:  
<http://www2.tauntondeane.gov.uk/asp/webpages/waste/pdf/RefuseWednesdayB.pdf>

# Local Communication and Information

## **Websites:**

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

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

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

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

A new-look website which lists the coming events, facilities and availability for hire of our village hall, and has an online booking form.

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

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

## **Email Information:**

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

## **The Parish Magazine:**

Full information on benefice matters, a great source of news, coming events and general information, and details of many local businesses and services. For new subscriptions phone 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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***Printed by Parish Magazine Printing - 01288 341617***