

Working Together for a Better Community

# NEROCHE VILLAGES

## Newsletter

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

**Issue 46 - Winter 2022**



*'Chinese Lantern' © David Fitzpaine*

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.

# Neroche Autumn Craft Fair

*By Karen Learoyd*

Once again, we threw open the doors of Neroche Hall for the Craft Fair held on October 29<sup>th</sup>. After a fairly wet week, it was a relief that the weather was kind to us on the day.

Another early start for the stallholders, and the members of the Hall committee who were helping with the car park marshalling, unloading the cars in turn and bringing all the goods and chattels into the Hall to ensure a timely setup of all the stalls. Apparently, this isn't a service that is usually available, and all the exhibitors are extremely grateful for the help this provides, particularly those on their own! It's amazing to see the Hall transformed from a set of empty tables into the highly attractive displays of goodies that end up for sale.

Doors opened at 10.30am, although I had seen the first purchases being made even before that as the helpers took the opportunity before the hordes arrived to peruse what was on offer. With a wide variety of crafts available from art, jewellery, decoupage, wooden items, books, natural skincare, knitwear, cards, decorations, preserves, hardwood boards, glassware, pottery and prints – we felt we catered for most



*Made by Jennie Designs*



*Sharon Bradford Pottery*



*Boo Cottage Botanicals*



*Debbie Wakeling*

tastes. There was also a rather unusual stall selling posters or framed prints with the history of family surnames – this proved an extremely popular purchase!

Trade was brisk at the refreshment area as people took the opportunity to rest their legs and enjoy a brew and a slice (or two) of delicious cake



*Jill Perrior Country Designs*



*Wendy's Homemade Preserves*

supplied by the lovely bakers in our community. Every cake had its admirers and we had plenty to choose from, as well as sell to those who wanted to take some home. Homemade roasted vegetable and tomato and thyme soup were on offer as a light lunch for those in need of a little more sustenance. Those in the kitchen were kept very busy making teas and coffees, and cutting gorgeous slices of cake.

Somewhat as a surprise, a photographer from the County Gazette arrived and took a number of pictures (photo credits to Somerset County Gazette) for an article which they recently ran. We

also heard from people who came along that the event had been mentioned on BBC Somerset, so it was good to see the advertising had worked!



*Karen, Mary and Jacq*

Trade slowed down a little over the lunch period, although there remained a steady stream of people until the end of the fair at 3pm. We've had some lovely feedback from the stallholders about the event, especially the friendliness of the shoppers and helpers, and everyone is keen to return the next time we hold a Craft Fair.

Thanks to everyone who makes the day such a success, in particular the members of the Hall committee and our lovely cake makers. Thank you for coming!

## Stargazing around Staple.....

*By Andrew Morgan*

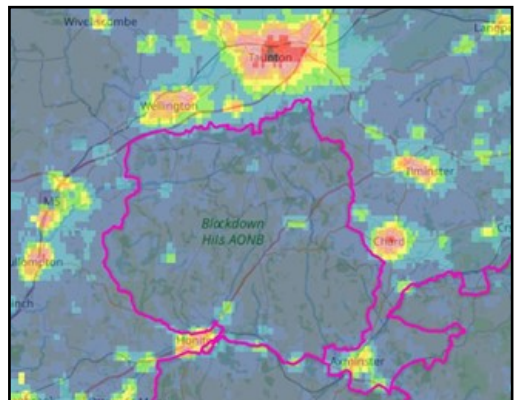
So, whenever we're looking around potential new houses, I guess we all have a list of questions to ask the vendors. When we moved here in 2010, one of my own questions was "And where exactly is the nearest street light ?"

The reason for this seemingly rather strange enquiry was simply that, as a teenager, I developed an interest in observing the night sky and then spent the next 40-odd years living in, or close to, a large city where the glare from streetlights and other light sources pretty much drowned out the finer details of what one could see. I was therefore rather relieved that the answer to my question was "About a mile away."

According to the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) has the 5<sup>th</sup> darkest skies in the country. As most of Neroche is within or adjacent to this AONB, it makes it an ideal place for viewing the night sky.

The CPRE map of light pollution for our area. Grey and pale blue are good, other colours not so good.

So, what can you see in the local night sky in the coming months? The objects we can see change throughout the year, as the Earth rotates about the Sun, and you can see quite a few interesting sights just using the naked eye. Note that if you leave a bright room and go outside into the night, you are not going to see too much initially. Your eyes need to adapt to the dark conditions – a process called, strangely enough, dark adaptation. Younger eyes adapt more quickly than older ones although around 10 minutes should be enough. If your eyes then get exposed accidentally to a bright light, dark adaptation is lost, and you have to start again!



CPRE

The Milky Way is what we can see of our own galaxy, the collection of stars of which our Sun is just one. It's visible to us as a hazy band of light that stretches across the sky, comprising 100 billion stars, most of which we can't see individually with the naked eye. The light band is broken up with darker patches which represent clouds of dust. At about 9pm towards the end of November, the Milky Way can be seen stretching from the north-east horizon, up overhead and towards the western horizon and is an amazing sight in a dark sky. Unfortunately, while the Moon is an interesting object, the light from it can pretty much drown out the Milky Way. As it happens, the Moon is largely not visible at the end of November, so that would be a good time to view. Some of the apps mentioned later on, inform you where the Milky Way can be found at other times of the year.

Meteor showers are another night sky phenomena that can be worth seeing with the naked eye if the conditions are good. Meteors – otherwise known as shooting stars – are seen when the Earth passes through a cloud of dust left behind by a comet and small particles enter the upper atmosphere and burn up. These showers can occur several times a year. They are often mentioned (and occasionally over-hyped) in the press. It is not uncommon for them to fail to live up to expectations although when conditions are right, it's possible to see 2-3 a minute and some of them are strikingly bright. There is a significant meteor shower in December with a maximum occurring around 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. These are known as the Geminids as the meteors all appear to come from the constellation Gemini which is found in the south-eastern sky at about 10:00pm at that time of year.

Meteor showers do at least have some degree of predictability as to when they might put in an appearance, although comets are objects which can put in unpredictable appearances from time to time. A comet is basically a large ball of ice which orbits the Sun, sometimes over a period of several thousand years. As the comet gets close to the Sun, the ice starts to melt, producing a long tail. The most famous comet is probably Halley's Comet which orbits the Sun every 75 years and is next due in 2061. In 2020, Comet Neowise appeared unexpectedly and was easily visible to the naked eye. It is not expected to return for around 6,500 years. I won't be putting any reminders in my diary....

One object that is impressive to the naked eye is the International Space Station (ISS). This manned space station accommodates up to



*The ISS, blazing a trail over Somerset,  
June 2020*

7 astronauts and orbits the Earth at altitude of 420km with a speed of 27,500 km/hr. It is visible in the sky for a few days, either shortly before sunrise or shortly after sunset, on a periodic cycle of about 6 weeks. The next period of visibility will be towards the end of November. There is free app available for both iPhone and Android called GoISSWatch, which tells you when it is visible and shows the path it will take across the sky. It is usually one of the brightest objects in the sky when it appears.

When it comes to giving your eyes a bit of assistance, you can use binoculars or a small telescope. However, predicting what can be seen through them is difficult, as this is one

case where the size of your equipment really does matter.

A modest pair of 10x50 binoculars opens new horizons – literally. The Moon is an easy target. The dark areas are known as seas and the lighter areas are known as the highlands. The Moon does rotate in the same way that the Earth does although due to a series of coincidences, the same side of the Moon is always visible to us. The line that defines the boundary between the sunlit and unlit parts of the Moon the terminator and it is along this line that the lunar craters are best seen.

A curious phenomenon that can be seen when the Moon is new (seen close to the horizon after the Sun



*The Moon. July 2022, taken with an  
iPhone ....and a small telescope*

sets). The Moon itself appears as a narrow crescent but as the sky darkens, it's possible to see the whole outline of the Moon dimly illuminated. This is called "earthshine" or "earthlight" and is due to the reflection of light from the Earth back onto the Moon.

A decent sized telescope is generally needed to get nice views of our planetary neighbours, although another good binocular target is the planet Jupiter. It appears as a bright star to the naked eye, although binoculars will reveal a small disc with 4 small faint dots of light close to it. These dots are Jupiter's four largest moons – Io, Europa, Callisto and Ganymede. In the coming winter months, Jupiter will be the brightest object in the sky, other than the Moon, easily visible in the south/south western sky after sunset. On the 8<sup>th</sup> December, a surprisingly rare event will happen. The Moon will pass in front of a planet, known as occultation, the planet in question being Mars, which unless you have access to a telescope, looks like a bright red star. The good news is that this will be easily visible with a small pair of binoculars. The bad news is that that it will happen at the rather anti-social time of 4:30am. If the clouds allow, it should be visible in western sky. I will set my alarm....

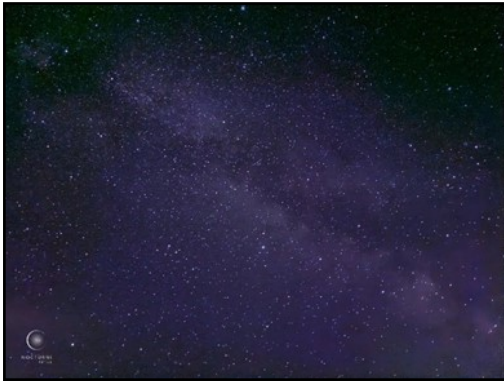
Looking outside the Solar system, star clusters are good binocular objects. There are too many to list here although one of the more prominent ones appears in the night sky in the coming months. The group is known as the Pleiades (or the Seven Sisters), visible high in the south-eastern sky in November, as a shimmering patch of light to the eye. Binoculars impressively show the individual stars. They are within our own galaxy although are 440 light years away, meaning that it takes the light from them 440 years to get here, so we are seeing them now as they were around the middle of the reign of Elizabeth the First.

To help you navigate around the night sky, there are a few phone apps available. Stellarium, iPhone and Android – free. It has limited functionality although shows the night sky from your location in a nice, augmented reality mode. Just point at the night sky and the screen shows the constellations, the positions of the planets that are visible and the Milky Way.

Pocket Universe (pUniverse), iPhone only, £2.49 from App Store. As above although with more bells and whistles. It provides news updates, highlights of the night and month.

If you prefer your information sources in a paper format, a really good small book is Royal Observatory Greenwich Guide to the Night Sky by Dunlop and Tirion. A new version is available every year and it costs about £7.00 from Amazon. There are charts for each month showing the positions of the stars and planets and descriptions of other objects that can be seen, such as meteor showers.

As technology has developed and their cameras have improved, mobile phone astrophotography has become a thing. All you need is a mobile phone, a suitable app or two and some means of keeping the phone still, like a tripod. This is not going to give you anything like a picture from the Hubble Space telescope, although the results can still be very rewarding. Nocturne is a free app for iPhones which takes numerous pictures over several minutes and merges them into one image. A couple of Nocturne examples are shown below.



*The Milky Way taken with an iPhone 12 -  
Courtesy of Alan Spurgeon, Texas*



*The constellation Orion, taken  
with an iPhone 12*

So that's a very quick explanation as to what can be seen in the local night sky and how it helps me get out from under The Wife's feet once in a while, though she sometimes joins me. Darker nights are coming so the viewing options are getting better. Unfortunately, darker nights generally mean colder nights, although a decent coat and a hot mug of coffee (with a splash of added alcohol) help keep the cold at bay. Time to get a comfy chair, sit back, relax and wonder at the night sky. And also wonder exactly WHAT is making that noise in the hedgerow over there. It sounds .....large.....



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## Decorating St Peter's Church for Harvest Festival

Harvest is always a special time within the community and the Church and as always it was a joy for the Flower Guild to decorate the Church.

This year all the flowers, which included a magnificent array of dahlias, greenery and produce, came from our own and local gardens. Candy and Peta made some wonderful harvest bread sheaves and Candy's corn dollies made a second outing to decorate the pew ends.

After our service the corn dollies went to another harvest festival at a nursing home and found new homes amongst the residents. The scarecrows Britannia, and Royal Mail Special Delivery, along with a crowd of crows were displayed in the corner of the church and looked magnificent.



Thanks must go to our talented Flower Guild team for producing such stunning displays.

As well as to all those who donated produce, flowers and greenery, the scarecrow builders and all of you who left donations for Open Door.

We look forward to seeing you at our family “come decorate our Christmas tree” morning with cafe, on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in joining the Flower Guild, do please contact me at [Jacqueline.Kolkowski@btinternet.com](mailto:Jacqueline.Kolkowski@btinternet.com)

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### **Mount Fancy Butterfly Reserve – Warden’s Update**

The annual butterfly counting season has just come to an end, so it is a good time to review the past year at Butterfly Conservation’s Mount Fancy Reserve. We had a mild and warm winter which is not good for butterflies. In whichever form they overwinter they are particularly vulnerable to mould and fungi. Perversely, the colder and drier the better for them. Then we had those couple of early weeks in February with clear sunny blue skies and warm weather which kick-started wildlife into the wake-up frenzy, only to be followed by three months of cold wet days. On the reserve the early spring flowers suffered and there was a very poor showing. With the absence of nectaring plants

the early emerging butterflies suffered, such that not a single (first generation) Common Blue was recorded within our ‘Bowl’ area where usually we can expect multiple tens of them. Of course without caterpillars to feed on, many of our wild birds struggled to feed their early chicks, brought on by that early warm snap. Our plucky transects walkers had many disappointing weeks of walks in the damp overcast days with virtually nothing to record.



*Common Blues*

Eventually the warm sunny days did finally appear as we went into that long hot dry summer. The orchids in the 'Bowl' made up for the absence of spring flowers and the later emerging butterflies began to put in a good appearance. To my eye these first generations were noticeably smaller than in previous years. Reflecting a shortage of feed plants perhaps? Then we began to record increasing counts of butterflies. It turned out to be a notable year for Gatekeepers, Brown Argus and even a second generation Common Blue finally emerged. Unfortunately, the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary was not seen this year, and despite keeping an eye open neither the Brown nor Purple Hairstreaks were seen. Though there were two exciting sightings of the variant form of the Silver Washed Fritillary (females only *Valesia* form) and the occasional migrant from the continent, the Clouded Yellow.



*Gatekeeper*



*Brown Argus*



*Valesia*



*Clouded Yellow Male*

Another impact of the unseasonable weather was that towards the end of June, the bracken had hardly emerged, too dry, and was to

too short to be worth cutting. Then we were into the ground nesting bird season when a few days of rain showers brought on the bracken a pace. Once it was clear to cut, the bracken was already well advanced. The best that was achieved was a few small areas hand cut by (NCV) volunteers, and some random paths flailed by a contractor. We now have four Shetland ponies which, as before, are moved around the three compartments during the year. They took full advantage of these flailed paths and pushed deep and wide into the bracken creating many open patches. They were followed, in the Wessex compartment, for the first time for many years, by a large herd of Longhorn cattle who for two weeks did an excellent job in trampling and stirring up the ground. Creating lots of open areas of disturbed seed beds where the pioneer plants, such as the Marsh Violets, can flourish.

As referred to in my previous report, Butterfly Conservation have agreed terms to renew their lease with Forestry England (Shutes and Mount Fancy) and have decided to not renew their lease with Wessex Water for the Wessex compartment. As we know the government is reconsidering its financial commitments, and support for the environment may become a casualty. One good item of news is that Butterfly Conservation have recently appointed a Landscape Officer to focus on their Somerset and Devon reserve management and to engage with landowners in the surrounding or adjoining areas. Why does any of this matter? Well butterflies are easily seen and are also fast responders to environmental changes. If we are getting anything right, or wrong, they will be some of the first indicators. Which is why our transect walkers are so important. They are giving immediate feedback on how our environment is doing. Our transect can be challenging because of the variable ground conditions and, as earlier this year, unrewarding, although still so worthy a cause. Why not get in touch with Meg in the first instance at:

[mechteldvanheck@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mechteldvanheck@yahoo.co.uk) and offer to be a standby walker who can be called on at short notice. That way you get to know this wonderful reserve all the better and develop your butterfly id skills.

# A Community Review for Neroche Parish

*By Jane Hole and Sarah Hyde*



What matters to you about where you live? How would you like to see our community and environment develop in the coming years? Neroche Parish Council has just launched a Community Review and is now keen to find out what is important to residents and what they would like to see happen in the parish in the coming years. The project is being supported by the Community Council for Somerset and is a golden opportunity for us to work together as a community to identify our top priorities for where we live and work.

A Steering Group has been formed comprising four parish councillors – Fiona Gledhill, Sue Hayman, Jane Hole and Dave Knight – and several members of the community. We are already hearing about people's concerns about nature and the environment, road speeds, and protecting our footpaths and bridleways. Ideas are bubbling up such as the possibility of developing wildlife corridors vital for the survival of countless species, and a Village Gateway scheme to help reduce traffic speed.



We want to make sure everyone has a say, so we'll be looking at different ways to capture your ideas and views, including a questionnaire and face-to-face engagement. And we're really keen to welcome people who live and run a business in the parish to attend the

group on an informal basis, particularly if you live in the Orchard Portman or Thurlbear areas.

The timing is important because our Review needs to be completed by June 2023 to enable it to help inform and influence the new Unitary Authority for Somerset as it develops new policies. Equally importantly, identified action points will be taken on by the Parish Council and local community groups as we try to make our parish more resilient for the future.

Working together as a community on our Parish Plan in 2010 resulted in the launch of the Neroche Villages website, the regular newsletter and email alert system, plus the monthly lunch club. Anything is possible if there is the community will!

What are your top three priorities for Neroche?  
Help us start to shape our Neroche Community Review by letting us know what's most important to you. Your early feedback is crucial to shaping the more detailed questions which will be sent out as a survey in the New Year.

We need your response to the following:  
What three things matter most to you about our parish, and why?

Email your response to [futurenerocheplan@gmail.com](mailto:futurenerocheplan@gmail.com) by Sunday, December 4. If you don't have access to email, please phone Jane Hole on 01460 234410 or Dave Knight on 07812 158967 to chat through your thoughts and ideas.



## SCHOOL TERM DATES

**Term 2: 31st October to 16th December**  
**Holiday 2: 17th December to 2nd January**  
**Term 3: 3rd January to 10th February**  
**Holiday 3: 11th February to 19th February**

## **News from Neroche Hall**

***By Karen Learoyd***

What a whirlwind summer it's been! The Hall has been a hive of activity over the last few months in lots of ways. We have hosted numerous children's parties, meetings, a wedding, along with our regular Church group and badminton groups. The Hall Committee have held another very successful Fish 'n' Chip Quiz and an autumn Craft Fair. It's also very exciting to be adding regular Tai Chi and Pilates classes at the Hall, as well as more badminton groups. We hope to be starting Yoga classes in the New Year and now have a regular booking for puppy training classes. Details of all these regular groups can be found on our website.

Talking of which, we have had a few issues with the website in the last couple of months and have taken the decision to build a new one from scratch. We are indebted to Anne Perry who has been working tirelessly to create a fresh new version for us, which has also given us the opportunity to review and renew the content – please do take a look at [www.nerochehall.org.uk](http://www.nerochehall.org.uk). You can always find out what's happening, what regular groups take place, and what availability there is by looking at the calendar.

On another front, the renovation of the toilets is nearing completion. The ladies was finished in late September, with new floor, new sanitary ware, painted throughout and topped off with a lovely big mirror. Work is in progress on the gents, which we hope to have fully complete by the end of November. This was slightly delayed as we noticed the new toilet had a crack in (before installation I should add), and had to be exchanged. You would think this was a simple process, but oh no! So far, we have had one actual collection of the broken pan, and 5 other phone calls to arrange its collection!! A huge shout out to my lovely husband John for giving up so much of his time to do the renovations for free – he has saved the Hall an enormous amount of money....

At some point in November, we will be installing a barrier to the car park to prevent unauthorised parking of large vehicles. We are aware there have been some local halls who have suffered with 'unwanted guests' and so we have decided to protect our hall and the surrounding neighbourhood from this risk. Cars and small vans will still be able to



access the car park as normal, and larger vehicles will need advance permission.

The committee are eagerly discussing new events we can hold at the Hall and are really looking forward to welcoming 'Ali and the Swingcats' on 28th January. They are an extremely popular trio who play smooth swing and gypsy jazz from the 1930s/1940s. If you enjoy the music of Gershwin, Cole Porter, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, this is the night for you. It promises to be a really popular evening, so don't delay, book your tickets today. We also have Family Bingo in December, another Fish 'n' Chip quiz hopefully in March, and a few other things up our sleeves. Watch this space!

Unfortunately, we are feeling the economic squeeze the same as everyone, so have had to put up the hire charges by approx 10% to cover increased costs. However, our charges are still very reasonable compared to other local halls, so we hope you understand the need for us to do this.

We look forward to seeing many of you over the coming months.



## 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 [nerocheemail@gmail.com](mailto:nerocheemail@gmail.com).

**Welcome to Neroche**

**Chris Newis – In Memoriam**  
**27 May 1947 – 29 August 2022**

Chris was a local – he was brought up, lived and worked his whole life in our community. He was born on May 27, 1947 and lived in Hatch Beauchamp. He had one sister, Josie, who died years ago. His future wife, Olive, lived in the house next door. He left school at 15 and went to work at WeAvo, who produced fencing products, doing carpentry. For the main part of his working life, Chris worked for the Crown Estate doing maintenance on properties across the county. He was full of stories of going to small and big houses, meeting the people who lived in them, and repairing anything and everything. He took tremendous pride in his work and the only time I heard him speak crossly was when he talked about people trying to do a bodged job or cut corners. After he left the Crown Estate he worked for a while for Woodlands Buildings until he retired from full time employment. Thereafter he did a whole variety of mainly unpaid work around the neighbourhood, including working with Mark and lately Ben on the upkeep of St Peter's Churchyard in Staple Fitzpaine, and the grounds of Neroche Hall. He delivered Parish Magazines and Newsletters and was an important leader in the team of volunteers who repaired the church wall at Staple Fitzpaine in the summer of 2022.

He knew so much about foundations, drains, ditches and the behaviour of water. He was particularly knowledgeable about the underground aquifers which are an important source of our water. He understood the importance of hedges and ditches, and the holes in the ground we see in some of our fields.

Chris and Olive always lived next door to each other and as Olive describes it, 'got talking, and that was it'. They were married at Taunton registry office and intended to just have one of Olive's sisters as a witness along with someone off the street. However, Olive's mother turned up uninvited. Chris' mother said she wouldn't go, or she would be told off. After they were married, they moved into a caravan in Trull and saved every penny towards buying a house.

When Chris moved to the Crown Estate, a cottage in Badger Street came with the job – and a letter confirming they could purchase it.

When they were ready, they went to the Crown office to discuss buying the house, although were told that they couldn't after all – in fact they were asked to destroy their letter. They didn't destroy it, and instead went down to the local MP's surgery and asked for help. Sir Edward du Cann was the MP at the time, and he stepped in and resolved the issue so that Chris and Olive could buy their house. They have lived in it ever since.

Chris loved his garden at his cottage, and the allotment he developed over many years at Winterwell. His garden never stayed the same for long – he had many landscaping projects and a proliferation of sheds. They had large and small ponds, walls and waterfalls, patios and shaped beds and always a profusion of beautiful flowers. Chris could grow anything and did – from marigolds, roses and dahlias to courgettes, rhubarb, beans and tomatoes. In the last few years he grew amazing flowers at Winterwell.

He and Olive always had animals including cats, dogs, a guinea pig, a cockatoo, a tortoise which they still have 40 years on, and a rabbit. They got the rabbit because the cat caught it and brought it into the house, alive. Olive took it back up to the woods – although the next day it appeared outside their door. They kept it for years, despite the cat. Around 1980 Chris got friendly with his new next-door neighbour at Winterwell, Terry. They spent all their spare time pottering around Winterwell doing all sorts of projects with minimal intervention from machinery. They planted trees, and vines and roses, put in fencing, dug a pond and built out houses for the sheep that Terry acquired. They played snooker in the out-buildings together and with various children from the neighbourhood.

Chris and Olive were dashing and trendy as young people and dressed up – Chris in his suits and tie, and Olive with her beehive and mini dresses, to go out and listen to music. Chris never had a driving licence although drove all sorts of vehicles that didn't require one including Robin Reliants. He had a great collection of motor bikes and sidecars. He got his first side car because whenever he put Olive on the back of his motorbike to go anywhere, she would fall asleep, so the side cars were safer! I remember seeing them coming down New Road, Chris with his Biggles glasses and helmet, and Olive with hers – jiggling along like a rag doll, fast asleep. The neighbours used to call them Wallace and Grommit. They would attend bikers'

gatherings including some 'up country', as far away as the M3 between Southampton and Salisbury. He loved auto jumbles, especially up at Dunkerswell and at the Bath and West Showground. They would also go all over the country to listen to folk music and especially enjoyed the Folk Festivals at West Bay and Sidmouth which they never missed. They loved our local festival, Woodstoke, too. They were regulars at the Brewhouse, enjoying going through the upcoming events and deciding which ones to attend. They had some holidays together including going to the Scilly Isles a few times, although Olive always really preferred to come home at night, and Chris always wanted to make her happy. He never went abroad. A few years ago, he started guitar lessons, although Covid got in the way of continuing them.

Chris and Olive really enjoyed eating out and would go out for lunch or dinner two or three times a week, visiting pubs (mainly) around the countryside outside Taunton. He went to the Pop-Up Café at St Peter's Church on a regular basis, and always had two pieces of cake (saying, 'I really shouldn't!') and two cups of tea.

When they were younger, they also walked for miles together all over the local countryside. Chris went for long walks with his dog until the day he died – out walking his dog on the August Bank Holiday Monday. He knew every inch of our corner of Somerset, and he loved it all, rain and shine. After roaming through the hills, he would explain to Mark every twist and turn of his route with his own inimitable waypoints. Mark had generally lost him before he had gone out of the gate.

In keeping with Chris's wishes he did not have a funeral, although we had a lovely gathering at the Greyhound. He was a modest man who never wanted to be the centre of attention. He was devoted to Olive all his life and their life in Trull then Badger Street. As Mark said at the Greyhound, 'Chris was a fantastic, steadfast, honest, loyal, knowledgeable and funny friend to me and all of us. As Malcolm Prosser wrote, 'Chris was a 'gentleman'. Even better than that he was a Somerset gentleman'.

By Rebecca George

## Remembering your Faithful Friend this Christmas



Christmas may be a time to remember family and friends - although Dogs Trust Ilfracombe is also asking local dog owners to remember their four-legged friends this festive time, with a *Canine Care Card*.

The Canine Care Card is a free service, which helps to ensure your dog's future, in the event of you either passing away, receiving a life-changing diagnosis or moving into a care home. This can often be a great concern to some people, who perhaps do not have a family member or friend in a position to look after their dog, should the worst happen. Therefore, by signing up to the service, Dogs Trust can offer peace of mind, reassuring you that your faithful friend will be well cared for by the charity.

It is easy to sign up to the service, which simply asks for some information on your dog, including their likes and dislikes, as well as your dog's medical history and your vet details. It also asks for you to confirm who you would like as your Dog Guardian. This should be someone you trust, like a friend, family member, solicitor, neighbour or vet, who can sign over ownership of your dog to Dogs Trust on your behalf, should you become seriously ill or pass away.

You can register online by going to [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) and searching for 'Canine Care Card' - or if you do not have access to the internet, you can request a paper version of the application form. Once the form is submitted, Dogs Trust will then write to you, to confirm when your application has been processed.

Once signed up, should your card ever need to be activated, Dogs Trust will then arrange with your Dog Guardian for your dog to come into the rehoming centre or into foster care. With a team of vets, trainers and behaviourists on hand if needed, your dog will then be welcomed, loved and well cared for by the charity, who will work tirelessly to find a loving new home for your much-loved canine companion.

If you would like further information about the Canine Care Card, or to request a paper application form, please contact Dogs Trust Ilfracombe's Supporter Relations Officer, Stan Charles-Jones, at [Stanley.charlesjones@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:Stanley.charlesjones@dogstrust.org.uk) or phone 01271 817716.

# CHRISTMAS FAMILY BINGO



FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER 2022

(6.30pm FOR EYES DOWN 7pm)

**Neroche Parish Hall**

RAFFLE BAR Bring your own nibbles  
Booking essential Email [pmphelps@enterprise.net](mailto:pmphelps@enterprise.net)



## Pop-Up Café

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

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

Meet old friends and make new ones

For more information contact

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



## Hungry autumn caterpillars and busy campfire gatherings

When you're out walking through the late autumn woods, admiring the brilliant colours of the foliage on a sunny day, here's something to look out for under beech trees. Amongst the orange-brown leaves, look out for some which still have a patch of summer green on them. The patch of green may be very starkly different from the rest of the leaf, confined to a couple of veins. If you spot one of these, hold it up to the light and you may see something like in this photograph – and it contains a fascinating secret.



Within the green patch you'll see a wiggly dark trail, which starts narrow and gradually gets fatter towards the outer edge of the leaf. This is the trail – or 'mine' – left by a tiny caterpillar, which you may spot, still chomping away at the outer end of a thin tube it has eaten through the inside of the leaf. The dark trail behind it in the tube is – you'll have guessed – poo.

This is the caterpillar of a micro-moth, the Small Beech Pygmy, *Stigmella tityrella*, which lays its eggs on the beech leaf in late summer. But why, late in the autumn, is the patch of leaf around the caterpillar still green?

Rather amazingly, the caterpillar carries a bacteria in its saliva which releases a hormone, which suspends the usual process of ageing in the section of leaf around it. Hence as the rest of the leaf turns orange, yellow or brown, the caterpillar remains in a little oasis of summer green.

Meanwhile alongside these and many other woodland miracles, we have a busy schedule of activities happening this autumn and winter at Young Wood. We have secured funding from Somerset Open Mental Health to begin a new programme of woodland wellbeing sessions on Tuesdays for adults experiencing mental health challenges. On Wednesdays we're continuing our general volunteering days open to all – we always welcome new volunteers – and on Fridays we have our toddlers and families groups.

If you'd like to participate, volunteer, or donate to support our work, do get in touch at [info@nerochewoodlanders.org](mailto:info@nerochewoodlanders.org), or visit [www.nerochewoodlanders.org](http://www.nerochewoodlanders.org).

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



## Dates & Activities for St Peter's Church December 2022

Pop-up Café Fridays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00am to 12.30pm

**Holy Communion Service Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
at 10am**

### **Christmas Tree Decorating**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am to 12.30pm  
Children & (grown-ups) are invited to decorate the Christmas tree  
In St Peter's Church - crafts for all the family.  
*The café will be open.*

**Carol Service - Wednesday 21st December at 7.00pm**  
*A traditional Christmas celebration at St Peter's Church.*

***All welcome!***

*Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!*

***Midnight Communion Service***

***Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30pm***

***All welcome!***



St Peter's Church is part of the 'Seven Sowers Benefice' of which  
further details can be found at [www.sevensowers.org.uk](http://www.sevensowers.org.uk)





### **Plenty to enjoy at Iiminster Arts Centre**

As many parishioners may know, as visitors or volunteers, there's plenty to enjoy at Iiminster Arts Centre, which is based in a former historic church in the middle of the town. It is open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 9.30am to 3pm.

The charity runs a busy programme of tutored workshops for all abilities, weekly concerts and monthly art exhibitions. There's also a boutique shop, selling handmade gifts by local craft makers, and a café, offering tasty snacks and drinks.

Like many multi-arts and performance venues, the arts centre is emerging from challenging times, following enforced closures due to Covid and a drop in visitor numbers. As a key cultural asset on our doorstep, it would welcome your support - either by volunteering to help or by visiting and enjoying live music from top performers, taking part in its creative classes, buying a Christmas gift from the shop, making a donation, or sampling the café's famous scones!

If you're interested in volunteering, there's a wide range of active and less active roles available, including receptionists, performance organisers, gallery stewards, gardeners or as office support. It's a wonderful way to make new friends and contribute to a great cause that enriches the lives of the local community.

For details of what's on and how to get involved visit [iiminsterarts.com](http://iiminsterarts.com) or telephone 01460 54973.

## News from Your MP

*By Rebecca Pow*

Hello again,

As ever, it's been busy in the constituency, and it is fair to say it has been a pretty turbulent few months in Westminster since I last wrote.

### **COST OF LIVING**

For many, rising costs whether for food or energy, are a challenge as my recent catch up with the dedicated Taunton Citizens Advice Bureau staff highlighted. They provide a valuable service for many struggling, which includes significant numbers in our rural areas where transport costs in particular are a serious issue. I



have been feeding in concerns to the Department for Work and Pensions and to the Chancellor to help ensure we have the right measures in place to ease problems. I've also pressed Somerset County Council to retain their bus support in line with the support our buses received during covid to ensure vital routes keep running.

The £37bn package of support Government has provided to help with cost-of-living pressures is obviously proving a lifeline for some. Two direct cost of living payments (£326 in July and £324 in November) have gone to 12,000 families most in need across Taunton Deane. The most vulnerable in society will receive a total of £1200 of support over the winter months which is welcome.

Importantly, for households who are connected to the electricity network and who use fuels other than gas, such as heating oil, to heat their homes, support will be available through the Energy Price Guarantee for their electricity costs, as well as the Energy Bills Support Scheme. If you are not able to receive support for your heating costs through the Energy Price Guarantee, for example because you live in an area of the UK that is not served by the gas grid, the Government will provide an additional payment of £100 to compensate for the rising

costs of other fuels such as heating oil. This is intended to guarantee customers receive support equivalent to those on both the electricity and gas grid for the total cost of your energy.

## **COAL ORCHARD RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT**

Many of you by now will have ventured to explore the exciting new development at Coal Orchard which I was pleased to join in opening recently. Work on this began under the previous Taunton Deane Council administration and was completed by the current SWT Council with critical funds from the Government Future Highstreets Fund which I was able to secure. The site, which generations ago used to be the unloading wharf for coal from Wales, has been transformed into a mix of accommodation, retail and leisure space with the Brewhouse Theatre taking centre stage and opening up links to the surrounding St James shopping area. Please do give all these businesses your support!



## **TAUNTON TO WELLINGTON CYCLEWAY**



I was pleased to take part in a successful Citizens UK conference focusing on proposals for a cycleway from Taunton to Wellington. Developing such a route is one of my future priorities, especially with a view to linking it into the Wellington Rail Station, plans for which have made significant progress I am delighted to say. The rail committee has

worked extremely effectively pulling all stakeholders together and I suggested the cycleway needs a similar committee so that we can effectively link the local angles right up to Government level through me as the local MP. This means that we are ready to take advantage of possible sources of vital funding when this becomes available

through the Department of Transport Active Travel schemes. With a provisional cost of up to £9m this will be important. In the meantime, please do sign my petition which I will present in Parliament. This will help make the case for the cycleway.

For further details, please contact my office. <https://www.rebeccapow.org.uk/campaigns/rebecca-launches-petition-install-cycleway-between-taunton-and-wellington>

## **MUSGROVE PARK HOSPITAL - NEW SURGICAL DECISION UNIT OPENS**

There is more good progress to report at Musgrove Park Hospital with the opening of the £11.5m surgical decision unit. The unit will allow hard-working hospital staff to assess patients faster, making urgent surgical assessments with decisions on whether emergency surgery is required or an alternative pathway. Funding for the unit came from the £91m of funding I was pleased to work with the Somerset NHS Foundation Trust to secure from HM Treasury. The remaining monies are being allocated to the new surgical centre on site.

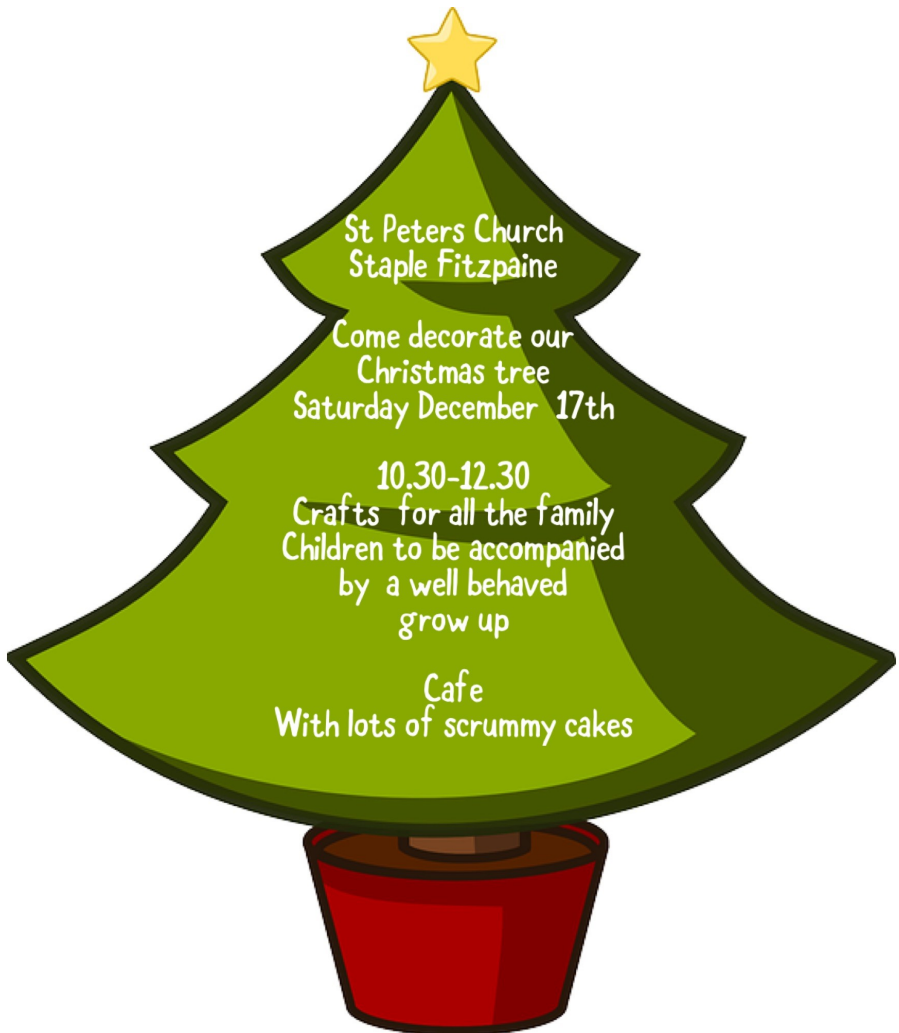
## **APPOINTED ENVIRONMENT MINISTER**

Finally, at the time of writing, the Prime Minister has just addressed the COP27 Summit in Egypt, setting out plans to triple our funding on climate change adaptation to £1.5 billion by 2025 as well as calling on global leaders to stick to the commitments made at COP26 in Glasgow which of course we presided over as joint presidents. Dealing with the climate crisis is a huge global challenge although it is essential that we tackle it. It is also important to lead by example at home. In this respect I am absolutely delighted and honoured to have been given the opportunity to once again be part of the top team at DEFRA serving in Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak's Government as the Environment Quality and Resilience Minister. We have done more than any Government ever on the environment so far although there is much more to do. Included in my portfolio is water, flooding, air quality, chemicals and the significant waste and recycling



agenda which will move us to a more circular economy where we reduce waste, recycle and re-use more. In respect of water, I'll be working closely with our farming community and water companies to both clean up our water and also ensure we have secure food supplies.

As ever please get in touch if I can be of any help.



## The Autumn Fish 'n' Chip Quiz

Neroche Hall again played host to the regular Fish 'n' Chip Quiz on 30<sup>th</sup> September – an event much missed during the Covid months, evidenced again by the number of teams who booked a table for this evening. All tables were sold out in advance ensuring a packed Hall for a fun night of 'eyes down' and work those brain cells!



Our Quiz Master for the night, Andrew Morgan, came armed with 8 rounds of questions designed to tax even the most hardened quizzier, and had very cleverly included a reference to the Queen in every round (to acknowledge the Queen's recent passing). We kicked off as usual with a General Knowledge round, where every question was based in 2022 – you'd think we would all remember something so recent although only one of our 14 teams managed a full house with the average being 6.5!


ALAS came next (Art, Literature and Stuff), swiftly followed by a Numbers round. At this stage, the scores were pretty close with only a few points separating the teams. While the food was being distributed and consumed, we had a picture round – 20 album covers to work out (or guess!) and yes, you are right if you thought one of them was by Queen. The fish 'n' chips provided by Layzricks were as fabulous as ever and provided much needed fortification before we moved on to the next few rounds – Geography, History, Science and Nature. The last round entitled Soundbites was a cunning set of voices which you had to identify, not as easy as you would think.



Then to the final tallying up of the scores and declaration of the results. The winners from the last quiz – Not Poldark, were once again victorious with the Puffing Billies running them a close second. The master quizzers on the night were Jill and Alan Perrior, Norman and Sara Llewellyn, Paul Hart and Ross Henley, who shared their prize of a half case of wine.

The Hall committee had done a wonderful job in setting up the event, serving the food, running the raffle, and organising the scoring. Again, a huge thank you to Andrew for all the hard work required to create such an entertaining set of questions. And a big thank you to everyone who came along, had fun and went home with a full tummy!

The next quiz is being planned for Spring 2023, so plenty of time to research ....



**Thank you for making our Coffee Morning special**

Whether you joined us for the cause, the chatter or the tasty treats, your generosity helped raise a fabulous

**£470** *and still counting!*

to help support people living with cancer.

Headline Partners

Official Sponsor

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

M&S  
- food -

**COSTA**  
COFFEE

Betty Crocker

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC19085

We had an excellent presentation given by MIND Somerset, the mental health charity. Their core purpose is to provide services and support to anyone affected by mental illness, improving quality of life and wellbeing. Alison explained how large the problem is within Somerset and how they were helping with these issues through a 24/7 mind line and many other support groups, while linking with the NHS and other mental health agencies. She also spoke on how we could all look after our own mental health. For further information visit [www.mindinsomerset.org.uk](http://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk).



For our summer outing this year organised by Pauline, we enjoyed an evening meal at La Campagna (ex Eagle Tavern), plenty of food, wine and laughter...



**EVENTS**

Carole volunteered on the WI refreshment stall at the Somerset County Show held at the racecourse, also providing one of her super cakes. I am sure it was one of the best in show! Members attended the annual County meeting at Wellsprings last month, two excellent speakers entertained the meeting. Sarah Crew, who is the first female Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police and the Rev'd Kate Bottley who is a Church of England priest in Nottinghamshire, which she combines with being a journalist, media presenter and reality television star. You might have seen her on TV or read her columns in the newspapers, I'm sure you can imagine her talk was highly entertaining.



## SPORTS

The long-awaited skittles league was back and alas we were drawn against some very tough (and some were gruff) opposition. We were drawn against Pawlett WI from Bridgwater, we travelled to The Harvest Moon, North Newton to play. We were led by our captain Debbie, who rallied the team throughout the evening, and alas we still only managed to come second. We look forward to playing some friendly games.

### Julie Pope

Had been a member of our WI since 1993 and she touched our lives in many ways not just at WI meetings. Some will remember her as the highly respected Governor of Thurlbear School, or while helping at the open farm days or buying our Christmas tree at the farm. Working with her in supporting St Peter's Church as a committee member, meeting her at church events or singing in the Choir where she was Choir Master. Some of us joined Julie when she opened her kitchen for a fun morning of chutney making which we sold to raise money for the St Peter's Flower Festival. Whenever you met Julie at WI meeting or at any other time around our community, she always had a smile for you and made the time to talk to you, even as her illness progressed - an illness she fought bravely and with great dignity.



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

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

*Perhaps you would like to come along as a guest.  
We hope to see you at one of our meetings.*



Howard Goodall's

# Eternal Light

The Lord Is My Shepherd  
Bach - Sleepers Awake  
Audience Carols

7:30pm  
Saturday 3rd December  
Taunton Minster  
St Mary Magdalene, Taunton



Tickets, information and much more at  
[www.tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk)

Registered Charity - Number 900173

## **Volunteer to be an Independent Visitor or Advocate for children in Somerset.**

These are fascinating and inspiring opportunities, which can bring real benefits to vulnerable children and young people. (Travel and reasonable expenses are reimbursed.)

You can help children and young people understand their rights and ensure that their views, wishes and feelings are heard.



### **What is an Independent Visitor?**

Independent Visitors are volunteers who befriend and spend time with a child or young person who is in the care of the Local Authority. By law all local authorities have to provide an Independent Visitor service.

In Somerset our intention is to encourage the relationship between the Independent Visitor and young person to continue beyond care. This way the care leavers continue to benefit from support, while making the transition to young adulthood. Independent Visitors are highly valued by the young people as they may be the only person involved in their lives who is not paid to be there.



### **What is an Advocate?**

An Advocate is an independent person who can offer one-to-one support to children and young people to have their voice heard when meetings are taking place concerning their wellbeing. It's the role of the Advocate to speak up for the young person, make them aware of their rights, listen to them and represent their views, wishes and feelings. Why not join our bank of advocates? You choose when you're available.

Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability. Your life experience will be highly valued, and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills.

Please contact us and we will arrange a short visit or call to explain more and discuss your options.



For more information, visit our website at

[www.route1advocacy.co.uk](http://www.route1advocacy.co.uk)

[Route1businesssupportadmin@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Route1businesssupportadmin@somerset.gov.uk)

01749 822801

Follow us on social media:



## Neroche Thursday Lunch Club

Neroche Hall  
12.30pm for 1pm

8th December, 5th January, 2nd February

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



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

## News from RSPCA West Hatch

**Wildlife Centre – open to admissions**

**Animal Centre –adoptions by appointment**

This update begins with a celebration of our fabulous staff team. Over the last few months we have recognised the long service of three of our colleagues who have worked at the centre for a combined total of 70 years. Pictured below are Karen and Carly from the animal centre who've reached 25 years' service, and Barbara who has been with the wildlife centre for 20 years. We could not be prouder of these fantastic individuals, and feel incredibly lucky to have them in our team



*Karen and Carly*



*Barbara*

And it is not just our staff that do amazing things for animals. Our supporters are also to be commended for their dedication to making a difference. One such hero is Dean who recently completed his walk of the Appalachian trail – 2194.3 miles in total - to raise money for our centre. Dean says:

"I left Amicalola Falls in Georgia on March 21st of this year and at approximately 12.45pm on October 11th summited Katahdin in Baxter State Park, Maine.



*Dean*

... I need to thank all of you who supported me and made donations to 'RSPCA West Hatch'

## **Animal Centre news**

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

Firstly here are Magnolia and Irena

Magnolia (grey, approx 3 years old) and Irena (black and white, approx 4-5 years old) are a very closely bonded pair of neutered female rabbits who absolutely adore each other. They spend a great deal of time side by side and get on incredibly well. They were rescued from a property where a large number of rabbits were being kept in very poor conditions.



*Magnolia and Irena*

Irena is a little more nervous than Magnolia and does get stressed by handling, but they are both very sweet and highly motivated by food!

Magnolia is a large rabbit, and to ensure their relationship remains harmonious they will need large, well-furnished accommodation. They will require unrestricted access to a space measuring a minimum 6ft by 10ft, totalling 60 square feet. This is equivalent to a 6ft by 2ft hutch with an attached 6ft by 8ft run, containing enrichment and furnishings. A converted shed with a run or a rabbit-proofed indoor room would also be appropriate and bigger is always better.

Next up is Jolene with her piglets.

Jolene is an adult female pot-bellied pig who arrived at West Hatch with her two female piglets. Jolene was originally kept at a residential property where there was not enough space or resources to meet her needs, and as such she was signed over into RSPCA care.



*Jolene and her piglets*

The three pigs are looking for a home together and will require at the minimum, a securely fenced half acre paddock to provide them with the space to roam and forage. They will need an area of hard standing as well as shelters to provide shade in the summer and a wallow for them to mud bathe. They must have access to at least one insulated ark or other solid shelter with bedding such as straw. Larger groups will need more space and access to multiple shelters and watering points.

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

## Wildlife Centre news

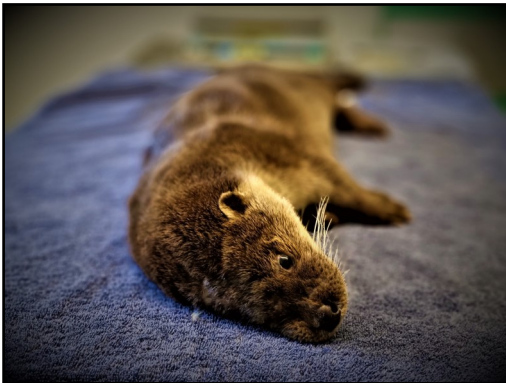
This Badger was admitted to the centre after becoming trapped in a confined space. Once it had received the care and attention that it needed it was released back into the wild. Local



*Badger*

people reported that they had missed seeing it while it was in the centre and were thrilled to know that it had made a full recovery.

We admitted an otter to the centre that had a number of bite wounds. After a lot of specialist care from our vet team it has made great progress and is well on the way to a full recovery and release. As you can see a lot goes on at the centre. Why not follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all our news. You can find us by searching for RSPCA West Hatch Animal Centre and also for RSPCA West Hatch Wildlife. You might also consider joining our Friends group and helping us to offer the best possible care to the animals in the centre. Thanks.



*Otter*



*Otter*





# WILL YOU BE OUR FRIEND?

## Friends of West Hatch yearly membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*giftaid it*

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

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

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

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

### OFFICE USE ONLY

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

The Friends of West Hatch, Registered Charity Number 1062697

# Do You Play Badminton?

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

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

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

## The Greyhound Inn

Country pub with rooms

Open daily

01823 480227

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



*Lending with Heart and Mind*

Somerset West  
and Taunton

## Somerset West and Taunton Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners and landlords\*.

We understand the expense of maintaining your home and we work with you to take the stress out of funding repairs, improvements or adaptations.

For a no-obligation assessment or more information visit [www.lendology.org.uk](http://www.lendology.org.uk) or call 01823 461099

\*subject to eligibility

# Events for your calendar

(Venue is Neroche Hall unless stated)

## December

Thursday, 8th - Community Lunch

Thursday, 8th - Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, 14th - WI Meeting

Friday, 16th - Family Christmas Bingo

Saturday, 17th - Decorate Your Xmas Tree at St Peter's Church

Wednesday, 21st - Carol Service at St Peter's Church

## January

Thursday, 5th - Community Lunch

Wednesday, 11th - WI Meeting

Thursday, 12th - Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, 18th - Quiz at The Greyhound

Saturday, 28th - Ali & The Swingcats

## February

Thursday, 2nd - Community Lunch

Wednesday, 8th - WI Meeting

Thursday, 9th - Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, 15th - Quiz at The Greyhound

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

# Local Communication and Information

## **Websites:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Email Information:**

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

## **The Parish Magazine:**

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

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

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

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