

*“Working Together for a Better Community”*

# NEROCHE VILLAGES

Issue No 12

## Newsletter

May 2014

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

## Annual Parish Meeting



**Thursday 1st May 2013**

**Neroche Village Hall**

**Doors Open 7.00pm**

(For full details go to pages 12 & 13)

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

Welcome to the 12th issue of the Neroche Villages' Newsletter, which hopes to satisfy the need identified in the Parish Plan for a 'hard copy' local news and information medium delivered free to every household in Neroche Parish. The aim of this publication is to improve communication within the Parish by providing news and information on a wide variety of subjects and issues.



LOTTERY FUNDED

# Foreword

By: *Wally Torrington (Project Coordinator) & Alan Perrior (Editor)*



This is truly a bumper edition of the Newsletter, some 56 pages; the largest yet, which is mainly a consequence of the volume of material that you have asked to be included. That having been said, in future, due mainly to cost and our limited time, we'll be aiming to restrict our enthusiasm to around the 40 - 52 pages.



The most important event in the calendar, during the forthcoming 3 months, is the **Annual Parish Meetings**, due to take place in Neroche Hall on the evening of the 1st May (see adverts on pages 12 and 13 for full details). It is extremely important that we have an excellent turnout from the community.

## Neroche Communication Action Group

If you wish to comment on the Neroche Villages Newsletter, the Community website or the Email Alert system, or would like to submit an article or report, or if you have an event to publicise, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Neroche Communication Action Group members are;

**Tim French** (Chairman)  
[timfrench1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:timfrench1@tiscali.co.uk)

**Wally Torrington**  
(Project Coordinator)  
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**Sheila Green**  
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## Farm Sprayer Operator of the Year



Last year we were delighted to report that Staple Fitzpaine's Graham Gasper, won a prestigious award as one of the UK's top farm sprayer operators, in the acclaimed **Farm Sprayer Operator of the Year Awards**, a nationwide competition sponsored by Syngenta. Well, he's done it again, and has just been announced the South West Sprayer Operator of the Year 2014. His name will now go forward to be considered for the title British Sprayer Operator of the Year. ***Good luck Graham!***

## Neroche History Group invites you to a talk on **The Iron-Age History of the Blackdown Hills**

by Marc Cox

(Community Archaeologist Somerset Heritage Service)

Marc reveals how, more than one thousand years ago, the Blackdown Hills were a hub of, long forgotten, industrial activity. Using newly discovered archaeological evidence and hard-earned iron smelting experience, Marc will try to piece together an ancient technology and uncover the secrets of this unique metallurgical landscape.

**Wednesday 28th May**

**Neroche Hall 7.30pm**

All welcome

Non-members £2.50

## United Parishes Senior Citizens Club

The club is **50** years old and is celebrating with **TWO** parties at Stoke St Mary Village Hall. There's a **Tea Party** at 2.30pm on **Tuesday 10th June** with entertainment by old friends and musicians, Robby Morgan and Jonathan Fairey. A **Celebration Lunch** will be held at 12.30pm on **Saturday 21st June** with a short thanksgiving by Paul Reynolds for 50 years of Community and Friendship, followed by the Rivertones Choir, and, of course, tea and cake.

*For further details contact Club Chairman Anne Pickard on 01823 339986.*

# News From Neroche Hall

*Richard Davies, Chairman of Neroche Hall Trusties, has agreed to produce a regular article for the Newsletter.*



You may recall that in the last edition of the Newsletter, I gave an outline of the Hall Committee's efforts to improve the quality of the sound at our popular monthly film night. After much deliberation, and two surveys, it transpired that our third one has provided the best solution, and has led to improvements at a greatly reduced cost, whilst utilising the talents of a firm much nearer to home. Following a demonstration by PC Werth Advanced Sound Technologies, which linked into our existing sound system, thereby enhancing the Moviola speakers, we opted to stay local with them and our thanks go to Dan Roberts for his help and time.



The additional benefit of utilising our existing system is that the hearing loop can be used by anyone with a hearing device that has a 'T' position. Excellent feedback has been received from those selecting this facility, and we hope anyone previously deterred, as they may have struggled with their hearing device, will come along and give it another try.

As part of the Committee's commitment to improve the facilities at the hall, it may not have gone unnoticed that we have recently made a formal application to the local Licensing Authority to vary our existing Premises Licence to sell alcohol for consumption at hall events. I hope, by the time this goes to print, we will have been successful, as this will enable us to not only run a bar at any of our functions, but will attract people to hire the hall, for example for wedding receptions or social events. It will not be our policy to sell alcohol other than in conjunction with bona fide functions, and we will not be selling on a daily basis. We have several excellent local hostelries and do not intend trying to compete for their trade!

The main reason for obtaining a permanent licence is that hitherto all alcohol is sold under a 'Temporary Event Licence' (TEN) which has to be obtained separately for each event and is limited to only twelve per annum.

Any improvement to the facilities at the hall is done for the benefit of all our community, without whose support our survival would be difficult. We are lucky in that all our events are extremely well attended and supported by our local community, as well as those from slightly further afield. I would obviously urge everyone to continue coming to the hall but also to encourage others to come along, especially if they are new to the area. Your support is crucial to the hall's future. People from outside our immediate area have often said to me that they wish their own community had such a diverse program of events and functions, and they are obviously envious of our vibrant community.



If anyone is keen to ensure the future of the hall for our coming generations, then I would urge you to come along and get involved. You will not only have an opportunity to shape the future direction of this valuable facility for your community, you will also meet and make new friends. The Committee is always keen to recruit new members as they can often bring new and fresh ideas, plus a wide variety of transferable skills from everyday life. If you feel you might like get involved, please come and talk to us.

## **Neroche Hall Annual General Meeting**

The AGM for Neroche Hall will take place, in the hall,

**Tuesday 6th May 2014 at 7.00pm**

*All local residents are welcome to attend.*

*New potential members of the committee are especially welcome, so put the date in your diary.*

For further information on the hall go to [www.nerochehall.org.uk](http://www.nerochehall.org.uk)

*As usual, events will be publicised on our website, in this Newsletter, the Parish Magazine, local noticeboards and via Email Alerts, so please keep a watchful eye so you do not miss out on any of your favourites. Even better, why not try something different, and come along for a new experience, you never know, you might enjoy it !!*

# News From Your Local Bickenhall WI

The year got off to an absolutely fabulous start with our annual birthday party which took place at our local Greyhound pub where nearly all members enjoyed a fabulous hot buffet of boeuf bourguignon followed by a choice of lemon meringue pie or passion fruit cheesecake. We would like to thank the Greyhound for their wonderful hospitality in looking after us for the coldest of winter months. Speakers cancelled because of flooding on the levels so entertainment was home grown with our own version of the twelve days of Christmas which includes Five Strong Men instead of five gold rings!



Sadly our February meeting had to be cancelled due to the weather but we convened again for March when our own president Pauline Phelps was the speaker on "teaching children to read". There has been a return to phonics as the best method of teaching literacy. We were shown how the sounds of the letters are connected to make the words in a very engaging way. Pauline could not over emphasise the importance of reading to children. The competition

for the month was a favourite children's book. Members explained what the book meant to them and included *The Secret Garden*, *what Katy Did*, *The Water Babies*, *Wind In The Willows*, *Bambi* plus many others. Pauline later distributed the list to members. Members were so engrossed with the whole topic that the meeting went on for much longer with much enjoyment.



During the meeting Molly Kelly was presented with the Bickenhall Cup. The cup is awarded every two years to a non committee member for length of membership combined with service to WI. Molly has lived in the parish for over 20 years now and has been a member of the WI both here and in Chester for many years. She has also been a committee member and stalwart

supporter in cooking, serving and taking on other jobs.

On the business side of things we have been busy. Each year the National WI petitions the government on a matter they consider important. All WI's have the chance to put forward a potential resolution and a short list is drawn up. Every single member of the WI then has the right to vote for the resolution they wish to go forward.

We are pleased so announce that in May, one of our members, Tina Warren, is taking part in a 26 mile marathon moonwalk in London of May this year raising money for breast cancer. She is in training and at the time of writing had got to 10.2 miles. We wish her all the best in this and we are looking how we will support her with this.

Members have planned to meet at the home of member Brenda Crossley for a "knit and natter" where they will be knitting jumpers and beanie hats for fish and chip babies in Africa. Poverty is so rife these poor babies are wrapped only in newspaper hence the name.

Next year sees 100 anniversary of the WI in Britain. The Somerset Federation is planning a pageant to mark the event so watch this space for further details.

The above covers only a small part of what we do. We have arranged a varied and interesting programme of events for the rest of the year and we always welcome new members. For further details please contact Pauline Phelps 01460 234455.

## **Neroche Hall's Spring Fish'n'chips Quiz - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014** *(By Colin Croad)*

The Spring Quiz was again well attended with 15 teams taking part. The winners were 'Sharp Spears' led by their inimitable captain David Spears. His team included Ross Henley, our local County Councillor, Alan & Jill Perrior and Dai & Yvonne Rees. Close runners up were John & Mal Lee, who along with members of Kings College staff past and present, again demonstrated great breadth of general knowledge.



At the time of going to press, we have not seen the accounts, but based on previous experience, the quiz will again contribute around £300 to the Hall funds. We are most grateful for the support we receive from the parish, and we hope we will see you all again for the Autumn Quiz.

# Art, an Essential Ingredient for Life!

(By Ann Jones)

*Ann Jones lives in Curland; over the years she has been a major contributor to local community activities, particularly as a member of the Parish Plan Steering Group and at least two of the Neroche Action Groups that resulted from that study. She originally trained as an artist, and before setting up her own company 'Art Projects and Solutions (APS)' in 2000, spent nine years as the Head of Visual Arts at the Barbican Centre in London. To learn more about Ann's company, and read her impressive CV, go to [www.artprojectsandsolutions.com](http://www.artprojectsandsolutions.com)*



Wally and Alan asked me to write an article about local 'art' for the Newsletter - and so I thought this is my chance to 'fly the flag' for art, as '*an essential ingredient for life!*' I once heard a man in poverty say that he would sooner take his children to see a film, rather than buy food, because a film would feed their minds longer than food in their bellies....I've never forgotten that.

In 2009, George Osborne said "*Over the past decade, the creative industries have grown twice as fast as the rest of the economy ... if we're to see sustainable economic growth in the years ahead, the creative industries will have to play a leading role.*"

Government grant for the arts in England is only £600m (£240m from the Lottery) each year; additional to this is funding that supports our National Museums. In November 2013 an economic impact study concluded that spending on the arts is far from a drain on public resources. It showed that culture attracts tourism to the tune of £856m a year, and that arts centres and activities transform our towns and cities and drive regeneration, making the choice to maintain investment in culture a forward thinking one for local authorities. The report calculated that:

- The turnover of businesses in the arts and culture industry was £12.4bn in 2011, giving an estimated £5.9bn of gross value added (GVA) to the UK economy in the same year. (GVA is the value of the industry's output minus the value of inputs used to produce it, including state subsidies.)



- The sector provides over 110,000 jobs directly, about 0.45% of total employment in the UK and 260,300 jobs once the indirect impacts of arts and culture are added in.
- Living in an area with twice the average level of cultural activity adds an average £26,817 to the value of a property! In 2010 Somerset County Council decided to end all direct grants to arts organisations, and Taunton Deane Borough Council reduced its annual small arts grant fund from £35k to £20k, reducing it again in 12/13.

The average artist would never survive if they lived on their work alone. Research in 2011 showed the median annual income for a fine artist was £10k! It takes between 4 and 8 years to train as an artist. If you consider the level of skill, the overheads of a studio, materials and the time an artist takes to make



a piece of work, you have to gasp at the value you get when buying an original work of art. You may ask, why would anybody want to be an artist? I did that for you, and questioned two artists living in the Parish. **Gill Widden (Thurlbear)** has been out of college almost 2 years, having had a first career as a nurse. This is what Gill told me:

*“Humans have been expressing themselves creatively as far back as the time of the cave paintings...and art crosses racial barriers to enlighten and educate without the need for a common culture or language. I believe that creativity is essential to human development. In*

*his Reith Lectures, the artist Grayson Perry talked about the importance of ‘play’, for children to make sense of the world around them; this goes for adults too. Companies like Apple recognise ‘play’, as an important part of the creative process. Art also helps us to express our emotions and its ability to help people through times of physical and mental distress has been well documented.*

Gill also mentioned how self-employment, self-motivation and continuously looking for work is very different to being employed as a nurse..... *“Being an artist is more like having a vocation, you aren't in it for the money; being creative becomes a way of life”.*

And for Gill, creating work fulfils the need she has to express feelings and emotions (not only her own) in a way that can be understood by her and others. Challenge is also important to Gill and she enjoys working to a brief... *“Pushing myself to do/make things outside of my comfort zone; I think challenge and determination are especially important to me because of my age and the fact that I've 'come to art' late in life”.*



The second artist I spoke to, **Andre Wallace (Curland)**, came to art early in life. *“... when I was five, on my very first day at primary school, I was given plasticine .... I then had to wait until I was 16 to study art full-time!”* Fifty years on (and still going) Andre has spent his career making large-scale work for sites across the UK, as well as his studio based sculpture

and drawings. I asked him why he does it, and he tried to explain.....

*“Making sculpture and drawing is complex and hard work. It allows you independence and the freedom to try to understand oneself in relation to the world. Immersion in my work gives me enjoyment to the extent I forget all notion of time. All my senses are engrossed and committed to one thing. Eye, brain and hand work as one in making and creating sculpture and drawing that brings pleasure and beauty to me and I hope others. Communicating with others is important to me. If you can make a living out of this, all the better ... that means you can carry on making”.*

Interesting perspectives from two local artists at different stages in their careers. I have myself spent over thirty years working in the arts. Whilst it hasn't made me rich, I am so fortunate to have worked with artists from across the world who have taught me about different cultures, shown me new perspectives and helped me understand and appreciate life better. Last year I became Chair of Take Art (a pioneering arts charity, serving the towns, villages and rural communities of Somerset) and like most people, I thought it was about touring fantastic performances to Village Halls - I had no idea about the work Take Art does with the vulnerable, disadvantaged, elderly and frail of our community, and how that work changes lives. And now we are back to funding! Take Art needs support - the rural touring programme has been cut by 50%, and other vital work it does needs resources - if you want to help in anyway please call me on 07909 963509 or email me at [ann@takeart.org](mailto:ann@takeart.org).

# Neroche Parish Walking Group



LtoR: Sheila Green, Jane Hole, Madeleine Spears,  
Tami Boden-Ellis, Felicity Roope, Chris Cottey.  
Photographer: Tim French

As you can see from the photograph, we have fun on our walks. In January this year, when all the paths and bridleways were sodden with rain, we enjoyed a walk down the track to the fishing lake at Wych Lodge. For those faint-hearted males – there are some in the walking group – on this occasion one of them was taking the photo!

In February we explored an area that was new to us, along the small lanes towards Howstead and Fyfett, on the Buckland St Mary side of the hill. This route opens up extensive views of distant hills and hedgerow-lined fields. In March Sheila led a walk along part of the Taunton to Bridgwater canal path; so you can see, we cover a variety of areas.

## **Come and Join us on Saturday 3rd May for our Annual Bluebell Walk.**

We meet, as usual, at 10am at Home Mead  
next to the Greyhound Inn

For further details contact:

Jane Hole on **01460 234410** or Sheila Green on **01823 480758**

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

**Thursday 1 May 2014**

**Neroche Village Hall – Doors Open 7.00pm**

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



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

cheese, will be provided for everybody attending. It is most important that as many local residents as possible attend. This year's event will be taking place during the evening of Thursday 1 May 2014 in the Neroche Hall; **please put the date in your diary.**

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

# Neroche Annual Parish Meetings

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

***Thursday 1st May 2014 - Neroche Hall  
Open 7.00pm - Formal Presentations Start 7.30pm***

**Jon Bell, Parish Council Chairman  
*Presenting the Annual Report***

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**A Presentation on Local Flooding  
*(Specific to Neroche Parish)***

**Speakers representing: Highways Department and Flood Risk Team from  
Somerset County Council; and The Crown Agents, Smiths Gore**

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**A Presentation on Superfast Broadband  
*(and its Implementation (or not!) in Neroche Parish)***

**Speakers: Laurent Boon, Senior Project Manager at BT Global Services  
and Graham Long, Upottery Parish Councillor**

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**Also Present, to Answer Questions, will be:**

**Linda Bennett, Manager of the Blackdowns AONB  
Gavin Saunders representing the Neroche Woodlanders at Young Wood**

**Stroll around the stands (representing numerous local clubs,  
organisations and groups), speak with club representatives,  
event organisers, Action Group members, and meet your  
Parish, Taunton Deane and Somerset County Councillors.**

**This is the most important local event of the year. Your  
support is essential; please be there.**



***FREE 'cheese-and-wine' and other  
refreshments served all evening***



# Our Local Farmers Help the Flood Relief

(By Wally Torrington)

Mark Pope, an arable farmer at Staple Farm, Staple Fitzpaine, and an NFU Delegate for Somerset County, has been heavily involved with the recent flood effort, as has Graham Glasper who is part of Mark's team at the farm. Graham has been involved mainly in the delivery of forage to flooded farmers that have been evacuated. The Forage was donated from all over the country and initially distributed from the Sedgemoor



Mark Pope

Auction Centre at Junction 24

of the M5 (one of the largest livestock markets in the country, and the biggest in the South West).



Daniel Macey, a dairy farmer at Underhill Farm, Staple Fitzpaine, has also played a key part, offering a storage site to hold some of the donated fodder which will be used later in the year.

Other Local farmers have been similarly involved, some offering-up emergency space for evacuated animals. Chatting to Mark during a rare quiet moment, he said *“at its worst, we had to evacuate approximately 1000 cattle, 1000 sheep and numerous horses.”* And that *“the generosity of other farmers and members of the public has been magnificent.”*

The area flooded was approximately 34,000 acres; as a guide, at Staple farm, Mark farms 700 acres!



The relief effort has been broken down into 3 stages:

**Stage 1** *Dealing with the evacuated animals and keeping them fed*

**Stage 2** *Establishing how many farms have been affected, and to what extent (many farms in the flooded area have little or no grass upon which to turn-out their livestock, meaning the animals will have to stay in all year with food brought to them).*



**Stage 3** *Help regenerate the flooded areas. This will involve: removing all the debris from the fields and farms; testing the soil to see what condition it is in; then reseeded. No mean task when you consider it may be up to the 34,000 acres mentioned earlier! The first challenge is finding the amount of grass seed needed. This stage will last for at least a year.*

At the start, the relief effort from our area involved a number of individual volunteers, however, they then combined with the NFU, Farm Community Network (FCN), Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), and Greenslade Taylor Hunt (who operate Sedgemoor Auction Centre) to run a joint operation. They have since formed a steering group to direct two professional coordinators who have been put-in-place to run the relief operation for a year.



**David Cameron visiting 'Silver Command' in Taunton**

We also have Judy Donavon, who lives in Curland, who was deployed to the Silver Command Centre in Taunton, to help coordinate the relief effort.

All the work and assistance provided by our local farmers was given voluntarily, whilst still having to deal with all the problems that the bad weather had inflicted upon their own farms. A professional community-spirit that many others could learn from!

# Neroche Local History Group

## *(The lost Islands of Somerset)*

*(By Doreen Marsh)*

In Neroche Hall on the evening of 22nd January 2014, the Local History Group was delighted to welcome back one of its founder members, Dr. Richard Brunning. He was with us to give a most interesting illustrated talk on “*The Lost Islands of Somerset*”.



Dr Brunning is an archaeologist working for Somerset County Council. He has worked for many years on the Somerset Levels, which he described as a vast flood plain in the heart of our County. This plain is fed with water from the surrounding hills: the Mendip area; the Quantocks; and the Blackdowns. Although mainly consisting of soft deposits of silt, clay, sand and peat, there are

harder areas which can, in times of flood, become islands. There are thirteen such islands in The Levels.

With the recent severe floods of early 2014, people all over Britain have become familiar with the names of some of these islands. For example, Muchelney, the Great Island, for many weeks reached only by boats along a former lane. In medieval times, monks took advantage of its solid geology and built an abbey there.

Although these islands are of interest, an archaeologist also wants to know what can be learnt from the softer areas around the harder



Archaeological dig at Aller



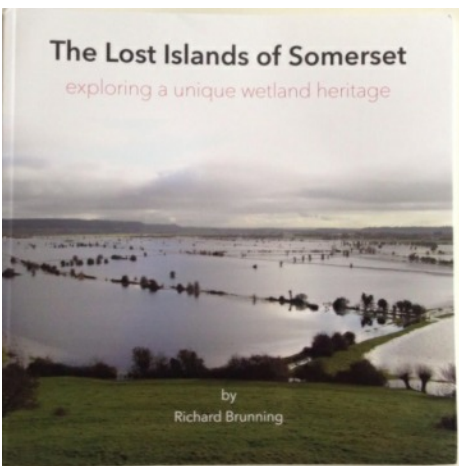
deposits. Dr. Brunning says that much work still needs to be carried out in the Aller district for example. This he describes as “The Island of Mystery”. Soil and crop marks can be seen from the air. Work already done reveals Bronze Age barrows nearby, and there is also evidence of Iron Age activity.

Without realising it, motorists speeding down the M5 motorway, pass one significant island, Brent Knoll.



**Burrow Mump**

Glastonbury Tor and Burrow Mump, also visible from many parts of the county, have, over many centuries, been made use of by Somerset inhabitants. Brent Knoll has an extensive Iron Age hill fort on its top. Burrow Mump has an un-finished church at the summit, and there is a medieval flood bank heading towards the island (now village) of Othery. This bank, although erected many hundreds of years ago to hold back flood water, is clearly visible from the road that runs below it. Glastonbury is significant for its abbey, with the tor rising above it, where there is evidence of Man’s activities from Palaeolithic times onwards.



On Greylake Island, archaeologists excavating in the early 20th century found skulls and long bones dating back to the Mesolithic period of our history.

We were very grateful to Dr. Brunning for his talk and many of his audience asked him questions.

His presentation and excellent illustrations were based on his book “*The Lost Islands of Somerset—Exploring a Unique Wetland Heritage*” which was published at the end of 2013 by Somerset

Heritage Service, Somerset County Council, at the cost of £5.00.

# News From Somerset County Council

*Ross Henley, our Somerset County Councillor, has kindly offered to write a regular column for our Newsletter. He has been far too modest in this article, regarding his contribution to the winning quiz team. His team captain tells me that Ross was “a strong member, providing lots of correct answers, especially in the ‘World Geography’ and ‘Supermodels’ rounds”.*



I had a wonderful evening at the recent Neroche Hall Quiz, held at the village hall. It was very well attended with circa 80 people present. Many thanks to Colin Croad for being the question master and everyone else who helped out. I am almost embarrassed to admit that I was lucky to be on the winning team, called ‘Sharp Spears’. It was such a fun evening, rounded off by a fantastic fish and chip supper.

A couple of days before this, I attended the Neroche Parish Council meeting, where I made my regular report. I expressed my concern regarding cuts in



County Council funding to the Blackdown Hills AONB. Every pound they receive from SCC is ‘match funded’ by 3 pounds from DEFRA, so the proposed cut will cause them real damage. I will continue to fight against this one.

I have awarded a grant from the County Council Health and Wellbeing budget for £250 to the Neroche Woodlanders who do a great

job in getting so many local people out in the fresh air in our beautiful countryside. I am looking forward to going on-site at Young Wood to see for myself and presenting the cheque.

Sadly I wasn't able to attend the February meeting of the Bickenhall Women's Institute. I did turn up at the Greyhound Inn but the meeting had been postponed due to the awful weather but I will be catching-up with them at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 1st. I have been asked to speak at the APM and am really looking forward to meeting as many residents as possible. From the reports at Parish Council it sounds a great event with many local groups represented.

Finally, I am continuing to enjoy the Bickenhall Artisan Bakery, and recently put pictures of my purchases from one visit on my Facebook and twitter site. It's lovely bread.



*Editor. To learn more about The Neroche Woodlanders and the activities they have to offer, go to [www.youngwood.org.uk](http://www.youngwood.org.uk) For more information on The Artisan Baker, including: the variety of their freshly baked produce; pizza nights; accommodation; and much more, go to [www.breadbedandbreakfast.co.uk](http://www.breadbedandbreakfast.co.uk)*

## **THURSDAY LUNCHESES AT NEROCHE HALL**

Come along to Neroche Hall and enjoy a great home-cooked 2-course lunch. Meet people from the locality, take time out from your busy daily routine and enjoy conviviality & friendliness at a community lunch.

**Lunches will take place on Thursdays at 12.30 for 1.00 pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Please phone or email to book (need to know for catering purposes).  
Transport / special diets can be arranged.

Contact Alison Brown tel: 01823 480441,  
Email: [alison-anthony@battensfarm.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alison-anthony@battensfarm.fsnet.co.uk)

# Taunton Deane Borough Council News

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



## **Flooding Matters**

Following excessive rainfall of epic proportions, the flooding which occurred on the levels and moors can only be described as a disaster. Water finds its own level, therefore, its affect was far and wide into other District Council areas. It was tragic to hear about the lost homes, businesses and livelihoods of those seriously affected, and our sympathy goes to those who suffered this unprecedented flooding. At the time of writing this article, the sun is shining and it has been dry for some while, with flood waters rapidly receding. Recovery will take some time but let us hope the fair weather remains and speeds the process.

I have seen reports that Taunton Deane Borough Council has approved new housing development within active flood plains; this is not correct. Any such application received would immediately be referred to the Environment Agency, who would almost certainly direct us to refuse the application. If, as the Planning Authority, we chose to ignore that advice and give approval, then we have to report non-compliance with the Environment Agency Direction to central government. This has not arisen because we have always accepted the direction of the Environment Agency on new developments.



There is also concern expressed about the extent of new development taking place around Taunton. The belief is that it contributes to the storm water

run-off, so worsening the situation lower downstream. All new development has to be designed to meet ‘Sustainable Urban Design Standards’ (SUDS) to ensure the run-off of surface water from any new development is no greater than the existing use of the land before development. In practice, this generally means a mixture of permeable paving, large underground holding structures or attenuation ponds; the outfall from the latter two is controlled by the size of the outfall pipe restricting flow. In this way, by careful design, the discharge to watercourses does not increase the outfall over that which existed before the new development was constructed.

What we all have to accept, and work to improve, is that the problems experienced on the levels and moors is a whole catchment problem. We have to work towards slowing the run-off of rainwater from the hills, agricultural land and developed areas. It is not just a problem to be dealt with lower down; we all have a responsibility to find a solution, mitigating the severity of flooding witnessed this year.



**The Brewhouse is A-Coming**

Taunton Theatre Association (TTA) is doing a great job, it is now a theatre with

lights! The outside panels are illuminated and posters displayed. They are in business!



That said, there was a great deal of work carried out to ensure the theatre was ready for the Gang Show, staged from the 8th to 12th April 2014. Having worked on a detailed plan, the TTA ensured all was well.

## Fancy being a Trustee?

### Taunton Theatre

### Association Ltd

We are looking for Trustees to join us as we move towards charitable status. Follow the link for a skills register and contact form ...

The TTA are gradually planning number of performances beyond April, and have shows booked over the summer and into the autumn. This is not a full programme but a number of 'benefits' shows and one-off events, as efforts are directed towards getting the theatre fully operational. The important point is that we need to be supportive and understanding while they work frantically to resume 'business as usual'. The TTA are also starting to look at youth events

and art shows. Behind the scenes they are underway with IT and telecommunication systems, and installing an online box office.

Another successful event was the Young Musical Theatre Company (YMTC) production of High School Musical, involving youth groups based in Taunton

### *A show for your diary*

**Mayor's Variety Show is also booked into the Brewhouse for 2 performances on Saturday 26 April; the concert will be headlined by Howard Jones.**

It is worth mentioning, the Taunton Theatre Association is a volunteer group. Their purpose is to establish a successful Brewhouse so we can all enjoy live entertainment again here in Taunton. They are to be applauded for their dedication and commitment to the major task ahead.

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

[cllr.j.williams@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.j.williams@tauntondeane.gov.uk)

## Volunteer Register

### Do You Fancy Volunteering?

Can you help with preparations to open the theatre and staffing our opening shows?

# Take Art - 'Cosmic Sausage'

(By Anne Perry / Photographs courtesy of David Spears)



The Cosmic Sausages performed to a good crowd at Neroche Hall on April 4th and left everybody with a smile on their face. Such experienced performers read their audience very well and performed songs and instrumentals to suit us all.

Using comic wigs, props and jokes they introduced many

characters who were distant relatives of the celebrities that we all know and love; Dolly Parton, Tom Jones, Jimi Hendrix and Brittany Spears, to name a few. The audience ranged from 10 to 90 and so we had 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' where the big Bass Guitar was used as a car! We also had the Vera Lyn classic 'We'll Meet Again' played especially for Molly Kelly.



We were all suspicious of **Chris Baxter** who

was invited on to the stage having allegedly never

played theSpoons before but by the end of 'My Ole Man' we all thought that he had surely been playing them all his life. Dave Bridgewater was invited by Cosmic Jo for an intimate dance on the stage which he relished...in fact we had to prise him off.



Well done 'Take Art' for providing us with another good quality professional performance and helping us, yet again, with our fundraising.

# Neroche Parish Council Meetings - 2014

Meetings will be held at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall on the following dates;

**Thursday 8th May**  
**Thursday 10th July**  
**Thursday 11th September**  
**Thursday 13th November**

## ----- Your Local Councillors -----

### Bickenhall Parish

**Adrian Aplin**  
[neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk](mailto:neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk)



**Chris Baxter**  
[neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk](mailto:neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk)  
07968 137038



**Wally Torrington**  
[wallytorrington@hotmail.com](mailto:wallytorrington@hotmail.com)  
01823 480656



### Curland Parish

**Marianne Bray**  
[neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk](mailto:neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk)  
01823 480888



**Karen Street**  
[r.street125@btinternet.com](mailto:r.street125@btinternet.com)  
01823 480285



**John Parsons**  
[lhservices@fsmail.net](mailto:lhservices@fsmail.net)  
01823 480954





## Orchard Portman with Thurlbear Parish

**Jason Jackson**

[neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk](mailto:neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk)

01823 443742



**Ian Parker**

[iparker@ashclifford.co.uk](mailto:iparker@ashclifford.co.uk)



**Lynne Spoons**  
[lynne.spoons@bt.com](mailto:lynne.spoons@bt.com)

## Staple Fitzpaine Parish

**Andrew Macey**

[neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk](mailto:neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk)

0753 1819810



**Mark Pope**

[neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk](mailto:neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk)

01823 480282



**Jonathan Bell (chairman)**

[neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk](mailto:neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk)



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Clerk to the Parish Council - **Gillian Midworth**

[neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk](mailto:neroche.pc@nerochevillages.org.uk)

01823 253646



Somerset County Councillor

**Ross Henley**

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

01823 665988/07875 206047



Taunton Deane District Councillor

**John Williams**

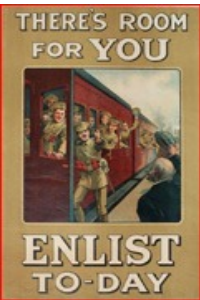
[cllr.j.williams@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.j.williams@tauntondeane.gov.uk)

01823 480058





2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what was known as **The Great War**, thought to be The War to end all wars. One hundred years on, we are all connected to the **First World War**, either through our own family history or the heritage of our local communities.



The **First World War** had a huge impact on all who lived through it, and touched almost everyone's life in some way or other. Men enlisted, or were called up, in their millions. Children grew up in the shadow of battle, their fathers absent or lost. Women became directly involved, taking up work in industry and agriculture as the men went off to fight. In this way, almost all family histories will include someone who took part in the war.



Their names are on memorials from the biggest city to the smallest hamlet; some are simple plaques, others grander affairs. We should remember the courage, honour and sacrifice of the boys who became men 100 years ago; and we should support the young men and women who have followed in their footsteps and are today's soldiers.



*If you have a family story or memorabilia that you would like to share with the Neroche Villages community, please get in touch with a member of the Neroche Communication Action Group (see page 2), and we'd be delighted to include it in the next (August 2014) issue.*

# Charity Barn Boogie

*Saturday 5th July  
Bickenhall Farm  
7.30pm till late*

*Organised by Holly-Jane Harris to raise funds  
for Prostate Cancer UK, in loving memory of  
her grandad.*

*Live Music Provided by 'The Intruders'*

*Full Bar throughout the Evening*

*Hog Roast by Bonners of Ilminster*

*Homemade Puddings*

*Skittle Competition with Prizes*

*Auction and Raffle with lots of Fab Prizes*

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM HOLLY JANE 01823 480951 | [hollyjaneh@aol.com](mailto:hollyjaneh@aol.com)**

# A Local Young Lady on a Mission

(By Nicky Baxter)



These days, people often complain about the selfishness of young people. Well, I don't agree, and as a fine example of a selfless young person, you need look no further than Holly-Jane Harris of Staple Fitzpaine. Sadly, Holly-Jane lost her granddad, Keith Chubb, to prostate cancer last year. Because of this, Holly-Jane wanted to support Prostate Cancer UK, both in her Granddads memory and to raise money to enable others to receive the treatment they need. As a person who likes to enjoy life to the full, she thought "what better than a 'barn boogie' to raise much needed funds for the charity" (*Please see advert on page 27 for full details*).

Prostate Cancer kills 10,000 men every year.

Most men are unaware of the disease, and tests are currently not that reliable. Treatment can have horrific side effects, and research is badly underfunded. Prostate Cancer UK wants to urgently change this but desperately needs funds to continue its work. For further details see [www.prostatecancer.org.uk](http://www.prostatecancer.org.uk)



The fund-raising charity event will feature a live band 'The Intruders' playing a selection of music to suit all age ranges. There will be a fabulous hog roast, care of Bonners of Ilminster, with lots of salads and homemade puddings. There will also be a skittle competition with a fabulous prize for the winner.

**Another highlight of the evening will be a Charity Auction, which will feature, amongst other things: a signed photo and Olympic top of 2012 Olympian Mary King; tickets to Yeovilton Air Day; a family ticket for Wookey Hole; tickets for Somerset County Cricket; a morning on the gallops with breakfast; guest badges for Taunton Racecourse; plus many more. There is also a raffle with loads of other desirable prizes.**

## *A little more about Holly-Jane*

*Holly-Jane has lived in Staple Fitzpaine for the past 20 years. She currently lives with her mum, Kathy, and Kathy's life-partner, Graham Glasper. Holly's family are very much part of the local community. She attended local schools and colleges before training as a florist at Cannington. She now works at Cottage Flowers in the middle of Ilminster, where she often creates spectacular and beautiful displays.*



*During her spare time, Holly loves to cook (and it's nothing for her to 'knock up' bread and butter pudding for 40 people on the local shoot). She enjoys going on shopping trips to Exeter, socialising with friends, and spending lots of time with her extended family.*

*A new enterprise Holly is really looking forward to this year (as if she's not busy enough) is establishing her own vegetable patch where she will grow her own vegetables for the lovely meals she cooks. Her granddad used to love growing runner beans, and Holly Jane is looking forward to growing a crop of her own.*



*Holly Jane is very creative, both at work and in her hobbies; you may remember her winning the first Scarecrow Festival with 'the Wizard of Oz'.*

***If you would like to help Holly-Jane with the 'Barn Boogie' fundraiser, there are several ways you can assist.***

***Firstly, you can help sponsor the event, either as an individual or business.***

***Secondly, you can offer your practical help.***

***Thirdly, simply buy a ticket and attend on the evening.***

# News From Heroche Parish Council

*Our Clerk to the Parish Council, Gillian Midworth, has kindly agreed to produce a regular feature for our Newsletter. This month she has chosen to explain briefly her responsibilities, and detail the history behind the title.*



The title "Clerk" developed from the Latin clericus. During the Middle Ages, when scholarship and writing were limited to the clergy, "clerk" came to mean a scholar, especially one who could read, write, and thus serve as secretary, accountant and recorder.

In 1439, Symkyn Birches was awarded the office of "Toun Clerk" of Coventry for the rest of his life, and the position became commonplace as local government developed throughout England and Wales. In 1835 the Municipal Corporations Act required every borough council to appoint a salaried Town Clerk. The position of Clerk was further consolidated by the Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894 which granted, respectively, County Councils and then Urban and Rural Districts and the newly created Civil Parish Councils the specific power to appoint a "Clerk of the Council". Today, clerks are employed by councils under section 112(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to provide administrative support for the council's activities.

The importance of the Clerk's position was underlined by Lord Justice Caldecote. Ruling in *Hurle-Hobbs ex parte Riley* and another (1944) he observed:

*"The office of town clerk is an important part of the machinery of local government. He may be said to stand between the local Council and the ratepayers. He is there to assist by his advice and action the conduct of public affairs in the borough and, if there is a disposition on the part of the council, still more on the part of any member of the council, to ride roughshod over his opinions, the question must at once arise as to whether it is not his duty forthwith to resign his office or, at any rate, to do what he thinks right and await the consequences."*

As you can see from the above, it is important that the Clerk is seen to be independent and objective at all times. For this reason, a member of the Parish Council cannot be appointed as Clerk to that council.

The Clerk to the Council is the ‘Proper Officer’ of the Council and as such is under a statutory duty to carry out all the functions, and in particular to serve or issue all the notifications required by law of a Proper Officer. The term ‘Proper Officer’ is a title used in statute.

The Clerk’s primary responsibility is to advise the council on whether its decisions are lawful and to recommend ways in which decisions can be implemented. The Clerk takes instructions from the council as a body and is not answerable to any individual councillor. It is the Parish Council, as a corporate body, that is the clerk’s employer.

In small parishes, such as Neroche, the Clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer, and is therefore responsible for all the financial records of the Council and the administration of its finances.

The role of the Clerk is very varied but enjoyable, and is certainly more than taking minutes of the bi-monthly Parish Council meetings!

One aspect of my role is to inform the community about the council and its activities and I would like to remind everyone that the agendas and minutes of the council meetings are displayed on the Neroche Villages’ website: [www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk)



Look out also for details of the Annual Parish Meetings, which this year will be held on Thursday 1st May at Neroche Hall. Come along and hear what has

## The Winds of Change



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

In the next few months Policing in Taunton will be changing; some will think for the worse, others for the better.

In July of this year a new custody suite and operational centre will be opening in Bridgwater, just off junction 23. This new facility will accommodate 36 state-of-the-art custody cells, facilities for the Road Policing Unit, CID, Support Groups (search teams), dogs handlers and firearms units.

What will this mean for Taunton Police and it's Police Station? Well nothing in the short to medium term, it's public knowledge that Taunton Police Station is for sale and the constabulary is looking for new accommodation in Taunton that is more 'fit for purpose' than our current building. The constabulary wants to ensure that any accommodation we move into is future-proof and sustainable.



From July, the Taunton local policing teams and neighbourhood beat teams will be the only staff remaining at the Taunton Police station. Whilst there is a reduction in staff as a result of the move to Bridgwater you will not see any reduction in frontline officers from what you see now.



There will still be five response teams working from Taunton, each made up of one inspector, one sergeant and ten police constables, working two early shifts (7am-3pm), two late shifts (2pm-11pm) and two night shifts (10pm-7am).

Additional to those response teams you have the three neighbourhood teams covering three areas of Taunton, headed up by an inspector.

The three teams are;

**Halcon One Team** covering Halcon, Lane and Lambrook estates, consisting of one sergeant, four Police Officers and four PCSO's.

**Taunton Town Centre Team** covering the town centre and Fairwater area of Taunton, consisting of one sergeant, five Police Officers and six PCSO's.

And finally, and not least, my team the **Urban and Rural Beat Team**, consisting of four Police officers and ten PCSO's covering the remaining parishes in the Taunton area.

The constabulary has recently taken on a new mantra, which is “to police smarter” and as such the constabulary has invested in the latest technology and purchased tough books; these are the latest in car computers to allow our officers to stay out on the streets rather than being tied to a desk at the Police Station.



This technology will allow them to be more visible and accessible to our public, but still enable them to do their jobs efficiently, with access to all our systems.

So indeed the wind of change is blowing, but I truly believe it is for the better for our local communities, with all our local officers being more efficient and effective in their delivery of service to you.

Take care and stay safe.

*Huw Jenkins*  
TPS 2631 Huw JENKINS

# Gardening Corner

*Rebecca Pow, a local a journalist, broadcaster and PR consultant specialising in gardens and rural issues, has kindly agreed to write a regular column for our Newsletter. Rebecca opens her garden, Tuckers Farmhouse in Stoke St Mary, by appointment for groups of 10 or more. [www.rebeccapow.com](http://www.rebeccapow.com) 07900 685 303. For additional information on Rebecca, go to [www.rebeccapow.com](http://www.rebeccapow.com) & [www.rebeccapow.org.uk](http://www.rebeccapow.org.uk)*



May is beautiful bluebell time. Who can resist their glossy leaves and nodding head in spectacular blue, contrasting so starkly with the vibrant greens of grass, hedgerow or borders? Certainly not me! I am gradually spreading bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) around the garden, the more the merrier. However, to

see bluebells at their natural best, I always squeeze-in a visit to nearby Thurlbear Wood. It is a Somerset Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, stretching for 40 acres. The wood is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and glorious at this time of year, crisscrossed as it is with a network of paths, (one section of the ancient Herepath passes through it too), and spattered not just with bluebells but also many other pretty wild plants, including the Goldilocks Buttercup and dainty sweet woodruff that flowers from April to July, and once an important ingredient in pot pourri.



**Thurlbear Wood in full bloom**

As well as for bluebells (also stunning at Hestercombe, if you want another ramble in a further breath-taking valley) May is also synonymous with tulip time in my garden.

Although I now have a myriad of tulips, it was quite late-on that I became a tulip convert. I was put-off by the rather garish traditional mass municipal plantings of tulips reminiscent of my childhood, and it wasn't until I was filming in the garden of the late Rosemary Verey, that I realised tulips could offer so much more than I had envisaged. Rosemary, a revered garden designer of her day, who has influenced many people, including Prince Charles at Highgrove, packed her borders fit to bursting with a mass of foliage from which a riot of striking tulips burst forth like fountains from a pond. There was not a trace of soil (or weeds for that matter!) to be seen. She described the effect as an 'exuberance' of planting. Suitably inspired, I have followed her example and plant hundreds of tulips amid packed borders, every winter, (even up until late December). I don't bother to lift them after flowering; I mulch well and hope for the best; although, just to be sure of a good show, I do add to them every year.



Rosemary Verey



Tulipa 'China Pink'

With careful selection, it is possible to have tulips flowering from March right through until the end of May. With over 7800 named varieties to choose from, in every conceivable shape, size and colour, there is no shortage of options. I do have a few favourites though, Tulipa 'China Pink' being one which works well, peeping up amongst a carpet of velvety, silvery leaved Stachys Byzantia (lamb's ears). The orange, May flowering Tulipa 'Menton' is another of my top tulips. It changes colour like a mounting sunset, starting off as china-rose and gradually turning apricot-orange. The Ballerina series of tulips offer great value too, and

for further ‘wow’ factor, try the incredible Parrot tulips that flower in mid-May, their ruffled petals are reminiscent of the upright wings of a swan.

Nowadays, tulips are easily affordable but when they first took the world by storm in the seventeenth century, they were so precious they commanded outrageously high prices, with some costing as much as a house!

We are blessed with some good local nurseries that supply a fine range of tulips and other bulbs for all times of the year, for example, Avon Bulbs, near South Petherton and Broadleigh Gardens at Bishops Hull in Taunton.  
[www.avonbulbs.co.uk](http://www.avonbulbs.co.uk), [www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk](http://www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk)

For more seasonal bulbs and garden stimulation, visit Hangeridge Farmhouse, open for the National Garden Scheme on May 25th and July 20th. Set under the Blackdown Hills at Wrangway near Wellington, this informal, mature family garden offers views across the landscape and includes an



**Hangeridge Farmhouse gardens**

atmospheric mix of herbaceous borders, flowering shrubs and rambling climbers. [hangeridge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hangeridge@hotmail.co.uk). For lots more ideas of other gardens to visit, go to [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

**Top Veg Tip.** I’ve been harvesting mixed salad leaves for weeks now (I start them early under a poly tunnel) they are easy to grow, keep on coming and form an essential part of our diet. Even the teenagers like them! There is a wide range of cut-and-come-again mixed leaf seeds on offer. An added tip, if you plant whole individual plants such as Little Gem lettuce, is to pick leaves from the outside of plants, this will ensure the plant keeps on producing leaves virtually all season. Mega productive!

# St Peter's Church Fete

Saturday 7th June at 2 pm  
The Manor, Staple Fitzpaine

Attractions include:

Thurlbear School Country Dancing  
Fun Dog Show (see rules below) - Sideshows  
Wellington Town Band - Morris Men  
Punch & Judy - Running Races  
Market Stalls etc.  
Cream Teas available

**A GREAT AFTERNOON OUT!**

~~~~~  
**FUN DOG SHOW**

at 3pm (entries taken from 2pm)  
Fabulous prizes to be won!

**Eight Classes:**

Dog most like its owner - Dog with most appealing eyes  
Dog with waggiest tail - Veterans 7 and over  
Best condition - Best child handler (12 and under)  
Dog the judge would like to take home - Irish brace

*Fantastic afternoon for all the family*

**Lots to see and do**  
**And all for a worthwhile cause**

# Letter to the Editor

*On the last page of the February 2014 Newsletter, you say: "Many thanks for taking the time to read this Newsletter". I really think we parishioners should be thanking you! With the aid of your faithful deliverers, it brings us essential parish information in a useful and refreshing way.*

*I particularly enjoyed reading Rob Larkman's article about his life in the village (and what a lot he has done for the good of parishioners). It was good to hear about the activities of the younger members of our community.....Greg Wilgar and Heidi Parsons, for example. Also, to learn more about the Handbell Ringers and the Short Mat Bowlers. Also, my appreciation of the centre page with the map of lost houses, which we in the Local History Group have been attempting to collate.*

*Altogether an excellent production as usual.*

*So THANK YOU Alan and Wally.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Doreen Marsh  
Curland*

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

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

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

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

# The Pancake Supper

(by Mal Lee)

*Shrove Tuesday occurs on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, It officially ends the season of Epiphany and is the vigil for the starting of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a day for reflecting on wrong doings, before Ash Wednesday, which is for repentance. Then, in Lent comes the trial of giving something up to prove the seriousness of the penance.*



*The word 'shrove', as in Shrove Tuesday, comes from the old English word 'shrive', meaning 'to confess all sins'. In days-gone-by children would go 'shroving', singing songs and reciting poetry in exchange for food or money.*

*The history of pancake making in Britain, and the joyful celebrations that surround it, go back many centuries. The earliest records of pancakes, and tossing them, appears in the 15th century when the custom derived from a need to use up old eggs, milk and butter before the traditional period of Lent forbade the use of such foods.*

*In France, the consumption of all fats and fatty foods on this day coined the name 'Fat Tuesday' or Mardi Gras. Carnival became associated with Shrove Tuesday, in part from the Spring Equinox celebrations that were practiced by the Romans and the ancient tribes of Europe. The word 'carnival' comes from the Latin 'carnem levare', meaning 'to take away the flesh'.*



Alison Brown

St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine has celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Supper for many years, and in recent times has been the only church in the Benefice to do so.

On 4 March 2014 over forty people enjoyed a relaxed and convivial evening with a hot supper,

puddings and cheese. After the main course people were invited, and sometimes cajoled, into taking part or judging a pancake tossing competition.

The gentlemen were able to toss the pancakes almost to the roof but could not always catch them, and ultimately the skill of the ladies won the day.



**David Symmonds**

During pudding – pancakes of course – David Symmonds had a break from doing a marathon stint of washing up and entertained us with interesting and amusing facts about pancakes.

The entertainment continued with a raffle called by Chris Baxter and a Quiz organized by Nicky Baxter.

It was a really enjoyable evening and thanks go to Alison Brown for organising the event; to all the volunteers, contributors; and especially to everyone who supported the evening.





# Superfast Broadband for Neroche?

*(An update on the Connecting Devon and Somerset Superfast Broadband project)*

*(By: Tim French, Chair of Neroche Communication Action Group)*

*This article is a précis of a detailed report that can be found on the Neroche Villages' website at [www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk)*

Neroche Parish lies within the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) scheme to improve the broadband service available to rural homes and businesses. Initial funding would have allowed the contractor (BT) to provide, by 2016, the infrastructure for superfast broadband (24 Mbps) to about 90% of premises, by using fibre-optic cable technology. The remaining 10% of premises were to get a speed of 2Mbps or more using radio, satellite or “new technologies”. The government has released more money to reduce the number of households getting the slower speed but it requires ‘match funding’ from existing budgets. Of course, in some areas covered by the scheme, all or most premises will get superfast broadband while, in more isolated areas, only a few or none will receive it.

***Unfortunately, many homes and businesses in Neroche Parish may not receive superfast broadband. Why is this so?***

Most of the 90% of premises in the CDS area getting superfast broadband are in villages and towns where ‘green boxes’ already exist, i.e. local BT telephone cabinets that receive the telephone and broadband from the exchange and pass it on to nearby premises by overhead copper wire cables. When the local telephone exchange is linked to the telephone network by fibre-optic cable, the exchange is then linked via a fibre-optic cable to a new box next to the existing green box, and connected to it, thus bringing superfast broadband to the local cabinet. Copper wire cables from the cabinet go to the premises, *with the broadband speed achieved falling as the distance from the cabinet increases.*

In Neroche Parish, most premises are connected either directly to the exchanges, or to a distant green box, by a very long copper wire cable, putting them at risk of missing out on superfast broadband. (The only ‘green box’ in the southern part of Neroche Parish is in Bickenhall, adjacent to the A358; it

is connected to the Hatch Beauchamp exchange and services 01823 numbers in Curland, Staple Fitzpaine and nearby; it may not be upgraded).

***Could this be prevented? Yes, but it requires investment.***

We are yet to hear what is planned in the current CDS scheme. If it is insufficient to provide superfast broadband to Neroche Parish then additional funding would have to be sought to:

- Link the premises to the exchanges directly by fibre optic cable. This method, known as fibre to the premises (FTTP), gives fabulous broadband speed. Very expensive.
- Site one or more ‘green boxes’ in the parish, link them to the exchanges by fibre optic cable and connect them to premises by rejigging the existing copper wire connections. Expensive.

Use other “new technologies”, currently under development.

***What’s the fuss? Do we need superfast broadband? Yes!***

- Your family will suffer as your home is denied the benefits of the entertainment, educational, shopping and information resources coming ‘on-stream’.
- Local businesses will weaken, fail or leave the parish. Prospective businesses will go elsewhere.
- The value of your house will fall and it will become more difficult to sell or rent
- The alternative wireless and satellite technology is more expensive and/or has problems.

***How can I find out how it will affect me?*** The short answer is “*There’s a lot you can find out about the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme itself but not much at this stage about how it will affect where you live*”. The Neroche Villages’ website explains this in detail, with links to appropriate website pages [www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk)

***Why can we not find out more and does it matter?*** When CDS advertised for tenders to carry out the infrastructure work, only BT insisted that a confidentiality

clause to be in the contract. This has meant that neither the public, nor our representatives, know or are able to discuss in detail the roll-out of the programme that affects their communities, until almost immediately before it is delivered to them.

***Is this important? It surely is.*** There is funding available for communities to use if they are going to miss out on superfast broadband *but this funding can only be applied for if the community knows that it is in the group that will receive just the 2Mbps minimum.* If the community cannot be told, it cannot apply, and so misses-out on the funding. This problem, specific to the CDS contract, has been strongly criticised by the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee. She said *“It is not acceptable that people are denied information about whether or not they are going to receive superfast broadband, and it means alternative providers cannot get a look-in”.*

***What can we do?*** This matter is to be discussed at the Neroche Annual Parish Meeting on 1st May 2014. We hope to have a clear, informative discussion on the subject, as it pertains to Neroche Parish:

- We have invited Councillor Graham Long from Upottery Parish to give an overview of dealing with the difficulties facing communities when information is not readily available.
- We have invited Laurent Boon from the BT side of the CDS team to come along. We hope to learn about the roll-out of the scheme in Neroche Parish as, by then, the relevant local exchanges will be fibre enabled, or shortly to be so.
- We have heard that our TDBC representative, John Williams, will be there, as will our Somerset County Councillor, Ross Henley.
- In addition, John Williams is trying to encourage senior members of the Somerset team to attend, and add expertise to the discussion.

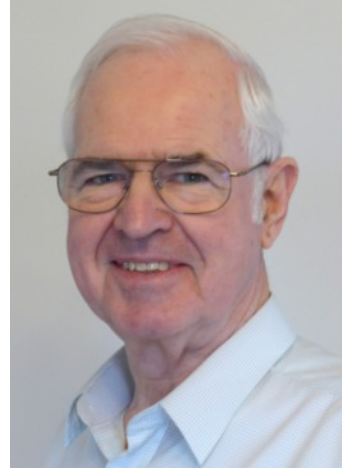
*We hope, at the end of the evening, we will leave with a clear understanding of what is happening and what we as a community can do, with the help of our representatives, to address any gaps in the provision of superfast broadband to our parish..*

# Focus on Local Business

David Symmonds - Our Local Computer Expert

(By Wally Torrington)

*David Symmonds has always been 'a pillar of the local community' and our local computer expert. Up until August 2013, when we changed to a commercial operator, David printed our Newsletter for no reward (260 copies, comprising circa 12,000 A5 pages, per issue!); a Herculean effort and an extraordinarily benevolent gesture, for which Alan Perrior and I shall be forever grateful. He has recently started a small business from home, dealing with personal computer problems for local residents. During the interview for this article, it became clear that he has had an extremely varied and most interesting career, which I'm sure you will find a fascinating read.*



David and Janet moved to the former Methodist Chapel in Curland almost 5 years ago, after deciding to sell their house in Cornwall, and to take a 'gap year' 18,000 mile tour of Australia, followed by a 3 month trip to New Zealand; all in a motorhome.

Born in 1940 and educated at Leeds Grammar School, David started his working life in a Radio and TV outlet in Leeds, taking over the business when only 19. A keen photographer (both still and video), encouraged him to sell the TV business in 1964, and open a photographic shop in Leeds, followed by another, a year later, in Harrogate.

Some years later, changing direction again, he developed a complete house furnishing business into a specialist kitchen and bedroom studio, until 'retiring' to live in Tenerife in 1987. The 'retirement' was short lived, as David became managing director of an estate agency 6 weeks later! Whilst living in Tenerife, he was also instrumental in establishing the Anglican Church in South Tenerife, becoming the first Churchwarden.

Returning to the UK in 1994, he continued designing kitchens and bedrooms, using computer aided design, until 1998. Then he changed careers yet again, and became an IT consultant, building computers and making house calls on 'poorly' computers; *"It was a wonderful job, driving around the lovely lanes of*



*Cornwall, meeting lots of friendly people, sorting out their computers, and getting paid!"*

Widowed in 2004, whilst living in Feock near Truro, he soon after met Janet who was living in Little Petherick. He sold the computer business, which, by this time, had over 1,000 private and business clients, and moved with Janet to Treknow, near

Tintagel. David and Janet were married in St. Matriana's Church, 'the Church on the Cliff' in 2005; moving to Curland 4 years later.

Soon after his arrival, David became a member of St. Peter's Church PCC and the Parish Magazine co-ordinator. Also, he is often to be seen helping at the Neroche Thursday Lunches (usually serving and clearing up!).



David was introduced to computers in the 1980s; making and mending them has been an interest ever since. He is now putting all that knowledge and expertise to excellent use, by starting a small home-based business, offering his services to solving computer problems for local residents. So, if you are

looking for help to: get started on a computer; improve your skills; source a PC or laptop; install anti-virus and spyware protection; set up broadband; fix a printer problem; recover lost files – then David is your man. Contact him on 01823 480208 or [davidsym@gmail.com](mailto:davidsym@gmail.com)



They say that "*proof of the pudding is in the eating*" well, David built my new computer, and I'm delighted with it; plus, it's always comforting to know that help, if needed, is literally 'just around the corner'.

# Taunton Vale Foxhounds

(By Alison Brown)

The hunting season comes to an end in March/April for most hunts, the finish time being governed by the type of country hunted over. The last meet of Taunton Vale Foxhounds our local pack, was at Horton House, Horton on 14th March and the day ended with a lovely tea for the followers.



Hunting days for the Taunton Vale are Tuesdays & Fridays or the occasional Saturday but, due to the terrible weather in January and February, a number of days were cancelled or meets were moved to higher ground. The hounds are hunted by Derek Leech who has been the Taunton Vale huntsman for a long time and is a familiar sight with his hounds in our villages. The hounds always look fit and happy under his care.

Trails are laid on hunting days to simulate the activity that used to take place when hunting the fox, but pest control of foxes within the law is also carried out to assist shoots and sheep farmers. The mounted followers will enjoy the cross-country ride that ensues, some of them jumping alarming obstacles and others finding their way to follow hounds whilst not jumping at all.

The Taunton Vale Foxhounds has had good support this season, mounted followers often numbering 40 or more. Lots of people enjoy following in a vehicle, both for the chance to watch hounds working whilst enjoying our lovely countryside, and to socialize with like-minded enthusiasts. Rainy and windy days never seem to deter the keen hunters, however, hunting can be curtailed by frost and snow, due to welfare considerations for hounds and horses, but fortunately this has not been a problem this winter. Grateful thanks must be given to the farmers and landowners in the Taunton Vale country who have generously allowed the hunt to cross their land so freely for many years.



Now in the “off” season, hounds and huntsman will have a well-earned rest. Proper exercising will start again in late June and young hounds will be given training to become part of the pack, and obedient to the huntsman’s commands. These puppies pictured here will grow-up to join the pack in 2015-2016.

*Anyone wishing to know more about the Taunton Vale Foxhounds or to visit the kennels to learn more please contact Mike Vacher (Chairman) Tel: 01460 234712 or Alison Brown (Secretary) Tel:01823 480441.*

## Love Neroche, Love woodland

(By: Dave Shuttleworth)

At this time of year, our very own Thurlbear Wood (an ancient woodland, which is also a Somerset Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve) is well worth a visit, to enjoy the delightful variety of flowers that have developed over centuries. The maintenance of open glades and rides that run through the woodland, helps create a colourful array of wildflowers. With them come many beautiful butterflies and the reserve is also alive with birds such as woodpeckers, nuthatches and nightingales, busy finding mates and building nests.



*(Photo courtesy of Matthew Marshall)*

Though shy and small (about the same size as a robin), nightingales make their presence felt by filling the woods with their distinctive song – a fast succession of high, low and rich notes – throughout summer days and nights. They nest in dense scrub and currently breed in the Quarrylands area, adjacent to the woodland.

If you are lucky enough to see one, nightingales are robust, broad-tailed, plain brown birds without the streaks of the dunnock or the red-breast of the robin. They are perhaps most similar to a female redstart but without the orange-red tail.

The trees at Thurlbear are mostly oak and ash, with hazel and field maple. The oldest trees on site are probably some of the old coppice stools, rather than the large standards (those with the thickest trunks), and some of them are well over 200 years. This mixture of old and new trees, together with the length of time the area has been wooded and managed in the same way, means that a huge variety of wildlife thrives at the nature reserve.

Species that indicate the wood's age and importance include greater butterfly, bird's nest orchids and common broomrape. The site is home to an abundance of typical British wildlife, including dormice, badgers, bats and brown hares.

A visit to Thurlbear offers a chance to step back in time. The earliest recorded mentions of the 40-acre woods are from 1320. The land was previously owned by the Priory of Taunton and the Portman family, before being passed to the Crown in 1942.

The woodland has been used for educational and research work for over 50 years. Somerset Wildlife Trust began managing part of the woodland in 1977, with the remainder coming under its protection from 1995. The nature reserve is part of the Thurlbear Wood and Quarrylands SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

The site's many paths are well-maintained by the Trust. They can be undulating and muddy – the wet ground is reflected in the 100 recorded species of fungi and 50 types of moss and lichen found there – but they are well worth exploring. The edges of the nature reserve also boast excellent views of our county town and further afield to the Quantock, Polden and Mendip Hills.

Somerset Wildlife Trust Reserves Manager David Northcote-Wright said: *“Thurlbear Wood has a stunning flora in the spring with bluebell, wood anemone and others carpeting the woodland floor; It’s what I think of as a typical English lowland wood.”*

### **50 years of local conservation:**

Supported by its members Somerset Wildlife Trust has been protecting vulnerable wildlife and preserving wild places for 50 years. Throughout 2014 the Trust is celebrating its golden anniversary year by encouraging local people to ‘Love Somerset, Love nature’. Thurlbear is just one 72 nature reserves under the Trust’s stewardship, which helps ensure Somerset remains one of the most wildlife-rich places in the UK.



You can donate to Somerset Wildlife Trust’s woodland appeal: make a donation and help the Trust keep woodlands like Thurlbear special for people and wildlife at [www.somersetwildlife.org/50](http://www.somersetwildlife.org/50) You can also text LEAF20 and the amount you would like to give (e.g. £10) to 70070 or call 01823 652400. *(Photo courtesy of Matthew Marshall)*



# On Our Doorstep

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

## **Blackdown Hills AONB Events Programme.**

The Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership produces a programme of activities titled '*Blackdown Hills Countryside Events*'. The published programme for 2014 is packed with a variety of activities; why not join them on one of their programmed events. For full details of these and many other events, go to [www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk):

### **05 Jul 14 'Bush-Craft for Grown Ups'**

**Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine ST256197**



Want to take yourself or your kids out in the wilds, to make fires and build dens - but don't feel confident how to do it? Come and learn the essentials - fire by friction, safe knife work, animal tracking and other skills. No experience necessary. Led by qualified bush-craft practitioners. Suitable for adults only. 10am - 5pm. Cost: £65 per person. Booking essential. For more information: Contact Gavin on 07760

665378, e-mail [gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org](mailto:gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org), or see [www.youngwood.org.uk](http://www.youngwood.org.uk)

### **3 May 14 'Dawn Chorus and Breakfast in the Woods'**

**Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine (ST256197)**

Experience the full-throated voice of the woods, as the birds herald the spring. Meet at dawn; wander the woods and meadows accompanied by an expert who will point out the different calls. Maximum distance circa 1 mile. Then return to the campfire for a wholesome breakfast. 4.30am - 9am. Cost: £20 per person, including breakfast. Booking essential.

For more information: Contact Gavin Saunders on 07760 665378, e-mail [gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org](mailto:gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org) or see [www.youngwood.org.uk](http://www.youngwood.org.uk) Toilet. Suitable for Children 10+.



## 12 Jun 14 *'Spring Botanicals'*

**Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine ST256197**



Learn how to recognise the characteristic flowers and trees of limestone grassland and woods, in one of the richest locations in the Blackdowns, at Young Wood and Wych Lodge. Maximum distance circa 1 mile. Led by local botanist and conservationist Gavin Saunders. 10am - 3pm. Cost: £20 per person. Booking essential. For more information: Contact Gavin on 07760 665378, [gavin@nerocheewoodlanders.org](mailto:gavin@nerocheewoodlanders.org) or see [www.youngwood.org.uk](http://www.youngwood.org.uk)

## 17 May 14 *'Family Saturday afternoon'*

**Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine ST256197**



Fun and learning in the woods, hunting for bugs amongst the bluebells, getting muddy making clay creatures and spotting all the late spring signs of wildlife. 2.30 - 5pm. Cost: £10 per adult, £2 per child. Children must be with an adult. Booking essential. For more information: Contact Jenny on 07541 080397 e-mail [jenny@nerocheewoodlanders.org](mailto:jenny@nerocheewoodlanders.org) , or see [www.youngwood.org.uk](http://www.youngwood.org.uk) Toilet. Suitable for children 4 +

## 04 Jun 14 *'Discover the butterflies of Mount Fancy'*

**Location: Mount Fancy Farm Reserve, Staple Hill**

A guided walk to discover Butterfly Conservation's Mount Fancy Farm Reserve, with Reserves Officer Lucy Morton. We'll be hoping to spot small pearl-bordered fritillary, silver washed fritillary, and possibly wood white.

11am -3pm. Cost: Free

Meet in the Forestry Commission Staple Hill car park. Map ref: ST 246 159. There is a 5-10 minute walk down to the reserve.

For more information: visit [www.butterfly-conservation.org.uk](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org.uk) or contact Lucy on 07503 220191



## 24 May 14 *'Nightjar and Bat Walk'*

**Location: Blackdown Common ST 124 166**



A walk over Blackdown Common with local naturalist Richard Whiteside, to try and hear nightjars. We will also use an electronic bat detector, and we may hear a cuckoo. Please bring a torch, Wellies recommended.

8pm - 10.30pm. Cost:  
Adults £6, children under  
16 £4. Booking essential.

For more information: Contact Richard and Alison Whiteside, 01823 680931. Walk level; no obstructions or barriers. Suitable for children 7+



## 21 Jun 14 *'Blackdown Hills Woodland and Country Fair'*

**Location: Wrangway, Wellington TA21 9NP**

Bigger and better than before, with more country crafts and skills. Over 150 exhibitors, including steam saws, tree climbing, horse logging, competitions, archery, tree felling, pole climbing, local food and drink, charcoal burning and tree nurseries. A truly local show. 9.30am - 5pm. Cost: Adults £7.50, under 10 year olds free, no other concessions. For more



information: Contact John Greenshields on 01823 660764 or e-mail <mailto:parkfram@tinyonline.co.uk>. More details at [www.woodbiz.co.uk](http://www.woodbiz.co.uk)

## The Square and Compass, Ashill.

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

*2 May 'The Rollin Clones'; 16 May 'Martin Turners Wishbone Ash'; 22 May 'Kent Duchane'; 6 June 'Chris Jagers Kronnies';*

*20 June 'Gerry McAvoy's Band of Friends'; 11 July 'Michael Chapman'; 25 July 'Rod Clements and Ian Thomson'* For full information on these concerts and many others, go to [www.squareandcompasspub.com](http://www.squareandcompasspub.com)



## Taunton Racecourse (Next meeting 29 October 14).



We are most fortunate to have England's youngest National Hunt racecourse, and one of the most beautifully located in the country, situated within Neroche Parish.

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

The race day package is an ideal gift offering great value; it includes a Grandstand ticket to the meeting of your choice, a food and drink voucher for a snack with a drink (beer/wine/soft drink) of your choosing, a race card for the day and a tote £10 betting voucher - all for £30. **Packages must be booked in advance.** To purchase, call now on 01823 337172 or book online.

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

## Ilminster Arts Centre

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

ILMINSTER  
**arts centre**  
AT THE MEETING HOUSE

produce markets, and a thriving craft shop and café. For full details of their forthcoming events and extensive programme, go to [www.themeetinghouse.org.uk](http://www.themeetinghouse.org.uk)

**Friday May 2nd** at 8.00pm (pre-show supper at 7:00pm) KATHERINE BICKNELL flute, KEZIAH THOMAS harp. **Friday 9th May** at 8.00pm (pre-show supper at 7:00pm) RICK PAYNE (Blues). **Friday May 16th** at 8.00pm (pre-show supper at 7:00pm) THE ARTISANS EMILY ASKEW vielle, bagpipes, recorders, HAZEL ASKEW voice, medieval harp (Classical). **Friday 27th June** at 8.00pm (pre-show supper at 7:00pm) CRAIG MILVERTON AND 'TRICOTISM' with NIGEL PRICE and SANDY SUCHODOLSKI (Jazz). **Friday 25th July** at 8.00pm (pre-show supper at 7:00pm) PAPA GEORGE and ZOOT MONEY SLIDE GUITAR (Blues).

# Neroche Woodlanders at Young Wood

After the relentlessly wet winter, the good folk in the forest at Young Wood have emerged into the spring, with lots of activities and a positive spirit. We warmly invite local residents in the Neroche parishes to come and join us, either at a family event, a regular volunteer day, or a training course – we'd love to see you and help you share *your* forest.

Neroche Woodlanders is the social enterprise which arose out of the Neroche Project, and is an independent, not-for-profit community initiative. We currently hold 100 acres at Young Wood on a license from the Forestry Commission, and use it as a base for our social, conservation and training activities. Our purpose is to help people gain a benefit for themselves, share time with others, and give something back to the forest itself.

We are running a series of **Family Saturday Afternoons** at Young Wood this spring and summer. We all know how much children need time to play outdoors, and spending time as a whole family together is even better. We build dens, make mud-faces and wool-weavings, and explore for animal tracks and signs. Our Family sessions are on the following **Saturdays** in 2014: 17th May, 14th June, 19th July and 16th August. Each session runs from 2.30 to 5.00pm, and costs £10 per adult, plus £2 per child. Booking essential!



Additionally, we are running many **courses** this season – making for a great gift, or a nice way of spending quality time for yourself. *Please see the 'On Our Doorstep' article on page 49 of this newsletter for full details of 'Dawn Chorus and Breakfast in the Woods' (Saturday 3rd May 2014), 'Spring Botanicals' (Thursday 12th June 2014), and 'Bushcraft for Grown-ups' (Saturday 5th July 2014).*

Finally, we also regularly hold **Volunteer Work Parties** at Young Wood – with our current preoccupation being the building of a new roundhouse made using wood poles from the forest. Sessions take place generally on the fourth Wednesday of the month, with some extra dates added at busy times. Fuller details can be found on our website [www.youngwood.org.uk](http://www.youngwood.org.uk)

We will be at the Neroche Parishes Annual Meeting on 1st May, with more about our activities. In the meantime, if you have any queries or want to make a booking, please email Gavin at [gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org](mailto:gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org) or phone 07760 665378.

*An extract from a report given to the Neroche Local History Group at their AGM by their Chair Jane Hole*

"We must acknowledge with gratitude the role our Community Newsletter now plays in the life of the Neroche History Group. We write an article on local history for each issue, as well as being able to advertise our sessions. So with a copy going to each house within the parish it helps us both raise awareness about the group and to promote our talks. It has undoubtedly led to the increase in attendance."

*And in a recent email*

Many thanks, once more, Alan and Wally for your indefatigable work on the Newsletter; it is a great support for all the local groups.

**Household Recycling & Refuse Collections  
Bank Holiday Day Changes for May 2014**



Usual Refuse & Recycling Collection Day	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May
Revised Refuse & Recycling Collection Day	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May

### School Holidays

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



**24 May to 1 June**  
**23 July to 31 August**



# Events For Your Calendar

## May

- 1 Annual Parish Meetings (see adverts on pages 12 & 13)
- 1 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 19)
- 3 Neroche Walking Group (see advert on page 11)
- 6 Neroche Hall AGM (see article on page 5)
- 8 Parish Council Meeting (see article on page 24)
- 28 History Group Meeting (see advert on page 3)

## June

- 5 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 19)
- 7 Neroche Walking Group (see [www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk))
- 7 St Peter's Church Fete (see advert on page 37)
- 10 Senior Citizens Club Tea Party (see advert on page 3)
- 21 Senior Citizens Club Birthday Lunch (see advert on page 3)

## July

- 5 Neroche Walking Group (see [www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk))
- 3 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 19)
- 5 Charity Barn Boogie (see advert on page 27)
- 10 Parish Council Meeting (see article on page 24)

## August

- 7 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 19)
- 2 Neroche Walking Group (see [www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk))

**For further information go to the parish website**  
[www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk)

**See, also, the many and various events listed in the**  
**'On Your Doorstep' article on page 49**



## ***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, e.g. on broadband, traffic; a business section and advertisements. The website features a comprehensive list of clubs and organisations, including details of those in neighbouring parishes. It is also the website of Neroche Parish Council and lists its activities, agenda, minutes and official documents.

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

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

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

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

### ***Email Information:***

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

### ***The Parish Magazine:***

Full information on benefice matters, a great source of news, coming events and general information, and details of many local businesses and services. For new subscriptions phone Kate Reynolds on 01823 444023.

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

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

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