

“Working Together for a Better Community”

NEROCHE VILLAGES

Newsletter

Issue No 13

August 2014

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



Lest We Forget

(The Great War started 100 years ago, on 28th July 1914)

“The Clock Commemorates Those Who At The Call Of King And Country, Left All That Was Dear To Them. Endured Hardness, Faced Danger And Finally Passed Out Of The Sight Of Men By The Path Of Duty And Self-Sacrifice; Giving Up Their Own Lives That Others Might Live In Freedom. Let Those Who Come After See To It That Their Names Are Not Forgotten.”

(Inscription taken from a plaque in St Peter’s Church, Staple Fitzpaine.)

Welcome to the 13th 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)*



Wally Torrington

The past few months seem to have been dominated by Crown Estates serving eviction notices on many Neroche Parish residents. Vicky Pearson and Mark Kemp set up ‘The Forced Out Action Group’, which is enjoying support from the Parish Council, TDBC and the County Council. It has been wonderful to witness the community getting behind both the group and the



Alan Perrior

individual tenants who have received notices to move. Circa 130 Neroche locals turned-out at the public meeting held in Neroche Hall on 24 April, and the group received great support at the exceptionally well attended Annual Parish Meeting on 1 May. Read more in the update on page 46, and in ‘News From Neroche Parish Council’ on page 14.

On a lighter note, we had a wonderful St Peter’s Church Fete in June at The Manor in Staple Fitzpaine, and a Charity Barn Boogie in Bickenhall Farm in July (both covered in articles on pages 54 and 56).

2014 being the 100th anniversary of the First World War, the Local History Group have produced a most interesting article on local War Memorials on page 32. We will write a little more on the subject in the November Issue.

With lots of events taking place in the parish in forthcoming months, we look forward to meeting many of you, and discussing how we might improve this Newsletter; or you are most welcome to send your ideas to either of us (contact details on the back page).

Finally, a special thanks to our official photographer, David Spears, who has been ‘out-and-about’ at local events taking some great pictures. Not all of them appear in the Newsletter but the full collection has been put on the website www.nerochevillages.co.uk.

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

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Email Alert Parish Notices

If you wish to be kept informed of all that is happening in the community (including: crime alerts; road closures; community activities; local events; important meetings etc etc) then why not add your email address to the 185 plus individuals that have already signed-up to the service.

Your details will be kept secure, as all Email Alerts use the BCC address system so that nobody sees the full list.

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

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

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

News From Neroche Hall

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



The Neroche Hall Annual General Meeting was held in May and some of you may have seen my report to the meeting, which was circulated shortly afterwards. The report is an opportunity to reflect upon the last year's events and achievements as well as being positive for the future. I do not intend to repeat the contents of that document here but I think it is worth noting that we were extremely pleased to have recruited three new people to the committee and they are Jacqueline Kolkowski and Diana Davies both of Curland, together with Mark Porter of Badger Street. Maintaining the Hall for future generations does very much depend upon continuity of purpose and enthusiastic people to ensure that it can do so.



On a slightly sad note, one of our stalwarts has finally retired from the Committee after many years of loyal service to our community. Colin Croad, who is known to many within the area, has now moved into Taunton with his wife Pat and, whilst he will not be taking such an active part in events, he has agreed to continue for the present as our quizmaster.

The Committee bade farewell to him at the AGM and a small token of our joint appreciation was presented to him.

The more astute of you may have noticed when visiting the hall recently that CCTV has been installed covering the car park and exterior of the building. Whilst we are not by any stretch of the imagination a crime 'hot spot' the deterrent value of such equipment cannot be underestimated. The whole installation would not have been top of our wish list on grounds of cost but we were extremely lucky to benefit from the generosity of one man and that is Mark

Kemp from Perry Hall. Many will know that he is one of those affected by the actions of the Crown Estate and that he has spoken eloquently at the public meetings held at the hall. So impressed was he at the support of our community that he made us the offer of providing and installing all the necessary equipment at no cost, thereby giving something to the community in recognition of your support.



For those who may be concerned that we have become another form of ‘big brother’ I must point out that our system will be registered under the Data Protection Act and will comply with all the necessary technical standards to meet the evidential needs for any police investigation. The system is capable of recording digitally from all cameras simultaneously and can store images for a month. The system will not be monitored routinely unless there is a specific need to review the images following an incident and then to burn that specific time frame onto a CD. This is state of the art equipment and again we are indebted to Mark for his gift.



The summer months tend to be a little quiet event-wise but the usual regular users continue to support the hall with their presence. You will soon see notice of a Boules Fun Afternoon which is being held at the hall next bank holiday weekend on Sunday 24th August 2014. This is a fun afternoon with all the family invited, so even if you have never played before, but thought you'd like to have a go why not join us. There will also be a BBQ and a bar to keep you going.



Some other events to keep an eye out for this Autumn are the Quiz Night and a Safari Supper, both dates to be announced soon. Our Friday film night will also return in September and again we will give plenty of advance warning of the chosen films. Details as always can be found on the Neroche Hall Website or noticeboards and your local publications.

Wild, Woolly and in Wellies

By Wally Torrington

‘Wild, Woolly and in Wellies’ was the latest in a series of School Farm Days which aim to give youngsters, with an average age of 8, a physical experience of varying aspects of farm life; exercising all the senses of sight, hearing, touch and smell.

This initiative has now been running for circa 12 years, and is the brainchild of Rob Walrond, a farmer from Pitney, who is also Rural Officer for the Bath and Wells Diocese. However, all the organisation, administration and logistics for each event is coordinated by our very own Mark Pope of Staple Farm.



Chief Organiser, Mark Pope, with volunteers Patricia Dryden and Dianne Hood

‘Wild, Woolly and in Wellies’ was held at Bickenhall Farm, by kind permission of Chris and Sarah Salisbury, who also contributed a great deal of time and effort to ensure that maximum benefit was gained from the day.

The first of the 500 schoolchildren, together with their teachers and other



‘minders’, started to arrive at 09.30am in a fleet of coaches. After ‘depositing’ their rucksacks and other spare kit in a large dry barn, they were quickly organised into groups of about twenty-in-number, allocated a guide, then, adhering to a strict and well thought-out schedule, started to visit the various stands.

There was lots to see, do and experience: observing sheep in the field, with their new-born lambs; the chance to pick-up and handle slightly older lambs; a sheep dog demonstration; sheep shearing; an exhibition of shearing tools (old and new); a wildlife tent run by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Service, with the theme ‘Helping Create a Better Environment for Farming’; and a ‘sheep products uses’ area, where the likes of wool-knitting and yarn-spinning were being demonstrated, plus the chance to taste ice cream made from ewes milk. The day ended with a short and ‘fun’ service, with lots of ‘congregation participation’ taken by two groups, first our local Vicar, Paul Reynolds with Cheryl Govier, then Jess Pitman.



Mark brought together a small army of local volunteers from Neroche Parish

to run the event, which, I must say, ran with military precision (if you think that a family day out with a couple of hyperactive youngsters is stressful, try controlling and amusing 500 ‘little darlings’ on a working farm).

The event finished at about 3.00pm when the last of the coaches left the farmyard. This was followed by an equally well organised ‘breaking camp’ and ‘clear-up’.



‘Wild, Woolly and in Wellies’ proved to be: an incredibly successful event; a wonderful experience for the children; and an enormously rewarding and satisfying day for all those involved in the organising and helping.

If you would like to volunteer to be a helper at a future event, please contact Mark at markpope@staplefarm.co.uk

Neroche Local History Group

Hedges in the Neroche Villages

By Doreen Marsh

We are fortunate that in this area with our type of farming, we did not lose miles of hedges in the mid-20th century to prairie style farming, as they did in



parts of East Anglia. Until recently, here they might have been described as useful for keeping dairy cattle within certain fields. Now, with less dairying, they constrain beef cattle too and, of course, delineate arable fields. Cottages and farmhouses too can have small hedges round the property.

It is acknowledged that our villages are old and we still have some very old properties around. So what about our hedgerows? What about their ages?

Enclosure of commons began early in medieval times. But before that the Saxons created boundaries in these districts with hedges.



We know that when the commons were enclosed, in the time of Charles 1st and again in the early 19th century, hedges were laid to demarcate fields, which were then awarded to various people, although the mineral rights went to The

Lord of the Manor. It is said that during the 17th century Civil War “the rabble of Curland” pulled up the newly planted hedges, taking advantage of wartime upheaval!

The lane that runs from Hewitt’s Farm in Curland (where Richard Coate farms now) up to the Mount Pleasant area, has hedges that date from 1830; a fairly young hedge, less than 200 years old. Whereas the hedges near the riding stables in Curland are much older.

An example of a very young hedge indeed is on the northern boundary of Staple Farm, Staple Fitzpaine. This hedge was planted at the end of the 20th century.



Spindle Tree

The composition of the hedge with regard to shrubs, trees and wild flowers gives an indication of the age of a hedge. For example, the spindle tree, with its scarlet berries in the autumn, is only found growing in an old hedge as is the early spring wild flower, dog’s mercury.

So we range from some early Saxon boundaries through hedges planted in medieval times to those of the enclosure acts and very recent ones.

We are fortunate living in an area of great diversity with regard to our hedges.

What do you know about the hedges where you live? Are they of an age that you can recognise? What about the wild flowers beneath? If you can help the local history group map and understand the local hedges, we shall all know more about the history of our villages. You can email Doreen Marsh at alanmarsh9@btinterenet.com or telephone 01460 234471



Dog Mercury

Tales From The Forest

By Gavin Saunders

Neroche Woodlanders are having a busy summer in the woods at Young Wood. We are mid-way through building a round-house, using a 'reciprocal frame' roof structure made from larch poles, with those and virtually the whole structure being sourced from the woods around us.



The round-house build and other activities in Young Wood continue to be fuelled by volunteers giving up their time to help. There's a great sense of satisfaction to be had from contributing to a healthy, collective effort, exploring traditional skills, and being in a natural, wild setting. Our volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds – retirees, students gaining experience, and people who work part time and want to do something different in-between times. We also now include volunteers who have come through our Wild Learning programme, who have disadvantages in their lives – long term unemployed people and residents in homeless hostels in Taunton. The leveling atmosphere of the woods means people spend time and get on with people they might not otherwise meet.

Our Wild Learning projects take a variety of adults, young people and family groups, mainly from the Halcon and Priorswood estates, and guide them through a programme of informal training in 'hard' and 'soft' skills, including green woodworking, woodland conservation, wildlife tracking and bushcraft. Funded by Somerset Skills & Learning, and the Peoples Health Lottery, we also have regular family Saturdays in the woods, backed up by sessions on the estates.

Anyone interested in volunteering with Woodlanders, do get in touch – email Gavin on gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org, or phone 07760 665378. Or on the web find us at www.youngwood.org.uk. (See also, bottom of page 41.)

09 Aug 14 'Summer Botanicals' Location: Staple Hill



Learn how to recognise the characteristic flowers and trees of acid bogs and heaths, in one of the richest locations in the Blackdowns. Maximum distance circa one mile. Led by local botanist and conservationist Gavin Saunders. 10am to 3pm. Cost: £20 per person. Booking essential. Meet at Staple Hill Car Park. For more information contact Gavin 07760 665378, gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org, or see www.youngwood.org.uk

13 Aug 14 'Volunteering With the Neroche Woodlanders'

Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine ST256197



A day of volunteering at Young Wood community woodland. There will be a number of different jobs to do over the day. During 2014 we will be improving the site facilities for use by groups spending time in the forest for bushcraft and woodcrafts. We are aiming to improve habitats for wildlife and continue to lay the foundations for traditional management of this woodland into the future. All

tools and instruction provided. As the fire is going all day, feel free to bring your potatoes wrapped in foil for a warming lunch! Wear suitable outdoor clothes, and boots. Bring packed lunch and water. Hot drinks will be provided. Please let us know if you are able to attend. This event is provided by: **Neroche Conservation Volunteers**. Contact: Jilly Ould jilly@nerochewoodlanders.org
Tel: 07840 737127 www.ncvolunteers.org/

16 Aug 14 'Family Saturday afternoon'

Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine ST256197



Fun and learning in the woods; lots of play, relaxing and making things for the holidays. Hanging around in hammocks, wild art and rummaging under the leaves. 2.30 to 5.00pm. £10 per adult, £2 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential. For more information contact Jenny, 07541 080397, e-mail jenny@nerochewoodlanders.org or see www.youngwood.org.uk
Toilet. Suitable for children 4+

Focus on Local Business

By Wally Torrington

We have two self-storage businesses in Neroche Parish: 'Parsons Self Store' at Seymour's Farm, Curland, and Blackdown Storage (part of Staple Farm Enterprises) at Staple Farm in Staple Fitzpaine. This month's article features the latter; 'Parsons Self Storage' having been covered in the November 2013 issue of the Newsletter, which can be accessed on the Neroche Community Website: www.nerochevillages.org.uk



Mark and Julie Pope run an established and successful self-storage business offering affordable rates to both domestic and commercial customers. They provide a high standard of personal service, tailored to meet the varied needs of their clients. They live on-site, thus providing a highly secure environment in which the business is operated, and offering their customers 'round-the-clock' access and contact. Mark and Julie take great pride in the high standard of service and facilities they offer.



Blackdown Storage provides secure, clean, dry units (many of which are under cover) all situated at ground level; just drive up to your container and load or unload at your leisure and convenience. Sizes range from 6ft x 6ft to 20ft x 8ft, with prices ranging from £50 to £120 per month (see their website for regular special offers – plus, there is 10% discount for Neroche Parish residents). Due to their vast experience, Blackdown Storage is able to provide every customer with the most

suitable unit for their needs, ensuring a hassle-free self-storage experience.

Blackdown Storage has helped many clients with their personal storage requirements, whether it has been: bridging the gap between house moves; temporary storage during home building projects; house downsizing; working abroad; extended holidays/travel; de-cluttering; renting-out the spare room; storing a collection; or at a time of personal upheaval e.g. divorce, bereavement etc. Equally, the variety of needs of their commercial customers, include: a repository for stock traded from home; 'point of sale' and marketing materials; building supplies; archive and other document storage.



There is also space to keep vehicles, watercraft, mobile machinery and other individual large items. If you have a storage requirement, there is every chance that Blackdown Storage has the solution.

Blackdown Storage offers the living solution of creating more space in your life, with affordable options and no hidden extras; providing easily accessible, clean, dry and, most importantly, safe facilities. They can also help business people operate more efficiently, whether they be an avid ebayer, a small business owner or a larger organisation, and assist them drive forward to a better, brighter (and less cluttered) future. For more information go to: www.blackdownstorage.co.uk

If you run a business within the Neroche Parish boundary, and wish to feature in a 'Focus on Local Business' article, then speak with Alan Perrior or Wally Torrington (contact details on back page).

News From Neroche Parish Council

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



Spring is a busy time for the Parish Council as it marks the beginning of a new Council year. This year has been particularly busy with Parish Council involvement in three meetings within the space of two weeks.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING.

The Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting at the end of April to discuss the Crown Estate's decision to terminate a number of residential tenancies within the Parish. As a result of this meeting, letters of protest were sent to the Crown Estate and senior politicians, urging the Crown Estate to reconsider its decision. Unfortunately the responses received to date have not been optimistic.



John Bell, Parish Council Chairman

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of Neroche Parish took place on 1st May and was attended by circa 140 parishioners, the largest attendance to date.

Annual Report. The evening commenced with Jon Bell, the Chairman of the Parish Council, presenting the Annual Report. During the past year, the Parish Council has worked on a number of issues on behalf of the community, such as speeding vehicles and planning applications. As a result, a Speed Indicator Device will be sited opposite the Polo Ground on a regular basis. The Parish Council was able to respond to

parishioners' concerns regarding a planning application for change of use of an agricultural property at Curland and submitted an objection to the proposal to the planning authorities. Planning Permission was refused by TDBC.

Eviction of Crown Tenants. The Annual Parish meeting provided the ideal opportunity for the community to show its support to the Crown Estate tenants who have been given notice to quit. A moving and informative presentation was made by members of the 'Forced Out Action Group'. The action group was formed at the end of April and has the support of Jeremy Browne, (MP), Ross Henley and John Williams, the County and District Councillors for the parish. All are working to reverse the Crown Estate's decision or at the very least obtain a postponement so that alternative solutions may be explored.



Vicky Pearson, founder of the 'Forced Out Action Group'



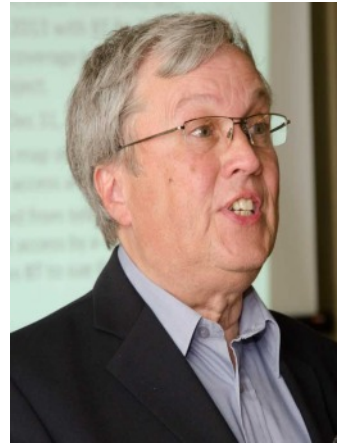
Mark Kemp, Chairman of the 'Forced Out Action Group'

Following a request from a parishioner, it was also agreed that a resolution should be passed opposing the actions of the Crown Estate. The proposal that *"The Annual Parish meeting of the Neroche Parishes deplores the action that the Crown Estate has taken without consultation and urges the Crown Estate to retract its notices to vacate"* was unanimously passed by the parishioners present.

Local Flooding. Kali Martin, of Somerset County Council Highways, addressed the meeting and outlined the roles and responsibilities of the highways department with regard to flooding.

The highways department has a responsibility to attend to water on public highways but relies on local landowners to manage their roadside ditches so that excess water does not flow onto the roads. Clearance of gullies is carried out on a bi-annual basis.

Superfast Broadband. The final presentation addressed the issue of rural broadband. Cllr Graham Long, from Uptottery Parish Council, outlined the problems faced by rural families and businesses without fast broadband and how many rural areas, including parts of our parish, will not benefit from the work BT is currently carrying out. Paul Coles, BT Regional manager, representing the Connecting Devon & Somerset team, responsible for the installation of rural fast broadband, outlined the scheme to bring superfast broadband to our area.



Cllr Graham Long



Paul Coles

Unfortunately there was little tangible information that could be given to the meeting as Neroche will not be surveyed until later this year. Once the survey has been completed, residents will have a clearer idea as to whether they will benefit from the faster broadband speeds. However, we were given a reassurance that all premises would have a minimum speed of 2Mbps at all times. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation on behalf of the community.

Local Community Involvement. In addition to the formal presentations, there were stands representing a variety of village organisations, highlighting the many clubs and activities that take place within the parish, including: Communication Action Group (responsible for the Community Website, Newsletter and Email Alert); Garden Club; Neroche Hall; St Peter’s Church; Thursday Lunch Club; Scarecrow Competition; St Peter’s Singers; Orchard Portman House; Local History Group; Walking Group; Litter Pick-Up Action Group; Forced Out Action Group; Neroche Woodlanders; and the Blackdown Hills AONB.

There was a free cheese buffet, with wine donated by Tesco of Ilminster; and the WI (what would we do without them?) provided refreshments with a variety of drinks and delicious cakes and other 'nibbles', paid for by the Parish Council.



Ladies from the WI serving delicious 'eats'

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Annual Parish Council meeting took place on May 8th, at which Jon Bell was elected Chairman for the forthcoming year.

The end of year accounts were presented and the finances of the Parish Council are in good order. Unfortunately, due to an error by the District Council, payment of the 2014/15 precept to the Parish Council was processed early and as a result, shows in the accounts for 2013/14. Therefore the Annual Return for Neroche parish shows a much higher precept than in previous years but residents can be assured that the precept payment has not doubled!

The formal minutes of all the recent meetings are published on the Neroche Villages website www.nerochevillages.org.uk where details of the annual accounts may also be found.

www.nerochevillages.org.uk

..... 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; a 'What's On' page; details of local clubs, societies and organisations; information on local churches; a history of Neroche; maps; useful telephone numbers and links to local 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.

www.nerochevillages.org.uk

Hatch Beauchamp & Neroche Garden Club

By Maureen James

Thank you to all who contributed plants for the stall at the Staple Fitzpaine fete on 7 June. I bought a beautiful giant scabiosa and some leycesteria cuttings which I can pot on and they will make lovely shrubs. There was some lovely stuff there and trade was brisk. The whole afternoon was lively and entertaining and after a nail-biting rainy morning, the sun came out on cue. A good bit of organisation.



Tami Boden-Ellis, Joy Larkman & Rosanna Morris

So far this year the club has had a selection of talks and presentations combined



Abbotsbury Swannery

with some 'away days', the next of which will be a visit to Abbotsbury Swannery and tropical gardens on Sunday 20th July. All details can be had from Wendy Morris on 01460 234445. There is a discount available for groups of 10 or more, so it would be good to get a bit of a party - also from the point of view of car sharing.

Our August meeting, on the 17th, will feature Sunday afternoon tea at Ivy Farm hosted by Maureen and Tony Green who are hoping their garden will look in reasonable order! At the moment it is full of colour - thanks to a warm moist spring! Here's hoping it will still have some left in August. If not, there will be wine, tea and cakes etc.

In September we have planned a visit to Midney Gardens in Somerton, Wendy and Maureen have been along to check-it-out and it's really worth a visit. A small working garden with lots to see, arranged in a series of small individual gardens, one leading into the other and offering a surprise at every turn. Also, lovely cakes to eat and plants for sale. Wendy will be sending out details to members in good time.



Midney Gardens

Our last planned meeting of the year will be at Neroche Hall and is a talk and presentation by Neil Lovesey of Picket Lane Nursery who will reveal the secrets of successful gardening on clay soil.

I am saying this is the last meeting, as the committee have nothing planned after that date. If any one - member or would be member - has an idea of a particular subject they think would be of interest to the gardening fraternity, Wendy will be pleased to hear from you and we can put it into action.

THURSDAY LUNCHEAS AT NEROCHE HALL

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

Lunches will take place on Thursdays at 12.30 for 1.00 pm
7th August, 4th September, 9th October

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

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.

In my last newsletter three months ago, I was talking of the receding floods and hopeful the dry weather and sunshine would continue. We have been fortunate, the good weather has continued and with it the verdant growth of the hedges, verges and crops in the fields; we can be forgiven for feeling summer has arrived! It is to be welcomed and it makes us all feel better after such prolonged bad weather.



MASS EVICTION OF CROWN TENANTS.

However, it was not all good news, the bombshell of the Crown Estate proposals became public in April, and what a shock that was to the whole community. Not only the tenants under threat of eviction but also the tenants



Some of the 130 attendees at the 'Forced Out Action Group' public meeting in Neroche Hall

not served notice but living in fear of “when is it our turn?” Added to that was the absolute outrage of the local community, not just Crown tenants incensed by the cavalier attitude of the Crown Estate towards long established members of the community.

The actions of the Crown Estate can only be regarded as morally reprehensible, in that they are serving notice on long established tenants, 15 years plus in some cases, and by their actions taking the heart out of the local communities. This cannot be right; if not a legal requirement they have a moral and ethical duty to look after the communities entrusted to their care by the Portman Estate, not just discard them in the pursuit of higher investment returns so placing profit before people. Immoral, in my view, from an organisation such as the Crown Estate.

I must commend the ‘Forced Out Action Group’ for the way they have pursued this and raised the profile tremendously, they deserve all of our support. It never fails to amaze me the amount of backing they have gained from the wider Neroche community, so evident at public meetings



Some of the 'Forced Out Action Group' at a meeting in The Deane House

when this is on the agenda. The Borough Council is very supportive of tenants and will continue to do all possible to find a more equitable solution to avoid or mitigate the loss of these truly rural homes that people can afford and enjoy living in. Almost certainly, if sold on the open market they will be lost to the present tenants as they will be unaffordable.

An interesting piece of history; in a book written in 1958 by RA Sixsmith entitled “Staple Fitzpaine and the Forest of Neroche, it says: ***“This book is dedicated to the Crown Estate and Forestry Commissioners. May they prove faithful stewards of our farms and woodlands.”*** Unfortunately, with the passage of time, that desired stewardship seems sadly lacking.

POTENTIAL NEW LOCATIONS FOR TDBC OFFICES.

On another subject, last year elected members agreed to investigate potential new locations for the Borough Council officers – relocate to a section of County Hall or a new build office on our Firepool regeneration site.

A report has been prepared for consideration by Members, which says the preferred option would be County Hall – in A or B block – as it represents the best option for customers and the optimum value for money. Firepool would

provide a new building working with the Council’s development partner for the site, St Modwen.



The Deane House

An important factor is that other public sector organisations are considering using County Hall as a base, it could

become a public sector hub with residents able to access a host of services at a single location; a “one stop shop”

It is calculated that The Deane House currently costs the Council £650,000 a year to occupy, and that staying there would incur significant costs to make the offices fit for purpose for the 21st century. This is another reason why many authorities are co-locating in similar public service hubs – for example Somerset County Council, Mendip and Sedgemoor District Councils.

The report goes on to say *“All have found that it is possible to reduce desk space requirements by circa 40% by introducing new ways of working and investing in modern office space and equipment.”*

This presents Members with an interesting choice but in my view we must



deliver the services needed by the community we serve for the least cost.

Maintaining an inefficient and expensive-to-run office block is not the best use of taxpayers money, and it is best used to maintain the essential front-line services so valued by our community. This will be guiding our choice over the months ahead.

REFURBISHMENT OF TAUNTON RAILWAY STATION

An application for £4.6 million of funding towards a major refurbishment of Taunton Railway Station has been made, and has the backing of Network Rail, First Great Western, Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County



Taunton Station

Council. It will re-orientate the station, turning the access around to face the Firepool area of Taunton. Better passenger facilities, improved parking, a public transport interchange and new commercial, residential and retail developments are all linked to the project. The bid for this £4.6m funding has been submitted by the Heart of the South West Local

Enterprise Partnership and decisions will be announced imminently. It is part of an overall £22 million plan for Taunton station, which will be triggered once the initial funding has been secured.

It could also assist the much larger Taunton regeneration project on Firepool, adjacent the station, and will enable the town to cope with the predicted 40% increase in rail-use within the next 6 years. It will also confirm Taunton as the premier rail gateway to the South West.

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

Litter Pick-Up Event

By Wally Torrington

The Neroche Litter Pick-Up Action Group organised another most successful



morning event in late May. Twenty one hardy volunteers (a 33% increase on last year's turnout) were blessed with dry weather and collected a sizeable haul of rubbish from the roads running through the parish (including many tins of mauve and cerise pink paint in a lay-by!) The total amount collected was a

little less than usual due to the event being delayed by the atrocious weather earlier in the year, and the spring growth on the verges already having taken hold

Part of the litter haul

The 'Pick-Up' was organised by Jayne Hunt, ably assisted by her husband Steve and two hard working fellow committee members, Alison and Anthony Brown. Jayne: liaised with the local authorities, including the police and Somerset Waste Partnership (they run waste services for TDBC); divided the route into a number of sections; allocated them to pairs of litter collectors; and then proceeded to oversee the whole operation.

At the end of the 'Pick-Up', Alison and Anthony Brown drove the route in their truck and collected all the filled rubbish sacks, held on to the haul over the weekend, and supervised its collection by Somerset Waste Partnership on the Monday (kindly arranged by Richard Hopkins of the DLO at TDBC).



Dianne Hood and Margaret Robinson

Local resident Mark Kemp, on passing a number of volunteers on his journey into Taunton, returned with a large pack of bottled water and proceeded to drive round the parish handing out the much needed refreshment to members of the group; a spontaneous act of community spirit and goodwill that was greatly appreciated.

The Neroche Litter Pick-Up initiative was originally sponsored by Viridor (the waste management company who form part of Somerset Waste Partnership) who provided hi-viz jackets, gloves, bags and litter-picker-sticks. They are still willing to provide the black bags but some of the other kit now requires replacement, so Jayne's husband, Steve, is planning to approach MacDonald's to see if they would be willing to help. If readers have any other ideas of how the funds might be raised, then please communicate them to Jane (contact details below).



Our leader - Jayne Hunt

If you wish to learn more about future 'Litter Pick-Ups' then contact Jayne on 01823 480113 or at jayne.haynes@hotmail.co.uk. However, if you would rather help in your own time, and at your own pace, then why not contact Anthony Brown who organises the 'Adopt a Stretch of Road' initiative, and he will allocate a section of road or lane, near to where you live, to keep free of litter throughout the year. He can be reached on 01823 480441 or at alison-anthony@battensfarm.fsnet.co.uk

The following email was received from Helen Hossell, a couple of days after the event:

“Just a quick note to mention how much the litter pick up is appreciated. I have not yet (to my shame) contributed my efforts and again was not available to do so this Saturday. As our house borders directly onto the Staple Fitzpaine Road, we frequently have large amounts of litter in the verge in front of our house. I noticed it was particularly full of litter this Saturday and made a mental note to tidy up on my return, forgetting about the litter pick up. I was delighted to find it all clear later in the day! Please pass on our thanks and appreciation, kind regards, Helen” (Helen lives at the racecourse end of the Staple Fitzpaine to Taunton Road).



Sarah Hyde



Tami Boden-Ellis



Jackie and Peter Kolkowski



A number of the group reward themselves with some well-earned refreshments after the event.

A gallery of 27 photos taken on the day by our official photographer, David Spears, can be seen on the Community Website at www.nerochevillages.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you at the next event in September!

SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2014

26 July - 2 August

BICKENHALL, CURLAND, STAPLE FITZPAINE

Enter your scarecrow and/or vote for your favourite



Scarecrow Entries £5.00 per Household

Contact Mal Lee 01460 234282 - lee.s.curland@gmail.com

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

Refreshments in church 26 and 27 July

Proceeds to St Peter's Church

Rebecca Pow 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. Many of our readers will also be aware that Rebecca has been selected as the Prospective Conservative MP Taunton Deane Constituency. For additional information on Rebecca, call 07900 685 303 or

www.rebeccapow.com & www.rebeccapow.org.uk



THE GARDEN

It's been a season of great lushness in the garden, owing to the mix of heavy rain and sudden blasts of heat and sunshine; ideal for plant growth. The roses have been especially frothy, the irises iridescent, the lavender luxurious, and the grass has grown like wildfire (so much so that my husband, who is the chief mower, has found it hard to keep up). Hedges have grown like topsy and whilst we trimmed the hornbeam and yew hedges early on, I always like to leave the trimming of the box topiary until now (August) to guard against the dreaded box blight. The spores are less likely to be around now, and since the topiary feature sits in the centre of our garden and is so ancient (it was well established when we took on the property 24 years ago, with big, gnarled trunks) I don't want to do anything that would jeopardise it.



THE HEDGEROWS

All over the area from Staple Fitzpaine to Curland, and right across the Blackdowns, the elderflowers were exceptional this year and there was no excuse for not making elderflower cordial. Sometimes I have been caught-out and the flowers have all gone over before I've even bought my citric acid (the crucial ingredient), but this

year there were no such worries as the flowers were copious and lasted for many weeks.

WALKING ON THE WILD SIDE



I have mentioned before, my views on the restorative properties of nature, and this was illustrated perfectly when I joined a group of long term unemployed on a recent walk from Neroche Castle along the historic Herepath to

Staple Hill. They were all 'clients' working with 'Prospects', the Taunton based organisation working to help those, unfortunately unable to get back into work, to find jobs. On the 'Ascent' programme they get supported job search interventions, activities and advice. Many who find themselves in the position of being unemployed for long periods can often lack confidence and find it difficult to integrate, and this walk was aimed at helping them to develop social skills and to gain self-assurance. The effects of the beautiful landscape, the sun sparkling on the leaves, the foxgloves and dancing butterflies all began to work their magic, and very soon everyone was chatting, sharing experiences and making new friends. It was quite clear that nature was surreptitiously weaving its powerful spell on us all. Apparently 50% of the group who did this all day yomp last year are now in work - what better proof do you need?

Steve Jeanes, who was guiding the walk, is a Trail Walker for the National Trust in the area. With no job himself, he devotes hours to overseeing the trails around Neroche and guiding walks, and can see the benefits of getting out into the environment.



Steve Jeanes 'leading the way'

DIG DEEP

I was thrilled to welcome a group of staff and volunteers from the Somerset Archaeological Society, in conjunction with our village History Society, to the garden recently to carry out an archaeological dig. A metre square plot was marked out on the boundary of the garden thought to have been a possible site for the household rubbish tip in the past (no refuse men to take things away in olden days.) These rubbish tips often contain evidence that give us a real insight into how our ancestors lived.



'Inspecting the treasure' with Meriel Thursden and Bob Croft

A couple of hours into the dig and there was great excitement when some pieces of pottery were unearthed, dating back to Medieval times. Bob Croft, Somerset's chief archaeologist, could tell immediately that the pottery probably came from the Chard area, owing to the type of glaze used on it. I guess it must have been transported all across the Neroche hills to get to Stoke St Mary.

This apparently is the first actual evidence that there was life in this village as early as 1100. Amazing to think that people were going about their business in this area just as we are today, but so long ago. The finds have been taken to the Somerset Heritage Centre for proper identification, and I await with interest the exact analysis.

OUT AND ABOUT

Another event I thoroughly enjoyed recently was the Staple Fitzpaine Fete, held



in the glorious surroundings of The Manor, Staple Fitzpaine, courtesy of the Dunn family. It was such a wonderful, English country village event and an excellent chance to catch up with everyone in the

district. I went away with an eclectic mix of purchases from tomato plants to second hand water glasses and even a hat! My favourite memory, however, was of the egg throwing game, hilarious; although getting my egg bespattered trousers cleaned later was not quite so funny.

Don't forget the Taunton Flower Show, Vivary Park, on Aug 1st and 2nd; a delightful event and a great place to chat to nursery owners about their plants and get exactly the right plants to suit your garden.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN

Sow winter brassicas, leeks; harvest ripe crops e.g. courgettes, peas, pull onions and leave to dry; pick early apples; deadhead roses and sweet peas (keep picking as well to encourage flowering); check for red spider mite and whitefly in greenhouse and treat with biological controls; hoe weeds; sow Japanese onions and put in strawberry plants for next year; keep up sowings of salad crops.



A 'Gold Award' at last year's Taunton Flower Show

Two Major Events Happening Soon - 'On Our Doorstep'



**1st and 2nd
August 2014**



**Classic Car Meet
31st August 2014**



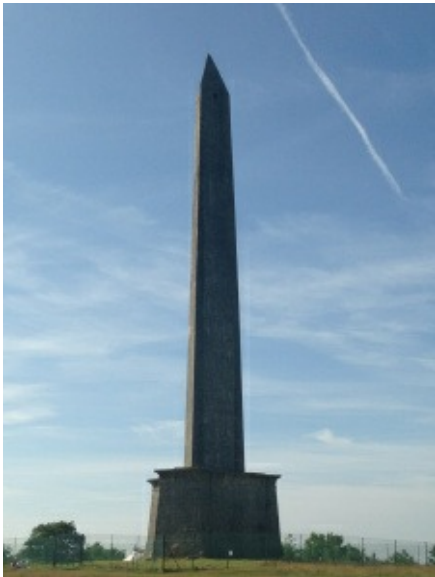
Neroche Local History Group

War Memorials Talk

By Jane Hole

A fascinating talk was given by Andrew Read and Steve Trick on their research into the war memorials of the Blackdown Hills. There is no special protection for memorials and neither was there a database of them in the area. So the Blackdown Hills War Memorial Project¹ was funded to catalogue and map all memorials in the AONB.

Andrew began the talk by outlining a brief history of war memorials. Possibly one of the earliest is an 8th century Pictish monument in an Angus churchyard. Another in an English church at Middleton near Manchester has a window arch dating from about 1515, which commemorates William Asherton who fought at the Battle of Flodden. But generally, war memorials were uncommon until after 1802 when, in response to Napoleon's policy of memorialisation, the government created the Committee of National Monuments.



Wellington Monument

The Blackdown's most famous and iconic memorial must surely be the Wellington Monument. It has a chequered history, planned after Wellington's defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815; building started in 1817 but was not completed until decades later due to lack of funding.

During the Crimean War (1853 – 56) William Russell's reporting and early photographs for The Times newspaper exposed the public to the suffering in warfare and drove the need to remember the sacrifice of the soldiers. The people at home became closer to the troops than ever before, because medal lists were published, mentions in despatches were

¹ Funded by the Making It Local scheme run by the Blackdown Hills AONB

read and quoted, and complete casualty lists were kept. The desire to commemorate the ordinary soldier became stronger.

However, up until the First World War, by and large only the wealthy had memorials, and they were most often within churches. Churchstanton is unusual



Corporal James Doble's memorial stone

in that it has a Crimean war memorial to a 'Corporal James Doble'. The memorial states he was a "certified" Christian. Andrew speculates the reason behind this curious statement is that Corporal Doble's senior officer had to verify his Christianity because, as he was only an ordinary soldier, he would not usually be mentioned in a church memorial.

Across the board it is clear that officers are more prominent on memorials and much more common in the wider record of 19th century memorials than the common soldier. There are many reasons for this including: the 19th century class system; record keeping; officers' use as figureheads; their fame and perceived example. By the time of the

First World War, however, attitudes were starting to change.

On the Blackdown Hills we can see evidence of this in several places where ranks are not mentioned at all and the dead are listed alphabetically instead, such as at Buckland St Mary and Chardstock. In other places, such as Corfe, ranks are displayed in public outside the church, but all names are presented without rank inside. At Staple Fitzpaine the situation is similar, in that names are present in order of rank but without the rank being given, leading to slight confusion on first viewing.

Steve Trick spoke about their local research. Since there was no definition as to what constitutes a war memorial Andrew and Steve developed their own: *“A war memorial is any commemorative object which is dedicated to either individuals or groups, named or unnamed, who have died in battle or as a direct result thereof”* The researchers kept to the definition with the exception of including the memorial in Hare Lane, Dommert dedicated to Polish airmen killed in a crash on 22nd November 1945.

Within the boundary of the Blackdown Hill’s AONB, the research identified: 51 memorials; 999 names; that there are over 3 memorials per parish; and the earliest conflict was the Napoleonic war.



Whitesaunton Cross

There is a tradition of reusing older stonework. For instance, at Whitesaunton the cross is a recycled spire from a nearby church.

There are many examples of a much earlier monument being rededicated. But although many people think the medieval cross in St Peter’s church at Staple Fitzpaine is a memorial, this is not the case.

Religious iconography became less popular after WW1. For example, at Upottery a WW2 memorial is of a US airman’s sentry box.

The researchers regard the west window in the former All Saints Church in Curland as the finest example of a memorial in the Blackdown Hills.

As part of their survey, Andrew and Steve recorded the condition of the memorials they catalogued. Encouragingly, most of those so far encountered are in a good condition, especially the interior ones, as is to be expected. There are a few exterior ones, however, that are becoming very weathered, and they will be forwarding a list of those most in need of attention to the War Memorials Trust.

For more information, go to www.blackdownmemorials.wordpress.com

Bickenhall & District Women's Institute.

News from your WI - by Nicky Baxter

Along with nearly everyone in our local community, we have been very concerned about the situation with the eviction of Crown tenants in our parish. We hope that a successful conclusion will be reached and we will continue to consider what actions we, as a WI, can do in support.

Within our WI there have been exciting events. After several years, Pauline Phelps stepped down as president, and on behalf of WI members, past and present, I would like to thank Pauline for her dedication and commitment to the role. She has conducted meetings with humour, efficiency and a tiny bit of firmness if really necessary; all that is needed for good leadership. Stepping up to the role is Tricia Dryden from Staple Fitzpaine who took her first meeting in June. We all wish her well in her presidency.



Tricia Dryden and Pauline Phelps

Members of WI have been busy on many fronts. A number of members have been knitting tiny jumpers and hats for "fish and chip" babies in Africa. When these babies, often born to mothers suffering from AIDS, leave hospital, they do not have any clothes, and therefore are wrapped in newspaper, hence the name. Thank you very much to Brenda Crossley who spear-headed this campaign. Speaking of campaigns, the annual WI resolution this year concerned organ donation. The resolution



was to encourage people to let their relatives know their wishes as regards organ donation. The resolution was passed at the WI's national conference. Further details of this and other information regarding the Women's Institute can be found at www.thewi.org.uk.



ORGAN DONATION
A GIFT FOR LIFE

A number of members recently attended a "flower day" at Broadway village hall where a number of activities relating to flowers could be tried. These included

crocheting a flower brooch, decoupage, flower arranging, card making, cooking and drawing. Those members who attended had a fun day and learned a number of new skills.

Forthcoming activities include attending a fashion show dinner, taking part in an annual skittles knockout tournament and the annual county pub quiz where we hope to field a number of teams.

An annual summer outing is also being organised when we plan to attend the Norman Lockyear Observatory near Sidmouth, followed by a trip to the Donkey Sanctuary if time allows.



Next year marks the 100th year anniversary of the WI in Britain. A pageant organised by the Somerset Federation of Women's Institute is planned, which will be held at a number of locations. It is planned that Bickenhall will take part in this pageant, with a short sketch written and performed by members. Further details of the centenary celebrations will be published as-and-when details are known.

At our monthly meetings we normally have a speaker who talks on various, varied and interesting topics. Recent speakers have included Maria Groves,



Maria Groves

from Just Maria Fashions, who spoke a little about the history of silk and how she came to start sewing. She went on to show us various silks, some with strengthening fibres, and how they can be made-up into any styles. Members were also able to try on items. At the most recent meeting, our speaker was Linda Coles, a dementia champion, who spoke about dementia. She outlined the types of dementia and how widespread this disease is, and made it clear that dementia is not a normal part of ageing but does affect 1 in 3 people over the age of 65. She explained the effect of dementia upon memory and how this can affect people. Many members signed up on the night to become "dementia friends" which is part of a national campaign to

sign up 1,000,000 such dementia friends to help people live well with dementia.

Bickenhall & District WI meet every second Wednesday, except August, usually at Neroche Hall. We always welcome new members to our friendly group of women.

**St Peter's Church Staple Fitzpaine
Harvest FESTIVAL**

Sunday 7 October

Harvest Service 10.30

Followed by

3 Course Lunch at Neroche Hall

Quiz 12.30pm – 1.00pm



**Tickets: Adults £8 Children £4
Includes a glass of cider or soft drink**

For more information contact Mal Lee – 01460 234282

St Peter's Church Staple Fitzpaine

Greg Wilgar – Queen Scout

In the February 2014 issue of the Newsletter we reported on the double achievement of Curland Resident Greg Wilgar, picking-up not one but two prestigious national awards, Duke of Edinburgh Gold and Queen's Scout. In April he was presented with his Queens Scout Award and his mother, Mary Bambridge, sent the following report:

“Greg went to Windsor Castle on 27th April for the St George's Day Queen's Scouts Parade and Service. He was among about 400 scouts who gained their Queen's Scout Award last year.



Norman and I were both there to experience this marvellous event and cheer Greg on. Even when we first arrived in Windsor at 9am, as instructed, there was a very special atmosphere, with Scouts from all over the UK gathering, either to take part in the parade or to support their Queen's Scout.



Greg spent the morning practising his marching skills with the others at Victoria Barracks, and after a short lunch break with us, he went off to find his section and get ready for the parade.

The Band of the Welsh Guards led the parade through Windsor, from the Royal Mews to the

The Queen's Scouts being inspected by HRH The Duke of Kent

Quadrangle at Windsor Castle, where HRH The Duke of Kent reviewed the parade, along with the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls and the UK Chief Commissioner, Wayne Bulpitt. The Band of the Welsh Guards played alternately with the Scout and Guide Band during this part of the proceedings,



which was lovely to listen to. The review took some time to complete as every scout was talked to by one of the three dignitaries.

The parade review was followed by a service in St George's Chapel for all the recipients. We onlookers had to stay outside as there wouldn't be enough room for

everyone but the service was relayed to us via loudspeakers.

It was a truly wonderful day, one which I don't think any of us will forget in a hurry. We are hugely proud of Greg”.

Well done Greg, we now look forward to hearing about your Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award presentation ceremony.



(If a member of your household has excelled, either at sport, their hobby, charity efforts or at their place of work, then we'd love to hear from you.)

News From Somerset County Council

Ross Henley, our Somerset County Councillor, has kindly offered to write a regular column for our Newsletter. It must be said that, on the subject of Crown tenant evictions and the 'Forced Out Action Group' campaign, Ross spoke exceptionally well at the public meetings in Neroche Hall, the Annual Parish Meeting and at the meeting with TDBC; many thanks Ross for your excellent support.



Since the start of April, I, as your County Councillor, have been supporting Crown Estate tenants living in Neroche Parish who are under threat of eviction by the Crown Estates and their local property agents Smiths Gore.

The issue affects not only the tenants and their families who live in Neroche Parish but the whole community as well. If The Crown get their way and evict



Ross Henley with representatives of the 'Forced Out Action Group' and some of their supporters, outside the offices of Taunton Deane Borough Council

the tenants, it will rip a huge hole in the community. The tenants raise their families here and send their children to local schools. They have caring responsibilities here; they support local village businesses and village groups and organizations as well.

I organised a meeting with tenants and Crown Estates in Taunton, and the attitude of The Crown representatives was so uncaring. I really was appalled by them continually hiding behind the legality of their case. Where is the ethics and morality of these people? They seem to think it is OK to rip apart the lives of so many people in the Neroche community.

I have also attended two packed public meetings held at Neroche Hall where I was proud to be able to speak in support of the tenants to hundreds of local residents who attended these meetings. This is also a national issue, and I have been to Lincolnshire to meet Crown tenants who are also under threat of eviction. In conclusion, I will do everything I can to support all of the tenants. This is what I became a Councillor for in the first place, to support and fight for people I represent.



Finally, I also spent a very enjoyable morning in the sunshine with the Neroche Woodlanders. This really is a fantastic group who are out in the woods doing so much good environmental work with their volunteers. I was delighted to be able award a grant for 250 pounds from my County Councillor Ward Fund that all

County Councillors in Somerset are allocated to make grants to groups in the area they represent who promote healthy living.

Editor. To learn more about The Neroche Woodlanders and the activities they have to offer, go to www.youngwood.org.uk (See also, the article on page 10.)

Improvements to Taunton Racecourse

By Wally Torrington

Taunton Racecourse is already an excellent sport and hospitality venue and a



wonderful facility to have in our very own parish, however, it is about to get even better due to a £400,000 project to extend the Paddock Stand.

Experience at the Racecourse over the past five years has shown that, in order to maintain and enhance the Racecourse's appeal, the available accommodation needs to be

The original ticket office at the end of the Paddock Stand which is to be extended

extended. This is particularly the case with the facilities available to owners, trainers and annual members who form the bedrock of racing activities at the Racecourse. In addition, the existing pedestrian access to the Racecourse and the ticketing arrangements need to be upgraded to improve the visitor experience.

In detail, the improved facilities will provide:

- *A new under-cover pedestrian visitor access and ticket hall for circa 100 visitors*
- *Extra accommodation in the Owners and Trainers Bar, thus*



The contractors arrive



The first of the scaffolding

increasing capacity from circa 170 to circa 220

- *Accommodation for circa 70 additional customers in the Annual Members Bar and Restaurant, giving a total of circa 150.*

- *A terrace added to the Paddock Gallery Café and Bar, providing increased capacity from circa 150 to circa 225.*

- *New service areas on the first and second floors which will allow the level of service currently being provided to be improved.*

The project will not only provide additional accommodation for trainers, owners, annual members and visitors during the racing season, but will be available for a wide range of conferences and other social activities during the closed season, raising the profile of the Racecourse and helping to attract new customers by allowing them to see the level and quality of the facilities it has to offer. It will also provide valuable employment in this rural area.

Once the extension has been completed, and the new accommodation fitted-out, the aim is to open the new facilities in October, at the start of the new racing season.



Building commences

For more information on the Racecourse, including how to become a member, go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk

Somerset Community Barn Owl Project

Great news; we finally have tenants in the Bickenhall box

By Wally Torrington

In April 2012, the Somerset Wildlife Trust, in collaboration with the Hawk and Owl Trust, launched the Somerset Community Barn Owl Project; the aim being to get a barn owl nest box in each of Somerset's 335 parishes by 2014 (up to 80 per cent of barn owls nest in man-made boxes!); at the time of producing this article, 286 parishes had come forward to host a box



A picture from inside the Bickenhall owl box on 25th June (taken by Chris Sperring)

We were delighted to report in the November 2012 issue of this Newsletter that Neroche had 'stepped up to the plate' immediately, and that all four parishes were having a box installed. The three-year Project is funded by Viridor Credits Environmental Company, a charity that distributes money from the landfill Communities Fund.

We are delighted to report that, after nearly two years of inactivity, the Bickenhall box has attracted a pair of Barn Owls who have produced 5 owlets. They were first spotted outside the box on 20th June, and on 25th Chris Sperring from the Hawk and Owl Trust, visited the box and confirmed the size of the brood. The young are still dependent upon the adult birds but they can be seen each evening, flying around the fields, learning their hunting skills.



Chris Sperring (library photo)

If you wish to find out more about the project, become involved, report a sighting, buy or even learn how to make your own box, then please go to www.somersetwildlife.org/barnowl or, for more general information on hawks and owls, go to www.hawkandowl.org

History of the Barn Owl

The barn owl was the most common owl in Britain during the 18th and 19th centuries, however, by the latter part of the 1800s they were in decline. Persecution at the hands of man, some debilitating winters and changes in farming may all have contributed to the loss, which continued into the 20th century. By the first census in 1932 there were estimated to be 12,000 pairs in England and Wales. Intensification of agriculture and the use of persistent pesticides caused further losses, and a survey by the Hawk and Owl Trust in the mid-1980s found that the population in England and Wales was down to fewer than 3,800 pairs. In 2012 it was estimated that there were 200 pairs in Somerset (could now be less following a devastating breeding season in 2013).



Somerset Military Tattoo



on Saturday 6th September 2014

Gates open at 10:00 am

at Taunton Racecourse, TA3 7BL

A fun day out for all the family – attractions include funfair and bouncy castles, marching bands, military displays, helicopters and vehicles, trade stands and refreshments

Tickets on the day: £15 adult, £5 child, £13.50 concession and £35 family

Save 20% by buying in advance from Bradsons Event Services online or phone 01749 813899

Organised by ABF The Soldiers' Charity to raise money to help soldiers and their families. More information at www.somersetmilitarytattoo.com

The Forced Out Action Group – Updates

By Wally Torrington

Mark Kemp has produced a most excellent update on the recent activities of ‘The Forced Out Action Group’. It is an exceptionally powerful read, dealing with all the various areas that have been studied and considered in recent weeks, and contains invaluable advice to those who are experiencing, or likely to experience, the Crown Estate’s current eviction policy. It looks at various options for the tenants, and outlines the areas that are being considered for legal action by a supportive solicitor. This report is an essential read for all Crown Tenants and their supporters; I commend it to you all.

Mark has also put together an extremely informative ‘bullet point’ list that gives the main events and developments that have taken place since the Group was formed in April. It contains a wealth of important information for anybody that is: following the progress of the campaign; producing any form of written work on the subject; or attending a meeting, entering into discussion or making a case involving a Crown tenancy. The reason being, it lays-out, in chronological order, all the important dates, meetings, personalities, events and developments that have taken place in the past 3 months – an excellent reference document.

It must be appreciated that Mark is doing all this work whilst still running his own security company, and looking for a new home for himself and Debbie (having been given notice to vacate their Crown Property); a true contributor and local community champion and protagonist. Thank you Mark, and well done.



Mark presenting to the TDBC Corporate Scrutiny Committee at Deane House on 29th May 14

Both the recent update and the ‘bullet point’ list can be found on the Community Website at www.nerochevillages.org.uk

“Superfast Broadband – No, I don’t need it.” Are you sure?

by Alan Perrior

You may be asking yourself why a rural community like Neroche Villages needs superfast broadband. You may feel that your internet service is good enough for the services you use today. But the world is moving on, and in a few year’s time you will probably find that you are unable to access the entertainment, education, health and business services that are available in other areas. With reference to the information on page 49, note that the map does not indicate expected speeds as this is dependent on the distance between the premise and the relevant cabinet. **Also, improvements are not automatic. Businesses and residents will need to purchase a superfast broadband package from their internet service provider.**



Current broadband services are already something of a lottery anyway. Neighbours can experience substantial differences in broadband speeds and reliability. While some fortunate residents have download speeds of 4Mbps (megabits per second), many people struggle with speeds of 1-2Mbps or less.

Superfast broadband is becoming necessary to support an increasing number of internet capable devices and applications in the home, such as; mobile phones, iPads, PCs, Laptops, Notebooks, Apple TV, Sky boxes, BT Vision boxes, Facebook, Twitter, streamed video and music services like BBC iPlayer, ITV Player, Youtube, Spotify and Sky Anytime Plus, and Voice Telephone services (VOIP) including Skype etc. All these devices and applications will be competing for the same limited bandwidth, and basic broadband services with slow speeds will increasingly become a major bottleneck.



The trend towards home working will require fast, reliable broadband connectivity; a recent Office for National Statistics study found that more than four million people work from home (ONS define a home worker as someone who usually spends at least half of their work time using their home). Many home workers are in rural areas; technological advances allow workers to keep in touch by

email, and web entrepreneurs to start and run businesses from their home computers. Without superfast broadband it's quite possible that local businesses will weaken, fail or leave the parish. Prospective businesses will go elsewhere.

As the number of superfast broadband connections increase across the country, so will the number of services that require faster speeds. For example, the BBC iPlayer service requires at least 3Mbps to stream HD content. As the quality of online video and audio services increase, so will the required data rates. Without superfast broadband, you'll have a reduced set of online services to choose from.

Many homes, especially those in rural locations, are blighted by slow broadband speeds of 2Mbps or less, which can make using the internet painfully slow.

The BBC property expert, Henry Pryor, stated that Broadband speed is now regarded as the fourth utility after gas, water and electricity. *"I was involved with a survey that looked at the impact of broadband speed on people looking to buy or rent and we found that a home without at least a standard broadband connection could be worth up to 20 per cent less than a comparable property."* Therefore, it's a distinct possibility that the lack of superfast broadband may affect house saleability!

***Still think that you don't need superfast broadband?
Maybe it's time to think again!***

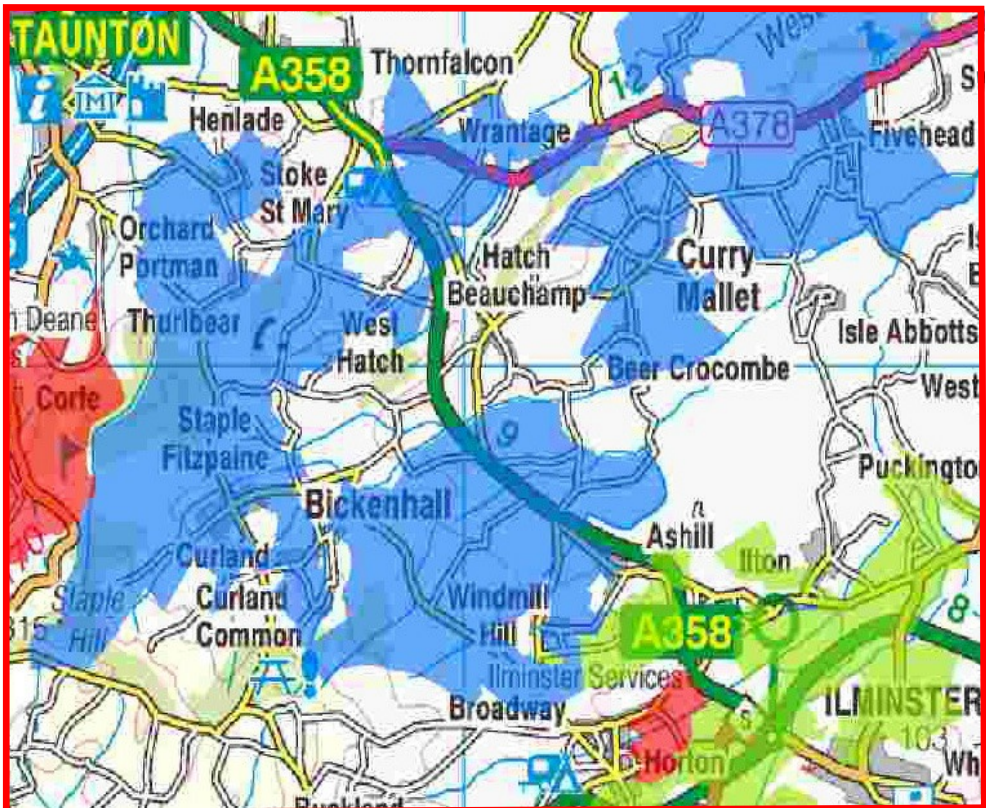
The Government's rollout of the superfast network, designed to reach 95% of the UK, has been delayed until at least 2017. The latest figures from Ofcom, show that these broadband speeds are unavailable in a quarter of the country.

The organisation charged with managing the provision of (superfast) broadband to our area is 'Connecting Devon & Somerset'; their website promises that they ***"...will deliver broadband (greater than 2Mbps) for all by the end of 2016, and superfast broadband (greater than 24Mbps) to at least 90% of homes and businesses by the end of 2016; we aim to achieve 100% superfast broadband coverage by 2020"***. Refer to www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/current-infrastructure-deployment/ for their current deployment plans, or go to the Neroche Villages website (www.nerochevillages.org.uk) and click on the 'Broadband Update' link.



The map and comments on the next page are taken from the 'Connecting Devon & Somerset' website.

Map to Show Current Status of Fibre Infrastructure Development - to October 2014



Key

- Live
- by July 2014
- by Oct 2014

This map shows areas of planned fibre availability following completion of survey work to date.

Speeds for individual premises will depend on a number of factors and can be obtained from service providers when services go live.

Areas may be served by more than one network, and not all networks serving an area may be updated by the programme. As such not all premises in the blue areas shown may gain service by October 2014, although additional networks serving an area may be updated at a later stage.

In order to gain the benefits of fibre you will need to update your existing broadband through purchase of a new fibre service from a service provider.

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).

29 – 30 Aug 'Family Overnight Experience'

Location: Seville's Croft, Hemyock, EX15 3QX

An exciting overnight experience that will be great quality-time for adults with their children. Includes active games, nature awareness and sensory activities, a scavenger hunt, bat detecting/owl calling, quiet spots in the woods, woodcraft and toasting marshmallows. Evening meal, breakfast and camping equipment provided. From 5pm Friday to midday Saturday. Adults £40, children under 16 £30. Booking essential. For more information: Contact Richard and Alison Whiteside, 01823 680931. Suitable for children 7+. Toilets



06 Sep 14 'Farm Open Afternoon'

Location: Dunkeswell

A farm walk, 2pm to 5pm. Run by the Blackdown Hills Rough Grazing Association at Old Wolford Farm, Dunkeswell. To book, please contact Chris Davis - cdavis122@btinternet.com or follow the links in the website: www.blackdownsroughgrazers.co.uk

13 Sep 14 *'The Good Life in the Blackdown Hills'*

Location: Hemyock Parish Hall, EX15 3QW.



Join the AONB team and a host of local experts for a festival of smallholding, home produce and traditional skills. There will be hands on activities and talks to help you learn about everything from cheese-making to sheep-keeping. We'll be celebrating local recipes, learning techniques to try at home, and finding out how food, drink and wool production has shaped the Blackdown Hills AONB and supported its wildlife for centuries. 10am - 2pm. Free entrance, with delicious WI lunch on sale. Booking not required. For more information contact the Blackdown Hills AONB team on 01823 680681 blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk Suitable for children. Toilets. Public transport. No obstacles, level surface

19 Oct 14 *'Rustic Hedgerow Chair Course'*

Location: Buckland St Mary

Discover how West Country folk used to make, strong, comfortable hedgerow chairs with materials from hedges, woods and gardens. The secret of their craft was in selecting the right shapes of branches for the different parts of their chairs. Cut green from the hedge these "grown components" had great inherent strength and, when fitted together in a cleverly devised sequence, produced a chair of proven strength and reliability. Materials and tools supplied. Take home your own hedgerow chair. Cost £50. Booking essential with the **Blackdown Hills Hedge Association**

www.bhha.info/pg/cc/main.aspx



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 August onwards, include: **FRI AUG 1, LARRY MILLER, *guitar master back with his top band***; **SAT AUG 8, THE PRODUCERS, *summer BBQ (ticket includes food. bring your friends) back again for their summer visit, this brilliant blues-rock band***; **FRI AUG 29, MARTIN BARRE BAND**; **FRI SEP 12, DYLAN PROJECT, *Steve Gibbons & part of Fairport Convention pay homage***; **THURS SEP 18, ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW & THE LOWRIDERS, *fantastic to get these guys back again***; **FRI OCT 17, CURVED AIR, (Back Street Love)**; **FRI OCT 24, OYE SANTANA *the music of Santana played to perfection***. **SAT OCT 25, ALBERT LEE & HOGANS HEROES, *“the best guitarist in the world” says Keith Richards. !!!*** For full information on these concerts and many others, go to 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. This wonderful facility will be even more enhanced by the £400,000 innovative extension to the members stand taking place this summer (see the article on page 42 for more details).

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

Car Boot Sales

A car boot sale is held every Sunday at Taunton Racecourse, 52 weeks a year and in all weathers. Gates open at 11.00am (09.00am for sellers). Cars £5, vans £6. For more info call Tracey on 07778 275998.



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 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



Hatch Beauchamp Jazz Evenings

Tony Green has, so far, hosted three Jazz evenings in Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall, these have been by way of a ‘taster’ and a ‘toe-in-the-water’. The inaugural concert featured Pete Allen; New Orleans Heat raised the roof with a selection of Jazz classics that had the audience clapping, dancing and singing along for the second concert. The



New Orleans Heat

third concert was held on 5th July and featured John Shillito’s Select Six. These concerts have been so successful, both with locals and jazz fans from outside of the area, that Tony hopes to organise further events, beginning with a Christmas extravaganza starring Pete Allen, the world-renowned Jazz musician.



John Shillito



Pete Allen

St Peter's Church Fete

By Wally Torrington

The sun shone all afternoon during an otherwise showery week, and the lovely gardens, with the Manor as the backdrop, made for a wonderful baronial style setting and a quintessentially English summer's afternoon. With Morris Dancers on the lawn, the hat, book and flower stalls doing great business, the traditional coconut shy and a Punch and Judy show, it seemed the ideal



setting for an episode of Midsommer Murders; I wouldn't have been surprised

to see Chief Inspector Barnaby, with Joyce on one arm and Cully on the other, strolling across to the walled garden.



The amount of hard work and effort that went into putting together this extremely well run and most successful event was laudable. The organisation was faultless and the activities programme seamless, leaving the many hundreds of guests that turned up to eat cream teas, drink Pimms, browse the many market stalls and try desperately to win the flagon of Scotch on the bottle stall, to relax and enjoy immensely what proved to be an idyllic afternoon.



Jon Bell running the 'rat' game



I must admit to not participating in many of the activities, save for trying to hit the rat falling out of the pipe (thought I should at least have a go as the Chairman of the Parish Council was running the stall). I just sat back in the sunshine, drank a couple of pints and enjoyed listening to the band and ‘watching the world go by’; what a wonderful manner in which to while away a few hours. I decided not to order the third pint when I was convinced I saw a goat on a lead being entered in the dog show; strong beer or what?

Nearly forgot, I did bid for a couple of church pews in a most professionally run auction, with Chris Baxter wielding the gavel, but a lady with seemingly inexhaustible funds outbid me each time.

Our auctioneer, Chris Baxter



Anthony & Alison Brown running the book stall

Thanks must go to Chris and Heather Dunn for allowing their wonderful home to be used for such a worthwhile cause; I very much hope that lots of money was raised for the church.



*Norman Llewellyn
Winner of the Air Rifle competition*

The organisers, volunteers, stall-holders, ticket sellers, tent erectors etc, etc should congratulate themselves on a job exceedingly well done (did I really see the Chief Executive of the Racecourse pulling pints in the beer tent?).

Can we do it again next year? ...and could somebody please confirm that there really was a goat on a lead?

To see all the excellent photographs taken by David Spears during the afternoon, go to www.nerochevillages.org.uk

Charity Barn Boogie

(In aid of Prostate Cancer UK and in memory of Keith Chubb)

By Nicky Baxter

After months of careful planning, the day of Holly Jane Harris's barn boogie, in aid of Prostate Cancer UK, finally arrived, and what a great success the evening was.

Holly Jane's grandfather, Keith Chubb, died from prostate cancer last year, and Holly Jane wanted to do something positive in his memory, so organised an event to raise money and awareness for this worthy cause.

Somewhere around 150 to 200 people attended the evening. There were two bars; a normal bar and a special Pimms and lemonade bar to reflect a lovely July evening.



Holly Jane, with a montage of photographs of her Grandfather, Keith Chubb

Dancing was to local Ilminster group 'The Intruders', who played a load of hit songs from the sixties to the present day, and did such a good version of Sweet

Caroline you almost felt Neil Diamond was right there in the barn. Dancing went on till almost midnight, with many people on their feet 'boogieing on down!'

A tasty pork roast was provided, care of Bonners of Ilminster, accompanied by fresh salads. To follow there



was as a choice of puddings made by local people, and included a parade of pavlovas, cheesecakes and trifles, together with a bowl of strawberries and cream. It can safely be said that no one went hungry that night!

In addition, in true Somerset tradition, a skittles tournament took place throughout the evening. Top man was Liam Dare, top lady Sarah Broom and top child Alfie Glasper. Prizes were awarded to each winner.



The raffle prizes had been donated by very generous people, and included, amongst other things: Champagne; a Henry vacuum cleaner; ‘cut and blow dry’ at a local hair salon; a half case of wine; and many other items.

The charity auction was divided into a silent auction and a traditional auction, presided over by local expert auctioneer, Chris Baxter. The latter had fabulous lots, which included: season tickets for the races; horse fodder; spode chinaware; signed photographs and sports shirts from Olympians; and a very amusing photograph of actor Martin Clunes with a fish in his mouth. The prize lot was a morning on the gallops, breakfast with racehorse trainer Colin Tizzard, and racing at Wincanton racecourse. The winning bid for this was £275. The auctions raised over £1,000.



Although the event was a great deal of fun, the reason for the evening was not forgotten, with information leaflets from Prostate Cancer UK being made available. Time and time again, throughout the evening, people were heard to say how important it was not to shy away from the subject, as men often are completely unaware, uninformed or embarrassed by the subject, and just won't talk about it. The evening succeeded in



making more people aware and less shy about the problem.

The event would not have been possible without the kindness and help of Chris and Sarah Salisbury, who time-after-time support local events like this, and gave the use of their barn, which is no small disruption to the life of a working farm. I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone there in thanking Chris and Sarah for their generosity.

Holly Jane would warmly like to thank the many people for their help in putting the evening together. These people include everyone for attending the event, helping on the night; those who helped set up and clear away, the pudding makers, raffle prize and auction lot donators, donations from those unable to go, to Wally Torrington for promoting the event in his Email Alert, bunting donators, plus anyone else who helped in any way.



The biggest thanks of all must go to Holly Jane herself. Not only did she arrange such a fun and enjoyable evening for us but did it for such a good cause. At the time of writing, the final figure for money raised has not been finally calculated, but it will be in excess of £3,000 which is much more than the amount Holly Jane originally hoped to achieve.

Believe it or not, less than 24 hours after the event, Holly Jane was already thinking about what to do next year. Watch this space.

WELL DONE HOLLY JANE!!!

NEROCHE FRIDAY FILM NIGHTS

(in association with Moviola)



Following the summer break, Neroche Hall's successful 'Friday Film Nights' will start again in the Autumn.

The dates for your diary are:-

Friday 26th September

Friday 31st October

Friday 28th November

At the time of going to print we are in the process of choosing your films but, as soon as details are finalised, we'll publish them on the following:-

www.nerochehall.org.uk

The Parish Magazine

www.moviola.org.uk

Email alerts

We aim to choose a varied and enjoyable programme of the best films around; which, through the special relationship Moviola enjoys with the film distribution industry, we'll show either very shortly after, or sometimes at the same time as, general release.

Bar and nibbles always available.

Please come and join us.

Nicky Baxter - ncbaxter@hotmail.co.uk



The Unsung Heroes

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

At the time of you reading this, the constabulary will have just come out of what I call 'the silly season'; this is when we have a busy time of year with officers normally looking to take leave or are seconded to other commitments force wide.

As a force we must ensure that we have the correct number



of officers on duty at any one time, which can be complicated when we have officers away or committed to other events. This year it's been a tough period with various commitments to



meet, such as the Rod Stewart concert, policing of the World Cup (even with an early exit by England) and finally Glastonbury festival.

Even with these commitments it's absolutely imperative we, as a force, have the right officers in the right place at the right time to carry out the day-to-day tasks and meet the public's policing needs.

We have all heard of the reduction in budgets for most of the public sector, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary has been affected by these reductions. Yes, we might have the same number of officers that we had in 2000; but we managed back then and we will manage now. It is all about being smarter in how we deliver those things that are important to you.

As such, we, as a Police service, rely on volunteers to assist us in performing certain tasks. These unsung heroes include members of the special constabulary, the Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch coordinators, and members of Independent Advisory Groups. These individuals give up their own time in the hope of making the local area a better place to live.



But there are also other volunteer roles that rarely get mentioned; members of the civilian volunteer policing family who do important administrative work to free up officers from office bound tasks. This work includes contacts with, and call backs to, victims of anti-social behaviour; the aim is to keep them up to date and to ensure that issues are being dealt with effectively.

Then there is the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme, which is fundamentally a youth club for young people, between 14 and 18 years of age, who want to learn about Policing. Additionally, adult volunteers help to run this scheme for no reward or gain!

In the last two years since the Cadet Scheme started again (stopped mid 80's), they have been heavily involved in community events, giving crime prevention and road safety advice and checking for vulnerable vehicles in car parks. They also make the occasional appearance at various fetes across the county and are an inspiration to other young people who are looking to gain life skills.



However, on the flip side of that coin, I have met some people who believe that this is 'policing on the cheap' and from a certain perspective I can see their point. However, as a police service, I also believe we need to be smart in these austere times and free-up officers to deal with what's important to our public. Also, I think it's an opportunity for our communities to have an input in how they are policed. I really do believe in community policing and in getting our communities involved in how we police local areas; this can really help us to deliver that vision.



So my invitation to you all is, if you wish to be more involved in Policing in your area, then don't hesitate to contact me, if it be about Community Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch or coming out with the Policing Team for a ride along. Then drop me a line at Huw.Jenkins@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Take care and stay safe!!

Huw Jenkins

Neroche Hall

Enjoy an afternoon of:-

Boules

Sunday 24th August 2.00pm

£5.00 per team of two (Under 16 free)

- everyone can play -

Prizes, Bar and BBQ

Jackie Kolkowski (01823 481326)

Household Recycling & Refuse Collections Bank Holiday Day Changes for August 2014



Usual Recycling Collection Day

Wednesday 27th August

Revised Recycling Collection Day

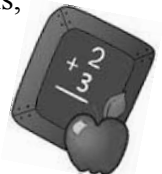
Thursday 28th August

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.



23rd July to 31st August
25th October to 2nd November



Events For Your Calendar

August

- 26 Jul - 2 Aug Scarecrow Festival (see advert on page 27)
- 1 & 2 Taunton Flower Show (see advert on page 31)
- 2 Neroche Walking Group (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
- 6 Greyhound Pub Quiz
- 7 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 19)
- 9 Summer Botanicals (see article on page 10)
- 13 Volunteering with the Neroche Woodlanders (see article on page 11)
- 16 Family Saturday Afternoon (see article on page 11)
- 24 Boules Competition (see advert on page 62)
- 31 Classic Car Meeting (see advert on page 31)

September

- 3 Greyhound Pub Quiz
- 4 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 19)
- 6 Military Tattoo (see advert on page 45)
- 6 Neroche Walking Group (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
- 11 Parish Council Meeting (go to www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
- 26 Neroche Friday Film Night (see advert on page 59)

October

- 4 Neroche Walking Group (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
- 7 Harvest Festival Service and Lunch (see advert on page 37)
- 9 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (note date change - see advert on page 19)
- 29 Taunton Racecourse Meeting (see article on page 52)
- 31 Neroche Friday Film Night (see advert on page 59)

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

See, also, the many various events listed in the
'On Our Doorstep' article on page 50



Local Communication and Information

Websites:

Neroche Villages – www.nerochevillages.org.uk

Community website run by the Neroche Communication Action Group. It has an up-to-date calendar of events; a news section; information about residents' action groups, e.g. on broadband, traffic; a business section and advertisements. The website features a comprehensive list of clubs and organisations, including details of those in neighbouring parishes. It is also the website of Neroche Parish Council and lists its activities, agenda, minutes and official documents.

Neroche Hall– www.nerochehall.org.uk

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

The Church of England Seven Sowers Benefice – www.sevensowers.org.uk

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

Email Information:

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

The Parish Magazine:

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

Many thanks for taking the time to read this Newsletter.

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

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