Newchurch Noticeboard

Issue 1 September 2024

OUR FREE COMMUNITY PARISH MAGAZINE

A look around Newchurch Parish - what's happening, maybe a little history, local news of people and places, your news and views, local services and useful contacts.

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Hello Newchurch!

We hope that this is the first of many opportunities to join up the dots in our Parish, and to give Parishioners a go-to place to advertise events and to find out what's happening in our area and the wider Island. There'll be regular features, as well as other items and news that we hope will be of interest. Initial plans are to produce Newchurch Noticeboard along the lines of the three school terms.

The magazine is free to everyone in the Parish of Newchurch, funded by advertisers and delivered by a team of residents. It will also be available on-line on the Parish website.

We would be pleased to hear from residents about this magazine - if you like the idea (or not!), what you would like it to include, what format is best for you (print size, etc), articles of interest, memories, funny stories.

What's on - Diary Dates *(Dates correct at time of going to press)*

Parish Council Meetings: 21 Oct, 18 Nov, 16 Dec - 7pm - Parish Hall.
Newchurch Horticultural Society: 14 Oct, 11 Nov - 7:30pm - Watery Lane.
Newchurch Male Voice Choir (Concerts): 4 Oct - Shanklin Methodist Church, Regent St - free entry - retiring collection for Admiral Nurses.
3 Nov (tbc) - Garfield Road Methodist Church, Ryde - free entry - retiring collection for Ryde Historic Society.
Newchurch WI: 1st Monday in month - 7-9pm - Church Hall.

Please send us your Diary Dates for Issue 2 (Jan-Apr) by 1 December.

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Our Parish Council

We meet at 7pm on the third Monday each month in Newchurch Parish Hall. We have a Chairman and 7 Members, elected or co-opted, and the Parish Clerk who is employed to ensure that all formal procedures are followed, This includes posting of Meeting and AGM Agendas and Minutes on the 6 Parish Noticeboards and the Council website (**https://www.newchurchparish.co.uk)**. The website is operated by the Parish Council to provide Newchurch residents, organisations and communities with ready access to relevant information in and around the Parish. It includes a directory called Newchurch Network. We hope to update this soon, sponsored by NPS&CA so, if you have an entry, please let us know of any changes.

The monthly Meetings include discussions on local Planning Applications, and local issues arising. From time to time, the Council organises a Parish celebration event, often in collaboration with All Saints Church.

All Parishioners have the opportunity to bring a local topic to the attention of the Parish Council for discussion. Let the Parish Clerk know by the previous Monday and we will arrange for you to have your say.

Chairman:	Roy Bevan	865249		
Councillors:	June Davison	861263	Bob Blezzard	402259
	Rodney Harris	405012	Siobhan West	867015
	Stephen Jewell	07766 826709	David Cripps	897827
	Clare Mosdell	07887 912206		

Parish Clerk:

Gareth Hughes clerk@newchurchparish.co.uk 07528 339937 865024

Website: https://newchurchparish.co.uk

Newchurch Male Voice Choir (NMVC)

Calling all men! Singing is good for your health. Being a member of NMVC provides a way of relaxing and enjoying the company of like-minded men, and the social activities of the Choir extend to include wives, partners and families, whose support is much appreciated.

We meet on Fridays at 7.30pm in Newchurch Parish Hall.

New members are assured a warm welcome - no previous experience or musical qualifications necessary.

Contact: Roy Bevan 865249 newchurchmvc@yahoo.co.uk

All Saints Tower

The tower dates back to the 15th century with the current style of boarding having been added in the 18th century. Over the years due to weather, insect damage and general wear and tear the tower has undergone substantial renovations and repair. In 2021 it was discovered that, in addition to the weatherboarding requiring replacement, the south-east frame in the tower was badly damaged causing the belfry to be unstable and it was determined that the ringing of the bells was dangerous. A specialist engineer and architect examined the tower and recommended a two stage programme of repair and renovation starting with a steel frame being installed to reinforce the south east corner.

In 2021 the Tower Fund was launched and thanks to a number of large donations from individuals and organisations as well as massive fundraising efforts within the Newchurch community the money required for the first stage was raised and the structural repairs completed in 2023 allowing the bells to be rung again. Now the PCC is in the process of raising a far more substantial amount of money to replace the weatherboarding. There are events planned to help with the fundraising and a new Supporters group is forming to help with raising the funds for maintenance and repairs, especially the tower. Some activities and donations have started the second stage fund raising and our thanks are extended for this. As ever the support of people living locally is crucial to achieving this goal and we would love to see you at our coffee mornings, quizzes, big breakfasts and other fundraising events like the Supporters Group Barn Dance.

Harvest Festival

Friday 11th October - Sunday 13th October

Friday	Barn Dance (Caulkheads) to launch All Saints Supporters Group 7-10pm - School Hall - Tickets £10 from Barbara Frame on 864646.
Saturday	Harvest Coffee Morning in the Church Hall - 10am-12 noon.
Sunday	Harvest Festival Service - All Saints Church - 9:30am.

And for your pets ...

Sunday 20th October	Pet's Service - All Saints Church - 4:00pm.

Enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals,
please contact The Reverend Kath Abbott on 867034.
See noticeboards and website for weekly services.

Welcome to Newchurch Primary School

Our School is a welcoming and nurturing village school. We strive to ensure that all of our pupils are treated as individuals to promote safe, happy, inspired, supported and successful independent learners.

We currently have 210 pupils. We offer an ambitious curriculum, planned and sequenced to include five 'mission possibles' that underpin all that we do. These encourage the children to make healthy choices, be resilient, live respectfully, make a difference and make it happen! We aim to be the best we can be in all that we do. We also incorporate British values into the curriculum, teaching pupils about democracy, tolerance, respect, rule of law and liberty.

Ofsted visited us at the end of the summer, and we are excited to share our report more widely with the community. The inspectors noted that our children are really well prepared for life in modern Britain and exhibit amazing behaviour and attitudes – awarding both areas with the highest possible judgement. We are all so very proud!

This term, we have welcomed thirty new pupils. Each has a buddy from Year 6 to guide them through this new stage of their lives. They share stories, help them at lunchtimes and give lots of encouragement.

We have links with local business and have created a comprehensive curriculum, that celebrates the isle of Wight. You may see us out and about, learning about the history of the village, goods we export and looking at the benefits of our local area.

This year, we want to promote our oracy skills to help us with our own writing. We are studying different poets, concentrating on our performance skills and even writing our own poems. Watch out for the next newsletter for some of our masterpieces.

Newchurch Moor Nature Reserve and Eastern Yar River Restoration Project

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT)

Newchurch Moor Nature Reserve in the East Yar River Valley is an area managed by HIWWT. It covers 124 acres and was created in 2019 as an extension of Martin's Wood, part of a wider project of nature preservation throughout the British Isles, and to encourage and inspire local residents and young people to get involved with nature.

The Trust is currently involved in a project to re-naturalise about 300 acres of the Eastern Yar floodplain to improve degraded and damaged wetland habitats. Due to historic dredging, the main river channel is disconnected from the natural floodplain, resulting in flash flooding at pinch points such as culverts underneath road bridges, and impaired floodwater storage within the floodplain.

The work itself involves two main components - removal of scrub and trees, and re-profiling of watercourses. Willow scrub is being cut and burned and some tree work at Lower Knighton and Newchurch Moors to improve the fen and wetland habitats which have become degraded over time due to an increase of tree cover. The second phase from Newchurch Moors, down through Alverstone Mead and on to Sandown Meadows, includes re-profiling sections of the main river channel and surrounding land to create and restore wetland habitats, and to protect low lying areas of the cycle-track at Newchurch and Golf Links Road at Sandown Meadows. A weir at Alverstone Mead is being replaced, and Public Footpath SS38 at Sandown Meadows, linking Lower Road and Perowne Way, is being diverted around the site perimeter on a drier, more suitable route, instead of across the wet areas. All work sites are being surveyed for wildlife such as nesting birds, roosting bats and water voles to ensure their protection.

This project will benefit both wildlife and people. The Trust looks forward to sharing updates and will be documenting the final project.
For enquires, please contact Emma Hunt, IoW Reserves Officer:

Emma.Hunt@hiwwt.org.uk 07741 312892

PASSING THOUGHTS

The past should be a springboard, not a hammock. *Ivern Ball*

The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there. *LP Hartly*

Clubs, Societies & Interest groups

The many clubs, societies and interest groups in our area include art, shooting, craft, bell ringing, drama, horticulture, choir, yoga, WI groups, Scouting, pilates, yoga, rambling, natural history, astronomy - quite possibly something for everyone. There are contact details in Newchurch Network on the Parish Council's website, plus information on the halls and other facilities in the Parish - Church Hall, Parish Hall, Community (School) Hall, Alverstone Old School Hall, Watery Lane Pavilion and Sportsground - all can be booked and available for various activities.

Our magazine is an opportunity to spread the word, maybe to get new members, so let us know what you're up to. Contact details are on Page 2.

GAS Emergency Helpline	**0800 111 999**
ELECTRIC Emergency Helpline	**105**
WATER Leak Line	**0800 820 999**
Doctor/Dentist (Out of hours)	**111**
IOW Council	**821000**
Island Roads	**822440**
Waste Services	**823777**
St Marys Hospital	**524081 / 822099**
Police Stations	**101**
Crimestoppers (Charity)	**0800 555 111**
MP (East Wight)	**joe.robertson.mp@parliament.uk**
RNID Hearing Aids Clinics	**07918 740936**
IoW Sensory Service (Sight/Hearing)	**240222**
Footprint Trust	**822282 info@footprint-trust.co.uk**
Cost of Living Helpline	**823134**
Citizens Advice IW	**0800 144 8848**
IoW Care Services Directory	**wwwcarechoices.co.uk**
Diabetes Group	**07415 399102**
Living Well & Early Help Partnership	**240732**
Help Through Crisis	**823859**
Young Person Crisis Line (NHS)	**Freephone 0300 303 1590**

PC Liz Clapp is our Local Bobby. Call her on 07901 102302 for a chat on local matters. NOTE: Please use 101 or 999 for emergencies.

A Short History of Newchurch

The name Newchurch is believed to have arisen following the Norman Conquest in 1066, when William the Conqueror gave the Isle of Wight to his kinsman, William Fitz Osborn, and requested that he rebuild the Saxon Parish Church at Alfred's Stone (present day Alverstone) which was situated down in the Yar River Valley. That location was prone to flooding, so a new church was built on the edge of the wooded plateau a mile or so away, and Newchurch got its name from this.

The church originally consisted of a chancel and nave. It has been greatly extended since then - with additions and modifications in the 12th and 13th centuries and later. It was probably in the 17th Century that the walls were lime-washed and plastered, concealing murals created by the monks of Beaulieu. Sadly, they had faded beyond recognition when the walls were scoured in 1843. Another place of worship in the village was the Chapel in Langbridge, now in private ownership.

According to Worsley's map of 1781, Newchurch Parish once stretched from Ryde in the north to the south coast of the Island. The remit of the Parish Council has altered over the years. The Island now has two MPs, and the 2024 split into East and West Wight has brought changes to political boundaries, including the merging of Newchurch with Havenstreet and Ashey parishes in the new East Wight constituency.

Newchurch has seven hamlets, plus main roads and outlying farms and properties - in total just over 1250 households. There are many clubs and interest groups - many of them affiliated to the NPS&CA which was founded in the early 1980s to provide support and activities from the proceeds of the annual Garlic Festival.

Before the days of modern technology, it was the custom throughout the land for Parish dignitaries to visit the boundaries of the Parish, beating green sticks against the boundary marker stones. Young lads were also brought along and bumped against the stones, so they would remember the boundary and carry on the tradition. Only those who lived in the Parish could be buried in the Parish Church. Residents were also required to assist with any work for the Church that was required of them - and this Church law still persists!

The Beating of the Newchurch Bounds tradition continues from time to time - and the 12+ mile walk takes in so much of the beautiful Parish we are lucky enough to live in.

Newchurch Remembered - Revisited

In 1988, 'Newchurch 900' events and celebrations went on throughout the year. It was a good time for the community. The major event was a Medieval Fayre held at Parsonage Farm, and other activities included a Medieval Nativity performed by the children of Newchurch Primary School, the Scout and Guide groups' Gang Show, a Medieval Banquet, many Concerts and Church Services, and the excellent carnival float that did so well in the various Island Carnivals. Also the ancient Beating the Bounds custom was revived.

Lasting memorials of this time remain. Look in the Church wall outside the Hall where there is a stone plaque to mark the occasion - unveiled by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester. And, to celebrate the people who lived here, a team inspired by Jack Lavers, the Parish Clerk at that time, produced Newchurch Remembered, a book of reminiscences of parishioners, present and former. This was sponsored by Newchurch WI.

The book is a fascinating read - tales of family histories, details of farming in Newchurch in the early years of the 19th Century and during the two world wars, local dignatories and characters, large families, long lives and shorter ones, education, transport, development of land and housing - 200 pages of life in Newchurch, reaching back into family histories in the 19th Century. There are copies around. Maybe it could be reprinted if there's sufficient interest.

And now, over thirty years later, there are more stories to be told - many from people who have lived in the Newchurch area all their lives, and reminiscences of their parents and families who have lived here, others who live here now and have their own tales - to bring our village history up to date in the 21st Century.

If you have stories to tell for a new book, or would like a chat, or to be interviewed, just get in touch (see Contact on page 2). Maybe you have tales of your parents or ancestors here in Newchurch, or some local histories. To start, we can include some tales in our magazine then, if there's lots to write about, we can look at the possibility of writing "Newchurch Revisited". We look forward to hearing your stories.

Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible ...
and suddenly you are doing the impossible. *St Francis of Assissi*