

Newchurch Noticeboard

Issue 7 September-December 2026



OUR FREE COMMUNITY PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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Hello to all in Newchurch Parish and welcome to new readers.

Our magazine is published 3 times a year, funded by our valued advertisers and distributed free throughout the Parish by a team of parishioners and councillors.

It was great to see so many folk at the Parish Mayday Picnic on 4th May. - and weren't we lucky with the weather! Plans are already afoot for next year's event on 3rd May 2027 (see Page 11).

Extra copies of the magazine are available at Raj's Premier and in halls around the Parish, and the magazine is on the Parish Council website. There you can also find the Parish directory, Newchurch Network.

Due to personal commitments, we're looking for an addition to the Editorial Team. Please get in touch with the Parish Council if you are interested. Rosey

What's on in the Parish

Please see the Newchurch Network on the Parish Council website (newchurchparish.co.uk) for details of when and where local clubs and activity groups meet and how to contact them. There's lots going on!

If you'd like your club programme advertised, please let us know and we're happy to find a spot in the magazine to promote your activities.

The Parish Council website and six Parish notice-boards are also available to advertise what's going on - just send a poster or details to the Parish Clerk clerk@newchurchparish.co.uk - or phone on 07528 359937.

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We reserve the right not to print submitted articles, letters or advertisements.

Update from Tony Barry, our County Councillor

First of all I must thank the people of Newchurch, Havenstreet & Ashey for putting their trust in me by electing me as your Isle of Wight Councillor, it's now my responsibility to represent the interests of the whole community. I'll be working with the two Parish Councils on the issues that directly affect you in our local area and, as a member of the Island Council, on matters that impact the wider community.

Our council ward is one of the Island's largest, at least eight areas with distinct identities and many smaller outposts as well. My biggest challenge is to communicate effectively across such a wide area and to keep my finger on the pulse of the various communities. I've joined as many local social media pages as I can, which is a real help and enables me to post information of local interest and concern where possible. As an Island Councillor I'm often fed useful updates on the things that matter to you, it really helps if I can pass them on directly. Search on line for 'Councillor Tony Barry,' you should be able to find my Facebook page where I publish useful community information. If you need to get in touch, I have an official email address: tony.barry@iow.gov.uk

I know that one of the biggest issues is access to public transport. There is good news for Newchurch where, thanks to the efforts of the Parish Council, the community bus service will be providing additional journeys. An area where people are feeling neglected is Branstone Farm which, although on a main road, is not served by a bus and doesn't have a satisfactory footpath to the nearest bus stop. A local resident brought this to my attention and I'll be working with him and the Parish Council to see what can be done. It's not as straightforward as it seems but I will be pushing for better access to a bus service, however that can be achieved.

Disruption caused by roadworks is a source of dissatisfaction across the Island, your councillors are really pushing hard to drive improvement. Island Roads and the infrastructure companies are under no illusion that planning and coordination of work must improve. As a positive, Island Roads have launched a new website: www.islandroads.com - the home page has links to the latest information about roadworks across the Island and to the all important reporting tool 'Fix My Street'. I do recommend using it to get road network faults logged and dealt with.

Our Parish Council (PC)

<https://newchurchparish.co.uk> clerk@newchurchparish.co.uk 07528 359937

All Saints Church

We are planning to hold a "Big Breakfast" event on Saturday, 12th September in the Church Hall.

Please check the Noticeboards for events, details of Services and how to make bookings.

Churchwardens: Gill Rouse 01983 864842, Clive Allen 01983 401084

All Saints Church Supporters Group

The Supporters' Group are arranging a Christmas Concert, with dinner at the Garlic Farm, probably early December, but full details yet to be confirmed.

We invite local residents and those interested in restoring the Church Tower to its former glory to join All Saints Church Supporters Group. The annual subscription is £15 per annum (£25 per couple).

If you would like to become a member please contact, our Membership Secretary, Clive - 01983 401084 / 07391 447224 / crallen@sky.com

Taylor's Bakery, Apse Heath *by Sheelah Stephens (nee Humber)*

Your article on "Island Maid" Sweet Factory made me reminisce. Before the sweets, the building was Taylor's Bakery and my father Norman Humber was the main confectioner who worked there for many years until it closed. It was run by two brothers Syd and Bill Taylor and had a wide network of deliveries for bread and cakes.

We lived in Arreton and Dad cycled to Apse Heath daily at 4.a.m. Every Saturday morning I also cycled there with him to help scrub the whole bakehouse through - it was a long dirty morning. Dad was paid ten shillings from which he gave me one shilling! I was about 14 at the time. My younger brothers used to go with the roundsmen on a Saturday to help with the deliveries and earn a little pocket money.

One shilling sounds so meagre these days, but in the 1950's it did enable us to buy sweets from the village shop - wine gums, blackjacks, fruit salads, spangles etc. We were a large family and pocket money was rare, so a few well-earned pennies was a treat!

I remember there was quite a large garden at the back of the bakehouse which had lovely apple trees and I spent a little time in the autumn surreptitiously sampling some of the fruit! My older sister was employed at Apse Heath Post Office which was then run by Mr. and Mrs. Squibb.

Sadly Bill Taylor died prematurely and although Syd carried on for quite a few years the business finally succumbed. It was a very difficult day when the business ceased - it employed a lot of workers - night shifts to bake the bread, staff to make and bake the confectionary side, roundsmen to deliver it, plus office staff. My father then had to find other employment in another bakery so ended up cycling into Newport every day at 4.a.m. come rain or shine.

Newchurch Primary School

What another great year it has been! We have continued to go from strength to strength with our 'mission possible' in striving to become an Ecologically responsible site. The Eco-Ambassadors are continually coming up with new initiatives and participated in the Green Gadget Day on the 15th May, when families were invited to bring any small tech items into school for recycling. In partnership with Currys, we exchanged these unwanted electricals for support towards future eco-projects.

Our fantastic student Eco-Ambassadors have officially launched our new Wasteless Wednesdays initiative! This brilliant campaign encourages families to be more mindful of the packaging included in school lunchboxes and to consider more sustainable choices. This isn't simply about swapping single-use packaging for reusable containers (for example, emptying a pre-packaged crisp packet into a plastic tub). Instead, the real focus is on making thoughtful choices that avoid packaging altogether.

Newchurch has had great sporting success, including at the Island's Pokémon Cup. Our U11 Football Team headed to Bristol for the South West Regional Finals—and what a day they had! With fast-paced games, and a display of some excellent football skills, they won most of their matches, finishing off the last game with a 1-1 draw. They qualified for the semi-finals, topping their group! Sadly, they lost the semi-finals, missing out on a penalty finish. But what an achievement—finishing 3rd in the whole of the South West of England! We couldn't be prouder of their effort, spirit, and superb teamwork.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our annual Key Stage 2 production of 'The Lion King', which took place at the end of last term. The cast and chorus were absolutely phenomenal; every single child performed with immense articulation, confidence, and gusto. From the vibrant costumes to the powerful musical numbers, it was clear how much dedication and hard work went into every scene. Our sell-out performances were a tremendous success, providing a truly valuable opportunity for our budding actors, singers and performers to shine on stage. Who knows where their newfound love of the theatre will take them next! The end of the Summer term brought celebrations and farewells. We were delighted to host our annual Sports Day, where team spirit was on full display! Every single child participated brilliantly in multiple activities, showing fantastic sportsmanship while earning vital points for their respective houses. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers turning out to cheer the children on—thank you for making it such a memorable day. We also said an emotional farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils. They celebrated the end of their primary school journey with a highly memorable leavers' trip to Paultons Park, followed by a very special leavers' assembly.

We are immensely proud of everything Year Six have achieved, and we wish you all the very best of luck as you take your next steps into secondary school!

Queen's Bower Brickworks by Steve Jewell

Map evidence shows that the site was possibly being worked in 1896 although not labelled as a brickworks. Thereafter it is shown as a brickworks, with a well.



Started by William Reed (d.1917) who was a dairyman at Queen's Bower, his son followed in the trade. According to the grandson, also named William (Jack) Reed, the yard closed in 1919-1920.

Jack Reed then concentrated on the dairy farm until The Isle of Wight Cheese Company started

production there in October 2006.

Queen's Bower bricks were used in the chimney linings and walls at The Royal National Hospital, Ventnor. The coal for the kilns was carted from Ventnor. There were two square kilns with chimney flues which were for facing bricks, but the majority of the bricks were clamp bricks, which included coke 'breeze'. They also made drainage tiles, and everything was hand made. A ninety foot deep well provided the necessary water required.

There were two brick makers. They worked half a night shift each to 'stoke' the kilns, and then went on to do a days work on the farm. Brick-making was a summer occupation, worked in with farming. Queen's Bower was part of Lord Alverstone's estate, which was sold in 1920.

Another fascinating local history research, by kind permission of author Sarah Burdett, author of 'Brickmaking on the Isle of Wight' published in 2026 and available from all good book sellers.

Question: Some say 'Queen's Bower', others call it 'Queenbower'.
Which is correct?

My Hobby - Metal Detecting

The weather was manky, dull, grey, intermittent drizzle and my mood matched it. Not a decent signal all morning. I'd been detecting since half past nine and it was now nearly one. The weather brightened a little. The drizzle faded so I stopped for a bite of lunch. I was on a hill in the middle of the island with great views all around. I chewed at my really nice cheese and onion sandwich from Aldi and soaked in the scenery. And hey presto the sky began to clear as the sun put in an appearance.

I looked around and saw quite a few club members had called it a day and left already. But with food and drink inside me and the sun shining I could almost hear the adjacent field calling me over.

So, with renewed vigour I turned my detector back on, put the coil to the soil and detected out of this field into the next. I lifted my machine (Metal Detector) into the air to walk across a made-up track. Then putting the coil back to the earth again, I slowly detected towards what seemed to be a slight depression which, I thought, could be an old trackway. Fanciful? Maybe, but how many times has this land been criss-crossed by our ancestors? I thought I'd give it a go.

Well, a few minutes later and..... nothing! Silence from my earphones. No signals, nothing. I put my coil head next to my spade, just to check it was still working. Yes it was - as a low toned loud bleep shouted "ferrous metal" at me. But then, as I put the machine back to the earth I got another signal, a non-ferrous high bleep in the earphones - with a number 12 moving to 13 showing on my indicator screen.

Now my machine has its own idiosyncrasies - it loves aluminium, especially ring-pulls! And, it gives me a lovely signal every time - high bleep with a visual number 12 going to 13 and back again on the sweep. So when it happened this time, I shrugged my shoulders and decided to leave it. But, as I slowly walked away, for some reason I remembered seeing an American guy on Facebook saying "I've found silver with 12/13 on my machine" and he has an identical machine to mine. So I turned around. The signal went off again 12/13 showing something about 4inches (10cm) down, small, circular. So I dug a circular clod, turned it over expecting to find a ring pull and found this instead....



.... a tiny, silver face looking at me. Odin the Norse god of war, wisdom and poetry. A Saxon penny from over one thousand years ago! I was blown away then and am still blown away today. Happy digging everyone.

Ray Braithwaite

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The Pointer Inn

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We look forward to seeing you soon.

Mark, Luci and the Team

Bookings: 865202

The Footpaths of Newchurch *by Jill Green*

I enjoyed reading Steve Jewell's accounts of the history of Alverstone and Newchurch stations, both in use from 1875 to 1956 and closed due to lack of use and money for upkeep. This was before Beaching made the big national closures. I also found it interesting to read how much the brickmakers got paid: 8 shillings (40p) for 1,000 bricks. How much would that be today? Then a letter cost a few pence - now it's nearer £1 - so inflation makes comparisons very hard.

Our Parish has so much history - the brickworks from 1898 to 1939, railway stations, a sweet factory, pubs, chapels, schools and churches. People walked or went by horseback between all these places. It was progress - buses and cars - that changed that way of life.

The Parish is still vibrant and has so much going on. Bridle ways and footpaths have also changed. I think they have improved because we now know that exercise, and access to the countryside, improve both mind and body, and the Island promotes Green Tourism. Some paths have been extinguished, some diverted and improved. All over the country, there are paths that cross horse racing tracks, golf courses, railways, busy roads, and twist through new housing estates. How many cross an active airport runway like our NC22a? Perhaps you have walked it - I hope so. It is well used. In fact there used to be others - NC23a and NC23b - only 240 yards and 475 yards - small footpaths, these were officially extinguished in August 1980. The Ramblers were consulted but on this occasion decided not to object as we still have the right to walk across on NC22a. On very old maps you can see where these paths were located.

I love old maps as they can tell us so much. The latest Ordnance Survey map has things on it that would have been unheard of in 1939 when the brickworks shut, or 1956 when the railways closed, or even 1980 when the little airport paths were lost. Now there are things like the Solar Farm south of Apse New Barn Farm, the Garlic Farm that is a thriving tourist attraction, even the Donkey Sanctuary that has NC45 going through it. The breweries Yates and Goddards are not shown on the latest map, but the huge glass houses of Wight Salads (now Isle of Wight Tomatoes) are, and have path NC25 that runs between them from the main Newport Road to Wacklands and Newchurch. Not forgetting our fine Observatory and Pavilion. We also have lovely nature reserves including Alverstone Mead and Youngwoods Copse.

How surprised those who saw the railway closed would be to see it now - part of a well used path from Sandown into Newport. I sometimes walk it all to get to Newport, so I can say first hand that I see cyclists, horses, walkers, children trying to stay upright when learning to ride a bike or on their roller blades. It gives me great pleasure to see people with young children able to ride safely through our lovely countryside. If you can just stroll, run, jog or walk, keep doing it. We are privileged to live here.

Parish Mayday Picnic

What a wonderful day we all had - and plans are already afoot to repeat the event next year - on May Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May.

The afternoon started and ended with the Bells of All Saints' ringing out - many thanks to the Newchurch Bell Ringers - and the Church was beautifully decorated by the Island Flower Club. Entertainments and activities went on throughout the village, including the fire engine and vintage vehicles in the Pointer Inn Car Park, and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and in the Parish Hall Alverstone Art Group displayed their work, and there was a chance to have a go on a stirrup pump with an ARP Warden. Tea and cakes in the Church Hall were very popular, and in the Church the Tower Fund was launched with an opportunity to sponsor a plank. Later in the afternoon, Newchurch Male Voice Choir entertained us with a wonderful concert, including a guest spot with Andy Hicks on viola.

Andy was also the fiddler for the lasses from Newchurch School with their much enjoyed maypole dancing - it really added to the fun of the day and gave a real village picnic feel to the whole event. Hugo Boswell and his jazz ensemble entertained the picnickers with a couple of most enjoyable sessions.

Many thanks also to all the stall-holders: the Horticultural Society, Ability Dogs for Young People, Alverstone WI and Newchurch Ladies Group, Amazon World, Fresh Lemonade, young Woody with his home-made 3D printed toys, and Ray with some of his very interesting artefacts that he has found while pursuing his hobby as a metal detectorist. Steve from Island Defibrillators did some demonstrations on CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

And how lucky we were with the weather - it couldn't have been better!
Roll on Mayday Picnic 2027!

On your bike!

1. An average non-athletic man can easily pedal a bicycle at 12mph. At this rate, he uses 300 food calories per hour. As a gallon of petrol produces about 40,000 calories, the cyclist obtains the equivalent of 1,500 mpg!
2. 60 times as much fuel is needed to make the average car as is needed to manufacture a bicycle.
3. 30 cycles can be parked in the 220 sq.ft needed to park one car.
4. Half of the nation's commuting motorists travel only 3 miles to work.

The Ecologist

Newchurch Drama Group

As mentioned in the May-August edition of the Newchurch Notice-board, things had gone very quiet with Newchurch Drama Group since COVID but you will be pleased to know that the group is now revitalised and keen to entertain the Community once more.

We relaunched ourselves in late October 2025 with our pantomime 'The Princess and the Pea' for which we were thrilled to be awarded the NODA Accolade of Excellence Certificate. This pantomime was not only successful but also such fun that we attracted several new members, and it reminded us why we love amateur dramatics.

We were so encouraged by this that in April we put on the hilarious farce 'According to Rumour' and now feel ready to try another pantomime. Oh yes we are ...

This time we have chosen 'Jack and the Beanstalk' by James Barry. This is a much loved story but with some modern updates to add even more comedy.

We will be doing three performances in the Community Hall attached to the school on Friday 30th October, Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November. All three performances will start at 2pm to accommodate the many people who do not like going out in the evenings and also those who want to go 'Trick or Treating' for Halloween.

Look out for a poster with details on where to book your tickets.

It all looks like being a lot of fun and we hope it will help reinstate the Community feeling that is so important for the village. We are looking forward to seeing you there - clapping and cheering as in the good old days.

If you are interested in joining our up and coming group, you can contact us on Newchurch Drama Group's Facebook page OR on either 07971 768857 OR 07701 026987.

Ros White Chairman

Request for clean jars by local jam maker: "I make jams/marmalade to sell for charity. If you have any spare suitable jars with lids please drop them into the box in the Parish Hall when open (Post Office: Tue/Fri 8:30 -10:30, NMVC: Fri eve). Thank you."

Newchurch High Street

Have you ever wondered about the age and history of some of the older dwellings and buildings in Newchurch High Street?

Wander along from All Saints Church. It's almost 950 years old, with various modifications over the years, including closing up the North door to stop the devil getting in! Until 1850, it was the Parish Church for Ryde to Ventnor. The Pointer Inn next door was built in the 1600's. Behind the Church stands Greystones, once the Vicarage until the new one was built in the 1970's, and the tall wall below the Church was built in 1776 by William Williams (costing £20) – see the plaque on the road side of the wall. The Church Hall was built in 1892 on the site of an old cottage with the village well in front. In the 1920's and '30s, they used to have dances with a small orchestra and often 150 people.

Continuing along the High Street, Atlasto, How-zat and 6 and 5 School Lane were built in the 1970's on the site of old houses called Widows Terrace. Down School Lane stands Newchurch Primary School, opened in 1876. Before that, the village school was down at Langbridge. Back in the High Street are St Georges View and Downview (1930's), and the bungalow, Rosewell (1927) replaced an old dwelling, probably called Mudwall Cottage, that burnt down in 1900. Milestone Cottages, built in 1758, were pulled down to make way for Milestone Crescent, named after the milestone (91 miles to London) on the wall opposite. Lyncroft is where the original Pope's farmhouse used to be, and the 'new' Pope's Farm built in about 1850 was the home of the Richards family since 1898 – Robert, then his son Gilbert, and finally Colin. The farm has been greatly developed with several houses since the death of Colin. The High Street ends at Bartlett's Farm House, built about 1860.

The first house when crossing the road to walk back along the High Street is Veniscombe, built in about 1790 to replace a much older Veniscombe. It stands behind a tall hedge, with Little Veniscombe beside it. Next is Wisteria Cottage, including The Bakery, once haunted, extended in 1693 but built earlier. It used to house the village Post Office and shop, and earlier the village shoe repairer was also there. The wisteria was planted in 1887. The next detached house, Willows End, is one of the newer houses in the village. 1 and 2 Ivy Cottages were built in about 1890, originally a school house. Next is the Parish Hall built in 1903, and was The Temperance Hall until 1950. Wilmar, Vermaipa, Dorkyn and Sunnyside were built in about 1890 by Haydens, the village builder. The next block of cottages – Poplar Cottage, Olde Timbers and Sunshine Cottage are very old. Poplar was badly damaged in the 1987 storm and has only recently been renovated. The Laurels replaced the Old Smithy which worked there until about 1899 when it was moved down The Shute to where Anvil House now stands, and Hillcrest is built on the site of an old cottage that was the village Post Office after World War I.

SMILING

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the 'flu.
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too!

I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin,
When I smiled, I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about the smile
Then realised its worth ~
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected,
Start an epidemic quick
And get the world infected.

PUZZLE TIME (Page 12) ANSWERS

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