

Report for Newton St Cyres Parish Council June 2022 – Sue Rowell Climate Officer

Newton Environment Group

- Volunteers have instigated two working parties to remove invasive Himalayan Balsam from along the River Creedy downstream from Station Road. This plant prevents native species from colonising the riverbank and also leaves banks bare in winter thus exacerbating sediment pollution during rainstorms.
- Volunteers are in discussion with landowners with the aim of starting a hedgelaying programme.
- The group had a presence at the Jubilee event and was interested to receive support for a Community Food Larder.

The Adonai Community kitchen

This goes from strength to strength with many parishioners welcoming the chance for a cooked meal and to socialise on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes in the Parish hall. Any surplus foods from gardens or allotments would be welcomed by the organisers. This is a great personal initiative which the PC should support.

River Creedy Catchment project

The River Creedy is one of only two locations in Devon where a population of highly endangered white clawed crayfish survive (and this is within NSC parish). There is an ongoing project to survey them supported by local landowners. This adds impetus to a wider project to improve water quality, which we know is poor, in the catchment and a meeting is being organised to initiate this project. Participants to include Environment Agency, South West Water, Rivers Trust, Wildlife trust and others.

Energy Efficiency and Local schemes

Further work to investigate energy efficiency measures for the hall is underway. The PC could play an important role in supporting this and other local initiatives which are being considered.

Local Woodlands

A walk was organised recently with Forestry England in Whitestone woods to discuss their management approach and potential for further works (known as Nature Based Solutions) to reduce risks from flooding from the Shuttern Brook. There will be a summary produced for the Newton Wonder by their manager. Following on, there is also a walk being organised by J Quicke for woodlands directly under their management in July (see Newton Wonder for details).