

ANNUAL REPORT FOR NEWTON ST CYRES PARISH COUNCIL 2022/2023



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1. Newton St Cyres Parish Councillors

Cllr Graeme Barnell, (Chairman), Halses, West Town Road, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, EX5 5BS. Tel: 01392 851308 graemebarnell@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk. Part of the A377 Action Group; CREDITON Cluster; Raddon Hills Group. Oversees budget setting, new policy consultation, agenda planning in consultation of the clerk and conducting the annual review of the parish clerk. Graeme is also the Development and Planning Lead (acting) whilst we secure an additional council member, overseeing planning applications, leading on the local Neighbourhood plan, & investigating and reporting development opportunities that arise.

Cllr Jenna Browne, 1 Smallbrook Cottages, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, EX5 5AZ, Tel: 07572328984 jennabrowne@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk. Oversees Parish Council reporting and writing regular articles for the Newton Wonder and CREDITON Courier. Community engagement Lead; Neighbourhood Watch Scheme & Police Liaison. Volunteer recruitment and Nextdoor liaison.

Cllr John Dean, Tel: 07778 640025 johndean@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk. John leads the travel & Road Safety group, supervising community road warden schemes, running the community speed watch scheme and attending the A377 Action Group, HATOC and Boniface Trail meetings as required.

Cllr Liz Ouldrige, (Vice Chair), Kuredu, New Estate, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, EX5 5AR Tel: 01392 851621 lizoultridge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk. Liz deputises for the chair as required and works with the chair to ensure duties are discharged. In addition, Liz oversees the annual review of the parish clerk and actively monitors training opportunities for Councillors/Clerk and brings them to the attention of the Council.

Cllr Stephen Parker, Lilly Farm, Newton St Cyres EX5 5BY Tel: 01392 851505 stephenparker@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk. Coordinates P3 scheme with DCC and landowners; Parish Footpath Officer, Raddon Hills Parish Councils group member, Responsible for the village flowers, the village green, the village benches and the telephone boxes containing the defibrillators.

Cllr Dave Rowell, 12 Kingfisher Close, Newton St Cyres, Exeter Devon EX5 5DH Tel: 07711 228557 daverowell@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk. Environment & Climate lead – Climate/Environment program management. Litter picker volunteer co-ordinator and co-ordinator of maintenance of allotments and green spaces. Liaison between development and planning officers to ensure reduced impact on environment.

Cllr Graham Scopes, Fairview, Half Moon Village, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5AB Tel: 01392 851375 grahamscope@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk; Joint Community Resilience lead, ensuring adequate training of volunteers and maintenance of emergency equipment. Snow warden co-ordinator/grit bin monitor.

Cllr Peter Stephenson, peterstephenson@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07704684818 Joint Community and Resilience lead, maintaining safe equipment and the review of the community resilience plan, including grit bin provisions and ensuring snow wardens are trained.

The Parish Council welcomes members of the public to all their meetings. They are all on the 1st Thursday in the month at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall Clubroom. Dates for 2023/2024 are as follows:
7th September 2023

5th October 2023

2nd November 2023

7th December 2023

1st February 2024

7th March 2024

4th April 2024

The next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in May of 2024 and the date will be published on our website, nearer the time. The Parish council has both a website and a Facebook page. The website, <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/newtonstcyres>, contains copies of Minutes, Policies and other important Council documents.

A map of the Parish with the Footpaths Map can be located on the Village Green Notice Board. The Parish Council Facebook page is interactive. It contains up-to-date information on Planning Applications received and any Road Closure notices etc. There are Parish Notice Boards at the locations listed below. These display important Parish Council documents and are also available for local organisations to use. They are not available for commercial advertising.

Langford - Half Moon, Sand Down Lane, Tytheing Close, Village Green, Sweetham and Smallbrook

2. Devon County Councillors Report – Margaret Squires

I have attended Newton St Cyres parish council when I can. Many highway concerns have been raised by the PC and the A377 action group. Concern about traffic on the A377 is a big concern to us all. There have been a number of items placed on the HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) on which I sit as a County Councillor. Smallbrook is an area for concern as motorists often don't realise there is a community of residents that live so close to this busy main road. A SCARF (Speed Compliance Action Review Forum) process has taken place. This process is carried out with the involvement of the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO), senior safety officers for DCC and police safety officers and follows national guidance and policies. There was a 24/7 speed check undertaken at three positions either side of Smallbrook to check average speed and the result indicated that no further action regarding speed limit would be beneficial.

The Parish Council has requested school signage and parking at the entrance to the school be looked at. This has been discussed at HATOC . Officers were willing to assess the potential use of wig-wag lights to warn road users regarding the presence of the school, as they agreed the presence of a

school at that location was inconspicuous. Funding for this may need to be found. They also advised that any proposed waiting restrictions would have to follow the formal Local Waiting Restriction Programme process. The PC can request me to follow this up. Previously raised by the PC was the parking at the entrance of Godolphin close and following consultation and modification yellow lines will be introduced.

As a County councillor I sit on the Childrens Scrutiny committee. There are approx. 900 children in care in Devon. Foster carers are really valued. There are also a number of children with Special needs. Social Workers and carers are always in short supply and recruitment is continuous. I will continue to attend the parish council meetings when I can and to follow up issues as needed.

3. Mid Devon District Councillors Report – Graeme Barnell

I've been pleased and proud to have been District Councillor for Newton St Cyres for the last four years. It has been a honour to serve the Parish. During my time on Mid Devon District Council I was pleased to have played a significant role in stopping the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan and its plan for 1200 new homes in and around our Villages. I am also happy to have championed the building of houses that people on ordinary incomes can afford to rent or buy. I'll continue to insist that Mid Devon sticks to it's promises on affordable housing especially building new Council houses and on Community Housing Schemes in villages like ours.

I decided to stand down from the District Council in May as I was spending far too much of my time on issues concerning Tiverton and Cullompton and not enough on local matters.

I'm honoured to have now been elected Chair of the new Parish Council.

My priorities over the coming year will be to work with Crediton Town Council and other local Parishes to ensure that plans for large scale housing development along the Creedy Valley do not reappear. I also want to see continuing emphasis on mitigating climate change and encouraging biodiversity. I also determined to further reduce the impact of the A377 on our daily lives through more safe road crossings, and footpaths. We must also see more progress on DCC funding for the Crediton to Exeter Cycleway (aka the Boniface Trail).

Finally, I must make a plea for volunteers. We are blessed with an amazing array of important local schemes including for example, the Road Warden Scheme, the Arboretum, the Recreation Ground, the Adonai Lunchtime Kitchen and now a local Music Festival. Each of these and more need your help to continue and thrive. Please contact Jenna Browne or me direct if you want to play a more active role in Village life.

4. Newton St Cyres Parish Council Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday Wednesday 6 April 2023 in the Club Room, Parish Hall at 7pm

Present:

Parish Councillors (Cllr Jim Enright as Chair) and Parish Clerk, and 4 members of public

Cllr Jim Enright welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr D Hodge, Cllr M Squires (DCC)

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 6 April 2022

Agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report

I. The Neighbourhood Plan - is now underway with a well-attended meeting in the Parish Hall at the end of February with the outcome from that meeting well reported in the Newton Wonder. Further meetings are planned with other groups to ensure that a very wide consultation process leads to a Plan to which all residents have had multiple opportunities to contribute.

II. Development of the Old School site - It is good to see that the building of 8 new homes on the old school site is finally underway. The Parish Council worked with a Housing Association to try to buy the site for an Affordable Housing development, but Devon County Council felt obligated to accept a much higher offer from the Developer.

III. Social Housing Need - notwithstanding the above the Parish Council also pursued other land for an Affordable Housing project but we were unsuccessful in our bids. But at least we now have a village centre crossing and are still actively working towards a crossing point near Tytheing Close and a foot-path in Half Moon.

IV. Queen's Jubilee event – the Parish Council took the lead in organising a small committee and everything fell into place quite nicely. The event was well attended, the weather held and sufficient funds were raised to site a Commemorative Bench at the Arboretum and give some funding to the Newton Environmental and Wellbeing Group.

V. Work of Councillors – Newton St Cyres Parish Council was set up by Government Statute 130 years ago next year and is controlled by Standing Orders, which govern what it can and cannot do. The Parish Council works on a very democratic basis and all Councillors can have their say before any vote is taken. The PC is the first tier of Government in England with the District Council, County Council and Parliament forming the 3 remaining tiers. Do have a look at the Parish Council website for a list of our responsibilities. They are probably wider and more varied than you might imagine.

VI. Election of new Councillors and Chairman – Parish Councillors are elected for a 4-year term and must then stand down when an election is held. They can of course stand again, alongside any other volunteers. Newton St Cyres Parish Council is entitled to elect 9 Councillors and if there are more than 9 candidates then an election is held. This year several Councillors have decided not to stand so a lot of new volunteers were required.

We have now been advised that 7 candidates have put themselves forward and therefore all are accepted without the need for an election.

A further 2 will be co-opted onto the Parish Council and details of how to apply will shortly be publicised throughout the village.

New Parish Councillors will be offered full training and are guided through what they can and cannot do by a professionally trained Parish Clerk. Here in Newton St Cyres, we are extremely fortunate to have the very capable Jane Hole as our Parish Clerk, to keep the PC running smoothly.

VII. Thanks to Councillors and our Parish Clerk – the present Parish Councillors have served at least one full 4-year term with some being in office for decades, with special mention to Chris Southgate and Steve Parker, both of whom have served the community extremely well over a very large number of years. They all offer their services entirely free of charge and fully deserve your thanks for a job very well done.

Our Clerk is paid an hourly rate negotiated between the Clerk's Guild and the Government on an annual basis, and the Parish Clerk requires a lot of knowledge and skills. Jane Hole has been our Newton St Cyres Parish Clerk for the past ten years and is as efficient as they come. Newton St Cyres is certainly in safe hands.

I must also thank our District Councillor, Graeme Barnell, and our County Councillor, Margaret Squires. Over the past few years Graeme has been instrumental in bringing issues to the notice of Devon County Council, and in particular the safety of the A377, the need for the Boniface Trail, and safety measures required in Station Road, Smallbrook, New Estate, Tytheing Close and elsewhere. Thank you both.

Thanks to our Volunteers too - Outside of Councillors we also have large groups of volunteers including Litter Pickers, Neighbourhood Watch Deputies, Flood Watch Marshalls and an excellent team of Road Wardens who repair pot-holes and clear drains etc. under the very capable guidance of Nick Gillon.

And I must mention the esteemed writer of our much-admired Resilience Plan, Jock Campbell, as well as our Climate Champion, Sue Rowell, who keeps up the Parish Council's knowledge and involvement in important Environmental issues.

A village such as Newton St Cyres thrives on community volunteers. Where would the Hall, the Rec, the Arboretum, the School, the Church, Newton Wonder and numerous other sports, pass-times and interest groups be without their willing organisers and volunteers who provide such a great service to our village.

A big thank-you to you all. You really are much appreciated.

VIII. Community Person of the Year – each year we ask for nominations and the councillors vote from amongst those put forward. This year the honour goes to Jocelyne Whittaker who

runs the Adonai Community Kitchen every Tuesday and Wednesday lunch time in the Parish Hall. Well done Jocelyne and thank you for the service you are providing to our community, it really is most appreciated.

IX. Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group – whilst I am talking about self-help, I really should mention NEW, under the co-ordination of Andrew Broadhead. They started by “wilding” a chunk of the village green which drew lots of appreciative comments as Spring led into summer. They have now taken on some plots at the Allotments to grow vegetables which will be given away to villagers.

However, a word of caution. Whilst protecting trees is admirable, upsetting owners by not having prior discussions about Tree Protection Orders is not the best way to go about life. We are a small village and good communication is key.

Well, that’s it from me. After 5 years as Chairman and 5 before that as Vice Chairman, I have decided that the time is right for new volunteers to make different decisions on behalf of our lovely village.

It has been a pleasure to serve our community throughout that time.

4. Parish Council Financial Statement (unaudited) for year ending 31 March 2023

Copies were circulated and noted

5. Presentation of Community Volunteer of the year award

This was awarded to Jocelyn Whittaker for the setting up and running of a twice weekly Community Kitchen.

6. Public Participation/Questions

There was none

5. Road Warden Scheme Update

Road Warden Scheme—a year in numbers...

By the first week of July we will have been operating for a full year—how time flies! All the volunteers have been working tirelessly in our Parish to improve the safety of our roads. A big THANK YOU to all these volunteers. Here is a summary of our work in numbers:

- Over 305 volunteer hours worked in filling potholes, clearing verges and flood prevention
- 109 potholes filled in, taking approximately 112 hours to do this
- 77 tubs of tarmac used to fill these holes—that’s 1,675 kgs of tarmac!
- We spent 118 hours clearing flood debris after flash floods, digging drainage ditches and clearing drains to prevent further flooding

However we cannot do this alone—we need your help! If you see anything that causes flooding or creates a hazard in our Parish please report it using our online reporting form using the QR code or contact the Parish Clerk via email: parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk

6. Newton Environmental Well-being Group

The past year has been spent progressing a number of small initiatives that were suggested by the people at the Community Forum on Energy, Food and Health that was held in April 2022.

Initiatives include:

- 1) Through the generosity of the Parish Council we now have a **Community Allotment**. Our group has created 18 beds for the growing of vegetable, acquired a Glass House and established 3,000 ltrs of rainwater containers, and are now entering our first growing season of fruit and vegetables for the community.
- 2) **Food Larder** – we are working with Adonai Kitchen and others to share food surpluses in the Village and exploring how best to distribute produce from the Community Allotment.
- 3) **River Creedy Catchment Improvement Project** – this has been set up to help restore the native Crayfish population in the River Creedy. Our group have been involved in this exciting new project, partly informed as a result of the Water Quality Monitoring that our members have been undertaking over the last 2 years in the river.
- 4) **Court Orchard** – with a grant from MDDC, we have planted 15 native (mainly) apple trees and begun re-wilding the area around them.
- 5) **The Village Green** – after the successful re-wilding of part of the Village Green last year, we have now agreed a Management Plan with the Parish Council for its on-going caretaking.
- 6) **Hedge-laying Group** – having attended a short initial course in the ‘Art of Hedge-laying’, kindly offered to us by Tom Hynes of Devon Hedges Group, a number of us have formed our own Hedge-laying Group. We laid our first 75 meters of traditional Devon Hedge this autumn, and are planning more for next year.
- 7) **Friends of the Churchyard** – we have been working with our sister group to initiate a more nature-friendly management plan for our beautiful churchyard.
- 8) **Incorporation** – we are in the process of incorporating as a Management Committee in order that we may have a Bank Account and be eligible for the funding of project initiated by members.

We currently meet every 2 months on the third Wednesday of the month at the Beer Engine at 7pm. If you wish to join us, email E: newnewgroup@protonmail.com and we can add you to our mailing list.

7. Newton St Cyres Parish Council Receipts & Payments 2022-2023

Receipts		This Year Y/E 2023	Last year Y/E 2022
Precept		£13,431.00	£13,431.00
Grants	DCT - Radios	£1,500.00	£0.00
	Neighbourhood Plan	£9,899.00	£0.00
	DCT Community Enhancement Fund	£0.00	£1,000.00
	DCC Rain Gauge maintenance	£0.00	£300.00
Allotment Rent		£480.00	£430.00
Donations from jubilee		£589.50	£0.00
Parish Hall contribution to resurfacing fund		£750.00	£750.00
Raddon Hill/Feniton/Bradninch audit payment		£320.00	£400.00
Transfer from resurfacing account		£3,272.40	£0.00
Other (paid in error by MDDC)		£741.93	£0.00
VAT Refund		£1,667.43	£799.76
Wayleave		£0.00	£3.48
Total receipts current account		£32,651.26	£17,114.24
Payments			
Grants	Parish Hall	£500.00	£1000.00
	NSC Recreation Ground	£500.00	£1000.00
	Citizens Advice	£0.00	£100.00
	NSC Football Club	£0.00	£200.00
Admin/running costs	Annual subscription for email addresses	£264.00	£220.00
	Bank Charges	£72.00	£36.00
	Clerks wages incl PAYE/Raddon Hills	£5,517.67	£4,795.60
	Expenses - Clerks	£83.88	£86.32
	Expenses - Other	£20.50	£13.41
	Fees and subscriptions	£655.56	£484.00
	Hall expenses & electricity for light	£320.00	£201.39
	Insurance	£413.56	£373.52
	Printing	£141.56	£160.95
	Training (Clerk and Councillors)	£0.00	£119.00
Village Organisation	Churchyard grass cutting (new & old)	£1,175.00	£975.00
	Parish hall Wifi	£200.00	£200.00
	Recreation ground rent	£500.00	£500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	Allotment Costs	£66.00	£675.00
	Arboretum licence	£30.00	£0.00
	Bus shelter cleaning	£64.00	£64.00
	Community Resilience	£247.00	£8.95
	Defibrillator related	£31.00	£284.58
	Gardening/Maintenance	£107.49	£17.35

Miscellaneous	Grass cutting - parish	£1,205.00	£1,320.00
	Noticeboards	£80.00	£120.00
	Rain Gauge Telemetry service	£505.00	£565.00
	Road Warden Scheme	£370.01	£2,035.00
	Signs	£154.93	£88.73
	Village Flowers	£33.32	£0.00
	Community Project Fund	£100.00	£0.00
	Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)	£778.42	£0.00
	Purchase of Benches	£826.00	£455.00
	Purchase of PPE	£46.51	£160.25
	Purchase of radios for flood wardens	£1,604.00	£0.00
	Purchase of seeds for Jubilee	£228.15	£0.00
	Refund to MDDC	£741.93	£0.00
	Transfer to resurfacing account	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
	Resurfacing/relining hall car park	£2,727.00	£0.00
	Road Warden Scheme	£176.77	£730.22
	VAT	£1,284.41	£1,194.48
	Electric cost for Vodafone surestart	£0.00	£30.00
	Purchase of laminator	£0.00	£25.99
	Refund of Covid 19 grant to DCC	£0.00	£279.85
Removal of asbestos at allotments	£0.00	£1,410.00	
Total payments current account		£23,270.33	£21,429.59
Financial Summary Current Account			
	Balance b/f as at 1 April 2022	£11,537.01	£15,852.36
	Add Receipts for Y/E 31 March 2023	£32,652.26	£17,114.24
	Less Payments for Y/E 31 March 2023	£23,270.33	£21,429.59
	Balance C/F as at 31 March 2023	£20,917.94	£11,537.01
Financial Summary Footpath Account			
	Balance b/f as at 1 April 2022	£268.02	£268.02
	Add Transfers for Y/E 31 March 2023	£0.00	£0.00
	Less Payments for Y/E 31 March 2023	£0.00	£0.00
	Balance C/F as at 31 March 2023	£268.02	£268.02
Financial Summary Resurfacing Account			
	Balance b/f as at 1 April 2022	£7,514.96	£6,014.23
	Add Receipts for Y/E 31 March 2023	£1,531.50	£1,500.73
	Less Payments for Y/E 31 March 2023	£3,295.40	£0.00
	Balance C/F as at 31 March 2023	£5,751.06	£7,514.96
Financial Summary All Accounts			
	Current Account (inc £9,120.58 for NHP)	£20,917.94	£11,537.01
	Footpath Account	£268.02	£268.02
	Car park resurfacing account	£5,751.05	£7,514.96
Total of all Accounts as at 1 April 2023		£26,937.02	£19,319.99

8. Friends of Newton Arboretum Annual Report 2022-2023



Aerial view of Arboretum taken by Helmores Estate Agents in late Autumn, 2022

This has been another good year for the Arboretum. It continues to provide a wonderful area for both relaxation and exercise and has been much appreciated by residents of Newton St Cyres and neighbouring villages and their visitors.

Our programme of tree planting has continued, with about 30 trees planted in the last year. These have included both native and exotic trees, with natives generally being planted to the periphery of the Arboretum and exotics in more central areas. The dry summer in 2022 provided major challenges to recently-planted trees, but they were much helped by a programme of watering carried out by our volunteers, using water from the Church. We also extended the area of daffodils in the lower part of the Arboretum with bulbs supplied from MDCC through the good offices of the Parish Council.

An area of invasive Japanese Laurels was cleared in the autumn. This opened up a magnificent view of a fine magnolia from near the Summerhouse and also produced space for some future replanting.

Another addition to the Arboretum was a Bench to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth. This was provided through funds derived from a Jubilee Celebration in the village.

The Friends of the Arboretum held a number of events during the year. Tours took place in the Arboretum on 1 June 2022 and were followed by the AGM in the Parish Hall. Vaughan Gallivan led a tour looking at newly-planted trees and discussing future planned plantings, whilst the second tour, led by Roger Wilkins, outlined aspects of managing the Arboretum and discussed challenges and opportunities. Two coffee mornings were held and these combined pleasant social functions with some fundraising. A number of Working Parties were held to help with arboretum maintenance. There were no theatre performances during 2022, but the Crediton Arts Centre are putting on Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' early in July this year.

Some 140 Friends pay an annual subscription of £10 and this makes a crucial contribution to the costs of maintaining and improving the Arboretum. Many of the Friends make key contributions as Volunteer Wardens and help with maintenance and improvement work, including Working Parties.

We thank all our volunteers for their tremendous work and our Committee for managing the Arboretum. None of this would have been possible without the agreement and support of John Quicke, owner of the Arboretum. Thank you, John. We thank the Parish Council for encouragement and the provision of insurance cover and much appreciate the Church for letting us access the Arboretum through Churchyard.

Roger Wilkins. Secretary, Friends of Newton Arboretum, April 2023

9. Newton St Cyres School – Annual Report

There have been some significant changes to staffing at the start of the 2022/2023 academic year. The staff team were rocked by the death of Lisa Hobson in May 2022. Lisa had been diagnosed with cancer earlier in the year and despite cautious optimism, she passed away later in the year. This had a huge impact on all the children, staff and wider community. We were very lucky to be supported by Rev'd Tim Collins as well as other external agencies. This support cascaded through the school with children and parents benefiting also. We have kept in very close contact with Lisa's family and her daughter Sarah regularly volunteers at school as she is keen to follow in her mother's footsteps to become a teacher. It was always going to be difficult to fill the gap left by Lisa, but we were pleased to offer the teaching position to Nicola Turner. Nicola is local to the school and has a wealth of experience in early years. She has been a great addition to the school and works well within the foundation stage unit team.

We are also delighted to welcome Mik Kersey to school to work alongside Aishling Halford in class 3. Sue Wilkinson has reduced her hours to 0.2 and remains working as the school SENDCO. Mik Kersey has transferred across from Cheriton Fitzpaine and has been another fabulous addition. Janine Holmes remains in years 1 and 2 and Jack Hookway remains in year 5 and 6 as they continue their excellent career development.

This reporting period has seen the first industrial action in education since the pension dispute during the last decade. The NEU called on its members to take industrial action for a total of five days over pay and working conditions. Other trade unions did not join the industrial action but asked members not to cover colleagues who were taking action. The guidance issued by the NEU stated that teachers do not have to give notice to their employers about their intention to take action until the morning of the strike day. Newton St. Cyres was not affected by any teachers striking and was able to open fully, minimising the impact on children's learning.

Exe Valley Federation – Significant Developments

During the 2022/2023 year, the EVF has been working in a management partnership with Whimple Primary School. This arrangement was setup to support them in differing areas across the school. Their staff were able to work alongside EVF staff; attending leadership and year group days as well as working collaboratively with the English and Maths lead teachers. Carole Shilston the Head of School as also attended all of the leadership days alongside the SLT. In May, the governing boards voted unanimously to accept Whimple into the federation which will commence in September 2023. This will take the Exe Valley Federation up to 7 schools.

Residential visits

The first two residential visits of the year have taken place in the reporting period. Year 5 went to Bristol and Bath and visited the Roman Baths, SS Great Britain and The Wild Place [the new site for Bristol Zoo] as well as watching the musical 'The King and I'. Year 5s from Whimble joined the performance at the Hippodrome. Several members of the public commented on how well the children behaved during the performance and how engaged they were with what they saw.

The Year 3s and 4s were taken to Okehampton YHA for the first three days of the summer term. In a change to the normal pattern, three classes of mixed Year 3 and 4s went for Monday night and were replaced by the children from the other three schools on the second night. The activities organised by the YHA staff included low ropes, archery and climbing and were supplemented by evening activities organised by the school staff team.

Federation Review

Every year the federation commissions an independent review, which has been led by Neil Swait (Ofsted registered HMI) for the last couple of years. Last year's review gave us a comprehensive view of the federation's work through discussions with senior leaders and governors. However, this was limited by not being able to triangulate evidence by visiting classrooms and talking to children. This year, we have altered the format of the review so that we can gain more insights into the way the curriculum is meeting the needs of children in different schools, as well as interviews with lead teachers and governors. This year's review will be conducted by Brad Murray and Tina Jackson. Due to industrial action in other federation schools, the federation review has been moved to 21st and 22nd June, with the following aims:

- To give the Federation Leadership Team and governors the opportunity to review school improvement since the last Review with an impartial external adviser. This will enable leaders and governors to triangulate their self-evaluation with that of the adviser and provide appropriate support and challenge to leaders in improving outcomes for every child in the Exe Valley Federation.
- To prepare for forthcoming Ofsted inspections by focusing on the federation's vision for the curriculum and progress towards meeting the Ofsted criteria for the Quality of Education
- To demonstrate the federation's focus on system leadership and equipping future leaders to work in the federation and beyond.

The Curriculum and its Development

Curriculum development at Newton St. Cyres continues to be a priority and there have been significant advancements this year.

Curriculum Vision

- The Exe Valley Federation's vision is that children will flourish in a creative and caring environment.
- Children who are safe, happy and cared for learn best and that their emotional well-being is every bit as important as their learning.
- The curriculum is designed to be ambitious and expects that every child will be the best that they can be, regardless of their starting points in life.

Curriculum Intent

- Leaders have constructed a broad and balanced curriculum that is ambitious, inclusive and coherently planned. It has been carefully designed to ensure broad and balanced coverage of the full National Curriculum.
- In line with the EVF vision statement, the school aims to provide a creative and caring environment in which all pupils are engaged, curious and aspirational in their learning. The school endeavours to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need for the next stage in their learning, and to play their part as active global citizens.

Curriculum Implementation

- The curriculum is organised into half termly topics (which alternate between a history or geography driver) with explicit links being made to prior learning.
- There are 'golden threads' of learning throughout the history, geography and science curriculum, which ensure that key concepts, knowledge and skills are revisited and built upon as the children progress through the school.
- The EVF has devised a programme of subject development to ensure that planning, pedagogy, subject knowledge and implementation of each subject is robust and embedded. During the last academic year this has focused on Geography, Science and PE, building on the previous year's work on Art and PSHE. This term the focus is D&T and there have already been staff meetings hosted across the federation.
- A new assessment system has been devised to track the 'Notice and Focus' children and children working at a greater depth in wider curriculum subjects. This system has just been implemented in school.
- Regular staff meetings and staff development days are led by Curriculum Lead Teachers and other high quality CPD input, such as the National College.
- Teachers have access to a wide range of schemes and resources which support planning and resourcing and have a positive impact on teacher workload. These also support teacher subject and pedagogical knowledge.
- Teachers check pupils' understanding systematically, identify misconceptions and provide clear, direct feedback.
- Teachers are developing retrieval practice strategies to ensure that children know and remember more. Recent CPD completed by all teaching staff has focused on long term memory development. Staff deploy different methods for different subjects and are developing new systems to check children's understanding.
- The teaching of reading is prioritised as it is believed this is the gateway to the entire curriculum. This starts with the very youngest children and is developed throughout the school. A new systematic synthetic phonics programme (Little Wandle Letters and Sounds) was fully implemented at the start of the Autumn term 2022. Children who require further phonics support beyond Year 1 receive the Little Wandle Rapid Catch-up intervention. Beyond decodables, pupils are benchmarked as required and the school has a wide range of reading books to bridge the gap. Story-time, Reading Buddies and Reading for Pleasure are prioritised on class timetables.
- Children with SEND are well-supported across the curriculum. This is through a range of strategies, such as additional adult support, specific interventions, modified resources, levels of challenge, differentiation by outcome and alternative methods of recording.

Curriculum Impact

- Pupils are ready for the next stage in learning because they attain well in core subjects and gain good basic skills.
- Pupils develop a good understanding of difference within our communities and show respect and consideration for others. Our pupils are highly motivated, enthusiastic and confident learners who work well together.
- Pupils with SEND achieve the best possible outcomes.

- Pupils read widely and often, with fluency and comprehension relevant to age. The newly adopted systematic synthetic phonics programme is having a significant impact on phonics knowledge and fluency of reading.
- A love of reading is evident throughout the school.

We look forward to ending this year as positively as possible and looking ahead to another fantastic year in 2023/2024.

JAMES DURWARD-AKHURST
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER- EXE VALLEY FEDERATION
HEAD OF SCHOOL- NEWTON ST. CYRES

10. Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Annual Report 2022-2023

This is based on the formal Annual Report to the Charity Commission which can be made available if required.

Trustees: N. Baker, R Chambers, R. Furniss, M. Long, L. Mitchell, J. Salter, P. Watts – Mary Long resigned at the AGM in April 2023

Objects of Charity: The provision and maintenance of a village hall for the inhabitants of the Parish of Newton St Cyres without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

Organisational Structure: The business of the Charity is organised through the Committee of Management, comprising the Trustees and other elected or co-opted members. The Church and the Parish Council both nominate Committee Members. The Church nominee is Nicola Baker, and Gina Quicke was the Parish Council nominee – we are awaiting the new nominee following Gina's resignation from the Parish Council.

Review of Activities: The legacy of the covid pandemic continued to affect the operation and use of the Hall but the level of use started to recover and all restrictions were lifted on 1 March 2022 although disinfection facilities continued to be made available.

Organisational and operational aspects

At the 2023 AGM the following officers were elected: Roger Furniss (Chairman), Gina Quicke (Vice-Chair), Rosemary Chambers (Minutes Secretary), Peter Watts (Treasurer and Bookings Secretary).

Sandy Fleming was elected President and Roger Wilkins Vice-President. Nicola Baker (Church Nominee), Julie Furniss, John Salter and Lorraine Mitchell were elected to the Management Committee.

The Management Committee met four times during the year. A group with representatives from the Hall and from the Parish Council oversee the management of the Car Park and met on one occasion.

To spread the work load individual members of the Management Committee each now has responsibility for one area of management of the Hall, a new arrangement which is working well. Our Caretaker Kamil Ceglak, operating as a self-employed contractor does an excellent job.

Bookings

There were 414 bookings during the year compared with 166 in 2021/22, demonstrating the recovery following the covid pandemic.

Hall improvement

With the exception of routine maintenance no major improvements were planned given the need to preserve the financial position. Using the joint Hall/Parish Council Fund the car park benefitted from sealing of cracks, relining of spaces and provision of two disabled parking spaces

Public benefit: The Trustees continue to comply with their duties to have due regard to the guidance provided by the Charity Commission on public benefit. A range of different organisations catering for different sections of our community uses the Hall and bookings for family parties have increased.

The outreach Post Office Service provided from Stoke Canon twice a week continued to provide a valued service to the community.

Two new hirings were especially useful to the community: twice-weekly hot lunches at low cost provided by the Adonai Kitchen (Jocelyn Whittaker and her volunteer team) and a once-weekly Warm Space.

Risk assessment and policy on reserves: We continued our policy to maintain reserves of at least £10,000 and the accounts show compliance with an overall positive balance of £26,620. With annual expenditure of circa £11,000 the extremely unlikely event of a year with no income would still leave a healthy balance

Accounts: The Income and Expenditure Accounts have been examined and approved by an Independent Accounts Examiner.

Overall income exceeded expenses by £443.

A sixth annual payment of £750 was made into a fund held by the Parish Council to cover the costs of periodic re-surfacing the car park or other major repairs, with both the Hall and the Parish Council contributing £750 annually.

Roger Furniss, Chairman – 14 May 2023

11. Newton St Cyres Recreation Ground Club Annual Report 2022-2023

The year from April 2022 to March 2023 saw activity at the Recreation Ground return to levels that were more usual prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the first lockdown in March 2020.

The associated sports clubs, football, cricket, tennis, and archery were all busy, with Saturdays during the winter busy with football, cricket on midweek evenings during the summer, archery happening on its ad-hoc basis and tennis taking place all year round.

Other events taking place were the 5 a-side football tournaments for both senior and junior teams, which brought in a large amount of people. There were also some occasional events, parties, and celebrations etc and the annual firework display for the local community.

Financially the club continues to operate at a small surplus. However, we are wary of the increased prices that are having to be managed from suppliers, the significant increases in electricity and gas prices, along with the costs of maintaining and repairing the equipment which is vital for the maintenance of good sporting facilities.

Another item that we are acutely aware of is the lease for the ground with the Church Commissioners which runs until 2030. This lease began in 2005 and there is clearly the chance of a large increase to come if and when this is renewed. Whilst this may seem some time away, this will soon pass, and the relatively short term left on the lease makes the sourcing of grant funding for all of the related clubs more difficult to achieve. The initial stages of looking into the renewal of the lease have begun. When there is more information available on the progress of this, we will report back to the Parish Council. In the meantime, any support you can provide to the Recreation Ground Club would be most helpful and welcome.

Going forward the club wants to consolidate its use by the various sports clubs but would also like to increase its use by the local community. Whilst the club's foundation and background is from a sports perspective the committee is aware of the great local asset we have and the possibility of it being used for other activities, which can be available to a broader section of the community. A good example of this is the Rec being used to host an event for the forthcoming music festival.

The committee of the Rec continue to work hard to maintain and improve on the facility much of which needs the commitment of a significant amount of time by a small number of people. Without that commitment the Rec could not continue to function.

Finally, a thank you to the Parish Council for its support during the last few difficult years and in the future.

Dave Harris
Rec Club Treasurer

12. Churchwarden's report for 2022/23

We have moved slowly forward in the church this last year, following the disruption of covid. We have not wanted to go back to where we were, hoping that we could move forward into new areas, drawing people in to know the love of God. It is difficult to know what is wanted. We did try a questionnaire, but the response was poor, and it would appear that people like the idea of some things, but then don't actually support them, so where to go?

Any suggestions, help and support would be greatly appreciated.

Tim and Mary have had a busy time settling in, getting to know everyone, and supporting us in all we do. We are so blessed with their presence.

Holy Communion services are well attended once a month in Newton church, and we have also had a few baptisms and weddings, with more weddings to come this year.

The coffee and chat held in the church on the first Sunday on alternate months has attracted a small number of people, and Lego club which was started in November started well, and then the enthusiasm seemed to wain. However, it re opened in February, and attracted many parents and children, and would seem to be much enjoyed, with a happy atmosphere with everyone working together. Thank you to Tim and Mary for all their support.

Our MC Services when there is a fifth Sunday in the month have taken on a new and exciting difference thanks to Tim's originality. It is a special time that we can all share together.

As usual, we much appreciate Andrew's lovely music, and his support for all we do.

My great thanks go to Pita Burt who enthusiastically supports the church in many ways as well as so ably overseeing the Churchyard, and the wilding project.

The small food bank in the church porch has been used frequently, in fact it is difficult to keep pace restocking it. Any contributions will be well received; please leave them in the porch.

Thank you to everyone who helps to make the church look cared for and to those who read, write Intercessions and serve as sidespersons. You are a very valuable contribution to our church. Special thanks to Tony Lane for his continuing tussle with the boiler, and for the many other jobs that he quietly does.

Many meeting groups have now ceased. We no longer have bible study, or evening prayer on a Thursday, but Tim frequently says morning prayer in the church, and all are welcome to attend. The dates are on the notice board in the porch.

The Christmas and Lent conversations have been a joy, and a wonderful time to share our thoughts and ideas with one another.

As a church we try to continue spreading God's word, and serving the people of Devon with joy.

Sue Browne, Churchwarden

Thank you for reading and we hope to see you at a
community event in the near future!

Newton St Cyres Parish Council