

# Newton Matters!

July 2020



The Newsletter of The Newton on Ouse Parish Council

Visit the website on: [www.newtononouse.org](http://www.newtononouse.org)

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

'The Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens opens with the line, 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times', and these words seem to catch where we are at the moment. It is hard to recall that at the Parish Council meeting in February our concerns were the floods and the persistent rain; sandbags were available in Easingwold we were told. And now, just a few months later, we face another natural disaster; we can't just call for sandbags this time. But

what has happened in Newton on Ouse has been remarkable. I can't remember a time when it felt that we live in one community, supporting and helping each other, as much as in recent months. The glorious weather and that community spirit were wonderfully on show on VE Day, and I'm pleased that the memorial benches by the Cairn on Back Lane have been much admired. It has also been heartening to hear of all the shopping runs undertaken, the prescriptions

collected, the phone calls to neighbours made, fish and chips from the Blacksmith's and takeaways from the Dawnay. My grateful thanks, on behalf of the Parish Council, to everyone. Please carry on with it! Charles Dickens went on to say, 'it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope...' The birds are singing, the flowers and gardens look wonderful, walks along the river are a delight, our dogs have never been fitter, so let's go with the spring of hope. Best wishes and stay safe.

Tim Key Chair, Newton on Ouse Parish Council

## NEW WEBSITE

Many of you will have noticed that we now have a new village web site. This is very kindly due to Nick Shepherd who has used his expertise and given his time, free of charge, to design it, and get it up and running. Thank you very much Nick. To see the latest local news and information, visit the website on:

[www.newtononouse.org](http://www.newtononouse.org)

## COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES

Two new benches have been sited at the Cairn to commemorate all those who have served at RAF Linton-on-Ouse, including members of the Canadian Air Force who were stationed there during the second world war. We would like to thank the Station Commander, Wg Cdr Newbould, for the generous contribution towards the cost of these benches which will serve as a reminder of the close association that we have enjoyed with the Royal Air Force for so many years. We informed the commander of 426 Squadron in Canada

and here is his reply: "Thank you very much for your note, and the photos. The benches are a fantastic addition to the LW598 memorial. I have attended two ceremonies to commemorate the crew of LW598 and would very much like to visit again. I

will bring the installation of the benches to the attention of the 426 Sqn Association members, and the command team of the active sqn. I hope you and your loved ones are hale and hearty during this time."



## A TRIBUTE TO CHRIS ROOKE



It was with great sadness that on 9th March we said an emotional farewell to Chris Rooke who passed away on 18th February. Chris was a Newton lad through and through. Brought up in the centre of the village, as a boy he would be seen following his father to the fields to check on the crops or cattle. He decided from a very early age that he wanted to follow the generations before him and become a farmer. He was soon showing his own beasts at the Great Yorkshire

Show and rapidly gained the expertise to become a judge. His knowledge grew and he was regularly called upon to travel the length and breadth of the country sharing his expertise with established farmers, and lecturing college and school students in the art of agriculture and livestock management. He was never happier than when helping others and every weekend he would be assisting at some local event, village gala, or school fete, showing and explaining

the mechanics of farm machinery or manning a spit roast to feed the hungry masses. He justifiably felt immensely proud when he was elected as a District Councillor for Hambleton, where he truly felt able to serve the community he loved so much. It was very fitting then that his funeral service was held at his farm, on the land that he cared for so dearly all his life. He will be greatly missed.

## VE Day In Pictures

The sun shone, we remembered, we sang, we raised a toast, we danced, we shared a laugh with our friends and neighbours, we had a picnic and enjoyed a beautiful day – all socially distanced of course. What more need we say except thank you to everyone who made it possible.



## Parish Hall and Playing Field News

It has been a strange few months starting with having to lock the gates to the children's play area and put up signs saying the Playing Fields are closed. Nevertheless, the grass continues to grow, and the equipment needs to be maintained, so many thanks to Happy Bainbridge and Mick Rawlings for their support in keeping it tended and in perfect order. Sadly, our new initiative - Sunday Street Food which was planned to launch in May has been postponed. Hopefully, the glimmer of hope emerging over recent days as lockdown begins to ease

will continue to grow. We are pleased to see limited activity returning to the field but please follow Government advice.

Sadly, all events planned for the spring and summer in the Parish Hall have also had to be cancelled, but when restrictions ease, we will swing into action once again. Fortunately, we were successful in obtaining a small business grant from Hambleton District Council, ensuring that we will not have to spend any of the money that has been set aside for the future of parish hall.

## Church Matters

Despite the lockdown, All Saints continued to be busy. Services have continued with a weekly 10.00am Benefice service on Sundays (and feast days) live-streamed from the Holy Evangelists Facebook page. Neighbouring communities have joined us online, and several people who are no longer able to attend church in person have been able to participate in these virtual services, to which everyone is welcome. Many thanks to the amazing group of sewers who supported the church 'Love Your Neighbour' project, supplying 212 scrub bags and 154 facemask-extendors to the staff at all our neighbouring surgeries, care homes and hospitals, and coronavirus wards at York Hospital. Well done ladies!

## NEW COUNCILLORS

We would like to welcome two newly appointed councillors to the Parish Council.



Shirley Hames has lived in the village for over five years with her husband Chris, a cat and four rabbits! She loves living in, and being part of such a welcoming sociable community, and so is excited to become a Parish Councillor and to represent this community she feels very much a part of. Shirley is also on the Parish Hall committee, helping to organise the Fund raising and social activities. She also volunteers for Age U.K. working with their 'Keep your pet' scheme. Her 'day' job is in the travel industry, taking escorted tours around Europe and beyond.



Graeme Callister lives in the village with his wife Rachael and their Labrador pup Locksley. He is a Senior Lecturer in History at York St John University, enjoys sports (watching more than playing these days!), literature, and walking in the wonderful Yorkshire countryside. He has been enormously heartened to see the togetherness and willingness to help each other shown by everyone during the recent emergency. It just goes to show the strength of community spirit in the village, and why he is looking forward to taking his place on the Parish Council.



Restoration work has now resumed. Replastering is complete and the whole interior is currently being repainted. The new heating system is out to tender and we're happy to report that the church clock is working, and the bells are now ringing again. The three bells will sound out for Sunday services, weddings and funerals. Bell practice will be for half an hour on Tuesday afternoons, but if this will cause issues for anyone (e.g. anyone working nights and sleeping by day) please call 01347 848446. The PCC thanks everyone for their patience and understanding while the church is restored to a high standard and assure you that the church will be reopened once the major work is complete and the lockdown restrictions lifted. We wish everyone in the community a peaceful and healthy summer and look forward to welcoming you back to our village church soon.

## --- DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ---

Thursday 2 July at 7.30pm: Parish Council Meeting (virtual meeting via Zoom)

If you would like to join the village contact list, or if you have an issue that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, please email Karen Morris at: [karenmorriscp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:karenmorriscp@hotmail.co.uk)

### ALLOTMENT NEWS:

In the absence of an open day this year we shall be setting up a produce stall at the junction of Back Lane & Bravener Court on the following dates: Saturday & Sunday 18/19 July and 15/16 August 10.00am – 4.00pm

Your Parish Council: Chair Tim Key 844036; Clerk Karen Morris 848396; Graeme Callister 07518345717; Sue Chadwick 848476; Shirley Hames 848617; Fiona Laycock 848138; Glenda Turnbull 848423

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