

Published by Newton Village Hall Management Committee and delivered to every home in the Parish of Newton

New Year, New Look

As we start another year we've made some changes to the design and layout of the newsletter to enable us to squeeze in more information about the superb selection of community activities taking place in the village this year.

Looking back, December is always a busy month in the Village Hall and last year was no exception, with Christmas parties and other celebrations for all of our regular users. Our own Children's Party was another great success, thanks to all the parents and children who supported it and the team of volunteers who make it all happen. We sang Carols Round the Christmas Tree with a crowd of hardy souls who braved a chilly evening, fortified by seasonal refreshments. With the Hall decorated inside and out, we hope we added a little seasonal cheer to the village.

Our thoughts now turn to Village Fete, with three fund raising events in the pipeline, starting next week, details of which are shown below and overleaf. Please support these events. Without your money, there will be no Fete.

The same can be said of the Village Hall. The monthly Soup & Sandwich Lunches, Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Teas offer first class catering and a warm and friendly welcome. They also raise vital funds to pay for the upkeep of the Hall. Village halls are the lifeblood of their communities, but they are in danger of becoming an expensive luxury. Please join in the fun and do your bit to support us.

Finally, the Gardening Club and Ladies Club have finalised their programmes for the year and the Bowls Club are opening their doors for new members ahead of the start of the new season. With so much going on in the village, there really is no excuse for staying at home. Come and join us!

Afternoon Teas

Thursdays 25th February,

24th March, 28th April

2.30 to 4.30

Freshly baked scones, homemade jam and whipped cream with a selection of teas or coffee

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

Thursdays

3rd March and 7th April

12.30 to 2.30

A choice of two delicious homemade soups and several sandwich fillings

To book your place, please telephone Margaret on 870083

Coffee Mornings

Thursdays 10th March,

14th April, 12th May

10.30 to 12.30

A selection of homemade cakes and biscuits with freshly percolated coffee or tea

English Puddings Through The Ages

A Cookery Demonstration and Tasting
with Alison Sloan



Thursday 18th February

7.15 for 7.30 in the Village Hall

Tickets £5 from Pat 870271 or Di 870857
in aid of ye Village Fete

Newton Parish Council

Meetings - The next Council meeting, the Parish Assembly, will take place on Monday 7th March at 7pm in the Village Hall. Residents are invited to attend at 7pm with any queries they may wish to discuss with the Councillors.

The Parish Council will be introducing a short Public Forum at the commencement of each Council meeting in future, enabling residents the opportunity to discuss any concerns that may arise.

Street Lighting - The Parish Council has been informed that following a survey of the street lighting, thirteen lights are in need of upgrading with a completion date of two years. The cost is estimated to be up to £13,200 with a financial contribution of £1,662 from Fenland District Council leaving as much as £11,538 to be funded by the Parish Council. This survey has taken place in a number of parishes and is not included within the government initiative that has replaced the street lighting across the towns. Two lights have already been replaced and a further six will be renewed in the coming weeks. By negotiating discounts, we are doing all we can to reduce the cost to you, the Council Tax payers.

Highways - We are awaiting the outcome of a bid to repair part of a footpath on the High Road at the cost of £11,500 with a contribution from our Parish of £1,500

Village Name - We have also put in motion plans to change the name of the village back to Newton-in-the-Isle and we are awaiting the outcome.

Further dates for Parish Council meetings are Monday 9th May (AGM) at 7pm.

Any other information can be found on the Parish Council notice board on the High Road or on the Newton website.

In January, regrettably after a short illness, Neville Johnson, our local landlord at the Woadman's Arms and a committed past member of the Parish Council for well over 30 years, passed away.

Newton Village Fete

Roll up, roll up! Step right up as the Circus comes to Newton! Join us for the greatest show on earth as we celebrate the excitement of the circus at this year's Village Fete. Marvel at the skills of our amazing performers, then show us what you can do under expert guidance in our have-a-go area. Visit all the usual sideshows and more; there's something for everybody, young and old. The Fete takes place on Saturday 25th June, so put the date in your diary today.

But first, we need to raise the money to pay for it! Come and support our **English Puddings Through the Ages** baking demonstration with Alison Sloan next Thursday, 18th February. Taste your way through hundreds of years of culinary treats. History lessons were never this good in your schooldays.

Come to our **Open Meeting and AGM** on Thursday 25th February at 7.00 in the Village Hall to hear about our plans and share your ideas for a bigger and better Fete. Find out how you could be involved as a volunteer on the day or behind the scenes between now and June.

Learn about the **History of Wisbech Castle** and the role it has played in the life of our community as Geoff Wilkinson shares his immense knowledge of the current Castle, its predecessors and the people who have lived there. This talk will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 10th March and tickets, priced at £5, are available from Geoff and Pat on 870271.

Finally, please support our **Car Boot Sale & Fun Dog Show** on Saturday May 7th on the Playing Field. Sellers from £5 for a car to £10 for a large van. Free admission for buyers. Hot and cold refreshments available. All our usual fun classes in the Dog Show, with prizes for best in class and best in show. Make a day of it and join in the fun!

For details of all of these events, see the Bridge magazine, the village website and the Parish Council notice board or contact Geoff and Pat on 870271.

Newton-in the Isle Village Plan

The members of the Village Plan Steering Group have been busy analysing the responses received from the survey and a summary of the findings is included in the leaflet enclosed with this newsletter. There is much work still to be done before the final report can be produced, but the Parish Council and other contributing organisations have already started to act on the information received.

Look out for announcements in the Bridge magazine, on the village website and the Parish Council notice board and read a more comprehensive update on the Village Plan in the May edition of this newsletter.

Newton Street Pride - Litter Pick

WISHING THE RESIDENTS OF NEWTON A VERY "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Why not walk off the excesses of all that Christmas cheer while helping to keep Newton
LITTER FREE!

Join our group of friendly volunteers
for the monthly Litter Pick.

Children are welcome - accompanied
by an adult if under 16.

All necessary equipment will be provided,
but please wear sensible footwear
and wrap up warm.

**Weather permitting we will meet
outside the Village Hall at 10.30am
on the following dates:**

Sunday 14th February

Sunday 6th March

'Clean for the Queen' campaign

Sunday 17th April

**For more information about Street Pride
visit www.newtonintheisle.org.uk
or contact Dee Markham 01945 871158
or Sam Clark 07887 485795**

Leverington Village Hall

Registered Charity 1143435

Come to Leverington Village Hall on the
third Thursday of every month for a cup of
coffee and a delicious homemade cake.

10.00 to 12.30

FEBRUARY 18th

MARCH 17th

APRIL 21st

MAY 19th

Can You Help?

Are you a competent piano, organ or keyboard player?

Do you enjoy sharing music with other people?

Would you be interested in playing for
a local music project?

If the answer to these three questions is YES,
please contact Dave on 870083 to find out more.



St James' Church



St. James' Church was very well supported for the Christmas Carol Service on 20th December. Colourful flowers decorated the church to add to the spiritual atmosphere of worship, prayer and rousing carols. This was followed by a festive drink and mince pies. Many thanks to all concerned.

The collection of £178.61 was donated to Christian Aid, Refugee Crisis Appeal. The PCC would like to thank you for your generosity.

Celebrate

Mothers' Sunday

at St. James' Newton on 6th March 9.00am

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday March 20th 9.00am Newton

Maundy Thursday March 24th 7.30pm Leverington

Good Friday March 25th 2.00pm Tydd St. Giles

Easter Eve March 26th 8.00pm TBC

Easter Day March 27th 8.00am Leverington

9.00am Newton

9.30am Leverington

11.15am Tydd St. Giles

Services at St James' are usually at 9.00am on the first three Sundays of each month, further details can be found in The Bridge magazine or at www.newtonintheisle.org.uk

You are welcome to join us in our worship

Newton Village Welcome Packs

Our ever-popular Welcome Packs provide essential information about life in Newton for newcomers to the Parish.

If you have a new neighbour or know of someone moving into the Parish, please contact Wendy on 738521 or wendyful@talktalk.net to ensure that they receive one.

What's Happening?

One hundred and twenty people now receive a monthly e-mail with details of every community event in Newton.

If you're not one of them, visit the Parish Website at www.newtonintheisle.org.uk and sign up now.

Newton Village Gardening Club

Mary Larham of the Manea School of Gardening gave the club a very interesting talk at the November meeting. She began by explaining how the school was launched to fill a niche left by the local colleges, how it is affiliated with the RHS, and the work it does in encouraging youngsters to take up gardening as a hobby, career or way of life. The second half of the talk was in the form of a quiz to demonstrate how many plants have been introduced since the ice age.

Lynn Wakefield also announced that the bookings were now closed for the Christmas party in December. John and Jackie Lawrence and Marian Sherry organised the refreshments, Shirley de-Groome organised the plant bring and buy and mug sales and John and Barbara Hobart organised the raffle in the absence of Morris Arnold.

The Christmas Party was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The same format as last year in operation. The buffet food was prepared by Lynn and Nigel Wakefield, Ken and Marian Sherry, John and Jackie Lawrence and Christine Buckley, wine and Doug's home made beer was on offer and the musical entertainment was from The Two Dollies, whilst Morris and Di Arnold ran the raffle.

The 2016 events programme is as follows:

- 28th February: annual AGM;
- 20th March: Mary Larham of Manea School of Gardening will be answering gardeners' questions. There will also be the results of the giant leek competition;
- 24th April: Seedling and plant auction;
- 22nd May: Outing to Priory Maze;
- 26th June: Visit to Mike Bedford's garden in Wisbech;
- 24th July: BBQ;
- 21st August: Outing to Bressingham Gardens;
- 25th September: Produce Competition;
- 23rd October: Talk on gardening in the shade by Geoff Hodge;
- 27th November: Talk on the propagating, growing and uses of herbs;
- 17th December: Christmas Party.

For more information regarding our future meetings and joining the club, please contact Shirley de-Groome 07811 997721 or shirley.degroome@btinternet.com



*A Fun New Sport
for All Ages!*

**Come and Try! Sundays 21st February and
10th April at 2.00 in the Village Hall**

Newton Bowls Club

We are already looking forward to the 2016 season.

The Village Plan Questionnaire indicated that there are many prospective bowlers out there. We would like to welcome you to our **Open Day** on

Sunday 24th April from 11.00 - 14.00.

Pop in to meet the members and try the game. Bowls will be provided, just come in flat shoes. Buffet lunch will also be available.

Tuesday 1st March (this date has changed) - AGM 19.00 for 19.30 in the Bowls Pavilion, behind the Village Hall. We would be pleased to welcome new members at this meeting.

Friday 11th March - Easter Bingo - 19.00 for 19.30 start in the Village Hall. Excellent prizes, Raffle and refreshments available. Please come and support us.

Newton Ladies Club

Members of the Ladies Club enjoyed a Christmas Meal at The Blacksmith's Arms, Elm, complete with hilarious party games organised by the Committee. Ignoring their New Year's resolutions, they tucked into Coffee and Cake in January.

In March they have another in their popular series of Flower Arrangement demonstrations. April's meeting is the traditional Fish Supper and AGM.

The Ladies Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30. For details of their interesting and varied programme of activities, please contact Steph on 870096.

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No 274101

A perfect venue at an affordable price.

Facilities include:

Fully equipped kitchen - Secure grassed garden area
Accommodation for 100 standing or 80 seated
Easy access for disabled visitors

Hire charges:

Meetings from £20, all day rate £75
Private parties for children £30* - adults/evening £50*
Fundraising events £30*
(*Up to 4 hours duration, incl set-up)

**To book the hall for your event call 870289 or e-mail
bookings@newtonvillagehall.org.uk
www.newtonvillagehall.org.uk**

Newton Village Hall
Registered Charity No 274101

For up-to-date details of events and activities in the Village see the What's On page of the village website
www.newtonintheisle.org.uk

Publications

The subscribed Bridge magazine is read by 171 people with 128 expressing satisfaction and the free Village Hall Newsletter by 277 with 214 expressing satisfaction.

Only 87 respondents visited the village web site, with 63 finding it satisfactory or better as a means of communication.

A number of residents added their email address for direct communication of village news and information

Young People

Over 50 responses by young people for activities during school holidays will be passed to relevant organisations.

Volunteering

Of all respondents, around 45 offered their services as volunteers for Streetpride and 27 to help run other community activities.



Volunteer Now!

Streetpride

Contact: Dee Markham 01945 841158
streetpride@newtonintheisle.org.uk

Friends of St James

Contact David Smith 01945 870909
davidsmith@croftgrange.co.uk

Village Hall

Contact Dave Gibbs 01945 870083
dave@newtonvillagehall.org.uk

Village Fete

Contact Geoff Wilkinson 01945 870271
pat.geoffwilkinson@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council

Contact Clerk 01945 870271
parishclerk@newtonintheisle.org.uk

Bowls Club

Contact Jill Nursey 01945 871033
member@newton-wisbech.freeserve.co.uk

Gardening Club

Contact Shirley de Groome 01945 870060
shirley.degroome@btinternet.com

Ladies Club

Contact Steph Sands 01945 870096
stephsands@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Church

Contact sandra.gardner@ely.anglican.org



Find us on facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
groups/425942004275448/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/425942004275448/)



Your village Your views Your future



Thank you very much...

...for an excellent response to our survey, 56% of households completed our form with 351 individual responses.

The survey was devised and conducted by independent volunteers to gather information about how the village feels and set future priorities for presentation to the relevant authorities.

This summary does not include responses to all the questions, a full report will be published in due course.

Living in Newton

Most people (217) have a satisfactory or good experience of living in our village and a similar number of people (263) felt safe or very safe living here.

A massive majority (272) opted to change the name of the village to Newton in the Isle, this is in the process of being implemented.

Many people were happy with the cleanliness of the village (210) with most aware of Streetpride.

On the issue of dog fouling, surprisingly those who thought it a problem were only marginally outvoted by those who saw no problem (181:160).

198 people would like the provision of more dog waste bins.

Most people (201) were happy with speed limits, but many commented that whilst limits were acceptable, too many motorists ignored them. Similarly 235 were happy with the provision of streetlights and 189 would support the idea for them to be switched off after midnight.

There was dissatisfaction generally with roads and pavements around 170 registering their thoughts, although verges and public footpaths fared rather better with a big majority having no strong feelings either way.

The village was split almost equally on the need for a spruce up, although a number of comments about the old school site were logged.

A huge proportion of respondents (295) were happy with postal deliveries.

Parish Council

Just under half of our respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the effectiveness of the Parish Council (136) and the way in which it communicated with them (105). A number (175) identified the need for additional notice boards.

A resounding approval for personal contributions towards a village based defibrillator (228) signals the go ahead for this project.

Growth and Development

188 opted to remain a small village whilst 127 preferred limited growth. 24 voted for a growth village.

Whilst 203 would prefer to see no more housing in the village, if development was to take place promotion of

starter homes (76) small family homes (124) and retirement properties (64) with 62 favouring larger home development.

A similar response to protection of the environment (237) and the possibility of 123 volunteers for environmental projects is a heartening response.

Village Amenities

You rated as important or very important, Playing Field (311), Post Office (287), Convenience Store (272), Village Pub (221), Mobile Library (180) and Phone Box (99).

The play equipment and allotment provision was considered to be adequate.

Village Hall

191 residents told us they visited the Village Hall and whilst a library (88) or computer facility (33) were not very popular, 130 people would like to see films at the Village Hall.

Parish Church and Bowls Club

All responses have been passed to those concerned.

