

## IN THIS ISSUE

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Fresh beginnings for council & museum as Newton's Place bursts into life this spring

PLUS:

### **INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

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### **MUSEUM NEWS**

Welcoming new arrivals and rediscovering some old friends

### **NEW DECADE, NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

High street retailers with 20:20 vision for the future!



THE NEWTON

Crier

SPRING 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL





## EDITOR'S NOTES

# Bright times ahead!

The sunny days of spring always bring with them a new wave of energy and enthusiasm for the months ahead and here at the town council offices, we're all looking forward to relocating to **Newton's Place** – the all-new home we'll be sharing with the town museum and the great people of Newton Abbot!

The whole project really is a fantastic boost for the town, providing smarter, more energy efficient civic offices, a brand new visitor attraction that also preserves a local landmark and its heritage, plus an amazing community space for everyone to enjoy – and, thanks largely to National Lottery Heritage Funding, implemented at no cost to the taxpayer.

With Easter only a few weeks away, there's also a full schedule of events planned in and around the town centre. Add further celebrations in May to commemorate the end of the Second World War in 1945, plus the annual Classic Vehicle Motor Show in the following month – not to mention regular Sunday band concerts – and there's absolutely no excuse for apathy amongst Newtonians!

Also in this issue, councillor Mike Joyce shares his experiences of working alongside the Police to develop a greater understanding of law-keeping logistics – all guaranteed 100% PC!

*Sam*

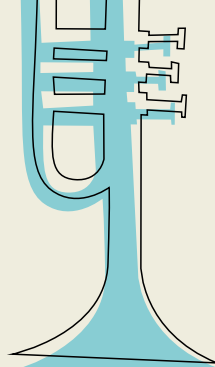
Samantha Scott, Deputy Town Clerk.

# Keep in touch

call us: 01626 201120 | email us: [info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

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## SUNDAY BAND CONCERTS 2020

All performances commence at 2.30pm at the Courtenay Park Bandstand.

In the event of wet weather, the venue will switch to St Paul's Church in Devon Square.

- ◆ 10th May – SOUTH WEST COMMS BAND
- ◆ 14th June – OKEHAMPTON EXCELSIOR SILVER BAND
- ◆ 5th July – EXETER RAILWAY BAND
- ◆ 12th July – CARNIVAL PRAISE  
*(in conjunction with Newton Abbot Carnival week)*
- ◆ 9th August – DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE CONCERT BAND
- ◆ 13th August – SPECTRUM MUSIC CONCERT BAND

**Thanks to our kind sponsors:**



# Carnival 2020

# WANTED! Carnival Queen & Attendants



**CROWNING OF THE CARNIVAL QUEEN**  
SAT 27TH JUNE!

For an further information and an application form, please call 01626 201120 or email [info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

All applications to be received by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, for the attention of Kelly Burridge.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Age limits: Queen 14–16; Attendants 11–14. All applicants must live within the boundaries of Newton Abbot and be available on the day of the carnival and other dates throughout June, July and August. Applicants will be invited to attend a **selection interview** on Saturday 25th April at Newton's Place, following which the new Queen and Attendants will be chosen.

# Newton Abbot Town Council Grant Awards 2019

Each year the town council allocates a figure in its budget to assist local organisations in the form of a grant, or financial assistance.

During 2019 Newton Abbot Town Council had the pleasure of supporting the following organisations:

- 1 **Newton Abbot Community Transport Association**
- 2 **Teignbridge Citizens Advice Bureau**
- 3 **Newton Abbot District Society of Arts**  
*(NADSA were unable to attend our presentation evening and requested that its grant cheque be formally received at one of the society's recent concerts)*
- 4 **Dyrons Journal Talking Newspaper**
- 5 **Newton Abbot and District Co-operative Allotments Association**
- 6 **Home-Start Teignbridge**
- 7 **All our grant recipients with the mayor, Richard Jenks**

If you are interested in learning more about our grants scheme, please contact Samantha Scott at the Town Hall on: 01626 201120 or via email: [info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)



# NEWTON'S PLACE

## Update

COMMUNITY | HERITAGE | TOWN

*Your town council is on the move: let's keep in touch!*

BY the time this edition of the Cryer hits the doormats, staff at Newton Abbot Town Council will be preparing for the opening of Newton's Place. This £2.2 million facility in the heart of town – funded at NO cost to tax payers – will deliver a new and much improved museum, community rooms and, of course, a more accessible base for your council.

Located in the former St Leonard's Church, Wolborough Street, we believe Newton's Place represents one of the greatest investments in the town's cultural scene for decades. Not only does the project save a dilapidated landmark building from speculative development, it signals the start of a new chapter in Newton Abbot's history.

We've already got one of the most popular and thriving town centres in the region – chatting to shoppers at our frequent street events confirms we're regularly drawing in people from across south Devon and beyond – and now for the first time we'll also be able to showcase properly our wonderful heritage.

Entry to the new museum will be free, and room-hire (although already very reasonable) will be discounted for local community groups and charities.

Expect in the coming months and years to see news of events and exhibitions, plus joint cultural ventures with library staff at the nearby Passmore Edwards Centre.

We've also the historic St Leonard's Tower in the same area, as well as the performance space at Golden Lion Square, so all in all we've a great future to look forward to in which our town centre becomes a great deal more than a great place to shop.



*Proposals for the interior space reveal exciting new interactive displays for the town's new museum*

## KEEPING YOU POSTED

Design proposals and  
architectural plans can be  
viewed on the project website:

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

TAKE A PEEK  
TODAY!

We expect Newton's Place to be open later this spring, but as with all major construction projects, putting an exact date in the calendar is tricky. Suffice to say we're working our socks off to ensure that contractors not only get the job done but that they deliver the highest quality product possible.

What we can't also predict precisely is when staff and members will leave the current town hall in Devon Square. Then there's the matter of allowing colleagues time to settle in to their new surroundings. But don't worry, because we've arranged things so that wherever we're operating from **OUR CONTACT DETAILS WILL REMAIN THE SAME.**

You'll still be able to call us on **01626 201120** and our email address of [info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk) will not be changed.

Our website – [www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk) – will remain live throughout, although for a while will offer only limited services until a new version is launched.

The only real (but very temporary) difference is that residents wanting face-to-face contact with staff or councillors will have to make an appointment beforehand. Simply call or email and we'll make every effort to meet at a convenient time and place.

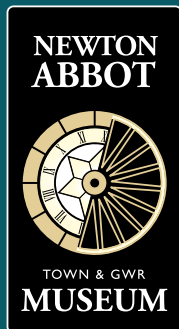
Town Clerk Phil Rowe explained: ***'It's very important that residents know how to get in touch with us as we begin the exciting move to Newton's Place. Initially the new building will not be open to the public and some council meetings will probably be held elsewhere in the town. We'll ensure that people are told where, well in advance, should they wish to attend.'***

***'We remain committed to throwing open the doors at Newton's Place as soon as possible and in the meantime will do everything in our power to ensure that it's business as usual for the residents of Newton Abbot.'***

Museum Curator Felicity Cole said: ***'To have a brand new facility we have designed ourselves and set within the historic setting of a Victorian church is just wonderful. We can't wait for the builders to finally move out and we look forward to welcoming everybody very soon now.'***

The museum's phone number of **01626 201121** also remains the same. For details visit [www.newtonspplace.org](http://www.newtonspplace.org).

*Newton's Place has been funded by the sale of the old town hall, a £950,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, awards from other organisations and individuals, plus receipts, (Community Infrastructure Levy) from developers building homes in the town.*



# Museum News

The museum world has changed considerably over the years. Once the word 'museum' conjured up images of showcases full of stuffed birds or ancient objects displayed in rigid rows; a great place for learning, but not much fun. Those days have long gone!

The new museum and community rooms will offer all sorts of new opportunities for visitors and the local community to enjoy temporary exhibitions, activities and workshops. Within the new museum each section will explain not only the amazing history of the area but will also have an activity for visitors and families to enjoy, with many walls and floors housing hidden objects behind 'peep-holes'. But we're not forgetting some of the 'old favourites' – the working signal box, for example, is a 'must' to experience in its new form!

Felicity Cole  
Museum Curator.



We recently asked our volunteers to provide us with a few words that summed up their experiences of volunteering with us – here's what they said

## NEW COMMUNITY EXHIBITION AREA WILL PROVIDE A SPACE FOR EVERYONE!

The first display in the community case will exhibit the 'People's Museum' created by the local community led by Kate Green, Community Officer.

This showcase will also be used to display objects that have been collected or inherited by local people. Many of you have interesting collections tucked away: some small, others large. Even if they are not particularly historic or valuable, all have a tale to tell, and we want to tell them.

Many people have fascinating collections and whether you are young or old, whether you collect valuable pottery, military medals or tiny trinkets, we would love to hear what inspired you to collect, and offer the opportunity to put some of your collection on display in the museum.

It could be just for a week or two, or longer, it is up to you.

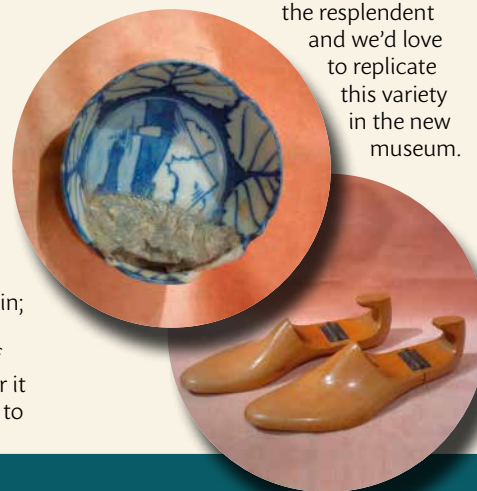
If you have a collection you'd like to share, please contact us on [museum@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](mailto:museum@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

**Your Space** is inspired by a small exhibition entitled **Every object tells a story** that was put on years ago in the 'old museum'. We appealed to the public to come forward with objects from home and it was amazing what the public brought in.

For two weeks the museum was home to: a brooch designed by the famous artist and art critic, John Ruskin; a pair of boot 'trees' originally owned by Leslie Hore-Belisha, the Minister of Transport (if the name sounds familiar it is because he added 'Belisha beacons' to

pedestrian crossings in 1934); and a small Japanese bowl picked up from Hiroshima.

This is just a tiny snapshot, they ranged from the humble to the resplendent and we'd love to replicate this variety in the new museum.



## Museum Volunteers

The museum volunteers have been doing a fantastic job on a weekly basis, getting the objects packed up and ready for the move. They have made great progress and have now documented, photographed and packed well over 100 boxes of objects and documents, as well packing up the collection of framed images.

Museum Assistant, Dr Charlotte Dixon says:

*"In the process we have seen some incredible objects relating to Newton Abbot, including a programme and invitation for the opening of the new station on the 11th April 1927.*



*It was then decided to redesign the station, the first stage, a new goods depot, opened in 1911 with the last stages completed in 1927 (there was a break during the war years).*

*Today we have seen a beautifully illustrated book, 'The British Workman' dated to 1875".*

Excitement is building as the opening of the new museum draws closer, new volunteers are coming forward almost every week to join the growing team.

## New venue for monthly talks

The Museum Friends meet once a month for a range of talks connected with the town or Devon's history. The entrance fee for the talks is £3:00, or, you can become a member for an annual fee of just £9:00! The talks have been held in the Town Hall previously but, owing to the museum moving to 'Newton's Place', the talks starting from 20th February, will be held in Room 1 & 1a at The Courtenay Centre, Kingsteignton Rd, Newton Abbot TQ12 2QA. There is plenty of parking and the talks start promptly at 7:15 followed by refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.

*The printed programme describes how 'the original Newton Abbot Station designed by Brunel was constructed by the South Devon Railway Company in 1846 and was passed into the possession of the Great Western Railway Company'.*



## NEW DONATIONS

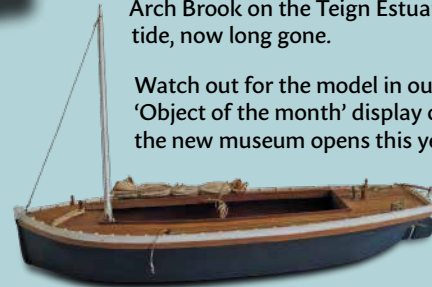
One of our recent donations is a beautifully crafted model of a Teign clay barge. Made by Mr Hodgkiss, a skilled maker of maritime models.

The model (pictured below) illustrates the type of barges that carried granite (from the Haytor quarry via the Stover Canal) and clay (from the local clay pits) to Teignmouth harbour to be shipped all over the world.

The barges were carried downstream aided by poles to push the barge along, and a simple square sail.

This model was based on drawings made by Eric Mckee of a barge that could once be seen at Arch Brook on the Teign Estuary at low tide, now long gone.

Watch out for the model in our 'Object of the month' display once the new museum opens this year!



## A SLICE OF HISTORY

Another recent donation has just arrived: this cake knife was used at fondly-remembered local café, *Madge Mellor's*. Made of Sheffield Steel, this hefty implement was loaned out to customers who ordered wedding cakes.

The local couple that gifted us with the knife, borrowed it for their nuptials in 1973 before returning it to the establishment for the next customer to use.

After *Madge Mellor's* closed its doors for the final time in the late 1980s, its contents were sent to auction. Over a decade after they cut the cake with it on their wedding day, the spouses decided to buy it back as a keepsake where it was kept safely at home (but never used) until the winter of 2019 when they very kindly decided to donate it to the museum.



# Christmas in Pictures

A reminder of some of the many colourful events that took place over the festive period!







Many thanks to everyone who made a contribution to the Christmas lights fund, especially our local businesses and educational institutions:

**South Devon College**

**Advertiser**  
MID-DEVON SERIES

**Passage House Hotel**

**Kitsons**  
the way solicitors should be

- BEKRA MODELS
- BLONDIES HAIR FASHIONS
- THE HUMBLE BARBER

**Teignbridge**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
South Devon

**NEWTON ABBOT**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**aaron**  
PRINTERS  
& Stationers

**magnus**  
dental practice

**CHARLES ROYLE**  
AND COMPANY  
Independent Financial Advisers

**INLINE**  
Design Studio

**Gunter WATCHMAKERS**

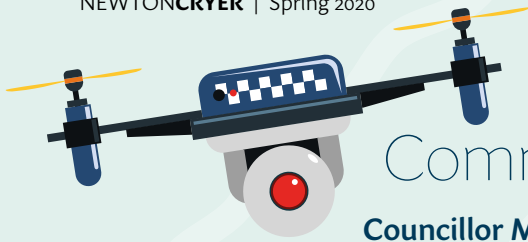
**AUSTINS**  
Department Store

**BILL**opticians  
optometrists contact lens practitioners

**Rupp & Fraser**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
& REGISTERED AUDITORS

**Albany Florists**

**FRAMES AND BOXES**  
FRAMING SINCE 1978



# Community Policing reaches new heights!

## Councillor Mike Joyce reports on the public benefits of the Police Advocate Scheme

**So, what is a Councillor Police Advocate? Well, it is not as many believe; a talking shop for councillors to air grievances or concerns about policing. It is, however, a portal to enable councillors to learn about all aspects of policing.**

Although still in its infancy, the scheme was designed to enable council representatives (from the county, district and town councils) to meet and learn from one another. In addition, advocates discover the challenges faced by the force, its operational methods, its successes and ways in which it can improve. Findings are then reported back to our respective councils.

At a recent advocate meeting we learnt about the increasing use of drones – the different types available, their uses and the ongoing training that must be undertaken by their operators. Yes, it is true, they are used to access areas in which normal policing is difficult: over tough terrain or in low-level light or darkness, because many of the drones in use have night vision and use a loudspeaker.

Advocates were shown a great example of a drone-led, night-time operation where the Police, in pursuit of an individual, had lost sight of their suspect in an area of thick undergrowth. Equipped with infra-red lighting and sensors, the drone was able to spot the hidden offender and then guide ground-based officers to the exact location. The detail captured by the drone's on-board video camera was excellent, right down to being able to see small animals scurrying around!

Police drones are also called on to assist the rescue services, such as the RNLI or Coastguard. Another example was given where a drone was flown around a steep cliff to locate a person who had slipped over the edge and couldn't be seen from above. As this drone was fitted with speakers and video surveillance kit, it enabled the injured person to be spoken to and reassured, in addition to relaying pictures of the area to those at the top, ensuring a safe rescue route could be devised.

Reports on rural crime are also shared with advocates, highlighting their particular challenges due to environmental obstacles. Such crimes can – and do – go unreported for many reasons. The police force are working to ensure that criminal activity in the countryside is treated with the same level of diligence as those in urban areas.

The impact of rural crime affects us all in the long-term. Loss of livestock reduces the availability of products; loss of machinery effects production of food products and, in turn, the efficiency of the production line.

A major concern for the under-reporting of rural crime is that it has knock-on effects. Because crime statistics affect funding centrally, any under-reporting may impact on attempts to obtain increased funding.

To address these issues, the Police Advocate Scheme is aiming for:

- ◆ An increase in publicity to encourage more and easier reporting of incidents.
- ◆ A drive to encourage a “see it and report” campaign.
- ◆ Further initiatives to get more equipment security marked; dashcams, (as well as vehicle and machinery tracking installed), either at point of manufacturing or afterwards. There is a considerable amount of expensive machinery out there in our countryside.

Another area into which we were given an insight was equestrian crime. Horses themselves are quite vulnerable to attack and often their tack is of great value as well. Those outside the equestrian world are probably unaware of the cost of the equipment – a saddle, for example, can cost in excess of £2000. With this in mind, owners are being encouraged to security-mark all their equipment.

Advocates, (through the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner) hold the constabulary to account – recently, we even had the opportunity to question the Chief Constable himself!

To recap; the advocates scheme is a work in progress, but it is making a positive difference and will continue to improve over time. It will, however, only reach its full potential if every council plays its part.

I am proud to be the Newton Town Council Advocate and to have been one of the scheme's leading lights.

*Mike*

Michael D Joyce  
Councillor for  
Bushell Ward



# Out and About

with **Sally Henley**, TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



People have been calling this new decade the 'Roaring Twenties' and I really like the idea of using this old nickname for an era which looks so very different from its 20th century counterpart but promises to be as exciting and as full of innovation!

Looking at Newton Abbot town centre, we have seen some changes over the last 12 months, which doesn't come as a huge surprise given the impact of Brexit, a general election and the influence of the online world. However, Newton Abbot has weathered these storms and I hope you agree that our town centre has shown real resilience over the last 12 months, with a still high occupancy rate and massive choice, particularly when it comes to hair, beauty and grooming services and our café, restaurant, pub and takeaway offer.

I was very sad when I learned that **Cross and Co**, one of our best loved independent businesses in East Street would be closing its doors, signifying the end of an era. The business and the owners and staff will be sorely missed. We have had to say goodbye to some other popular businesses too, but we have also welcomed new ones! This has been the story of town centres through the ages and the 'newbies' of today could well be the stalwarts of tomorrow. **The Green Room** is one of the new businesses, owned and run by a young couple, who are proud to say that they are Newton Abbot born and bred.

Whilst out and about with the deputy mayor Cllr Joyce in January, we were delighted to meet with Leah and Adam French and found theirs to be a truly inspirational story. The couple have put huge investment into their latest businesses and the result is a large, airy and stylish premises set within a heritage building. **The Green Room**, **The Studio** and **French Hair and Beauty** can be found

in Scott Close next to the Sainsbury's local in East Street. It may not be on your usual route, so do pop by!

In a more central location, just by the Clock Tower you will find **Faye's**. We were very sad, when Hettie hung up her scissors at **Hettie's Hairdos**, to embark upon a well-earned retirement, but her wonderful shop went into the imaginative hands of another young local entrepreneur, Faye, who has created a super contemporary hair salon, thus carrying on the tradition of stylish businesses around the Clock Tower.

Once a familiar face on the market in Courtenay Street, I was also delighted to welcome Derek back from 'retirement' to the town centre. Find him at his specialist bookshop **Westcountry Books** in Queen Street. Now is a great time for entrepreneurs to be considering a town centre presence as although it's still vital that this new government addresses the current outdated business rates system, there are excellent concessions available to those looking at smaller properties.

We have known about the importance of a shopping 'experience' long before this became a buzz word within the media, and I don't think you will be disappointed with all that we have lined up within the town this year. Starting with our Easter event, we plan to go right through to the end of December, with a jam-packed programme of events and town centre entertainment, with several new additions, so do check the 'What's-on' page on the town council website regularly, as we wouldn't want you to miss out.

*I look forward to seeing you in town!*

8<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY

## VE DAY

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe there will be a weekend of commemoration and celebration throughout the town.

### Friday 8th May

- ◆ Town Crier Cry, town centre
- ◆ Bell Ringing at local churches (7pm)

### Saturday 9th May, Courtenay Street, 10am-2pm

- ◆ Nostalgic songs from Sandy Sparkle
- ◆ Service at St Leonard's Clock Tower at midday, with a muffled bell peel before and after the service
- ◆ Bagpipe performance
- ◆ Royal British Legion information stand
- ◆ Free face-painting and balloons
- ◆ FREE 'hands on' children's activities from the Newton's Place team

### Sunday 10th May, Courtenay Park – optional fancy dress, 1940s theme! 2pm-5pm

- ◆ 'Party in the Park' band concert with SW Comms band
- ◆ Why not bring your own picnic?
- ◆ Free face painting & balloon modelling
- ◆ Complimentary cream teas from Christians Together
- ◆ Pimms tent



**Supported by Newton Abbot Town Council and the Newton Abbot branch of the Royal British Legion**



NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTS



# Classic Vehicle Motor Show

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



MID-DEVON  
**Advertiser**  
SERIES

Passage House Hotel

TOWN CENTRE • DTD  
SATURDAY  
**6th**  
JUNE  
LIVE MUSIC from SWERVY WORLD



9am – 4pm

For all exhibitor and general inquiries please contact  
**John Bartholomew** by telephone: 01803 392154  
or e-mail: [john-bartholomew@live.co.uk](mailto:john-bartholomew@live.co.uk)

NEWTON ABBOT TOWN CENTRE

# Easter

## EVENTS 2020

Saturday 11th April  
10am – 2pm

- FREE face painting & balloon magic in Courtenay Street
- FREE 'hands on' children's activities from the Newton's Place team
- FREE children's Easter crafting in Market Square
- FREE chocolate egg giveaway (while stocks last!)
- Meet Gary the Stagecoach rabbit and 'The Chef & The Egg' walkabout characters



Look out for an Easter hunt  
in the Market Hall during the Easter holidays!