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Eat, drink and be merry at this year's feast of Christmas events!

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EARNING A PLACE IN HISTORY

Official Arts Council recognition for Newton Abbot Museum

FAREWELL, YOUR MAJESTY

Townsfolk pay their respects



THE NEWTON

Crier

WINTER 2022

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL





EDITOR'S NOTES

Do I hear sleigh bells?

They may be very faint at the moment, but they're definitely heading this way – and we're gearing up to welcome the snowy season with another stocking-full of cracking Christmas events in and around the town centre. Full listings for this year's programme, starting with the lights switch-on (November 26th) can be found on the centre pages.

It's been a rather historic time for all of us since the publication of the previous edition of the Cryer; in that issue we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and in this one we mourn her passing. Several gatherings were held in September, providing us with the opportunity to pay our final respects to our longest-reigning monarch – and all were well attended by local councillors, dignitaries and members of the public.

In much brighter news, our fantastic museum has deservedly been awarded 'Accredited Museum' status by Arts Council England – a fitting reward for a tremendous team effort, led by curator Dr Charlotte Dixon and curatorial assistant Katie Petley-Jones over the past two years. Well done to everyone involved!

The town centre has been as lively as ever, with live music, street entertainment, traditional dancing and even a teddy bear hunt amongst the many events laid on over the last few months. Having bounced back from the gloomy days of the pandemic, community spirit in Newton Abbot has never been stronger!

Samantha Scott, Deputy Town Clerk.

Keep in touch

call us: 01626 201120 | email us: info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

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Potential life-saver on site

Bradley Community Centre in Bradley Barton, Newton Abbot, had a defibrillator installed on its building in August thanks to funds received from Devon County Councillor Phil Bullivant and Persimmon Homes' Community Champion Programme.

Bernard Saunders, chairman of Bradley Community Association, which heads up the centre, said: *'It's fantastic to have the defibrillator because there is no defibrillator on the left-hand side on Ashburton Road – the nearest ones to here are sited at The Highweek Inn and Newton's Place.'*

Louise Clark, sales adviser at Persimmon Homes, said:



'We do a lot for the local communities on different sites that we are located, which is really nice. I am a local girl, so it is nice to be on a site close to home.'

The defibrillator was supplied by Jay's Aim, a local charity, named after Jay, who suddenly passed away at the age of 28 from an undiagnosed cardiac condition. The target of the charity is to reduce the rate of sudden cardiac death among young people.

JAY'S AIM

Bernard Saunders and Louise Clark with the newly installed defibrillator at Bradley Community Centre



Look for those bear necessities...

A summer bear hunt trail in Newton Abbot has landed two lucky youngsters with goodie bags full of toys from the much-loved Austins Department Store.

The free six-week challenge was sponsored by the company and organised by Town Development Manager Sally Henley with support from staff at the museum and library. It encouraged children to track down a dozen letters of the alphabet secreted, along with cuddly teddy bears, at businesses across town.

Once all 12 had been located, the letters needed to be rearranged to spell the surname of famous naturalist, David Attenborough.

Correct entries were entered into a first-out-of-the-hat draw and the winners invited to collect their prizes from Austins on September 1st. The honours went to Aliza Williams of Kingsteignton and Lexi Noakes from Abbotskerswell, both aged five.

Aliza's dad, Ben, said: *'They had a lot of fun doing it over a few days, going all over the town getting very excited, and very excited to win too.'*

David Noakes, Lexi's dad, added: *'It was something different to do while in town and we weren't allowed to leave until Lexi had found every one of the hidden letters, so we only had one day to complete the challenge!'*

Delighted with the public's response to the trail with more than 100 completed entries, Sally Henley said: *'After the success of our Easter Lego Trail I was asked to put together something similar for the school summer holidays. At a time when money is tight for many households this was a bit of fun with no cost involved for hard pressed families.'*



'My thanks go to all the businesses which agreed to host a bear this summer and Austins came up trumps, as they always do, and provided our bear participants as well as the prizes, I'm so thankful.'

'I am also grateful to the team at the museum for putting together the entry form and preparing the bears, and to the museum and library for collecting completed entries.'

'I do hope that participants had as much fun completing the trail as I had putting it together.'

Pictured left are prize winners Aliza (left) and Lexi (right) along with (left to right): David Noakes, Sally Henley, Debbie Maloney (Austins), Matthew Lovell (Newton Abbot Library), museum curator Dr Charlotte Dixon and Ben Williams.

Remembrance at the War Memorial

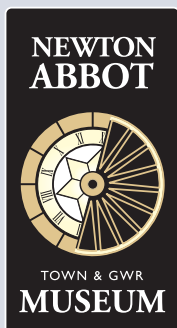
Sunday 13th November

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

Led by the Plymouth Maritime Corps of Drums, this year's parade will start from Courtenay Street at 10.30 am, continuing along Queen Street to the War Memorial where the service will commence at 10.45am.

We will, once again, be live streaming the service through our Facebook page so if anyone is unable to attend, they will still be able to view the event.





Museum News

WITH DR CHARLOTTE DIXON (CURATOR) AND KATIE PETLEY-JONES (CURATORIAL ASSISTANT)



This October marks two years since the museum first opened its doors to the public. While it wasn't quite the opening we were hoping for (we could only admit six visitors at a time due to the pandemic, before having to close at the end of the month in line with lockdown rules) we have since welcomed an incredible 15,387 visitors into the museum.

In 2022 alone we have welcomed nearly 10,000 visitors so far including 449 children on school and home education visits.

We would like to say an enormous 'thank you' to all our wonderful volunteers for all their hard work and support this year. Without this incredible team we simply wouldn't be able to open. If you are interested in volunteering at the museum or the fascinating medieval St Leonard's Tower, please do get in touch.

Official recognition!

We are delighted to announce that Newton Abbot Museum is now a fully accredited museum.

Interesting, I hear you say, but what does this mean?

Administered by Arts Council England on behalf of the UK Accreditation Partnership, Accreditation is the benchmark for well-run museums and galleries.

It means that Newton Abbot Museum is properly managed and governed to the nationally agreed industry standard and shows the museum takes proper care of its collections, sharing them with visitors and keeping them safe for future generations.

Liz Johnson, Director, Museums and Cultural Property at Arts Council England said:

"We're delighted that Newton Abbot Museum has been successful in gaining their Accreditation status. This means that their collections will be looked after and maintained offering inspiration, enjoyment and learning for the local community and visitors to enjoy now and in the future."



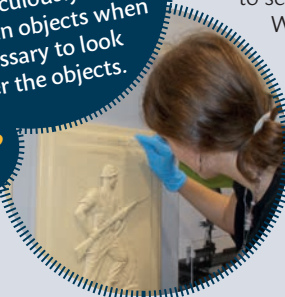
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

In the run up to Christmas why not pop along to the museum and find inspiration for gifts in our small shop. From Christmas cards by local artists, museum stationery and railway badges, to clock tower tea towels, teddies, and books by local authors – there is something for everyone. We can take both cash and card payments (£5 minimum spend on credit/debit card transactions).



We now have a team of two conservation volunteers who carefully and meticulously record and clean objects when necessary to look after the objects.

SNAP FACT!



The last day the museum will be open before Christmas is 13th December and it will re-open on 24th January. During this closure the team will be busy working on new displays. There is always something new to see in Newton Abbot Museum! We will tell you about the displays in the next issue of the Cryer.

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday – Friday 09:30-16:30
Saturday 09:30-13:30
Closed Sundays, Mondays and bank holidays.

Collection news

This year has seen the introduction of a brand-new and exciting handling collection. This means that these objects can be used for education and, in many cases, can be handled by the public to inspire learning. We now have over 60 objects in this collection ranging from Victorian jewellery, a whistle used on the railway and 1960s toys to a stoneware hot water bottle and a box iron.



A few examples of objects from the museum's handling collection

This collection can be used for group and education visits at the museum, or we can even bring objects out to your school or group for hands-on learning sessions.

Schools and home educators or local interest groups can contact us to arrange visits, workshops or outreach visits. To find out more, email groups@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk or call us on 01626 201121.



MONTHLY EVENTS

MUSEUM: MAKE AND CREATE

1st Saturday of the month, booking needed

FREE family-friendly creative workshops with a new theme every month. To keep up to date with what workshops are coming up check out our website and social media.

Places can be pre-booked in the museum, on our website (see the What's On page) or over the phone.

RELAXED VISITS

Dates vary, drop-in sessions so no need to book

Explore the museum in a calm and relaxed environment, with reduced sound levels and a quiet space available. FREE entry, see our website for upcoming sessions.

To help you prepare for your visit a visual story is available to download from our website or contact the museum and we can post one out to you.

If you have any questions about the museum's relaxed visits, when the quietest times to visit are, or require any further information, please get in touch.

TODDLER TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday 09:30-10:30 (term-time only), drop-in sessions so no need to book

Join us in the museum every Tuesday during term time for our FREE storytime sessions in the museum gallery for children of up to four years of age. On the last Tuesday of each month the session also features a hands-on activity. You are welcome to come to just one, a few, or all the sessions.

Our Toddler Tuesdays began in June, and it has been wonderful to have such a positive response and to welcome both adults and children to the museum during these sessions.

There are a few sessions left for this year with the upcoming themes including 'weather', 'my clothes' and 'families'. We also have two exciting activities planned with a focus on autumn and musical instruments – there may also be a special guest at our last Toddler Tuesday session on 13th December!

Fully Booked!

WITH KATE GREEN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER FOR NEWTON'S PLACE

Our community spot in the museum is, 'as it says on the tin', Your Space: an area dedicated to showcasing the creative diversity of our local community, whether it is objects that you have collected for years and would like to share or something that you have made during one of our museum art projects.

In August we were delighted to fill the display cabinet with beautiful, handmade books made by local artist, Kathie Weedon. Kathie also ran a book-making workshop, and we had a full complement of participants, all of whom learnt how to make a concertina book out of a single sheet of paper. We all gained a new skill as none in the workshop had ever made a book before!

I was able to pass my new skill on by showing our Arts Award students the technique and so we had another set of people making beautiful books. Let's hope that they pass it on too.

In November we are going to share a local enthusiast's magnificent fossil collection that they have been building up for many years. There will be rare and tiny fossils on show as well as some giant pieces, so do call in to the museum and have a look.

Following this, Your Space will show artworks made from recycled materials, made by children and adults – the results of our November Make and Create workshop.



Above: Kathie Weedon with her amazing display of hand-made books



Participants from Kathie's book-making workshop proudly display the results of their creative endeavour



Make & Create

Each month we offer a free, creative workshop for our local families. In November, we are linking with a recent grant the museum received to condition check and stabilise our large late 19th / early 20th century collection of butterflies and moths that once belonged to Dr Mapleton. Families at the workshop will use recycled materials to transform household scraps into a new collection of butterflies, moths and insects.

Our December Make & Create workshop will focus on a Christmas theme and those at the workshop will be making their own wildflower seeded paper to use for gift tags. Recipients will then be able to plant their gift tag in the spring and grow some wildflowers.

All Make & Create sessions are free, so visit our website and book your adult and child spaces to make sure you have a place to make recycled butterflies and the best gift tags ever!



Above: Journey Book making

Below: Environmental Workshop



Behind the Scenes

Throughout these later autumn months, we are running a new schools project across Newton Abbot.

Local primary school students will have rare access to our museum stores and will be able to explore our archived collections. They will choose, and take inspiration from, objects in the museum collection to make drawings, paintings, collages, 3D pottery pieces and digital artworks about the pieces they love, as well as recording mini sound pieces about their thoughts on items from Newton's past.

The resulting artworks will go on show in Your Space and so visitors will get a glimpse of items that are not usually on display, represented by our fabulous young artists in the town.

Christmas events

WITH ANOTHER GREAT PROGRAMME OF SEASONAL EVENTS LINED UP FOR 2022, IT'S TIME FOR SOME FESTIVE FUN!



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON (daytime event culminating in the switch-on at 5.30pm) Saturday 26th November

- ✳ Markets including street food in Courtenay Street & Market Square
- ✳ FREE face painting, balloons, and craft
- ✳ Music from Coombeshead College and Stagecoach Choir
- ✳ Children's Christmas give-aways
- ✳ Fireside selfies in the Clock Tower
- ✳ Walkabout characters featuring the naughty Christmas Pudding and Fairy Keeper
- ✳ Mini Christmas carnival parade through town accompanying the mayoral classic motorcar
- ✳ Father Christmas switches on the lights at the Clock Tower and greets children for their first time this year



VICTORIAN EVENING Wednesday 7th December

- ✳ Late night shopping until 8pm
- ✳ Children's entertainer Elfie the Juggler
- ✳ Market Square filled with Victorian themed charity stalls from 5pm – 8pm
- ✳ Songs from Stagecoach Christmas Choir
- ✳ Stilt walker and balloon modeller
- ✳ Visit Father Christmas close to Austins toy store (6pm-8pm)
- ✳ Live music
- ✳ Fireside selfies in the Clock Tower
- ✳ Markets, including street food, in Courtenay Street and the Market Square



LANTERN PARADE PUBLIC WORKSHOP Saturday 10th December

At the Avenue Church (for more info contact the council office on 01626 201120).

DOG FRIENDLY CAROL SERVICE Saturday 10th December

The carol service starts at 12 noon in Wolborough Street (near Carpetright). Christmas jumpers encouraged!

- ✳ Creative Newton Abbot and local charity AID stalls in Courtenay Street
- ✳ Performances from Forte close harmony group





LANTERN PARADE

Wednesday 14th December

Marking the welcome return of this colourful event, the theme for this year's parade is 'The Enchanted Garden' and will illuminate Newton Abbot!

Each of Newton Abbot's eight primary schools will be participating, carrying their lanterns from Beames Primary School (at 6.30pm) to the Clock Tower for a special story to be told at 7pm.

- * Late night shopping until 8pm
- * Visit Father Christmas close to Austins toy store (6pm-8pm)
- * Fireside selfies in the Clock Tower
- * Markets, including street food in Courtenay Street and the Market Square
- * Live Music



MAYOR'S CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 21st December

Carol service with the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Carol Bunday, at 7pm in front of St Leonard's Clock Tower, featuring the Rock Choir.

- * Markets, including street food in Courtenay Street and the Market Square
- * Late night shopping until 8pm
- * Live music
- * Visit Father Christmas close to Austins toy store (6pm-8pm)
- * Fireside selfies in the Clock Tower

ROCK CHOIR



Please note: entertainment and event times are subject to change at short notice and many events are weather dependent – check the council's website or Facebook page for the latest information.

Look out for our mascot, 'Newton' and more live music and carols throughout weekends in December!



NEW FOR 2022!

FIRESIDE SELFIES AT THE CLOCK TOWER

Saturday 26th November

Late night shopping Wednesdays (December 7th, 14th & 21st) 6-8pm

Selected Saturdays in December

While Father Christmas is out and about on his sleigh, why not pop in to the Clock Tower and grab a special selfie at his delightfully decorated seasonal stop-over?



CHECK ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE LATEST NEWS:



@newtontownwoman or
@NewtonAbbotCoun



Newtonabbotnow or
NewtonAbbottowncouncilcommunity



Don't forget...

Parking in TDC town centre car parks is **FREE** from 4pm, for all three Christmas late-night shopping events.

Please be aware that the multi-storey car park closes at 6pm.



Out & About

with **Sally Henley**, TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

I have just returned from the Proclamation, where I joined the mayor, dignitaries, councillors, and members of the public at the clock tower, to hear King Charles being proclaimed our new monarch.

Of course, we all knew this already, thanks to modern technology, but at the same time as being desperately sad that our Queen has departed this earth, I was proud to be a part of this historic moment taking place in our town centre.



Tano
Taiko



St Leonard's Tower has seen many historic events and is still the focus for community activity to this day. The Carnival Queen was crowned here in the summer, and we have had all sorts of varied events over the past few months. Shoppers enjoyed a marvellous static display from the radio-controlled aircraft club and there has been traditional clog dancing and Taiko drumming too. I have also managed to squeeze in a town centre classic car show this year and my thanks go to Teignbridge Classics for making this happen. Find out more about our Christmas events in this issue of the Cryer, where the clock tower will play centre stage once more to the fantastical lantern parade and to the Mayor's Carol Service.

It has been a remarkably busy year, with lots of private investment going on in the town centre, leading to an extraordinarily low shop vacancy rate of below 5%. From hair salons to solicitors; from restaurants to sports bars; from newspaper offices to estate agents;

Shuffle
the Deck



FOR
MORE INFO:
check our website:
newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk



or follow us:

@newtontownwoman



Newton Abbot
Now

from storage facilities to mortgage brokers, and from shoe shops to insurance firms, new businesses have opened!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the mayor who has been kind enough to officiate at many of these openings and who has supported so many events throughout the year.

All these new businesses, I might add, have refurbished their premises both inside and out and some have also taken advantage of the town council's shop front improvement grant. Our town business environment is looking better than it has in years and the fact that businesses are coming here to set up shop is testimony to a resilient economy, which might be the envy of other towns.

You may have seen our new tourism guide which we put together in partnership with the Mid Devon Advertiser during the summer. Copies were distributed with newspapers across the region to capitalise on holiday visitors and I hope you agree that it really does justice to the many great attributes, amenities, and businesses in our town. A digital version of the guide can be downloaded from 'discover' section of the council website.

I like to think that we always have something going on in the town centre and on Saturdays we have had some wonderful and varied music, both in Courtenay Street and on Golden Lion Square.

I look forward to much more entertainment over the festive period when, for the first time in a couple of years, we hope to be able to celebrate Christmas more freely. Thank you for supporting the businesses and for shopping and socialising locally.

I look forward to seeing you in town!

Sally

Sally Henley
Town Development Manager

CREATIVE NEWTON ABBOT

Creative Newton Abbot

is a new activity, introduced this year by the town council. An opportunity for folk to get a bit creative whilst out shopping, we have held a pop-up in Courtenay Street, with community artist Kate Green each month. There have been some very imaginative and colourful items created to take home and importantly these events are free to anyone who is shopping in the town centre! Check out the town council website for the next event.



Organised by our ever enthusiastic community officer, Kate Green (left), the recent town centre based flower making activity proved very popular amongst 'budding' young artists

Look out for the logo on our Creative Newton Abbot gazebo!



Animals in Distress

presents

THE DOG FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Led by Reverend Gareth Regan. In association with the Anglican churches of Newton Abbot

Carol singing led by close harmony choir forte

Cookies for well behaved dogs & owners

Be sure to wear your favourite Christmas jumper – pooches too!

Please take responsibility for your dog at all times during the event.



In partnership with



Saturday 10th December 2022, at 12pm

Wolborough Street (near Carpetright), Newton Abbot Town Centre

In the event of poor weather the event will be held at Abbotsbury Church, Newton Abbot.

End of an era

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926 – 2022

In the days following the passing of The Queen on September 8th, the people of Newton Abbot paid tribute to England's longest serving monarch at many public events in and around the town.

Across the globe, many millions of us tuned in to follow the sombre grandeur of the state funeral via the live television coverage, others chose to pay their last respects in person at a local level, attending commemorative services or signing books of condolence.

Reflecting the tremendous affection for Her Majesty throughout the country, Newtonians turned out in good numbers to mark this momentous occasion in our shared histories.

Many thanks to Ethan Heppell of the Mid Devon Advertiser for providing the photographs used in this article.

As some of you may remember, in the last issue of the Cryer, as part of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we printed a selection of images from the museum archives that captured moments from Royal visits to the town during The Queen's 70 year reign.

This eight-page supplement is now available as a digital download (pdf file) from our website





Newton Abbot Mayor, Cllr Carol Bunday (right, at Newton's Place) and members of the public (left and below right, at Forde House) signed books of condolence for Her Majesty The Queen.



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Newton's Place & Forde House September 12th

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Crowds gathered for the reading of the Proclamation for King Charles III, organised by Teignbridge District Council





Many united to pay their respects to the departed monarch and salute their new King

Councillors Jones, Corney-Walker, Parker, Hocking and Ryan

.....

St Leonard's Clock Tower September 12th

.....



Dignitaries assembled at the foot of the tower following the Proclamation for King Charles III

The Mayor's Chaplain, Ben Maynard, addressing the crowd





*Abbotsbury Church, Waverley Road
September 19th*

Both born in the year of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, Charles and Liz Clark (above), who live in Newton Abbot, were amongst those who attended the public screening of Her Majesty's funeral (below)



*St Paul's Church, Devon Square
September 18th*

Newton Abbot Mayor, Cllr Carol Bunday, attended at the service of commemoration for Queen Elizabeth II

One for all – and all for the town!

IT'S not entirely untrue to say that Newton Abbot's very own 'three musketeers' are fighting for a kind of justice, rather like the characters Athos, Porthos, and Aramis in Alexandre Dumas' epic tale. Only our trio – Tony Little, Steven Ryan and David Samson – are far more likely to be brandishing a jet wash lance, litter pickers or loppers than a smoking gun – at least we hope so!

These colleagues are our facilities maintenance officers (FMOs for short) and no, their uniforms do not include thigh-high boots or tricorn hats flowing with feathers. Their working week is spent out and about in all weathers, tackling any number of jobs required to keep Newton Abbot looking smart and safe.

It's a far from glamorous role but a much-needed one, more so in recent years. The sad fact is that, thanks to Government cuts in local authority funding, services we once took for granted are no longer guaranteed.

Street cleaning, graffiti removal and keeping on top of weeds simply don't get the attention they used to from the county or district councils, which is why, on your behalf, Newton Abbot Town Council has invested in extra staff and equipment. We know that a clean and tidy environment is important. Not only does it make the town look better, it improves morale and, we believe, helps to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. It's something residents fully deserve, and town councillors will do all they can to ensure services are maintained to the highest level possible without imposing a sky high precept.

David, a former voluntary youth worker who likes to garden, cook, and write short stories in his spare time, said: *'I actually love this job! It's not every day you get to work with such creative people as those within Newton Abbot Town Council. I also love the fact that every time you do a job the local people always come up and thank you, it makes me feel that I'm energised and proud to be a part of the team.'*

In addition to cleaning, repairing, and tidying, our FMOs also help out at civic events and town celebrations. The variation appeals to Tony who said: *'What I like about this job is meeting lots of people. Every day is different! All the staff are great and easy to get on with and Newton Abbot is a fantastic town compared to most others!'*

Originally a Bristolian, Tony is settling well into his new home where he pursues his interests of sailing, fishing, classic cars, concerts and music, the Second World War and travelling.



There were of course four Musketeers: Athos, Porthos, Aramis...and D'Artagnan. The latter was a junior who had to prove his worth before being allowed to join the team.

If we had a D'Artagnan, might it be town clerk Phil Rowe who, after 15 years in the job, has finally earned his stripes?

Read more about his story in the next Cryer...

Left – right Tony, Steven and David equipped and ready for action.

Steven Ryan will be a familiar face to many – inescapable when he's Newton Abbot born and bred and his dad, Mike, has served as mayor and chaired the carnival committee for many years.

'What I like about my job is being out and about in the fresh air,' he said. 'Each day there is something different to do to keep the town clean and tidy. My interests are going to watch the Chiefs play rugby in Exeter, socialising with friends and family and watching movies.'

Many readers will remember our much-loved handyman, Kieran Dore, who sadly died in 2020 having given so much to the community. It is with honour that Tony, Steven, and David continue his tradition of serving the town and giving residents a home to be proud of.

Please, say hello if you see them out and about!