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could safeguard the planet



THE NEWTON Cryer

SUMMER 2023

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL





EDITOR'S NOTES

All set for summer!

Maybe it's just the lovely sunlit days and lighter evenings, but there's a definite sense that the holiday season is really starting to kick into gear and, reflecting the positive upswing on the weather front, the last couple of months has also seen some productive changes happening in and around Newton's Place.

Firstly, following the local elections held at the beginning of May, our new town council line-up has been officially announced, and you'll find details of all your new councillors in this edition of the Cryer.

In addition, we've welcomed two new members of staff to the museum team: India Jolly has stepped in to the role of curator for the next twelve months, covering for Dr Charlotte Dixon who is currently on maternity leave; and Lucy Cokes, supporting India as our curatorial assistant. Catch up with all the latest changes on the Museum News pages.

Sticking with the themes of summer and new destinations our community officer, Kate Green, has organised a series of free public art workshops giving the opportunity to create your very own classic picture postcard. Providing inspiration for participants, the Your Space cabinet at the museum will feature the amazing collection of Mr Ray Harris, who has been gathering postcards from around the globe for half a century.

With many more activities and exhibitions planned over the coming months, there's no need to worry if your passport has expired – there's always plenty to do right here on your doorstep!

Sam

Samantha Scott, Deputy Town Clerk.

Keep in touch

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

Published by: **Newton Abbot Town Council**

Edited by: **Samantha Scott** (sam.scott@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

Gift of life for Buckland & Milber

THREE new defibrillators worth almost £4,000 have been installed in Buckland and Milber, Newton Abbot. The lifesaving machines, which cost £1,300 each and require no training to operate, have been funded by Newton Abbot Hospital League of Friends.

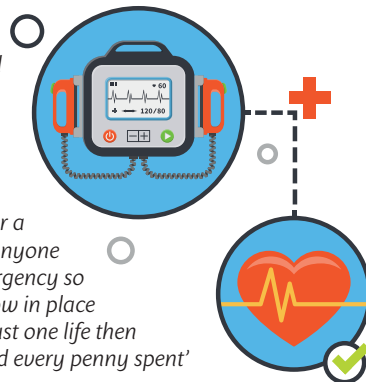
Located at Chesters Café in Haldon Rise, Shaldon Road Methodist Church in Moorland View, and St Luke's Church, Laburnum Road, the equipment is available 24 hours a day and brings the total number of defibrillators in the area to four with one having been previously installed at The Buckland Centre.

Their need was identified by Cllr Mike Ryan of Newton Abbot Town Council, who said: 'I learned some time ago that if the nearest defibrillator is more than about 400 yards away then it might be too far to help someone's life being saved.'

'I tried several ways to get more but without success, so I approached Dan Osborne of the Jay's Aim charity which supplies the devices and learned that the three would cost £3,900.

'I suggested that the Newton Abbot Hospital League of Friends, of which I'm president, might consider helping out and so Dan wrote to the League and I'm very pleased to say that the committee agreed to fully fund all three.

'Having four nearby each other makes Buckland and Milber a much safer place for anyone experiencing a cardiac emergency so I'm delighted that they're now in place and operational. If they save just one life then it's been worth all the effort and every penny spent'



Newton Abbot Hospital League of Friends

Newton Abbot Hospital League of Friends recently presented Albany Surgery, Newton Abbot, with a hyfrecator – a low-powered medical apparatus used in electrosurgery on conscious patients to destroy tissue and to stop bleeding during minor surgery.

The Newton Abbot branch of the League of Friends will be celebrating its 74th anniversary later this year, having supported both Newton Abbot hospitals; the first being built in 1898 in East Street, and the second on West Golds Road, which was completed in 2009.

The league is made up entirely of volunteers who raise money and spend time at the hospital, undertaking tasks such as 'meet and greet' in the main foyer and the physiotherapy department; wheeling the tea trolley, assisting with patient lunches, patient befriending, and the ever-popular sales tables, which is situated in the hospital entrance foyer.

In years gone by there were 'Hospital Saturdays', where a fête was organised, and a collection made, with a fireworks display to round-off the event!

Monies raised also include bequests in wills, which benefit many of the hospital departments, local GP surgeries, Rowcroft Hospice, and other local organisations with medical requests.

Our volunteers are at the very heart of all we do; spending time at the hospital, (in whatever capacity) is extremely rewarding. The atmosphere amongst the L of F is friendly and caring, with many like-minded people.

If you have any time to spare, you would be most welcome! You can speak with one of the members in the main hospital entrance, or leave your name and contact details with Carole on 01626 357091. You will be very welcome!



IMAGE SUPPLIED BY:
Ethan Heppell, Mid Devon Advertiser

NEWTONCRYER | Summer 2023

SUNDAY BAND CONCERTS 2023

All performances will commence at 2.30pm
at the Courtenay Park Bandstand.
Bring along a picnic!

- ✦ Sunday 13th August
EXETER RAILWAY BAND
- ✦ Sunday 10th September
SPECTRUM MUSIC
CONCERT WIND BAND

Thanks to our kind sponsors:

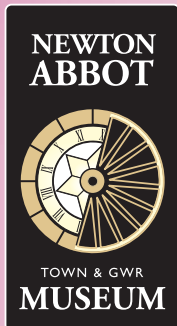
AUSTINS
Department Store



Best Accountancy Services

Outstanding in our field

DCL
Davie Construction Ltd



Museum News

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS **INDIA JOLLY** (CURATOR) AND **LUCY COOKES** (CURATORIAL ASSISTANT)

India Jolly and Lucy Cokes have joined the museum as curator and curatorial assistant, respectively. Both covering maternity leave, the two new faces will be working together to keep the museum running for the next year.

Lucy is a conservator by trade and has a special interest in conserving books and paper. She most recently worked for Southwest Heritage Trust as an archives conservator.

"I've been working at the museum for two months and every day is different. It's been fascinating to learn about the town I now call home. I'm really excited to discover the stories that our collections can tell."

Below: India and Lucy get acquainted with some of the museum's more established residents...

India has worked in heritage for nearly ten years, having been in management positions for English Heritage and the National Trust, and most recently managed Liskeard & District Museum with a team of volunteers.

"I'm thrilled to be working at Newton Abbot Museum with all of the wonderful volunteers and staff. We have got some really interesting exhibitions and projects in the pipeline, which I'm excited to get stuck into. I'm especially excited for the Science of Collections exhibition this summer."

Although they are here for just a year, Lucy and India have some exciting plans for the museum, so why not pop by to say hello and discover what they are up to?



DON'T FORGET!
The museum is **FREE** to visit and there is no booking required!

On track for a summer of fun!

Can you find the LEGO® trains hidden throughout the museum? Visit us during the summer holidays to find out! Every completed trail receives a prize.



The fantastic model trains have been created for us by Brick Ideas, a Bovey Tracey based enterprise that provides design and technology workshops using Lego® as an aid to learning and team building for youth groups, schools and businesses across the South West.

It's absolutely free to take part in the event at the museum, so full steam ahead!



Next Level History

Our fantastic medieval tower is open during the summer season, with new interpretation boards throughout. St Leonard's Tower, often called 'the clock tower', is free to visit, so come and see our new displays.

Open 10am to 1pm every Wednesday until 13th September, plus Saturday 2nd, 9th and 16th September. Check our website for updates.

Thank you to the Clock Tower Coffee Shop for supporting our volunteers during 2023.



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.

TODDLER TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday 9:30am – 10:30am (during term-time only)

Pre-book your **FREE** place through the What's On page of our website and find out about upcoming sessions.

RELAXED VISITS

These are drop-in sessions so no need to book. Next sessions:

Saturday 12th August, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Monday 9th October, 2pm – 4pm

Every other month we set aside special visiting hours for anyone who might benefit from visiting the museum at a quieter time. Reduced sound levels and a chill-out room upstairs make this a great time to visit if you have additional needs, but everyone is welcome.

To stay up to date with the latest family-friendly events you can sign up to our monthly family newsletter. Contact the museum to be added to the mailing list.

* LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group of companies which does not sponsor, authorise or endorse our trail.

Entomology Future-proofed!

We are thrilled to announce that the museum is taking part in a pilot project to digitise our butterfly collection.

Collaborating with the Natural History Museum and Bristol Museum, a team of dedicated volunteers are photographing the collection of Dr Henry Mapleton, a Newton Abbot man who collected butterflies in the early 1900s.

Using state-of-the-art equipment loaned by the Natural History Museum, the photographs will be used as part of a national database to track changes in natural history across the ages.

It's very fiddly but rewarding work, and we are excited to uncover some of the rarer species!



Young Curator Club

During the school holidays, we will be running weekly sessions for local young people, aged between 8 and 16, who are interested in finding out what it is like to be a curator of a museum.

Every Tuesday morning, across the summer holidays, we're running Young Curator Club sessions at the museum; a chance to explore behind-the-scenes and discover how museums look after their artefacts.

Young curators will learn about how to handle and pack objects, conserve items, manage the day-to-

day running of a museum and plan and design their own mini-exhibition, choosing objects to go on show and writing information about each object.

Whenever a new object is donated, we need to 'accession' that object by writing about it, taking a photo of it and creating a record of the object before it goes into the store rooms – so this will also be part of what we do. You will meet other young people with shared interests and have a lot of fun too – you'll even receive a curator certificate after all of your hard work!

Get in touch with the museum team if you or a young person you know is interested in taking part.



Footfall On The Rise!

Visitor numbers at Newton Abbot Museum continue to grow as the facility enters a second full year at its new location. In the first quarter of 2023 more than 3,600 people came through the doors at Newton's Place, up approximately 20 per cent on last year.

The museum's old site in Devon Square could expect a total of approximately 2,500 visitors in an entire year. The numbers have cheered staff who oversaw the six year transition to the seven-figure new site.

'When Newton Abbot Town Council, our main funders, decided to buy the former St Leonard's Church it was a bold move and potentially not without risks,' said curator Dr Charlotte Dixon.

'The total cost of buying, converting, restoring and conserving the Grade Two listed building – carried out during a global pandemic don't forget – was around £2.5 million.

'For that the town now has a fantastic new museum, community rooms and accessible council offices.

'And thanks to careful financial management, and support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund who provided almost half the cost, not a single penny was added to council tax bills to achieve this great result.

'Now our visitor figures confirm that people really enjoy coming here, viewing superb displays such as the Ipplepen Roman coin collection, on loan from Torquay Museum until March next year, which we know is attracting visitors in its own right.

'We're also staging plenty of outreach work plus activities for schools and families, and ensuring we have the necessary skills and facilities to make visits enjoyable for everyone, no matter what their needs.'

With Dr Dixon now on maternity leave, colleagues have welcomed India Jolly (pictured right) who will assume the curator role for a year.

'I'm very excited, there are lots of incredibly interesting projects I'm looking forward to taking on and hopefully I'll come up with some new ones as well,' said India, who previously managed Liskeard and District Museum.

'The outreach programme is brilliant and it's just great to get the community involved with its museum.

'It's going to be a wonderful year and I look forward to meeting everyone.'

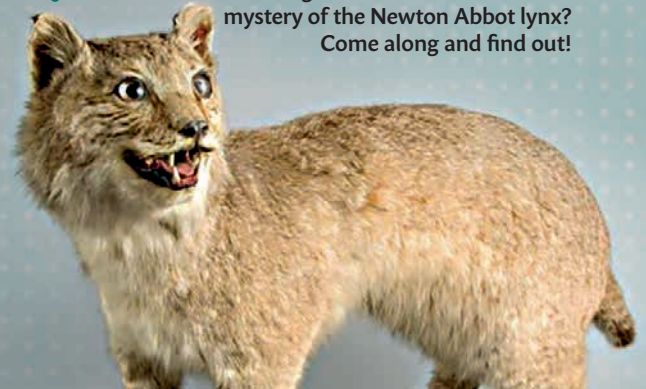


THE SCIENCE OF COLLECTIONS

Don't miss our fantastic new FREE exhibition this summer: **The Science of Collections** which runs from 2nd-31st August

Discover how science supports museums, uncover fantastic fossils, find out about preserving amazing insects and explore the geology beneath our feet.


How did examining bones and teeth solve the mystery of the Newton Abbot lynx? Come along and find out!



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE LATEST NEWS:

 @Newton.Abbot.Museum

 @NewtonsPlace

 museum-newtonabbot.org.uk



The Votes are Cast

Newton Abbot Town Council's line-up has been decided, following the public vote held across the five wards of the town on May 4th.

A total of twelve councillors were elected, representing Bradley, Bushell, and Buckland & Milber wards. With three wards being uncontested, six vacancies remain within College (4), Brunel(1) and Bradley (1). Co-option procedures are underway to restore the council to its full compliment of 18 members as soon as possible.

Helping to maintain the council's political neutrality, our new members are drawn from a wide demographic with a balanced mix of declared affiliations to different political parties. Their primary objective is to serve our town to the best of their abilities, campaigning for the rights of residents and businesses alike.

KEY TO COUNCILLORS



Conservative



Liberal Democrat



South Devon Alliance

BUSHELL WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Nick Yabsley

72 Ashburton Road
Newton Abbot TQ12 1RH

nick.yabsley@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

BUSHELL WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Tom Corney-Walker

Tykki-Dyw, Aller Road, Kingskerswell
Newton Abbot TQ12 5AN

tom.corney-walker@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

BUSHELL WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Mike Joyce

45 Torquay Road
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JB

mike.joyce@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

BUSHELL WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Simon Walker

66 Orleigh Cross
Newton Abbot TQ12 2FY

simon.walker@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

BRADLEY WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Richard Buscombe

10 Camomile Way
Newton Abbot TQ12 1US

richard.buscombe@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

BRADLEY WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Philip Bullivant

6 Gaze Hill, Highweek
Newton Abbot TQ12 1QL

philip.bullivant@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

BRADLEY WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Louise Cooke

24 Holbeam Close
Newton Abbot TQ12 1UT

louise.cooke@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

TOWN MAYOR



BUCKLAND & MILBER WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor David Corney-Walker

Tykki-Dyw, Aller Road, Kingskerswell
Newton Abbot TQ12 5AN



david.corney-walker@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk



BUCKLAND & MILBER WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Colin Davieson

22 Margaret Gardens, Buckland
Newton Abbot TQ12 4DG



colin.davieson@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

TOWN DEPUTY MAYOR



BUCKLAND & MILBER WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Alex Hall

44 Aller Park Road
Newton Abbot TQ12 4NQ



alex.hall@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk



BUCKLAND & MILBER WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Colin Parker

22 Twickenham Road
Newton Abbot TQ12 4JE



colin.parker@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk



BUCKLAND & MILBER WARD | ELECTED MEMBER



Councillor Mike Ryan

66 Oakland Road
Newton Abbot TQ12 4EE



mike.ryan@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

A Colourful Contribution

Newton Abbot Town Council would like to express its gratitude to local businesses, which have once again so generously sponsored many of the floral displays in the town centre. Thank you for your continued support.



ANDREW HILL HAIRDRESSING





Out & About

with **Sally Henley**, TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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



or follow us:

@newtontownwoman



Newton Abbot
Now

Perhaps we have been spoilt over the past couple of years, when spring and summer seemed to arrive together. We have had to wait considerably longer to see the sun and feel some warmth this year. We were hoping that May, with its unusual set of three bank holidays might prove to be a bit of a scorcher, but sadly we had to make do with cold, wind and rain; and yet more rain. On the bright side, it is hoped that the hosepipe ban might be lifted soon!

The unseasonal weather did not stop us celebrating the Coronation of King Charles. A Saturday of live music and crowning within our own 'throne room' in the Clock Tower, was followed by a hugely successful Sunday 'Party in the Park,' which families thoroughly enjoyed. It was great to see the whole park in use and lovely for the town council to provide an event for hard pressed families, which did not involve 'forking out' in any other sense than getting the picnic basket down from the loft. I know that our events coordinator at the town council, buoyed up by the great feedback, is looking at perhaps making this an annual event.

We have just celebrated the success of our first Classic Car Show. The day dawned with perfect blue skies and welcome sunshine – vital ingredients to encourage classic car owners to bring their vehicles out for an airing. It was great to see all our pedestrianised spaces filled with gorgeous classic motors and fantastic to see the town busier than I have seen it in over a decade! Thank you so much to Teignbridge Classics; both the committee and members, for putting on such a professional and enjoyable show. We have something on in the town centre nearly every Saturday and so I hope that this might further encourage you to take a trip into town and support local shops, eateries and businesses.

It's fantastic to be able to tell visitors that Newton Abbot has quite a few businesses which other towns have lost over the years. I call these our 'hens' teeth,' and they include: an equestrian outfitter, a motorcycle shop and domestic appliance specialists; a fishmonger

Pristine
paintwork and
polished chrome
lit up the town
centre at this year's
Classic Car
Show!



DATE FOR THE DIARY

Our second classic car show will be held (in the same area) on **Saturday 16th September 2023.**



and two superb local butchers; a haberdasher and a clothing alterations specialist.

We have a record shop and an audio specialist outlet; a picture framer, watch and clock specialists and two independent bookshops. We also have a huge independent department store. When you look at these alongside our fantastic array of mainly independently run cafés, pubs, bars and restaurants, hairdressers, barbers and beauty specialists, it is hard to understand those who sometimes tell me that Newton Abbot has nothing to offer!! We also have superb charity shops, which are always buzzing with shoppers and which play a vital role enabling recycling, upcycling and repurposing, so essential in the reduction of carbon.

Regal
cosplay
(with photo
opportunities!)
proved popular
in 'Coronation
Corner' at the
Clock Tower



Our
high street
continues to
support high
quality, local
independent
traders

We also have BANKS!!! I speak to other place managers on a regular basis and I know that many of them are struggling with the challenge of not having a single bank or building society within their town.

Did you know that Austins will be celebrating its centenary next year? That is a fantastic achievement, but no surprise really, given the constant investment which has taken place in the Austins properties and the business in general. Over the years we saw House of Fraser and Debenhams 'make do and mend' and many of their shops became threadbare, leaky and generally dilapidated. Not a great retail experience... It's perhaps not surprising therefore that those businesses failed and have now left huge tracts of empty commercial property blighting the heart of many a town and city centre.

Newton Abbot has a proud tradition of independent business, with over 50% of the town centre independently run. I was pleased to accompany our last mayor, Cllr Carol Bunday, as she cut the ribbon at many new business openings over the last 18 months. You may have seen work being carried out on a few empty properties in the town as new businesses give town centre trading a go – and I do hope that you will continue to support them.

I look forward to seeing you in town!

Sally

Sally Henley
Town Development Manager

Wish You Were Here?

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

Just in time for the Summer holidays we will be thinking back to the days when we used to send a postcard as soon as we arrived at our holiday destination in the hope that it would reach our friends and family before we returned home!

Inspired by both a local collector's display of postcards in the Your Space cabinet (see boxed item, opposite) and a generous donation of beautiful reproduction GWR postcards, we are running art activities throughout the summer where you can view old postcards and be inspired to design and print your own – we will even give you a stamp so that you can post it to someone!

Our next postcard making workshops will be held at Newton's Place, on Friday 15th July and Wednesday 9th August, between 1pm and 3pm.

Visit the museum website to book your FREE place and start thinking about who you would like to send a special postcard and message to.



We love Your Space!

An ever-changing cabinet that is just for you.

In July we are delighted to host a snapshot of postcards belonging to local collector, Mr Ray Harris. Ray has been collecting postcards for more than 50 years and although he has never owned a passport, he has gathered over 6,000 postcards from more than 45 different countries.

Ray's father-in-law served as a marine in Australia during the Second World War and brought Ray postcards from all of the places he had visited across Australia. These are some of the oldest postcards that Ray has.

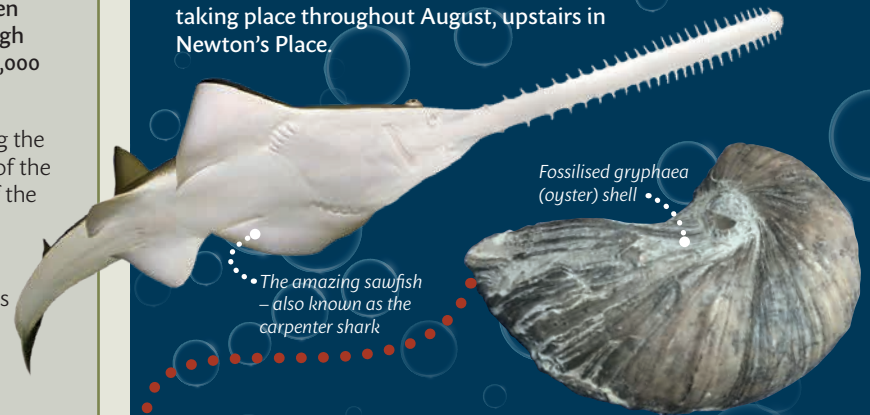
His own father was holidaying in Yugoslavia at the outbreak of the Civil War in the 1990s and although Ray's dad had to travel down to the bottom of the country to avoid the troubles, he still managed to bring a selection of postcards back to the UK his son. Ray enjoys the scenery and views on the postcards and they also serve as the inspiration behind his other passion – painting with watercolours.



With so many styles to choose from you can pay homage to a classic layout or create something unique that you can really put your stamp on!

Even more displays on their way...

Coming up after the fabulous postcard display we have an array of natural history items that belong to our museum volunteers. This will coincide with our 'Science of Collections' exhibition taking place throughout August, upstairs in Newton's Place.



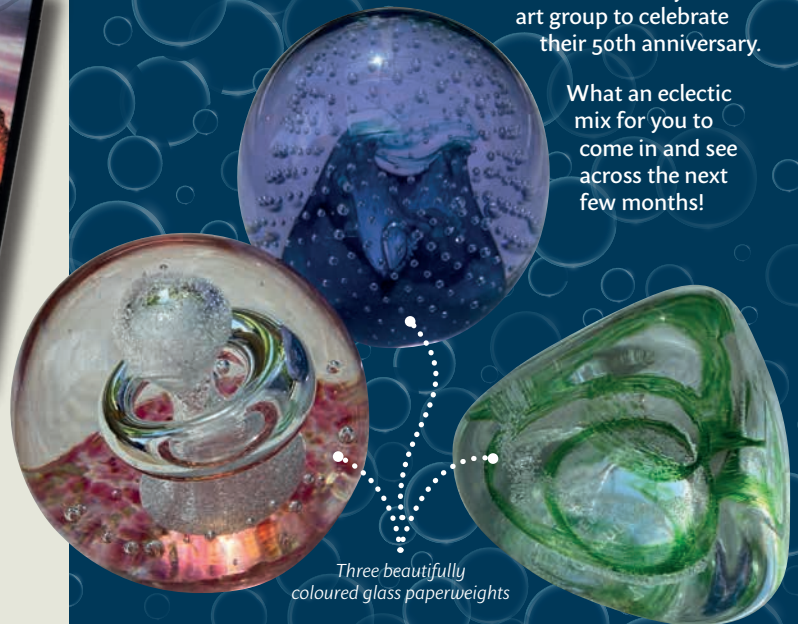
Fossilised gryphaea (oyster) shell

The amazing sawfish – also known as the carpenter shark

... which collection is your favourite?

In September we will be sharing a beautiful collection of glass paper weights, swiftly followed in October by artworks from Newton Abbot's very own art group to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

What an eclectic mix for you to come in and see across the next few months!



Three beautifully coloured glass paperweights

Make & Create



Our free, family Make & Create sessions happen on the first Saturday of every month and they are really popular, often being fully booked. It's a time for adults and children to have a bit of quality time together, being creative and making something that they are proud of.

Our upcoming sessions are:

August: All in the Detail

To complement our Science of Collections exhibition we will be inspired by what you can see through a microscope to make incredible artworks.



September: Flying the Flag

This month sees a national celebration of local history with Heritage Open Days projects taking place up and down the country. This year's theme is Creativity Unwrapped and so we have a grand plan to make enough bunting to decorate the town's St Leonard's clock tower. Join in and help to highlight our medieval tower.

All Make & Create workshops are free, but you will need to book your place via the museum website.

Family Art Sessions

Our fortnightly Twilight Sketching sessions that take place whilst the museum is closed on a Monday have been very popular with 'grown-ups' in the town. We play relaxing music into the museum whilst people browse the displays to choose what to settle in front of and draw. It's so relaxing, plus we have a cup of tea and a biscuit at the midway point, which is also an ideal time for everyone to look at each other's drawings. Sessions happen once a fortnight from 4pm – 6pm.

Now we would like to extend the activity to families too. We will welcome family groups interested in doing some relaxed sketching from 3pm onwards. Stay for as long or as short as suits you. We will provide children with a snack on arrival if they are coming straight from school.

Discover your inner artist!

Whether you're a whizz with the watercolours or fresh to the fresco, everyone's welcome to give it a go!



**CREATIVE
NEWTON ABBOT**

...And don't forget that we'll be running free-to-attend seasonally themed Saturday arts workshops each month until the end of the year! Run by our very own community officer, Kate Green, each session will be held in Courtenay Street between 10am and 2pm – look out for our colourful stall!

AUGUST 12th

SEPTEMBER 9th

OCTOBER 14th

NOVEMBER 25th

DECEMBER 9th

THEY CAN BE SILENCED NO LONGER, SO LET'S BRING THE NOISE...

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

The Newton Abbot Annual Town Criers' Competition FINALLY returns, so put the loudest day of the year in your diary and come to see this years' hopefuls from around the South West gather in the town centre to battle it out for the coveted Town Criers' Awards!

The colourful criers – including our very own Nigel Kenneison – always bring a great sense of occasion to this traditional event, so come and support them once again for this traditional event. St. Leonard's Clock Tower will be open for tours and there will be FREE children's entertainment throughout the event.

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

COURTENAY STREET

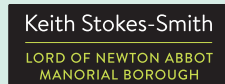
10.15 AM
TO 2.00 PM



PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:



Many thanks to our
sponsors for making
this event possible:



Allotment Association – Planting for Life

The year 2020 will go down in history as one where civilisation realised that the very thing we treasure the most, our planet, is being destroyed through our own actions. This applies most of all to our insect life, which we have sprayed with a cocktail of chemicals for the last fifty years to try to control, or even eradicate, them completely. We have not cared that these creatures, at the very bottom of the food chain, are what keeps so many other species alive, including us!

We need them to pollinate all of the various crops that we depend on to survive as a species. Albert Einstein is often misquoted as saying that without insects, mankind could only survive seven years. What he actually said was that if you remove insects from the natural world then you lose over 100,000 plants – plants that are reliant on pollinating insects.

Thankfully, Newton Abbot & District Co-operative Allotment Association (NADCAA) saw the problems coming and consulted Newton Abbot Town Council about taking measures to combat the issues. As a responsible landlord to NADCAA, we agreed to allow all

members of the association to turn 25% of their plot over to bio-diversity, specifically for growing plants for pollinating insects and to create habitats for animals that would be good for the allotments, like frogs, which predate slugs and snails, cutting out the need for slug pellets.

In addition, volunteers and members of the not-for-profit NADCAA have created wildlife areas on each of the five fields it currently manages for the town council, all funded through members' contributions, donations, plus some small grants. The members of this 100-year-old organisation passed resolutions at their 2021 AGM to cease the use of pesticides that are harmful to nature.

Today the benefits of the last 12 years' work have won NADCAA recognition from Devon Wildlife Trust as well as the town council.

Recent surveys showed that ponds created for wildlife contained natives smooth, palmate and the endangered greater crested newt. Toads, frogs and their tadpoles were also recorded along with common pipistrelle bats. During the survey tawny owls were heard, and for the first time in many years there are hedgehogs back on every field. Bird and bat boxes have been put up and are in use, and keen bird watchers have recorded over 40 species on the fields in the last year. The ponds have attracted many species of dragonflies and damselflies, and there has also been an increase in the number of moths, butterflies, ladybirds and grass snakes, along with slow worms. When it comes to the environment, the association and its members, are proud to be ticking every box.

At a meeting with Devon Wildlife Trust, CEO Harry Barton commented that allotments are “essential green corridors”, allowing wildlife to move across towns where very little green space remains. NADCAA was also behind a joint project to launch the Allotment Wildlife Awareness Award for members who are looking after nature on their allotments throughout the whole of Devon.

To discover more about Newton Abbot & District Co-operative Allotment Association, including how to apply for a plot, please visit their website:

www.nadcaa.org.uk

