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Our maintenance team prove who's king of the urban jungle

### PLUS:

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New tech brings old favourites to life at the museum

### DON'T BE WISE AFTER THE EVENT

Stay ahead of the game with our listings for spring happenings!

### MAKING CREATIVE USE OF SPACE

Arts, crafts and collectibles on show at community sessions



THE NEWTON

Crier

SPRING 2024





## EDITOR'S NOTES

# Springing into action!

Waving goodbye to the last of the winter chills and looking forward to the arrival of the spring daffodils and primroses, it's clear that the town is once again gearing up to make the most of the longer, warmer days, with a fresh programme of pubic events and entertainments lined up for the coming months.

First to wake up after a few weeks' winter hibernation, the museum has made a few eye-catching changes to its spring collection, including two fabulous wedding dresses that illustrate the ever-changing face of fashion, from an historical perspective.

The high street, too, is buzzing with brand new businesses and eateries, adding even more reasons to shop local and support our fantastic range of independent stores, cafés and restaurants. The month of May is an especially good time to visit the town centre as we welcome an exciting new Sunday Market to Courtenay Street as well as the return of the Teignbridge Classics car show – always a treat to see so many beautiful vintage vehicles on display!

And making sure that the streets are able to provide a worthy backdrop for these forthcoming attractions, our amazing maintenance team have been working their high-vis socks off over the last few months. Armed with an arsenal of brushes, jet-washers and secateurs, there's no hiding place for unsightly littering or overgrown hedgerows from our dauntless dust-busters – we highlight some of their recent operations in this issue.

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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# Speedwatch aims

Thanks to the Community Speed Watch initiative, residents of Newton Abbot have been able to take a proactive role in raising awareness of the dangers of speeding by encouraging drivers to take responsibility for their actions.

The scheme enables volunteers, working under a group coordinator, to monitor traffic movement and relay information to the council and the police. This helps us to make informed decisions on how to improve public safety for both road users and pedestrians without over burdening our police resources or having to meet the cost of third-party statistical surveys.

Recent roadside sessions with the speed-gun have had a noticeable effect on driver behaviour, with the highly visible presence of our volunteers often being just enough to provide that little reminder to ease off the accelerator pedal.

However, despite the majority of drivers observing the limits and displaying a sensible attitude to urban motoring, speeds of almost 100mph have been recorded in a Newton Abbot street where the limit is 30mph.

The shocking figures were detected in St Marychurch Road, captured on portable equipment, provided by Newton Abbot Town Council with a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner, after residents expressed concerns about road safety.

It has prompted hope of new permanent speed cameras meaning those who break the rules there could face hefty fines or driving bans.

The VASS – vehicle activated speed signs – were initially operational in St Marychurch Road between June 1 and July 3 of last year and recorded more than 20,000 vehicles exceeding 35mph and 119 drivers topping 60mph.

Additionally, during a second period of data gathering between December 8 and January 2, more than 22,000 drivers ignored the 30mph limit and some terrifying speeds of 89.05, 89.37 and 99.24mph being detected.

During a Speedwatch session in Ashburton Road on Sunday February 4, Speed Detection Officer Dave Burrows of Devon and Cornwall Police slammed the behaviour.



# to boost road safety

*'It's disgraceful, it's unforgivable,' he said.*

*'At that sort of speed, 100mph, your covering nearly 150ft of road surface per second.*

*'I've spent the last 30 years dealing with serious and fatal road accidents, I'm an experienced collision investigator, and at that speed the occupants of a car or anyone else wouldn't stand a chance.'*

The man responsible for much of Newton Abbot's Speedwatch activity is former mayor, Cllr Mike Joyce. He and his team of volunteers have spent several years supporting the police.

*'Ninety-nine miles an hour in a 30 zone; that is frightening,' he said.*



Speed Detection Officer Dave Burrows with volunteers Cllr Mike Joyce, Cllr Laura Wood and Deputy Town Clerk Sam Scott

*'It scares me to death, to think someone could be doing that speed. But the positive result of all the statistics we've sent to the police is that county highways have said they're going to recommend installing a static camera in St Marychurch Road.*

*'There'd be no need for this if people abided why the speed limits, they're there for a reason. I still don't understand why people don't get that.*

*'But it's good news that our efforts are being rewarded and the problem taken seriously.*

*'We look forward to more success stories elsewhere in town such as Ashburton Road and Torquay Road where residents have also expressed concerns.'*

For more information about Community Speed Watch please email [mike.joyce@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mike.joyce@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk).

## SUNDAY BAND CONCERTS 2023

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

- ◆ Sunday 12th May  
SPECTRUM MUSIC  
CONCERT WIND BAND

Kindly sponsored  
by Major Braden



- ◆ Sunday 9th June  
OKEHAMPTON EXCELSIOR  
SILVER BAND

Kindly sponsored by:



- ◆ Sunday 14th July  
DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE  
SERVICE BAND

Kindly sponsored by:



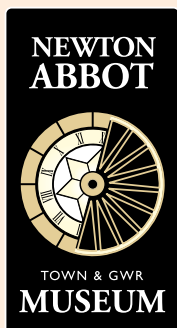
- ◆ Sunday 11th August  
TORBAY BRASS BAND

Kindly sponsored by:



Davie Construction Ltd

- ◆ Sunday 8th September  
BRIXHAM TOWN BAND (TBC)



# Museum News

YOUR REGULAR ROUND-UP FROM **INDIA JOLLY** (CURATOR) AND **LUCY COKE** (CURATORIAL ASSISTANT)

During winter closure, Assistant Curator Lucy has gone back to her book and paper conservation roots to repair some of our delicate items.

Advertising pamphlets for Pearks' Tea and Butter Store and a Bryant & May branded

match box were found in a chimney in a house in Newton Abbot. They are both like little time capsules: echoes of the past that hark back to a different era.

Due to the nature of their confinement in the chimney, both the pamphlets and the match box had sustained some serious water damage. This has made them very delicate to handle, and they would have been susceptible to further damage if the repair work had not begun immediately.

Lucy started with writing a report of the current condition of the objects and taking photos. She is using Japanese paper and wheat-starch paste to support the weakened areas, and had dyed some new paper to replace some of the missing paper on the matchbox.

It is hoped that these repairs will stabilise the objects so they can be used in interpretation throughout the museum in the future.



Matchbox, before conservation (left) and during repair (below)



To stay posted about current events, sign up to our monthly family newsletter. Contact the museum to be added to our mailing list.



The damaged pamphlet prior to its conservation in the museum





# New Year, New Exhibitions

One of the biggest benefits of having our winter closure is that we get to change around some of our exhibitions. This gives us a chance to show items that have been in storage for a while, as well as showcasing some of the new donations we've been given. This year we've made three main changes: the hallway items, the New Acquisitions case, and the Costume Case.

In the hallway you can find items relating to Newton Abbot businesses. We have a boot from Ridgways and Hexter Humpherson bricks along with other items – but you'll have to visit us in person to see what they are!

Our New Acquisitions case is all about Charles Lane Vicary's artwork. We recently received an item illustrated by Vicary that was originally given as a retirement gift, with caricatures of the recipient's colleagues alongside their signatures. This is now on display with other examples of Vicary's work.

Our Costume Case is the star of the show. Displaying two wedding dresses, it presents a clear illustration of the difference in bridal fashion from 1950 and 1970.

There have been many other smaller changes made throughout the museum, so come and check them out when you're next passing by!



Curatorial Assistant, Lucy Cokes, hanging gift tags in the Costume Case

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

## STAY UP-TO-DATE!

Don't forget to check our social media streams or the museum website for all the latest news, exhibition dates, opening times and contact details:

## ALSO HAPPENING...

### TOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It takes a team of volunteers to ensure we can keep St Leonard's Tower open for weekly visitors, and with summer fast approaching, it means we are on the lookout for some fabulous new people to join the team!

If you can spare three hours on a Wednesday, love to talk to people about history, and aren't afraid of a spiral staircase, then we would love to hear from you. For more information and a volunteer application form, email us on [charlotte.edwards@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.edwards@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk).



St Leonard's Tower will be open every Wednesday from May 22nd until September 14th 2024!

### RELAXED VISITS

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

Monday 8th April, 2024

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.

# Great New Ways to Interact with

## Pastport to Prizes

We love the fact that so many of you are repeat visitors to the museum and we want to reward people who take the time to complete our wide range of free museum trails, look closely at our exhibition displays, or take part in our regular activities such as Make & Create.

Enter Museum Pastport! In what's thought to be the first scheme of its kind in the country, we have created our own version of a passport required for overseas travel. Personalise your Pastport with drawings and collect an official sticker for each visit to the museum (maximum one per day). Once you have filled the pages of your Pastport (10 stickers) you can claim a prize.

Newton Abbot has signed the Plastic Free Pledge and the Pastport initiative supports our goal to reduce single use plastic by replacing the small plastic items formerly used as rewards with a final Pastport Prize that encourages drawing and creativity.





# the Museum...

## Curio THE APP FOR THE INQUISITIVE MIND!

Do you ever struggle with standard printed museum labels? Are they too high, too low, or too small? Then the Curio App is for you.

We have an exciting new way to find out about the objects on display using your own smart device via a brand-new cutting-edge app. The app is completely free to download and allows you to access object labels via your smartphone or other device. This puts you in control of your museum experience, allowing you to:

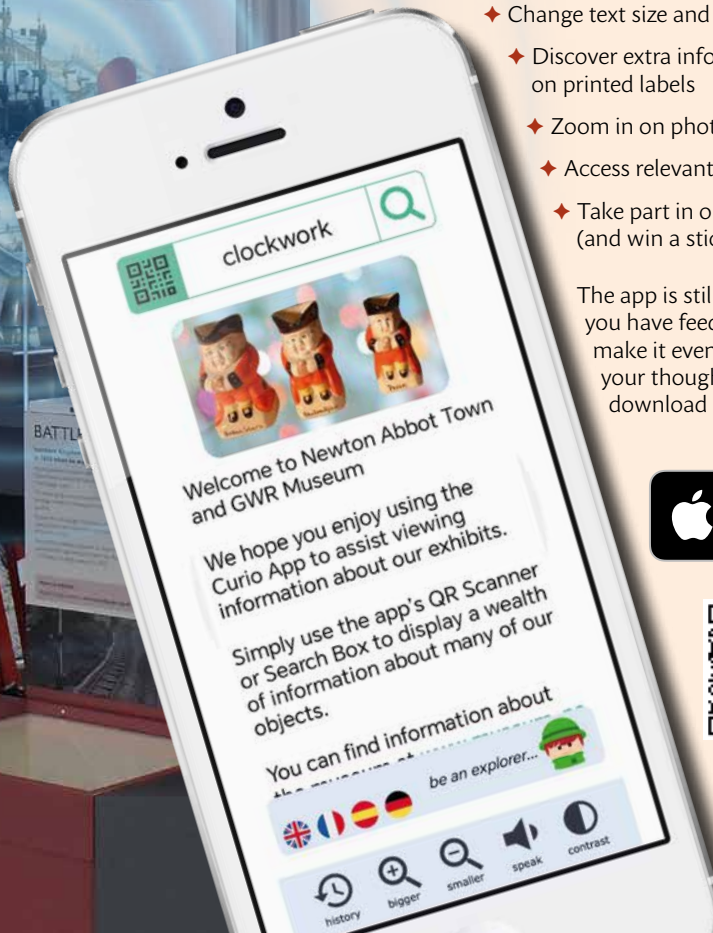
- ◆ Select a language (English, Spanish, German and French are currently supported)
- ◆ Use a 'text to speech' function to hear the label text read to you
- ◆ Change text size and colour
- ◆ Discover extra information not included on printed labels
- ◆ Zoom in on photos of objects
- ◆ Access relevant links and audio files
- ◆ Take part in our 'Explorer' mini game (and win a sticker for your Pastport)

The app is still in development, so if you have feedback on how we could make it even better, please let us know your thoughts. Use the links below to download your copy today!

Download on the  
**App Store**



GET IT ON  
**Google Play**



# Spring Events

## IN NEWTON ABBOT

If you're looking for a fun day out to keep the family entertained over the Easter break, why not head into town on the Saturday? There's plenty to keep everyone amused, including free activities and even a free-to-enter chocolate egg giveaway!

There's a varied programme of dates for your diary right through until 23rd June, when we'll be celebrating by the riverside for the centenary year of the annual rowing race to claim the Barham Cup.

### EASTER SATURDAY

Saturday 30th March, Newton Abbot Town Centre, 10am – 2pm

- ★ Craft with 'Creative Newton Abbot'
- ★ Chocolate egg giveaway
- ★ **FREE** activities
- ★ Balloon modelling
- ★ Face painting
- ★ Walkabout Easter act
- ★ St Leonard's Clock Tower open for tours
- ★ Live music from the Hot House Combo ▼



### CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Saturday 25th May

Classic cars on show throughout the pedestrianised part of the town centre

- ★ Live music

In partnership with Teignbridge Classics.



- ★ Amazing street food
- ★ **FREE** on-street parking
- ★ Local produce and crafts

**Watch out for...**  
Our town mascot 'Newton', who'll be spreading a bit of fun at various events

**PLUS**  
Live music and other entertainments in the town centre on selected Saturdays.



### D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

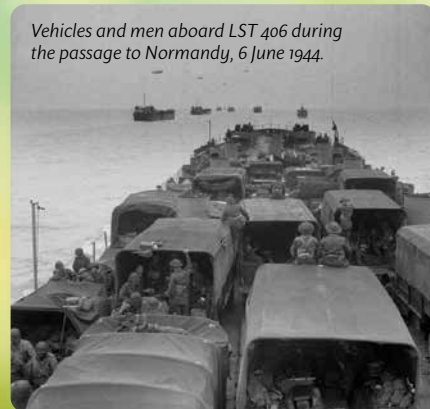
Thursday 6th June



- ★ Lighting of Beacons – Wolborough, Buckland and Highweek
- ★ Town Crier proclamation

Check on-line for more details.

*Vehicles and men aboard LST 406 during the passage to Normandy, 6 June 1944.*





## NEWTON ABBOT SUNDAY MARKET

Sunday 2nd June,  
Courtenay Street



## BARHAM CUP 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY


Sunday 23rd June  
Teignmouth to  
Newton Abbot  
Town Quay.


The coveted Barham Cup, the trophy awarded to the winners of the annual rowing race between Teignmouth and Newton Abbot Town Quay, celebrates its centenary this year!



More details on our spring events to be shared soon – check on-line for updates at:  
[www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

Further updates are also available on  
Twitter and Facebook:

 @newtontownwoman or  
@NewtonAbbotCoun

 Newtonabbotnow or  
NewtonAbbottowncouncilcommunity

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GREAT FOOD AVAILABLE



ALL WEATHER MARQUEE

SUPPORTED BY (at discount on entry) CAMRA

OVER 250 BEERS

# MALTINGSFEST

SPONSORED BY WARMINSTER MALTINGS & NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL

Cask Ale • Keg Beers • Ciders • Spirits

from our SIBA members

18-20

Showcasing the  
finest beers in the  
Southwest from  
SIBA members

April

2024

Located on  
the green  
outside the Old  
Tuckers Maltings

Live Music

FRIDAY

Last Resort  
Swamp Hogs  
Go Tell Alice

SATURDAY

Lion • Craig Ayres  
Rock Choir (afternoon)  
STARRING SHELLEY TYLER

## SESSIONS & PRICES

Thursday  
Evening Session  
5pm – 11pm £7

Friday  
All Day Session  
11am – 11pm £10

Saturday  
All Day Session  
11am – 10 pm £7

..... All Weekend Ticket £20 .....

THE SOCIETY OF  
**SIBA**  
INDEPENDENT  
BREWERS



Osborne Park, Teign Road  [twitter.com/MaltingsFest](https://twitter.com/MaltingsFest)  
Newton Abbot, TQ12 4AA  [facebook.com/MaltingsFest](https://facebook.com/MaltingsFest)

[www.maltingsfest.co.uk](http://www.maltingsfest.co.uk)



# Out & About

with **Sally Henley**, TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

I hope you enjoyed some of the many seasonal events which the town council put on last year, and thank you to everyone who shopped locally at Christmas. We had some brilliant BBC *Spotlight* coverage of the town centre and our final late night shopping event and received some lovely feedback from shoppers.

There are many more events and entertainments lined up for 2024, starting with Easter fun and including our ever-popular summer Classic Car shows. Teignbridge Classics knows how to put on a good show, and we already have lots of interest from classic car owners, eager to show off their cherished vehicles.

The Liberty Sisters and The Hot House Combo will be returning this summer and the lads from local celebrity band, 3 Days of Wonder, will also be making an appearance at our September classic car show. Jazz and swing touring band Swervy World will be performing in Courtenay Street at the end of August, and I know there are many who will be thrilled to see them return after a little while away.

Our town centre continues to buck the trend. When other towns are losing their last bank or building society and are seeing more empty units than full ones, Newton Abbot has a teeny vacancy rate of just 5%. Of three hundred commercial units, only fifteen are available to let between the train station and Newton's Place.

FOR  
MORE INFO:  
check our website:  
[newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](http://newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

or follow us:  
@newtontownwoman  
Newton Abbot  
Now







## SWERVY WORLD

It is wonderful to see new businesses opening and just before Christmas I was delighted to welcome Sweet Dylemma and Yellow Umbrella Gifts, which took the remaining units on the ground floor of Pearl Assurance House. These unusual and attractive shops are such great additions to our portfolio of independent retailers.

Have you discovered Social Bar and Kitchen, which also opened before Christmas? This unique independent is the latest in our town's

fantastic line-up of eateries and can be found above Fulfords by St Leonard's Tower.

I would love to remind you here about Union Street (which links Courtenay Street with East Street in the town centre). This narrow street is teeming with little independent gems. Check out latest newcomer AJ Handmade & Yarn for exquisite accessories and crafts. I am also working with another of our award-winning independent businesses The Plot Catering Co and café, also based in Union Street, to establish a new monthly Sunday market in Courtenay Street. These will be on the first Sunday of every month – so easy to remember – with the first one taking place on 5th May. The Sunday Market will feature local produce and crafts, with scrumptious street food as well. If you're lucky enough to bag a space, on-street parking is free on Sundays, but it still only costs £1.10 to park all day in the TDC owned car parks, so why not put these dates in the diary now?

We have such an amazing array of local independent entrepreneurs; this will be an opportunity to showcase some of them and another opportunity for the community to shop locally. I do hope you will afford this new initiative the same great level of support that you've always shown to our town's business ventures.

See you in town!

*Sally*

**Sally Henley**  
Town Development Manager



**NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL** in partnership with **TEIGNBRIDGE CLASSICS**










Email exhibitor and general inquiries to:  
[teignbridgeclassics@gmail.com](mailto:teignbridgeclassics@gmail.com)

**9am–4pm**

# Make a Date!

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

## YOUR SPACE

2024 is the Chinese Year of the Dragon! One of our museum volunteers who collects all things dragon-ey (is that even a word?) will be sharing her collection of books and figurines celebrating the beauty of dragons in the Your Space cabinet throughout March. A real treat for dragon enthusiasts!



## Make & Create

In March the museum will partner with Stover Country Park as part of their Restoring Stover Park project – an ambitious undertaking that will revitalise this valuable, local, green space in the next couple of years. We will be celebrating nature springing back to life at this time of the year and finding out about what is happening in spring at Stover.

# March



Local families can find a creative nook in the museum on the first Saturday of each month with our Make & Create sessions. Lots of fun is had with a completely different art activity on offer each month. Our plans for 2024 activities have taken shape nicely with a good range of opportunities for parents, grandparent and carers to spend quality time with the younger members of their household.

## YOUR SPACE

In April, a fascinating collection of board games will fill Your Space, inspired by our new board game project – 'The Cabinet of Curiosity'.

A reminder that if you would like to come for an evening, play board games and help us invent a new board game for the museum, then do get in touch.



## Make & Create

Our April workshop is linked to Easter, but instead of focusing on bunnies and eggs we are going to look at the beautiful stained-glass windows in the museum and find inspiration to create our own stained-glass pieces.



# April





## YOUR SPACE

May's display will feature artworks and writings from our new, creative project based at Channing's Wood prison. I'll be running six sessions with folks at the

prison and will take objects from the museum collection in to inspire art and writing – we are excited to see what comes from the workshops there. Pop along and see what is made.

## Make & Create

As we move further into the warmer months, our workshop in May will look at the tradition of floral headdresses, and we will have lots of materials available for you to make your own floral headwear.



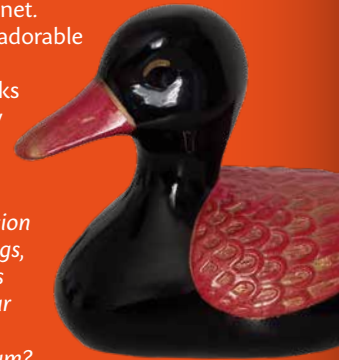
# May

## YOUR SPACE

In June, the community area will show off collections from museum volunteers, all of which will be spread across the three shelves of the cabinet.

Exquisite pill boxes, adorable ceramic dogs and beautiful glass ducks will give you plenty to look at and admire.

*If you have a passion for collecting things, why not talk to us about sharing your fab collection with visitors to the museum?*



## Make & Create

For June's Make & Create workshop, the museum will partner with an exciting new festival for the town called 'ACT with the Arts Climate Festival'.

Writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists, actors, schools, and local community groups will come together to create events that engage, excite, illuminate, and explain what our changing climate means for people in the district – and what we can all do to make a difference.

Our workshop in this month will involve a special climate themed activity as a precursor to the festival, which takes place between 22nd and 29th June.

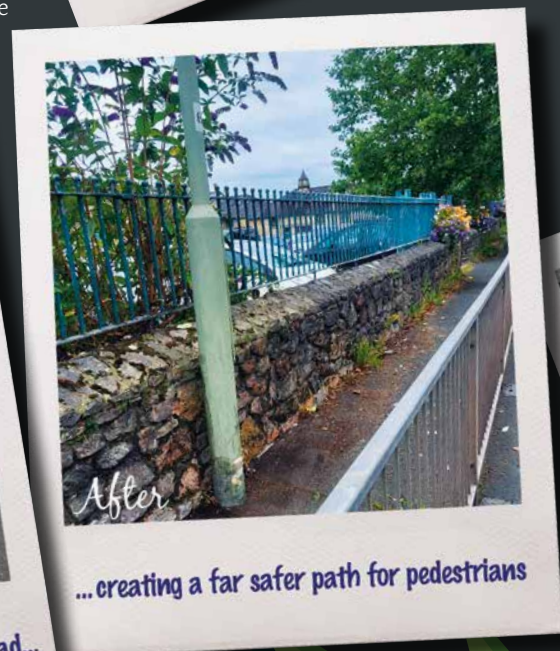
# June

# Welcome to the (former) Jungle!

(NOW NICELY TRIMMED AND UNDER CONTROL)

It's been a busy few months for our trio of facilities maintenance officers, who've been trimming, jet washing and brushing the highways and byways of Newton Abbot in readiness for the warmer months of spring and summer.

Thanks to the efforts of Tony Little, Steven Ryan and David Samson, we can all enjoy a cleaner, tidier environment that helps to promote civic pride whilst counteracting low level crime and anti-social behaviour. Well done, team!





# Voice Your Opinions

Working alongside Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council to provide public services, Newton Abbot Town Council always aims to improve any areas for which we're responsible and meet the needs and concerns of our residents – and one of the best ways to ensure we continue to deliver is by discussing local issues with the public.

On Saturday 18th May, we'll be hosting our Annual Town Meeting in Courtenay Street, giving you the opportunity to speak with town councillors, council officers and the museum team about anything that's on your mind.

The event is very informal, with free craft activities to keep younger folk involved and friendly, approachable staff on-hand to answer your questions from 10am until 1:30pm in and around our open-sided gazebo – just come along and have your say!



Work along Halcyon Road

Tony treats the Town Quay to a steam clean

Invasive plants removed from Neville Road





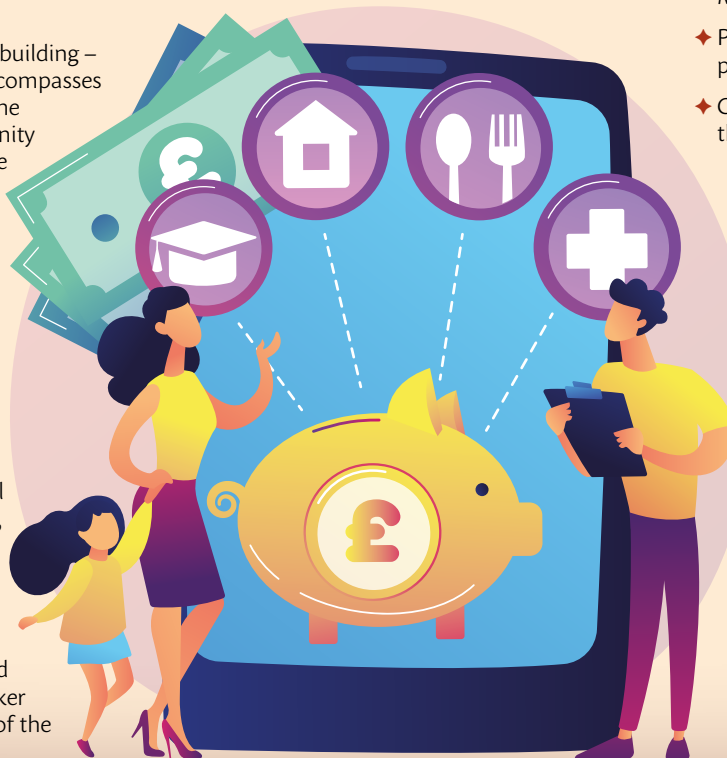
# Investing in the community

## WHERE DOES YOUR COUNCIL TAX GO?

With the cost of living still rising, everyone strives to find the best value for money, whether it's your monthly heating bills or your weekly grocery shop, and it's our duty to ensure that all public funding – your money – is also spent wisely on local amenities and services.

Newton Abbot Town Council's proportion of your council tax is just £3.50 per week for a Band D property, but with the collective capital raised we're able to provide a wide range of benefits to the whole community, including:

- ◆ Our fabulous community building – Newton's Place, which encompasses the town council offices, the museum, and the community rooms (which are available for hire to the public at very reasonable rates indeed).
- ◆ Our wonderful museum, housed within Newton's Place, which sings the song of Newton Abbot wonderfully while providing lots of free, fun, family activities!
- ◆ A fantastic and full annual programme of free events, including the Christmas festivities and classic car shows.
- ◆ Appointing a town development manager and community outreach worker for the continued benefit of the local community.



- ◆ Maintenance of 40+ public footpaths.
- ◆ Six allotment fields: Decoy, Bradley, Cookes, Blakes, Coach Road and Vicary's.
- ◆ The cutting of grass verges and visibility splays within Newton Abbot, (devolved from DCC).
- ◆ Provision of grants to local, grass roots organisations.
- ◆ Issuing Street Café Licences

- ◆ A small team of facilities maintenance operatives who work tirelessly to keep our streets clean and tidy.
- ◆ Emptying dog and litter bins at the Town Quay, Golden Lion Square and Victoria Gardens.
- ◆ Installation and maintenance of all street furniture throughout Newton Abbot town centre.
- ◆ Preservation of the historic St Leonard's Clock Tower and War Memorial.
- ◆ Planting floral displays (poles/baskets/ planters) within the town.
- ◆ Christmas illuminations throughout the town centre.
- ◆ Access to our Town Quay, which is a haven of natural beauty and is filled with wildlife.
- ◆ Newfoundland Way Public Conveniences (taken over from TDC).
- ◆ Financial contributions towards the CCTV network within Newton Abbot town centre.
- ◆ A Shop Front Improvement grant scheme for local businesses.
- ◆ Safeguarding the green space of Victoria Gardens.
- ◆ The community space that is Golden Lion Square.
- ◆ Partly funding the Newton Abbot Community Interest Company.