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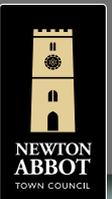


THE NEWTON

Crier

APRIL 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL





EDITOR'S NOTES

We've gone digital!

Always ready to adapt to circumstance, the newsletter has gone paperless for this issue! Everyday life has obviously changed quite a bit since the last edition of the Cryer, but the community is still active, with support for those in need, practical information and a whole host of creative ideas to keep the old grey cells active!

The decision was taken for this issue to be digital only in order to reduce non-crucial processes, such as delivering the printed version to everyone's homes, and take advantage of the twenty-first century technology that allows most of us to carry out our daily tasks at the click of a mouse or the tap of a screen.

With that in mind, you'll notice that most of the e-mail contacts and website addresses mentioned throughout the newsletter are presented as clickable links, making it easier than ever to access internet content and service providers.

Central to everyone in isolation is the importance of keeping in touch with family and friends, and there have been plenty of heart-warming stories of local solidarity amongst the great people of our town that prove the light at the end of the tunnel grows brighter every day.

Even Newton's been busy with his brushes to join the rainbow revolution!

Sam

Stay safe & keep smiling.

Samantha Scott
Deputy Town Clerk.



Keep in touch

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

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Voluntary services

The following organisations are the voluntary agencies that provide support with shopping, befriending, etc., on a day-to-day basis. With their own groups of volunteers (whose numbers have increased due to COVID 19), each organisation is linked to the GPs that cover their area and has a website detailing what they offer and the areas that they cover.

- ◆ **Kingscare** (Newton Abbot area) – 01626 357090
- ◆ **Kingsbridge and Saltstone Caring** – 01548 854588
- ◆ **Totnes Caring** – 01803 865684
- ◆ **Dartmouth Caring** – 01803 835384
- ◆ **Moorland Community Care Group** – 01364 712013
- ◆ **Tavistock Area Support Services** – 01822 616958

Food banks

Newton Abbot (Buckland) and Teignbridge (can deliver)

THAT Foodbank (Teignbridge Homeless Action Today)

THAT Place, 8 Queensway House, Buckland,
Newton Abbot, TQ12 4BA.

Monday to Wednesday: 11am – 2pm
Thursday and Friday: 10am – 1pm.

Telephone: 01626 437310.

Newton Abbot (Kingsteignton) (can deliver)

HITS Foodbank (Homeless in Teignbridge Support)

Abbrook Park, Strap Lane, Kingsteignton,
Newton Abbot, TQ12 3PS.

Call to arrange: 01626 906371.

Buckfastleigh

Buckfastleigh Foodbank

St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DA

9.30am – 11.30am Friday

Telephone: 01364 644875

Reasons to be cheerful!

Children and adults alike have had fun creating an array of colourful rainbow images to display in their windows in Newton Abbot, and, indeed, across the UK.

The bright idea behind the community art was to spread a little happiness and positivity during this time of uncertainty and sadness – and to publicly thank all our keyworkers, who are continuing to work hard to deliver our essential services.

**CLICK ON THE
RAINBOW TO SEE
THE UNITED COLOURS OF
NEWTON ABBOT!**

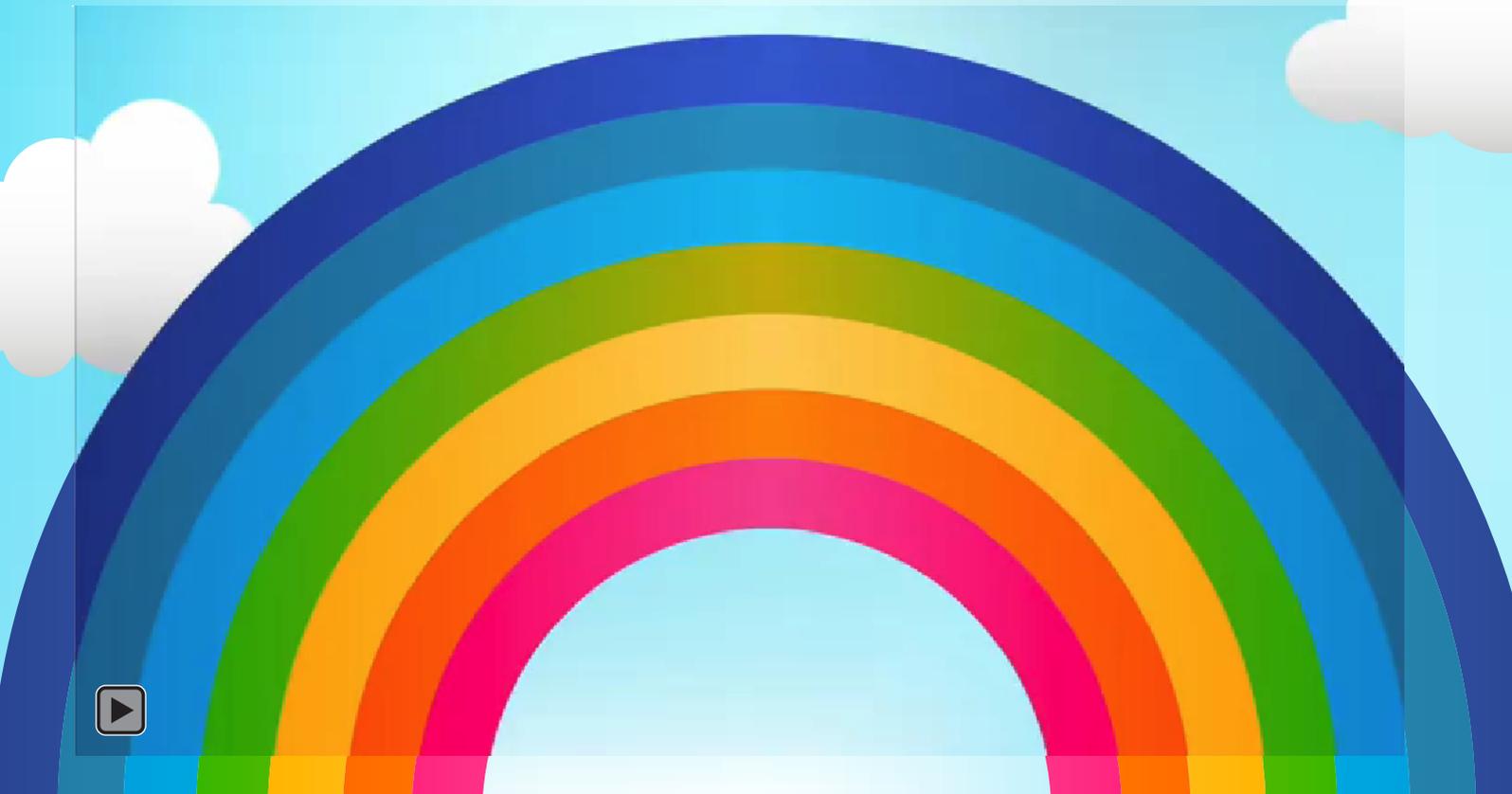


Thanks to everyone who shared photos of their creations; the collage of images in the slideshow is just a small selection of the window artwork created by the people of Newton Abbot and its hinterland.

I would encourage you to try some rainbow-spotting during your daily exercise time – hopefully, they'll bring some cheer and uplifting thoughts to your day!

**Viewing on a
smartphone or tablet
and can't see the video?**

[CLICK HERE.](#)



NEWTON'S PLACE

Update

COMMUNITY | HERITAGE | TOWN

Newton Abbot Town Council is still here for you.

SINCE the outbreak of the Corona virus, events have moved very fast. At the time of writing we're all living with restrictions and challenges we never thought possible. How long the situation will last none of us knows. All we can do is keep on top of the information coming from the Government and observe the rules.

In the meantime, what does it mean for Newton's Place and the services provided by Newton Abbot Town Council?

As you may know, staff and councillors moved out of the old Town Hall in Devon Square on March 18. The plan was to set up in Newton's Place – the former St Leonard's Church in Wolborough Street – and work behind closed doors for a short while as we settled in and the final construction worked continued.

But the health and safety of us all – and this includes the public – means, for the foreseeable future, we are now operating from our various home addresses. All the phone lines and emails have been diverted to the right people – **YOU CAN STILL GET IN TOUCH** – and we're in regular contact with each other.

Please bear with us as we try to make these new arrangements work as smoothly as possible.

We will be making alternative arrangements for council meetings – such as holding them online – but with Teignbridge District Council and other authorities having cancelled all but 'essential' meetings it is likely we'll need to hold fewer meetings ourselves. We will make every effort to inform residents about how they can still be part of the democratic process. All meetings will be publicised in advance with advice on how to take part, so watch this space.

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

TAKE A PEEK
TODAY!

Interestingly, many of the phone calls the Town Council receives are actually about services we're not responsible for. But that's not a problem, keep getting in touch! If you call our main number of 01626 201120 you will be offered a short and simple menu that will automatically put your call through to the right department. This service is free of charge and in most cases, we'll even be picking up the cost of the call.

As for the opening of the new Museum within Newton's Place, well that too has been delayed. We cannot say when the doors will finally open because the global impacts of Covid-19 could result in further delays to any equipment being manufactured overseas. What we can promise is that we will do everything in our power to deliver Newton's Place as soon as is safe and humanly possible.

When the Mid-Devon Advertiser broke news of the delayed opening on March 20 the story made the front page. We take this as an indication of just how much the community is awaiting the arrival of its new facility. Your disappointment is not lost on us and we feel it just as acutely. We have worked incredibly hard in the last few years to make the dream a reality and want nothing more than to deliver. And we will!

Sadly, the programme of community events arranged each year by the Town Council has also been hit. For the latest news visit our website – www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk – or follow us on Facebook. Keep an eye too on the local press or feel free to call us on 01626 201120.

Mayor Cllr Richard Jenks, who is expected to remain in office until early May 2021, offered these words when the decision to postpone the opening of Newton's Place was announced:

'It is with very heavy hearts that we have taken these steps but feel it is absolutely necessary given the current national and international effort to halt the spread of the coronavirus.'

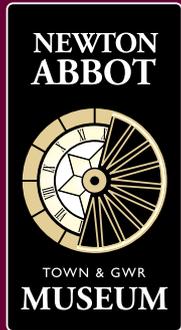
'It would be irresponsible to ignore the opportunity technology has given us to enable home-working which, while not as efficient or joyful as being together in the same building, means we can still get the job done. Several town councillors are classified as 'at-risk' for one reason or another, we cannot ignore their safety, nor that of staff or members of the public who might visit Newton's Place.'

'Difficult times call for difficult decisions but the sooner we tackle the problems facing us the sooner life can return to normal.'

'I urge every resident in Newton Abbot to be generous and caring in the coming weeks and months, to think how they might help the community, be that by taking positive steps to help those in need or by simply following Government advice.'

'By working together, we can minimise the impact of this dreadful virus. We must remain hopeful and positive, looking for the best within ourselves and cherishing those we love and care for.'

'There is light at the end of every tunnel.'



Museum News

During this very strange time, we are all having to adapt to new ways of working and living. The museum staff are all working from home, and the museum volunteers are donning their creative thinking caps to find different ways to research and share the town's history.

Newton Abbot Museum has embraced the digital world during our closure to support social distancing! We've created a useful resources page, where you can find links to a fantastic selection of websites that offer a wealth of information, education, games, activities and culture to keep you engaged during the lockdown!



Click on Newton to visit the museum's website hub and discover a whole new virtual world!

- ✦ QUARANTINE SUPPORT AND VIRUS ADVICE
- ✦ VIRTUAL MUSEUM TOURS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
- ✦ EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE
- ✦ ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME

TWO GAMES TO TEST YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION AND DESCRIPTION...

Here are two great ways to keep your minds sharp – and have fun at the same time! For both games, all you need is a tray or large plate, a blindfold and around 10 – 20 small household objects – anything will do, as long as it'll fit on the tray.

Kim's Game

Named after the eponymous hero from Rudyard Kipling's novel *Kim*, who plays the game as part of his training to become a spy, this is ideal for two or more people.

- 1 Without the other(s) watching, one person (the collector) gathers objects of their choosing and places them on the tray. The tray is then shown to the other players for twenty seconds before being taken away.
- 2 The collector removes one item from the tray before replacing it in front of the other players, who then have to deduce which item is missing.



- 3 If the missing object is correctly identified, a point is scored and the collector replaces the item on the tray before repeating step 2. If an incorrect answer is given, a new collector is chosen and the game begins again. The winner is the player with the most points after a set number of rounds.

Hands & Ears

A guessing game, for two or more teams of two people, that will hone your senses and develop co-operational skills.

- 1 Members of Team A sit back-to-back, one as 'Ears', the other as 'Hands'. Hands is blindfolded.
- 2 Team B secretly selects five objects and gives them to Team A's blindfolded player (Hands).
- 3 Hands is given one minute to describes each object; Ears must guess what the objects are before the time is up. A point is scored for each correctly identified object.
- 4 Teams swap roles – most points wins!

Thanks to volunteer Tess Walker for her valued input on this item!

Are you cut-out for adventure?

Have you ever heard of our fantastic, world famous, 18th century inventor and diver, John Lethbridge? He lived in Newton Abbot during the 1700s. Lethbridge invented a 'diving-engine' and tested it in his pond in his back garden. He then went on to become a very successful 'silver-fisher'. He dived on shipwrecks, salvaging silver and the cargoes of the East India Company's wrecked ships all over the world.



Click on Newton and download a template to make your very own miniature version of his 'diving engine'. A full-sized replica will be on display in the new museum at Newton's Place.



Felicity

Felicity Cole, Museum Curator.

It's fun to share memories!



Our Facebook is becoming a real hub for things to do and ways to join in.

First up, we have created a photo album that is becoming a virtual cabinet of curiosities. Take part in the People's Museum by messaging the page with a photo of a single object from your house – one that is treasured by you – and the story that makes it unique. It might be something that belonged to a relative and has been passed down to you; something that you had as a gift or that you bought years ago and have kept ever since; or an object that reminds you of a special occasion.



Some fascinating pictures and stories have already been shared at the People's Museum – why not join in?



Here's Kate Green, Community officer with more details – and the story behind her own special item:

"Over the last six months we have been helping people locally to create beautiful, small boxes in which to share their special objects. When Newton's Place opens, we'll exhibit the boxes, adding images and words gathered through Facebook whilst we are all in quarantine. Thanks very much for taking the time to join in. The museum team are excited to see what you will share with us."

To get us started is my special object....

It is a picture of the buttonhole flowers that my husband and I wore on our wedding day in December 1992 – also of our two wedding rings. To be a little bit different, we chose silver Celtic-knot style rings, but the soft metal was not as hard wearing as gold and hence after about 10 years my ring snapped in two! The rings and the buttonholes sit in my little cabinet of curiosities in my hallway. We have now chosen two new rings, still silver, but this time a little more sturdy!"



Find us on 

Safety First

The town centre may be out-of-bounds for most of us at the moment, but there's no need for anyone to go without essential supplies and services. Here's a round-up of shops and providers with opening hours and contact details. The situation is under constant review, so please do check on-line or via telephone for the latest information before planning your shopping trip.

DIRECT LINKS TO ARE SHOWN AS FOLLOWS:

Website ✉ E-mail

Simply click on the symbols to go directly to the listee's homepage or send them an e-mail. Alternatively, [click here](#) for updates, news and advice on COVID-19 from Which?

SUPERMARKETS

Changes to Opening hours;
Arrangements for Key workers &
Vulnerable shoppers
Item restrictions

◆ ALDI

Normal opening hours, but customers numbers limited – staff will be on-hand to offer help and assistance.

◆ ASDA

Reduced opening hours in 24-hour stores, now 8am – 8pm. NHS workers: Mon, Wed, Fri from 8am-9am. Three of any item per customer; two antibacterial hand gels per person.

◆ CO-OP

Most stores open 7am-8pm Mon-Sat. 'Prioritised' Mon-Sat 8am-9am; Sun 10am-11am. Two of some items.

◆ ICELAND

NHS workers: final hour of trading Mon-Sat
First hour of trading Mon-Sat
Some items, including antibacterial soaps and wipes, restricted.

◆ LIDL

Varies by store – check Lidl's store locator. Four of some items, including household essentials.

◆ MARKS & SPENCER

First hour of trading on Tue and Fri for NHS and emergency workers; First hour of trading for Older shoppers (70+) Mon and Thu. Two items per customer on frozen food, home products, groceries and eggs.

◆ MORRISONS

Mon-Sat 8am-8pm; Sun no change. 'Prioritised' shopping Mon-Sat 7am-8am. Three of any one item per customer.

◆ SAINSBURY'S

Mon-Sat 7.30am-8pm; no change on Sundays. 'Prioritised' shopping Mon-Sat 7.30am-8am. Older shoppers Mon, Wed, Fri 8am-9am. Three of any one item per customer except some high-demand products, where you'll be limited to two. Live updates available on the Sainsbury's website.



LOCAL SERVICES

Help and Advice

◆ TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

There is much useful information on the district council webpage

◆ HITS FOODBANK

Hits Food Bank are looking for more volunteers especially evening drivers).

Tel 01626 906371 or e-mail

◆ THAT FOODBANK

THAT need more volunteers and donations.

Tel 01626 437310 or e-mail

◆ CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (CAB)

Usual drop-in services are currently closed, however, advice can be sought via the following channels:

Tel: 03444 111 444

(advice line open Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am and 4pm)

E-mail Text: 07867 012 580

WhatsApp – 01626 322260

◆ KINGSCARE

Voluntary agency providing support with shopping, befriending, etc.

Tel 01626 357090 or e-mail

◆ NEWTON ABBOT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

The office is closed but there are a small number of drivers providing transport to hospital and essential shopping and they are still providing daily living aids in conjunction with DCC/NHS.

Tel: 01626 335775 or e-mail

SHOPS AND SUPPLIERS OFFERING HOME DELIVERY

◆ RD JOHNS

Tel: 01626 368800

To support our community in these troubled times we now offer home delivery. More than 5000 product lines and good stocks of essential items.

No delivery charge but we have a minimum order value of £50.00. We are also taking orders via Online Ordering Page and App. Activate an account through our website contact form or call our office staff.

Card payments only before delivery.

Order by 7pm for next day delivery from Lands End to Bristol and East to Swanage (deliveries Tuesday to Saturday).

◆ BAKERS THE BUTCHERS

10% discount on meat purchases for NHS staff (need to show NHS card) Bakers the Butchers orders by email:

Tel: 01626 331602 or e-mail

◆ CATERFOOD (SOUTH WEST) LTD

Maple House, Paignton TQ4 7QN

£5 minimum order and they will deliver anywhere as far as Dorset

Tel: 01803 664422

◆ RIVIERA FOODS

Will take BACS payment or cash left in an envelope and will deliver.

Tel: 01626 205203 or e-mail

ISOLATION PACKS – Free delivery to your door! £67 or £40. Delivery days Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.

Please telephone your order before 4.00pm. All products are FROZEN except bacon & cheese.

◆ TOTAL PRODUCE DEVON

Tel: 01626 832848 or e-mail for any enquiries and orders.

We sell fruit, veg & salad, milk, Braces & local bread; to order just give us a call. Please make sure you have your card to hand so we can take payment.

◆ DEVON FRESH

Tel 01803 617969 or e-mail

Delivers fresh produce free of charge, subject to a minimum order value of £10.00 per delivery.

◆ DART FRESH

On-line orders taken

Tel: 01392 873 036 or e-mail

◆ VEG IN A BOX

Free delivery with orders over £25. Meat, dairy, bread also available.

Tel 01392 877189 or 07951 786653

◆ NEWTON ABBOT COVID-19 MUTUAL AID

Food Parcels - Single pack £20, Double pack £40 (double quantity of produce).

If you are in financial difficulties, we will help. Free delivery. Orders must be placed by 6pm on a Monday.

Tel: 07954 054459 or 01626 682369

Deliveries will be each Wednesday from approx. 2.00pm. Payment on delivery (to be left on the doorstep, please):

Cash: the right amount if possible.

Cheque: made payable to SW/008500

Plymouth Community Branch.

Or Bacs: Unity Trust Bank (Acct: Sw /008500 Plymouth Community Branch Acct No: 20396480, sort code: 608301)

◆ ULLACOMBE FARM SHOP & BARN CAFÉ

No longer taking new orders due to high level of demand.

Tel: 01364661341 or e-mail

◆ FERMOY'S

Order from the garden centre or the deli/farm shop. Free delivery in the TQ12 area and a reduced price delivery in other areas if you spend over £30.

Tel: 01803 813504 or e-mail

◆ BORN 'N' BREAD

Bread, milk and eggs only – orders over the phone, we will take cash left in an envelope, and will deliver if we can, otherwise the shop will be open for pick ups between 9am and 10am. Orders must be in before 3pm for the next day and there is no bread on Sat or Sun.

Tel: 07787 503983 or e-mail

◆ PASSION FOR PIE

Minimum 8 pies, posted to you for postal charge of £5.95. HOME DELIVERIES – Cold pies for local areas. Minimum 4 pies for FREE delivery or £2 if under this quantity. We also provide a hot meal service of pie, mash, peas and gravy.

Tel: 01626 360227 / 07495 787779

◆ DARTMOOR FARMERS

Beef delivered to your door. Payment taken over the phone.

Tel: 07495 685724 or e-mail

SHOPS STILL OPEN

◆ CLEAVES CONVENIENCE STORE

We are open as normal. We have fresh bread, milk, eggs, fresh meat and fresh fruit and vegetables. Stock levels are good. Please leave 2 metre gap and stand back from the counter. We can only stay open if you help to protect our staff. Only one customer permitted to enter the shop at any one time, please

46 Barton Drive, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1PD

Tel: 01626 211602

◆ NATURE'S BOUNTY

Health store. Normal opening hours. Where possible place order by phone. Order can be posted. Contactless payment preferred in store.

Tel 01626 367050 84 Queen St.

◆ GLORIOUS VERONICAS

Florists, also delivering fruit and veg. 2a Union Street

Tel: 01626 333303 or 07930 834359

◆ WILKO

Market Walk

◆ BOOTS THE CHEMIST

Courtenay Street

◆ SUPERDRUG

Courtenay Street & East Street

Reduced hours:

Mon – Friday: 10am – 1pm

& 2pm – 5pm

Saturday: 11am – 4pm

◆ SPAR

Queen Street

◆ SAVERS

Queen Street

◆ POUNDLAND

Queen street

TRANSPORT SERVICES

◆ TQ12 TAXIS

Pick-up and delivery of prescriptions, shopping or a takeaway from a restaurant. This can be prepaid for by card, or by cash with our drivers.

If you are a local shop or takeaway that would like your goods delivered to customers please let us know.

Tel: 01626 355555



TAKEAWAYS & MEAL DELIVERIES

◆ THE PLOT CATERING COMPANY

Delivering meals free with a go fund me page for people able to donate

Tel: 07717 209509 or e-mail

◆ THE PIZZA CAFÉ

CONTACTLESS DELIVERY – Our drivers are armed with sanitiser and will drop your delivery off in a specified place whilst keeping a 2m distance – just let us know on the phone when ordering or select “contact free delivery” when ordering online!

We now deliver from 11am till 9pm

Tel: 01626 355102 or 201153 or order online via our website

◆ COURT FARM INN, Abbotskerswell

We are now offering a takeaway & delivery menu, available 12pm – 3pm and 5pm – 8pm.

Call us now to order or you can order and pay online.

Tel 01626 361866 or e-mail

◆ THE LINNY, Coffinswell

Limited takeaway service. £3 delivery up to 5 miles. Thurs – Sun evenings plus Sat and Sun lunchtimes. Best to book a delivery in advance via website

Tel: 01803 873192

Please note that, while information was correct at time of publication, things are changing fast, so please check on-line for all the latest news!

Not Out but still About!

with **Sally Henley**, TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

In my working with local businesses and promoting Newton Abbot as a great place to live, work and shop, these are challenging times. I would never have thought that a day would come when the town would be virtually devoid of shoppers. Newton Abbot is home to a huge number of small, medium and large independent businesses and every single one of them is affected by this crisis and yet all of them are doing their utmost to provide support for the community and safety for their employees.

We are fortunate too, to be home to many of the national retailers and businesses and, with government help available to cover business rates and wages, we look forward to retaining these in our town centre, when this is all over.

Working from home, I have been toiling through the mass of information (and misinformation) which is out there to try to make sense of it all in terms of business support and cascading it to the businesses on my email distribution list. There is support from the government for many, but there have been anxious times waiting for the detail after the announcements.

I want to say a massive thank you to all of the staff who are manning the shops and supermarkets, which are still open to the public, providing food, medicine and cleaning products so that we can all play our role either self-isolating or 'staying at home'. I think that they are all heroes and deserve a medal for the work they are doing, as of course do those in the NHS, care and public service sectors.

Many of your favourite local shops and businesses are keeping calm and carrying on in new and innovative ways, so do get in touch with them via email, phone or social media as some are keen to help with deliveries or a postal service. Don't assume that they are all shut, as while their physical stores might be closed, they may be operating in different ways, so that you can 'Stay at Home and Save the NHS'. I also want to thank the team and volunteers at Community Transport who are managing to continue to provide a service and to NAST for helping to keep our town safe. All who are continuing to provide vital and essential services, from those emptying our bins to those policing our streets, are doing a superb job!

We will come out of this and we will all realise just how important our town centre business community is and it will be a time for great rejoicing. We have cancelled events in the immediate future of course, but we look forward to planning a big celebration when we can. The more we all heed government rules, the quicker this time will come!

Hoping to see you in town very soon.

Sally Henley
Town Development Manager




Chancel be a fine thing!

If you look up in the former Chancel when you first visit Newton's Place, you are sure to be enchanted by the beautiful, painted ceiling that was carefully created in 1881, by a local and very talented artist, Vernon Benbow. Living for most of his life in Paignton he decorated a number of local churches in a style typical of the Victorian era, his paintings harking back to medieval religious decorations.

The ceiling is made up from a series of wooden boards that have a dark blue painted background with earth-red roundels that frame, firstly, a number of angels with golden halos and exquisite faces, each playing a different instrument. Secondly, a collection of gilded scrolls on which is written 'Alleluia', surrounded by plants that have religious significance and that are all mentioned in the bible - lilies, roses, grapes, bulrushes, pomegranates, Passion flowers, thistles and quince.

When staff at the Town Council and the Museum first saw the ceiling, all were very excited by the quality of the work, but, on closer inspection, were a little dismayed at the damage that had occurred over the years because of candle smoke and from leaks in the roof. Added to which an overall discolouration of the top layer of varnish meant that the, once beautiful, ceiling was in need of some TLC.

Enthusiastic volunteers from the museum set to work to write funding applications to pay for the restoration and conservation of such a significant body of painting. And.... success, a grant came from the Art Fund to pay a team of professional conservators from McNeilage Conservation to begin their specialised work, for which we are extremely grateful.

Over a period of a few months, initial inspection and analysis of the paintings were followed by careful cleaning and restoration work. The layers of dirt and accumulated soot from candles and incense burning were removed using chemicals and cotton swabs, and the cracks between the boards were repaired. An interesting discovery was the hand painted message from Vernon Benbow himself, proclaiming that he had painted the ceiling in honour of God. Other names etched into the beams were revealed of those who had worked on installing the ceiling and who had undertaken general maintenance, dating from 1876 and 1951. Next came the careful job of repainting small areas, using acrylic paints that were mixed to match the original colours. A fresh coat of varnish, to protect the panels for the future, was applied as the final task.

Now the paintings are conserved for future generations who visit Newton's Place and we are all to surely suffer slightly from sore necks as we gaze with wonder at the magnificent work of Vernon Benbow.





Sound advice from the town clerk...

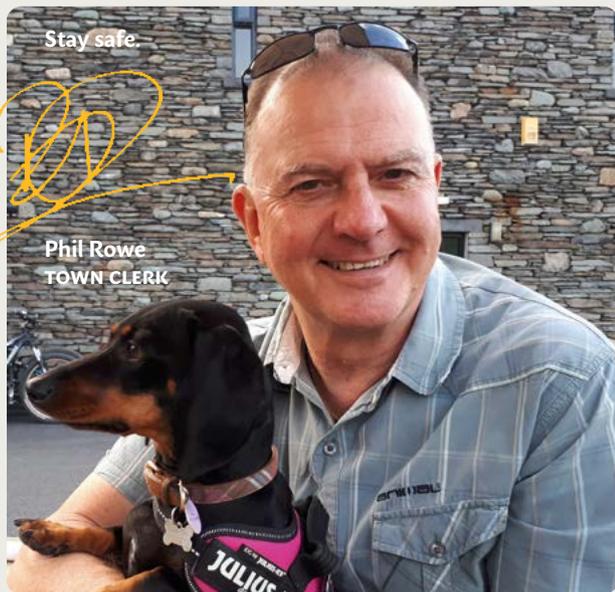
During these unprecedented and difficult times our first priority must be to keep ourselves and each other safe and healthy. The best way to ensure this is to heed the advice of the Government and the NHS. Keeping ourselves away from social contact is the best way to stop this pandemic from spreading uncontrollably, so, only go out if absolutely necessary.

A great positive to come out of this emergency is the number of community groups who have come forward to provide support themselves for the vulnerable and to signpost to other agencies depending upon need.

Newton Abbot Town Council will not be undertaking a direct role, as there are so many operating in and around Newton Abbot and it will just cause confusion. However, should anyone require help, support or assistance, information can be found on the town council's website:

Alternatively you can make contact via our website
Telephone: 01626 - 201 120; or by e-mail:

or via social media: **Twitter** @NewtonAbbotCoun
Facebook Newton Abbot Town Council



...and a few words from the mayor

Dear Residents of Newton Abbot,

There has been so much change for us over the past few weeks. To help prevent the spread of the virus many of us need to live in a lockdown situation.

This though is essential to preserve health and life and reduce the burden on the NHS. For some in our community it may be causing distress, if you are in a vulnerable group, or you are alone and unable to socialise with others. This is indeed the case for my 86-year mother, who I talk to several times a day. I encourage you to pick up the phone and talk to friends, family and neighbours who I am sure will welcome a chat.

There is a lot of support activity in our community with various organisations, including:

- Newton Abbot Covid – 19 Mutual Aid that is providing a prescription and shopping service.
- CVS supporting groups and individuals who want to provide a service, to stay safe and legal.
- Various food outlets providing a take-away delivery service
- Foodbanks delivering an excellent service to those who need support.
- The great Newton Abbot public and residents across Teignbridge who are looking out for friends and neighbours.
- Community Transport, providing its valuable Ring and Ride service.

It has been humbling to see how people have rallied to support each other. This is a time when you ask, ***“What can I do to help my friends, neighbours and fellow residents?”***. I want to say a big thank you to all of you who are giving your time to support others and of course a huge cheer to those who work in our NHS to support us and our families in time of great need. Life will become more challenging for many of us over the next few months. Stay strong and work to support each other. The community needs you.

Best regards

Councillor Richard Jenks, MAYOR OF NEWTON ABBOT

