



Drainage in the North Level

An illustrated talk by
John Hoyles MBE
Chairman of the
North Level District
Internal Drainage Board

Friday 27th February
7.00 for 7.30

Tickets £5 including light refreshments
from Dave & Margaret Gibbs
870083
dave@newtonvillagehall.org.uk



Newton's Golden Age

Fenland District Council's Golden Age roadshow rolls into Newton on **Tuesday 10th February** with the latest surgery taking place at the Village Hall from 10.00 to 1.00.

Golden Age Surgeries bring together information and service providers for people over the age of 60 and those who care for them, covering health, welfare, legal and benefits advice, transport and leisure activities.

Over 65's, bring your electric blankets as there will be a free safety check. If it does not meet the current safety standards, there will be a limited supply to be replaced free of charge.

Refreshments will be served by the members of Newton Ladies Club, who will also be available to discuss their programme of activities for ladies of all ages. Members of Newton Bowls Club will be on hand to explain why bowls may be the perfect sport for you, whatever your age.

If you or a member of your family, a friend or neighbour are in your Golden Age, or will be soon, be sure to come along!

Dee Steps Down, Brenda Steps Up!

Having spent most of the 21st century on the Village Hall Management Committee, Dee Markham has decided it's time to step aside.

In recent years Dee has held the post of Secretary and has been the public face of the Hall, as well as spearheading our fundraising efforts. She also stepped in to manage the hall bookings when her predecessor left us in 2013. Her tireless energy has helped to create the facility that we now enjoy and we will always be grateful to her for her endeavours on our behalf. One thing's for sure; meetings won't be the same without her!

We already have our new Bookings Secretary. Brenda Barber has been working alongside Dee for a couple of months to ensure a seamless transition. Many of our regular users will be familiar with Brenda already, but if you haven't met her yet, she will be in touch shortly. The change of personnel means a change of telephone number for hall bookings, so our new number is 420921.

Forthcoming Events at your Village Hall

Afternoon Teas

2.30 - 4.30

Thursday 12th February

Friday 27th March

Thursday 30th April

Coffee Mornings

Thursdays 10.30 - 12.30

26th February

12th March

16th April

14th May

Street Pride Litter Picks

Sunday 8th February 11.00

Sunday 1st March 10.00

Golden Age Fair

Tuesday 10th February

10.00 - 1.00

Village Fete Committee

Open Meeting & AGM

Wednesday 25th February

7.00

Drainage in the North Level

Talk by John Hoyles MBE

Friday 27th February

7.00 for 7.30

Parish Council

Parish Assembly

Monday 9th March

7.00

Annual Meeting

Monday 11th May

7.00

Bowls Club

Easter Bingo

Friday 13th March

7.00

Jumble Sale

Saturday 9th May

The Ladies Club

Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday

each month at 7.00pm

Enquiries: Steph 870096

The Bowls Club

Regular Quiz and Bingo nights

Enquiries: Norris 870782

The Gardening Club

Meetings on the 4th Sunday

each month at 9.30am

Enquiries: Shirley 870060

Newton Village Hall

December was a busy month full of festivities at the Hall. Our Annual General Meeting prompted the usual lively debate about facilities and activities and we will be following up some of the suggestions over the coming months.

The monthly Afternoon Teas and Coffee Mornings continue to draw the crowds, with the lure of home baking and a warm and friendly welcome proving irresistible. If you haven't tried them yet, what are you waiting for?

Our free Christmas Party for local children proved as popular as ever, thanks to the efforts of Steve Tierney in charge of the very loud music (or are we just getting old?) and a surprise visit from an extremely busy gentleman in a red suit, who bore an uncanny resemblance to Geoff Wilkinson!



The Christmas Lights were a great success, with more than 40 people gathered round the tree to sing carols, fortified against the windy night by hot mulled wine and homemade mince pies. Plans are already afoot for a bigger and better celebration next year.

In addition to our own activities, the Hall also played host to Christmas festivities organised by the Gardening Club and the Ladies Club, as well as a successful Bowls Club Bingo Night.

Our programme for the coming months includes a talk by John Hoyles on the Drainage of the North Level. Using unseen material from the archives of the North Level District Internal Drainage Board, John will explain the history of drainage from the 17th century to the present day, including remarkable images of the devastating floods of the 20th century.

Following the success of our Clairvoyant Evening in October, by popular request we will be repeating this event, hopefully in May. Full details will be published in the next newsletter.

We hope to arrange several other events later in the year, but we need your help. We are a small committee and are currently seeking new members. If you would like to find out more, come to a Coffee Morning or Afternoon Tea, or contact Dave Gibbs on 870083 or dave@newtonvillagehall.org.uk

Newton Village Plan

Help make Newton an even better place to live.

The Newton Village Plan Steering Group is about to start compiling the questionnaire to be circulated to every house in the Parish this summer. If you care about the future of Newton, this is your chance to get involved. We need volunteers to help with compiling the questions, distributing and collecting the questionnaires, recording and analysing the data. No previous experience necessary.

To find out more, contact Geoff Wilkinson on 870271.

Newton Village Fete Committee

The Fete Committee's coffers received a significant boost at the end of November with our **Taste of Christmas** cookery demonstration.

Newton's resident culinary expert, Alison Sloan shared her ideas for festive entertaining with a tantalising selection of sweet and savoury treats, which were then devoured with great gusto by all present. This delicious event raised over £200 towards the 2015 Fete.



The Committee would like to record their thanks to Alison for her continued support and for providing such a superb evening's entertainment.

Plans are being made for a spectacular Fete, to take place on Saturday 27th June, with a wartime theme to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day and the end of the Second World War. To find out more, come to our Open Meeting and AGM on Wednesday 25th February at 7.00 in the Village Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help over the weekend of the Fete. There's something for everybody and all we ask is that you give a couple of hours of your time. Tasks include transporting equipment to the Playing Field, setting up the marquees and stalls, blowing up balloons, pinning up bunting, welcoming visitors and guiding them around the site. We're a cheerful bunch, so everybody will be made welcome. Please don't assume that somebody else will do it. Make this the year you join in the fun!

Suggestions, offers of help or financial support should be addressed to Geoff and Pat Wilkinson on 870271.



Litter Pick

Help Tidy Up Your Village

Litter-pickers, gloves and hi-vis vests are provided, it's fun, healthy and all ages can take part (under 16's must have parental consent)

Meet outside the Village Hall

Sunday 8th February

at 11.00

Sunday 1st March

at 10.00

For more details contact Sam Clark 07887 485795

St James, Newton



The Christmas Carol Service held on December 21st was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the Tydd St. Giles bell-ringers and choir for making the service go so well and to the many flower arrangers and cleaners for preparing the church for the festive period. It looked lovely. Following the service mince pies and refreshments, including sherry, was served and well received. The collection raised £227.12 for the Wisbech Food Bank. Thank you for your support.

Mothering Sunday and Easter service dates

Mothering Sunday

15th March 9.00am

Palm Sunday

29th March 10.00am (joint service)

Easter Day

4th April 9.00am

You are welcome to join us in our worship

LEVERINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity 1143435

Many thanks to all who have supported Leverington Village Hall over the past year

As a result we have had new windows installed and the exterior painted

Now to tackle the interior!

Forthcoming Events

Coffee Mornings

19th February, 19th March, 16th April, 21st May
10.00 to 12.00

Afternoon Tea

17th March - 1.30 to 4.00
Marilyn Pryke is having a special Tea in memory of her late husband Peter
Proceeds to the Village Hall

Beetle Drive

Saturday 14th February
6.30 for 7.00

Hot supper and dessert

Bring your own drink

Tickets £10.00 from

Carol 588385 or Kate 463552

Easter Prize Bingo

Saturday 28th March

Doors open 6.30 - Eyes down 7.00

Light refreshments available

Down Memory Lane

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Are you old enough to remember VE Day? Where were you and how was it celebrated? Do you have any family photos or other mementos from the day? How was VE Day marked in Fenland?

This year's Village Fete will have a 1940s theme and the Fete Committee would love to hear your stories. Please don't be backward in coming forward!

If you're not old enough to remember the war, perhaps you can help with something more recent. Do you remember the Parish Room that stood on the High Road alongside number 155? Built just over 100 years ago, it served as an overflow to the school until Colville School opened in 1930, but what else was it used for? All that remains today is the concrete base it stood on, but when was it finally demolished?

If you can help us, please call Dave Gibbs on 870083 or e-mail dave.gibbs@newtonintheisle.org.uk

Newton Village Welcome Packs

Our ever-popular Welcome Packs provide essential information about life in Newton for newcomers to the Parish.

If you have a new neighbour or know of someone moving into the Parish, please contact Wendy on 738521 or wendyful@talktalk.net to ensure that they receive one.

DROP-IN COFFEE MORNINGS AND AFTERNOON TEAS

Coffee Mornings, Thursdays, 10.30 - 12.30

26th February, 12th March

16th April, 14th May

Afternoon Teas, 2.30 - 4.30

Thursday 12th February

Friday 27th March

Thursday 30th April

In the Village Hall

*All Welcome ~ Just Turn Up
Transport available, please phone.*

*For further information,
please phone Margaret on 870083*

Newton Parish Council

The Annual Parish Assembly is to be held on Monday 9th March at 7pm in the Village Hall. This is open to all parish electors who are invited to attend to discuss any queries. The Councillors will do their best to answer any concerns.

Street Lighting - Cambridgeshire County Council has arranged an audit of street lighting throughout Cambridgeshire. Many parishes are responsible for their own street light maintenance, Newton falls within this category.

Fenland District Council (FDC) is at present negotiating to fund street lighting in Category 1, the most urgent repairs, amounting to two lights in our Parish, whilst Category 2 consists of 11 street lights in our Parish in need of replacement within the next three years. The total estimated cost for the 11 lights would amount to £13,200. FDC are again looking into the possible funding of part of the total cost leaving the Parish Council to pay the remainder, likely to exceed £9,000 over three years.

At this time, decisions have not as yet been finalised on any of the lighting costs, however our Parish Council does have to make sure that they have enough funding in place to start the process. The Precept for Newton is now due to be set and these estimated costs along with an increase in the general running costs have to be considered, leaving the Parish no other choice but to increase the Precept.

Newton Village Gardening Club

Over 30 members attended our meeting in November to listen to a very interesting talk on Orchid Growing for beginners by David Morgan, the Chairman of the British Orchid Growers Society, telling us about the correct way of growing them, the best place to site them, potting up, and feeding them, punctuated with anecdotes from his horticultural experiences. Dee Markham and Julia Hill organised the refreshments.

The final meeting of the year on the 13th December was the club's annual Christmas party. We decided to do something different, instead of the usual sit down meal. This year we had a bring and share buffet with entertainment from local barbershop quartet 'Double Take'. Doug Fullbrook's homemade beer and wine was also on offer for anyone who wanted it. The evening was enjoyed by all.

Continued ...

At both of these meetings, Morris Arnold organised raffles, and Shirley de-Groome organised a plant and vegetable bring and buy table at the November meeting only.

The new year sees our annual AGM on the 22nd February at the Village Hall from 9.30 am onwards.

For more information regarding our future meetings and joining our happy band of gardeners, please contact Shirley de-Groome 870060.

Neighbourhood Watch

Could you become the eyes and ears of your community?

We need more volunteers to become co-ordinators of Neighbourhood Watch in all areas of Wisbech town and rural villages such as Newton. Co-ordinators are invaluable to police as they pass information from police to their neighbours and vice versa. Imagine there has been a burglary or vehicle crime in your street; wouldn't you want to be aware? By knowing, you can put crime prevention methods in place to help protect yours and your neighbours' property.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about watching out and ensuring possible crimes and incidents are reported effectively to the police, but it is also about looking out for your neighbours by keeping an eye on those most vulnerable people in the community.

Your scheme in Newton could be all the houses in the street where you live or just a few houses around you - schemes can run successfully with as few as 5 houses. Access to email is required as all our messages are sent out this way.

If this is something you would like to do, please contact a member of the team at Wisbech Police Station via our mailbox - wisbech.police@cambs.pnn.police.uk Alternatively, have a chat with Doug Fullbrook on 738521 to learn more.

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No 274101

Meetings from £20, all day rate £75
Private parties for children £30*
adults/evening £50*
Fundraising events £30*
(*Up to 4 hours duration, incl set-up)

To book the hall for *your* event call 420921
bookings@newtonvillagehall.org.uk
www.newtonvillagehall.org.uk

Newton Bowls Club

Much work has been completed over the winter, and we will be ready to start the season in April.

This year we are trying to increase our membership. Beginners and experienced players are always welcome. If you want to have a go, we can initially lend you some bowls, just ring a member listed below, and it can be arranged.

The AGM is on February 24th at 19.00 for 19.30 in our Pavilion. If you are thinking about joining us, please come along and meet the members.

On 13th March we are holding an Easter Bingo 19.00 for 19.30, please come and support us, in the Village Hall

We are planning a GRAND OPEN WEEKEND on April 11th and 12th. Final details have yet to be confirmed, so watch out for the advertisements and come and join us. This will also be the launch of our MEAT raffle which will run throughout the season, great prizes, just make sure you have some tickets.

On 9th May we are having a Jumble Sale in the Village Hall; times will be advertised nearer the time. For this to be successful we need lots of good quality items - clothes, linen, jewellery etc. Please turn out your cupboards whilst spring cleaning, and give one of the members a call. We can collect. On the day - drop in to find that bargain and have a bacon butty!!

Looking forward to seeing you at our fundraising events, or on the green.

Jill Nursey - Chairperson
871 033

Norrie Elliott - Treasurer
870 782

Marilyn Hawkins - Fundraising Coordinator
870 133

Newton Ladies Club

The Ladies Club continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30.

Their forthcoming meetings include:-

A Quiz Night in February

A Cookery Demonstration with Alison Sloan in March

The AGM and Fish Supper in April

For details of their interesting and varied programme of activities, please contact Steph on 870096.

This newsletter is published by the Management Committee of Newton Village Hall

Registered Charity No 274101

on behalf of the many community groups in Newton.

For up-to-date details of events and activities in the Village

see the What's On page of the village website

www.newtonintheisle.org.uk