

Newchurch Noticeboard

Issue 5 January-April 2026



*Star of wonder over All Saints Church, Newchurch?
Cold Supermoon lying in Taurus the Bull - 4th/5th December 2025*

OUR FREE COMMUNITY PARISH MAGAZINE

A look around Newchurch Parish - what's happening, local news and views of people and places, a little history ...

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Issue 5 - January to April 2026

Hello to all in Newchurch Parish and welcome to new readers!

Our magazine is going strong - published 3 times a year, and funded by our valued advertisers. Copies are distributed free to over 1250 homes throughout the Parish, with spare copies available at Raj's Premier and other locations. It can be viewed on the Parish website where you can also find Newchurch Network, local directory of clubs and groups (*Please get in touch with the Editor if you'd like a printed copy*).

Thanks as ever to our wonderful team of Residents and Councillors who deliver the magazine for free. Everyone is welcome to help out - it's a great opportunity to get to know the Parish and other residents, and to get a sneaky peak at some very beautiful and interesting gardens!

Currently, on Tuesday mornings, we hold Coffee Club in the Parish Hall - which is just what it says - and the heating's on! Come along and meet others, catch up with local gossip, books, maybe play cards, do a jigsaw - your choice! Often you'll be able to share your views with a Parish Councillor! We'd like your feedback on this project - the date/time could change to suit; we could revisit something like the Church's once-a-week Teapot Club if you'd like (run by local people for local people). I'm happy to co-ordinate and get the goodies, with a rota of folk to cover when I can't be there for the whole event. *Rosey (contact details below)*

WHAT'S ON - Diary Dates *(Correct at time of going to press)*

Parish Hall: Parish Council (3rd Monday in month - 7pm) - **all** welcome, Post Office (Tues/Fri 8:30-10:30am), Coffee Club, Male Voice Choir Practice (Concerts/Events elsewhere). (*Hire: Parish Clerk - see P3*).

Alverstone Old School Hall: Always something going on in Alverstone - Martial Arts, Art Club, Pilates, Creative Writing, very active WI, Tibetan Gong, Suppers with live music. (*Details, hire: See Facebook page.*)

All Saints Church Hall: Craft, Dog Training, Church fundraisers. (*See Church Noticeboard for details of services and events*)

Watery Lane Pavilion and Sportsground: (*See NPS&CA website*)

EDITORIAL: Rosey Messing rosey.messing@talk21.com

ADVERTISING: Steve Jewell iow54@yahoo.co.uk

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NEXT ISSUE: Summer 2026 - Articles, feedback, ideas welcomed by 1 Apr

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PRODUCED BY NEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Disclaimer: All articles and advertisements are taken in good faith.

Newchurch Parish Council cannot be responsible for any legal queries resulting from these.

Submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the view of the Parish Council.

We reserve the right not to print submitted articles, letters or advertisements.

Our Parish Council (PC)

<https://newchurchparish.co.uk> clerk@newchurchparish.co.uk 07528 339937

Council meetings are in the Parish Hall at 7pm on the third Monday each month. The Agenda is on the six Parish noticeboards, and also on the Parish website along with minutes of previous meetings. All parishioners are welcome, and there's an opportunity to bring your questions/concerns to meetings - please let the Parish Clerk know details at least one week before a meeting.

One hot item of concern is the speeding of traffic through the speed restricted zones in our village - and what can be done about it.

If you have a point of view, please let the Parish Clerk know and come along to make your point at the start of a meeting.

[Note: This article is being written in December for future PC discussion. Details below may be changing soon.]

How to enforce the 20mph Speed Limit in Newchurch

Let's lobby (any and all of us can) to those listed below:

- Police and Crime Commissioner: hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/contact
- Our County Councillor clare.mosdell@iow.gov.uk asking why there are no speed enforcement activities in our village, and asking her to collect our views and concerns - so that she can make representation to relevant authorities on behalf of Newchurch residents.
- Hants & Constabulary to express concerns about the lack of speed limit enforcement in the village: hampshire.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us
- Our East Wight MP: joe.robertson.mp@parliament.uk - 01983 217089
- Always report traffic incidents no matter how trivial to hampshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/re/road-safety/making-a-road-traffic-incident-report/

Statistically there are very few incidents in Newchurch. Is this because we don't report them to the above 'powers' (so they won't realise there is a problem!!)

- And report any issues relating to the state of highways and roads in the village to fms.islandroads.com/. It lists a multitude of issues such as dog fouling, potholes, signage, overgrown vegetation. Just tick the boxes.

(If you don't use a computer and need phone or address information, please contact our Parish Clerk on 07528 339937 - he should be able to help).

Of course, this is not a new issue in our village. Some 30+ years ago, pinchpoints were established (favouring outflowing traffic) to address the speeding and congestion problems (especially at school times). Some points have been modified.

Our Parish Council is here to serve the Parish - please have your say!

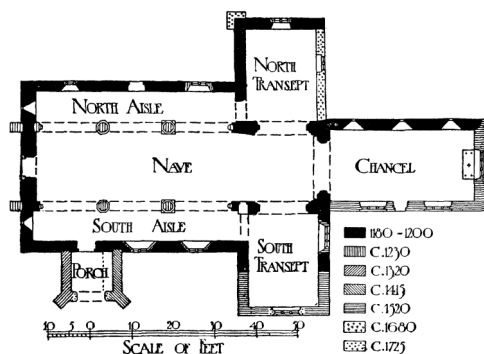
In France and Spain, villages and towns slow down traffic with speed bumps at each end, and often others within the town. It's an eternal problem everywhere. Even in the prairie towns of North America and Canada, posts and sleeping policemen were established to stop the speeding vehicles of the time. *Editor*

Advertising your activities

All year, we've been noticing activities going on at various places in the Parish. Sadly, many of them have been poorly attended, despite local advertising: Panto, Church Brekkie, Brass Band, etc. Our magazine is only 3 times a year, so we don't get info in good time. Facebook is one way. Suggestion: send the Parish Clerk details of your events to present on the Parish website. It's what it's for after all. It would be good if it could be one of the 'go to' places to find out what's going on and where and when. *Editor*

The History of All Saints Church, Newchurch

The church celebrated its 900th anniversary in 1987 and is a fine example of a Norman Church with some remaining evidence of its pre-Norman origins. It is Grade I listed. It is one of only three English churches with an ancient sanctuary door still in place (Durham and Westminster are the other two). One of six Churches given by William FitzOsbern to Lyra Abbey in Normandy, it was given to the See of Bristol by Henry VIII. Throughout its life, it has had many additions, in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, and the Victorian restoration of 1883, by AR Barker, remodelled part of the interior.



The original Church is still quite easily identifiable in the Nave, North and South Aisles, the crossing and the north wall of the Chancel, with the later extensions of the South Transept and the Chancel evident in the treatment of the windows which are wider and of three light style.

Constructed of random stone under a steeply pitched and tiled roof, the modest exterior is off set by the surprisingly grand interior, with a soaring

timber-clad Nave roof, and massive stone columns with octagonal piers, with double chamfered arches progressing to the crossing and the Chancel. The unusual timber square tower (around 1800) over the stone rendered South Porch houses six bells, four of them founded in 1810, the other two are of 16th and 17th century vintage.

Major benefactors of the Church were the Dillington family - the Mortuary Chapel has several tombs with finely engraved crests and lettering.

Of historical interest within the Church are the Vinegar Bible (a misprint of Vineyard), the oak pulpit of 1725, the oak door from the Porch, the Pelican Lectern (17thC), the wall tablets, the stained glass east window by Kempe (1909), the Creed and Commandments boards on the west wall, and the panel over the south door with the royal arms of William III (of Orange), dated 1700, with the face of the Lion being an image of King William. In the church grounds, stands the plinth and base of a sundial (1678 by Robert Marks of London), but the sundial is missing. This originally stood on the bowling green at Knighton Gorges but, following the demolition of the great house, Squire Bisset gave it to the Parish in 1826, when it was erected in the Churchyard.

Weekly services: Please check the Noticeboards.

Churchwardens: Gill Rouse 01983 864842, Clive Allen 01983 401084

Supporters Group: Membership Secretary 01983 864646

Newchurch Primary School

We are excited to share with our local community that this year's curriculum focus at Newchurch Primary School is all about becoming Climate Action aware. In line with new guidance from the Department for Education at the start of this academic year last September, schools across the country were being asked to create their own Climate Action Plans. At Newchurch, we are embracing this challenge with enthusiasm. Our pupils are actively involved, because we believe you are never too young to make a difference.

Every class is proudly taking part, and throughout the year our brilliant children will be setting **eco-missions** for the whole community to get involved in. From saving energy to reducing waste, we will be working together to live more sustainably, reduce our carbon footprint and help protect our planet for future generations.

Each class has chosen an environmentally inspired identity that connects them to the world around us and reminds them of the importance of caring for our planet:

EYFS: **Nature Navigators**

Year 4: **Recycling Rebels**

Year 1: **Planet Protectors**

Year 5: **Sustainable Stars**

Year 2: **Wildlife Warriors**

Year 6: **Ozone Advocates**

Year 3: **Eco Avengers**

You may spot our pupils out and about. In the autumn, Year 2 completed a successful beach clean in Ryde. We now also have dedicated Environment Officers who help ensure every class has its own recycling bin, that there are new recycling bins on our playground, and that we organise workshops to help pupils learn more about recycling and sustainability. Watch this space for more updates and ways you in the community can get involved!

As part of our wider curriculum work, in the Autumn term we were treated to some wonderful music when a Ugandan choir visited Newchurch. Pupils took part in an interactive singing session featuring a range of drums and the use of our own voices to create authentic African music. It was a fantastic opportunity for our children to experience music from another culture, and many families also enjoyed attending the choir's evening performance. We have also celebrated excellent sporting success, winning both the Island Schools UKS2 Football Tournament and the Island Schools Table Tennis Final, securing us a place in the Hampshire finals.

In the coming weeks, keep an eye out for us running around the village as we begin our cross-country season – starting with our festive Santa Dash at Christmas! This was a great 'fun' raiser for our little school - we are incredibly fortunate to have access to such beautiful open green spaces that support our P.E. curriculum and allow us to enjoy nature as we learn.

On behalf of everybody at school, we hope you had a very merry Christmas. We wish you a happy and healthy year in 2026.

Apse Heath Brickworks *by Steve Jewell*



This small brickyard at Aps Heath started up around 1898 and closed in 1939. It fired bricks in 'clumps' and 'Scotch Kilns' (without chimneys), eight fire holes per side, fired by Yorkshire coal bought from Shanklin Coal Yard. This was disallowed at the start of WW2, as they had open tops and the heating flames could be seen from a considerable distance from the air, so blackout regulations prevailed.

Brickmaking activities were seasonal; production ceased during the winter months with only clay digging taking place. The bricks were all made by hand, with clay mixed in a horse driven Pug Mill. The best bricks for the Scotch Kiln were just clay mixed with water. The clamp bricks, of 33000, had 'breeze' or clinker added to them. Hurdles made of split hazel were used to protect the sides of the drying bricks in these 'hacks', and wooden covers called 'lews' were placed on them when rain was forecast.

A Mr William Thompson started the yard in 1898, and Ernest John Mew (and son) took over in 1911. Bill Hutchings started as a 'Pug Boy' at Aps Heath in 1931 when he was 14 years old. Ernest Mew was the last boss at Aps Heath Brickworks;. Shortly before his death, the business merged with Gunville Brick and Tile Company in 1940. At the time (1938), bricks were selling for 12 shillings (60p) per thousand and brick-makers were paid 8 shillings (40p) per 1000 bricks.

The Clay Pit still exists as a fishing lake, known locally as 'Gear Gap Pond'.



Vectis Astronomical Society

We are now in the best time for astronomy and this lasts until about the end of March. Assuming we get some clear nights, there are a few things well worth looking up for:

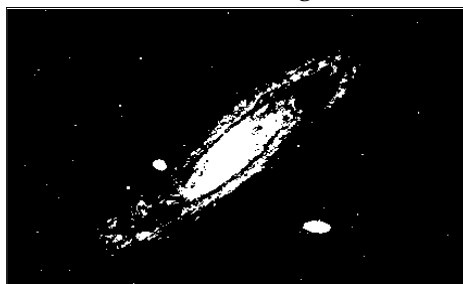
The Orion Constellation

Orion is clearly visible from the start of December through until March. Just above the horizon in the South Eastern sky and quite large, look for the three “belt stars”.

With binoculars, start at those belt stars then slowly move downwards until you see the Orion Nebula, which is a cloud of dust and gas.

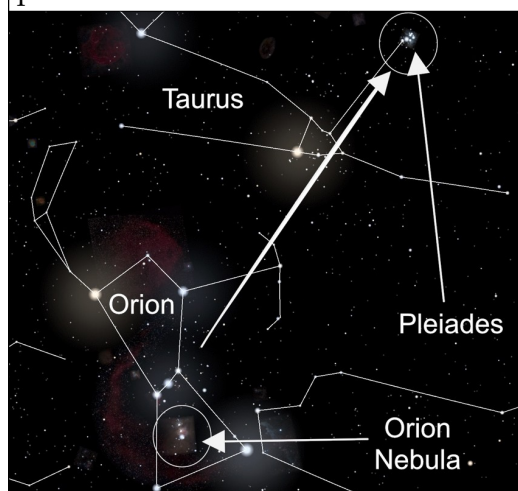
(See [Wikipedia](#)).

If you use a telescope, the Nebula will be much clearer but, as usual, you won't be able to see the colours shown in many professional astro-photographs.



The Pleiades

Follow the line of Orion belt stars, upwards through the Taurus constellation and you will arrive at the Pleiades or Seven Sisters cluster of young (*blue*) stars. This is the most obvious naked-eye star cluster in the night sky, though it's better still viewed through binoculars. Pleiades is viewable from most areas on Earth, even in locations with significant light pollution.



As an aside, this star cluster forms the logo of the Subaru car company.

Have a very happy 2026

Brian Curd

**The Observatory in
Watery Lane
is open every Thursday
from 8pm**

MEET THE LIONS !

(The International Association of Lions Clubs)

Sandown & Shanklin Lions Club

Lions Clubs International is an organisation of nearly 1.4 million volunteers worldwide who enjoy helping others less fortunate than themselves. In Britain there are more than 850 Clubs. Our Motto is "WE SERVE".

Our small group is based at Lake and we raise money to fund our projects. Fund-raisers include Car Boot Sales, Carnivals, Swimathons, Shows. We meet monthly, and membership is open (by invitation) to those who are prepared to devote some of their spare time to community service and to help the club achieve its objectives.

For information, contact LION Steve on 07834-680374.

Scrooge's Christmas: I've have just got in from watching this wonderful family show written by Sue Raybould and performed by members of her family, including grand-children. There are shows each year, raising funds for The Lions. Watch out for their next show. Excellent! Charming! Great fun! *Editor*

25% Off Tea, Coffee & Cake

Show this when ordering to receive 25% off tea, coffee and cake in our Restaurant from 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026, Monday-Friday only, excluding school holidays & weekends.



Winter Warmer

16th January 2026

**In aid of Newchurch All Saints
Tower Restoration.**

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The Footpaths of Newchurch *by Jill Green*

Twenty five years ago, the Isle of Wight was the first place in England to be able to declare that all its footpaths were not only walkable but also signed with a guidepost where they met a road. Each Parish had a dedicated Ramblers' Association Footpath Walker, and I was, and still am, one. We each submitted our list of problems to the Isle of Wight Footpaths Secretary who liaised with the Council's Rights of Way team. It was wonderful; things were done that had been languishing on a list for many years. The Island promotes green tourism, so our Council was keen to have this accolade. The Ramblers had a good system of checking and recording all the paths and problems, so this declaration couldn't happen until all the things we had listed were dealt with.

In our Parish of Newchurch, I had several problems that were sorted. Alas, we have one path that was not walkable or waymarked, and it is still not available. Once a path is on the Definitive Map it is a legal statement; it CANNOT be removed without an Extinguishment Order. We don't want this path to be extinguished. It is NC14; it goes from Pucks Farm down to Palmers Lane, and it's on the Ordnance Survey maps. If only we could walk from Pucks along Dyers Lane to Winford Road, or vice versa, it would make a nice round route with other paths.

The cost of reinstating this path, which only goes between the farm and the road, was not considered good use of Isle of Wight funds. I would really like it to remain on the map in case, one day, we will be able to use the path again, and the farm drive.

Footpaths came into existence when folk wanted to walk from 'A to B'. They are an important part of our heritage and still so useful today, not only to link places but also to enjoy wonderful walks in the countryside. The children at Pucks used to walk this way to get to Newchurch School. Back to the year 2000; how could we claim to be the first to have all paths signed and walkable when it wasn't quite true! However there were a few cases ongoing where there were legal implications. If I remember, there are about seven paths (out of 1456 on the Island) now extinguished and gone forever - some lovely paths lost - a long sad story. Let us rejoice in what we have now and protect them by using them and keeping them cleared. In Covid, my partner Jim and I walked every path on the Island, except NC14 and a couple of others with problems - a wonderful project. We have to work to keep overgrowth down. Our network is still the best. We can and should be proud of it.

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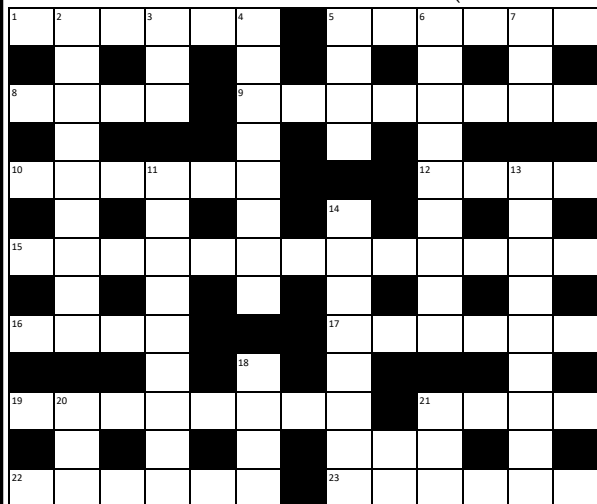
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Please mention that you saw these ads in Newchurch Noticeboard magazine. Thank you.

Puzzle Time (Answers on page 15)



Down

- 2 Lover's card (9)
- 3 Amateur (3)
- 4 Put at risk (8)
- 5 Paddle (4)
- 6 '60s Pop star (4,5)
- 7 Belly (3)
- 11 Offer service (9)
- 13 Observant (5,4)
- 14 Becoming insane (5,3)
- 18 Sheep pen (4)
- 20 Negative (3)
- 21 Legal profession (3)

Across

- 1 Gradually change (6)
- 5 Apparition (6)
- 8 Ceramics material (4)
- 9 Home Guard (4,4)
- 10 Bumpy (6)
- 12 Clenched hand (4)
- 15 Jazz singer (6,7)
- 16 College leader (4)
- 17 Without a chance (2,4)
- 19 Waiting area (8)
- 21 Lads (4)
- 22 Gawped (6)
- 23 Scorn (6)

SUDOKU (Medium)

			6					
		8	1				7	5
				3			9	
		9		5			6	
4	2			1				
1			4	8	7			2
6			7				3	
5			2	6	3		4	1
	1		5					7

D	R	O	F	N	I	W	N	N
B	R	A	N	S	T	O	N	E
A	Y	E	L	E	T	I	H	W
N	R	U	W	E	C	R	E	C
K	N	I	G	H	T	O	N	H
E	Q	U	E	E	N	U	W	U
N	R	E	W	O	B	V	C	R
H	C	H	C	N	H	G	H	C
A	P	S	E	H	E	A	T	H

WORDSEARCH - Find 8 areas in the Parish. Which village is missing?

Garden tips for January to April



January: Tidy apple and pear trees by pruning out dead, damaged and diseased branches and any crossing branches. Cut to outward-facing buds. Shorten flowered sideshoots of climbing roses by two thirds of their length. Remove old branches at the base to encourage regrowth, tie in young bendy shoots. Check on alpine as these can be smothered by fallen leaves.

February: Choose a sunny site and start to prepare runner bean trenches. Dig a trench approximately 45cm deep, fill with manure or well-rotted garden compost, leave to enrich the ground ready for planting. Sow tomato seeds in either a heated propagator or on a warm windowsill. Prune autumn fruiting raspberries to ground, apply a thick layer of mulch to retain moisture and deter weeds.

March: Pot up dahlia tubers, keep just moist, place in bright, frost-free location until ready to plant outside. Cut back buddleias to short stubs, just above buds or new shoots to encourage new growth. Deadhead daffodils. Sow hardy annuals into lightly forked over soil, preferably sunny spot, rake over and then water.

April: Start courgettes, marrows, pumpkins and squashes indoors. Sow 1cm deep in 7-9cm pots and place in a heated propagator or on a sunny windowsill. Sow short rows of salad crops in a shallow trench, cover lightly with soil and firm in. Do this every few weeks for a continuous supply throughout summer. Check for new growth on penstemons, cut back all stems to just above the lowest new shoots to encourage better flowering. Trim early flowering shrubs after they have finished blooming.

Newchurch Horticultural Society meets at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month at Watery Lane Pavilion. Meetings generally commence with a speaker, usually horticultural or wildlife and nature, followed by a raffle and refreshments.

The January meeting will be our annual quiz and this will be held at the Church Hall, February sees our annual dinner and at our March meeting Mark Earp will be giving a talk. Should this be of interest to you please do come along to our next meeting or contact the Society's secretary, Glendda Graves on 404041.

Mossy paths

It's never a good idea to take a fall, especially if you are of a certain age. I've found a way of clearing that slippery moss from paths: Soda Crystals - available from a supermarket near you! Sprinkle the crystals on the mossy path, water to wet them, leave for a day or two, then simply brush away (may need a slight scrape if very bad). Once you've bought the Soda Crystals, read instructions for unblocking drains, laundry, de-greasing kitchen, BBQ, etc. How did you ever manage without them? Oh yes - expensive sprays, etc! I usually clear the moss on the pavement outside my house. "Oh no!" said my husband, "You could be sued if someone slips there." Still waiting for FixMyStreet to do it!!

Rosey

Newchurch Ghost Stories – part one

The site of Knighton Gorges here in our Parish is said to be the most haunted place on the Island. *You can take it or leave it (it's up to you!)*

William the Conqueror granted Knighton and Newchurch to the Earl of Hereford, William Fitz-Osborne back in the 11th century. The house was passed down through the years. It was the home of De Morvilles, De Gorges, Dillingtons, and finally Captain Maurice George Bisset, who demolished it, rather than leave it to his daughter Jane whose marriage to a clergyman he had forbidden.

Over the years, there have been reports of ghostly sightings, including the house itself. One dark evening in 1969, bright daylight appeared over the site of Knighton Gorges. On 31st December 1991, stone windows were seen glowing a luminous green, and there was the sound of a speeding carriage at the gates, and a phantom coachman with a blue cloak was seen high above the ground. There are other similar reports, and the carriage and hounds are believed to be the ghost of Sir Tristram Dillington, riding out to his offices in Newport. He drowned himself in the pond by the house when his wife and five daughters died of a fever, which also took the lives of many in the area. New Year's Eve has seen other hauntings.

On one occasion, three nurses stopped their car to offer a lift to a hooded woman in a grey cloak, but they were terrified - she had no face. And in 1982, a young woman in a long mauve ballgown, with her fair hair piled high on top of her head, was seen coming from the left of the gateposts.

In fact, there are strange tales about the gateposts themselves which had stone creatures standing on them. Back in the 1960's, a local coach driver used to take visitors on tours around the Island. When stopping at the gateway to Knighton Gorges, he would tell his passengers the stories of its long history and destruction, and always he pointed out the mighty beasts standing up on the entrance gateposts. It was some years later when, having moved away from the Island, he returned here to retire. One day he was passing the Knighton Manor gates and noticed that the beasts had gone - only the bases of the statues remained. He expressed his dismay to all he met, and wrote to the newspaper, only to be told that the 'mighty beasts' had been removed when the manor house was destroyed - a century and a half before. He could not have seen them in 1965. Some suggested that he may have been drunk, but he knew he was not; he knew what he had seen. He went to his grave wondering whether all those visitors on his coach had also seen the statues, or pretended that they saw them to humour him, or perhaps they just thought he was a bit fanciful, or 'on' something, as was the way in the 1960's! Others have reported seeing the stone beasts even though photos from 1916 and 1949 show nothing on the gateposts except the bases where the statues once stood.

On a house at Knighton Waterworks stands a stone beast. Could this once have stood on a gatepost at Knighton Gorges?

ODDS 'n' ENDS

Recycling old bedding: Dunelm recycles/repurposes duvets. Drop them off bagged inside Exit doorway at Newport store (PO30 5UZ). RSPCA, Merston Lane, Godshill (PO38 3NA) welcomes donations of old sheets, blankets and towels.

Jam jars please: Parish Hall when PO open - Tue/Fri 8:30-10:30.

Coffee Club: With your support, we hope to continue this - Tuesday mornings - check Parish Noticeboard, Parish website and Arretton/Newchurch Facebook.

OFF KEY Community Choir: Sandown Methodist - Tues 6:30-8pm
Contact Sue 07917-764190 or Judith 07754-980992

(for anyone over 18 who thinks they can't sing)



Wight Rural South Neighbourhood Policing Team:

PC Matt Rowlands

07901102304

PCSO Justin Keefe

07901102304

Always happy to chat to you.

Emergency: 999 / Non-emergency: 101

PUZZLE TIME (Page 12) ANSWERS

E	V	O	L	V	E		W	R	A	I	T	H
	A		A		N		A		D		U	
C	L	A	Y		D	A	D	S	A	R	M	Y
	E				A		E		M			
U	N	E	V	E	N				F	I	S	T
	T		O		G		G		A		H	
B	I	L	L	I	E	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y
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	O		E		L		A		A		E	
S	T	A	R	E	D		D	E	R	I	D	E

2	5	3	6	7	9	4	1	8
9	6	8	1	2	4	3	7	5
7	4	1	8	3	5	2	9	6
8	7	9	3	5	2	1	6	4
4	2	5	9	1	6	7	8	3
1	3	6	4	8	7	9	5	2
6	8	2	7	4	1	5	3	9
5	9	7	2	6	3	8	4	1
3	1	4	5	9	8	6	2	7

WORDSEARCH: 8 areas in the Parish: AGV, APSEHEATH, BRANSTONE, KNIGHTON, NEWCHURCH, QUEEN BOWER, WINFORD, WHITELEY BANK. Missing is ALVERSTONE.

It's not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change.

Charles Darwin 1809-82

In a world full of adversity, we must still dare to dream.

Rob Burrow MBE 2024

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