

NEWTON TONY MEMORIAL HALL NEWSLETTER



A SPECIAL DAY IN NEWTON TONY

On Sunday 3rd August many village residents and friends from outside the village, attended our WW1 Commemoration Day. The afternoon began with a modest and poignant Church Service to remember those who lived through, fought in and gave their lives during WW1. The service was well attended and a special Order of Service booklet was given out as a memento of this memorable day.



After the service everyone congregated at the bridge outside the school for a naming ceremony to unveil a stone 'Liege Bridge' name plaque and a brass memorial plaque. Chris Andrews, Chairman of the Parish Council spoke briefly of the events that led to the start of the First World War and the significance behind the name of our 'Liege' bridge. Prior to this event Mike Wilson had made contact with the Mayor of Liege in Belgium to make him aware of our plans to commemorate the start of WW1. A few days before our event, we received a very moving letter from Monsieur Willy Demeyer, Deputy Mayor of Liege and Chris proudly conveyed his message to all those present. Below are small excerpts from the letter. The full translation of his message is currently displayed on the wall in the main hall.

.....I am especially touched to find out about an initiative launched in a small village in the south of England, Newton Tony, to build a bridge named 'Bridge of Liege' in memory of 1914.....the fact that a hundred years later your village has chosen to honour once again the courage of the people of Liege is, I believe, testimony to the respect which can unite different peoples from across the world.

The original bridge was opened by Mrs Martha Olden in 1914, landlady of the Malet Arms, it therefore seemed very appropriate for our present landlord, Noel Cardew to unveil the brass plaque that was engraved by Trevor Dawes an ex-resident of the village, who works at Boscombe Down. Noel read a piece from Ecclesiasticus 44, 'Let us now Praise Famous Men' and then performed the unveiling duty.



The final part of the bridge ceremony was performed by Tim Miles, Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee. The Belgian flag was lifted to reveal a stone tablet with the words 'LIEGE BRIDGE'. This was made and mounted by one of the Stonemasons from Salisbury Cathedral.

After the ceremony on the bridge everyone retired to the hall for tea and cakes, these were very kindly made and donated by local residents. After the refreshments, local historian, Tony Lyons gave a talk about the 11 men from Newton Tony who lost their lives during WW1. There was also a display of WW1 hardware from the Somme and period village scene photographs.

£475 was raised from donations which will go a long way to cover the costs of the name plaque and memorial plaque.

Finally, a big **THANK YOU** to all those who played a part in making the day a memorable event in the history of our village and **THANK YOU** to all of you who supported this very special day.

Chairman's Comments

What a three month period, there must be people who are truly exhausted. The Hall Committee was involved in three major activities - 'Fun in the Sun', the WW1 Commemoration Day and just recently the Village Fete. I'll say a little about each.

Fun in the Sun Last year we were one of the few villages in the area that hosted the Wiltshire Council 'Fun in the Sun' initiative. We offered the playing field and Hall (for wet weather activities) which met the criteria of being close to a school. The aim was to provide free sporting activities for the 5—11 age range; it was pretty well attended in its first year. This year our facilities at Newton Tony were again selected and the coaching was undertaken by the new sponsors, Wiltshire County Cricket Club and Bath Rugby. It was a huge success with over 20 children attending each of the four Wednesday 1½ hour sessions. There were a variety of fun sporting activities and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Let's hope we get a shot at it again next year.

WW1 Commemoration Day This was truly an exceptional event and I would like to thank the sub Committee; Mike Wilson, Sandra Caro, Molly & Tony Price and Tony Lyons for their outstanding work in making this happen. The whole day went absolutely to plan, I was personally very moved by the number of people who attended and also the huge amount donated for the provision of the plaque and stone tablet. The Village basically respected the plight of the people of Belgium at the beginning of the War and remembered those villagers who gave their lives for their Country. The message from the Deputy Mayor of Liege was much appreciated, especially as they were preparing for their own commemoration with our Royalty in attendance; we will be mounting the message and it will be on permanent display in the Hall. The Parish Council will be sending a copy of the Millennium Book signed by the original committee to the Mayor.

Village Fete Some members of the Hall Committee were on the Fete Committee, either full time or seconded. Again, a great deal of work and planning went into this event. It was so sad that the weather hit us, first time in 23 years. It could have been cancelled; we had masses of notice about the rain, but no, in true British Spirit the Fete went ahead. Thank goodness we had the marquees which kept most of the rain out. To be honest I believe it was a success; the income although down on recent years was still good. The support from the village for the setup, during the show and afterwards was much appreciated. The attitude of those exhibitors who braved the weather was most commendable.

Finally, I'm not sure that programming three different Fetes in four weeks on our recreation ground is a very good idea and this matter will be discussed by the Hall Committee.

Tim Miles - Chairman

Newton Tony 100 Club

The Newton Toney 100 Club was set up to raise funds and help support the Newton Tony Memorial Hall. It has proved to be very successful, both raising valuable income for the hall and generating monthly cash prizes to those residents who subscribe.

We have numbers available if you would like to join the 100 Club and help support your village hall.

To join and choose a number simply call Sandra on **629838**

or email Sandra at s8nge@btopenworld.com

Spotlight on Pilates



Pilates is a physical fitness system developed in the early 20th century by German-born, Joseph Pilates.

Pilates is an exercise system that focuses on stretching and strengthening the whole body to improve balance, muscle-strength, flexibility and posture.



Did you know we have a **Fitness Pilates Class** in our village hall every Tuesday night at **7.30pm**.

Fitness Pilates is a class aimed at all levels, ages and abilities. Incorporating basic Pilates techniques and exercises in a non-intimidating and easy to follow way.

Focusing on core strength/posture and flexibility this is the perfect class to both challenge and rebalance body and mind.

This is a fun, relaxed and welcoming class so don't be afraid to just come along, try it and see what you think. We are all ages and abilities. You don't even need to bring a mat, just wear flexible clothing.

For more information or to book a class with our instructor Wendy:

Tel. 07772 678737

Email: info@girlslovefit.co.uk

www.girlslovefit.co.uk



Here is how the **100 Club** works:

- You choose a number that is available between 1 and 150.
- The number costs £1 per month - £12 per year.
- Over half of the money raised is paid back as monthly cash prizes.
- Each month four numbers are drawn out of the bag.
- Prize money: 1st Prize = £30, 2nd Prize = £15, 3rd Prize = £10, 4th Prize = £5
- **DECEMBER** and **JUNE** only, we **DOUBLE** the prize money
- Results are printed each month in the Parish Magazine
- Members must be residents of Newton Toney

Notes from the Parish Council

World War 1 Commemorations

The Parish Council would like to express its deep gratitude to the Memorial Hall WW1 sub-committee for initiating and organising the excellent commemoration and bridge naming activities on Sunday 3rd August. Special thanks go to Tim Miles, Sandra Caro, Mike Wilson, Tony Lyons and Tony and Molly Price together with the many others who helped. It was the Committee's idea to contact the Mayor of Liege and the letter received from M. Demeyer greatly helped to put into context the significance of naming the bridge after Liege and to establish a connection between Newton Tony and the Belgian city of Liege.

Recreation field grass cutting

The recreation field has been owned by the village since 1943 and for many years grounds maintenance has been carried out by Wiltshire Council (WC) because of the arrangement whereby the school has access during term-time. Last year WC stopped providing grass-cutting services directly and contracted out the service to Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP). Since that time there have been many complaints about the quality and frequency of grass-cutting. It has become evident that the standard and frequency of cuts by BBLP (cuts using a rotary mower) was not considered acceptable – particularly by the Hall committee who are responsible for managing the field. Not only was the standard of cutting not considered acceptable (which led to the Hall Committee itself paying for additional cuts), but it was very difficult to organize the timing of BBLP cuts to synchronise with events and activities on the field.

The recreation field is a key village amenity and is well-used for various activities, not only by Newton Tony residents but also by other villages in the area for various sporting and leisure activities (which brings income to the village). It is important that we can not only ensure a good standard of grass cutting but also we need to be able to ensure timing so that, for example, the grass maintenance team does not turn up when an activity has been planned. Accordingly at its July meeting the Parish Council decided to establish an agreement to maintain the recreation field with the private contractor who is already contracted to maintain the cemetery and churchyard. A favourable rate was agreed which is less than the costs for either the cemetery or churchyard.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 8th October, 2014 at 7:30 pm** in the Memorial hall and all members of the public are, as usual, invited to attend.

Dates for your Diary

Bingo - 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 7pm start, refreshments available

Seniors Café - 2nd Thursday afternoon of every month. 2pm start

Pilates - Every Tuesday evening, 7.30pm. Contact 'Girls Love Fit' 07772 678737

Quiz Nights - Friday 26th September, Friday 24th October & Friday 28th November. 7.30 start.

Cuisine Quiz - Friday 31st October (look out for more information around the village)

Firework Display - Wednesday 5th November



Due to a recent incident, the Hall Committee would like to remind everyone that dogs are not allowed on the Recreation Ground.

