

**BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

2023/6 – TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Lydden Vale Gardening Club

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

The Club has had an active 12 months since the spring of 2022.

In excess of 50 households in the Parish are currently paid-up members of the Club and attendees at meetings are invariably in excess of 30 people. The Club has met 11 times in the past year, usually on the second Wednesday, using Buckland Newton Village Hall for 7 of the meetings, in the autumn, winter and early spring months. Members attending these meetings have enjoyed a combination of illustrated talks, gardening quizzes, a food and gardening produce show, open to all, and a member's social evening. In addition, in February, there were two practical demonstrations of best gardening practice. During the 4 summer months Members enjoyed visits to two award winning gardens, a rewilding project and a guided tour of a member's garden followed by an Alfresco Social evening.

The Club encourages all gardening activity within the Parish and has a full programme of events organised for the remainder of 2023 and through to the late spring of 2024. Full details of the Clubs activities appear on the Buckland Newton Community Facebook page, the Community Website and in the Lydden Vale News.

During the past year, the Club has supported charitable fund raising on behalf of the Weldmar Hospice through the locally organised Spring Plant sale and the raising funds for local causes through its contributions to, and support for, the Village Fete at the end of August.

Antony Parson

Hon Secretary

17th May 2023

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Lunch Club – Susan Moring

We have had a very successful year, with members meeting at the Village Hall or going on an outing, mostly to pubs but this year had a wonderful lunch at Sherborne Golf Club.

As always we are having to be careful with money, especially now with the cost of living crisis. We did fundraising last year, we held a coffee morning and nearly new sale in a member's garden and had a stall, also for nearly new, at the fete. We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee and this month the Coronation.

We think the Lunch Club provides an essential service to the older people in the village and our meetings are always greatly appreciated.

Knit and Natter Group - Lyn Cox and Jane Willis

Last October we decided to see if there was any interest in a Knit and Natter group in the village. Sarah and the Team at the Gaggles of Geese welcomed us very warmly - we decided to try fortnightly meetings to see how it went. At the first few sessions we had about 10 knitters turn up. Then we encouraged "everyone and all crafts" to come along and join us. We now regularly host up to 20 - producing some lovely projects, including cross-stitch, embroidery, crochet, felting, rug making, knitting and of course plenty of "nattering" !! We even had people come along saying that they could not knit but would like to natter - and they can now knit! Some people bring their knitting along but don't actually make much progress but have a jolly good natter! It is good for experienced knitters and beginners alike to share knowledge and skills. We have cake and a cuppa too. A lovely way to spend an afternoon. When we asked the group recently whether they wanted a break for the summer - they said "no, let's carry on" so I guess they must be enjoying it.

Allotments – Andy Waring

There are 30 allotments, with 2 available for rent. The Association has had an increase in members. A variety of things are grown on the allotments, traditional fruit and veg, flowers, a vine yard and orchard.

Youth Club – Kate Parish

Buckland Newton Youth Club continues to grow and welcomes young people from the village and surrounding areas who are in Year 6 and above. In the coming year, the Club hopes to be able to make a more targeted offer to older young people aged 14+ to provide opportunities such as Climbing and Zip wires, Gliding and on overnight trip to London to see a show and visit some of the sites.

The Dorset Award is a scheme run by Dorset Council to recognise the achievements of young people in their local areas. For the first time the Youth Club has been able to nominate four members for their work as young leaders and for their unwavering support for the Pantomime in a Day. The Awards will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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**Buckland Newton Community Car Scheme / Community Connections
Report to Annual Parish Meeting covering period 1/4/2022 to 31/3/2023**

The Buckland Newton Community Car Scheme has had another relatively quiet year with 29 lifts being carried out for 8 clients, by 9 volunteer drivers.

Lifts have covered trips to hospital appointments in Dorchester, Yeovil, and Weymouth as well as medical appointments to Cerne and Sturminster Newton surgeries. Dentists, shopping, and chiropractic appointments have made up the remaining lifts.

The scheme has supported 3 new clients this year and has had 1 new volunteer driver although they haven't completed any lifts yet for the scheme.

We have had requests to support others who are outside of our parish e.g. Holwell and Holnest which we have not covered due to a shortage of drivers and our drivers wanting to support just those in our parish. However, we have been supporting 3 clients in Alton Pancras and Pulham who we have supported for several years.

After the Parish Plan questionnaire concerns were raised about parishioners not being able to get to same day medical appointments. At the car scheme AGM this was discussed and a trial started. We have had 1 request since February and this was to take someone to accident and emergency. They were not a registered client.

As we had so few lifts this year, it has been another year where the scheme hasn't covered its costs, but the fete awarded us £250 towards the cost of insurance and car scheme phone.

Community Connections has only had 1 request for advice in the year, concerning assistance with care in the community. They were signposted to various agencies who may be able to support them.

Sheila Crouch

Buckland Newton Community Car Scheme / Community Connections Co-Ordinator.

15/5/2023