

Ogwell

Parish Magazine

A photograph of a traditional white-washed cottage with a thatched roof, partially obscured by purple wisteria flowers and a stone wall in the foreground. The scene is set against a clear blue sky. The cottage has two chimneys and several windows, some of which are partially covered by the dense, cascading purple flowers. A low stone wall runs across the foreground, with some small green plants growing along its base.

April/May 2026

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Ogwell Parish Magazine



I keep reading dire warnings about how life on earth is threatened. A recent headline in the Times newspaper announced “Britain’s food supply ‘at risk of catastrophic failure by 2030’”. One in the Guardian said “Earth being ‘pushed beyond its limits’ as energy imbalance reaches record high”. I must be addicted to bad news as I’ve signed up to see a film called People’s Emergency Briefing in a couple of weeks. It features Deborah Meaden, Chris Packham and various experts explaining why the climate and nature emergency is a threat to our national security, our health, our economy, and our food system. Watch out for a screening in your area—it’s good to be informed!

We need to talk about this because most of our politicians prefer to ignore it. The government sits on negative reports like the one the Times reported on. Perhaps they think we will all panic and rush out to buy toilet rolls, or whatever we are most concerned about running out of.

There’s an opportunity to air your views on what our government and councils should be doing about the emergency at an assembly in Newton Abbot (see page 39 for details).

There’s a war in the Middle East to worry about too of course. It’s already hitting our pockets by pushing up oil and gas prices and food prices are likely to rise too.

I’ve noticed a new focus on emergency planning and resilience by local councils and voluntary organisations, with two events in the next couple of weeks.

Life in Ogwell doesn’t feel threatened by much except roadworks, which you can read all about on page 6. But it’s good to be prepared so we’re planting up our veg beds as usual.

Pauline Wynter, Editor,
opmeditorial@gmail.com



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Prison News, Potholes, Roadworks

Parish Council Report for February and March 2026

As a follow on from my previous report on Channings Wood Prison the Parish Council has received notification of a variation to the original application to extend the contractor's compound into the adjoining field to the north of the existing area. After discussing this at the March Meeting it was agreed that we did not wish to object to this extension but we did feel comment should be made concerning the light levels now coming from the prison. For those living closest to the prison there is constant light, which seems excessive and unnecessary. We can only hope Teignbridge District Council will address this issue with the prison authorities.

Having reported that work was to be carried out at both play areas to repair and upgrade facilities, we are still waiting for a decent spell of weather to enable this work to be undertaken. It is raining at the moment so I'm not holding my breath but perhaps a warm dry spell is just around the corner.

Our County Councillor, Stuart Rogers, advised the March meeting that potholes in the region are being repaired and he asked that we report any we come across on the Devon County Council website. He did admit that the workmanship on some of the repairs has been woeful, with the potholes washing out almost as soon as they are filled, and he suggested that if any badly repaired potholes are noticed this is also reported on the website.

There was a proposal from the Woodland Trust that Ogwell Parish Council be granted a lease of Rectory Field to enable the work of Ogwild to continue on that site. An

arboriculturist has carried out a detailed survey of all the trees at Rectory Field and his advice was that taking on the management of these trees under the lease agreement would be an onerous and costly responsibility. Considering this advice, it has been decided not to take up a lease agreement, which means that the public still has access to Rectory Field and any trees planted can be maintained but any other activities will be discouraged. We can assure parishioners that they can continue to enjoy the facility for dog-walking and recreation as before (see page 20 for more information on Rectory Field).

We are still hoping that someone will come forward to act as Editor of the Parish Magazine so that we do not lose this valuable part of parish life. Councillor Pauline Wynter, the present editor, would be prepared to assist if a new team could be found to take up the reins.

Following an open meeting held in Newton Abbot in February to discuss the traffic chaos caused by numerous road closures and diversions, MP Martin Wrigley agreed to visit Ogwell to look at the effect these matters are having on our community. We hope to persuade him to make good on his promise and to see and hear at first hand how life can be disrupted.

The next meeting will be on April 13th 2026 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall and, as always, everyone is welcome to come along.

Rita Hannaford, Clerk,
ritahannaford@btinternet.com
clerk@ogwell.org

Surrounded By Roadworks!

It is easy to feel besieged by the seemingly endless road closures and temporary traffic lights in our area. There's the A382 work, the temporary traffic lights at Two Mile Oak and the Ashburton Road, and now we have three months of Ogwell road closures to bring an underground high voltage line to Channings Wood Prison. Here's the information available about that.

Bus service disruption

The **176 bus** has been rerouted due to the roadworks and will not be serving East Ogwell for the duration. There is a replacement taxi service, but you need to book in advance to use it. See the information right.

Bin collections

Teignbridge District Council advised that anyone whose service is suspended while roads are closed should have been notified by post by Devon County Council. If in doubt, put out your bins as usual and if they are not collected within a couple of days, call the council on 01626 361101 to find out what is happening.

Which roads are closed?

According to the official works notice from Devon Highways, the work will be done in three phases. Phase one is from the prison entrance road to Rydon Cross; phase two is from Rydon Cross to the junction of Rectory Road and Denbury Road; and phase three is Denbury Road from its junction with Rectory Road to its Totnes Road junction. There are no dates attached to these phases.

The road past Rydon Farm is given as a diversion for the first phase and is currently accessible to traffic coming through Ogwell or from Two Mile Oak. The lanes at Rydon

Cross will not be accessible during the second phase, but should be during the third as the official diversion is Rectory Road and Ogwell Road.

There are road closed signs all the way from Ogwell roundabout, which may deter delivery drivers and others headed for the village, Ogwell Grange or other properties. The Parish Council has asked Highways to do something about the misleading signage.

Taxi replacement for 176 bus service

Devon County Council has organised a replacement taxi service between East Ogwell and Newton Abbot, to be operated by Price First Taxis. To use this service you need to pre-book at least one working day in advance of travel by calling **01803 322 322**.

East Ogwell – Newton Abbot

Monday to Saturday – 23 March until mid-June

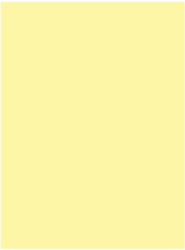
	NS				NS
NEWTON ABBOT, Sherborne Road	0740	0845	1345	1545	1735
EAST OGWELL, Green	0748	0856	1356	1556	1746
EAST OGWELL, Garners Lane	-	0858	1358	1558	1748
OGWELL GRANGE, Care Home	0750	0902	1402	1602	1752
	NS				
OGWELL GRANGE, Care Home	0755	1013	1403	1603	
EAST OGWELL, Garners Lane	0757	1017	1407	1607	
EAST OGWELL, Green	0800	1020	1410	1610	
NEWTON ABBOT, Sherborne Road	0815	1032	1422	1622	

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What's New At The Memorial Hall

Spring is in the air!

Many thanks to the volunteers who sanded and resealed the floor in the Old School Room over half term, and to the Events Committee who have funded some replacement tables and trolley for us as we start to upgrade our furniture stock.

We intend to carry out some maintenance work at the Hall over the Easter break, prior to the first phase of the kitchen project which we hope will follow in the summer/autumn. Also thanks to Mark Streeter who has joined the group working on our plans for the kitchen upgrade, his experience and expertise is most appreciated.

One or two groups are testing out using the Hall for new activities at the moment, and several groups are attracting bigger numbers which is good to see. If you have an idea to use the hall, please discuss it with Carla, who would be happy to show you around and discuss options.

Current Programme

Activity	Frequency	Time
Pre School	every weekday in term time	9am-3pm
Evening Table Tennis	every Thursday	7pm-9pm
Keep Fit	every Tuesday	4pm-5pm
Tai Chi	every Wednesday	6pm-7.30pm
Afternoon Table Tennis	1st Wednesday each month	2pm-4pm
Games Group	2nd Friday each month	10.30am-noon
U3A History	2nd Wednesday each month	1.45pm-4pm
U3A Armchair Travel	last Monday each month	1.45-4pm
Luncheon Club	3rd Wednesday each month	from noon
Gong Bathing	3rd Monday each month	6.30pm
Parish Council	2nd Monday each month	7pm

Contact Carla for booking enquiries on:

carlaglanvilleomh23@gmail.com

or 07977 281335

*Peter Farrell, Secretary,
Ogwell Hall Committee*



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A Young Person's Guide To Drama

Here at Canada Hill, Friday afternoons have been a real highlight as most of Year 5 and 6 are involved in the Drama Club that is run by our Deputy Head, Mr Bartlett. We are practising lots of scenes from our summer show that we will be performing towards the end of the school year.

“Moana Junior” is a fun, upbeat musical containing comical as well as heartwarming scenes and catchy songs – such as the well-known “How Far I’ll Go” – that are easy to sing and dance to. It follows young Moana as she journeys to find and restore the stolen heart of Ti Fiti to her island, accompanied by the hilarious demi- god Maui, Hei Hei the chicken and Pua the pig. I am also appearing in a local production of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” as an Oompa Loompa, which I am very excited about. The production is being put on by NEWTS, which is the junior section of Newton Abbot & District Musical Comedy Society. We rehearse the show on Friday evenings (very much of a drama day for me!) and it is so fun learning all the songs and dances.

We will be performing the musical at the Alexandra Theatre in town in May, and I am pleased to be performing on stage there as we are so lucky to have a local theatre and cinema.

Recently, however, the Alexandra has been under threat. In 2020 Teignbridge council revealed plans to remove the theatre and replace it with an updated indoor market and multi-functional space. It caused huge concern within the community and a group of residents formed Friends of the Alexandra Theatre. They organised protests and created petitions that gained thousands

of signatures, and even caught the attention of national newspapers, radio and television! After several years of campaigning, the movement was

successful, and the Alex was saved! I spoke to local hero and organiser of NEWTS, Claire Holden, who played a major role in the campaign to protect the theatre from closure. Claire told me:

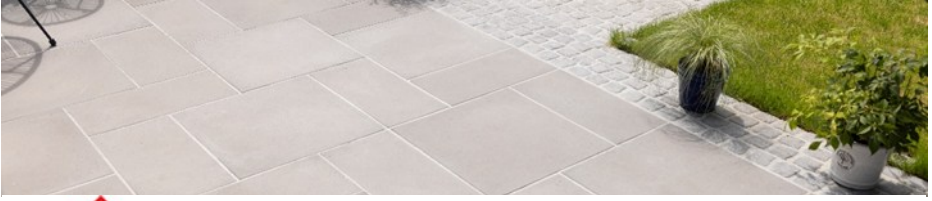
“Regaining a historic theatre is important because it preserves the town’s heritage and cultural identity. It provides a space for live performances, events and community activities, bringing people together and supporting local arts.” She also said Friends of the Alexandra Theatre would like to take over the lease of the theatre: “Our aim would be to protect the historic interior while bringing the venue back into regular use for live theatre, film screenings, music and community events.”

From my point of view, drama has given me confidence and empowerment to find my voice and stand up on the stage. And it has been inspiring to perform alongside the talented people I’ve been lucky enough to meet. I feel that drama is something that brings a community together and I love being a part of it.

See you in the June/ July issue! Bye readers!

The Ogwell Junior Writer





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Ogwell Tennis Club

We held a successful Hot Pot Supper in late February for club members and their partners in the Memorial Hall. The food was excellent and the table tennis competition running alongside was fun and competitive. We raised over £200 for the club from ticket sales and a raffle.

The tennis season begins on 1st April 2026 with membership fees at £30 for Ogwell Residents (individual), £35 for Associated Members (individual), and £75 for a Family Membership (two adults and two children). The court is easy to book (just sign up via the notice board at the court) and offers a great opportunity for families to enjoy a game of tennis in the peaceful surroundings of Pond Meadow.

Don't be put off if you are an individual and

don't know anyone who plays, we're a friendly bunch and have weekly Club Sessions.

We also have a WhatsApp group

whereby members can arrange times and games that are mutually convenient.

By the time this article goes to print we will have held our AGM and will hopefully have some interesting ideas for club competitions, fundraising and social events over the forthcoming season.

We welcome new members and for further details about joining please contact the Club Secretary.



Julia Barton, Secretary
01803 813363



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Memorial Bench, Careers, Football

Delphine Knott, Headteacher, Canada Hill School



Memorial Bench

In January we held the unveiling of the memorial bench which was funded by the school community for Rose, one of our Year 6 pupils who passed away. We were joined by 20 former students, all close friends of Rose, along with their parents and Rose's parents, as well as all the current children in school. The Rev. Gareth Jones blessed the bench, and Rose's mum spoke beautifully about Rose's legacy and how her friendships continue within the school. We concluded the event with Rose's friends releasing 12 doves, which felt like a truly fitting and lovely way to bring the occasion to a close.

Wassailing

At the end of January, we held our wassailing event and were joined by members of Ogwild and the Grimspound Morris Dancers. Many children and parents returned for the evening, and we had a wonderful time together in the hall. The apple tree was blessed, wassail songs were

sung, and we enjoyed lively dancing from the Morris dancers. The evening ended with the children enthusiastically joining in the dancing. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed delicious apple cake prepared by the school kitchen.

Year 3/4 Trip to Exeter

At the end of February, our Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed an exciting trip to Exeter to enrich their learning. Their day began at St Nicholas Priory, where they stepped back in time to experience life in Tudor England, building on their learning from the Autumn term. In



the Tudor kitchen, they explored the types of food people ate and the utensils they used. In the bedroom, they discovered what Tudors wore and were particularly fascinated by the wardrobe! In the dining room, they even took part in a lesson on Tudor etiquette.

The children then visited the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, where they explored a range of artefacts linked to their current Spring term topic on Ancient Egypt. They also enjoyed seeing exhibits connected to other areas they have studied, including Roman Exeter and the Stone Age. The children had a fantastic day, and we were impressed by their curiosity and enthusiasm.





Careers Week

In the week beginning 2nd March, we had our first ever Careers week as part of new Personal Development Curriculum. We were delighted to welcome more than 30 parents into the school to talk about their careers. Children found out about investment banking, property development, film making, being a talent agent, working for a big tech company, being an engineer, running a gardening business, being a Tai Chi teacher, being a doctor, fire officer or police officer and many, many more. On the Wednesday children dressed up as what they wanted to be and we were wowed by the effort and thought they put into this. The six who dressed up as chefs are now doing working experience with our school chef Olivier with the first two already making their own version of bolognese to serve to their friends.

Year 5/6 Girls Football

Our Y5/6 girls went to Teignmouth Community School for the second round of the Central Venue League football tournament. They were third place in the first round and maintained this position with four wins, two losses and two draws in the second round. The girls showed great sportsmanship both on and off the pitch and were a credit to Canada Hill. Unfortunately, only the team in first place, Hazeldown, made it through to the County Cup but the girls were more than happy with a win over their local rivals, who have previously been impossible to beat! They also had glorious weather throughout the afternoon, the first match that has been played in dry conditions this school year. Their only complaint was the weight of their medals!



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Luncheon Club in the Memorial Hall

The new team look forward to meeting diners at our monthly Luncheon Club. The lunches in 2026 will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of the month. The next few dates are:

- Wednesday 18th March
- Wednesday 15th April
- Wednesday 20th May

We are open from 12 noon, and we start serving at 12.45pm. Please remember to come in via the side door.

New diners are always welcome, please just let us know that you'd like to come!

For all enquiries, please contact:

Anthea Hoey:
01626 362003 / 07816 171473
Stella Llewellyn:
01626 906814 / 07966 555416



Ogwell 'Third Agers'

Teign U3A is centred on Newton Abbot and the surrounding area, with about 500 members. We hold a monthly meeting at St Paul's Church Hall, Devon Square, on the 4th Thursday of the month at 2pm. Visitors are most welcome.

We have over 70 activities, two of which, History and Armchair Travel, meet monthly in The Jubilee Suite of the Ogwell Memorial Hall at 1:45pm.

Annual membership is £15 but you are welcome to attend one of our meetings or visit teignu3a.org.uk to find out what we do.

Janet Choules

Ogwell meetings for April and May

Wednesday 8th April

History: The Creation of St Petersburg

Monday 27th April

Armchair Travel: St Petersburg

Wednesday 13th May

History: The History & Wonders of Petra

Monday 25th May

Armchair Travel: To be confirmed

Janet – Group Leader History

Mike – Group Leader Armchair Travel

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Can You Be Part Of The Parish Magazine Team?

The parish magazine has been around for at least 30 years. I've been editor for eight years, since June 2018, but I now need to step down, and will do so in the autumn, as will advertising manager Paul Wynter. The Parish Council, which publishes the magazine, hopes to keep it going, but unless people come forward to help that won't happen.

St Bartholomew's church, which published the magazine until three years ago, might be interested in taking it over again. If they do, I hope it will still be delivered free to all residents.

When I started as editor the magazine was produced monthly and went to around 250 subscribers, who paid 75p per issue. That remained the case until the pandemic, when it became clear that a means of communicating with all villagers is a valuable asset.

Magazine production stopped for a while during the pandemic. When it restarted regularly in December 2020 the church and parish council had worked out a way of delivering a free copy to every household in Ogwell, with a delivery team of 40 or so organised by Cllr Paul Martin. This arrangement has worked well for the past five years, and as the magazine went from 10 issues a year to six from the beginning of 2023 due to rising print and paper costs it has become less demanding of the team.

So the question is, could you be part of the magazine production team, or do you know somebody who might be interested? Two or three people sharing the work would be a good way forward, perhaps by taking turns to put the magazine together. And I am happy to help.

If not production, maybe you could take on the job of selling the advertisements. The main work is at renewal time, plus dealing with queries that come up during the year.

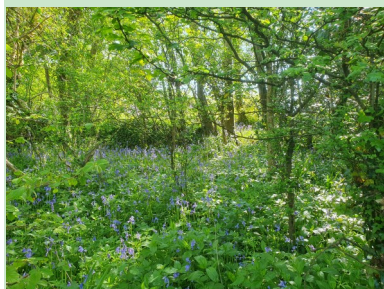
It would be sad to lose the magazine. It is a part of community life and helps keep people informed. Lots of people are on social media, and keep in touch that way but print magazines still have a place.

For further information contact Pauline Wynter at

opmeditorial@gmail.com or 07712 673995

Or Paul Wynter at ogpmadvertising@gmail.com or 07711 952808

End Of Ogwild Work In Rectory Field



Rectory Field is a lovely oasis of calm on Rectory Road. It is well used by dog walkers but they probably have it to themselves most of the time. It's not a busy place. At this time of year, with the blackthorn in blossom and the birds singing, it is real treat to walk there. The field is owned by the Woodland Trust (WT), having been donated by local resident Kathleen Hacker in 1974. For the past five years it has been managed by Ogwild, a local nature group, under an agreement with the WT. Sadly, that agreement has ended, and it has proved impossible to negotiate a new arrangement. So Ogwild will no longer be involved, and management of the field will revert to the Woodland Trust.

This is deeply disappointing for the Ogwild team and other local people who have put in many volunteer hours to enhance the field for the benefit of wildlife and the community, and have kept the paths mowed and the brambles in check. It means Ogwild cannot continue using the field for wildlife themed events, such as the bat walks, moth breakfasts, butterfly hunts and dormouse surveys it has run in the past. And we will no longer be able to maintain the native trees we helped around 50 local families to plant on the site.

Statement from the Woodland Trust

Firstly, we would like to thank Ogwild for taking care of Rectory Fields since 2021. This was a new venture and an opportunity for them to gain experience of managing the site under a licence agreement before considering taking on a full lease of the wood.

We understand that much of last year was spent considering whether to take on the lease, but after careful consideration Ogwild decided not to proceed.

As owners of the site, the Woodland Trust has now taken the management of Rectory

Fields back in hand, working with a company called Tillhill. The wood will continue to be managed as a place for both wildlife and people, striking a balance between allowing the area to remain as natural as possible while maintaining paths so visitors can enjoy being close to nature.

Rectory Field will remain open to the public, with the path network maintained, along with the trees planted by the local community.

If there are any issues relating to Rectory Field please contact:

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

The Woodland Trust has made clear it will not “maintain, manage, replace, or take responsibility for those trees beyond its general land management practices.” However, there is no restriction on visiting the field so people are welcome to maintain their own trees.



The Ogwild team tried hard to find a way of continuing to work with the WT. We were offered three options but it turned out that one option wouldn't work for WT, and the other two didn't work for Ogwild or the parish council, which helps fund the group. The problem was that both options involved taking on the responsibility and costs for the ongoing tree management on the site, and a survey of the field commissioned by Ogwild advised that looking after the trees was likely to involve large sums in the coming years. Ogwild consulted with the parish council which, in light of the advice, did not want to take on this responsibility.

We hope the field will be well looked after, and local residents will still walk their dogs there, go blackberrying, or just sit and enjoy the view.

Events, Churchyard Management, Regular Upkeep

Events: We had two interesting talks in February. Laura Evans, medical herbalist and founder of Higher Nurture, gave an entertaining presentation on spring foraging. The audience enjoyed tasting her tea and cordial samples, and left with a determination to pick nettles and cleavers to make their own concoctions! Next up was an online talk on managing horse pastures in a way that improves the health of both the land and the animals that graze it.



Churchyard management: Local naturalist and broadcaster Kelvin Boot visited St Bart's in March to meet church representatives and Ogwild to discuss ideas for managing the area for both wildlife and people. With swift boxes due to be installed in the church tower soon, making sure there are plenty of insects for the swifts to eat means encouraging flowering plants and perhaps planting some too. There were primroses and lesser celandine in flower when Kelvin visited, and he suggested adding more primroses as these are great for bees and other pollinating insects. He also recommended lungwort (*pulmonaria*), another early flowering plant, and sedum for summer flowers. Herbs are another good option. Nettles and brambles are also great for wildlife, but must be managed so they don't take over! Kelvin emphasised that managing the churchyard for wildlife is a form of gardening that balances the needs of nature and people—it's not about just letting everything grow.



Regular maintenance: We have been preparing the wildflower beds on Ogwell Road and Brownings Walk to put in wildflower plug plants rather than seeds - a bit of an experiment this year! Thanks to everyone who came and helped.

The Ogwild Team
ogwild4@gmail.com

Along The River Lemon Into Newton Abbot History

The Lemon has played its part in the history of Newton Abbot, firstly as the traditional boundary between the two ancient boroughs (Newton Bushel & Newton Abbot) that were combined to make our current Newton Abbot, and secondly as a water and power source for the many mills that lined its banks in days gone by.

Newton Bushel (based on the village of Highweek) was owned by the Bushel family, and Newton Abbot (based on the Manor of Wolborough) on the other side of the river, was part of the estates of the Abbots of Torre Abbey.

The leat that fed the mills starts by the entrance to Bradley Manor, which dates back to early medieval times. By far the largest mill in Bradley Lane was owned and run by the Vicary family, dealing in both the wool and leather tanning trades. This traditional industry only finally closed its doors in 1972. Some of the mill buildings remain along Bradley Lane but much has

been swept away by 'progress'.

On the other side of the Lemon, as you drive into town you will pass Mackrell's Almshouses, the first of three separate sets of almshouses in Newton Abbot. They are the newest in the town having been built in 1874. The oldest, Gilberds Almshouses, dating from 1538, were demolished and rebuilt with modern replacements in the 1970s. Two more almshouses still exist in East Street, Hayman's and Lady Lucy Reynell's. The latter were originally intended for the poor widows of clergymen and tenants had to attend church services at least three times a week and '*be noe gadders, gossapers, tatlers, or tale bearers*'. Just opposite Mackrell's Almshouses the eagle eyed amongst you will spot a plaque commemorating local resident John Lethbridge, inventor of a successful diving machine used by him in the early 1700s to rescue sunken cargo for their owners.





Further into town you arrive at what I believe to be the most imposing building in Newton Abbot, the Passmore Edwards building. Completed in 1904 it was one of more than 70 buildings (including nine public libraries in Cornwall alone) donated by John Passmore Edwards, a noted journalist and philanthropist. Why Newton Abbot? His mother was born and raised here.

On our way out of town we ought to stop and consider Newton Abbot railway station. While still an important stop on the main line from Paddington to Penzance the station is a shadow of its former self, having once being characterised as the 'Swindon of the south west'.

Some of the major railway workshops still remain, now repurposed for other industrial uses, but how many of you know that Brunel's famous broad gauge atmospheric railway actually terminated at Newton Abbot?

If you want to know more about Newton Abbot and its history then a visit to both the library in the Passmore Edwards building and the Newton Abbot Museum in Newton's Place opposite Asda would be worthwhile.

The Ogwell Rambler



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Ogwell Gardens 2026

Saturday 13th June: 11am - 4pm

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Wines To Complement An Easter Feast

Easter lunch is coming and I've given the food and wine a bit of thought. It's one of those meals that doesn't need overthinking, but the right bottle does make a difference. It's usually a fairly relaxed affair, but one where the food has enough weight to need something considered alongside it.

If lamb is on the menu, which it often is, the easiest place to start is the south of France. Rhône reds tend to work naturally with it. They have enough fruit and warmth for the meat, but also a savoury edge that works with garlic, herbs and the way lamb tends to be cooked.

Domaine de l'Amandine "Séguret" Côtes du Rhône Villages (£17.15) is a good example. Ripe red and dark fruit, a bit of spice, and enough weight for roast lamb without feeling heavy. There's a softness to it as well, which makes it easy to drink over the course of a long lunch. It's the sort of bottle that just gets on with it. If you want something different, Rioja is a reliable alternative. Slightly more shape, often a gentle note of oak, and very comfortable with roast flavours. It brings a bit more structure than Rhône, which can suit lamb just as well, particularly if it's cooked a little more firmly or served with richer sides.



Ontañón Crianza Rioja (£15.25) is everything you want from a good Rioja. A year or so in American oak barrels blends dark berry fruit with notes of vanilla and spice, giving it enough depth without making it heavy. It feels complete without being overdone, which is exactly what you want here.

Not all Easter lunches are built around red wine. If it's chicken, fish, or just preference, a white with a bit of substance makes more sense than anything too sharp. Very crisp whites can feel a bit thin once food is involved.



Gómez Cruzado Blanco 2 Año 2019 Rioja (£16.50) works well here. It has some texture from time in the barrel, but keeps its freshness, so it holds up across a whole lunch rather than just the first course. It's particularly good with roast chicken or richer fish dishes, but flexible enough to cover most things that might be on the table.



Most Easter lunches don't need anything complicated. A bottle with a bit of balance, something that sits comfortably with the food, is usually enough. The best choices tend to be the ones that feel settled rather than attention-seeking. Choose something along these lines and it should take care of itself.

If you'd like to order any of these wines, or have a browse, they're all available at wickhamwine.co.uk. If you'd prefer something more tailored, feel free to email me at dan@wickhamwine.co.uk and I'll happily suggest a few options.

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A Birthday Gift For David Attenborough



Sir David Attenborough is 100 years old on 8th May and even if you have never watched one of his programmes, I'm guessing most of you will have heard of, or would recognise him.

As controller of BBC2 for a number of years, he commissioned programmes and stage managed iconic events I remember well. I've also witnessed his journey from animal collector to environmental leviathan, respected the world over; and in recognition of his work and legacy the BBC is presenting a week long celebration of his 70-year career. As a young child my family watched his programmes a lot. And I mean, a lot. There was no choice really. I watched him capture animals for zoos on Zoo Quest, and watching that planted in me the need to respect and protect nature if I could, as I hated watching those animals struggle.

Then Life on Earth arrived on our screens and things slowly started to change. Believe me, if you had a father who filled a room with books about nature which he endlessly consulted (but that children were only allowed to touch under close supervision), and every walk, no matter where you went, turned into a nature walk, you cannot avoid noticing nature.

I met David at a book signing in Cambridge a few years ago, and gave him a book my father had written. We corresponded for a while, and he later admitted to me when I handed the package to him he had secretly hoped it was a box of chocolates! I thought that was hilarious. He also told me shortly after that his doctor had just told him to give up chocolate, so maybe it was for the best.

What I learned about him from his letters (and reading his autobiography) is that he is not interested in what anybody thinks about him. He dislikes being addressed as Sir David, and doesn't care much how he dresses. His driving passion is the planet and all living things. He is not the star, they are. He quietly and determinedly set about educating people, by showing what is out there, introducing species behaviour and interaction. He helped viewers learn, understand and care about how special and precious life is on Earth.

And he answered a question for me about Horseshoe Crabs that no one else had been able to, so I was very happy. In the introduction to his witness statement, A Life on Our Planet, he wrote, "The natural world is fading. The evidence is all around us. It has happened during my lifetime. I have seen it with my own eyes. It will lead to our destruction." He continued: "There is a good alternative" and that "if we act now we can put it right by restoring biodiversity, the very thing as a species we have removed."

So in honour of his birthday and as a special gift, I thought I would ask you to do something for him. Stop for a moment and ask yourself if you are doing what you can, no matter how small, to help him in his quest to restore biodiversity.

The Ogwell Wildlife Gardener



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Recollections Of The Highland Clearances

Book Review: *Music in the Dark*, by Sally Magnusson (2023)

The setting for *Music in the Dark* is a tenement flat in Rutherglen near Glasgow in 1884. The narrative centres on a long intimate conversation between the main characters of Jamesina Ross and a stranger who comes seeking lodgings. In chapters entitled *The Kitchen Bed* that intersperse the others Jamesina tells us her thoughts, feelings and memories and reveals the gradual warming of the relationship with her lodger. He doesn't recognise her but Jamesina knows him at once from her childhood without acknowledging this for a long while to keep him at bay. As a young girl Jamesina could write and count and think. She learnt Latin from the Minister and was famous for making up beautiful songs in Gaelic and English. We hear of her life among her family in the Glencalvie highlands where the work was harsh and women used the singing to help with their chores, including subsistence agriculture and livestock rearing. As she grew up, Jamesina dreamed of becoming a writer putting her thoughts, songs and words onto paper.

The story unfolds as Jamesina confronts her memories of how her community was threatened and evicted from the land. The women stood together defiant and determined but were no match for the brutal confrontations of the Highland Clearances, during which Jamesina was savagely beaten and left for dead by the constables.

Sally Magnusson draws on accounts of the time written by a journalist from *The Times* who was in the area and took note of the human catastrophe, and also on official accounts written by the authorities. Another source is the poignant scratchings on the windows of Croick Church where about 80 pitiful souls sheltered for a while after their eviction from their crofts.

I was drawn to Magnusson's detailed and insightful depiction of Jamesina as she tells her story in a blunt and unromantic way. I particularly enjoyed the warmth of the narrative as love develops, unsought, awkward at first, and contrary. As Jamesina comes back to life and thaws emotionally, hope emerges from her darkest times. In the end, well written and engrossing, this is a 'feel good' story.

About the author

Sally Magnusson (daughter of Magnus Magnusson) was born in 1955 and is a Scottish broadcaster and writer. She presented editions of BBC Scotland's *Reporting Scotland*, presented *Tracing Your Roots* on BBC Radio 4 and was one of the main presenters of the television series *Songs of Praise*. To date, she has written 10 books, perhaps most famously *Where Memories Go* (2014) about her mother's dementia.



The Emigrants statue at Helmsdale, Sutherland

The Ogwell Bookworm



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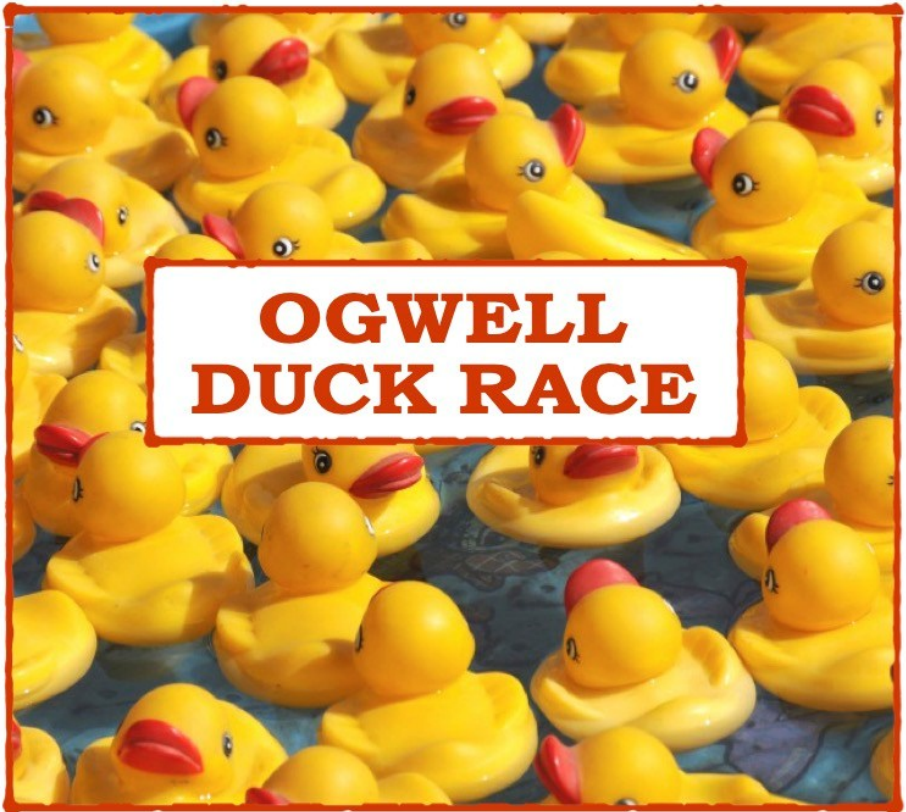
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Test Yourself With The Luncheon Club Quiz

1. Following WWII which island was awarded the George Cross?
a) Guernsey
b) Malta
c) Shetland
2. The Thames is one of the cleanest city rivers in Europe, but at one point it was declared biologically dead due to pollution. What decade was this?
a) 1970s
b) 1890s
c) 1950s
3. Where in London was the first ever recorded performance of a Punch and Judy show?
a) Shaftesbury Avenue
b) Leicester Square
c) Covent Garden
4. Where did William of Orange formally announce his intention to claim the throne?
a) Newton Abbot
b) Exeter
c) Brixham
5. On average, how many sunrises and sunsets do astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) see in 24 hours?
a) 19
b) 16
c) 11
6. How often does the ISS circle the Earth?
a) Every 120 minutes
b) Every 180 minutes
c) Every 90 minutes
7. What proportion of tin do you need to add to copper to make bronze?
a) 35%
b) 20%
c) 10%
8. The 1985 Live Aid concert was set up to raise funds to relieve which African country's famine?
a) Ethiopia
b) Sudan
c) Somalia
9. Which star constellation and Zodiac sign symbolises an archer?
a) Gemini
b) Libra
c) Sagittarius
10. Which Devon town is famous for its hand knotting carpet making techniques?
a) Taunton
b) Axminster
c) Cullompton
11. Which strong low-density metal is known for having the highest strength to density ratio of any metal?
a) Titanium
b) Tungsten
c) Chromium
12. What contact sport had its origins in Native American warrior training and was originally called stickball.
a) Hockey
b) Lacrosse
c) Rugby

For answers see page 36

Church Services in Ogwell

Services are held at 9.30am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

The April dates are 5th (Easter Communion service) and 19th.

The May dates are 3rd and 17th.

The Parishes of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

The Rectory, Coach Place, Coach Road, Newton Abbot

Tel: 01626 335862

newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

Please contact the Parish Office at St Paul's Church on 01626 211346

or email: office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

Easter Services, Newton Abbot Parishes

Date	Time	Service	Location
Wednesday 1st April	10.00	Holy Communion	St Paul's
	12.15-13.45	Lunch with God	St Paul's
Mandy Thursday	17.30	Meal + reflections	Abbotsbury
	19.30	Holy Communion	St Mary's
Good Friday	10.00	CTNA Walk of Witness starts	
	14.00	An Hour at the Cross	All Saints Highweek
	14.00	All age reflections	Abbotsbury
Saturday 4th April	10.30-15.30	Easter Fun Day	St Paul's
Easter Day	TBC	Sunrise Service	All Saints

Answers to quiz questions

- (b) Malta
- (c) 1950s
- (c) Covent Garden
- (a) Newton Abbot
- (b) 16
- (c) Every 90 minutes
- (c) 10%
- (a) Ethiopia
- (c) Sagittarius
- (b) Axminster
- (a) Titanium
- (b) Lacrosse



The Day Everything Changed

There's a saying that 24 hours is a long time in politics, and UK history has shown that to be the case on numerous occasions. Secure Prime Ministers have crumbled, and some in danger have found a new strategy to succeed, all in the span of a few hours. It's true in sport too, as the last few minutes of the England v France Six Nations match showed recently. We know that in our own lives too, don't we, just how dramatically things can change for good or ill over a day or so.

The event at the heart of the Christian faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus, tells the same story. On Friday everything looked bleak. Jesus had been betrayed, arrested, tried, beaten, crucified, and was dead and buried. The hopes of a mighty earthly kingdom were over, and the disciples were in hiding, fearing they were next.

But then came Easter Sunday. Resurrection Day. The day when everything changed. The day when hope was reborn, when faith was reignited into a burning flame, when the gates of Heaven were swung open wide. S M Lockridge, a pastor in San Diego from 1953 to 1993, captured this change as well as anyone has ever done. His meditation "It's Friday, But Sunday's Coming!" is below. If you are in need of hope and joy this Easter, can I suggest you come along to church as we celebrate the events of that first Easter Sunday. Perhaps there you'll discover that this new life and renewed hope is something that is still available today for all who come to the risen King. Happy Easter!

***Rev Dave Brown, Rector
Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell***

It's Friday, But Sunday's Coming!

It's Friday.

Jesus is praying. Peter's sleeping. Judas is betraying. The council is conspiring. But Sunday's comin'!

It's Friday.

The disciples are running like sheep without a shepherd. Mary's crying. Peter is denying. But they don't know that Sunday's a comin'!

It's Friday.

The Romans beat my Jesus. They robe Him in scarlet. They crown Him with thorns. But they don't know that Sunday's comin'!

It's Friday.

The soldiers nail my Saviour's hands to the cross. They nail my Saviour's feet to the cross. And then they raise Him up next to criminals.

It's Friday. But let me tell you something, Sunday's comin'!

It's Friday.

He's hanging on the cross. Feeling forsaken by His Father. Left alone and dying.

Can nobody save Him?

Oooh! It's Friday. But Sunday's comin'!

It's Friday.

The earth trembles. The sky grows dark. My King yields His spirit. Hope is lost. Death has won. Sin has conquered. And Satan's just a laughin'.

But Sunday's comin'!

It's Friday.

Jesus is buried. A soldier stands guard. And a rock is rolled into place.

But it's Friday. It is only Friday. And Sunday is a comin'!

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Tues/Wed/Thu/ Friday	5th/ 6th/ 7th/ 8th May	Black Bin
Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thursday	11th/ 12th/ 13th/ 14th May	Green Bin
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