

Community MATTERS

JULY 2024



Dear Neighbours,

Every month we host an all teams meeting to unite and share information across the various operations that exist within our organisation. We celebrate our people - shining a light on individual and team efforts. After all, it is our people who have opened The Creamery at Castle Cary train station, and who made our sponsorship of RHS Chelsea Flower Show a floriferous success. At the latest meeting we recognised a number of staff who were celebrating 5 year and even 10 year anniversaries working on the estate. The time, energy and commitment they have invested in the Newt is inspiring to myself and the wider team.

I am proud to lead a talented group of people, whose diversity of skill reflects the breadth of our organisation. We employ 520 staff with 40% of those living in the local membership area and therefore part of the community we operate in. I am one of them and as such recognise that many of our staff contribute widely to local initiatives in their

own time alongside an army of selfless volunteers. This issue of Community Matters highlights some of our staff and initiatives that are having a positive impact locally.

Best wishes,
Ed, CEO

NEWT *in the* COMMUNITY

Turf Team

Children at North Cadbury Primary School, on return from their Easter Holidays, were greeted by a new lawn at the front of the school, all facilitated by an enthusiastic team of 6 from the Horticultural Team under the instruction of Arthur Cole. At the recent North Cadbury annual meeting, it was great to hear of the exceptional transformation at the school and celebrate their vibrant learning environment. We wish the children and teachers best of luck with their summer fundraising; look out for some Newt goodies in the hamper prizes!



TURF TEAM TO THE RESCUE!

Apprenticeships

Emily Murray is one of our Human Resources (HR) Coordinators whose own path to employment closely follows what she now advocates in her role. Emily joined the graduate programme from university working within our hotel before accepting her current role with HR where she works tirelessly to bridge the gap between full-time education and the workplace.

Each year Emily facilitates 15 local work experience students, 3 of whom have subsequently joined on full-time apprenticeships. Assisting with mock interviews, CV writing and providing business tours of The Newt are all part of Emily's wider school and college offerings. And, most recently Emily has taken on the position of Enterprise Advisor for Ansford Academy. Giving school leavers real opportunities to be gainfully employed locally is crucial to community success and Emily's excellent work has been a key enabler in that process.

Archives

At the archives, our curatorial team Steph Forbes and Kate Jarvis play a

vital role in preserving the history of the Hadspen Estate. Meticulous in their own research and curation, they also provide a unique opportunity for researchers to take advantage of the collection and work space. They're currently supporting a local researcher who is writing a new historical 'Memoir' of Pitcombe, due to be published in 2025.

As an active member of the Cary History Society, Kate has also leant her knowledge and energy beyond the archives. During her tenure she has presented talks about our Roman Villa, raising funds in Castle Cary and alongside Steph led the 'Castle Cary through time in 21 objects' exhibition. She is now arranging for South West Heritage Trust archaeologist Steve Membery to give an update on the results of the 2023 castle's keep excavations.

DATES *for the* DIARY

GARDEN LATES: 11, 18 & 25TH JULY

HARVEST WEEKEND: 21ST & 22ND SEPTEMBER

Education Programme

Nicky Everett continues to spearhead the education programme; like the minds of the visiting children, Nicky's educational provision has grown rapidly. In this academic year we have welcomed 36 schools across 5 counties equating to 1600 children. In addition, we have welcomed youth, academic and scout groups.

Recently introduced has been a nature discovery tour designed specifically for KS1 students that incorporates

The Wonder of Bees and Woodland Walk experiences at the estate. Tom, our ever-curious entomologist has been sharing his expertise, thankfully in a simpler format, and like Nicky has been a firm favourite with visiting children. Their enthusiasm for teaching and learning is equally infectious amongst staff and with additional programmes planned focusing on nature, ecology and habitat protection, we can be sure that future generations are well-equipped.



PROJECTS

The Creamery

With no membership required, The Creamery serves as a community hub welcoming residents and visitors from afar with an offer of Grab & Go breakfast and lunch options plus dinner service.

Adam Flint is at the helm as our restaurant manager in the stunning restoration alongside Margaretha our head cheesemaker. Not only can you watch the skill in crafting a selection of soft cheeses and yoghurts using our own buffalo's milk, you'll be able to sample it too. The final exciting addition will be the opening of the shop later this month.

Please note, The Creamery's regular opening hours have resumed after a short closure for Glastonbury festival where our team were proud to be providing food and refreshments for the car parking volunteers and GWR staff working diligently to support festival logistics.



Lodge Hill

The work on Lodge Hill continues but the end is in sight. The agricultural track is now in place, linking up the pastures with Castle Farm, with the final topsoil layers being added now. Some additional work is being undertaken in improving the footpath from the farm down to The Park. The ambitious power cable project has so far been successful; all the cables are now buried and we await SSEN to start their works.

Thank you for your patience as we complete our improvement works. In the meantime, the top of Lodge Hill continues to offer a spectacular vantage point over Castle Cary.

COMMUNITY TEAM

Community Liaison

Zoe has been engaged in numerous conversations and initiatives. She has been a regular presence at local town and parish council meetings as well as other community conversations spanning resilience, commerce and youth provisions. Part of Zoe's role is facilitating our charitable contributions and below are just a couple of the groups we have recently been able to support.

Zoe continues to speak up for the community and ensure our operations are always conscious of their impact. Her role has further evolved to hold us accountable in our commitment to improving sustainability and in the next edition of Community Matters, we hope to share more of our sustainability journey including our targets and goals.

As ever, Zoe is available via email: Zoe.young@thenewtinsomerset.com

Village Steward

It's the growing season and Rob has been battling nettles with his strimmer out on the rights of way. Now equipped with his personalised van, you'll be able to easily track his movements! Amongst Rob's ongoing projects is refreshing Yarlinton pond which is a hive of animal activity. In North Town, he is improving path signage and access to the footpaths and in Shepton Montague refurbishing village notice boards.

Stoke Lane Stables

Stoke Lane Stables is an inclusive, fully licensed ABRS+ riding school in Wincanton owned by Kate Kirkpatrick. At the stables Kate and her team instil the importance of becoming responsible horse owners by learning about stable management and equine care as well as learning to ride. As such we were delighted to assist in the purchase of a life-size anatomical horse

model to aide in the superb education that Kate delivers. Affectionately named Hercules, half of the model is a detailed and accurate anatomical display. We were so pleased to be able to support local education and even more so to hear that Kate has been nominated for the ABRS+ Instructor of the year award. A Herculean feat.

Castle Cary Bowls Club

CCBC's social calendar is almost as packed as their fixture's list; the club offers excellent sporting facilities alongside a traditional, vibrant pavilion playing host to visiting teams and evening events. Always keen to welcome new members, the club have regular open days where you can test your skill and perhaps unearth some hidden talent! We're very pleased to have been able to donate money towards the maintenance of an integral facility in Castle Cary and look forward to hosting our own social and taster evening in the near future.