

Community MATTERS

THE NEWT IN SOMERSET

Dear Neighbours,

It is with joy and immense pride that I have been appointed CEO of Hospitality at The Newt in Somerset. I began as the Hotel Manager, before we opened our doors and as such have had the great privilege of being part of the incredible journey and growth of the estate. In assuming the role of CEO, I recognise the significant responsibility I have been entrusted with. It is a responsibility to the staff; how do I best empower my team and ensure that every employee feels valued? Responsibility to our members; I am determined that we will provide the best guest experience possible. And, of course, the responsibility to our neighbours. What does it mean to be responsible custodians and how can we work alongside our community?

Although it is the start of my leadership as CEO, this isn't the start of our community engagement. This year we have supported more community and charity projects than ever before, made significant strides in improving communication locally and worked with several different agencies to learn, improve and connect. I look forward to being at the helm of this continued improvement and meeting many of you in the coming months.

Best wishes,
Andrew, CEO of Hospitality



NEWT *in the* COMMUNITY

Gather & Grow: Youth Adventure Trust

The Youth Adventure Trust is an inspiring charity that uses the challenge and diversity of the outdoors to empower, support and provide positive experiences for vulnerable young people. The results are, quite simply, life-changing and a crucial step in building resilience and confidence in young people who already have so much to overcome.

To mark the expansion of The Youth Adventure Trust into Somerset, we were thrilled to support them with a Gather and Grow event at the estate which included a private garden tour followed by drinks, nibbles and a chance to learn all about the charities' incredible work.

If you're looking for a rewarding volunteering opportunity or to donate then visit the Youth Adventure Trust website or get in touch with Zoe Young via email zoe.young@thenewtinsomerset.com who will be able to signpost you.

Castle Cary and Ansford Carnival

As proud platinum sponsors of this year's carnival, we congratulate the organisers, participants and volunteers who produced another outstanding spectacle on carnival day. It is a marvel that we have such an event in our little town and is yet another reason for our immense pride in being part of this community.

The Newt at Land Alive

It's official - The Newt at Land Alive is happening! On the 22nd and 23rd November, the inaugural sustainable food and farming conference for the South-West is at The Bath & West Showground, and we are delighted to be sponsors and exhibitors. Our farm manager, Cameron Knee, will be joining experts from across the UK to discuss the future of food and farming. Focusing on building resilience into our food system, the event promises to celebrate the region's

successful sustainable food ethos and draw inspiration from farmers, scientists, producers, brands and more.

We are excited to join the conversation and play our part in future proofing our food system. Tickets can be purchased via the Land Alive website www.landalive.co.uk

Museum to You

We have recently teamed up with Museum to You in their mobile delivery of exhibitions and interactive experiences to care homes. They will be taking our Roman Villa to residents across Somerset with multi-sensory group work including hands-on activities, audio presentations and visual props, truly bringing the experience alive. The charity is key in removing barriers to educational attractions and we are grateful to them for extending the reach of our Roman Villa experience. If you are interested in learning more about their work or volunteering please email suzannah@museumtoyou.co.uk

DEVELOPMENTS



The George at Castle Cary

'The George is at the heart of the Castle Cary community, and we're excited to build on the brilliant work of the current team. Conserving this historic building will be critical to safeguard its future.'

Following on from the acquisition of The George, the historic 15th century pub at the centre of Castle Cary, we wanted to share our initial plans. From the beginning of 2026, the estate will embark on a restoration of the building and its interiors to preserve this much-loved community landmark.

As the renovation draws closer, we will endeavour to keep our community updated over project timelines; getting the pub back open for locals is the priority! We look forward to welcoming you in due course but for now, we wish the current team the best with their ongoing, excellent service.

Lodge Hill, Castle Cary

Led by Project Manager, Ed White, the final telegraph poles have been removed on Lodge Hill with all power lines now buried underground. This work has been conducted by SSEN, fully funded by ourselves and hopefully, you'll agree that this has only added to the beauty of this beloved town focal point.

Elsewhere on the hill, we have been conducting ground clearance and maintenance work to protect the archaeological features at the castle site under consultation with Historic England. All scrub management has been conducted alongside the guidance of an ecologist.

A359 Bridge, Pitcombe

Our farming operations have reaped the benefits from the bridge installation, connecting the agricultural land at Lodge Hill to Avalon Farm. As part of the delivery, we are also allowing access as a permissive bridleway to link up the popular Monarch's Way route, which currently crosses this busy road. This will be open by the end of November and includes an additional permissive bridleway that takes in the beauty of the ridge leading to Yarlinton.

GREEN NEWT

Sustainability

We have always been committed to operating sustainably, reducing waste and being mindful. By prioritising people, land and the planet we hope to minimise negative impacts and champion the positives. We know we can do more, and we are determined to do so. In focusing our attention on our environmental and human impact we recently kickstarted our approach with the brilliant support of The Good Crowd, a local sustainability agency. Senior team members on the estate were part of a sustainability workshop, led by co-founders Catherine and Natalie, that inspired energy and focus on shaping The Newt's legacy. Although we have a journey ahead of us, there have been some recent changes with reason to be proud.

Wildfarmed

We have made the switch to Wildfarmed flour in our bakery and proudly sell their products in our farm shops. Wildfarmed are industry leaders in regenerative farming in the UK. By working closely with their growers and focusing on soil health they are on track to start transforming our food system. On their website, co-founder Andy Cato states

"We put soil health first, allowing us to grow tasty, nutritious food in a way that heals the planet. If we can get grasses, trees, and perennial plants of all kinds back into the 'fields of single crops' that cover two-thirds of the country, we can make agriculture a solution to our biodiversity and climate crises rather than a contributor. That's our mission."

Compost

We already have a robust waste management system on site with zero waste ending in landfill, but we wanted to challenge our food waste processes. As standard our food waste goes to an external biodigester, however in a trial at the Garden Café, the team have now been separating any food waste to use the raw vegetable peels within our on site composting pad. This is in addition to the garden and woodland waste making over 250m³ of compost every year. The trial has proven successful, and this system will now be rolled out across the estate.