

Community MATTERS

THE NEWT IN SOMERSET

Dear Neighbours,

We're big advocates of making community engagement more than simply writing a cheque. (Although I know that's nice too!)

This approach certainly affords me the opportunity to engage with charities and organisations that keep communities not just afloat, but thriving. Pitching in on committees or representing The Newt at local council and community meetings to ensure we're doing our bit is all part of my working week.

It may also look like the sponsorship of team kits, with The Newt logo proudly worn by local football and cricket clubs. Or funding the beautiful hanging baskets on Castle Cary's High Street. Elsewhere, it's behind the scenes collaboration with the Commerce Association, or ensuring thorough planning consultations for our developments.

This time of year in particular sees lots of requests to support raffles and summer fundraising, so keep your eyes peeled for Annual Memberships and delicious produce hampers on offer. Here's a snapshot of some of the other ways we've been showing up in support of our communities.



Cary in Bloom

Showtime approaches for South West in Bloom judging and this year we've all been blown away by the sunflower power of community spirit. Our involvement has included a Woodland Talk by our Head of Woodland, Raef Johnson, who impressed with his passion for conservation, education and show-stopping trees.

Soon, The Creamery will host an incredible Community Garden, with over 25 contributors – a collection of pots showcasing the very best of our community.

And, on 11 July, we're thrilled to be supporting Cary's Summer Festival: Sow, Grow, Bloom. The festival is a celebration of the town, the Cary in Bloom spirit and the arrival of summer. Expect family entertainment, brilliant local music and culinary delights, including a taster from The Angel Inn.

Staff Fundraising: Cary Cares

Our latest staff fundraising event was a highly competitive Bingo night! With teams vying for unique prizes, including, to date, an unclaimed IT support ticket, the evening raised £375 for Cary Cares, who support those who most need it in Castle Cary and Ansford. A truly fantastic charity at the heart of the community.

Bruton Boost

Once more, the innovative and dynamic team at The Good Company Bruton devised a week of pure magic to give Bruton its annual Boost. Designed to help build community mental fitness, it brings together a range of free events and activities supported by local organisations. This year, we were delighted to offer free entry and some sweet treats to fuel a fun-packed Garden Show day.



The Great Garden Show

The show welcomed almost 80 local primary school children to the estate across two inspiring days of outdoor learning. Pupils from Bruton, North Cadbury and Castle Cary Primary Schools explored the gardens, discovered wildlife, met our beekeepers, enjoyed hands-on planting activities and took part in immersive 'Taste of the Garden' tours.

Working in mixed-school groups, the children built new friendships while creating miniature gardens, seed balls and planted pots, to be returned to their schools to brighten outdoor spaces. A particular highlight for all was watching our Woodland Team demonstrate tree-climbing techniques beneath some of the estate's tallest trees.

Final Word... from Martha Hemmett, Children's Experience and Education Manager

Creating opportunities for local children to connect with nature, gardening and the outdoors is something I am passionate about facilitating as part of our Newtlings programme. I hope these experiences spark curiosity, build confidence and leave the children with memories and an appreciation for the natural world, long after the children have returned to their classrooms.

Get in Touch

As always, I'd love to hear from you. If you have ideas, feedback, opportunities for collaboration or know of a project that could benefit from support, please do get in touch.

zoe.young@thenewtinsomerset.com - Community Liaison Officer

Dates for your Diary

COMMUNITY GARDEN, THE CREAMERY: 1-31 JULY

SUMMER FARM SHOW, THE NEWT: 4-5 JULY

SOW, GROW, BLOOM FESTIVAL, CASTLE CARY: 11 JULY