

NEWTOWN NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Archers Road, Bellevue Road, The Crescent, George Street, Newtown Road, Northlands Road, Salisbury Close, Weston Road

IN THIS ISSUE

Greening Newtown Event

Pick up a free tree or bird box, bring along plants to swap, learn more about the greening Newtown project, or just pop along for a chat. We will be in the alleyway behind Newtown Road on **Saturday 18th March** from 11am to 3pm.

Spring Street Clean

Our spring street clean will take place on **Saturday 25th March** from 7.30am to 12.30pm. Please join in and help spruce up the area before the summer.

Street Party

Come together and celebrate our community and neighbourhood with a good old fashioned street party on the bank holiday weekend! Food, music, merriment, fun and games on **Sunday 7th May** in Northlands Road from 12 noon to 8pm.

Saving our Swifts

Our swift project continues to grow with an amazing 48 new nest boxes already installed! We would love to reach our target of 100 so get in touch if you'd like to take part.



Spring-Summer Edition

Hello from your Residents Association Committee. We are pleased that at the AGM in November the current committee members were re-elected and a new person joined too.

Our aim as a Committee is to encourage and facilitate positive projects that improve our area and foster a sense of community, so please get involved and help make Newtown an even better place to live!

We have a private Facebook group for Newtown residents to communicate, share ideas and showcase positive projects that are going on. There are now 120 people in the group and we aim to keep this as a friendly, inclusive and welcoming space for all residents. To join type in the URL below or search for Newtown Residents Association Eastleigh within Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/203647565189227>



If you want to get involved or find out more please contact us on the email address below, or get in touch via the Facebook group, or just come along to one of the events and have a chat...

Committee members: Nick Tann (chair), Adrian Martin (treasurer), Liza Martin (secretary), Debbie Tann, Ben Earl, Michael Jennings, Matt Allan.

Spring Street Clean

Saturday 25th March 7.30am to 12.30pm

The Council's street sweeper vehicle will work its way around each street in the Newtown area to remove the build up of debris from the gutters, which can block the drains if left to build up too much.

Please move your cars out of the way temporarily so that the vehicle can get to the edges of the roads. Due to financial cuts across the Council they cannot provide a bulky waste collection but can provide us with black bags for litter which they will take away on the day.

We encourage all residents to help with litter picking, cutting back overhanging vegetation, and tidying up the back alleys. We would be particularly grateful for any volunteers who can give an hour or so of time to help clear away any rubbish from the alleyways - if you can help, just join in on the day.

Street Party

Sunday 7th May 12noon to 8pm in Northlands Road

After the great success of last year's street party we are excited to be holding another street party on the bank holiday weekend.

Northlands Road will be closed to make space for tables and chairs, food and drink, games and music.

Come along and meet your neighbours, bring some food and drink and let's see if we can top last year's turnout!



Greening Newtown Project Event

Saturday 18th March 11am to 3pm in the alleyway behind Newtown Road

Plans to green our area are progressing with a number of initiatives underway. Come along to our Greening Newtown event on Saturday 18th March to find out more.

Greening the back alleys

New pallet planters have started to be installed in the alleyways. We are working with Abri to build slim planters which are ideal for mounting on a back fence or wall and planting up. We are also asking residents to consider planting small trees, shrubs or wildflowers outside of back walls and fences. Any piece of spare soil can be planted up, and any old pots or containers can be used to brighten up the area.



Woodland Trust tree pack

We have ordered 15 small trees from the Woodland Trust that are ideal for an urban setting - these are being made freely available to residents who would like to plant one in their garden or back alley. If you would like a free tree come along to our event on 18th March.

Bird boxes

In addition to the swift box campaign, we also have a small number of bird boxes suitable for sparrows, blue tits or other small birds. Providing nest boxes not only provides a safe place to breed but birds also use them in cold winters as roosting sites. Along with providing fresh food and clean water, nest boxes are vital for our birds survival now that there are less natural holes in buildings and trees for them to use. We have a limited number of bird boxes to give away free at the event.

Newtown planters

Eastleigh Council have agreed to provide 3 large planters which will be sited on the corners of Bellevue Road and Weston Road (Newtown Road side) and the corner of Northlands Road (Archers Road side). These are similar to those in the town centre and will be planted with edible plants and wildlife-friendly plants. The Committee will be responsible for their maintenance and the residents in the three locations have agreed to have them next to their houses.

Saving our Swifts

We have now installed an amazing 48 swift nest boxes across the Newtown area, in collaboration with Hampshire Swifts - thank you to everyone who has taken part so far!

We are now keen to start monitoring the boxes so we can tell Hampshire Swifts how many are occupied. There will be a training session this summer for anyone who wants to help with the monitoring.

We would love to reach our target of 100 nest boxes in the area. Boxes cost £35 each which includes fitting and advice - you can order from the committee by email or facebook, or pop along to the 18th March event to find out more.