

# NEWTOWN NEWS

## NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Spring Street Clean

Our spring street clean will take place on 28th May. Please join in and help spruce up the area before the summer.

#### Jubilee Weekend

Come and meet your neighbours at the Street Party on 3rd June and let us know if you are planning any other celebrations.

#### Helping Wildlife

Our swift project has got off to an excellent start and we are keen to do other projects to help hedgehogs and other wildlife in our neighbourhood.

#### Plant Newtown

We would like to start a plant swap scheme and encourage planting up of the alleyways and other spaces that would benefit from being greener.

#### Open Studios

We are excited that Hampshire Open Studios is coming to Newtown in August with a chance to support local artists in our area.



## Spring-Summer Edition

Since the last newsletter the Committee has been busy working on a few projects to improve the local area. There are now 7 people on the Committee with the previous 3 re-elected and 4 new people joining at the AGM in October.

Our aim as a Committee is to encourage and facilitate positive projects that improve our area, so please get involved and help make Newtown an even better place to live! You can contact us on the email address at the foot of this newsletter.

We have also set up a new private Facebook group which is for Newtown residents to communicate, share ideas and showcase positive projects that are going on. There are already 75 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>



Read on for an update on what's been happening, what's coming up, and how to get involved...

## Saving our Swifts

Our collaboration with Hampshire Swifts has got off to a brilliant start with an amazing 25 nest boxes being installed on various people's houses in March throughout the Newtown area.

Swifts are in decline due to lack of nesting sites so we hope our project will help boost their numbers in our area.



We would love to reach our target of 100 nest boxes, so get in touch if you would like to find out how to get one.

We will be organising a Swift walk in early July to learn more about these charismatic birds who have flown all the way from the Congo to breed right here in Eastleigh!

If we are lucky we may even see some of them using their new boxes. If you would like to come along, please get in touch on Facebook or via email.



## Spring Street Clean

### Saturday 28th May from 8am

This spring's street clean on **28th May** has been timed to tidy up the area before the Jubilee weekend celebrations.

To allow the Council's sweeper to remove the build up of debris from the gutters please move your cars out of the way temporarily. The street clean vehicle will work its way around each street, so you will only need to move your car when it comes to your area. Members of the Committee will be on hand to help.



Please use your green & brown garden bin (if you have one) for any overhanging vegetation or weeds you remove from your kerbs and pavements. Please dig them out rather than using chemical weedkiller, as this can damage trees, bees and other pollinators.

Plastic bags will be provided by the Council for larger items. Smaller weeds, leaves and other debris can be swept into the road for picking up by the street clean vehicle.

## Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend

### 2nd – 5th June

There will be a Street Party in Northlands Road on **Friday 3rd June** from 12 noon – 8pm to which all Newtown residents are invited. The road will be closed to make space for tables and chairs, food and drink, games and music.

If you would like to help make bunting or get involved in another way then please get in touch with the organisers via the Community Book Exchange Facebook page. See poster on the back page for more details. →

If there are any other celebrations or activities planned over the long weekend, do let the Residents Association Committee know. Members of the Committee will be attending the Street Party and we look forward to meeting lots of you there!

## Community Book Exchange

The Community Book Exchange was set up in May 2020 in response to the new times that we suddenly found ourselves in. With no libraries to borrow from and a desire to help our community - the book exchange was born. The creation of a book swap for our lovely local community, means that there is usually something in the 'Big Red Book Case' to suit your tastes. Please help yourself at any time.

Donations of good quality, modern books (the type you would like to have in your home) are gratefully received. The Community Book Exchange can be found at **48 Archers Road**.

## Helping our Hedgehogs

Did you know that the humble hedgehog has declined by 75% in the last twenty years across the country? As one of the UK's favourite mammals this is a very sad situation, but luckily they are faring a little better in urban areas with gardens and green spaces providing important refuges for them. We know they are still found around the Newtown area, and so there are things we can all do to help them thrive in our gardens:



- Make a 13cm x 13cm square gap in the bottom of gates or fences (check with your neighbours first) to allow hedgehogs to come into your garden to find food and water.
- Create an undisturbed log pile that will offer shelter and food.
- Buy or build a hedgehog house.
- Put out water (especially when the weather is hot).
- Check for hedgehogs before mowing or strimming.
- Avoid using pesticides and chemicals, which can poison hedgehogs.
- Ensure there is an easy route out of ponds.
- Leave a corner of your garden to go wild. It will provide shelter and food for hedgehogs in the form of bugs and grubs!

Donate your used stamps. Email [newtown-ra@googlegroups.com](mailto:newtown-ra@googlegroups.com) for the drop off point.

For more information about how to help hedgehogs, including adding any hedgehogs you see to the Hedgehog Map visit [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org).

## Supporting Local Artists - Hampshire Open Studios - August 2022

Linda Miller and friends will be exhibiting their work in Linda's house as part of Hampshire Open Studios on the last two weekends of **August**, Saturday 20th/ Sunday 21st, and Saturday 27th/Sunday 28th/Monday 29th, from 10am to 5pm.

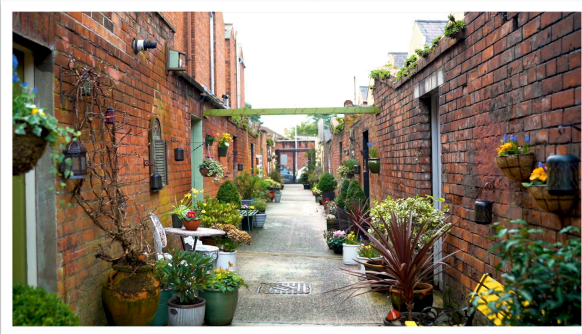
The four artists are Linda Miller - Machine Embroideries, Rachel Platt - Landscape Photography, Linda Chew - Decorative Ceramics, and Jill Maguire - Illustrated Porcelain. The open studio event is a complimentary mix of four local professional artists working in four different disciplines to produce a broad range of work. On show will be framed original prints, Lino cuts, machine embroideries, pots, vessels, limited edition prints, ceramic jewellery, pieced and stitched homewares, greetings cards, gift wrap and much more more.

The open studio will be held at **108 Archers Road**, which is located at the railway end of Archers Road. There are two steps into the house, unfortunately no wheelchair access

## Plant Newtown

We are keen to promote making our area greener. There are many benefits to living in an area with more trees and plants, not only is this great for birds and wildlife, it also benefits our own mental health, cleans the air by absorbing pollution, and helps to tackle climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Greener areas also tend to promote stronger communities and are generally regarded as more desirable places to live.

The photo below is from a project in Belfast where the community has planted up their alleyways and streets – it looks fantastic and we would love to see something similar across Newtown.



We are working with the Council to explore whether new planters can be installed on some of the street

corners, but there is nothing stopping us planting up the alleyways, front gardens, or other areas, such as around the street trees, in the meantime. We are keen to facilitate a gardening network, with plant swaps, seed

swaps and sharing of gardening equipment, as well as sharing gardening knowledge. Do join the Facebook group to help get this going, or get in touch with us by email if you would like to volunteer with us to help make this happen.

Any excuse for a party

# Street Party 2022

**FRIDAY 3RD JUNE**  
**12 NOON - 8PM**  
**NORTHLANDS RD**

**You and your family are invited  
for a day of community celebrations  
full of fun and games!**

**Just bring out your tables and chairs, food and drink  
for an outdoor celebration picnic where  
EVERYONE is WELCOME**

Please feel free to invite family and friends,  
especially those from neighbouring roads

**Set up from 10am - festivities start at midday**  
There'll be music and some activities for the kids but  
please bring any outdoor games for the children & adults

**Danielea's Ice Cream Van**  
**BBQ available if you'd like to bring your own meat to cook**

**Play an instrument?  
Bring it along  
for an afternoon  
Jam session**

**STREET BUNTING**  
We'd like to make some  
Any donations of bright coloured  
fabric would be much appreciated.  
They can be dropped at the  
Book Exchange (No. 48 Archers Rd)  
by May 15th,

Road closed between  
8am & 9pm  
All cars to be removed from  
Northlands Rd by 8am

SCAN ME

This event is not organised by any individual or group, simply a community initiative.  
If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to help,  
please message via the Community Book Exchange facebook page  
[www.facebook/Community-Book-Exchange](http://www.facebook/Community-Book-Exchange), scan the QR code or drop a note through a door with a poster in the window

The current Committee is Nick Tann (Chair), Liza Martin (Secretary), Adrian Martin (Treasurer), Ben Earl, Nicola Kelly, Michael Jennings, Debbie Tann. Contact us by email at [newtown-ra@googlegroups.com](mailto:newtown-ra@googlegroups.com)