



Newton Stewart Initiative Spring Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023. We hope that this year is treating you well so far. Since our last newsletter we have been busy and will share a summary below of what we have been up to as well as how you can get involved in Newton Stewart Initiative

October 2022

We ran a Halloween competition on our Facebook page and Instagram and the lucky winners received goody bags with sweets, books, and craft stuff. The Community Shop volunteers spent time going through all the application forms and deciding on the organisations which would receive awards and the amounts. We helped our partners the Public Health Improvement Team to carry out a Health and Wellbeing survey at the Douglas Ewart and were also kept busy preparing for a big bid for carrying out Youth Work in regards to anti-social behaviour. The benches at Douglas Park were also finally installed, which we hope will be put to good use this summer!



November 2022

We held our Winter Fayre, for the first time since lockdown. It was a huge team effort to put this on so thank you to everyone involved. Our café was manned by volunteers from the Community Shop, who we are most grateful to for keeping us refreshed. Profits from the café went to the local foodbank. Newton Stewart Brownies had a stall outside the community shop to sell their wares. Newton Stewart Players created a beautiful grotto and looked after Santa and their elves, as well as providing the presents for the children.

We also started looking into the possibility of organising wellbeing activities in the Newton Stewart Centre and have put in funding applications for this, which we should hear back about in March. So watch this space!

We also started to look at the data collected from the Health and Wellbeing survey, which highlights the positive impact sports have on young people, in our area. There are also some indicators that there could be a need for having a quiet study space for young people.

We also had our first Community Shop Awards event. Over twenty-five local groups and organisations were invited along to the Newton Stewart centre to receive cheques from Linda Woodfield who manages the Community Shop.



Linda Woodfield presenting John McClelland with his award

December 2022

Most of this month was spent planning and preparing for 2023 as well as putting in loads of funding applications in relation to the Changing Places toilet. We also submitted our final draft and Stage 2 application to D&G Council for the Penninghame Centre and the Minnigaff Industrial Units, which have been a big piece of work for staff and Trustees to do. It was also decided at our board meeting that NSI will try and organise the Newton Stewart bonfire night this year. We also had a meeting with D&G Council to formalise Newton Stewart Initiative's plans to carry out the Local Place Planning for Newton Stewart.

After all that hard work this year, we went into a two week hibernation to get us ready for the new year!

January 2023

Alan McLellan delivered his talk on the Paddy Line at the Newton Stewart Initiative Centre. With over fifteen people joining us for this event, it was well received within the local community and was a trip down memory lane for some.



Our first events group meeting was held with some great ideas for events for Newton Stewart for this year. Our next meet up will be Tuesday 7th February at 730pm at Newton Stewart Centre. Our main focus will be Bonfire Night. Anyone can get involved, come with your ideas, and grab a cuppa.

We also received the wonderful news of an additional £29,304 funding for the Changing Places toilet from The Holywood Trust. This was fantastic news for us as a charity as this means we are only £5,000 short on reaching our goal! We will keep everyone updated on progress as we move forward with this exciting project. We have also applied for funding for an additional picnic bench and Inclusive exercise equipment, which we hope will be successful.

We also received a wonderful gift from our friends Driftwood Cinema in the form of a large project screen and project which we hope will be of great use to us in future!

Furthermore, we have also started collecting old stamps to send to Amnesty International. There is a collection bucket in the Centre for this purpose.

Classes at the centre

We currently have Emma Louise of Emma Louise Dance Club continuing her dance classes on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

The Machar's Monday Club has just started up every Monday between 10.30-12.30. This is a drop in wellbeing hub for those with long term health conditions. Max donations are £2. A welcoming group who offers cuppas and a chat.

Margaret's Art and Craft club is on fortnightly, please check the Newton Stewart website for dates. Every second Monday from 10-12. All welcome with their crafts.

Ashley from Yogi Kids Yoga will be joining us from the end of January offering postnatal yoga and kids' yoga from Feb 13th.

If you are interested in running a class at the centre or a workshop, drop us an email at info@newtonstewartinitiative.net



How can you get involved in NSI?

The NSI Community Shop is always looking for people to help run our very successful community shop at Dashwood Square. Volunteers help out for three hours a week and have fed back to us that the fun and laughter is tremendous! If interested, please contact Linda on 07790 009265

We are also looking for more people to join our events group to help us deliver events in Newton Stewart in 2023. Keep an eye on our social media for the next date.

Do you have a skill or talent that you would love to teach or want to start running a group in the areas? We have rooms available to hire from as little as £10 per hour. Drop us a message info@newtonstewartinitiative.net

Next NSI Newsletter

As we are getting so busy and are involved with so many things, we have made the decision to do a monthly newsletter instead, to ensure information given is as recent as possible.

As always if you have any enquiries about our Newsletter or any of our projects please drop us a line on info@newtonstewartinitiative.net, phone 01671 401449 or drop in to the Newton Stewart Centre in Church Street DG8 6ER.