



PARISH OF NEWDIGATE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

held on **Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm**
In Newdigate Village Hall

MINUTES

1. Welcome by Chairman Mr Phill Crutcher
2. Presentations by:
 - Community Transport – Peter Perdue
 - Speed Watch – Peter Perdue
 - Surrey Wildlife Trust –
Volunteer Warden Stephen Woodcock & Stuart Fleming
(link to power point slides)
3. Written Reports received from:
 - St Peter's Church – Church Warden
 - GACC – Peter Barclay
 - SCC County Councillor – Helyn Clack
 - Newdigate Sports & Social Club – William Harmsworth

¹ Note: In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 s.13(1) this meeting is called for all local government electors of the Parish. All residents are welcome to attend, whether or not they are registered electors. However, in the event of any matter requiring a vote to be taken, only those who are registered to vote will be able to take part.

MARCH 2026

Chairman's Annual Report Summary

"As this is my first year serving as your Chairman, I wanted to start by saying what a privilege it has been to represent this community. It's certainly been a busy twelve months, and I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together.

Keeping our Parish Safe & Skilled

One of our standout moments this year was the free AED and life-saving training session. It was fantastic to see so many residents come along to learn these vital skills. On the roads, our Speed Watch team—led by [Councillor Name] and their dedicated volunteers—has been out regularly. We know traffic is a major concern, and their work is essential in keeping our village safe.

Preserving our Local Character

We've also been working hard to look after our local landmarks. We've officially applied to list **The Six Bells** as an Asset of Community Value to help protect its future as a village hub. On a smaller note, we are planning to install a new, traditional finger-post sign in the village to maintain that classic character we all value.

Looking After the Environment

Our regular litter picks continue to be a great success; thank you to everyone who helps keep our lanes tidy. Behind the scenes, we've also been busy reporting highway and footpath issues to both **MVDC** and **SCC**. We are staying on top of these to ensure our paths remain accessible and our roads are maintained.

Listening to You

Finally, a huge part of our work has been listening to your feedback, especially regarding planning concerns. Representing your voice is a priority for us, as is our continued support for the local charities that do such important work in our area.

An Open Invitation

Most importantly, I want to remind everyone that this Parish Council is here to serve you. Our door is always open, and everyone is more than welcome to attend our meetings to see what we are working on or to raise any issues.

It's been a year of steady progress, and I want to thank my fellow councillors, our clerk and the village organisations that support our community and you the residents of Newdigate for keeping our Parish a community we want to be

St Peter's Church Report
Newdigate Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 9th March 2026

Although St Peter's has been in interregnum since 1st May 2025 it has been a busy and full-on year with our associate minister (Revd Dr Martin Gilpin), the Parochial Church Council and members of St Peter's rising to the occasion and ensuring the services and offices usually offered by a parish church continue to be available and run as smoothly as possible.

Our associate minister has shouldered considerable additional responsibilities as have the churchwardens. They have been well supported by lay members of the congregation, visiting clergy and others from churches both within the Surrey Weald Team, of which St Peter's is part, and Dorking Deanery. We are so thankful for all their time, work and talents so generously given which underpins the continuing life and ministry at St Peters.

We are sure this in no small measure explains why we are seeing the size of our weekly congregation increasing to over 50 on a regular basis and new people are joining St Peter's. You may have read in the media about the quiet revolution that is taking place in churches across the country. It is encouraging to see green shoots of increased church attendance and interest in the teachings of the bible happening in Newdigate as well.

St Peter's is a warm and friendly church family with a strong sense of fellowship and community. For the past 15 years the hugely popular 'Coffee under the Bells' has served the village community by running a weekly café and on average draws 25 people each week from all parts of the village. Every month at Coffee under the Bells we also host a hearing clinic sponsored by the NHS and the Diocese run by trained members of St Peter's. Three times a year in the village hall 'Pop in Ploughman's' offers a mid-week lunch on a donation basis and regularly draws around 30 people. Every other month we run 'Talk in the Tower' which is an afternoon video discussion group, and this is currently undertaking a series on 'Hymns we Love', looking at the story behind and meaning of some of our much-loved hymns. This is proving extremely popular with both church and non-church going members.

Welcoming Newcomers is also a valuable contribution we make to the community. Everyone who moves into the village is invited to drop in with their whole family to enjoy tea and coffee, cake and a chat, and meet other newcomers and residents. Church members and others act as hosts, and this now takes place in the village hall once or twice a year. We are also committed to supporting the school wherever we can. Church members regularly go into school to hear children read.

Pub breakfasts with a speaker are also something we have restarted on a twice a year basis at the Surrey Oaks. In February 38 of us heard about the amazing work of Crawley Open House, a charity reaching out and supporting the homeless and disadvantaged. We also support the wider community by practically and financially supporting two Dorking charities; Dorking Area Foodbank and Besom, a Christian charity providing household goods to those in need.

As a village church we are very much at the centre of the community and look forward to continuing to be so. The post of Rector of St Peter's and the Surrey Weald Team is currently being advertised nationally, and should there be any suitable candidates they will be shortlisted and interviewed the middle of next month.

Finally, a big thank you on behalf of us all at St Peter's for your support towards the upkeep of the churchyard and parish magazine. We are very grateful for this continued and much needed financial help.

David Newbery, Churchwarden, St Peter's Newdigate

Annual Report from Newdigate Sports and Social Club for the Newdigate Parish Council Annual Meeting

The NSSC will celebrate five years of operation in its present format ably managed by Elaine Borg and her team. We now are recognised venue for Darts events with our Men's Darts team winning the league and we have regular competitions for the Vault, we have regular participants from the South Coast and sometimes from Sheffield, competitors say they like the venue and the staff are always welcoming.

We have organised and run a variety of events such as Music Bingo, Disco Dances and invited Singer nights. We have been the chosen venue for a range of birthday parties for both old and young with some of those being a themed event.

We are planning to celebrate our fifth anniversary with a party in May which should coincide with the opening of our upgraded bar area, we would be delighted to see you all there.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to Elaine and all the staff who work at the club.

William Harmsworth – Chairman.



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

Campaign Office: 2 Glovers Gate,
Glovers Road, Charlwood RH6 0EG

Tel 01293 862821

www.gacc.org.uk

info@gacc.org.uk

9th March, 2026

Update on Court Hearings and other activities

The Judicial Review against the decision by the Secretary of State for Transport to approve the development of the Emergency(Northern) Runway was heard in the Royal Courts of Justice on the 20-23 January this year. Justice Mould indicated he hoped to pass down his decision by the end of February however in late February the Department of Transport submitted a set of corrections to some data they had originally provided. Whilst relatively minor this has delayed the decision and Justice Mould has issued a statement indicating the judgement will be issued before the Easter recess, 1st April.

Route 4

Noise Preferential Route

For many residents, particularly those living north of Gatwick, the saga of Route 4 has dragged on for far too long. Some aspects go back to the last century but more recent activity goes back to 2013. Finally a series of proposals have been whittled down to four suggested revisions to the route that residents can consult on. Gatwick has opened a consultation on revised options for Route 4 and residents who are impacted by this departure route from Gatwick are urged to respond to the consultation. Gatwick are holding a series of webinars and live exhibitions explaining the proposals and we urge residents to engage in these events.

More information here : <https://routefourairspacechange.co.uk>

Events

As part of our fund raising programme we held a Sunday Lunch with Jazz at Gildings Barn in Partridge Lane. Some 50 odd supporters enjoyed a wonderful lunch accompanied by a fine jazz quartet and raised over £1600 !

Our next planned event is a sponsored walk around Gatwick (13.5m) planned for 16/17th May. More details to follow.

Meanwhile in GACC's regular activities in the past few months have included responding to 4 Department for Transport Consultations and 2 Civil Aviation Authority consultations.

These included an important consultation on the review of the Air Navigation Orders – this is the rule book for management of aviation policies in the UK.

The DfT are attempting to recommend that noise disturbance only be considered for aircraft below 4000ft (currently 7000ft) This would exclude a huge number of people under flight paths away from the airport boundaries. The DfT also wanted to exclude any discussion on compensation for people under flight paths outside airport contours – in many cases the noise has been imposed on people without any prior notice or consultation. Perfect example of where the argument 'if you knew there was an airport nearby you shouldn't have moved there' holds no water !

Newdigate in a Nutshell

Numbers of Species Recorded up to 2025

This is work-in-progress! There's hundreds more species to find.

LEPIDOPTERA **524**
Moths and Butterflies

Moths 495

Butterflies 29



The Brussels Lace moth at Newdigate in 2024. Only the second Surrey record in more than 70 years.

Plantae **258**
Plants



Flowering plants 247

Conifers 2

Ferns 6

Horsetails 2

Mosses 1

Ancient woodland indicators 33

TRICHOPTERA **20**
Caddisflies

Actinopterygii

Bony Fish **6**



Reptilia



3

18



lichens

Hemiptera

True Bugs **61**

Auchenorrhyncha (leafhoppers, planthoppers, froghoppers) **38**

Erotettix cyane



The Pondweed Leafhopper

Heteroptera (plantbugs, groundbugs and others) **23**

FUNGI



78

Amphibia



Frogs & newts

7

Diptera

True Flies

66



Tipuloidea 25 (Craneflies)

Syrphidae 12 (Hoverflies)

Aves Birds **88**

Odonata
Dragonflies & Damselflies

26

Mammalia **13**

Hymenoptera

Ants, Bees, Wasps, Sawflies

Ichneumonidae 13 (nocturnal parasitic wasps)

Cynipidae 9 (Gall wasps)

27

Beetles **15**
COLEOPTERA

ARANEAE **13**

Spiders

