



Glanton Parish Newsletter

Feb 2010

Issue 61

Editorial

I hope you have all thawed out after the Christmas chill! The atmospheric photo on the right was taken by Susan Rogers. There are more snow scenes on the new village website. Please have a look and add some photos of your own.



Instructions are on the web-site.

On the subject of the telephone box....The Parish Council are still looking for ideas for a new use for the box when it is decommissioned in 2010. They also want your suggestions for a community event in September to celebrate the opening of the village Millennium Time-Capsule. If you could help to organise this, please get in touch. Finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed items for this bumper edition and the distribution team.

Lynne Livsey

What's On ? Feb and March—Some Highlights

Feb

24th Cheviot Valley's Flower Club Whittingham Memorial Hall 7.30pm

March

2nd Glanton WI meeting,, Memorial Hall 7pm

5th Women's World Day of Prayer, St.Andrew's URC 2pm

6th St.Andrew's URC Spring Coffee Morning,, Glanton 10.30am

10th Aln and District Local History Society, Whittingham 7.30pm

24th Cheviot Valley's Flower Club, Whittingham Memorial Hall 7.30pm

26th Whittingham Scout Show at 7.30pm

29th Glanton Parish Council Meeting 7pm

Newsletter Deadlines for 2010

3rd April

5th June

31st July

2nd October

4th December

Please make a note in your diaries

Please contact:

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Glanton, NE66 4AS



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Email: livsey123@btinternet.com

The past couple of months have been difficult for everyone, as we experienced the largest amount of snowfall in Glanton for many years. Life would have been far more difficult without the help of John Guiry. John spent several hours with his tractor moving snow to make sure that the village could get moving. I would like to thank him on your behalf for his time and effort. It was much appreciated. I would also like to thank the organisers of the various community events who battled the elements over the festive period and everyone who supported these.

A New Winter Action Plan

The Parish Council discussed the need for a 'Winter Action Plan' at their January meeting. One issue that has been highlighted was the need for more grit bins around the village. We are identifying sites for additional bins and will aim to have them in place before next winter. We will also investigate the possibility of purchasing assistance to clear parking areas and parts of the village where residents require access. Your thoughts on this issue would be welcome.

New Web-Site Launched

The new village website at www.glantononline.net has been launched with some fantastic photographs of Glanton in the snow. Our thanks go to Tony Meikle for his hard work and creativity in designing and maintaining the site. It looks great. There is plenty of space to publicise village events and to promote local community groups and businesses. Now we need everybody to contribute to the ongoing development of the site. You can add photographs of village life, contribute items and use the website to find information. Do have a look and please offer your ideas and suggestions for further development. If you are involved in a community group, please use the website to reach new audiences. The Parish Council will have its own page. We will use this to publish minutes and agendas, you will also be able to access policy documents. The website will enable us to provide regular updates on progress with the Parish Plan and will have links to key partner organisations such as the County Council. Of course, we realise that not everyone has access to the internet and we will be looking at how we can improve other forms of communication. This will include a review of the newsletter and the ongoing work to replace our dilapidated notice-boards.

New Stiles

The County Council will be installing new stiles and gates along some of our public footpaths, although they have had their work cut out with the winter weather. We hope that the work will be completed by the spring.



Phone-box Adoption ‘On Hold’

I mentioned in the last newsletter that the Parish Council was in the process of adopting the village phone box. British Telecom is in charge of the ‘adopt-a-box’ scheme. However, since the last newsletter, we have been informed that the scheme is ‘on hold’, although they give no reason. We await further developments, however, this provides us with an opportunity to think again about an alternative community use for the box so please get in touch with ideas.

Rural Community Support Project

A small steering group has been formed to explore ways of improving access to information and community support in Glanton, Hedgeley and Whittingham. This is one of the action points from the Parish Plan. The steering group is looking at funding options and different models in operation elsewhere. There will be an update on progress and possibilities for future development in the next newsletter.

The Millennium Time Capsule

September is the month when we will unearth and open the Millennium Time Capsule. The council would like to host an event if we have sufficient community support. Please get in touch with ideas for the event. As always, offers of help to organise this would be warmly welcomed.

The Future of Glanton Memorial Hall

After many appeals for committee members, the future of the hall is in your hands. The Hall Committee are keen to expand the use of the hall but they need your ideas and help. Securing funding for alterations and new activities depends on demonstrating support from the village. It is a case of ‘use it or lose it’ – so please support the Hall Committee. A short questionnaire is included with this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to complete this and return it to the village shop.

Date of next meeting

Finally I would like to remind you all that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 29th March, 7pm in the Memorial Hall. Anyone can attend and there is always an item on the agenda for public questions. If you want to circulate information or items relating to your question, please contact me in advance so that I can organise this.

Chris Livsey
Chair
Glanton Parish Council

Tel: 01665 578 459
Email: livsey123@btinternet.com

Six weeks of cold weather and it is surprising to see the first sign of spring. On sunny days on warm south facing banks, you can find the first of the honey-bees as they search for flowers. The first of this year's bees were seen on the 24th January despite night-time temperatures of below zero. Another insect that has been seen recently is the winter moth. The female is flightless and attracts males by sending out pheromones. These moths can be seen in the car headlights as they flit between hedgerows. In May, the larvae of these moths are an important food source for young blue and great tits.

On the Parish's larger fields, brown hares have started to congregate as the mating season begins. Groups of females can be found occasionally huddled in their 'forms' (indentations in the soil which are used as a resting place). These females attract males, who seek out those that come into season. This can cause conflict and fur can fly. As the season progresses, the groups of hares increase in size and 'boxing' becomes more frequent. It is probably one of the best times of year to watch brown hares going about their daily business.

All is not well in the world of the tawny owl. This is a particularly stressful time of year as males reaffirm their territories and bonds with their females. The two to three pairs in the Parish will also start their search for a nest site. The tawny owl is easily recognised by the so-called 'twit-twoo' call. However, this is a combination of the female call 'ke-wick' and the male call 'twoo'. It is the male that you are more likely to hear calling from dusk onwards.



Jack Daw

**WINTER MAGIC**

I looked out from my window
And beheld a magic sight
For the rooftops and the pavements
Glistened in the light

And all around the trees
Were dressed in winter white

I opened up the door
And went out to the yard.....
.....'t was as if I'd stepped
Into a Christmas card

I felt a frosty tingle
In my fingers and my toes
As softly falling snowflakes
Settled gently on my nose

I walked a little further
... 'cross the blanket on the ground
The air was filled with silence
Nothing made a sound

I stood a tiny figure.....
Giant footprints in the snow
My spirit was uplifted
My heart was all aglow

And I bowed to Mother Nature
For with one sweep of her hand

Overnight she had created
..... A WINTER WONDERLAND



Sheila Peacock
26th December, 2009

St Andrew's URC Glanton Spring Coffee Morning

will be held in the Church Hall

on Saturday 6th March at 10.30.

There will be the usual cake and produce stall

and raffle.



Everyone will be welcome.



Aln and Breamish Local History Society

Date of Next Meeting

Whittingham Memorial Hall

7.30 pm

10 March 2010

Tony Henfrey: Biddlestone
Hall and Chapel, and the
Selby family.

Contact Bridget Winstanley

Telephone: 01665 574 353

Website link:

www.alnandbreamishlhs.org.uk

Don't Forget !



**Clocks Go Forward
by 1 hour
on Sunday 28th March at 01.00.**

This marks the start of British
Summer Time (BST).
It officially ends on Sunday 31st
October 2009 at 01.00 (GMT).

Since 1996 all clocks in the European
Union have changed on the same
dates and at the same time: 0100
Greenwich Mean Time.



Glanton WI

The weather has curtailed our activities so far this year - we missed our Christmas lunch - though we hope to rectify that shortly and our February meeting also had to be postponed.

However on Tuesday 2nd March we will hear from our speaker Trevor Waddleton - 'Why make a Will?' - a subject we are not often keen to discuss . As a result, we too often put off actually putting our instructions on paper.

Visitors are welcome to come along to the Memorial Hall at 7pm.

Cheviot Valleys

Flower Club Meetings

Wed 24th February 2010

'All things of beauty meet' - Mrs Marjorie Moore

Wed 24th March 2010

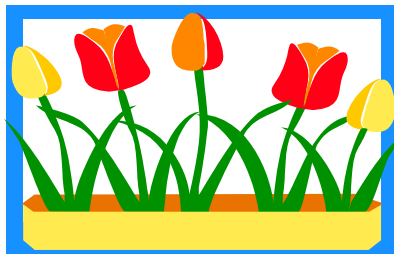
'Three of a kind' - Mrs Christine Ogle

All at Whittingham Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Visitors Welcome

£3 pay on the door

Contact: Pat Hall 01665 574 017





Church Services

St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Glanton

Contact: Rev. Edward Butlin: Telephone: 01670 783 452

St Bartholomew's Church of England, Whittingham

Contact: lan.leppingwell@progresspersonnel.com (PCC Secretary)

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Contact: Fr. David Tanner: Telephone: 01665 574 240



Northumberland County Council Mobile Library Service Visits Glanton every 3rd Monday

**Glanton Pyke 1.50pm—2pm
The Queen's Head Pub 2.05-2.25pm
Playwell Count 2.30pm—2.45pm**

For Details Contact: 01661 823 594
Website - www.northumberland.gov.uk

Glanton Show Committee

. Glanton Show Committee are keen to recruit new Committee members. We also need someone who would be prepared to act as an assistant in the weeks running up to the Show with admin/entries etc. It would be an ideal chance for anyone new in the village to become involved, but everyone is welcome!

Liz Knox, Show Secretary, on behalf of Glanton Show Committee

**Telephone: 01665 574 992
e-mail: stuart.liz@madasafish.com**



New Keep Fit and Yoga Classes

Whittingham Memorial Hall

**Tuesday Afternoon
1.30 - 2.30pm**

**Keep Fit Class
Starting 23rd February
Plus.....**



**Cheviot Centre, Wooler
Wednesday Evenings**

**6pm - 7pm Core Strengthening
7pm - 8pm Yoga**

**For Details please contact Tracey Mortimer
Telephone: 0784 1196938**

Recipe for a good winter warmer soup.

Butternut Squash and Mascarpone Soup

Ingredients - 1 large onion chopped.

A large knob of butter or a little olive oil

2 medium sized butternut squash or a small pumpkin

2 cloves of garlic chopped

2.1/2 pts /1400ml chicken stock (or 3 stock cubes)

scant tsp salt black pepper

1 8oz/250 g tub of mascarpone.

Peel the squash , cut into quarters and scoop out the seeds and membrane. Cut into rough chunks about the same size

Heat the butter in a LARGE saucepan and add onion Cook until soft but not coloured.. Add the squash and garlic to the onion - stir and cook for a few minutes before adding the stock or stock cubes and water. Bring up to the boil, check seasoning and simmer for 45 mins or until squash is very soft and tender. Liquidise in batches, adding a few spoonfuls of mascarpone with each batch. It should be very smooth and velvet-like. Thin with a little water if necessary. Return all the soup to the saucepan and check the seasoning and reheat. can be served with croutons, coriander or a swirl of cream.

This quantity makes about 10 servings and is ideal for freezing.





Away on polling day ? - get postal or proxy votes now

Voters are being encouraged to decide if they need to apply to vote by post or proxy in the next UK Parliamentary General Election which must be held by 3 June 2010.

Anyone who thinks they will be unable to make it to their local polling station between 7am and 10pm to vote on polling day, whether they are on holiday or working, can choose to vote by post or by proxy. However, in order to do this, they must be registered to vote and have completed a voting application form.

Although at the time of going to print no date has been set for the General election, one can be called at any time, with a minimum of 17 working days between the announcement and polling day.

We're asking people to spare a few minutes now to think about whether they may be away around the time of polling day and make alternative arrangements for voting if they need to. This is particularly relevant if you work abroad, are in the armed forces or are planning a holiday before June.

It's quick and simple to register to vote and to get postal and proxy application forms.

Visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or call Northumberland County Council's elections office on 0845 600 6400.

Make sure you take your voice with you when you move.

Anyone who has moved house recently, even if they have moved within the county, can get a registration form from any council contact centre, or alternatively they can print off a form from www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. fill it in, sign it and send it back to The Electoral Registration Office, Northumberland County Council, County Hall , Morpeth, NE61 2EF

Looking Through A Lens

Dave Dixon

As I write this, I'm looking out of the window at some of the deepest snow I've seen in Glanton. This reminded me of the weekend just after Christmas when I made a point of getting out with my camera to get some photographs of the festive snow around the village "while I had the chance". Little did I know at the time that there was plenty more of the white stuff to come, so I needn't have rushed.

Getting a good photograph of a snow scene can sometimes be tricky – not so much because of the elements which nature throws at us, but rather because of some things which the camera does to try and help us.

Modern cameras have all sorts of clever electronics and gadgetry built into them to make our picture-taking easier. Using these aids should not be construed as laziness or a bad thing – indeed, there are many professional photographers who trust some aspects of their work to automation features provided by the camera. However, the technology isn't infallible.

One feature which you'll find on almost every modern camera is some form of light metering. This measures the amount of light entering the camera through the lens, and the camera uses this information to calculate how long the shutter needs to be held open for in order to obtain the correct exposure. Whilst this works well enough in the majority of situations, there are a few situations where what's going on in front of the lens can confuse the electronics behind it.

When my camera and I headed out to capture some snowy landscape images at Christmastime, I came across one such example. Snow can cause problems with automatic exposure calculation; when the camera sees a scene which looks predominantly white, the light meter mistakenly thinks that this is overexposed and so suggests a shutter speed which is actually too fast for the scene. As a result, the image is underexposed, and what should be white snow is actually rendered in a rather drab pale grey colour.

Exposure compensation is a setting which instructs the camera to over- or under-expose an image. Using our snow scene as an example, where the camera is likely to suggest an exposure time which is too short, we'd need to tell the camera to use positive exposure compensation – that is, hold the shutter open for longer than it believes to be necessary.

This is measured in 'stops', and is typically applied in increments of one-third of a stop. A snow scene will usually require exposure compensation of +1/3 or +2/3, depending on the intensity of the light.

Top Tip

Exposure compensation can be found on most cameras (both film and digital) and is generally available in most modes, with the exception of full automatic and full manual. The operation of this varies from camera to camera – refer to the manual for yours to see how to use this on your camera.

Use positive exposure compensation to achieve a longer exposure on bright scenes, or negative exposure compensation to shorten exposure on dark scenes.



Christmas Snow Near Glanton
©2009 Dave Dixon LRPS



St Andrews United Reformed Church, Glanton

When you read this the chances are that the snow has now disappeared, and I'm sure that the kids will have had a whale of a time. There's no doubt that the sledging runs on the riding fields in Felton will have been well used by many from the community, and it has been inspirational to see the hidden talents in structural engineering that the snow has brought to the fore. In fact, this winter I've seen some of the best snow people and igloos ever. There were rumours of the Bishop of Newcastle being invited to consecrate the one at the entrance to Benlaw Grove in Felton as a place of Christian Worship, though I think it was only a rumour.

And as I look out over the tranquil scene before me, with roof tops and gardens covered in a generous amount of the white stuff, it made Christmas all that more special. This year it really looked like one of the picture postcard scenes that we were all sending only a week or two ago. And as we packed away the decorations my son couldn't get over the fact that Christmas was past, but yet the snow was still here!

It does have be said that whilst it looks nice from in here it has caused a huge amount of problems for the country as a whole, and for many in our communities who have found themselves housebound due to the dangers of walking on icy pavements. But yet, this adversity has once more revealed the value of living in communities such as ours because people have not been left to fend for themselves. Everywhere that I've looked, all those I've spoken with have recounted stories of love, care and support that has been offered by neighbours and friends as we all pull together.

Some might call it the Dunkirk spirit, but whatever it is, it is something of great value that we must never lose and we must seek to foster it beyond the melting of the snow so that none in our communities need ever be alone, and so that all can experience the love and support that has been seen in recent times. In fact Jesus left a commandment which embodies what I have witnessed over these past days, He commanded us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. So may we fight against the creeping disease of individuality and seek to grow community spirit in response to the call and leading of Christ.

*God Bless
Edward*

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church Notices

Carol Service Despite the weather affecting attendance at the Carol Service we have sent a donation of £100 to Help for Heroes.

A Spring Coffee Morning will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 6th March at 10.30. There will be the usual cake and produce stall and raffle. Everyone will be welcome.

Pilots and Kingfishers - It is hoped another six weekly session will run leading up to Palm Sunday.

Friday 5th March - Women's World Day of Prayer. This year the Service will be held in St. Andrew's church at 2.p.m. Speaker Mr John Murray of Cartington. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Cameroon and is supported by members from Bolton Chapel, St Bartholomew's and St. Mary's. Everyone is welcome



Some great news - our very own Rover Scout Leader, *Clive Gray*, has been appointed HQ Commissioner for Rover Scouts for the Baden-Powell Scout Association! Whittingham are leading the way in adult scouting, which is one of the reasons Clive was selected for this position.

This term our Rovers and Seniors will be learning to survive in the Scottish mountains: sleeping in a snow-hole, navigating in blizzards, and using ice axes and crampons. They have also been having fun indoors with a Jamie Oliver cooking night as well as learning new knots and lashings!

The Beavers are learning how to care for animals and birds. They look forward to meeting the owls from The Owl Trust, and will put on a production of 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' on 11th March at 5.15pm in Whittingham, to which they'd like to invite you! Tickets £2. Proceeds for the Owl Trust and Coquetdale Cat Protection and Rescue (who also came to Beavers).

The Cubs have a space theme, and are learning about the stars and planets through games and crafts. On our first evening they made planet pizzas, making great use of the new kitchen in Whittingham Memorial Institute, and have also been getting messy making planets from papier maché!

The Scouts are having an active term with bouldering, archery, wide games and rehearsing for their Scout Show, to be performed on 26th March at 7.30pm in Whittingham. Tickets £5. Proceeds for their summer camp in Germany!

We hope that we aren't snow bound again this month, but after seeing all the good turns that you did for each other over our big freeze, we've decided you've all earned your place as honorary scouts! It was great to witness such community spirit and care for one another.

Group Scout Master: Ninette - 01665 574733

www.1stwhittingham.org.uk