



Glanton Parish Newsletter

March 2011

Issue 68

Editorial

Welcome to a bumper spring edition of the parish newsletter. Thank you as always to everyone who contributed items and helped to print and distribute the newsletter. We are currently in need of extra help to deliver the newsletter every two months. Please see page 3 for further details. Regular or occasional help with delivery of fliers and newsletters would be gratefully received. On the topic of fliers, you will find a flier enclosed with this newsletter regarding the proposed Royal Wedding celebration in April. Please sign up if you are interested in participating in this village event.

With lambing time approaching can I remind everyone to close gates, keep dogs on leads and avoid walking through fields of livestock at this important time of year.

Finally, on the subject of dogs - I have received multiple requests in the last few weeks to ask dog owners to clear up if their dog fouls on pavements and pedestrian walkways in and around the village. Several residents have had to clean their carpets after treading in dog mess when walking in the village. Front Street and West Turnpike are particular problem areas. Please act responsibly if you are a dog owner and remember that you can incur a penalty fine if you allow your dog to foul in a public place. It is also a health hazard and very unpleasant for pedestrians.

Lynne Livsey

What's On? Here are some highlights - please see inside for more

- 1st March Glanton WI meeting, 7pm
- 2nd March Community Coffee Break, Glanton Village Hall 10am to 12 noon
- 4th March – Women's World Day of Prayer, Bolton, 2pm
- 5th March St. Andrew's URC Spring Coffee Morning, 10.30am in the Church Hall
- 5th March – Whittingham Scouts Fairtrade Wine Tasting Evening, 8pm
- 12th March Book Sale, Whittingham Memorial Hall, 10.30
- 19th March NTC Spring Production 'Star Quality', Glanton Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 28th March Glanton Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall 7pm

Newsletter Deadlines for 2011

2nd April
4th June
6th August
1st October
3rd December

Please make a note in your diaries

Please Contact:

Lynne Livsey
2 Red Lion Cottages
Whittingham Road Glanton,
NE66 4AS
Tel: 01665 578 459
e-mail: livsey123@btinternet.com



Update from the Parish Council

Report on the Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council met on 24th January and the following matters were discussed:

New Recruit - John Lang was welcomed to his first meeting as a councillor.

Dog Mess – responding to a concern raised by a parishioner the council noted that there was a particular problem of dogs fouling the footpath along West Turnpike, which seems to have been worse since the snow. It was resolved that two councillors would volunteer to clean up the pavement (this has now been done, many thanks to Susan Rogers and Angus Collingwood Cameron for devotion above and beyond the call of duty). Hopefully having a clean pavement will persuade people to keep it that way. We will also put some suitable bags for picking up in the red phone box, so there will be no excuse. If your dog does foul the footpath or the roadway please do pick up afterwards, it really is not acceptable to leave the mess where other villagers risk treading in it.

Snow Debris – following the havoc caused to gutters and downpipes by the recent snow it was noted that quite a few areas of pavement are still quite dirty. We will have our usual village clean-up day in May but in the meantime if the pavement outside your house needs a sweep please consider cleaning it up in the cause of keeping the village looking clean and tidy.

Precept – the council noted that the County Council had made an embarrassing U turn after threatening to charge for services in the coming tax year. They will maintain services at the current level for one more year and use that time to have a discussion with parishes about next year's service level. Thanks to this our precept (the amount the villagers collectively pay to the Parish Council) will remain at the same level as last year which is £1500.

New Notice Board -The council noted that the new notice board is at long last in position on the railings in front of Town Farm. We agreed to commission a local painter to repaint the black and white road name signs which are in dire need. We noted that all the wooden seats had been repaired and painted with a preservative. The signs saying Slow Children Playing on the Causeway and West Turnpike had been renewed. It was resolved to buy a new litter bin to replace the old one next to the village hall.

Royal Wedding – it was decided that it would be appropriate to have some sort of village celebration on the day of the Royal Wedding, and a small group comprising Angus Collingwood Cameron, Joe Easton and George Dodds agreed to organise something. If you have ideas of what you would like to see, or would like to help with the project then please contact one of them, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are on the notice board and the website www.glantononline.net.

Vacancy - Following the vacancy caused by Ben Tansey moving away there is an opening for a new Parish Councillor. If you think this might be something you might like to do then please contact Jon Radgick for more information.

Christmas Tree – The Parish Council would like to thank Mr and Mrs Swanson for kindly donating the Christmas tree. It brought a much needed glimmer of festive cheer amongst all the snow. Thanks are due also to St. Andrew's URC Church for kindly donating the electricity for the lights.

Jon Radgick

Chairman, Glanton Parish Council

Telephone: 01665 578 222

Email: jradgick@oldmotorhouse.co.uk

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

28th March 2011 at 7pm
Glanton Memorial Hall

Residents are welcome to attend

There is space on the agenda for public questions
If you have agenda items please contact:
Linda Lazenby (Parish Clerk) – 01665 578 397

Volunteers Needed to Help with Newsletter Deliveries in Glanton

Especially the West Turnpike area of the village

If you can help with regular or occasional deliveries of newsletters and notices please contact
Linda Lazenby – 01665 578 397

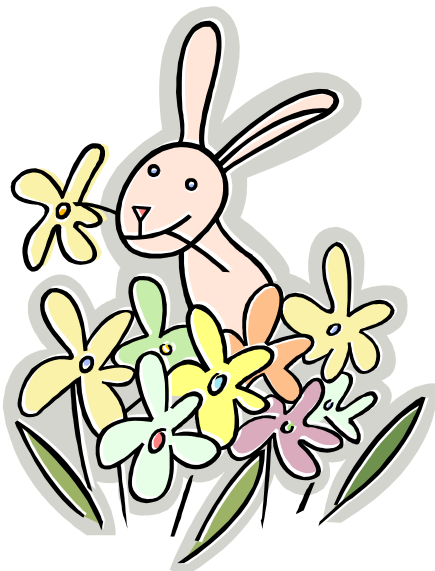
Jack Daw's Nature Column

Fortunately, the weather has been a bit milder in the last few weeks. This has meant that snowdrops have come into flower in the last week. The first leaves of aconites and daffodils are also peeking through the soil. In the hedgerows and fields, the first early growth of cow parsley can be found as well as the shiny green leaves of the lesser celandine. The first yellow flowers of celandines should be in flower by the end of the month.

Brown hares are not that common within the Glanton Parish. Unlike the rabbit, the hare is solitary and does not dig a burrow, but instead it lives entirely above ground. During the day it rests and sleeps in a form, which it makes by scraping out a shallow depression in the ground. The form may be against a hedge, in short grass, scrub or a ploughed furrow.

When lying in its form with ears laid flat, a hare is well-camouflaged. Spring is the main mating season and this is when 'mad March hares' may be seen, dashing about in a demented fashion, leaping in the air, chasing and 'boxing' with each other. The jacks (males) do most of the boxing, either with each other in a struggle for social dominance, or with jills (females) as a prelude to mating. The female tries to defend herself by boxing with the male who can be quite aggressive. He will mate with several females. February and March are some of the best months to see these animals.

Birds are still visiting bird feeders within the Parish, although numbers are probably slightly lower than the beginning of January. House sparrows, robins, blue tits, chaffinches and greenfinches are the main visitors, with smaller numbers of blackbirds, wrens, dunnocks (hedge sparrows) and great tits. The busy coal tit with its stripy black and white crown is always worthy of note. This is a species that has taken to coming into gardens in the winter especially during periods of hard weather. They are a very busy bird searching out the sunflower or niger seeds. These are not always eaten and large numbers of seeds are taken away and stored in 'nooks' and crannies'. The next time you are surprised to find a sunflower growing in a pot in the summer, most likely it has been the activity of a coal tit during the winter.



Happy Watching

Jack Daw

Local Churches

St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Glanton

Contact Rev. Edward Butlin: Telephone 01670 783 452

St Bartholomew's Church of England, Whittingham

There will be an induction service for the new vicar, Canon James Robertson on Saturday 16th April at 2pm. In the meantime, please contact:

Ian Lepingwell (ianlepingwell@progresspersonnel.com) (PCC Secretary)

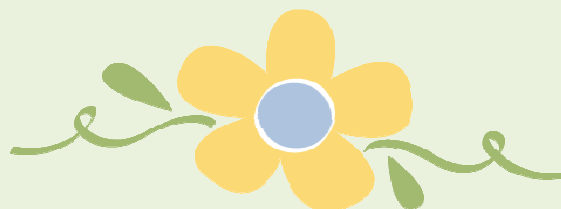
St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Contact Fr. David Tanner: Telephone 01665 574 240

St Andrew's URC Coffee Morning

Annual Spring Coffee Morning
URC Church Hall
Saturday 5th March at 10.30am

There will be the usual Cake & Produce Stalls and a Raffle,
Everyone will be welcome.



Whittingham Parish Churches

BOOK SALE

In the Whittingham Memorial Hall

March 12th at 10.30 am to Noon.

Fair Trade Tea or Coffee 50p.

There will be new donations, and a Raffle.

There will be posters in the usual places, but no
flyers to houses.

Why not cut this out,
or mark the calendar NOW?

Enquiries to Beryl Parr at 01665 574385.
Donations of books may be left in the Church.



Frequently Asked Questions

What happens to the unsold books?

We cull out books at the end of each sale. Most of them go straight to the "Lions" in Alnwick. Some have a look of "possibility" and go to Barter Books – hence the recent Raffle prizes of B.B. Book tokens.

In 2010, from March to July, all culled books were stored and then used in the "Joint Churches Shop", followed by the "Fistula Hospital, Addis Ababa Shop", at Wooler. Finally they were taken to the "Lions" in Alnwick, (some via B.B.) Moving from small to larger venues means sales all along the line. Finally, if unsold, they go off to commercial re-cycling.

Looking Through A Lens

Dave Dixon

I wouldn't necessarily consider myself to be a specialist in any area of photography. Although there are a few subjects that I enjoy photographing more than others, such as landscapes, I'm pretty much happy to try my hand at anything. That said though, there are a few subjects which don't appeal so much, and I tend to spend less time on them.

Recently I got a call from one of my friends, asking me if I'd go around and take some pictures of his two-year-old son. They had a large selection of family snaps, but he hoped that I might be able to come up with something a bit more polished. As it happens, people photography is one of those subjects that I can generally take or leave, and if given a choice would probably choose to leave. However, it does you good to get out of your comfort zone sometimes, and I wanted to help out a mate, so I said I'd do it.

As I started preparing for the session, I started to feel a bit of trepidation, as I've got far less experience of photographing people than I have with other subjects. However, I settled myself with thought that there wasn't too much pressure on this one – if it all went badly, I could always go back and have another go...far less stressful than shooting a wedding where you need to get it right first time (I did photograph a wedding once, and although I think I acquitted myself reasonably well, it'll take a lot to persuade me to do that again).

The main thing I wanted to do was to make my friend's young son comfortable. So, the first decision I made was to photograph him in familiar surroundings, using just natural light. My thinking was that if I started setting up complicated lighting equipment then it might be a bit intimidating for him.

When I arrived the lad was happily playing on the floor of his bedroom, and I thought it best to let him stay there and for me to work around him – no point in unsettling him. However, while my approach of using natural light in familiar surroundings solved one problem, it also introduced one: the day in question it was quite dull, so there wasn't a lot of quality light coming through the windows.

Less light means slower exposure. That's not a problem if you have a very steady hand (or the camera mounted on a tripod) and a static subject. Unfortunately, I wanted to shoot handheld and, like all 2 year olds, this little guy wasn't going to sit still for anyone. So, what to do?

Thankfully, portraits work well when the main subject is in focus, but the background is blurred. This technique calls for having the lens aperture relatively wide open. As well as limiting the depth of field (i.e. how much of the picture is in focus) the wide aperture allows more light into the camera for a faster exposure. However, even with a wide aperture, I was still struggling to get a fast enough shutter speed.

On this occasion I was using my digital SLR camera. A really useful feature on digital cameras is the ability to control their sensitivity to light. Films come in a range of grades (measured using an ISO or ASA number) from "slow" films which are less light sensitive (rated at around ISO 100) to "fast" films which are more light sensitive (rated as ISO 800, or more). Digital cameras mimic this behaviour, and allow you to control the ISO setting for the sensor, making it more sensitive or less sensitive to light. The huge advantage of

doing this digitally is that you can adjust the setting from one shot to the next, rather than having to shoot right through one roll of film before swapping for a different grade.

So, I twiddled with the ISO setting on my camera and found a setting which gave me a good enough response to light to be able to get a suitably fast shutter speed. I then set about getting some photographs of the youngster.



© Dave Dixon LRPS

Top Tip

The problem with higher ISO settings is that whilst they give you more light sensitivity, they can be prone to adding some unwanted grain or noise to the image (an unfortunate side effect of the increased light sensitivity). You can apply some processing to digital images to reduce this or, alternatively, you can make it a feature. I quite like 'noisy' monochrome images, and sometimes even artificially add more grain/noise during processing to give a more antique look.



**The Northumberland Touring Company
Return to Glanton Memorial Hall
On 19th March at 7.30pm**

With their production of 'Star Quality'



A time warp 1970s corner shop owned by Miss Lavender, a sixty year old agoraphobic, is wracked by weather that the Prime Minister has called 'a once in a thousand-year scenario'. Former groceries delivery boy Julian King pours everything he's got into his singing on Britain's bright n' brash number one TV talent contest "Star Quality".

Yet all is not what it seems ... and is the windblown collapse of the shop connected to the sale of his soul? Whether we decide yes or no, the ride that we've been on has combined the best of Saturday night TV with a cloistered world where something uncanny is going on.

**Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for children
Available from: Glanton Village Shop
Or one of the Hall Committee members
Early booking is advised as these productions are always popular**



Glanton Show Committee

Important dates for your diary

Glanton Show Coffee Morning , Glanton Memorial Hall

Sat 14th May

Cake stall, plants, teas, tombola, raffle

Sun 17th July

Glanton Show Clay Pigeon Shoot

Glanton Show Sat Aug 13th

Attractions etc to be confirmed nearer the time

Cheviot Valley's Flower Club

Next Meeting

27th April at 7.30pm

Guest speaker: Mrs Campbell on the topic of 'Memories'

In Whittingham Memorial Hall

Visitors welcome. £3 to pay on the door

Contact: Pat Hall (01665 574 017)



St Andrews United Reformed Church



This morning I walked along the river in Felton. The weather must be slightly milder because it was raining, yet the thing which really amazed me was the fact that whilst everywhere was wet, the ground wasn't muddy at all, but was actually still frozen solid. I was also surprised to find some of the path where the sun hadn't touched was still covered in quite thick layers of ice. In fact, the farm track that runs from the river to West Thirston was very slippery in places, and thankfully I didn't end up on my behind.

The snow and the ice have been causing all sorts of mayhem over the festive season with numerous accidents up and down the A1, and many people facing long journeys home through heavy snow showers and monstrous traffic jams. Walking about the village here hasn't always been easy with melt water running across paths and roads then freezing overnight to leave behind unseen hazards for pedestrians and motorists alike. When you look out at the snow and the ice they look lovely, yet when you come to try and enjoy those picturesque scenes the reality of getting about is something quite different.

Which got me to thinking about New Year's resolutions and how they look and sound like a good idea when we make them, but when we come to keep them we begin slipping and sliding all over the place, and finally after a couple of months, or perhaps even after a few days we discover that we've let them slip altogether. New Year does offer us the opportunity to take stock of our lives and make decisions and choices to change things for the better. But then we need the determination and courage to see these changes through. So my prayer for us all this year is that when our resolve or courage is weak we might find in God the strength that we lack to become the person whom God created us to be. God bless as we enter 2011

Edward

Services are held most Sundays at 6:00 p.m.
Please see notice board for the first Sunday of the month
All are welcome to come and join us.

Alternative Worship Service @ Longframlington URC, 8 p.m. on Sunday 20th February. Everyone Welcome.
Call Rev Edward Butlin on 01670 783452 for more information.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer will be held in Bolton Chapel at 2.p.m. on Friday 4th March.
This year the Service is prepared by the Christian women of Chile and the theme is 'How many loaves have you? This Service is supported by all the local Churches and everyone is welcome.



Glanton WI

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st March when we will be having a speaker from the North Northumberland Day Hospice to tell us about the work of the Hospice, The following month, on 5th April we will be shown how to make an elephant which we hope can be sold in aid of Hospice funds. Meetings are held in the Memorial Hall at 7.p.m. Visitors are welcome.

Recipe of the month – Braised Liver and Onions

To cook in a slow cooker - Cook on High 2 - 3 hours - Low 3 - 6 hours.

4 tablespoons, Cooking Oil
1lb, Lambs Liver - thinly sliced
2oz Plain flour
2 large onions
3/4 pint Beef stock

Method

- Heat oil in frying pan -coat liver with the flour and fry until sealed.
- Transfer to cooker.
- Add onions to pan and fry until golden.
- Stir in remaining flour and stock, continue to stir and bring to the boil.
- Pour over the liver and cook for the recommended time
- Serve with grilled bacon.



New....Glanton Coffee Break JUST POP ALONG

**If you are around on 2nd March
from 10am – 12 Noon**

**Come along to Glanton Memorial Hall
For tea, coffee, cake and a chat**

**This is an ideal chance to see the newly decorated hall
Find out what's going on locally and to meet old friends
and new neighbours**

**If popular, we hope to run these coffee mornings
As a regular community event.**

**So come along and bring a friend
From small conversations, big ideas can grow!**

**If you need transport to get to the hall please contact
Mike Paice: 01665 578 229**



Glanton Memorial Hall

Our thanks to everyone who attended the last Northumberland Touring Theatre production in January. We sold a total of 91 tickets and this more than covered the fee charged by the Company. With surplus on ticket sales and the receipts from the raffle a profit of nearly £120.00 was made. The next production will be on Saturday the 19th of March at 7.30pm. Book your tickets early!

The Pilates classes have restarted for another ten weeks. These are proving very popular and are well attended. Even if you haven't made it to a class yet, everyone is welcome, and Tracey assures us that classes are tailored to the abilities and needs of each person so why not give it a try? It is hoped that Tracey can be persuaded to start a second exercise class which will be based on Salsa dancing so watch out for news of this.

The first of the community coffee break mornings will be held on Wednesday the 2nd of March between 10 and 12. This is open to everyone and we will be welcoming residents from Whittingham and Hedgley. Drop in for tea or coffee and a cake and meet your friends for a chat.

We have been asked by a number of residents about starting ballroom dance classes in the Hall. Is there anyone in the village who is able to pass on their knowledge to others, or do you know of anyone we could contact to get this going? If you are interested in joining in please let one of the committee know.

The celebration of the Royal Wedding in April will be held in the Hall and it is hoped that it will offer something for all age groups. Further details will be available soon and a flier will accompany this newsletter.

The decoration of the Hall has been completed and has been generally well received. Despite an early problem with the new heating system, Pickard's have assured us that by the time you read this they will have overcome all the problems and the heating in the main hall and toilets will be more than satisfactory for our needs. The additional costs of these changes are being met by the suppliers.

Mrs Angela Clay-Parker has stood down as Hall Secretary as she will be leaving the village at the end of this month. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her help and support and wish her and her family every happiness in their new home. Pat Guiry also stood down from the committee after very many years of service to the Hall. Once again, the Committee and Chairman would like to thank Pat for all the hard work he has put into the Hall and its gardens over the years.

For the present, bookings for the Hall will be dealt with by Mike Paice. So please give him a ring on 578229 to discuss your requirements. Once again, if you would like to join the committee to help with the running of the Hall please let Joe Easton know on 578654.

At the last committee meeting it was agreed that no further work would be carried out on the Hall until a professional opinion could be gained as to the feasibility of redeveloping the Hall to a single level. The general idea is to remove the stage and reposition the toilets and kitchen. Once a costing is in place we will then seek funding to carry out the work. If you have any ideas or suggestions please let a committee member know before our next meeting on the 2nd of March.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Take your voice with you when you move

Preparations are currently on track for a UK wide referendum to change the voting system for electing MPs to the UK Parliament.

Although at the time of writing, the date is not yet confirmed, the UK Government is proposing to hold a referendum on May 5th. If you live in Northumberland and want to cast a vote on the day, you must be on the county's electoral register.

One of the main reasons that people fall off the electoral register is by moving house. Between mid-August and November each year, annual canvass registration forms are delivered to every house in Northumberland and the results from the canvass are used to compile the electoral register. If you did not respond to this form, or if you moved after this time, even within the county, then you may have to update your registration.

This referendum will seek the UK public's views on whether the system for electing the UK Parliament should change from 'first past the post' to the Alternative Vote. The Electoral Commission will be posting out an explanatory leaflet to every household in the UK, nearer polling day, which will explain proposed changes to the UK voting system.

You can pick up an electoral registration form from any council contact centre, or you 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.

New! Glanton Heritage Group

Glanton Heritage Group was set up a short while ago to record, catalogue, research and preserve the heritage of the village and parish.

However, the main objective is to enjoy what we do!!!

Several projects that are proposed are:-

- Crime and Punishment in the mid 1800's
- House Histories
- Occupations of Householders/census analysis 1841-1911
-
- Drove Roads and Stagecoach routes
- Recording of history from the older residents
- The Shops and Business in Glanton
- The World Bird Research Centre
- Jockeys at Shawdon

If anyone has information on any of the above subjects or if you would like to join the GHG please contact

Mike Mason on 01665 578221 or Sue Rogers on 01665 578885

Life and Crimes of Glanton in the mid 19th Century

When I lived in Whittingham in the early 1970s there was a knock on my door. It was the local policeman. Someone had reported me acting suspiciously in Hepscott that afternoon and he wanted to know why.

I explained that I was a valuation surveyor and had been looking for comparisons in the area. I showed him my identity documents which satisfied him, that whilst I may look a suspicious character, I was on legitimate business.

The policeman and I became good friends.

The Magistrates Court in Whittingham had been closed some years earlier and he asked me if I would like to see the cells. They were very Dickensian and spartan with a vaulted roof and thick studded wooden doors.

He thought it would be a good idea to lock me up, just for a few minutes, but that was enough for me to know that to be locked up for any length of time would not be a pleasant experience; but I am able to make the claim that I was the last person to be locked up in Whittingham jail. However, you may know better!!

While I was there he opened a cupboard which was full of record books detailing the cases which had taken place in the long and distant past. One in particular caught my eye. It was a case where the prisoner had killed someone, which was a capital offence, but it seemed obvious to me, rather than send him to the gallows, the magistrates looked for a reason to save his life and declared him insane thus preserving him.

This whetted my appetite to know more and I thought one day I would try and find out more.

Nearly forty years later I traced the books to the County Archive at Woodhorn Colliery and I recently spent a day looking at 1859-1863. I restricted myself, more or less, to the residents of Glanton.

Most of the offences related to Master and Servant cases where the servant sued the Master for wages. Others were for "Bastardy", Poaching, Assault and Turnpike Licences and Offences.

"Bastardy" was the rather harsh term they used to describe cases where unmarried women sued for maintenance of the child. What struck me was that there were many of these cases. In only one case did the man involved deny paternity. The rate seems to have been 1 shilling and 6 pence per week. It was a kind of Child Support Agency but more effective.

The Magistrates also handed out Parking fines for illegal parking of carts and in one case someone was fined for not being in control of his cart on a turnpike he being some 200 yards distant. In another case, someone was fined for being asleep in charge of a horse on the wrong side of the turnpike.

A certain Mark Campbell of Glanton seems to have been a serial offender. On 9th August 1858 he assaulted George Thompson of Powburn, fined 10/- & £1-1-0 costs or 1 calendar month in Alnwick House of Correction. On 8th August 1861, he left three carts on the highway at Glanton and obstructed passage. On 14th July 1862 he was found drunk and riotous in a public thoroughfare at Whittingham. Then on 29th April 1863 he was fined for leaving a cart on the highway.

On 15th August 1860 Andrew Taylor, a former policeman from Newcastle, tried to pass a forged £5 note in a public house in Glanton. The note though looking like a Bank of England note was headed "Bank of Engraving" instead of Bank of England. He was committed for trial.

Only minor cases were tried at the Petty Sessions at Whittingham, more serious crimes were dealt with at the quarter sessions or the assizes.

The first serious case I came across had nothing to do with Glanton but I have the feeling that it was a sad case rather than an evil crime and think that it is worth mentioning. It concerned Ann Millican from Cross Hill, Callaly. She was a widow and was committed for trial at the assizes for endeavouring to conceal the body of her child on the 5th July 1859, by burying the dead body in a quantity of coals.

On the 28th January 1861 John Bury of Glanton Pike was brought before the court for Bestiality and on the 1st September Jane Palmer accused John Dewar of Alnwick of rape. If he were charged it would have been a capital offence which could only be tried at the assizes. If it was proved to be attempted rape it could then be tried at the quarter sessions.

What happened in these three cases I do not know but I will try and find out. If I succeed, I will let you know.

Mike Mason
Chairman, Glanton Heritage Group

1st Whittingham BP Scout Group



Fabulous Fairtrade Wine Evening

Saturday 5th March at 8pm

12 Alnside, Whittingham

Tickets are £10

Fairtrade Raffle and Stall

Bring along fair-trade/healthy/organic food for the buffet

It's not often that doing good can feel so good!

Come along and find out why drinking Fairtrade Wine is not just a good deed, but actually represents some pretty exciting New World wine at very reasonable prices.

We have some fantastic discoveries for you, from old vine Malbec to fruity Viognier.

Raising money for 1st Whittingham's Summer Activity Programme, whilst helping the Fairtrade Communities!

Ninette Gray - Group Scout Master

1st Whittingham BP Scout Group

12 Alnside . Whittingham . NE66 4SJ

Tel. 01665 574733

ninette@alnsideassociates.co.uk





Bogus Callers Alert

Northumbria Police are urging householders to be on the alert after numerous reports of bogus officials across the force area. Callers claiming to be 'from the Water Board' are targeting householders asking to come into their homes. Police today repeated advice not to let anyone into their home unless they can prove they are acting in an official capacity and urged householders to use Northumbrian Water's password scheme.

Northumbria Police Detective Chief Inspector Tim Walker said: "We believe bogus callers are taking advantage of the recent bad weather by asking to check people's water supplies as a way of conning their way into homes." "I must repeat our advice - never allow anyone into your home unless you are happy they are who they claim to be." "And don't forget that just because a caller says they're from your water or gas company, the council, or even the police, it doesn't necessarily mean they are. "And I would particularly appeal to elderly people not to think it is impolite to ask callers for identification and arrange an appointment, possibly when a neighbour or family member can be present. "If workmen arrive and say your property needs repairing our advice is to tell them you already have someone who does your work. And only use reputable workmen recommended by family and friends, or those who have worked satisfactorily for you before. "Genuine officials or tradesman will not mind showing you identification and this could help you avoid needless heartache. "I would also ask people to be good neighbours and watch out for people targeting homes in your street."

Northumbrian Water have a password scheme so customers can be sure officials are genuine. Cara Hall, from Northumbrian Water, explained: "Northumbrian Water will not need access into customers' homes to check for frozen pipes unless a customer has contacted us and requested an appointment for us to check their pipes and water supply. "We ask people to please listen to the advice of the police and to be extra vigilant before letting anyone into their home. "Our customers can register a password for extra peace of mind by ringing 0845 717 1100 or logging onto www.nwl.co.uk – anyone from Northumbrian Water who needs access into a property will know this word."

Recently a man claiming to be from the Water Board targeted householders from Gateshead. The following day a man offering to carry out repairs conned an elderly woman into removing money from her bank account to pay him, then men claiming to be from the Water Board called at houses in Sunderland, North and South Tyneside and Gateshead.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact police on 03456 043043 or ring the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

What you can do:

- Always check someone's identity even if you're expecting someone to call - ask for an identity card, a letter confirming the date and work being carried out or a password previously agreed with the utility supplier which the caller has to repeat
- Don't let visitors who are in a hurry, pressurise or confuse you - ask unannounced visitors to wait outside while you confirm who they are, genuine visitors won't mind waiting
- Never use a telephone number given by the visitor - find the number in your telephone directory
- If you need to leave a caller standing outside while you collect something indoors, close the door and lock it
- Just because a caller says they're from your Water, Electric, Gas Company, the council, or even the police, doesn't necessarily mean they are.

Katrina Cassidy 8540

Northumberland Local Intelligence Officer (03456 043043 ext 63552)

New Feature – Starry Stella’s Astrological Help Page

Abandoned your New Year resolutions? Let Starry Stella match your cosmic personality to a sure-fire way to get the best out of 2011!

AQUARIUS 20 January – 19 February

Aquarians love to exude mystery but this can sometimes seem a little eccentric. So how about doing something mainstream?? The telephone box needs painting, and red (although possibly a little predictable) might be a good choice.

PISCES 20 February – 20 March

Sensitive – and sometimes perhaps a little wet – now is your opportunity to decide if you’re swimming upstream or down in the current of life. You’ve been treading water for too long so *carpe diem*, check out the pub, and become the life and sole of the party.

ARIES 21 March – 20 April

With your Arian fire and enthusiasm, this is no time to be sheepish! So reinvigorate your life: Ewes, how about getting along to the Exercise Class on Monday mornings? And tups, well, you did your bit last ‘back end’ so perhaps a run up Glanton hill each day might be just the thing for you.

TAURUS 21 April – 21 May

Admit it – we Taureans can be pigs. So put any remaining Christmas cake out for the birds, and bulldoze your way into action. Life’s too short to luxuriate in a heap forever. On the other hand, I could come round and help you finish off the cake before you start....

GEMINI 22 May – 22 June

Airy fairy to the nth degree, come down to earth and concentrate on something useful! Instead of flitting to and fro, why not embrace the concept of the Big Society and volunteer to join the Hall committee?

CANCER 23 June – 23 July

Sometimes crabby, and ruled by the moon – how about getting your claws into something meaty and having a pre-emptive Clean Sweep and smarten the village up after all the snow?

LEO 24 July – 23 August

We all know about a Lion’s pride but you could try ditching your dreams of celebrity and tackle something less starry eyed – ever thought of putting your neighbour’s bin out, or sneaking their empties to the bottle bank for them..?

VIRGO 24 August – 22 September

Even a fusspot Virgo can probably find room for improvement. So why not go along to Pilates on a Wednesday evening, feel serene, improve to the core, and maybe get a flat tum at the same time?

LIBRA 23 September – 23 October

Charming and creative - but prone to dreaming – how about coming down to earth and getting to grips with more important things in life? The Bowls will be starting again soon in the URC hall and new members are very welcome.

SCORPIO 24 October – 22 November

Your instinct is to be passionate, wise and powerful – our Parish Council needs you! And the County Council probably needs you even more!! Then there’s the Government!!! Is it time to start thinking of widening your horizons?

SAGITTARIUS 23 November – 22 December

Optimistic, full of life and enthusiasm – what could there be to criticise? Absolutely nothing! But your talents could be put to use helping out the Show. Ideas and help are always wanted and you might enjoy yourself making a difference.

CAPRICORN 23 December – 19 January

You love being an achiever so what better action could you take than filling the gaps the other signs have left untouched: articles for the newsletter, contributions to the website, or why not give a talk to the WI..?

