



Glanton Parish Newsletter

Issue: 75

May/June 2012

Hello everyone and welcome to the May/June edition of the Glanton Parish Newsletter!

As well as the regular favourites, here are some things to look out for in this issue:

- Glanton Show coffee morning
- Money and energy saving tips
- Be inspired by the Olympics!
- Village library information
- The Jubilee party
- Glanton Coffee Break's first birthday

In addition to the newsletter, you can keep up to date with events and current affairs in the village by visiting www.glantononline.net.

Nicola Frater



Above: Thrunton Woods and the Simonsides in the distance from the South side of the village

Deadlines:

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's parish newsletter. The next deadlines are as follows:

- 20th June (Jul/Aug edition)
- 17th August (Sept/Oct edition)

Please Contact:

Email: nicola_frater@hotmail.co.uk

Report of the Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 26th March and the following points were discussed:

- Nicola Frater was co-opted to fill a vacancy and was warmly welcomed as a new councillor.
- It was noted that the County Council had agreed that the Parish Council could become the contractor for trimming the footpath from the bus stop field down the next two fields towards Whittingham as opposed to using an independent contractor as had previously been the case. This means that the path can be trimmed more regularly and kept more accessible. The work would be carried out by volunteers organised by Mr Radgick.
- The Council noted that the new bench had been installed in the bus shelter and that it was very satisfactory. An offer from Mrs Tait to pay for the bench in memory of her recently deceased husband was gratefully accepted.
- Mr Radgick reported that the new owner of the old Red Lion barn had verbally claimed that the land in front of his property, which is registered in the name of the Parish and is a registered Village Green, had been wrongly designated and in fact belonged to him, and that he intended to fence it off and plant roses. In fact the area had not been fenced though one rose had been planted on the Village Green. Legal advice from the County Council suggested that any such claim was very likely to fail, and Mr Radgick agreed to speak to the owner and ask him to remove the rose he had planted.
- Various schemes to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee were agreed including planting a few trees (though not an avenue) along Playwell Road, and building a new stone planter opposite the entrance to The Juries. There had been a suggestion that we consider starting a garden of remembrance, but it was thought that instead of that, individuals might like to “adopt” one of the planters in the village and either maintain it themselves or fund the maintenance.
- Mr Radgick reported that National Powergrid had agreed to supply and erect a replacement pole for the one on top of Glanton Hill which blew

down in the gales at New Year, and the Council recorded grateful thanks for this.

- The Council noted that the Snow Squad had not been needed this winter but recorded their thanks to all the volunteers who offered their services, and hoped that the squad would be available next winter on a similar basis.
- It was agreed that the date for the annual spring clean would be Tuesday 29th May.
- It was agreed that the next PC meeting would be on Monday 28th May to be followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Village Meeting.

Jon Radgick

Cheviot Valleys Flower Club

23rd May

Mrs Marion Hinchley

“Silver Threads”



27th June

Mr John Dalton

“Flowers for a summer’s day”

Both meetings will take place from 7:30pm in the Whittingham Memorial Hall. Tickets are available on the door or from Pat Hall on 01665 574 017. All are welcome!

Glanton Show Coffee Morning



Saturday 12th May
10:30am - Midday
Glanton Memorial Hall

Cakes & preserves stall, raffle, chocolate tombola, plants, refreshments and more...



Donations to stalls welcome on the day or please leave in the box in the village shop, thank you!

Alndale Hall to Camp Field Cottage – a journey of support and thanks to so many

It finally happened – we moved in to our new house. It has been a long process through the rough waters of the planning process then through the more or less stress-free building process. Thanks for all of your good wishes and support over the almost three years the process has taken.

Our special thanks go to County Life Homes who took on all of the challenges that were set for them. They managed to transform our dreams into reality giving us a fully accessible place to call our own.

Thanks also to our new neighbours who have patiently put up with the disruption of the building process and also given us useful pointers as the project developed.

We do feel fortunate to have had the back-up of so many in the community, from the Trustees of Alndale Hall; Glanton Parish Council; Trevor Thorne and John Taylor who helped support us through the planning; our architect Nigel Jenkins; and by far the greatest help and support, John Swanson who made it happen.

It is a minefield picking out individuals to thank by name so we will stop at that point and just say thank you to everyone who supported this venture.

We do hope that what we have done has enhanced the village in some way and that the objections have been answered positively.



Figure 1: Before



Figure 2: After

Norman & Jill Dunn

Open Gardens

Hedgeley Hall gardens will be open from 2pm-6pm on Sunday 20th May to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and Branton First School.

Admission is £4.00 for adults and free for children. Dogs are welcome on leads.

There will be teas, a plant stall and hopefully the Rhododendrons will be in full bloom!



Parish Clerk Vacancy

A vacancy exists for a Parish Clerk as Norman Dunn who currently is the clerk wished to retire.

Duties include taking minutes of the meetings, keeping the bank account, recording transactions and dealing with correspondence from the County Council, most of which is by email.

Skills needed are literacy, numeracy and interpersonal skills. Some knowledge of local government would be an advantage but not a necessity. Hours and pay by negotiation but it won't make you rich! Some training will be available.

If you would like to be involved with village affairs and feel that this could be suitable for you, please contact Jon Radgick on 578222.

Glanton Village Library

The village library which is in the Glanton Memorial Hall is now open every Sunday from 2.30pm – 4.30pm; tea and coffee are available. It will also be open during monthly coffee mornings and lunch club.



Looking Through A Lens

This has been quite a fallow year for me photographically. Commitments on other fronts have meant that I've had few opportunities to take any pictures... and then when I do get the chance, something seems to come along to stop me getting my camera out.

On my computer, I have all of my digital photographs carefully organized – a folder for each year, and within that folders for each month, and within those, folders for each shoot. It made for quite depressing and frustrating viewing when I was browsing my hard drive and saw just how empty the “2012” folder was... especially considering how far we are through the year.

I often work from home as part of the day job. This generally suits me fine, as it generally means I get plenty of peace and quiet to get on with what I need to do (it's amazing how lazy people can be – if I were in the office, my colleagues will think nothing of interrupting me, but when I'm working at home they won't take the trouble to pick up the phone to speak to me). I say “generally”, as the other day was the exception to the rule.

There was a fairly thorny problem that I needed to get my head around as part of a big project I'm working on. However, every time I seemed to be getting started on it, the phone would start ringing and my concentration was shattered. By late afternoon, I was feeling fairly fed up, and thought about just writing the day off.

Somewhat paradoxically, I found myself in need of some sort of distraction – something to get me away from my desk, out of the house, to clear my head and help me unwind. The light was fairly poor, but seeing as this was a rare opportunity to spend some time with the camera, I grabbed my bag and headed out.

A few minutes later I was parked up in Ingram Valley. I knew that the conditions weren't conducive to photography, but at least it was dry, and I could amuse myself for a while taking a few photographs. The light was starting to fade, so I was going to have to take long-ish exposures. I thought that the best thing to do would be to head down to the river-side, set up the tripod, and start tinkering. Long exposures work well on moving water.

I spent quite an enjoyable half hour or so. Partly taking photographs, and

partly just enjoying the peace and quiet. It was nice to listen to the Breamish burbling over the rocks as various bird calls came from all around. Very pleasant, and completely relaxing.

Given the poor light, I knew I'd need to spend a fair amount of time back at the computer trying to edit and squeeze something out of the images. There was some hard work involved in post-processing, but to be honest when I set out I never expected to get much from the trip – it was more about taking some photographs for the sake of it.

Photography isn't just about the photographs. Yes, I've gone on trips and got some photographs that I'm very pleased with, but there were also some occasions where I remember the location, or the company, or something else, more than any particular pictures that I took.



River Breamish, Ingram Valley

© Dave Dixon LRPS

Top Tip

In landscape and nature photography, take some time to absorb your surroundings. Some of my best photographic memories are on a beach somewhere, pre-dawn... waiting for that perfect sunrise photograph, just watching and hearing the world wake up. Quite a special feeling – and one that can't simply be captured with the click of a button.

Dave Dixon

Memory Walk Marathon

Readers of the November/December 2011 edition may remember that Lynne Livsey completed a 12 mile walk for The Alzheimer's Society – raising over £500!

This year, she is planning to more than double the challenge for the same cause by taking part in a 26 mile trek from Beadnell to Holy Island via Seahouses, Bamburgh and Belford.

The trek is taking place on the 8th September and Lynne has welcomed anyone to accompany her on training walks and the trek itself.

Any support would be most welcome and would go to a very worthy cause. Anyone who would like further information can visit www.alzheimers.org.uk or speak to Lynne herself.

Lynne Livsey

Glanton Show 2012

Dropping through your door soon will be the 'new look' programme for the Show – do make sure you have the date in your diary (August 11th), and do have a good look through the classes in the programme – as well as most of the usual classes there are some new ideas which we hope will encourage more people to enter, and there are also beginners classes in the horticultural section, so do have a go.

Even if you're not a gardener, a pot of herbs can be fitted onto a windowsill, or while you're glued to the Olympics on the TV you can be jotting down your poem, or making up your Royal limerick. Those of us who aren't sport fans will have plenty of time to potter in the kitchen, or get crafty with our needles or pens, and there are lots of ideas for inspiration in this year's revamped photography section.

And the children's section has plenty to keep the youngsters practicing over the days before the show – a good way to keep them out of mischief!

Sandra Natrass

Both the “ding” and the “dong” are back!

It was last year when the first article about the church bells appeared in the Glanton Parish News. If you remember, it was white doves and the things they do that had muffled the bells. After several false starts the doves have eventually left the bell tower for a good clean home not far away.

After a good brush down everything was ready to be reassembled but two cheeky jackdaws sneaked in when we weren't looking and started nest building. We managed to see them in time before they became too broody and cleaned up again. Temporary repairs have been made and, hopefully, all access points are now closed to uninvited guests.

The bells have been checked and seem loud and clear and show no obvious signs of damage. The mechanism has been re-attached and adjusted. So now, when you walk through the village or the immediate surroundings you will hear both the “ding” and the “dong”.

You'll hear a “ding dong” for each of the quarter hours and a “dong” for each hour. The hour “dong” is louder than that on the quarter hour and I'm told by dog walkers that the sound of the hour striking can be heard in the fields down Whittingham Road. Even if you aren't a dog walker keep an ear cocked for a sound that is part of the village of Glanton.



Quasimodo

Whittingham Book Sale

A special book event is taking place on Saturday May 19th between 10:30am and midday! New books are available for this one day only so grab them while you can!

Also don't miss the Jubilee Raffle where one lucky person will win a copy of “Whittingham Vale” by David Dippie Dixon. It is a facsimile of the 1st edition with illustrations – interesting book – very expensive – unique opportunity!

Tickets are only £1.00. Enquiries to Beryl Parr on 01665 574385.

Jack Daw's Nature Notes

May is one of the best times to look in our hedgerows. Trees and shrubs are the backdrop to a diversity of flowering plants such as cow parsley and crosswort. One of the uncommon species is the Wych Elm made famous in the parish by the 'Windy Tree'. The word 'wych' has its roots in Middle English and means pliable, which perfectly describes the strong but supple twigs and branches of the tree. The wood is durable in wet conditions and almost impossible to split, making it an ideal multi-purpose timber for making boats and is the traditional material for making coffins. The elm genus are notoriously difficult to tell apart, and to add to this, there are many hybrids and cultivars of elm, more, in fact, than there are true species. The Wych elm has purple flowers, which appear before leaves in the spring. The subsequent fruit comes in the form of a samara, a winged seed package, which grows in green clusters before turning brown and being shed in July. The 'Windy Tree' is one of the best examples left in Northumberland.

In late April and May, large gatherings of gulls can be found feeding in the fields of the parish. Many of these are black-headed gulls that have formed large noisy breeding colonies at Branton Pools. Their dark brown heads are very obvious as they search for worms, leather-jackets and other tasty morsels in pastures. The slightly larger common gull can also join these gulls. This is a visitor from the north and further afield. Its pale complexion, white head, yellow bill and legs make it easy to tell apart from the black-headed gull. Another gull that has recently been seen in the parish is the Mediterranean Gull. This gull is slightly larger than the previous two species. Its 'full' black head, thickish red bill and white wing tips can identify it from other species. This gull has recently started to breed in the UK and the odd pair breeds in Northumberland. Two larger gulls can sometimes be seen; the lesser black backed gull (dark grey back with yellow legs) and the herring gull (pale grey back with light pink legs). Both species are much larger than the other species mentioned here.

Please remember it is an offence to disturb any nesting birds or roosting bats. This is a very productive time of the year for watching wildlife. Hopefully we will get suitable weather to enjoy the sights and sounds of our parish.

Jack Daw



Adopt a Planter

Would you like to adopt a planter in the village, perhaps as remembrance to someone you have lost?

The Parish Council are responsible for most of the various planters and beds in the village, some are maintained by volunteers and some by the Parish Council, and the Parish Council pays for replanting each year.

A suggestion was made for the Jubilee that we consider a garden of remembrance, but we felt that it might be more appropriate and more practical if we offered villagers the opportunity to look after an existing planter, either by doing the planting & weeding yourself or funding it.

If this idea appeals to you, please contact Jon Radgick on 578222 and the Parish Council will consider all the reaction to this suggestion to see whether it may be viable. If you already in effect do maintain a planter or bed on a voluntary basis do let him know that as well.

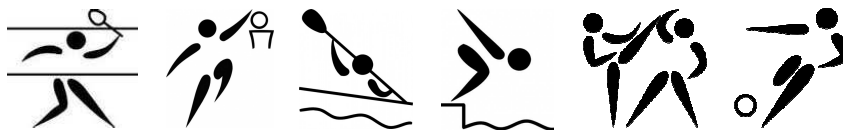
Olympics 2012 – Give Sport A Go!

Be inspired by London 2012 and try a new sport near you!

Northumberland County Council and its leisure partners have developed free or discounted taster sessions of Olympic and Paralympic sports. The sessions are available throughout Northumberland and everyone can participate regardless of fitness level or previous experience.

Some of the huge range of sports on offer are:

Archery, badminton, basketball, boccia, boxing, cycling, diving, fencing, football, gymnastics, equestrian, judo, hockey, kayaking, synchronised swimming, swimming, table tennis, tennis, triathlon and volleyball.



To find out which sessions are on at your local sports centre, visit www.northumberland.gov.uk and type “give it a go” into the search bar!

Free loft & cavity wall insulation for all!

There is no need to shiver next winter! Here is an opportunity to reduce your heating costs but not your comfort.

The Nationwide Insulation Grant Scheme is still running. In fact it is now better than ever as it is available to EVERYONE. You no longer need to be over 70yrs or on benefits to qualify. New money has become available to fund cavity wall insulation and increased loft insulation in order to reduce the consumption of electricity.

Phone 0800 0192 609 to arrange for a surveyor from a national company to come to your house and to assess your situation. Even if you already have loft insulation, it may well be less than the recommended maximum. In the past 4" was thought sufficient, now they want to wrap us up in twice that amount! Let them decide if you have enough.

This scheme (free for everyone) is short term so you are recommended to apply at once. If you are over 70yrs or on benefit, there is less urgency but you are still recommended to act now, during the summer, so that you are ready for next winter.

This scheme is available to those in rented accommodation as well as to owner occupiers. But you need to get the agreement of your landlord. The insulation company says that it is almost unheard of for a landlord to refuse to give it as it improves his property as well as your comfort and bank balance.

The target for Glanton is to have every home as well insulated as it can possibly be as we all know we live in a very windy spot and the cost of heating never stops rising!

Annual Village Meeting

This is your chance to come and meet the Parish Council, hear what they have done on your behalf in the past year and have your say (if you want to) about what should be done in the future. All will be very welcome; it is a fairly informal, friendly meeting.

In the Memorial Hall on Monday 28th May at 7.30pm

Save Money On Heating Oil!

Community Action Northumberland [CAN], which is a registered charity working with community groups in Northumberland, is setting up a group oil buying scheme. These have run very successfully in other parts of the country, and work by combining orders from one or more villages so that the oil supplier makes only one visit to supply several customers. This is much more efficient for them, and the bulk ordering also enables CAN to negotiate lower prices and the savings are then passed on to group members.

It also means members can order smaller quantities, say 500 litres instead of the normal minimum of 1,000 litres, which helps with budgeting and also means you can keep your tank 'topped up' more easily (as I type this oil delivery drivers are threatening strike action, and here in Glanton we all know about weather disruption to supplies as well!).

It's simple to join the scheme, costs a small annual membership fee (£20 for a domestic user which should easily be saved in fuel costs), and once you're in the scheme the co-ordinator (me!) will contact members each month to check if you need oil.

If you're interested, there are forms giving more details in the shop and at the village hall, or you can download one from the village website or from <http://www.ca-north.org.uk/oil> . You can register online or by post. Feel free to contact CAN or myself if you have any questions – CAN on 01670 500812, me on 578222.

Sandra Natrass

Glanton Heritage Group

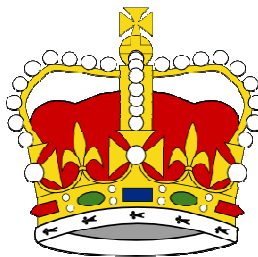
Congratulations to the Glanton Heritage Group who held their very successful first public meeting on Thursday 5th April. The main attraction was a talk by guest speaker Freda Thompson about Admiral Collingwood who has influenced various areas of our locality including the College Valley, Morpeth and Newcastle. In addition, there was a temporary exhibition about the Bondagers as well as an opportunity for villagers to attempt to identify subjects of old village photographs. An interesting night was had by all and I'm sure everyone would recommend attending any future Glanton Heritage Group events.

Glanton Jubilee Party

Following the success of the village party to celebrate the Royal Wedding last year, there will again be the opportunity for the village to come together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee this June. There will be a party for all comers from the parish of Glanton in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 2nd June, commencing in the afternoon and running on into the evening, so please get the date into your diary.

There will be a pooled tea/supper, so please bring along what you would like to eat. There will also be a cash bar and, later in the evening, dancing to the excellent ceilidh band, Penny Dot. There will be other attractions and amusements to suit all ages, so please keep an eye on the village notice boards for further details and we look forward to seeing you at the party.

As always, helping hands are greatly appreciated, particularly for setting up the Hall prior to the event and clearing up the following day. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Joe Easton on 578654.



Charity Shop on Wooler High Street

Bookshop

Opening May 25th & 26th and then May 28th to June 2nd, to support the Fistula Hospital (also known as "Leaking Hospital" and "Hospital of Hope") in Addis Ababa. Bibliophile or browser, we have books for you! All kinds – fiction and non-fiction, thick and thin, big and small, 2,000 plus of them, and all BARGAINS.

Charity Shop

If you have any household items, clothes, or anything suitable that will fit into a car, we can happily accept it now for our Charity Shop in Wooler that will be open July 17th – 21st. The proceeds from this one will be shared between the Fistula Hospital and the Hospice Care, North Northumberland.

More details will be on the Posters, (coming soon), or from Beryl and John at 01665 574385.

Annual Village Clean Sweep

The Annual Village Spring Clean will be during the week prior to the Jubilee weekend.

Please clean up/sweep/weed the area in front of or around your house either over the weekend of 26th & 27th May or on Tuesday 29th.

The Parish Council will organise with the County for a sweeper to clean up the gutters on Wednesday 30th May, and we hope to have the grass cut that week as well.

If you can manage a litter pick along the verges leading into the village as well that would be much appreciated. A plastic sack and some gardening gloves are all that is needed, and working with friends and neighbours will make quick work of it.

Let's have our village really spick and span for the Jubilee!

Community Coffee Break Celebrates Birthday

The Glanton Coffee Break has just celebrated its first birthday complete with cake. The scheme was set up by the local community in conjunction with Bell View, Belford.

It provides a place for members of the community to meet up regularly and now, thanks to the village library, loan books. Organisers plan to add to the continued success by introducing a monthly soup and sandwich lunch club.

Organisers would like to thank the community, the Village Hall committee, the Parsish Council, and Sybil Thomas for baking the celebratory cake.

Coffee breaks run from 10am – midday on the second Wednesday of each month and the lunch club runs from midday – 2pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome

For more information, contact Jane Field of Bell View on 01668 219220

1st Whittingham BP Scout Group

2012 Cheviot Challenge

Huge congratulations to the Cubs, Scouts, Seniors and Rovers who completed the gruelling 20km hike over 12 summits, including Humbleton, Yeavinger Bell and Wester Tor to celebrate Baden-Powell's birthday. Many thanks to all those who sponsored us. It was a long day, but everyone showed great B-P spirits, completing the route before nightfall. Well done everyone!

Patrol Leader Training

Patrol Leaders Daniel Lyst and Lauren Carter, and Seconds Scott Edwards and Katherine Hindhaugh were awarded their green lanyards on 2nd March, for completing a leadership training course with 20 other Patrol leaders from around the country. A wonderful opportunity to learn different leadership styles, new skills, and fun games. They also completed an incident hike, where they had to use the new skills they'd learnt.

Awards for All Win!

1st Whittingham have been awarded a fantastic £9,996 from the Big Lottery's Awards for All fund, to help with our 'Citizenship in the Outdoors' project, which includes an 8 metre round tent, with fire bowl to keep us all warm on damp days, abseil ropes, games equipment, and help to run environmental projects.

Cape Wine-Tasting Around a Warming Fire

South-African Wine Tasting on May 11th at 7.30pm in our new black tent, with warming fire. Buffet with a difference this time – please bring along some meat to cook on the fire, and salads and puddings! £10 per person. RSVP.

If you'd like to join our adventures this summer, contact:

Group Scout Master: Ninette Gray

Call: 01665 574733

Visit: www.1stwhittingham.org.uk

