

Glanton Parish Newsletter

Issue: 72

November/December 2011

Hello everyone and welcome to the Christmas edition of the Glanton Parish Newsletter. Christmas and New Year is a very busy time for the village – please put all the events on your calendar straight away in case you forget or mislay your copy of the newsletter. Also keep checking the website in case anything else crops up! Tony Meikle has done a great job of turning the website into an invaluable source of information which is especially beneficial at this time of year when the British weather makes going out to check the noticeboards an unattractive prospect! In the event of another severe winter which sees us all confined to our houses for days on end, there is plenty in the newsletter to keep you busy. Why not try out the WI recipe



Looking towards the A697 from a gateway down Playwell Lane on a snowy day last winter

or have a go at the Christmas quiz – which I have to say is rather difficult and any more than 5 out of 15 without cheating is quite an achievement! All that remains is to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Nicola Frater

Deadlines:

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

- 20th December (Jan/Feb edition)
- 21st February (Mar/Apr edition)

Please Contact:

4, Garden Terrace, Glanton, Alnwick,
Northumberland, NE66 4AW

Tel: 01665 578 481

Mob: 07796681173

Email: nicola_frater@hotmail.co.uk

Update from the Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 26th September and discussed the following matters:

- It was agreed that following Linda Lazenby's resignation as Parish Clerk, Norman Dunn would act in a voluntary capacity as Clerk for a temporary period and that Susan Rogers would take notes and draft minutes. This would enable us to gauge the effects of the handover of services from County and see what would be expected of the PC following the Localism Bill which is going through the Parliamentary process now.
- It was reported that the Defibrillator box had been mounted on the wall of the Queens Head and that the electricity supply would be sorted quite soon.
- Feedback from the note in the last Newsletter about speeding in the village had been low, three residents and one Whittingham resident had made comments which did not amount to a mandate for the chairman to contact Steven Bridgett to see whether he was interested in arranging mobile speed warning signs around the parishes in his area.
- It was agreed to set up a Snow Squad to plan and co-ordinate volunteer action in the case of severe snow in the future so that snow clearing and other help for those who could not get out and about could be most effectively delivered.
- The Parish Council noted the change in Editorship of the Newsletter and asked the Chairman to write to Lynne Livsey thanking her for her contribution to the post over several years.
- Owing to the saving in not having a paid Clerk, the council was able to increase its contribution to the Memorial Hall and to the Whittingham Burial Ground.
- The Chairman reported the proposed changes to Parliamentary constituencies made by the Boundary Commission which would see Glanton become part of the Hexham Constituency instead of Berwick-upon-Tweed. He agreed to write a summary of the changes and how individuals may comment upon them to publicise around the village.

Jon Radgick

Proposed Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission have been charged with the task of designing new electoral boundaries with the aim of reducing the number of constituencies in England from 533 to 502 and to equalise the number of voters per MP within a narrow band. The proposals in the North East involve changing almost every constituency - some quite radically.

Glanton is currently in the Berwick-on-Tweed constituency which has to be enlarged because, although it is currently the largest in England it does not have enough voters for the new system, so it is to be enlarged to incorporate Morpeth, however when that is done it will have too many voters.

As a result they are proposing that the Rothbury ward which includes Glanton should no longer be in the Berwick constituency but should become part of the Hexham one, which will also be extended to include three wards from the Gateshead area.

The Boundary Commission having published their proposals now invite public representations whether supporting or against the proposals. They do however say in their report that they have been charged with reducing the number of seats and equalising the electorate per MP, and that people who object to the proposals should state not only why they object but how they think that the objectives could be achieved otherwise, in other words it is no good saying "I don't want Glanton to be amalgamated into a new area" without saying how they can make it all work if that does not happen.

Our County Councillor Steven Bridgett objects to the proposals, and he suggests that rather than the Rothbury Ward (which has an electorate of 4157) being put in the Hexham constituency, it would be better to keep it within Berwick-on-Tweed and to leave Ponteland East division (3687 voters) in Hexham rather than moving it to Berwick as proposed. Ponteland North, South and West are already in Hexham so it does seem a bit odd to divorce the East ward from the rest.

The Parish Council supports this view and will make a representation to the Boundary Commission saying so, but we understand that they are more likely to take note if a substantial number of people complain.

So, if you think we have more in common with the rest of North Northumberland than with Hexham, and that it would make sense for the

whole of Ponteland to be in the same constituency rather than split between two, then please get in touch with the boundary commission. You can make comments on their website until the 5th of December 2011.

www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

or write to them at:

Boundary Commission of England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ

Jon Radgick

Glanton Memorial Hall

AGM: Another year has flown by and it is time for the AGM. This year the meeting is on Monday the 21st of November at 7pm. We hope that you will come along, support this meeting and give us your ideas. We are particularly in need of new committee members especially some of the younger residents of the village. If any of you would like to join the committee please turn up on the night you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Monthly Coffee Breaks: These continue to build in popularity and are worth coming along to. They are on the second Wednesday of each month between 10 and 12. Look out for details of the December Christmas Dinner in the Queens Head, everyone is welcome. It is hoped that a wider range of activities will be on offer in the New Year.

Bottle Bingo: This year's Bottle bingo will be held on Wednesday the 28th of December at 7.00pm. Keep an eye out for further details and watch out for the donations box in the shop from the middle of December. All contributions will be gratefully accepted. Let's hope the weather is with us this year but remember the new heating is working well and it will be a warm event.

NTC: This year's panto is Hansel and Gretel and will be performed in the Hall on Tuesday the 3rd of January at 6.30pm. Tickets will once again be £6 for adults and £3 for children. This is always a great night and tickets will be available from the middle of December.

Hire: Just a reminder the Hall has tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery and glasses available for Hire. If you need anything to complete your event let Mike know.

Memory Walk

Lynne Livsey would like to thank everyone who sponsored her 12 mile walk in Cumbria in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

She has raised an impressive £500 in two weeks for a very worthy cause.

Congratulations Lynne!



Community Coffee Break

Wednesday 9th November

Glanton Memorial Hall

Come along and join us for tea/coffee, homemade scones and a book swap

Volunteers required to help with refreshments

Everyone welcome!

Glanton Show Needs You!

It may be winter but it's never too early to start thinking about one of the biggest events on the village's calendar! How many classes did you enter in this year's show? Well we'd like you to enter lots more next year! We're looking to revamp our classes and we'd like your ideas – so do you grow or make things that we didn't have classes for? Is there a special photography class you'd like to enter? Do you quilt, patchwork or crochet? Do you make computer pictures, bake a mean cupcake or create sculptures from driftwood? Whatever it is, let us know and we'll see if we can pit your skills against your neighbours – it's free, it's fun, and it's good for your health – what more can you want?!

Do please get in touch with any of the committee, or ring Claire on 578594 or Sandra on 578222 or email sandra@oldmotorhouse.co.uk.

Looking Through A Lens

There are quite a few words or phrases that we still use, but which really refer to a now redundant technology. When was the last time you actually “dialled” a telephone number for example?

Similarly, in the age of digital photography, there are still a number of terms which hark back to camera technology of old, and I want to talk about one of them here.

On my digital camera, there’s a little button labelled “Drive Mode”. Pressing this lets me select how I want the camera to behave when I press the shutter release button. The default setting is for it to take a single shot, but I can also set it to work on a timed delay (wait a few seconds after clicking the button before actually taking the shot – useful for getting yourself in the frame) or burst (the camera keeps taking shots so long as the shutter button is pressed down)

In a film camera, this setting would have controlled a small motor driving the film forward between exposures. In a modern camera, the film has been replaced by a digital sensor and there’s nothing to drive forward between shots, but the old terminology persists.

There’s something strangely satisfying about setting the camera to take a continuous series of shots, then just holding down the shutter button and listening to it rattling away.

The ability to shoot rapid bursts of photographs can come in especially useful under some circumstances. A good example is where you’re trying to capture a moving subject – it may be tricky to time it so you capture it at just the right moment with a single, so switching to take a burst of shots and increase the odds of getting the image that you’re after.

Whilst this could have been a costly business in the days of film photography, digital technology means that the cost of all those extra frames is virtually nil. I wouldn’t place wildlife photography particularly high on my list of competencies, but it is something which I enjoy doing (although I lack the patience of the specialist wildlife / natural history photographers who will sit in a hide on a mountainside for days, even weeks, on end to capture an elusive shot). So, on occasions, I stick a telephoto lens onto my camera and head off in search of some wildlife.

One spot I visit is the lakes just north of Hedgeley on the east side of the A697. A variety of birds make their homes there, and over the years I’ve spent a fair bit of time capturing images of them. In particular, I enjoy the challenge of trying to catch

them in flight, and that's one case where having the camera set to burst mode can be especially useful.

Personally, I can't pretend that the amount of skill involved in my photographing these outweighs just pure luck. My approach is to set the camera for a fairly fast shutter speed – aiming to minimise motion blur, whilst retaining just a hint of movement where it counts, e.g. in the wing-tips – and engage burst mode. Once I've identified the bird, or group of birds, that I want to photograph, I focus, and then hold the shutter button down while panning the camera in synch with the movement of the subject.

Panning while shooting can be a bit tricky, but it's a necessary technique to get the hang of, otherwise the subject will have moved out of the frame after only one shot or two. By tracking the subject's movement while taking a burst of photographs, you can get a greater number of images to select from.



Greylag Geese In Flight
© Dave Dixon LRPS

Top Tip

It's easy to get carried away when shooting in bursts, and you can fill up your camera's memory card quicker than you think. Keep an eye on how many images you have space left for – it'd be awful to miss the perfect shot because your card runs out of space mid-burst.

Dave Dixon



Congratulations to Emma Johnson on achieving her
BSc (Hons) degree in Business Information
Technology with 2:1 honours from
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle.

Very Well Done!

Love Mum, Granddad, Allan, Richard and Michael

x x x x x

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 7th December at 12:30
Queens Head Pub, Glanton
£12.50 per person



Main Course

Roast Turkey, served with all the trimmings, seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes, sausages and cranberry sauce

OR

Beef, served with all the trimmings, seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes, horseradish sauce Roast

Dessert

Christmas Pudding served with brandy, cream or custard

OR

Sherry Trifle served with cream

Followed by tea, coffee and mince pies

Please contact Lynne Livsey on 01665 578 459 – Booking is essential!
Transport can be provided for anyone who needs it and anyone who wished to volunteer with the provision of transport, please contact Lynne.

New Pilates Course

Continues on Wednesday evenings in Glanton Village Hall from 6pm-7pm

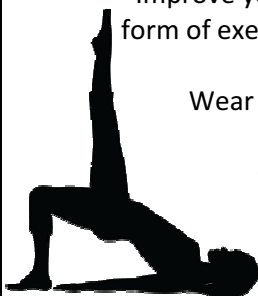
Improve your core strength and muscle tone with this gentle form of exercise which is suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

£40 per course or £4.50 per session

Wear loose and comfortable clothing and flat shoes

Contact Tracey Mortimer: 07841197938

Also – Fitness classes are running in
Whittingham Village Hall Mondays at 11am



Calling All Bingo Fans!

Queen's Head Leek Club

Christmas Bingo

2 Turkey Specials to be won!

Glanton Village Hall Friday 2nd
December

Starts 7pm – eyes down at
7:30pm



Bottle Bingo

Come and win as many bottles as
you can – just in time to toast the
New Year!

Glanton Village Hall Wednesday
28th December

7pm start



Village Shop & Post Office Christmas Opening Times

The shop and Post Office will be open as normal apart from the following days:

Christmas Day – Shop and Post Office closed; Boxing Day – Shop open 9am-10am, Post Office closed; 31st December – Shop open as normal, Post Office closed

Robert is well prepared for another severe winter with large supply of firelighters, soup and kindling!

Jack Daw's Nature Notes

This autumn, the weather has been a bit of a mixed bag. In the middle of October the temperature varied from 17°C at the beginning of the week to an air frost by the Friday. This change in temperature has had a great effect on the insects in the parish. During the warm days, there were good numbers of red admirals, small tortoiseshells and the odd cabbage white still on the wing. By the end of the week there were very few. Many of the admirals and tortoiseshells will have searched out a hibernation site, which could be a garden shed, attic or accessible stone building. On warm sunny days these butterflies may reappear from hibernation and can be found feeding on the last flowers in the garden or on the ivy.

Where there are mature hedgerow trees there is always of chance of finding the smallest of the British owls - the little owl. This fist size owl, with its cat-like call and undulating flight can sometimes be tricky to find. They are often heard before they are seen. A pair has been heard calling in the mature ash on the south side of the parish. Little owls feed mainly on worms, beetles, small birds and mammals such as the short-tailed field vole. It's amazing that they survived the long periods of snow last winter.

In the hedgerow bottoms, patches of gorse and the long grass of the parish, the smallest carnivore in the World, searches for prey - the weasel. They measure up to 22 cm long and weigh about 200 grams (7 ounces). A group of weasels is called either a boogle, gang or confusion. At least 60% of the diet is made up of mice and voles. Other sources of food include small birds, eggs and rats. A weasel can be told from its close cousin the stoat by its small size and the lack of black on the tail.



Let's hope that there is plenty of good weather to enjoy our local wildlife in November and December.

Jack Daw

WI Recipe of the Month – Christmas Cake

Ingredients

200g butter	100g mixed peel
200g Demerara sugar	grated rind of ½ lemon
3 large eggs	225g plain flour
200g currants	1 tsp baking powder
200g sultanas	1 tsp cinnamon
200g stoned raisins	milk to mix
50g ground almonds	



Method

- (1) Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy
- (2) Lightly beat the eggs
- (3) Stir in the dried fruit, ground almonds, mixed peel and lemon rind alternately with the beaten egg
- (4) Sift the flour, baking powder and cinnamon and fold this into the creamed mixture
- (5) Add milk until the mixture will drop from a spoon when shaken
- (6) Turn the mixture into a greased 8" round tin. Bake for 3 hours at 140°C

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A coffee morning was held on Saturday the 1st of October to raise money for the cancer support charity, Macmillan. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved. Without those who provided homemade produce, volunteered serving refreshments and donated raffle prizes – the event simply wouldn't have been a success!

There was an excellent turnout and a fantastic £610 was raised. Macmillan aim to provide practical, medical and financial support to the overwhelming number of people suffering from cancer. Without fundraisers like these, they would not be able to carry on their excellent work as 96% of their income is made up from donations.

Claire Swanson

Community Safety

Over the past few years, the Northumbria Police have been developing the Coquetdale Messaging Service. Individuals can sign up to the service and receive regular updates about what is happening in their area including police alerts. The service aims to ensure that our communities can live peacefully and free from anti-social behaviour.

If you would like to sign up to these useful alerts, please email your name, address, email address and contact telephone number to this email address: alnwick.npt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk. I have a sample copy of the October edition if anyone would like to see what the service offers (contact details on the front of the newsletter).

While on the subject of safety, the dark nights are drawing in and here is a good opportunity to remind everyone to please take a torch or wear reflective clothing when out walking at night or early morning. Please also make sure that any dogs/horses can also be seen.

Northumberland Police are also raising the awareness of the importance of safety with fireworks as bonfire night once again approaches. Attending an organised event is a safe and enjoyable way to spend the night. We usually have some fantastic displays in the local area, so get yourselves along to one of them for a great, worry-free night!

Nicola

Cheviot Valleys Flower Club



Wednesday 23rd November

Mrs Susan Hall presents "Christmas Splendours"

7:30pm Whittingham Village Hall

Tickets are £7 available from Pat Hall on 01665 574 017

or pay on the door

Christmas Quiz

Test your Christmas knowledge and get into the festive spirit! Good luck!

- 1) The character Jack Skellington appears in which Christmas film by Tim Burton?
- 2) What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten at Christmas in Italy?
- 3) The song, White Christmas was first performed in which 1942 film?
- 4) What are the names of the Three Wise Men who brought gifts to baby Jesus?
- 5) Which British Monarch first broadcast a Christmas message to the Nation?
- 6) What changed in 1752 which caused England to have a less frequent White Christmas thereafter?
- 7) Which American state was the last to declare Christmas a national holiday in 1907?
- 8) Which liqueur goes into a snowball cocktail?
- 9) In which country is Christmas known as Bada Din (the big day)?
- 10) Who composed the music known as The Nutcracker Suite for the Christmas ballet, The Nutcracker?
- 11) What is the chemical formula of snow?
- 12) Which Christmas Carol features the line “bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither”?
- 13) Christmas Crackers was the first Christmas special of which long running, popular UK comedy series?
- 14) In the song The Twelve Days of Christmas, how many pipers were there?
- 15) Finally a question unrelated to Christmas to make sure you’ve read your newsletter! What is the collective name for a group of weasels?

How did you do? Find out at the bottom of the second to last page.



St Andrews United Reformed Church, Glanton

Julia's sister is one of the savviest people that I know, she's the type of person who makes the most out of her nectar points and uses as many vouchers as she can get her hands on. So when she asked if we'd like to go to Alton Towers we knew that she must have something up her sleeve.

It turned out that she'd actually won a prize which consisted of two days in the theme park and a night in the hotel, and so at the beginning of September we took her up on her offer and had a fantastic time. Since my last trip to this child's paradise they had made some changes, most notably the addition of a swimming pool - but this isn't just a rectangular hole in the ground. This is a water park with flumes, water jets and even a muckle big slide, to ride on which you have to sit on a blown up inner tube.

It was whilst we were at the water park that I came face to face, or rather face to back with a piece of body art that made me stop and think. On this guy's back was a cross above which were written the words *"Only God can judge me."* Of course he's right, for as a Christian I believe that one day I will stand before God and give an account of my life, and he's also right that we shouldn't pass judgements on other people either. Jesus said *"don't judge"*.

Yet it raised the question for me, how willing am I to hear feedback and criticism? I believe there are two types of criticism: criticism which is simply about putting another person down, this you might call negative, but there is also criticism which is about building people up and helping them to be all that they can be, this you might call positive. And the difference between the two can simply be the words that are used and the way the message is put over.

I believe that positive criticism is vital for us, we need to hear words of affirmation, but also we need help at times, words that offer gentle and loving correction. These can be hard words to hear, and to share. But my prayer for us all is that we have people in our lives whom we trust and love enough to have these frank discussions with. And through whom the wisdom and God's guidance can be shared, enabling us to be all that God intended us to be.

God bless

Edward

Church Services

Services are held every Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Except 6th November, when it will be at 9:15 a.m.

All are welcome to come and join us.

Sun 20th November there will be a service at Thropton URC, 10:30 am.
(This day there will be no service at St Andrews URC, Glanton)

Sunday 27th November – Joint advent service at St Andrews, 6 p.m.

Sunday 18th Dec – Village Carol service, 2:30 p.m. at St Andrews URC

Hansel And Gretel

This is a new telling of an old tale. Though it's as old as the hills, the story of Hansel and Gretel comes up shiny and new for our consumerist times. Hansel and Gretel are starving, living in a house where there's nothing to eat. However, they soon find themselves living in a house where everything is to eat (including the house itself!) but they themselves are the main thing on the menu. Come and see them fall out of the frying pan and then climb out of the fire. Gothic, funny, scary and exciting!



The NTC will be returning to Glanton with their interpretation of the classic fairytale on Tuesday 3rd January 2012. Keep this date free and look out for more details of ticket sales!

Christmas Quiz Answers

1) The Nightmare Before Christmas, 2) Pannetone, 3) Holiday Inn, 4) Balthasar, Melchior and Caspar, 5) George V, 6) The calendar, 7) Oklahoma, 8)Advocaat, 9) India, 10) Tchaikovsky, 11) H₂O, 12) Good King Wenceslas, 13) Only Fools and Horses, 14) Eleven, 15) a boogle, a gang or a confusion

1st Whittingham BP Scout Group

Scouting Achievements

1st Whittingham enjoyed a super start to the term, with a young team competing against scouts from Cumbria, Flodden and Middlesbrough in skills such as first aid, navigation, pioneering, lighting fires, cooking and identifying birds, trees and knots. Despite their age, they came second - a fantastic achievement. Well done Scott, Daniel, Gordon, George and Ross.

Scouting all over the World

A team of scouts are currently planning an expedition of a lifetime to Lesotho, Southern Africa to plant trees in the mountains which are suffering from deforestation, where the families struggle with the men migrating to South Africa for work (bringing back HIV), temperatures of -18° in winter, and journeys of five hours to find wood. To kick-start the fundraising, we were visited by Prince Seeiso (the King's brother, and High Commissioner of Lesotho). We planted a windbreak with him at Doddington, where the farm is suffering from soil erosion due to the wind (made very clear to us, while we were planting in strong winds and hail!). This tied in well with our tree planting project in Lesotho, where the area is suffering from soil erosion due to the deforestation. The Prince thoroughly enjoyed his short visit to Northumberland, and inspired us with his speech at a reception in the evening. We are holding a Christmas fundraiser on 17th December in the Northumberland Hall, Alnwick to raise money for the expedition. Please come and support us, and if you can help in baking cakes or mince pies for the event, we'd be most grateful. We need 500!

More scouting adventures

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award team, Elsa, Angus, Edward, Thomas and Peter, have just completed a 50km canoe expedition down the River Tweed over two days, from Kelso to the sea at Berwick. They prepared for the trip with a practice expedition on Kielder Water in the summer, and several canoe trips on the River Till. Congratulations scouts!

We're currently recruiting for more leaders (particularly for Beavers and Scouts) – why not call me and join the adventure?!

Group Scout Master: Ninette Gray

01665 574733

www.1stwhittingham.org.uk