

Glanton Parish Newsletter

Issue: 77

September/October 2012

Hello everyone and welcome to the September/October 2012 edition of the Glanton Parish Newsletter. If you missed the village show last month, be sure to read all about it in the Glanton Show report included in this issue. If you are planning on getting out and photographing some of the beautiful autumn scenery, Dave Dixon has plenty of helpful tips for you. Also, we aren't the only ones to have been affected by this terrible summer weather – Jack Daw explains the effect the unseasonable weather has had on our wildlife. Finally, I apologise for mentioning Christmas already, however, please note that the next deadline (19th October) is for the November/December Newsletter and is therefore the issue in which to publicise all the events which will be happening over the festive period!

Nicola Frater



Above: The ruins of the farm buildings at Blaewearie from the public bridleway which runs from Old Bewick

Deadlines:

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

- 19th October (Nov/Dec edition)
- 12th December (Jan/Feb edition)

Please Contact:

Email: nicola_frater@hotmail.co.uk

Report of Glanton Parish Council's meeting July 2012

The Parish Council met on 30th July and had a busy meeting. The Chairman reported that the County Council had built a small banked pathway on the footpath to Whittingham across the boggy patch caused by the spring, it seemed to be working well and he thanked the County for carrying out the work. The PC had also mowed some of the footpath, and access is now clear all the way to Whittingham.

As a result of new regulations in the Localism Act, a new code of conduct was needed, the draft proposed by NALC was approved and a copy has been added to the PC information section of the village website.

The Chairman reported that we now had Conservation Area consent to lop the trees by the flagpole.

The planning application to convert the old Red Lion Barn was discussed. The council agreed that in principle they supported the refurbishment of the building and conversion to a single residential house, but that some of the details of the plans were not acceptable.

The council approved the draft response to the County Council's Core Strategy consultation and the Chairman's draft covering letter, and agreed that these should be circulated to the County but also more widely among other Parish Councils and the press aiming to raise awareness of some the issues raised.

There are now volunteers looking after each of the various planters and flower beds in the village, and George Dodds agreed to co-ordinate between them to seek to have an agreed planting scheme and to aim to use more perennials where possible to save on recurring expenditure. The planter on the corner of Front Street and West Turnpike needs to be rebuilt before next summer.

Jon Radgick

Clocks Go Back

Despite it seeming like we haven't had a summer, it is time for a reminder that the clocks go back by one hour during the night between the 27th and 28th October. As autumn draws in, please remember to wear bright clothing and make sure dogs are clearly visible during dark early mornings and evenings.

Cheviot Valleys Flower Club



26th September 2012

Mrs Valerie Guest

“Autumn Odyssey”



This meeting 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!

Coffee and Lunch Breaks in Glanton Village Hall

Coffee Break

*Hot drink and a slice of cake
a donation is requested to cover costs
Second Wednesday of every month*

Lunch Club

*Homemade Soup, a selection of sandwiches
and a hot drink £3.00
Fourth Wednesday of the month*

These events are organised under the auspices of Bell View

The purpose of this partnership is to ensure that information about services for residents of rural communities are readily available in their local area. More than that, it is a great social event and you are sure of a warm welcome. Both are available to everyone from Glanton, Hedgeley, Powburn and Whittingham.

From October, a mini bus will be available for transport to and from both of these events. A donation of £2.00 towards cost will be appreciated. If you already come along why not bring a friend? If you want more details or want to arrange a lift ring Mike Paice on 578229 or Jane Field from Bell View on 01668 219220

Jack Daw's Nature Notes

It has been a strange summer. Cold and wet has meant the breeding season for many species has been poor. A number of species have prolonged their breeding including blackbirds, grey partridge and yellowhammers. As I write there are still male yellowhammers singing in the hedges and patches of gorse around the parish.

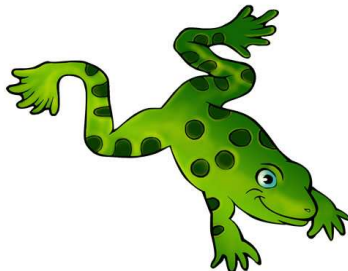
One of the highlights of the summer was the occurrence of a hobby on a number of dates. This is a small long-winged falcon that migrates from Africa for the summer months. It is a rare breeder in Northumberland and the occurrence would suggest that a pair might have bred in the locality. It feeds on a wide range of prey including large flying insects (e.g. dragonflies), swifts and martins. On both occasions the bird was seen in the late evening hunting for the latter prey. At this time of year the bird has moved off to warmer climes and will spend the winter in Zambia and Mozambique.

The wet summer has seen an increase in slugs and snails. This in turn has meant that there have been more large frogs and toads in the parish. Indeed, on one warm August evening up to nine large frogs were counted in a garden pond. What was even more amazing was that there was a short chorus of croaking as night fell. I was under the impression that frogs croaked during the breeding season and not at other times of year.

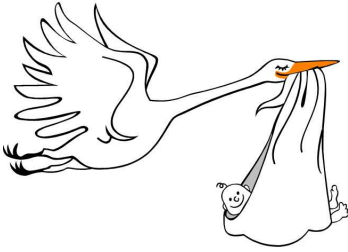
With autumn approaching a number of trees appear to have started to turn already. A number of the wild cherries have lost their leaves completely. Hopefully this is purely as a result of the season and they will be back to their resplendent best next year.

Hopefully, there will be an Indian summer for us and the parish's wildlife to enjoy.

Jack Daw



New Arrival



Congratulations to Iain and Sally Hedley on the birth of

Catherine Isabelle Marguerite Hedley

born 21st June 2012 at Wansbeck Hospital

Glanton Bowls Club

The Bowls season is starting again and Glanton Bowls Club night is taking place in the Village Hall at 7:00pm on Thursday 6th September.

Now's your chance to go along and see what it's all about! The club is always looking for new members and you'll be guaranteed a friendly welcome.



Whittingham Book Sale

It seems a long time since the excitement of May and the "Dippie Dixon" raffle. There have been many and varied events in the area since then, but the July Book Sale "got lost". We apologise if you were looking for it!

If you spent the long wet or long hot (according to holiday venue) days reading, you'll have plenty of books to pass on and we'll be pleased to receive or willing to collect them. That means, come September, you'll be in need of some enthralling reads and new treasures to dip into and we shall be able and delighted to provide them.

The date to remember is Saturday, 15th September from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon, in the Whittingham Memorial Hall. The raffle will offer a variety of "treats" to accompany or assist your reading pleasure.

The Booksale Team (from the Whittingham Parish Churches and Friends) is looking forward to welcoming YOU, whether familiar faces or new. For further information please ring Beryl at 01665 574385.

Looking Through a Lens by Dave Dixon

The other day somebody asked me "what can I do to get better photographs?"

I could see what he was getting at. Sometimes you see a photograph in a magazine or on a website and it just has something which makes you think "that's a good photograph". Other times you might look at a picture and there's nothing particularly special about it, which leaves you wondering why the photographer bothered to take it in the first place.

In the case of the conversation I was having, it was clear that he felt that the pictures he was taking fell into the second category more often than the first.

What makes a photograph "good" or otherwise can be a bit subjective. However, I thought I'd use the column this time around to offer a few general bits of advice.

Around here, we're blessed with some fantastic scenery, and I know a lot of landscape photographers who travel from far and wide to come and take pictures around Northumberland. I can't say I blame them, but I'm happy that I don't need to travel so far.

When presented with a great swath of scenery like we have around here, it's easy to fall into the trap of just pointing the camera at it and clicking the shutter release button. Even though the scene itself may be lovely to look at, with a few considerations about how you compose and frame the view, you really can bring out the best that a scene has to offer.

The first thing worth mentioning is the so-called "Rule of Thirds". Taking a landscape view as an example, instead of placing the horizon centrally, think about biasing the composition so that it's 2/3 land and 1/3 sky (or, conversely, 1/3 land and 2/3 sky - especially if the clouds look particularly interesting or dramatic). Similarly, think about placing any main subject of interest off-centre, on a third along the horizontal.

That said, this isn't a rule which needs to be followed slavishly, and there are times when breaking the rule can produce more effective results than following it. A good example of this could be where you have a large body of calm water with a mirror-like reflection of the land. That's an ideal candidate for a centrally-placed horizon.

When composing a picture, think about how the viewer's eye will move around the picture space. For something like portraiture, there may be single dominant feature within the frame, but for other subjects you may want to have elements within the frame which guide the eye. Lead-in lines are a useful compositional device - is there something like a path or a wall within the picture that you can place towards the front

and which the viewer's eye will naturally follow and be drawn into the picture?

Having pulled the viewer in, think about where their eye may be drawn to next. A huge open landscape with no single dominant feature can leave the viewer roaming around looking for somewhere for their eye to settle on. Too many strong features can also be a problem though, as the viewer's eye flits around trying to decide which one demands their attention.

We use the terms "landscape" and "portrait" to describe the orientation of a picture. When the longer side of a picture is the horizontal then it's said to be landscape format, and when the vertical side of the picture is the longer then it's portrait format. However, there's nothing that says that landscape photographs have to be taken exclusively in landscape format - sometimes rotating the camera through 90 degrees and shooting in portrait format suits the scene better.

You can take that idea further and consider other ways of cropping the view or framing an image. How about a square crop? Or a very wide panoramic view? These are best achieved by capturing the image in camera, and then digitally cropping on the computer if you work digitally, or just cutting the final print.

As I have said many times before in these columns, light can make or break a photograph. If the lighting is too harsh, or dull and flat, then the picture simply won't look as attractive as the same view with a more flattering light. Think about the time of day, the direction of the light, cloud conditions, etc. Is what you're about to photograph really being shown at its best, or might it be wise to come back at another time when the lighting conditions are more conducive to a good photograph?



Top Tip

If you use a digital camera, then your pictures are effectively free – there's no film to worry about, so take plenty of pictures and experiment. Don't be too snap-happy though – think about what you're doing, and ask yourself what "rules" or techniques you're trying to apply, and why. Good luck!

Low Tide, Dunstanburgh Castle

© Dave Dixon LRPS

Village Website

We have not yet found a new editor to replace Tony Meikle in looking after the website, which we feel is a very valuable and important aspect of the village.

Tony has suggested that the job could be split into two parts, one the job of writing and commissioning the articles, photos, recipes etc which go to make up the content of the site, and one to do the technical bit of actually putting that material into the right format and actually putting it onto the site.

If a volunteer could be found for the editorial part of the job, Tony would consider keeping on the technical role himself. This seems a good solution because few people in the village have the technical skills needed.

If the idea of being an Editor appeals, then please have a word with Jon Radgick or Tony Meikle in the first instance. This could be your chance to make your mark in the life of the village.

WI Recipe

White chocolate and macadamia brownies

125g unsalted butter
250g white chocolate
4 large eggs
350g caster sugar

300g plain flour
250g macadamia nut
2 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp salt



- Preheat the oven to 170°C or gas mark 3.
- Melt the butter and chocolate together.
- Beat the eggs with the salt.
- Add vanilla extract and sugar, beating continually until thick and creamy.
- Beat in the slightly cooled chocolate mixture.
- Gently fold in the flour and nuts.
- Pour into a greased tin and cook for 35 minutes or until set on the top and slightly gooey in the middle.
- Leave for 3-5 minutes before cutting into squares.

Queen's Head Leek Club

The Queen's Head Leek Club's annual show will be held in the Glanton Memorial Hall on Saturday 15th September 2012.



Set up between 12 midday and 1pm

Judging in the afternoon

Open to the public between 5pm and 7pm

Presentation of prizes at 7pm

News From The Theatre Royal

The Autumn12/Spring13 brochure is packed full of fantastic shows and there's another one to add! Harry Hill's new show – Sausage Time has just gone on sale. There are only 2 performances - Friday 15th and Saturday 16th March. Tickets are bound to fly out so book yours now! Over 16's only for this show.

Other highlights include:

Oliver! – The greatest production of Oliver! you will ever see and it's here from 12 Sept – 3 Nov. Brian Conley stars as Fagin. If there are 10+ of you then contact me for great discounts.

One Man, Two Guvnors – the National Theatre's smash-hit comedy starring Rufus Hound [Celebrity Juice, The Wedding Video] in the lead role. The Daily Mail said '*the funniest show in the western world*'. 6-10 Nov.

Sing-a-Long-a Grease – the perfect groups' night out! The sing along screening of the classic film with a vocal warm up, hand jive lessons and a free goody bag!
One night only - Sun 11 Nov.

Tel: 01434 684061. Email: pauline.wallis@theatreroyal.co.uk

Pauline Wallis



St Andrews United Reformed Church, Glanton

I write to you looking out of my study window at a very grey and overcast scene. It is the middle of July and I've never known this much rain at this time of year. It is true that in my childhood I don't remember it raining during the summer holidays, though I bet it did it's just that we always look at those formative years with rose tinted specs. But this year it doesn't seem that it's going to do anything else but rain for the children, which will be a nightmare for all those folk taking care of them.

But into all this greyness I'd like to offer you a ray of sunshine and, hopefully as you read this, all of our dreams of a glorious August and September have come true with this beautiful county of ours bathed in warm gentle rays of the summer sun that we wish we'd seen back in June!

For all of us, unless you're a person with a really sunny disposition, times of greyness come to us during our lives. It might be the loss of a loved one, it might be the struggle of trying to make ends meet, it might be having a difficult time at work, school or college. These times come, and whilst we're in the middle of them there might well seem that there is no light at the end of the tunnel, just more darkness. And it might take a bit of help from a counsellor, a therapist or a doctor to begin to turn things around.

But the greyness will pass, the clouds will lift, the rain will stop (honest!) and I know this because the God I believe in is a God whose desire is for all things to be made new. The God I believe in is a God of resurrection. And whilst we might feel distant from God during the greyness, hold onto the truth that God will never leave us or forsake us. That's the promise that he makes to us as we believe and trust in him. And today my prayer is, "please make the rain stop!"

God Bless, Edward

For service times please see notice board

All are welcome to come and join us.

If you'd like us to pray for you then please email me or give me a ring

☎: 01670 783452

✉: ed.butlin@btinternet.com

Glanton Show

Even the excitement of the Olympics couldn't keep scores of people from turning out for the 89th Glanton Show and what a great day it was! The re-incarnated Glanton Hill race got us off to a good start with over 30 participants tearing off over our wonderful local scenery, and all arrived back safely including local hero Cameron Harrison who won a shield awarded by Artie Hunter for first local runner. There were a good number of entries in the show tent, which by the end of judging was heavy with the scent of sweet peas and baking, a great tribute to the hard work of local gardeners and cooks, not to mention crafters, stick dressers and artistic types.

Outside, the dog agility display was much enjoyed, not least by the dogs themselves who clearly loved it, and the gang of youngsters who joined in the 'have a go' session. Other entertainment was provided by the West Percy Hounds, and music by Steel Quake kept toes tapping throughout the day. There were various trade and exhibition stands full of interest, a display of classic cars to drool over, some alpacas to make a fuss of, the dog show had a record entry, and to top it all the usual mayhem of the terrier racing! We had an extra marquee for spectators to shelter in (fortunately the rain held off) plus chairs and tables, courtesy of a grant from the Community Foundation's Three Valleys Fund, for which we're very grateful.

The sheep dog trial held on the Hemmel House field and so unfortunately not visible from the showground had a massive entry of about 60 dogs and could not finish until nearly 6pm!

After such a long wet spell it was a great relief that the days before the show were relatively dry, enabling us to hold the show as is traditional on the Guiry's field (thank you so much, John, Pat & Marion!). Artie Hunter kindly allows us to hold the pony sports on his field so many thanks to Artie too.

After the various cups and prizes were awarded by the show President Mrs Collingwood-Cameron and all the raffle prizes drawn, the Hundred Club draw (prize £100) was won by Pat Guiry, a very popular result it was generally agreed.

Next year will be the 90th show and plans are already afoot to make it even more special than usual. There's only one way to enjoy the day even more than just by being there, and that's to be part of putting it all together! There are plenty of 'bite sized' jobs which anyone can help with, so it's not onerous, and the committee are a friendly bunch (honest!). If you're interested in joining us, contact show chairman Andy on 578 024, Secretary Liz on 574 992, or Claire on 578 574.

Sandra Natrass

1st Whittingham BP Scout Group

We've finally reached our target to take 17 scouts and leaders to Lesotho this summer. It was a mammoth task, but thanks to your support, the hard work of the scouts (bag-packing, charity shop, hiking 20km) and the support of many local businesses/funders, including the Northumberland Upland Local Action Group, we've got there. We will say farewell to everyone at the Whittingham Show, and fly to Cape Town on 19th August! We'll be holding an African Evening on 11th October to present our expedition. Everyone is welcome to come along and find out about the scouts' hard work and adventures.

The second half of the summer term was challenging due to the rain, but we had an exciting time nevertheless. The scouts learnt dry stone walling skills with the Dry Stone Walling Association. They trained at the practice walls at Ingram, and then rebuilt a wall on Yetlington Farm!

The cubs and scouts had a super evening rock climbing with their climbing instructor, Clive. Their skills improve each time we head to the crags, and we're developing some very talented climbers.

The Beavers had a term exploring the elements, finishing the term with some amazing air experiments.

The Group started the half-term by welcoming the Olympic Torch, and building a bamboo gateway in Alnwick. We finished the term with a beach clean-up at Low Newton before the royal visit, challenges and BBQ.

If you'd like to join our adventures next term, contact:

Group Scout Master: Ninette Gray

01665 574733

www.1stwhittingham.org.uk

