

Glanton Parish Newsletter

April 2010

Issue 62

Editorial

Welcome to the spring edition of the Parish newsletter. There are a couple of important dates for your diary in May, the annual village meeting on 24th and the village clean sweep on 25th. Details of both are inside.

Now, a plea for an editor for the June edition. Due to workload and travel commitments, I won't be able to edit this and wondered whether someone could volunteer to be our Guest Editor for the summer edition? - Help will be offered and a fresh eye and new ideas are always a good thing! Please could you contact me if you would be willing to help.

Many thanks to all our contributors and distributors for their help with this edition and happy gardening!

Lynne Livsey

What's On ? — Some Highlights

22nd April (6pm) 1st Whittingham Scout Group, AGM,
Whittingham Memorial Institute

8th May (10:30am) Whittingham Parish Churches, Grand Book Sale, Whittingham Memorial Institute

12th May (7:30pm) Aln & Breamish Local History Society, Whittingham Memorial Institute

24th May (7:30pm) Glanton Parish Council Village Meeting, Memorial Hall

25th May Glanton Clean Sweep

Newsletter Deadlines for 2010

5th June

31st July

2nd October

4th December

Please make a note in your diaries

Please contact:

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Glanton, NE66 4AS



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We are approaching the end of the Parish Council year, culminating in our Village meeting on **Monday the 24th May at 7:30pm**. It has been a good year with councillors working hard to ensure that step-by-step we are moving forward and seeing some improvement in our village and parish.

One of the best things to emerge in the last 12 months has been our wonderful new village web-site **www.glantononline.net**. It's a fantastic resource and I would encourage everyone to have a look, use the message board and advertise your event or club. It is very much a community web-site. I would like to thank Tony Meikle for all his work and enthusiasm with this project and making it all happen.

A number of residents have attended our meetings this year, all with questions and queries which the council has discussed and considered. It's particularly important to see as many people as possible at these meetings, if only to remind ourselves why we commit to the role of Parish Councillor. On that note I would like to thank all the councillors for their hard work and commitment over the last 12 months on your behalf.

Reading Jack Daw's article for this month, it is clear that spring is finally here and so are the lambs. It is a particularly busy time for the farmers and their work at lambing time is often the culmination of a whole year's work. Please respect their business and **keep dogs on leads and gates firmly closed behind you, thank you.**

The Village Clean Sweep is upon us again and in this issue, the Rev Edward Butlin gives us all some guidance on spring cleaning. The date is **Tuesday 25th May**, as usual, clippings and sweepings will be collected at the kerb-side. If you are at work until late then why not give your patch a clean the weekend before. Clean sweep is a Glanton tradition and enables the village to look spic and span as summer approaches.



We managed to get the roads sorted out just before the snow came this winter. The Highways Authority did a great job and just in the nick of time given money shortages and higher priority routes. **Do we have enough grit bins?** It's easy to put this last winter far behind us, but we should be looking ahead. Why not speak to one of the councillors and let them know where you think additional bins might be sited.

The Parish Plan is a great piece of work and should be the vehicle for change in the Parish. It does however require a lot of time and effort from those involved. Next year, the council hopes to focus on taking forward many more projects with an aim of improving what we've already achieved. You can be a part of this, just speak to one of your councillors for ways in which you can help.

Did anyone look closely at their **Council Tax bills** when they popped through your letter boxes? If you did, then you will have seen a reduction in what you pay to the Parish Council precept. Last year we set a robust budget for council activities. Of course, we all know the benefits of careful accounting, but it really has paid off and has enabled us to make a reduction to what we require and what you pay.

Finally, I want to let you know that this will be my final update as Chair of the Parish Council, I will be standing down at the next meeting. I would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and help, in particular the Parish Clerk, Linda Lazenby who has prompted and supported me over the last two years as Chair. I would like to wish the next incumbent well and hope he or she gets as much out of the role as I have, thank you.

Chris Livsey
Chair
Glanton Parish Council
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The lambs are appearing quickly and the grass is getting greener – spring is on its way!

Compared to the last few years, spring appears to be late as there are very few flowers showing, with the exception of snowdrops and aconites. Over the next few weeks, the green leaves of dog's mercury will start to unfurl and the rosettes of primroses and bluebells will peak through the leaf litter. The first of the flowering primroses on south facing banks will be visited by an assortment of characters such as the 'queen' bumblebee that has recently emerged, the strange looking bee-fly with its long proboscis and possibly an adult peacock butterfly that has hibernated over-winter in a suitable cool and dry shed.

In the open fields, lapwings and curlews have started to arrive from their winter quarters. Pairs of lapwings will seek out areas of cultivated ground or areas of rushy pasture. The display of the male lapwing can be a fantastic array of swoops and tumbles accompanied by the sound of the wind passing over their wings and their ringing pee-wit calls. The first pairs of lapwing have already started to make scrapes for their nests and the first eggs may be laid in the next couple of weeks if the weather stays fair. Pairs of curlew have only just arrived and the bubbling displays of the males are only now starting to be heard.

In ponds and wetlands, there is a cacophony of noise and activity as our native amphibians start to spawn. Frogs are generally the first to spawn and large clumps of 'jellied' eggs are now visible in ponds and even the smallest puddles. It is only in the last week to ten days that toads and newts have started to appear from winter hibernation.



Female toads lay long strings of eggs around submerged vegetation whereas newts will lay between 200 and 300 eggs individually on leaves of aquatic and marginal vegetation.

Jack Daw



Most of you will know Connie Spoor from Front Street, who is currently studying at Oxford University. What you may not know is that Connie has won a sporting “Blue” having competed in the Oxford-Cambridge ladies boat race, and guess whatshe won !



The women's boat race is a 2 km side-by-side race on the River Thames at Henley between crews from Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Connie was in the number 2-seat of the Oxford Blue Boat. They beat Cambridge by four lengths (15 seconds) with a time of 5min 56sec, despite being 10kg lighter on average per athlete.

Connie started rowing about 18 months ago, when she first went to Oxford, and 2010 was her first year trialling with the University squad. Connie said later “ it was an honour to be in the first boat - with numerous returning Blues and athletes with international experience. I am now running the development Squad which helps to train next year's triallists, and I'm also running to be President of the Boat Club”.

What an amazing achievement! I'm sure that everyone in Glanton would like to congratulate Connie and wish her all the best with her sporting and academic life in Oxford.

The Editor



St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Our Spring Coffee Morning was well attended by friends and members and a huge £334 was raised for Church funds.

Thanks to everyone who came and gave.

Advance Notice

During the last week in July, St Bartholomew's, St. Mary's and St Andrews are going to rent the Charity Shop on Wooler High Street. We will be selling bric-a-brac, clothing, books and small items of furniture. We are looking for items to sell, so if you are spring cleaning or having a clear out – please keep us in mind.

All proceeds, after paying the rent, will be shared between the three Churches.



Aln and Breamish Local History Society

Date of Next Meeting

12th May 2010

*Whittingham Memorial
Institute*

7.30 pm

Bob Harrison: Bluebells and Serried Ranks: a History of Forestry in England

Contact Bridget Winstanley

Telephone: 01665 574 353

Website link:

www.alnandbreamishlhs.org.uk

Cheviot Valleys Flower Club Meetings

Whittingham Memorial Hall 7.30pm

28th April

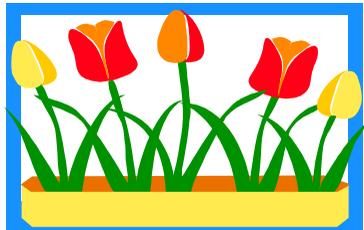
Mrs Elizabeth Foster
'Flowers from the musicals'

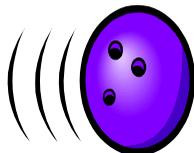
26th May

Mrs Jean McClure
'Metalliferous'

Visitors welcome
£3 to pay on the door

Contact: Pat Hall 01665 574 017





Glanton WI

We are the Champions – Indoor Bowls. 25 teams entered the Northumberland County bowls competition held in Alnwick and our team- Jean Foggon, Jan St Ruth , Mary Easton and Jean Givens were the victors. **Congratulations to them all.**

Our speaker at the March meeting Trevor Waddleton from Rothbury gave us an interesting and informative talk – Why make a Will ! Only about 40% of people in England have made a Will and though most of our members have done so, he gave good advice on keeping it updated and amended to meet changing circumstances. We all found his talk most helpful.



Whittingham Parish Churches

**Grand Book Sale in the Whittingham Memorial Hall on
Saturday 8th May, 10.30 a.m. to Noon**

Entrance Free. Fair Trade Tea or Coffee, 50p .
Books to suit all ages and most tastes.

Everybody is welcome to browse, buy or donate books.

Enquiries to Beryl Parr on 574385



St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Glanton

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

St Bartholomew's Church of England, Whittingham

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

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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



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

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

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

Glanton Show Committee

- Glanton Show Committee are keen to recruit new Committee members. We also need help in the weeks running up to the Show with admin/entries etc. It would be an ideal chance for anyone new in the village to become involved, however everyone is welcome!

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

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



Neighbourhood Police Volunteers wanted!

Neighbourhood Police Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and have completed their compulsory education. There is no upper age limit for volunteers. So if you're able to perform the responsibilities of the role then you're eligible to apply.

You will receive full training to make sure you can effectively carry out your role. We'll also support you in building up an accredited portfolio of achievements, which will be useful as a record of your volunteering, especially if you want to include it on your CV.

As a volunteer you'll be asked to wear your own smart clothes rather than a uniform. You will have an ID badge and for particular duties will be provided with high visibility clothing.

We really appreciate how valuable your time is, so we're very flexible about when you work. Volunteers are asked to donate a minimum of four hours each week. You can work on any day between the hours of 9am – 8pm, and of course if you've more time to spare you can work more than four hours.

To find out more about becoming a Neighbourhood Police Volunteer

**Please call us on 03456 043 043 extension 69299,
Monday - Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm or find more
information on the Alnwick pages of our website
at www.northumbria.police.uk**

Rhubarb
A Spring time recipe
“Rhubarb and Crunchy Topping”

It's Rhubarb time. Rhubarb is probably one of the most ill-treated crops in the garden – it will grow in out-of-the-way corners and in poor soils. However, it is a very useful fruit at this time of year when not much else is available. Instead of the usual tarts and crumble try this simple way to enjoy it !

For the Fruit

Gently cook 1lb Rhubarb with 2 tablespoons of either Strawberry, Raspberry jam or Redcurrant jelly. Also add 1 tablespoon of syrup and the rind and juice of an orange.

For the Crunchy topping

Melt 1.1/2oz of butter in a pan then stir in 2oz brown sugar and 4 oz porridge oats. Spread onto a tray and toast in a low oven for 5 minutes, then stir the crumbs with a fork and repeat this twice more. You can use this on any fruit, they will keep well in an air-tight jar, but try it on the rhubarb for a spring-time taste sensation.





Care in the Community – How is it for you

You will be aware that we live in a world of constant change, whether brought about by economic pressures, both local and National, or just a different way of doing things. One area of substantial change is care in the community, how our friends and neighbours are cared for through difficult times in their lives.

The Government has brought in a new way of paying for care, moving away from centrally negotiated and delivered support to a more personal budget-type support. This is still fairly new and still developing but we feel that it might fundamentally change how care in the community is delivered.

We first identified this in our Parish Plan and have since worked with our neighbouring parishes of Whittingham and Powburn to make sure we monitor the changes and try and address any shortfall in the provision of care in our communities.

Recently we have teamed up with Bell View in Belford to try and establish what our care needs are and what is the current and proposed provision for the future.

This is where we need your help.

Whether you are receiving care; being an unpaid carer; a paid care worker; have views on the current service delivery; have views on what should be on offer; want to volunteer in some way to help – **we want to hear your views.**

We are proposing to hold a coffee morning and to send out questionnaires to people who can help us identify our villages' care needs and what is currently on offer. We will not be able to solve every problem now but we want to make sure the “authorities” or “service deliverers” know what our needs are and where there are holes in provision.

If you want to be involved please drop off your contact details with Norman Dunn, 5 Front Street or Lynne Livsey, Red Lion Cottages, we will be in touch May/June.

Help us to help.

Looking Through A Lens

Dave Dixon

In this digital age, it's tempting to think of monochrome photography as a by-gone art, but there's still very much a place in photography for monochrome work. Indeed, there are some subjects where shooting in monochrome gives better results than colour.

Monochrome photography is about lines and shapes. It's about textures and contrasts. It's about highlights and shadows.

Objects which you might think mundane can sometimes prove effective subjects for monochrome photography. Take a short walk around Glanton and you'll find plenty of examples; a chain wrapped around a gatepost, a barb on a barbed wire fence, roof tiles caught with a side light which enhances the shape and shadows, a simple weathered wooden door isolated in stone-work...there's a wealth of potential subject matter.

When looking around you, it's easy to focus on colour - your eye is naturally drawn to bright colours. For example, many a potentially great landscape shot has been ruined by a bright red car in the background, or a someone wearing brightly-coloured clothing walking through the frame. Monochrome, however, is a great leveller in this regard. What stands out most in a monochrome image is likely to be a strong shape or something powerfully located within the picture space.

If you're used to always shooting in colour, then it can be a very rewarding experience to try your hand at monochrome work. You may be surprised at how much impact you can achieve in an image devoid of colour - the trick is to find a subject which is powerful not because of its colours but because of its shape/form. Obviously, if you're out shooting a sunrise or a sunset the you'd stick to colour, but a daytime landscape can work well in monochrome as well as in colour.

You've probably noticed that I'm talking about "monochrome" here, rather than "black and white". That's intentional, as monochrome photography doesn't have to be just black, white and shades of grey. An image with a uniform tint applied is still classed as monochrome, as it uses only one colour.

Adding a tint to a monochrome image can be a useful way of enhancing the mood. For example, adding a sepia tint to a black & white image to give a more old fashioned feel, or using a blue tint to convey a feeling of coldness.

Top Tip

If you're working digitally, then your camera might let you capture an image as monochrome at the time that you take the picture. Whilst that's good way to get a quick monochrome image, it's better to capture the image in colour, and then to use image editing software on your computer to convert this colour image to monochrome.

Ideally, you should shoot to RAW files (if your camera supports this format) rather than JPG, as there are more sophisticated tools at your disposal for converting this format.





St Andrews United Reformed Church, Glanton

Spring must be coming! We'd never had a car with a temperature display on the dashboard until this last year, and now many of the "*pass the time of day*" conversations will include some comment about how warm it has been, or cold in the case of the last few months. But for the last few days my car thermometer has been reading over 5 degrees centigrade, and this afternoon I've even ventured outside with out a coat!

So spring must be on its way, the sun is getting warmer, the daffodils are starting to peek through the soil and the birds are beginning to build their nests. And not only is spring famed for these great signs of new life, but one other activity that many of us engage in is the process of spring cleaning. It is that opportunity to get into those corners which you just normally skate over, it is the chance to deep clean, as they say in the trade. And as you begin to clear up you actually begin to see the reality of the place in which you've been living.

I recently bought a new car, the Clio was on its way out, and the first time I sat in the new car I saw all the little marks and scratches on the interior trim. Since then I've sat in that car for quite a few hours and I've stopped noticing those things, and I think that the same is true of our homes. We live in the space, we enjoy the space, but we ignore the muck.

For the Christian Church Spring, or more accurately Lent, is not only a time to deep clean the church, but its also a time to take a look at ourselves too and consider how mucky we are, its an opportunity to look at our lives and consider what things we'd like to change about ourselves that we might grow into being the people God has always intended us to be. So what might this muck be made up of? It might be made up of things we know we should or shouldn't have done, it might be the hurt we've caused through ill chosen words or broken promises, it might be the fact that we've refused to forgive someone who's hurt us. It might be things that on an ordinary day we forget about but in the quiet moments they resurface.

The muck is there in all of our lives but as Christians we believe that there is one event where the ultimate cleaning took place and that was at the cross on Good Friday. You see forgiveness comes at a price and Jesus paid that ultimate price as he died upon the cross. As Christians we believe that His death opens the way for God to forgive us and that through that forgiveness our relationship with him might be renewed.

And I believe that the same is true on a personal level too, as we go about the job of spring cleaning our lives, as we forgive ourselves and seek the forgiveness of those whom we've hurt then our love for ourselves will be restored, and our relationships with others will be renewed. Its not an easy task, just as tidying up at home isn't for me, but its worth the effort.

*God Bless
Edward*

**Services are held each Sunday at 6 p.m.
unless otherwise stated on the Church notice board**



Another adventurous term, with all sections (including the Beavers) having fun on the new bouldering wall in Alnwick. A fantastic resource for us, right on our doorstep! We've played great games there including the 'get off the ground onto the wall' version of musical chairs, and a relay race climbing half way up the wall to put on hat, gloves and scarf and back so the next member of the team can take them off again (half way up the wall!). The Seniors having been excelling with incredible feats on the overhangs and lead climbing on full blown indoor walls, as they push their skills for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They're looking forward to getting out on the real rock over the summer!

The Seniors have survived their snow hole expedition in the Cairngorms, trekking through unenviable white-out conditions to find snow deep enough to dig into. After a 3 hour dig, they managed to roll out their mats and sleeping bags and cook up chicken casserole and chocolate pud, before collapsing for a night's sleep. The next morning was another test of low visibility navigation to the summit of Cairngorm, before getting back to civilisation on the busy ski runs. The Rover Scouts did better with the weather experiencing some of the best views and ice conditions for 20 years, just 2 weeks later.

The Scouts took us to Chicago with their outstanding performance of Buggy Malone, with wonderful solos and some serious words to learn. The not-so-serious splurge gun/custard pie fight in the finale had the audience rolling in the aisles. The show was supported by the Whittingham Players and Scout Leaders, who kept on appearing as reporters, and incompetent, slapstick policemen and performers.

Please join us at our AGM at 6pm on 22nd April at Whittingham Memorial Institute for a slide show, games and campfire. A great opportunity to see what scouting with 1st Whittingham is all about. Please also join us for our St George's Day Family Service and Scout Parade on 25th April at St Bartholomew's Church, Whittingham at 11am which will be followed by a picnic lunch and walk around the parish churches. (Whittingham - Edlingham - Bolton - Whittingham).

Group Scout Master: Ninette - 01665 574733

www.1stwhittingham.org.uk