

Glanton Parish Newsletter

Issue: 73

January/February 2012

Hello everyone and welcome to the first Glanton Parish Newsletter of 2012! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. November and December saw us escape the worst of any snow fall – certainly nothing like last year! However, we're not out of the woods yet and there is still plenty of time left in winter for another "Big Freeze". Fortunately, our village is prepared this year with our very own "Snow Squad". You may have seen the article in the Northumberland Gazette or read the flyers which have been distributed around the village.

Be sure to keep those contact numbers safe and don't hesitate to call them in your hour of need. At a glance, January and February are looking relatively quiet and will provide the perfect opportunity to recover from a hectic Christmas! If you feel you have slightly over-indulged on the mince pies and Christmas Pud, why not try one of the fitness classes available in the Memorial Hall?

Nicola Frater



Deadlines:

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

- 21st February (Mar/Apr edition)
- 18th April (May/Jun edition)

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Update from the Parish Council

At its November meeting, the Parish Council considered the following matters:

- The Council noted the progress in setting up the snow squad and agreed a budget of up to £250 to cover potential costs including insurance, high-vis vests, fuel costs and meeting costs. It was agreed to order a second grit bin for the other end of the village.
- It was thought that the bench seat might be put in front of the village shop instead of the existing picnic table, and the chairman agreed to speak to Mr Johnston about it.
- The level of the precept was discussed and it was decided to keep it at the current level of £1500 for next year, and a budget was agreed for the next financial year. The question of whether charitable donations should be made out of the precept was discussed, and it was agreed that these should not be built into the budget, but could be considered at the end of the year if the moneys earmarked for projects had not been spent.
- A budget was set for the replanting of the village flower tubs. George Dodds agreed to see to the replacement of soil in some of them.
- It was agreed to get estimates for a seat in the bus shelter and some form of improvement to the footpath to the south of the field by the bus stop where it is frequently very boggy.
- It was agreed that the chairman should discuss further with Northumberland County Council the suggestion that the Parish Council take over the clearing of the footpath towards Whittingham.
- The question of the Queen's Jubilee will be considered at the next meeting, if anyone has any suggestions as to how we might mark the occasion please let me or any other councillor have them. One idea put forward is to have an oak avenue along Playwell Road – what do you think would be good for the village?

Jon Radgick

Glanton Memorial Hall

AGM: This was held on Monday the 21st of November. Numbers were fairly low and it would be fantastic to see some new faces next year. Joe Easton was re-elected as chairman and Mike Paice once more took the role of Treasurer and Booking Secretary. The committee all agreed to continue to serve.

It was with great regret that the committee heard that Mary Easton was unable to continue to serve. As I write this, we have all just returned from the celebration of Mary's life and much was made of her great contribution to village life. The Hall committee would like to add to this praise. Mary's contribution to the Hall spanned very many years and her help will be greatly missed.

Monthly Coffee Breaks: From January these will be funded by the village so that Bellview can use the money for the hire fee towards some of their other work. The Coffee Mornings will continue in the same format. They will be held on the second Wednesday of each month but in 2012 a small donation towards costs will be requested. The Parish Council has agreed to meet any short fall in Hall hire fees.

We look forward to seeing you between 10am and midday on the 11th of January and at the same time on the 8th of February.

Bottle Bingo: The Hall would like to thank everyone who generously donated prizes to the Bottle Bingo. Events like this would not be successful without such contributions.

NTC: The NTC annual panto, Hansel and Gretel, will be held at the Hall at 6.30pm on Tuesday the 3rd of January. Tickets are available from the village shop or ring Mike on 578229. A lot of tickets have already been sold so get your ticket as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We will be restricting numbers to 120 to make it a pleasurable experience for all. This may well be the NTC's last visit so let's see them of in style.

Library: Since the inception of the Monthly Coffee Break we have been organising a book exchange event. This has proved extremely popular and we have already been given a large number of books with many more promised.

As these have only been available to borrow once a month and during the week, Jocelyn Taite organised a survey to see if these times should be expanded. The response from the Village has been very positive and in view of this, Jocelyn has agreed to take on the organisation of the Village Library. The Hall committee has agreed to fund the installation of shelving in the main Hall and it is hoped that the Parish Council may agree to underwrite any on-going costs.

The plan will be for the Hall to open for two hours either on Saturday or Sunday morning so that books can be borrowed and returned. Refreshments will be available to imbibe while making your decision. In addition to these services, it is proposed that tables will be available to use to sell items from, either for personal profit or for charitable purposes. The Hall will take a variable percentage of takings to help to affray cost and to assist with the long term financial stability of the Hall

Fitness: Just a short reminder that Ladies Keep fit takes place each Monday between 10am and 11.30am. On Wednesday, Pilates between 6pm and 7pm and Zumba takes place between 7.15pm and 8.15pm.

Mike Paice

Come to the races!

A date for your diary – on Friday February 24th there will be a race meeting in Glanton Village Hall, thrills & spills for all ages and the chance to place your bets and win prizes in several horse race heats! More details will follow, but make sure you put the date in your diary now – we will have a licensed bar, and a Fish & Chip van will be there so you can stoke up before the start of the racing. Even if you can't stay for the races, the van will be pleased to serve you, but we hope you can stay and support this event which is to raise funds for the 2012 Glanton Show – while you've got that diary out, make sure you have that date noted too, that's August 11th.
For more information, call 578222



Sandra Natrass

Looking Through A Lens

The problem with being a photographer at this time of year is that the weather is not always on your side.

A while ago I saw a presentation by a photographer who demonstrated that it is possible to get good photographs in pretty much any weather conditions. They showed a great portfolio of landscapes taken in conditions that would have had me thinking twice, but they had still managed to get some fairly stunning results.

I've tried taking photographs in less-than-ideal weather but my results generally fall short of what I saw in that presentation. Obviously, much more practice is needed, but when it's cold and wet, it's not always easy to motivate yourself to stand outside with a camera trying to capture landscape shots.

When the weather gets inclement, I often find myself falling back on a little ongoing project of mine, photographing the interiors of local churches, particularly the small village churches which are dotted around the county.

Northumberland has some lovely little churches. So often, they are deserted when I visit, and I can tinker away in peace and quiet without disturbing anyone. On occasions when I do meet people, they often express pleasure to see someone taking the time to document these buildings. Only once have I been made to feel a little unwelcome (name of the church withheld to protect the guilty) but this was offset by another time when somebody insisted that I wait while they went to get some keys so that I could see some bits of the church that are usually behind closed doors.

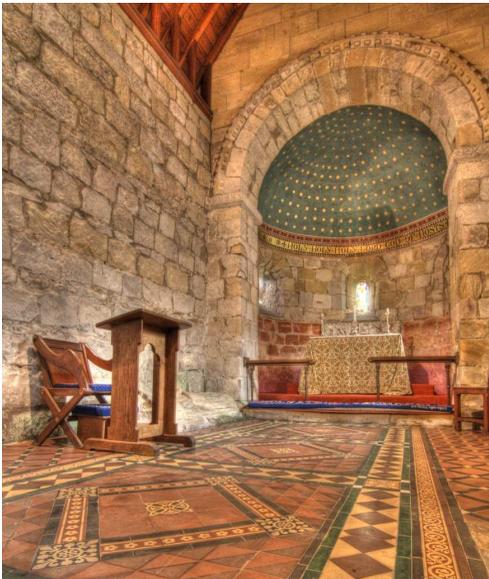
Indoor photography is a good option when the weather is wintry, as you can stay nice and dry. Warmth isn't always guaranteed in those small churches though. I'm there "out of hours" when any heating that might be used when services are held is well and truly switched off.

There are some classic church interior viewpoints for photographers, the most typical being a shot from the back of the church looking directly down the nave towards the altar. This can be particularly effective when taken with a wide angle lens, which can produce some very impressive perspective. I will inevitably take shots from that viewpoint, but I am always looking for other angles and views.

An oblique view, looking at a slight diagonal across the pews can be quite effective. Another approach which can yield some very interesting results is to get the camera down low and include some floor detail leading into the picture space. That latter view is another good opportunity to use a wide angle lens – if there is a tiled floor then the pattern of the tiles, combined with the exaggerated perspective of a wide angle lens really draws the eye into the picture.

Within a church, light levels are invariably too low to be able to get good results when just hand-holding the camera. Therefore a tripod is a must-have accessory for holding the camera steady during exposures which may have to be a number of seconds in order to capture enough light. Using flash is an option, but I much prefer to work with a tripod, as I find that it naturally slows me down and makes me consider the composition of each photograph more carefully.

Technically, church interiors pose an interesting challenge with exposure, as there is such a wide range of tones – from subtle shadow details, through to lighter areas in windows, etc. Working digitally, I often take a range of images from the same spot, with different exposure times – one best exposed for darker tones, one for mid-tones and another to capture the most detail in the highlights. This is



another reason why it's helpful to use a tripod, as there is no camera movement between shots. With a number of images at my disposal for one scene, I can then blend them together on the computer to get a composite view which covers a range of tones which the camera on its own simply couldn't capture within a single image.

Holy Trinity Church, Old Bewick
© Dave Dixon LRPS

Top Tip

If you feel like trying your hand at this sort of thing, remember that you're shooting a very static subject, so take your time to find original viewpoints and angles. It's easy to get stuck with "congregation-eye" viewpoints, but think about views back down the church from the front – there is often some lovely stained glass in the back wall, just waiting to be photographed.

(And if you see a donations box, stick some money in to give something back to the church by way of a thank-you).

Dave Dixon

Burns Night Supper

Saturday 28th January

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Whittingham Memorial Institute

To raise money for the Parish of Whittingham, Edlingham and Bolton Chapel

*Selkirk Grace
Address to a Haggis*

Cock-a-Leekie Soup
Haggis, Neeps & Champit Tatties
Raspberry Cranachan
(Vegetarian soup & haggis available if booked in advance)

*The Immortal Memory
Toast to the Lassies
Response
Poems*

Please let us know if you would like to do one of the speeches, or read any poems.

Tickets £10, BYO drinks, Raffle

For tickets, please call Clive & Ninette Gray on 574733. Limited numbers, call soon! The Supper becomes more popular each year, so book early to avoid disappointment!

ninette@alinsideassociates.co.uk



Book Sale

Organised by Whittingham Parish Churches and Friends.

The first sale of 2012 will be held on January 14th from 10.30am til midday in Whittingham Memorial Hall. There are plenty of interesting books to choose from with new stock arriving all the time.



There will be a SPECIAL NEW YEAR RAFFLE.

Fair Trade Tea or Coffee costs 50p with biscuits. Entry to the Sale is FREE.

If you have any unwanted books, CDs or DVDs, please ring Beryl Parr on 01665 574385 or bring them along on the day.

Happy New Year!

Queen's Head Pub



Quizzes and Bingo nights will take place during January and February!

Dates and times to be confirmed
Look out for details!

1st Whittingham BP Scout Group

COME JOIN US!

Are there any boys and girls out there who fancy joining in our fun and adventures? Beavers (5-8 years) meet on Thursdays at Whittingham Memorial Institute at 5pm, Cubs (8-11 years) at 6.30pm, and Scouts and Seniors (11-15, 15-18 years) at 8pm.

You can see our programme online at www.1stwhittingham.org.uk

We're also looking out for adults who would like to come and help with Beavers, Scouts or Seniors. If you'd like to do something new, and enjoy the outdoors, do give us a call and join our adventures!

Group Scout Master: Ninette Gray

Tel: 01665 574 733

Digital Switchover

September 12th 2012 is set to see the biggest change in the way we watch TV since it was first launched. Analogue signals will be switched off and an estimated 1.4 million households in the North East will go digital. It may seem like a long way off, but it is never too early to start preparing. Here are some facts courtesy of DigitalUK to help guide you through the switchover:

- **The switchover will happen in two stages:**

On September 12th, analogue BBC2 will be switched off and replaced with a new set of BBC services. On September 26th, all other analogue services will be switched off and the remaining digital services will start up, including High Definition (HD) services.

- **Virtually all TV sets can be converted:**

A digital box will allow you to watch digital TV even on black and white sets or sets without scart leads. A digital (Freeview) box costs around £25. If you want to buy a new TV with built in Freeview, look for the “Digital Tick” logo.

- **If you already have digital TV...**

...you are ready for the switchover! However, if you only have digital TV on your main TV set, you will need to consider converting your other TVs if you want to continue watching them after the switchover.

- **Videos and Analogue DVD players will still record...**

...but you can't watch one programme whilst recording another. Buying Freeview Plus will allow you to do this or pay to subscribe to services like Sky+, BT Vision or Virgin TiVo. Purchasing a digital TV recorder will also convert your TV set to digital if you ask for one with “twin tuners”

- **You are unlikely to need a new aerial:**

There is no such thing as a “digital aerial”. If your aerial is in good condition and you are getting a good signal now, you will probably be fine after the switchover and able to receive at least 15 new channels. To check the condition of your aerial, visit Teletext page 284 on any analogue channel.

- **Help is at hand:**

Visit www.digitaluk.co.uk or call 08456 50 50 50 for more information. Talk to staff in electronics stores such as Currys – many have been receiving extra training leading up to the switchover. The switchover help scheme is available to those who are over 75, entitled to certain disability allowances, have been in a care home for six months or more or are blind/partially sighted. Visit www.helpscheme.co.uk or call 0800 40 85 900 to find out more.

- **Beware of fraudsters and cold callers:**

Nobody from DigitalUK or Help Scheme will come to your house unless you have arranged an appointment. If you have arranged for work to be done, always ask for identification.

Jack Daw's Nature Column

Many birds roost together at this time of year for warmth and safety. These include starlings, rooks, jackdaws, carrion crows, pied wagtails and even wrens. The best time to track down bird roosts are from an hour before sunset, when you can see numerous birds all flying in the same direction towards their communal sites. One of the biggest gatherings I know is in the Powburn area. Jackdaws and rooks have already started to gather. Currently there are at least 1,000 Jackdaws and at least 2,000+ rooks. Last February, this roosting flock was at least 5,000 birds. The trees were covered with birds, in and around the village, after sunset. The scene was very reminiscent of a Hitchcock film. I have always wondered how far these birds have travelled. There is some indication of this in the mornings when the flock disperse to all points of the compass. Large numbers of Jackdaws swirl in excited flocks over Glanton as they move south in the mornings. A large proportion of these appear to be heading towards Rothbury. Do they go as far as Rothbury or even further afield?

The weather has turned wintery with flurries of snow, frosty mornings and chilling winds. Only a few weeks ago there were the last of the season's butterflies still on the wing and a few roadside plants were still in flower (e.g. hogweed, knapweed and creeping buttercup). But spring must be just around the corner as one or two spring plants are attempting to flower. The flowers of coltsfoot and snowdrops have been found in the parish recently. At the time of writing, there must be a crocus or daffodil in flower somewhere in our patch.

This is a good period to identify certain features of trees now that they are unobscured by leaves. Ash trees have a smooth, grey bark and the black leaf buds show clearly on the ends of their upswept branches. Look for the seeds - ash keys - beneath the tree and also in dark, sodden bundles on the branches. The ash tree has featured prominently in ancient beliefs. Before Christianity, Scandinavian peoples revered the ash as a sacred tree. Odin, the father of the Norse gods, created man from a piece of ash wood. Yggdrasil, 'the tree of the world', was a mighty ash tree which spanned heaven and hell in Norse mythology. In later times it was thought that if a sick person was passed through a split ash he could be cured. Good examples of ash trees, within the parish can be found on Playwell Lane and around Glanton Pyke.

I hope you have a prosperous 2012.

Jack Daw

WI Recipe of the Month

Hot Lemon Puddings

A quick and easy recipe for a delicious sponge. No need to heat up the oven – it's made in the microwave!

Ingredients

100g butter
100g self raising flour
Rind of 1 lemon, grated
100g caster sugar
150g lemon curd
2 eggs
75g sultanas
Cream, ice cream or custard to serve



Method

1. Mix the butter, sugar, flour and eggs together in a food processor or in a mixing bowl using an electric whisk until smooth.
2. Stir in the lemon rind and sultanas.
3. Place two tablespoons of lemon curd in the base of four microwave proof tea cups or large ramekins and then spoon the sponge mixture on top.
4. Loosely cover each cup with microwave film and cook on High power for 5 ½ minutes until firm and well risen.
5. Turn out onto serving plates and serve with custard, cream or ice cream.