

Glanton Parish Newsletter

Issue: 74

March/April 2012

Hello everyone and welcome to the March/April edition of the Glanton Parish Newsletter. The weather is warming up and it feels as though spring has begun to have sprung. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to spending more time out in their gardens and enjoying the countryside. As usual, thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter – there is certainly a lot going on over the next couple of months, so make sure you don't miss out!

In this issue...

- treat yourself to a night out at the theatre
- make the most of Northumberland with the resident's festival
- find out what the WI are up to
- help our honeybees

Nicola Frater



Deadlines:

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

- 18th April (May/June edition)
- 20th June (July/Aug edition)

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Update from the Parish Council

The Parish Council met at the end of January and discussed the following matters:

- It was agreed to have a bench seat installed in the bus stop and to reinstate the broken stone seat on Playwell Road. The spare wooden bench is to be placed in front of the shop, and the metal planter there will be repainted. A quote will be sought to repair the brick plinth around the planter.
- Marker posts had been erected marking the edge of the village green at its southern boundary.
- Jubilee celebrations were discussed, including planting some trees on Playwell Road (not an avenue), building a flower planter at the eastern entrance to the village, replacing the pole on Glanton Hill which blew down in the gales and fitting a new brass plaque. There will also be a village party. Joe Easton, Angus Collingwood-Cameron and John Lang agreed to start off the organising party but other members will be needed. Please contact one of those three if you would like to get involved.
- The format of the newsletter was discussed, along with the possibility of taking advertising, but it was decided to leave things as they are for the time being.
- It was agreed to commission a boardwalk to bridge the boggy part of the footpath through the tennis court field and to seek agreement with the county to pay half the cost.
- It was noted that Norman Dunn would like to retire so we will seek to recruit a new Parish Clerk. If anyone is interested in that post please contact Jon Radgick on 578222.

Jon Radgick

Queen's Head Pub

Be sure to keep a lookout for details of upcoming pub quizzes, bingo nights and Easter events!

The pub is also available for private parties, e.g. Christenings

Contact Dave or Jackie on 01665 578324 for more information

News From The Theatre Royal

Well panto is over for another year and what a panto it was! Sleeping Beauty did 90 shows over 8 weeks and was seen by over 80,000 people. Next year it's ***Aladdin*** and tickets are already flying out. If there are 10 or more of you, reserve your seats now for just £1 each deposit. It's never too early to book. Don't miss out!

The new season of shows is now on sale and there is some fantastic entertainment to choose from. Here is just a taste of what's on offer. See the current brochure for loads more shows. If you haven't got one give me a call and I'll send one to you.

- **The King's Speech** World premiere of the play that inspired the Oscar winning film. *12-17 March*
- **I Dreamed A Dream** World Premiere of The Susan Boyle Musical starring Elaine C. Smith and with a *special appearance by SUSAN BOYLE herself!* Don't miss this amazing opportunity. *23-31 Mar.*
- **Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker!** This classic returns celebrating its 20th anniversary. *15-19 May*
- **Avenue Q** Mischief, bad behaviour and political incorrectness. London's funniest show by far hits Newcastle. Suitable for age 12+. *22-26 May*
- **Steel Magnolias** if you enjoyed Calendar Girls – don't miss this! An all star cast including *Cherie Lunghi and Denise Welch.* *28 May- 2 June*

Pauline Wallace

Tel: 01434 684061 or email: pauline.wallis@theatreroyal.co.uk
Select your own seat and book online www.theatreroyal.co.uk

Lambing Time

The first signs of spring are beginning to show, and with that comes the arrival of several new lambs. Please do your bit to help: Keep dogs on leads, keep to footpaths and avoid startling ewes and new stock. Thank you



Date is set for Northumberland Residents Festival

The date has been set for the third annual Northumberland Residents' Festival which will take place on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March, 2012.

Over the festival weekend, local residents will be able to enjoy free or discounted entry to many of the top attractions across the county including The Alnwick Garden, Bamburgh Castle and Cragside.

Event organisers Northumberland County Council are hoping that residents will take the opportunity to experience the wonderful attractions Northumberland has to offer and put the date in their diaries now. The festival aims to give something back to people living in the county and promises some fantastic days out at a time when money is tight for so many.

Residents will need special vouchers to receive free or discounted entry to the attractions and these will be available from local libraries, council offices, tourist information centres and sports centres from mid-February onwards.

For further information and to find out which attractions are taking part in the festival you can also log on to <http://residentsfestival.northumberland.gov.uk> or ring 0845 600 6400



Diamond Jubilee Party

The Parish Council need **you!**

The plan is to host a party for residents of Glanton and beyond to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Initial planning has begun but more volunteers are needed.

Do you want to put your party planning skills to use or would you enjoy the social aspect of helping out on the night? If you would like to contribute or have any suggestions, please contact: Joe Easton, Angus Collingwood-Cameron or John Lang.

Looking Through A Lens

As I write this, I have recently turned the pages on my calendar from January to February, and in doing so had a surprising realization; January 2012 is the first month that I can remember where I haven't taken a single photograph.

I keep my digital photographs filed away carefully on my computer's hard drive, organized by year and month. But so far this year, I haven't had the opportunity to get out with my camera - pressures of work and other commitments have seemed to get in the way.

So, now that I finally have the opportunity to sit down at the computer (and once I've finished writing this piece for the magazine), I'm going to spend some time looking back through my old images. It's always fun to go out and take new photographs, but with digital photography it's easy to take so many pictures that some end up getting overlooked or forgotten about.

Now and again, it's nice to go through my back catalogue of images. Sometimes, it's purely an exercise in nostalgia, such as looking through old holiday photographs and recalling happy memories. Other times, it can be an exercise in getting a better version of an image.

I like to try and get a photograph as right as I can at the time of capture, but inevitably the image will go through some form of post-processing before I'm happy with it. Sometimes these edits are fairly subtle, such as a slight tweak to increase the contrast, or a slight crop to remove something which has got in the way at the edge of the image. Once done, the image goes into the "edited" folder on my computer and that's that.

However, over time I'm learning about new techniques not just for taking pictures, but also for editing them. Therefore, it's good to go back to old images with an updated set of editing skills, to see if I can get even more out of something which I'd previously considered to be "finished".

In the absence of any new photographs to tinker with, I'm now looking back through some photographs that I took one evening last summer, during a walk along the road between Glanton and Bolton. Following that trip, I reviewed the pictures on my computer and selected a few favourites which I did some edits on...and then left it at that.

On the evening in question, the sky had been quite striking – big heavy clouds which were just waiting to throw down some rain (I got back home just in time!). Looking at those photographs again, I'm now thinking that maybe I could have another go at editing them. That leaden sky has great potential for a monochrome conversion, and I'm sure that a bit extra work to really bring out the contrast – with some really

black blacks and white whites – will emphasise the drama of the scene.



Lane near Shawdon

© Dave Dixon LRPS

Top Tip

If your digital camera supports shooting to RAW format rather than JPG, then it's a good idea to use that. The RAW file is much more like a "digital negative" and contains much more information which can be used during post-processing.

Dave Dixon

Glanton Show Coffee Morning



Sunday 12th May 2012 from 10:30am
Glanton Memorial Hall

There will be:

Plants, tombola, cakes and a raffle!

All are welcome



St Andrews United Reformed Church, Glanton

I was out on my bike yesterday and enjoyed a wonderful ride through the beautiful countryside that surrounds us here in Northumberland. It was made even more special by the dazzlingly clear blue skies, the gentle warmth of the sun and only a light gentle breeze that neither hindered or helped me on my way.

As I travelled along the winding roads between Felton and Longframlington I was reminded of some words from a book that I'd read some time ago, probably a famous five or secret seven adventure, which talked of the last rays of the summer sun gently warming the earth. It seems a strange thing to say because the sun's heat doesn't get turned off as summer ends and winter begins, though at times it feels like it has been. Yet through the cool months of winter there are days that offer us a glimpse, allow us to feel the warmth that we'd once known in the sun, as was my experience yesterday.

In these glimpses there is hope of what is to come, that winter will end and spring will arrive with the first lambs frolicking in the fields, though beware the lambing storms! There are other indications too of new life as we see the snow drops pushing their way through the earth, and daffodils beginning to sprout, in fact it seems that all of nature is preparing to shrug off the coat of winter and burst forth into life.

With Christmas past, the New Year come, as Christians, we too are waiting with all of creation for the day when Christ will shrug off the coat of death and spring forth from the tomb on Easter Sunday and offering us hope. Not only of a summer to come, but of a world, of a universe that one day will be made new. As Jesus says in Revelation chapter 21 verse 5, "See, I am making all things new."

Edward Butlin

Services are held every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. except for the 4th March when it will be at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome to come and join us.

Concert by Andrew Lobb, local singer / song writer.
Saturday 10th March, 7:30 p.m. @ Felton United Reformed Church
Tickets £5 (inc supper) from *The Running Fox, Felton*
or Ed Butlin (01670 783452) or Charlotte Lobb (01670 783257)

WI Dates For Your Diary

All are welcome to attend the following events:

March 6th – Carol Wood: Beauty Therapy

April 3rd – Cath & Alan Clough: Best of Fettle

May 1st – ANNUAL MEETING

June 5th – David Banks: Rouges of Fleet Street

July 3rd – OUTING

August 7th – HOLIDAY

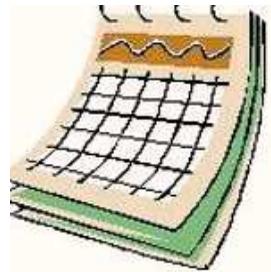
September 4th – Catherine Fawdry: Making Felt

October 2nd – Pat Tulip – Edible Gifts

November 6th – Cynthia Neptune: My Life in Magic

December 4th – MEMBER'S NIGHT

Jackie Stothard



No fouling

Kicking Up A Stink

ATTENTION ALL DOG OWNERS!

It is an offence not to clean up after your dog – both on and off the pavement. Certain parts of the village are becoming particularly unpleasant, especially the West Turnpike area which is being described by some Glanton residents as “a disgrace”. Those who are responsible – please try to have some consideration and respect for those who enjoy a dog dirt free walk and try to take some pride in the village where you live. A small amount of effort on your part can make the village much more pleasant for everyone else.

Thank you

Clocks Go Forward



The clocks will go forward by one hour on Sunday 25th March as British Summer Time begins for another year. The official time changes at 1.00 am, moving forward to 2.00 am across the UK.

Mad March Book Sale



10th March from 10:30am til noon in the Whittingham Memorial Hall

We have lots of great quality books covering all genres – from non-fiction to fiction and children’s books!

Entry is free and there will be refreshments and a raffle

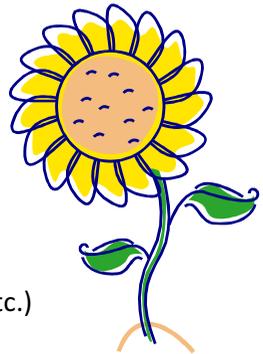
Call Beryl on 01665 574 385 if you have any queries

Whittingham Sunflower Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th September 2012, 10:30am at Whittingham Memorial Hall

There will be competitions for:

- Tallest sunflower
- Largest sunflower head
- Best sunflower photograph
- Best sunflower artwork
(Painting/drawing/collage)
- Best sunflower needlework
(Cross stitch, patchwork, knitting, embroidery, etc.)



There will be prizes for adults and children in each category so start growing and getting creative!

Each entry will cost £1.00

Contact Gayle on 01665 578 955 or Marian on 01665 574 380

Jack Daw's Nature Notes

January saw the demise of one of the oldest living things in the parish - the large ash tree at the top of Playwell Lane. The tree came tumbling down after a fierce force eleven gale from the North West. Standing, this ash was not too notable in size but the tree was approximately 250 years old. King George III was on the throne and it was fifty years before Charles Dickens was born when this tree was a sapling. The young whip saw a period of change in Glanton as there had been a collapse in grain prices and a number of landowners went bankrupt (Glanton - A Village Chronicle 2000). It witnessed periods of plenty and poor harvests, the mechanisation of farming, change in livestock breeds and a fluctuating population within the village.

The ash tree is relatively easy to identify even in winter - with its open crown, down-curved branches and up-turned tips to its twigs. At this time of year, the twigs have black tips that contain the new leaf buds and flowers. The tree is one of the last of our native species to come into leaf in May with the flowers opening first. Often both male and female flowers can be found on the same tree. Their purple colour gives the whole tree a purple hue before the leaves open. The leaves are not single leaves but are compound and made up of several "leaflets". They are lance shaped with slightly toothed edges. Leaflets are arranged in pairs with an odd one at the end. The characteristic seeds (keys) can easily distinguish trees in winter.

This old ash was an important habitat for a range of species. A central dead branch was an important feeding site for greater spotted woodpeckers over the years. The holes that were left and other natural sites were used by nesting tree sparrows, jackdaws and blue tits. Due to its size, the tree was an important calling perch for the local tawny owls. Its hollow core may have harboured a colony of pipistrelle bats. Its leaves would have provided food for a range of insects including species such as the Brick. The ash 'keys' are a favourite food of bullfinches in winter. Ash trees can also provide a habitat to a large number of fungi such as the bracket fungus Dryad's Saddle, Dead Man's Fingers and King Alfred's Cakes. Ultimately, it was heart-rot and root rot that caused the demise of this magnificent tree. I suggest the parish should plant some boundary trees to ensure a leafy future for future generations of Glantonians.

Jack Daw

Honey Bees Need Our Help

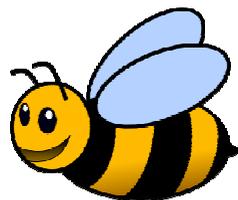
Having recently decided to become a beekeeper, I have spent a lot of time reading books, searching the internet and attending meetings to increase my knowledge of the subject. Whilst researching, I have learnt just how big a threat bees and other pollinating insects are under.

Insect pollinators such as honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies and hoverflies are thought to contribute to one in every three mouthfuls of the food that we eat. Of the 100 crop species that provide 90% of the world's food, over 70 of these are pollinated by bees. In China, farmers have started to pollinate fruit trees by hand because of the lack of insects.

The main reasons for this decline are thought to be: The loss of insect friendly plants, pests and diseases; insecticides and air pollution

We need to take account of what we have done in the past and try to stop the decline of these free workers who do such a lot for us. If everyone does a little then hopefully we can reverse this decline. This time of year is a particularly good time to start:

- Plant “bee-friendly” plants – the increased demand for uniform and colourful blooms have led to many of our garden flowers being almost devoid of pollen. Many seed producers now label which plants will be beneficial to pollinators
- Farmers could sow wild flowers on field margins
- Gardeners could consider using fewer insecticides



Beekeeper Brian

Cheviot Valleys Flower Club

28th March

Mrs Lizzie Harrat

“Surprises”



25th April

Mrs Margaret Earl

“Elegance”

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

1st Whittingham BP Scout Group

A Big Thank You

1st Whittingham would like to thank all those who supported the Scout Post and Christmas Fair. We raised over £50 from the scout post, and £750 from the fair, which was a great end to 2011.

An Exciting 2012

We have started the year with Senior Scout and Rover Scout trips to the Cairngorms to enjoy the snow, and have an exciting year ahead with the children working towards their Citizenship badges, going on camps and sleepovers, and heading out to Lesotho in August for their African tree-planting adventure. This term the Beavers have started off making bird feeders and bird houses, and will be going on to learning about the Friends of the Forest and Baden-Powell, planting a hedge, and heading out on an adventurous night hike. The cubs will also be taking a walk in the dark, and are also going climbing and will be making dragons. The cubs started the term with woodwork, and you will see their own birdfeeders hanging from trees in the gardens of Whittingham and beyond! The scouts enjoyed a fascinating tour of Scott's woodyard, and will be continuing the term with a wide game, badminton, a dump hike, climbing, planting and a visit from the police for their Crime Prevention Badge. Seniors this term are cooking, climbing and hiking in the dark.

Wine-Tasting

To help us with our costs for the year, and after many requests, we will be holding another wine-tasting evening. This time we are going French, with French wine (bought in France!). The event will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 16th March at The Green, Whittingham (hosted by Paul & Pauline). £10 per person. Please bring along some French food for the buffet. RSVP to Ninette.

Spring-Clean

We will be holding a Charity Shop in Wooler during the first week of April. If you have any old toys, books, clothes, CDs, furniture, jewellery, or anything else you think we could sell, please get in touch and we can pick your unwanted items up! Come up and see us from 2nd April. There will be some great bargains!

Ninette Gray

Tel: 01665 574733 Visit: www.1stwhittingham.org.uk