



Glanton Parish Newsletter

December 2009

Issue 61

Editorial

Welcome to the final newsletter of the year and thank you to everyone who has contributed ideas and items for this bumper Christmas Edition. I hope that there is something of interest for everyone in this month's newsletter. We have a new columnist Dave Dixon who will write on photography, a new column and recipe from Glanton WI, and a new village website under development. We have a return visit from Northumberland Touring Company on 2nd January - tickets are available from the village shop and committee members. It will be a popular production so book early! Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year

Lynne Livsey

What's on...here are some highlights—see inside for more

December 2009

- 9th Leek Club Christmas Bingo—Glanton Village Hall 7pm
- 13th Pilot's Nativity Service, Glanton URC, 6pm
- 19th Charity Quiz Night, Queen's Head Pub, 8pm
- 20th Village Carol Service, Glanton URC, 6pm
- 28th Bottle Bingo, Glanton Village Hall, 7pm

January 2010

- 2nd NTC, 'The Last Snow Rider', Glanton Village Hall, 6.30pm
- 5th WI Lunch at Embleton Hall
- 9th Book Sale, Whittingham Memorial Hall, 10.30am

Newsletter Deadlines for 2010

- 6th February**
- 3rd April**
- 5th June**
- 31st July**
- 2nd October**
- 4th December**

Please make a note in your diaries

Please contact::

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**Parishes Working together**

In addition to attending parish council meetings every two months, our councillors attend a number of meetings and events across the county as representatives of Glanton parish. I believe that Glanton has a vibrant council and we try to make sure that the Parish is promoted across all areas of local government at every opportunity. However, as a small village, we face similar issues to our neighbouring parishes. In future, we see an increased need to work together on a range of subjects where there is mutual interest. We recently organised some joint meetings to discuss ways of providing better access to information and community support to older residents and carers. We are currently exploring possible funding sources and opportunities to work with local charities and statutory agencies to achieve this.

Village Telephone Box

We have been given the opportunity to adopt the village telephone box. Despite our efforts to encourage local use, I'm afraid that BT did not consider that it was paying its way. It will be disconnected at some point in the future. We are lucky that we still have an older style box and value the contribution it makes to the village streetscape. Therefore, we have decided to adopt it for £1. This will allow us to refurbish it and potentially use it for another purpose. For example, one village in Somerset uses theirs as a book-swap venue. Another suggestion is to use it as an indoor information point. If you have other ideas and suggestions, please contact the Parish Council.

A New Village Website

Improving communication with local residents is a high priority for the Parish Council. Work is underway to develop a new village website. You can view this at < www.glantononline.net > . This will replace the existing Glanton web-site in the New Year. This provides a great opportunity to promote Glanton to the wider world and to provide important information to residents and visitors. It has the facility to promote community activities and events and local businesses. The website will have links to other sources of information and local services. If you are interested in including your club or business on the site follow the above link for instructions and contact Tony Meikle, the website editor. There will also be community pages for the Parish Council and local clubs and societies. We need your help to provide information and lots of photos so have a look and get involved!

**Millennium Time-Capsule**

Do you remember the time capsule that was buried in the village for the Millennium? Well, next year will be the 10th anniversary and, as planned, it will be opened to reveal all sorts of surprises! We would like to celebrate this occasion with a village event, possibly in September. We need some ideas and help to organise this. Please get in touch.

Village Christmas Tree

We are grateful once again to Mr and Mrs Swanson for their kind donation of a Christmas tree for the village. Thanks also to the volunteers involved in decorating the tree and securing it against the elements.

Notice for dog-owners

Finally, an appeal to dog-walkers - If you are using the footpaths around the village, please refrain from throwing sticks into arable crops. These can damage expensive farm machinery and waste precious harvest time for the farmer. We have received a number of complaints regarding this problem and your support in this matter greatly appreciated

Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 25th January at 7pm in the Memorial Hall. As always, we are keen to encourage local residents to attend and to get involved with the work of the Parish Council. Please contact Linda Lazenby, the Parish Clerk if you have items for the agenda.

This newsletter is full of community events for the festive period, please put the dates in your diaries and support as many as you can.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Seasons Greetings

Chris Livsey, Chair
Glanton Parish Council
Telephone : 01665 578459 (eves)

email: livsey123@btinternet.com

p.s. I am pleased to report that the road repairs have been completed by Northumberland Highways. However, we are still waiting for the new notice-board!

Bonfire night is over, Remembrance Day is past and now our thoughts turn towards Christmas. The scary thing is that we'll be soon saying goodbye to another year and looking forward to what next year will bring. Yet, I love Christmas, I know that I get really busy in the run up to it (in fact on Christmas day last year I went to bed and slept for two hours in the afternoon), but for me that's also part of the fun as I travel around the area sharing in various Christmas productions and attending Christmas dinners and nativity plays. It is wonderful to share in this special season with so many different people.

But let's not lose sight of what Christmas is about. As you watch TV and see the adverts for all the things you can and will buy to help Christmas along, there isn't any mention of why we have Christmas, and what prompted the first Christmas. I suppose that the closest thing to a reminder that we'll see over the next few weeks is the image of Father Christmas delivering presents and eating the odd mince pie. For the presents are a constant reminder to me of the great gift that God gave to us all when he sent His Son, whose birth we celebrate by singing carols, throwing parties and giving presents.

There is a wonderful episode from one of the Black Adder series where Black Adder is throwing a Christmas party for the prince and he offers to share the Christmas story, and Prince George responds by saying *"Absolutely, as long as it's not that terribly depressing one about the chap who gets born on Christmas Day, shoots his mouth off about everything under the sun, and then comes a cropper with a couple of rum coves on top of a hill..."* Black Adder responds by saying *"You mean Jesus, sire...?"*, and the exchange is concluded when Prince George says; *"Yes, that's the fellow! Keep him out of it. He always spoils the Xmas atmos!"*.

This Christmas let's put Christ back into Christmas because it's Him that makes this season special.

God Bless

Edward Butlin





St Andrew's URC Church, Glanton

Thanks to everyone who gave for our Harvest Thanksgiving. We have been able to send £300 directly to our Church projects in Bangladesh.

Time is not standing still in Glanton - thanks to Peter Lake who has volunteered to keep the clock working.

Sunday 13th December Pilot's Nativity Play at 6.p.m.

Sunday 20th December Village Carol Service at 6.p.m

The collection will be given to the charity 'Help for Heroes.'

Everyone will be very welcome at these Services.



**Queen's Head Leek Club
Christmas Bingo
Glanton Memorial Hall
9th Dec 7pm**



**Eyes down 7.30pm
Two Turkey Dinners to be won**

**Glanton Memorial Hall Committee
Bottle Bingo
28th December
7pm for 7.30pm
Glanton Memorial Hall**



**Bingo prizes and raffle
prizes gratefully received.
Please leave donations
in the box in the village shop
Thank You!**

Calling all Glanton Residents!

Could you help out with
Glanton Show
in 2010 ?

New recruits are needed to help with organising our popular village show - it simply wouldn't happen without volunteers. Could you help on the show committee? Alternatively, would you be willing to volunteer to help with administration tasks in the weeks leading up to the show?

Please contact: Liz Knox : 016665 574 992

Browse away the Winter Blues

The next St Bartholomew's Book Sale will be held on Saturday, January 9th 2010 from 10.30 am to midday

in the Memorial Institute, Whittingham.

Entrance Free, Tea or coffee with biscuits 50p

Fair Trade produce will be used where possible

Enquiries:

Beryl

01665 574385



**Charity Quiz Night
Queen's Head Pub
Glanton**

Saturday 19th December
8pm

Teams of four, £5 per team



In Aid of the
Northumberland Air Ambulance



**NTC return to Glanton Village Hall on
Saturday 2nd January 2010
at 6.30pm with their latest production
*The Last Snow Rider***

'Jack knows nothing about Snow Riders - until one falls from the sky into his garden. This modern fairytale about friendship and belief is filled with magic, music, laughter - and a few, frosty tears'

Tickets £6 Adults and £3 Children

**From Joe Easton: 01665 578 654
Angela Clay-Parker : 01665 578 484
Or Glanton Village Shop**



**Glanton Village Shop
Christmas Opening Hours**

**CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
Boxing Day 9am—10am
28th Dec 9am—10am
New Year's Day 9am—10am**



Thank You
to

All who supported
The Royal British
Legion Poppy
Appeal this year



The village collection
raised
£ 282.76
Marion Guiry

**Keep Fit Classes
continue in the
Glanton Memorial Hall
every Monday from
10a.m. - 11.a.m..
£3 per session includes
coffee and biscuits**



St Andrew's URC Church, Glanton

Sunday 13th December Pilot's Nativity Play at 6.p.m.

Sunday 20th December Village Carol Service at 6.p.m

The collection will be given to Help for Heroes.

Everyone will be very welcome at these Services.

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December,

First Mass of Christmas: 8.00 pm at St Ninian's, Wooler

Midnight Mass: 12.00 at St Mary's,
Whittingham

Christmas Day,

Friday 25th December,

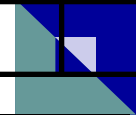
Mass at 10.00, St Mary's, Whittingham

Sunday 27th December

9.00 am at St Ninian's, Wooler

11.00 at St Mary's, Whittingham





St Bartholomew's Church of England, Whittingham

December Services

Friday 11 December

6pm – Carols by Candlelight in support of Christian Aid - Whittingham

Sunday 13 December

8am Holy Communion - ~Whittingham

9.15 am Holy Communion – Edlingham

11am Holy Communion – Whittingham

Thursday 17 December

1.30pm Christingle Service – Whittingham

Friday 18 December

7pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – Edlingham

Sunday 20 December

8am Holy Communion – Whittingham

9.15am Holy Communion – Glanton

11am Holy Communion – Bolton Chapel

Thursday 24 December

6pm Crib Service – Whittingham

11.30pm Midnight Mass – Whittingham

Friday 25 December

9.15am Holy Communion – Bolton Chapel

11am Holy Communion – Whittingham

Sunday 27 December

11am United Benefice Service Holy Communion - Whittingham



The full moon at the end of November/beginning of December can bring an invasion from overseas. If winds are favourable from the north east, woodcock migrate from Scandinavia in large numbers. These elusive waders of the woodlands, with their fallen-leaf plumage, can be found in surprising places including patches of snowberry in the gardens of Glanton! At dusk they can be seen flying from cover of woodland and scrub to feed in pastures or areas of wet ground.

Holly and ivy are traditionally plants of the Christmas period. Their significance dates to pagan times. Holly was associated with the rebirth of the sun at the midwinter solstice (21st December) and was the original yule time log. Ivy was linked with fidelity. Both plants take on important roles at this time of year in the natural world. This year's crop of holly berries is the best there has been for many years. Holly bushes often attract a mistle thrush, that will defend the crop of berries from incomers and other species of thrushes. The rattling call of the mistle thrush is an echoing sound along winter hedges. Once the berries of ivy ripen, they will attract a number of different species, especially the wood pigeon.

Bright frosty nights are excellent times to listen to the winter wildlife. Dog foxes call to vixens, roe deer can be heard barking in distant woods, male and female tawny owls renew their territories and barn owls and badgers can be seen hunting the quieter corners of the parish.

Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year

Jack Daw

Winter is an important time to feed to the birds and provide water. When replenishing bird food, please clean your bird feeder as this reduces the risk of disease in species such as greenfinches.

The Institution and Induction of The Reverent Michael Catling

It was during the summer that we heard with surprise and dismay that our vicar was leaving Whittingham for pastures new in Herefordshire. Mike Catling had spent all his ministry in the North East; trained at Durham, was vicar of Eglington and was our vicar for the last eight years. He and his family loved living here and it is fair to say that they expected to spend many more years with us, but it was not to be. God works in mysterious ways, as we all know. The call to be Rector of the Parish of Wigmore Abbey was accepted. November 6th was the date set for Mike's Institution and Induction at St Mary Magdalen Church, Leintwardine, by the Bishop of Hereford. The Leintwardine congregation were very hospitable in offering to have members of Mike's previous parish to stay with them, so twelve of us took up this kind offer; travelling to Herefordshire to attend the service.

My daughter and I were very comfortable and at ease with our hosts. Surprisingly we discovered a connection with Newcastle, which is worth mentioning. John William Pease, a Victorian ancestor of our host, Edward Pease-Watkin, was a Quaker from Darlington who, along with other well known industrialists, had a great influence on the prosperity and growth of the industrial North East. When Newcastle diocese separated from Durham in 1882 Mr Pease gave his country house, Benwell Towers, one and a half miles west of Newcastle, to the diocese for the use of the new Bishop. This house was in walking distance from my childhood home. It is a small world. During our two days stay we visited the nine churches which make up the parish; situated in villages and countryside very like our own, all are interesting and different with their own stories to tell.

On Friday evening as final preparations for the service were made, a special quarter peel of welcome was rung by visiting and local church ringers – our hostess was one. It was a joyful welcome for Mike and his family. The service itself was very special, with the solemn oaths being made in a happy and relaxed atmosphere. The hymns, sung with joy, were the same ones that we had sung in September at Mike's last service in Whittingham, the linking the old with the new and celebrating Mike's continued ministry.

The service was followed by the usual refreshments and gossip. Mike's new congregation are delighted with their new vicar who seems to have been asked many times already "Would you like a cup of tea, vicar?" The answer was always "yes please". All the folk we met were very friendly, and looking forward to getting to know Mike and the family. The following morning the Northumbrians met at the Rectory for coffee before returning home. Mike and Jo looked very relaxed and settled in their new home; a most attractive house overlooking the school playground, which pleases Mike.

Although we shall miss Mike very much, after our visit some of the sadness had gone, for we know the family will be cared for. They shall be often in our thoughts. We must now look forward and use the present interregnum to prepare for the next incumbent as Mike would expect us to do.

Joan Gardiner

Looking Through A Lens

Dave Dixon

Right here on our doorsteps we have some of the most beautiful scenery that this country has to offer, and it's a joy to get out there and photograph it.

Of course, having the scenic subject matter is only part of the challenge. When it comes to photographing outdoors, you need to have the elements on your side. Mother Nature may provide some gorgeous scenery, but if she doesn't come up with the goods in the weather and lighting department, then it's a tall order to get a good photograph of it.

Light, that most valuable of a resource for the photographer, can be a fickle thing. A few nights ago I saw some lovely colours starting to form up in the sky, so I grabbed my camera and headed out to what I hoped would be a good vantage point. In the short time it took me to get from home to my chosen location, the sky had lit up with some lovely reds, oranges, purples and blues...and then promptly started to fade to something far more subdued.

Not to be thwarted, I resolved to head out in plenty of time the following day in the hope of getting some better pictures than I had the following night. This time I decided to head along Ingram valley, to the old hill fort at Brough Law, with a mind to snapping the sun setting over the hills.

To be honest, by the time I'd climbed to the top, things weren't looking too promising. There was a bit of a haze in the air, and I just had a feeling that the sky wasn't going to offer the palette of colours that it had displayed the previous evening. Undeterred, I waited and shortly the light turned to that lovely rich, warm glow that comes in the "golden hour" around sunset. Not what I'd originally hoped for, but a very rewarding sight nonetheless.

Top Tip

Here's a tip for those of you using digital cameras. There's a setting on the camera called "white balance" – you probably keep this set to "Automatic", but when you're shooting around this time of day try changing it to "Cloudy" or "Shade". That setting warms an image up and can really enhance that "golden hour" light.



Community Safety Update

Northumbria Police are developing the Coquetdale Community 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, free from crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Sign up forms are included with this newsletter. If you would like to join the service, please complete the form and return it to
Sgt Graham Vickers, c/o Alnwick Police Station,
Prudhoe Street, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1UJ.**

Christmas Recipe from Glanton W.I.

Dried Fruit Compote.

Ingredients

4oz no soak Dried apricots

4oz no soak Figs

4oz no soak Prune

4oz Raisins

2 Oranges

10 Fl.oz Water

12 Fl.oz Tawny Port

Rinse all the dried fruit then place in a large saucepan. Slice one orange into very thin rounds and then cut each into 4. Add these, with the raisins to the fruit in the saucepan, add water and simmer covered for 15 mins. Squeeze the juice from the other orange and when the fruit is cooked, stir in orange juice and port. Leave to cool then refrigerate for 24 hours to develop the flavours. Serve with ice cream. sprinkled with toasted almonds..

Serves approx 8.



Glanton Women's Institute

In October Peter Weighill ex-fire Officer gave us a hilarious talk about his life in the fire service from joining in 1984 as an 18 year old until his retirement as Station Officer in Whitley Bay.

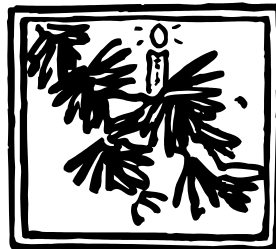
He ended his talk on a serious note - impressing upon us the importance of smoke detectors in the home. The Fire Service will supply and fit them free of charge. Make sure the battery is changed every year - set a date that is easy to remember and do it annually on that date. Most importantly if you are unfortunate enough to have a fire in your property -

GET OUT STAY OUT CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE.

The November speaker was Sean Hackett from the National Park. He told us of the project to establish wildflower meadows in Upper Coquetdale which are now sites of Special Scientific Interest. He also discussed the many reasons behind the loss of wild flowers and his efforts to set up wildflower areas in local schools.

Some members are taking part in a National Trust Garden Bird survey during November.

We start off 2010 with a lunch at Embleton Hall Hotel on Tuesday 5th January - if anyone would like to join us get in touch with Yvonne -578806 or Marion 578206 or any W.I. member.





Wines For Christmas

Which wines will go best with the Christmas Fare? If you are doing the traditional turkey meal then you can select either red or white, as long as the wines are not too powerful because turkey has a relatively delicate flavour. If your choice is white then a Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire Valley would be a good choice if you like traditional French wines, if you prefer the new world then the same grape from New Zealand or Chile should also go quite well. You could also try a Torrontes from Argentina. Another really good choice is a wine from the Bacchus grape made in England – if you haven't tried English wines recently you are in for a treat.

If you prefer a red then the same applies – not too powerful. A Pinot Noir from New Zealand will be fine, or a Beaujolais from France. If a goose is the bird for you then you need a more powerful wine, either an oaked Chardonnay such as a white Burgundy from France (the Rully district is usually reliable and good value) or maybe a Riesling from the southern hemisphere. Red wines suitable for goose would include South African Pinotage and Carmenere from Chile.

Beef is the other main possibility for the Christmas dinner, and in that case for my personal choice there is nothing better than a good claret from Bordeaux but you can also team up with Shiraz from Australia or a Malbec from Argentina.

All of these varieties should be widely available but for the best choice and value come to Rothbury Wines (www.rothburywines.co.uk). If you ring me (on 578222) rather than order on the website then delivery to Glanton or nearby will be free!

Jon Radgick.

