

Whinstone Times

Community magazine for Embleton and Christon Bank



November/December 2018 50p where sold

Edition No. 58

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Planning Applications

The Parish Council would like to make sure that all parishioners are aware of the current planning applications in the Parish so that they are able to review and comment on them. For a list of current planning applications please visit

www.northumberlandparishes.uk/embleton OR the Embleton

Parish Council Facebook page

www.facebook.com/embletonparishcouncil/

These lists are updated weekly and all planning applications are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings.

Editorial

Jan Ainsley

With bonfire night fast approaching, could I once again ask anyone planning to hold their own firework display to let neighbouring pet owners know, so that they can ensure that their animals are safe. This is especially important if the firework displays are not taking place on the few days around November 5th

It will soon be the anniversary of the end of the so-called Great War and to me, it seems hardly any time at all since the 100th anniversary of the beginning of that war was in the news - but for those who were there, these four years must have seemed like a very long time indeed.

In 2014, Terry Howells, Mary Kibble and Monica Cornall researched and published a booklet, "the Fallen of Embleton" in which they report that the December 1918 minutes of Embleton Parish Council state that 160 men of the parish had been sent to war of whom 37 were killed and 25 wounded.

As always, thanks to everyone who helps keep the WT going and best wishes to all our readers for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2019

Please send material for the next edition by Monday 3rd December to:
Mary Kibble marykibble@talktalk.net, 01665 576608 (articles, stories etc)
Jan Ainsley jan.ainsley@yahoo.com tel 01665 576019 (advertising)
Shelagh Coxon tel 01665 576791 ('What's on')

Best wishes....

..... to Mary Kibble who has been in hospital but is making a rapid recovery and hopes to be home in Embleton very soon.

... and also to Jan and Geoff Applegarth who are moving from Christon Bank to Thirsk to be nearer to their daughter in Darlington and about 100 miles nearer to their sons who live in Oxford and Bucks. Jan was one of the original members of the Whinstone Times team until other interests particularly the Church, Mandell's Coffee Pot and more recently, Crafts with Company (which now meets in Craster memorial Hall) left her with too little time to continue with the magazine. For several years, Geoff was our plant expert at the annual Whinstone Times plant sale.

Thank you to Rita Cavill for this edition's cover photograph.

Community Information

Parish Council Notes

September 2018

Parish Council Election

The Parish Council (PC) was told that there would be an election to fill the casual vacancy since more than ten parishioners had requested it. The cost of £4,000 - £6,000 will have to be paid by the parish. The poll will be held on October 25th.

Affordable Homes and Airbnb

After discussion it was agreed that although the affordable home used as a holiday let had been removed from Airbnb the PC would ask Northumberland County Council (NCC) that a penalty be levied on the owner.

Speed Limits

The 20mph speed limit in Christon Bank was still causing problems, the Council was told. Overtaking of vehicles observing the limit was still taking place on both roads and the owners of Pipin Park caravan park had complained about loss of business due to the noise caused by traffic crossing the rumble strips. NCC have agreed to remove these strips and the PC was pressing for the 40mph buffer zones to be installed at all entrances to the village. The PC reiterated its wish for the trial to run for the full twelve month term after which a public drop in session would be held to gauge reaction to the 20mph limit. The proposed amended plans for speed restrictions in Embleton village have not been received from NCC nor has feedback been provided on possible speed limits near North Farm and on the road to Dunstan Steads. The PC will follow this up.

Christon Bank

It has now been established that a suitable power supply is available in the disused phone box in Christon Bank such that the defibrillator can be installed. The PC agreed to investigate the restoration of the old well in Christon Bank and to make it a heritage site.

Firework Displays

The PC was pleased to learn that Mr Moody senior planned to go ahead with the bonfire night firework display in memory of his son Adam who died

recently. Adam had generously subsidised the display over recent years and this year the PC agreed to contribute £500 towards its cost. The PC also agreed to donate £150 to the Christon Bank display organised by the Blink Bonny.

Christmas Lights

A cheque for £150 has been received from Seahouses Rotary Club to be used to purchase Christmas lights for Embleton village. The PC agreed to match this for lights in Christon Bank.

Planning Applications

Over the past months the PC has had to consider, and comment on, several planning applications. After discussion it was agreed that there was room for improvement in the Standing Orders which govern how the PC's view is arrived at. The Chairman undertook to prepare a draft revision for discussion at the next meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

The PC was told that the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) working group had met regularly, both with and without consultants, with an aim of producing a second, expanded, draft Plan. It was hoped to have this available for all Councillors to consider before the end of the year.

Quarry

The Quarry working group have agreed to plant a Hawthorn hedge between their land and Whinstone View leaving a gate for View residents to reach the village. This will be planted in late October. Signs giving information and warnings are being designed and should be in place before the year end. Volunteers continue to work (on Sundays now) in line with the management plan removing unwanted plants, cutting back others and clearing footpaths. Two moth surveys have been carried out in the quarry revealing over 120 varieties present. An application for funding to buy tools has been unsuccessful but other sources of funds are being sought.

Cemetery House

The Joint Burial Committee are still trying to obtain estimates for the restoration of Cemetery House. To date two have been received but neither was in a suitable form to be used with the grant application. More builders have been approached and the two respondents have been asked to expand

the details of their quotations. No progress can be made until the grant is obtained.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the 22nd October in the Creighton Hall at 7.30. All are welcome. Further details of the working of the PC, and the Neighbourhood Plan and Quarry working groups can be found on the website.

Embleton PC Neighbourhood Plan Update –October 18

Karen Greenhoff, Secretary of the Working Party

The production of the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well. We are pleased that Georgina Armstrong has joined the working party ensuring we still have a good balance of Parish councillors and members of the community represented.

As you may be aware, the development of the plan is supported by an independent planning consultant and members of the Northumberland County Council planning team. The independent consultant has worked with the working party to create a first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan based on all of the community consultation activities, deliberations of the working party and Neighbourhood Planning regulations. Alongside this, the settlement boundaries for the villages have been submitted to the Local Authority.

Currently, we are listing all of the community green spaces in order for these to receive formal designation within the plan, thus protecting their status for leisure use in the future.

Work is also ongoing to identify sites of historical significance within the NP area including those not currently listed. We believe this aspect of the plan is important in order to preserve these valued green spaces and preserve the history of our villages.

Both of these activities are proving very interesting and emphasise for us the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan in preserving the very special aspects of our villages.

On our behalf the officers from the Local Authority are exploring whether there is any need for a formal environmental assessment prior to the production of the plan.

Our planning consultant will, over the next few weeks, draw together all of the different aspects we have been working on and incorporate them into a completed final draft plan which will be presented to the full Parish Council and the Northumberland County Council Planning Officer after which it will be published for community consultation. Moving us closer to the point where following the consultation and any adaptations the plan will go to the Government Inspector and finally onto a public referendum, hopefully in the Spring of 2019.

County Councillor Wendy Pattison's report

Christon Bank

20mph speed limit -see Parish council notes

I think it's very important to give the residents of Christon Bank a say in how to deal with speeding traffic in the village. There is potential to look at introducing a scheme during 2019/20, and I would like arrange a drop in session in November or December 2018 with Parish Council and Traffic Management approval, as soon as suggestions have been drawn up.

NCC will be arranging speed surveys in Christon Bank in the near future. The previous speed survey taken near Pippin Caravan Park in early 2017 indicated 85th percentiles of 35 and 37mph. New speed surveys will be undertaken asap in the same locations they were previously done.

Embleton - Parking concerns within the cul de sac at the Greyfield Estate have now been slightly alleviated by new, white lined, defined parking spaces and the muddy triangular area in the corner of the cul de sac has now been covered over with tarmac and the area is looking much improved. I am also aware of the potholes in the estate and I have reported them.

The Duchess Community High School - I had the pleasure recently of looking around the now fully completed Duchess High School in the company of Head Teacher, Maurice Hall and County Councillor Guy Renner Thompson. The High School has had what can only be described as an 'interesting' year in terms of change and I was impressed with the design and the layout of the



school. The school extension is now complete, the mobile classrooms have gone and the school is now ready to look forward to a great future for all of our children.

Embleton Quarry Nature Reserve

Progress report September 2018

Terry Howells

The Embleton Quarry Working Party has been meeting regularly over the summer months. with discussions on signage , fencing/hedging, Management Plan, grants, site layout, pond and work for volunteers.

The group agreed that it would be undesirable to install much signage in the quarry but certain information/warnings were necessary. This could be accommodated on a single board at each of the two entrances (Quakers Row and Whinstone View) with a further notice warning of danger at the cliff edge. The main board will feature a photo of/from the quarry with a VERY brief history of the quarry and a warning about deep water in the pond and instructions to clear up after dogs and not pick the wild flowers. A mock-up has been developed and quotations are being sought.

Much debate has taken place regarding the need/desire to fence the quarry and/or plant hedges to delineate certain areas. The cost of fencing the quarry to make it animal proof is thought to be prohibitive and the need to "seal off" the quarry debateable. Ultimately it has been agreed to plant a hawthorn hedge between Whinstone View and the quarry entrance path leaving a gate so that the View residents can easily walk into the village. This hedge will be planted in late October. Some form of natural barrier will also be planted around the entrance from the middle of Whinstone View. It is understood that it is the responsibility of the purchaser of the quarry house site to fence it off from the quarry.

The quarry contains two areas of rare Whin grass. The best way to develop wild flower areas is by grazing. The AONB and the NCC, through their draft Management Plan, are keen that ponies and/or sheep are homed in the quarry. These animals would be rented and would be delivered and removed at appropriate times by their owner. This concept presents many problems such as fencing, animal welfare, relationship with dogs and walkers etc. The alternative of mowing is much simpler but would, we are told, produce inferior

results. This whole matter is under discussion with interested parties because although the quarry is intended to be a nature reserve it is equally to be a place of recreation for parishioners.

An application for a capital grant to cover the cost of buying a small secure storage unit and tools (mower etc.) has been rejected on the grounds that there had been insufficient consultation with parishioners. This is clearly not true and a second application is being prepared.

The most desirable site layout in terms of path routes, special areas (seat), school outdoor classroom etc. is still under consideration. Photographs using a drone have been taken and are to be used to aid this work. It is felt that some of the current paths might be better slightly diverted to preserve orchids and other rare vegetation but this is still being debated.

Water analysis of the pond has shown that fish are unlikely to survive in it but it appears harmless to birds. Consideration will be given to a "viewing hide" as the quarry nature reserve develops. Discussions are taking place with the Environment Agency regarding their annual charges related to a possible overflow from the pond.

Two moth surveys have been carried out in the quarry revealing that over 120 varieties are present there.

Under the guidance of Simon and Jean Doughty volunteers have commenced work to implement the Management Plan. Certain plants have been removed and burnt, others have been severely cut back (brambles) and certain areas of grass/paths cut. The work has been carried out on a Thursday evening but has moved to Sunday as darkness falls earlier. More volunteers would be welcome to carry out both quite heavy and light work. If anyone would like to join in the development of the reserve please e mail your number to the Parish Council and Simon or Jean will contact you.

100 Club Winners - October

Kay Moody - £40
Wendy Storry - £20.

Thank you....

To Rita Cavill who not only sent us the charming picture of the cygnets on



the front cover of this edition, but also sent us this photograph of a Robin's Pin Cushion, which she took in the quarry. It looks like a soft fluffy ball, attached to a wild rose bush, and is made by the larvae of a small gall wasp, *Diploloepis rosae*. Each one holds many grubs which emerge in the spring. Rita has also produced a chart noting all the fauna and flora she has seen in the quarry over the last three months.

Nature Notes - August/September Linda Heslop

"But there's a full moon risin' - Let's go dancin' in the light"

Lines from the Neil Young song and for the golden oldies - "Oh, shine on, shine on harvest moon." There was a beautiful harvest moon on 25th. September, the skies clear showing it at its best, the striking orange colour due to its proximity to the horizon, traditionally an aid to the farmers busily gathering in their crops. Here several acres seemed to have been harvested earlier, some fields now seeded and growing fast in the fine weather we have had. Birds are again making use of the little green shoots, flocks of lapwings mixing with seagulls of varying persuasions and geese. It is surprising that bald patches don't appear in the crops.

In the middle of August the sparrow hawks were still busy raiding the garden birds; one actually sitting on a lawn eying them greedily, luckily from the wrong position. There was a dead sparrow hawk on Station Road, no sign of damage and lying with its wings as if in flight, a beautiful bird. On another somewhat

sad note a young fawn was lying dead near the golf course, it must have been about 3 months old and so perfect apart from the fact that the top of its head was missing, hopefully the result of an accident and not, as the boys at the golf course thought, being shot.

On a happier note the clear blue skies at 6.30am on 17th. August were alive with birds, swallows, house martins, small flocks of geese and a team of ducks. The sounds were that of a discordant orchestra.

Early September a baby hedgehog and a very small leveret wandered on the side of the road outside the village, both within yards of each other. The swans and their 3 cygnets were on the quarry pond and Rita Cavill, who is still doing sterling work around the quarry, sent in a video of the 3 cygnets, (found visiting the folk of Whinstone View) being shepherded back to the pond. Rita also sent a wonderful photo of the cygnets looking for all the world as if they were waiting for the bus. Also in September she saw 20 goldfinch again in the quarry and had the now infamous parakeet feeding on her nuts in the garden. The parakeet has been heard screeching around the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel and neighbouring areas. And on 12th. September was ensconced in one of the big trees at the bottom of the Jubilee House drive; BUT it was calling to another one in a different tree - I wonder if anyone has seen both together, maybe the start of an Embleton colony!

In early October there were still some swallows about and babies were being fed on the wires in Station Road. Skeins of geese are making their way both north and south noisily announcing their presence as they fly over the village. Early one morning one such skein was passing overhead, the sun was rising and the geese were silhouetted against a black sky, their movements looking like undulating waves lapping the shore as the sun caught their feathers.

On 27th. September David and Jan Ainsley had the good fortune to see a pod of around 40 dolphins making their way south across Embleton Bay. On that day there were larks singing above the stubble and the woodpeckers were availing themselves of nuts on offer in the gardens; there don't seem to be as many about this year, maybe due to the buzzards that have been riding the thermals above the village recently.

The secondary pond at Newton has begun to fill again. The new hide has been completed at the Newton Pond, it is very smart and has clear Perspex slots to look through. Hopefully the swallows that nested there don't bump their heads

trying to get back in next year. On 4th. October 9 Bewick's swans and cygnets were feeding on the pond. Like other swans Bewick's mate for life and "divorce" is rare. They care for their offspring longer than average, the cygnets remaining within calling distance as they are guided through their first migration from the summer breeding grounds in Russia. They can live for 30 years.

Thank you again to Martine, our Creighton Place reporter, she sent her "NATURE NOTES IN A NUTSHELL" as she has been away. She had plenty of goldfinch sightings, an adult feeding a youngster on her niger seeds. Lots of birds have been using the pools of standing water in the fields north of CP1 to bathe and drink; there have been large numbers of swallows and house martins on the CP1 roofs and a lot of bats over the fields and gardens. She also took part in the Embleton Beach Clean with about 20 people of all ages. They collected an astonishing 16 kgs of rubbish.

On a final note there is a wonderful programme called "Ingenious Animals" that has been shown on BBC, you can watch it on catch up and find it under Science and Nature.

Any sightings please to naturenotes.whinstonetimes@gmail.com

News from Embleton Primary School

A New Term & A New Face

This term we welcome Miss Kathryn Thompson (soon to be a Mrs) to our team of teachers. Kathryn grew up and lives in Seahouses and joins us from Northumberland CoE Academy in Ashington, she is our new Orca (class two) teacher and has the busy job of getting our Year 6 children ready for their SATS in the Summer Term. This term we also have new beach school themed names for our three classes all chosen by the children:

- 1) STARFISH - Nursery & Reception. Mrs Ann Popay
- 2) PUFFIN - Year 1,2 and 3. Miss Lisa Murray
- 3) ORCAS - Year 4,5 and 6. Miss Kathryn Thompson

Look out for our new school mug designed by the children of each class, if you would like to buy one please contact the school office.

Fundraising

Last year our children were able to take part in lots of school trips (including a trip to London for Orca class), all thanks to the fundraising efforts of our parents & friends group. They have again planned a few big fundraising activities for the year ahead and as always hope that you will help support them. This term we have the Christmas Fair on 19th December at 3pm in the School Hall and have also planned a Morrisons Bag Pack on Sunday 16th December, if you would like to volunteer one hour of your time to help as a bag packer please get in touch.

Beach School



We continue to work with Mudlarks Outdoors each Friday at Beach School, you can follow our Beach School blog on the School website each week. To give you a snap shot, Orca class have been using part of the sand dunes as a classroom area where the children have been learning about the life cycles of different species before investigating the life cycle of

swallows, brown bats, great white sharks, spiders and dragonflies. Meanwhile, Puffin class have been busy making bug hotels from materials found on the beach and sand dunes whilst Starfish Class have continued their learning about the senses by smelling the sea and sand then trying to identify different smells from bottles. Some were very good and guessing what was inside!



Our Community in School

Just a reminder that we run our lunch club every Thursday lunchtime at midday for any retired members of the community that wish to join us. A meal costs £4 for a main course and dessert and to book a place please call the office on (01665) 576612. Our Baby / toddler group continues to run this term and is now on a Friday morning between 10am - 11:15am, all welcome.

Adam Moody

Everyone was shocked and saddened by Adam's death at the beginning of September. Not only did he run Embleton's shop and post office but also, amongst other things, had served as a Parish Councillor and was an active member of Craster Coastguard and Lifeboat Crew. Around 500 people attended his funeral in Embleton. His family and many friends have raised £7100 for the British Heart Foundation, far exceeding their target of £1000. For several years, Adam organised Embleton's bonfire and fireworks display, and this year his father, Dennis, will be running the event in Adam's memory.

Sports News

Embleton Cricket Club

Raymond Carrs

Once again the cricket season has been and gone

It was a disappointing season as we have struggled to find a full side on a few occasions. We are hoping that new players would like to join us, any age, young or old, male or female, would be welcome. Anyone interested please call Raymond on 01665 576589. Also if there is anyone interested in helping with the maintenance of the field, they would be much appreciated.

The batting averages were won by our captain Matt Leetham, the bowling averages by Dan Baines. The highlight of the season was Matt's 92 not out, and it was very encouraging to see the progress of youngsters Cameron and Ewan Thorpe. Roll on April 2019!

Football Club

Raymond Carrs

Owing to lack of numbers at both clubs, Embleton and Craster have joined forces. Anyone interested contact Joe Sleightholm on 07754088698

Bowls

John Wallis

We are up and running for another season and have been able to welcome three young ladies to our membership - Eileen, Sandra and Rose. Unfortunately we have lost our first two matches the second of which by only one shot. We still have 8 matches to play against our neighbouring villages before the end of 2018, so I hope for the next report I might be showing some winning results. The membership would like to wish all WT readers the Happiest of New Years

Canine Partners- amazing assistance dogs

Canine Partners, who provide assistance dogs for people living with disabilities, launched their North Northumberland and Scottish Borders Support Group at Newton Hall on 10th October.



Susan Fulton opened the event by describing the difference that her Canine Partner, Esther has made to her life. After suffering a spinal injury many years ago, Susan was dependent on others for help with simple everyday things like opening doors, picking up her keys and even getting dressed. Now Esther helps her with these and many other tasks around the house and when out and about. As Susan said "Carers might be there for an hour every day but Esther is there for me 24/7" Canine Partners' Community Manager for Scotland, Dale Gormley, then gave a talk about the organisation, describing the dogs' early training with volunteer families where they are taught the basic skills of Touch, Tug and Retrieve before progressing, if assessed to be suitable, to more advanced training which is matched to the needs of the person they will assist.

Assistance dog Heston demonstrated how he could pick up dropped items, retrieve objects and assist with undressing and getting out of bed.

Advanced training takes place at one of two centres, and about 70% of the dogs successfully complete their training. Those who don't quite make it are found homes, often with the families who looked after them during their initial training. There is always a waiting list of people who would like to adopt one of these dogs, but they must live close to the training centres so that Canine Partners can keep in touch with them. It costs £20000.00 to provide a fully trained dog, all paid for by the organisation, not the client.

Canine Partners were very grateful to Newton Hall for providing the venue and buffet for the launch and were also delighted to receive a cheque for £805.00 - enough to buy a puppy - which the staff at the Joiner's, Newton by the Sea had raised doing 'sponsored steps' during August.

If you would like more information or would like to be a volunteer for Canine Partners, please contact Susan Fulton, 07984 377034, or Marjorie Johnston, 07767617992

What's On in November

- Thursday 1st Craster W.I. Annual Meeting.
- Saturday 3rd Fireworks at the Blink Bonny 7pm
- Sunday 4th Bonfire and Fireworks display, next to Embleton Playpark at 6pm
- Tuesday 6th Embleton Women's Club
- Friday 9th Alnwick Theatre Group, St James Church, Pottergate, Alnwick, 7pm
An evening of poetry readings & songs commemorating WW1
Tickets £5 from Newcastle Building Society, Alnwick
- Monday 12th Embleton Flower Club Open Meeting 'Christmas My Way' by Rita Braithwaite. Members free, visitors £5. Creighton Hall 7.30p.m.
- Monday 12th Blink Bonny Quiz night, 8pm. In aid of a local charity
- Tuesday 13th Embleton W.I. speaker Margaret Woodliff Wright—Miliner.
Embleton Parish room 2p.m. Visitors welcome.
- Wednesday 14th Embleton Mothers' Union 2p.m. Parish Room
- Monday 19th Craster History Soc. AGM at Cottage Inn with light refreshments.
- Wednesday 28th Seahouses History Soc 'A History of Mills, Milling and Heatherslaw Mill' by Dave Harris-Jones

What's On in December

- Saturday 1st Christon Bank Methodist Christmas Fayre 1-3p.m. Methodist hall
- Saturday 1st Embleton/Craster Football Christmas Bingo . eyes down 7.30p.m.,
Creighton Hall.
- Thursday 6th Craster W.I. Christmas Party Night with 'Riff Raff'
- Saturday 8th Embleton Cricket Club Christmas Bingo Eyes down 7.30p.m.
Creighton Hall
- Sunday 9th Embleton Village Carol Service full details in the Net.
- Monday 10th Embleton Flower Club Christmas Workshop members only
- Tuesday 11th Embleton W.I. Christmas Meeting
- Wednesday 12th Embleton Mothers' Union Advent Thoughts . To include bible
Reading and a hymn
- Saturday 15th Creighton Hall Christmas Bingo Eyes Down 7.30p.m. '100 Club
Grand Draw' will take place at this event
- Sunday 16th Bag pack at Morrisons in aid of Embleton Primary School
- Wednesday 19th Christmas Fair , 3pm in Embleton School Hal
- Saturday 22nd Embleton Guides Christmas Bingo Eyes down 7.30p.m.

Whinstone Times advertising rates

Small box £15, long box £30, large box £40, full page £80

HOUSING ISSUES?



Citizens Advice Northumberland is able to provide Legal Aid funded housing advice. This can include, but is not confined to:



- Possession action on any grounds such as rent arrears or anti-
- Social behaviour
- Anti-social behaviour injunctions against tenants
- Mortgage repossession
- Challenging homelessness decisions
- Major disrepair
- Unlawful evictions

Anyone in receipt of an income related benefit is eligible for legal aid, for all other incomes, an assessment needs to be completed.

For more information contact Sue:

suegrebby@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk - 07384518382

For all other enquiries call Northumberland Adviceline on 03444 111 444

Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergencies - Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard	999
Police (non-emergency)	101
Childline	0800 1111
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
NHS non-emergency care	111
Northumberland C. C. County Hall	0345 600 6400
NCC Councillor for Longhoughton Ward - Wendy Pattison	07779 983072
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	0344 811 8111
Samaritans	0845 790 9090
Silverline (advice for older people)	0800 470 8090
Traveline	0871 200 2233
C.A.B. Northumberland Adviceline Mon - Fri 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	0344 4111 1444



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