

# *Whinstone Times*

*Community magazine for Embleton and Christon Bank*



*September – October 2018*

*50p where sold*

*Edition No. 57*

## Editorial

Mary Kibble

Isn't it strange how, when the weather is cold and wet, we humans long for warm sunny days and then after a few days of heat we're all longing for cool weather or rain! The birds (and other wildlife) can't afford to be so fickle. They just get on with their lives whatever the weather. So we've had the inward migration of our summer residents seeking out the best places to build their nests. Then the scurrying around looking for the finest grasses and other bits and pieces to make their homes cosy for the babies to come.

Later, with eggs hatched, the frantic rush of the parents to search for food for little beaks until eventually the babies are big enough to emerge from their nests. If you are fortunate enough to have any nests built in or around your property you may well look up and find little faces staring impassively at you or catch sight of the fledglings as they make their first tentative flight on coming out into the world.

And now, with summer almost over, these plucky birds can be seen lining up on roofs and electricity and telephone cables, making their preparations for the long flight back to their winter quarters where they will patiently await the Spring and time to start all over again. And all without a single complaint about how warm or wet, or cold it is.

Thanks to Jane & Chris Walwyn-James for the swallows on the front cover who, to use Jane & Chris's words, were the "guests who left without paying".

**Please send material for the next edition by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 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')

## **Vacancy for Role of Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer for Newton by the Sea Parish Council**

**Newton by the Sea Parish Council has a vacancy for the post of part-time Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.**

**The successful candidate will be responsible for the administration of the business and finances of the council. Applicants should have IT skills, experience in financial accounting and budgeting, the preparation of Agendas for meetings and the accurate recording of Minutes of meetings.**

**The role requires excellent communication skills and strong organisational ability. The ability to work under your own initiative and meet deadlines is essential. You must be computer literate with strong proficiency in Excel and Word as a must. Evidence of community engagement, report and letter writing, is desirable. Knowledge of local government and of parish councils and a commitment to good practice would be helpful although not essential. Training can be provided.**

**An average 3 hours per week applies to the post. Some evening work is involved. The council meets around 6-8 times per year, typically on a Wednesday evening. The salary will be within the NALC/SLCC Scale LC1 (SCP 15-27) pro-rata to the number of hours worked and subject to experience and qualifications**

**If you have any queries about the vacancy or wish to request an Application Form please contact the Chairman, John Roper, by telephone - 01665 576413 or by email; johnroper1@btinternet.com**

## Useful Telephone Numbers

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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
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# Community Information

## Parish Council Notes

June & July 2018

Over the past months the 20 mph speed limit in Christon Bank has been installed. It is still not completed as a 40 mph "buffer zone" has to be installed before the 20 mph limit is reached and a SLOW sign has to be painted on the road near the Pippin Park caravan site. Comments have been received from residents suggesting that the new limit is encouraging motorists to overtake vehicles obeying the 20 mph restriction which is more dangerous than the previous situation. The Parish Council (PC) has decided to retain the twelve month trial as planned and to inform the police of the dangerous driving. Plans for a similar limit in Embleton are under discussion with Northumberland County Council (NCC).

A casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor has arisen following the resignation of Councillor Moody. The PC has agreed new Standing Orders as to how a co-option election should be held if this proves necessary. Notice drawing attention to the vacancy will be posted in Embleton and Christon Bank on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

The PC has adopted a revised procedure for its processing of planning applications. The working party is continuing with the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). As a result of the public consultation, via the Whinstone Times, the proposed settlement boundaries have been defined. This has led to adverse reaction from some landowners who felt that insufficient consultation took place with them before this was drafted. It has been pointed out that it is not a requirement that the working party should consult them. The NP is still on schedule and it is hoped to have a completed pre-submission draft available by October. Parishioners will then be invited to comment.

The quarry working party has applied for a grant to buy tools and a lock up container to store them in. Plans have been drawn up to plant hedges in appropriate areas and volunteers are preparing to carry out some of the tasks laid out in the management plan.

The PC was told that tender documents have been sent out to several builders regarding the renovation of Cemetery House. A closing date for receiving replies has been set towards the end of August.

The PC has actively been pressing NCC to resolve the situation whereby one of the reduced market cost homes on Creighton Place is being offered for rent as a holiday let on Airbnb. To date no solution has been found but the PC will continue to agitate for this to be stopped as it defeats the whole objective of these houses.

The full minutes of PC meetings and of the working parties plus the Burial Board can be found on the PC website.

There is no Parish Council meeting planned for August and the next meeting will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Church Christon Bank.

## **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](http://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/embleton)

**OR the Embleton Parish Council Facebook page**  
[www.facebook.com/embletonparishcouncil/](http://www.facebook.com/embletonparishcouncil/)

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

## **Neighbourhood Plan Progress update August 2018**

At its latest working party meeting on Wednesday 8th August, the steering group met with its consultant, Jenny Ludman MTPI and its NCC support officer, David English, to discuss its initial thoughts on Jenny's first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. A number of points were discussed as was the work required from this point in the process and it was agreed to hold two further working party sessions in the month of August to progress matters.

A key issue discussed at the meeting was the publication by the County Council of a draft Local Plan for Northumberland. This sets out proposed housing requirements for all areas in the County where

neighbourhood plans are being prepared. The draft Local Plan confirms that, based on the County Council's assessment of housing needs, no additional housing allocations would be required in Embleton Parish due to the extent of current planning permissions for housing development in the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan will need to acknowledge the evidence prepared by the County Council to support their Local Plan and this factor will have a significant bearing on the finished article to be subject to referendum.

## County Councillor Wendy Pattison's report

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk –  
Tel. 07779 983072



*Note: This is a shortened version of Wendy's report, with items not covered in the Parish Council notes*

9 Parish Chairman Meeting - The next group meeting for all 9 Parish Councils will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30 p.m. at the Thrunton Trout Fishery.

A1 Closure - A meeting has been held to discuss the postponed closure which is now due to take place in March 2019. The meeting included Highways England representatives, NCC Highways Officers and local County Councillors. It was agreed to consult with residents and Parish Councils very shortly.

New Local Plan - A full draft of the new Northumberland Local Plan has been approved for public consultation which opened for six weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> July until 15<sup>th</sup> August. During this 6 week period the Council ran 23 drop-in events at venues across Northumberland where members of local communities were able to discuss and ask questions about the plan. Feedback and comments were invited by all interested parties. The plan sets out strategic planning policies and principles for the whole county, the general scale and distribution of new development and the detail of where new homes, workplaces and facilities will be located. It promotes choice in the housing market and ensures that all communities are

supported by adequate services, facilities and infrastructure, including education, transport, health, social care and sport and recreation.

## The Editor's Pick of Interesting Websites (& Apps)

In our last edition we suggested the first in our occasional series of tip-offs as to interesting websites and it should have been apparent that these would relate to living in our part of the UK. In this latest Whinstone Times we're widening the scope of this slot to include appropriate Apps, and one we've taken to using is Tides Near Me. This provides us with times for high and low tides at North Sunderland (Seahouses) to which around 10 minutes should be added for Embleton Bay times as the tide comes in from and goes out towards the north.

For future editions we'd appreciate suggestions from readers for Websites and Apps of particular relevance to Embleton, Christon Bank and their neighbourhoods.

## Ring Necked Parakeet



This parakeet was in the hotel garden on the evening of 2nd August. Its call was recognised by David Ainsley who had previously seen parakeets on various golf courses and sighted this one high in a tree. The ring necks are quite a bit smaller than the parakeet that was in the village a few years ago, and it would

be interesting to know if this one is an escapee or if more of them are moving north as it gets warmer. If any of our readers have lost a parakeet or have seen any around, please let us know.

## 100 Club Winners

July - Wendy Storry £40, Doris Clark £20  
August - Jean Lawrence £40, Ian Miller £20

## Linda Dixon is keen to start a new class for 'Absolute Beginners at Bridge'

Please note this will not be a class for improvers but is aimed at those who have never played Bridge before. To register an interest and for all other information please contact Linda on 01665 576437.

## Nature Notes Competition - Summer-Rose's Trip



Summer-Rose McKewon, our competition winner, has now received all her prizes, the 2 books, which she was apparently very pleased to have, and best of all her trip with Kevin Redgrave, the National Trust ranger at Newton. A report from Gavin, her father follows. Summer-Rose is the daughter of Gavin McKewon and Melissa

Suffield.

"We met Kevin at Newton Links, it was a lovely warm afternoon. Kevin was explaining all the different shrubs and flowers to Summer-Rose. The flowers were in abundance, all different colours and shades. Summer-Rose was excited to see the variety of caterpillars on show, as well as the moths and butterflies also in abundance. We found out



from Kevin that in the olden days one of the shrubs, \* Lady's bedstraw, was actually used to stuff inside pillowcases to sleep on. We made our



way to the tern nesting site which was bustling with flying terns going and coming back with little fish to feed their chicks. We were given the chance to see them close up through the telescope and binoculars.

The variety of wildlife and plant life were all out on fine display we didn't realise there was so much to see right here on the dunes and coast. I and Summer-Rose will be paying a lot more attention on

future walks.

Thank you Kevin for your time and patience!!

Gavin (Summer-Rose's Daddy)"

Thank you for your super report Gavin. Kevin our warden also told us about 2 other plants that had interested Summer-Rose. Goat's Beard, which looks like dandelions and is also called Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon as the flowers close by midday and Bird's foot trefoil which has pea-like flowers and is also called the egg and bacon plant because of the orange and yellow colouring. More on the \*Lady's bedstraw in the Nature Notes column.

## Nature Notes for June & July

[Naturenotes.whinstonetimes@gmail.com](mailto:Naturenotes.whinstonetimes@gmail.com)

"O perilous fyr, that in the bedstraw bredeth"

Chaucer, "The Merchant's Tale"

Lady's bedstraw is a frothy yellow blossom that has a honeyed scent. Before modern mattresses were invented the plant was a popular choice for bedding as it has a soft and springy quality and when dried smells of hay. Its flowers were used as an alternative to renin to coagulate milk in cheese production and in Gloucestershire apparently it was used to colour Double Gloucester. It can be seen in the dunes, as Summer-Rose discovered on her nature trip.

The new trees that have been planted to the east of Embleton (by Guy Douglas, the land owner and custodian of many of our views from the village) have had a hard time with all the dry, hot weather. They do appear to have survived and there are several different species: Norway maple, horse chestnut, copper beech, Holm oak (an evergreen), whitebeam and Corsican pine, which resembles the Scots pine but is supposed to be extra tolerant to our coastal conditions.

There were several hummingbird hawkmoths on the valerian at the beginning of July, when disturbed they fly over the roofs opposite the Blue Bell and into the garden of Paradise House. There was a pile of feathers and a flattened grass track leading under a fence to the north of the village, a very strong smell of fox was discernible. On a brighter note 2 hen pheasants have succeeded in raising chicks. On a visit to feed the wildlife at Shirewater Low Mill the sound of a broody hen was heard, on further inspection it turned out to be a pheasant with her chick, clucking and eating the seed that had fallen from the feeder. Baby creatures both fur and feather have been in abundance. The dawn chorus was replaced in early July by the insistent chirruping of fledglings pestering their exhausted parents; young starlings taking on their parents characteristics and looking like something out of Saturday Night Fever as they swagger and move around the lawns. Now, at the end of July the parent birds are beginning to look somewhat bedraggled as their feathers are being replaced after the rigours of parenthood. A sparrow hawk has been hunting regularly up and down the lane above the pubs, the swallows very bravely giving chase in an extremely vociferous way. Vegetation has also been cut back and in one case revealed very young hedgehogs, 2 were seen making their way down Sea Lane and one was rescued by the Pitt brothers from the middle of the road. Another near Glebe Farm was also rescued and is now being cared for by Tom and Judy Turnbull. While watching the numerous bats at Dunstan Steads an old wives tale was told by Vivienne Kirkby. Apparently if you put a pebble inside a white cloth and throw it in the air the bats will all dive towards the cloth, much mirth until said cloth and pebble were jettisoned and low and behold the bats all dived towards it!

We have had some wonderful weather, memorable sunsets and one evening towards the end of July there was a tremendous screaming as the swifts, all 10 of them, called from overhead - this drowning out the noise and laughter of the children playing late in the playpark at the beginning of the school holidays.

Again at the end of July you had to watch where you put your feet around Newton Pond, there were tiny frogs everywhere, very difficult to see unless they moved. 12 partridge were seen, flying too fast to see what variety, and there was a mother hen shepherding 4 very young chickens in a field at the farm opposite the golf club. Talking of the Golf Club the course looks "like the Sahara" one Yorkshire visiting golfer was heard to remark. Standing on the hill at the top and surveying the scene the yellow grass was interspaced with the very bright green of the holes, an impressive and unusual sight.

Thank you very much to Rita Cavill for her sterling work compiling a chart of flora and fauna in the quarry, she is going to keep it updated so it would be nice for those who visit the quarry to add their finds. The chart is printed and will be of great help to those volunteers and the quarry committee.

Thank you also to our CP (Creighton Place) "reporter" Martine Delbaue who is keeping up with the happenings there now that it is settling down after the disruption of the building works. She says the oystercatchers, which they have been following with much interest, managed to raise 3 chicks as did a pair of kestrels. The partridges she mentioned in the last issue didn't breed although appear strongly bonded chasing each other back and forth across the field. She had sparrows in her swift boxes and 20 greylag geese landed amongst the now returned sheep. Lapwings and curlews have been seen flying over and she also saw a couple of avocets at the Newton Ponds - which is a first.

Baby hares have been in evidence in fields to the north including at C P. One little chap rather alarmingly made his way right towards the dog only to jig off at literally the last moment. I think it must be short-sighted as it happened a few times.

Finally thank you to Jane and Chris Walwyn James for their photo (front cover) of their guests "who left without paying!"

## Women's Club Outing

*Taken from the Alnwick Gazette published in August 1914.*

### To Glanton & Whittingham with the Embleton Women's Club

The annual picnic of the Embleton Women's Club took place on Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. The party met at the Creighton Memorial Hall at 11 a.m. Showers fell almost up to the time of starting, which deterred many from going at the last minute. Those who went were well rewarded, as the day cleared up and the sun shone out brightly. The party, driving and cycling, travelled by way of Christon Bank, Charlton and Shawdon to Glanton, when they rested a short time at the Queen's Head Hotel.

The road from the Station to Glanton is pretty, but Glanton village looked rather prosaic. There are no public buildings of any consequence. A mission church at one side of the town is served from Whittingham; on the other side is a substantially built Presbyterian Church which dates from 1783. From this point a beautiful view is had of the green and fertile vale of Whittingham.

The party agreed to walk to the latter village, the way being down a pleasant road to the Aln river. Half way down was the Roman Catholic Church, a dignified building set in pleasant surroundings. It was built in 1881 and dedicated to "our Lady Immaculate". The building was viewed from the outside, the door being locked. The party then made its way to Whittingham, which is situated on the banks of the Aln. The village is picturesque and charmingly beautiful. Here the river is crossed by the Morpeth and Wooler road, the bridge helping to make a pretty picture. High above the river is an old Pele tower. It underwent a thorough renovation in 1845 at the expense of Lady Ravensworth, and has since been used as a retreat for the deserving poor of both sexes.

There are four fountains in this favoured spot, fed from a spring giving 500 gallons per minute. One fountain in the centre of the village is very beautiful. The ubiquitous "naughty boy" was on hand, as usual, turning on the "stop tap" and increasing the flow.

From ancient times a fair was held on the Feast of St. Bartholomew (24<sup>th</sup> August), for the sale of black cattle, horses and

mercantile goods. It is now discontinued and only lingers in the form of the "Whittingham Games", held on the same date.

A move was made to the Parish Church, which stands on the bank of the river. We entered by a small gate. Close to is an ancient stone stile, the steps being worn quite hollow by the feet of centuries. The church door was found to be locked, but in a few minutes a lady carrying a basket of lovely sweet peas appeared from the west of the Church, and on being questioned relative to the key of the building said "Are there any suffragettes among you?" With one consent the party pledged its word of honour to do no harm. This acted as an "Open Sesame", and we passed into the Church. The first view is rather disconcerting; the place looked so clean and new. A closer view dispelled this illusion. The Church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and is one of the most ancient in the country. The tower is in three stages; the lowest one is of undoubted Saxon work, and must have stood over a thousand years.

In October 1840 a bazaar was held in Alnwick "under distinguished patronage". The result of the sale being £600. With this money they proceeded to "restore" the ancient edifice., They pulled down the greater part of the Saxon tower, also a Norman arcade of four arches. This they replaced by building a replica of an early one of three arches, left standing on the other side. They tried to pull down the old porch, but it proved to be so strong that they decided to leave it standing. The Vicarage to the west was an old Pele tower, but scarcely anything remains of it.

Having "done" the village, the party sets its face for Glanton. On the way up, a dog cart passed. One of the occupants was heard remarking to the other "They look like suffragettes!" and all the time we were peaceful folks. At the "Queen's Head" an excellent tea was ready waiting, to which we paid ample justice, Mr & Mrs Towns doing their utmost for the comfort of the party. "Home" was now the objective, the return journey being by Hedgeley and Shipley and through Eglington, which was a more picturesque route than the first. One feature of the district was the abundance of "meadow sweet" or "Queen of the meadow", another being the very narrow roads in some parts of the way. Fortunately the

travellers were few. Home was reached just at "lighting up time", the trip having been a very enjoyable one.

## Embleton Carpet Bowls

**John F Wallis**

The 20<sup>th</sup> September sees the start of yet another season of Carpet Bowls in the Creighton Hall and thanks to Bill MacDonald, our secretary again, we have a full list of friendly matches planned against some of our surrounding villages.

Since the close of our (not very successful winning matches) last season we have lost a valued member, Denis Chrisp. Denis was a quiet man with a dry sense of humour who enjoyed his bowls, and we all shall miss his presence greatly. Also Jimmy Craig who was a playing member for many, many years and even after his health began to deteriorate he would come along to our home matches and watch. Again someone who helped to make the atmosphere very warm and welcoming to our visiting teams.

The Club plays most Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7.00 p.m. and there is no age limit that you need to obtain before you can play, or finish playing (no contract). So why not come along and see if you enjoy playing, and the company of existing players and, as Coronation Street is mainly shown on I.T.V. Wednesday and Thursday evenings, playing will not interfere with that.

## What's on in September

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** Rennington Table Tennis Club restarts. Every Tuesday from 7.00 p.m in Rennington Village Hall. £3 per session, non-marking shoes essential. Full details from Mike Joyce 01665 572406.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** Watchorn Concert Craster Memorial Hall 7.30 p.m. Tickets £8 at door (accompanied under 12's free).

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** Embleton Women's Club - Talk "Tax, Care & Toy Boys". A humorous, light-hearted look at protecting your finances. 2.00 p.m. Parish Room.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>** Craster W.I. - Hedgehog Rescue by Liz Clark. 7.15 p.m. in the Memorial Hall, Craster.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** Film night at Howick. For all details please contact John Roper on 576413.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** Embleton Flower Club, Creighton Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Demonstration by Sandra Dickinson 'Recycle, remould, reuse.' Members free, visitors most welcome £5.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>** Embleton W.I. 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Special Lunch.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** Embleton Mothers Union . Trip to the home of Bill Devonshire. There will be a talk and then tea & cake.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** Watchorn Concert, Bamburgh Pavillion 7.30p.m.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** Craster Hist Soc. Outing to Belford Museum for a talk by the museum staff

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** Watchorn Concert, Village Hall, Holy Island 3.00 p.m. (to fit in with causeway open times).

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** Embleton Carpet Bowls - new season starts. New members most welcome. Ccontact John Wallis 01665 576797.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** Watchorn Concert, Craster Memorial Hall 7.30p.m.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>** Film night at Howick. For all details please contact John Roper on 576413.

## What's On in October

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Embleton Women's Club - David Waters, NNP Mountain Rescue Team. 2.00 p.m. Parish Room.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** Craster W.I. - Harris Tweed Art Print Cards by Jane Jackson

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>** Embleton Flower Club, Creighton Hall 7.30 p.m. Practical Evening with pooled supper. Theme is 'Autumn Colours'.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>** Embleton W.I. - AGM. Sspeaker Mrs Ann Dixon. 2.00 p.m. Parish Room.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** Embleton Mothers Union. Service of Holy Communion at St Peter's Church Craster.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>** Craster Hist. Soc. - subject to be arranged..

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>** Seahouses Hist Soc . Mike Christian "First in the World-

The Stockton & Darlington Railway".

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** Film Festival weekend at Howick Village Hall. For all details contact John Roper on 576413.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>** Andy May Trio with Rosie Hood. 7.30 p.m. Creighton Hall - doors open 6.45 p.m. Ticket Details in October Net.

## Political History of Fallodon

### *Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, Prime Minister 1830 -1834*

Earl Grey, of the tea fame, was born at Fallodon Hall in 1764. He became Prime Minister in 1830, being leader of the Whig (liberal) party and presided over the Great Reform Act of 1832, which modernised the electoral system, and also the abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire in 1833.

Charles Grey was father of 16 legitimate children and also, as a young man, fathered a child with Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire in 1792. The child, called Eliza, was taken from her mother and came to live at Fallodon to be brought up by her grandparents. She was led to believe they were her parents, and therefore her father was her much older brother. The film 'Duchess' starring Keira Knightly, showed the dramatic scene of the daughter being taken away. Dominic Cooper played Charles Grey.

Charles Grey inherited Howick from a bachelor uncle, and lived there for 44 years, dying in 1845 and he is buried in the churchyard there.

The monument in Newcastle has Charles Grey's statue on a 40m high column, and was erected in 1838. Edmund Baily, the sculptor, later created Nelson's statue which stands on the column in Trafalgar Square.

### *Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, 1905 -1916*

Another Grey of great political weight who lived at Fallodon was Edward Grey, born in 1862. (Charles Grey, the Prime Minister was his great words, on the eve of the First World War: 'The lights are going out all over Europe: we will not see them lit again in our lifetime'. He is also known as the great ornithologist, who wrote 'Charm of Birds' and bred uncle). He was Foreign Secretary from 1905 -1916, and is known for his rare ducks at Fallodon, feeding them by hand at the side of the pond, protected by a fox-proof fence. The pond is still there,

***The above history is an extract from a paper prepared by Fallodon and is hereby acknowledged.***



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