

Whinstone Times

Community magazine for Embleton and
Christon Bank



September/October 2021

Edition No. 75



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Editorial

Welcome to the 75th edition of the Whinstone Times. At time of writing, there are causes for optimism for the future and the percentage of vaccinated people continues to increase. Staying with matters medical we begin a regular feature from Tony Brown the Managing Partner for the Alnwick Medical Group. We hope you find this addition useful, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all NHS staff for helping us through the Covid Pandemic.

There is more uplifting news in the article on live music at Fallodon Hall. The photograph of the wreck on the front cover is provided by Tony Barrow. He reveals what the wreck looked like in its heyday, and explains its story on page four, five and six.

We continue to receive donations from local people who understand the cost of producing the Whinstone Times, thank you.

Finally, this is the first issue we have produced since Chris German, one of our editors left Embleton. I hope it is not too obvious that we particularly miss his IT and proofreading skills. Chris also contributed to Embleton in so many ways, including the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan, the Quarry Committee and the Community Website. All the best Chris.

We welcome letters, articles and any ideas for content from our readers. Please contact us at whinstone.times@gmail.com or telephone Jan Ainsley, 01665 576019.

Please send information for 'What's On' to Shelagh Coxon, telephone 01665 576791 or gorcoxon@hotmail.com

The deadline for material for the next edition is Monday 11th October.

N.B. The editors reserve the right to alter or reject material and the views expressed within these covers are solely those of the contributors.

Rates for Advertising in the Whinstone Times

The cost per issue is £15 for a quarter page, £30 for a half page and £50 for a full page. A discount of 5% is applied for 3 editions and 10% for 6 editions. If you would like to place an advert, please contact us.

Whinstone Times Deliveries

*The Whinstone Times is free to all households in the Embleton Parish. We need to know if your copy is not being delivered (it should be together with alternate copies of The Net). **If this is the not case, please email the editors, whinstone.times@gmail.com** or telephone. Jan Ainsley 01665 576019.*

The other way of reading the Whinstone Times is on our community website,

www.embleton-northumberland.co.uk/publish.html

If you or someone you know lives outside the area and is not able to receive their free paper copy, we would email a copy to them and welcome a donation towards costs.

We apologise if you have not been getting your copy but we hope you realise that we have all been through a very difficult period.

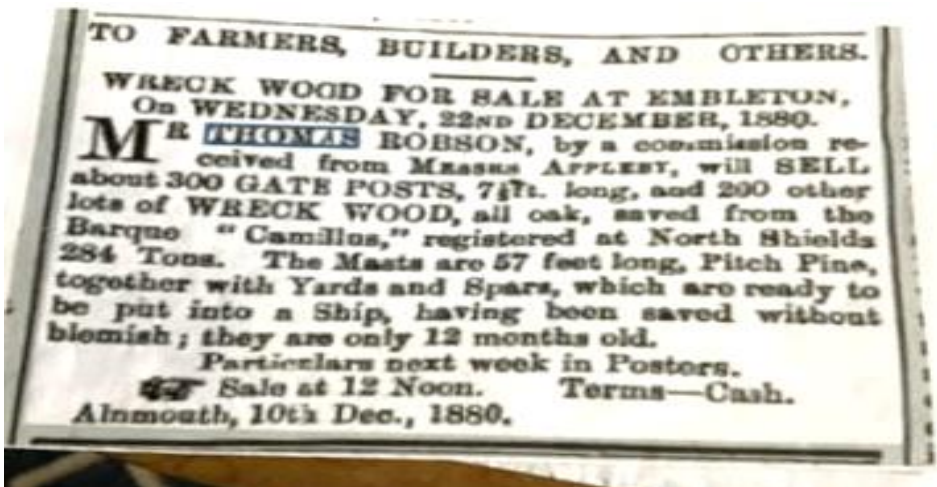
The Embleton Shipwreck

Tony Barrow

Many older residents of Embleton and district will recognise the photograph shown on the front cover of a large wooden shipwreck on the beach south of the burn mouth. It was taken almost thirty years ago, and the ship has only been seen once or twice since. The wreck was reported to the county archaeologist at the time but has hitherto remained unidentified. Recent research, however, suggests it is likely to be the wreck of the *Camillus* of Blyth, a 284-ton barque built at Sunderland in 1862. She was owned by J. Cole in North Shields at the time of her loss. *Camillus* was typical of the large sailing ships that ‘tramped’ cargoes wherever they could be found. She made a number of voyages into the Mediterranean during the 1870s and was regularly engaged in the coal trade from Blyth.

In July 1880, under the command of Captain William Campbell, *Camillus* was discharging a cargo of coal in the Thames before returning to Blyth. She sailed from there to the Baltic during August with export coal. On October 4th, Lloyds List reported her arrival at Elsinore, bound from Cronstadt to Wisbech, where she arrived safely two weeks later. On 25th October, *Camillus* sailed for Blyth with 95 tons of ballast. As the ship approached her home port two days later, the barometer fell rapidly, the weather worsened with squalls of snow and sleet, and the wind increased

to gale force from the North East. There was little chance of the ship entering Blyth in those conditions and Captain Campbell was forced to run before the storm. At 2am. on 28th in hurricane force winds, the ship's remaining sails blew out and she became unmanageable. Like thousands of mariners before him, Captain Campbell found his ship on a lee shore in one of the worst storms of that year. He later reported... 'on 28th at noon, tide quarter ebb, weather rough, wind east a strong gale with a terrific sea from east the ship stranded near Embleton Burn and shortly afterwards became a total wreck' ... *Camillus* was one of 12 ships wrecked between the Farne Islands and Flamborough Head during the storm, some with heavy loss of life. Fortunately, the captain and crew of *Camillus* were saved from the wreck by the rocket apparatus employed by the coastguard at Low Newton. A letter of thanks written by Captain Campbell and published in the Shipping and Maritime Gazette on 2nd November praised the efforts of the coastguard and fishermen of Newton and Embleton... 'for their promptness and bravery in rescuing us from a watery grave'. He also offered his... 'sincere thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Gray of the Ship Inn for their kind attention in providing us with warm clothes and food during our stay at newton'.



Timbers salvaged from the wreck were subsequently advertised for sale in the local newspapers and auctioned at Embleton on 22nd December 1880. The oak was probably recycled into local buildings and perhaps into some of the gateposts which can still be found in the district as well.

Of course, the wreck of the *Camillus* is still there too, hidden beneath the sand, only to reveal itself when winter storms and easterly gales strip the beach of covering sand.



A large wooden barque similar in size and rig to the *Camillus* of Blyth.

Embleton Carpet Bowls

John Wallis

The indoor Carpet Bowls is scheduled to start again in the Creighton Hall, Thursday 23rd September at 7pm. Will we remember how to play after the enforced shut down? It doesn't matter if we do or don't, because we all enjoy the banter and laughter that takes place during the evening session. So if you enjoy a bit of fun, why not pop in and have a go? You will be more than welcome. It doesn't matter if you have never played carpet bowls before; many of us hadn't when we were first introduced to the game by a previous member and we are still turning up and enjoying the evening. Looking forward to seeing you.



Can't tell a bluebell from a cowslip? There's loads of info available but if, like me, you just want a few memorable facts (with a small f) then this is for you. It's been a bumper year for orchids here in Embleton Quarry, thanks to the ponies and their poo, so here's some 'dirt' on this family of exotica:

- There are around 28,000 species of wild orchid, so it's one of the largest and most diverse families of flowering plants
- The types found in the Quarry Nature Reserve include, in descending numbers, the northern marsh orchid, the pyramidal orchid, the bee orchid and the common spotted orchid (not that common it seems)
- Found on every continent except Antarctica, they're tough as old boots (in a delicate sort of a way) and survive at high altitudes as well as in tropical and semi-desert conditions
- Vanilla comes from the pod of a tropical climbing orchid from Mexico; the best vanilla beans in the world are still produced in Papantla, Mexico
- The orchids we buy from supermarkets are hothouse hybrids, and wouldn't survive outside
- It's illegal to trade wild orchids without a permit from CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- Britain's rarest flower is the lady's slipper orchid. Victorian orchid collectors overdid the collecting bit, and it was declared extinct in England in 1917. A single plant was rediscovered in 1930, its location kept secret and the plant moved away for safety. A programme to reintroduce this rarity back into the countryside began in the mid 90's with some recent success.

Nature Notes June/July

Peter Brown is taking a break, just for this issue. Nature lovers please continue to e mail sightings to us as usual.



Partridge in a rockery in Christon Bank! Photo kindly sent in by Mike Robson.

National Trust Update

James Porteous

Long Nanny Shorebird Site

As we move into the month of July, we approach the end of another breeding season at the Long Nanny. It feels as though the terns have only just arrived, but in the coming weeks our Arctic terns will leave to embark on their extraordinary journey of nearly 10,000 miles to Antarctica. We are hopeful that the adults will be joined this year by good numbers of fledglings, which would represent a great outcome given the desertion of the site by this species last year. There are currently plenty of healthy chicks of varying ages, but they will undoubtedly have many challenges to negotiate yet before able to fully fledge the nest. As usual, the birds have had to contend with high spring tides and attacks from predators such as crows and stoats, not to mention the unpredictable weather that is the Great British summer! The rangers and volunteers have done a fantastic job all season of protecting the birds and engaging with beach users, and with one final push and a little luck, all that hard work will be rewarded.

The Farnes As for many of us, June 21st was an eagerly anticipated date for the Farne Island Ranger Team. It marked the point when they were finally able to reopen Inner Farne and welcome visitors back to enjoy the natural spectacle of the island and the amazing wildlife it has to offer. Though Covid restrictions left the rangers unable to land visitors prior to this, it did give



them the time to concentrate on the valuable monitoring and habitat management across all the islands. While the rangers are still working through much of the data, initial observations saw good numbers for many of the birds including guillemots and kittiwakes, which have both expanded their ranges. The Arctic terns were absent from Inner Farne this year, though they have still nested in the outer group in good numbers, with Staple Island seeing a big increase in the number of nests. Success was seen across both Staple and Brownsman, with both islands getting a good number of chicks away. There are numerous factors behind the reduction on Inner Farne, but it is thought the main contributing element has been the absence of rangers from the islands throughout the course of the pandemic. As normality returns, it will be interesting to see whether the terns breeding behaviour has changed and whether they will continue with their occupation of Staple island. The rangers are, however, confident that the terns will return to Inner Farne and are looking forward to their arrival next season.

Parish Council Notes June/ July

Terry Howells

At last the 20 mph speed limit from Whinstone View to the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel has been installed. The flashing control lights will operate before and after school but not at weekends or during school holidays. This completes the latest Embleton traffic plan. Councillors expressed concern about the lack of a footpath joining the new development at the east end of Christon Bank with the Horsley Place footpath. A letter was sent to NCC Highways asking for details of the proposed path, but no information has

yet been received. Discussions are ongoing with the landowner regarding the diversion of the footpath from the B1339 to Newton across North Farm. Following a request from parishioners the Council agreed to approach NCC regarding the transfer of ownership of a small parcel of land near Tunstall Gardens. This has been favourably received by NCC and it has been agreed to include this with the transfer of the quarry house and associated land. This will save legal fees and make the project viable. The land will be used as allotments.

After receiving a paper prepared by the Quarry Working Group the Council agreed unanimously to accept the proposal that the transfer of ownership of quarry house and associated land from NCC should be progressed as soon as possible. Further details of the project can be found in this edition of the WT.

Now that the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted by Northumberland County Council Councillors agreed that all future planning applications within the parish needed to be carefully examined to ensure their fit with the policies. Councillor Greenhoff agreed to act as examiner and provide guidance to the Council.

It has been pointed out that the Parish Council has a duty of care as regards the safety of trees on its land. Councillors expressed their concern regarding the cost of ongoing professional examination of trees. It was agreed that as a first step details of all trees involved should be prepared.

Much time was spent discussing the planning application for a car park at Dunstan Steads. It was felt that the application lacked many important details but most importantly it contravened both Policy 1 (Sustainable Development) and Policy 2 (Landscapes and Seascapes) of the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan. It was therefore agreed to lodge an objection to this application.

This is the latest, hopefully the last, northward addition to our village. The estate of sixteen new homes is an addition to Creighton Place. It is built partially on land that has historically flooded, and still does, if last winter is anything to go by.

The open land to the north is arguably the finest feature of the development; residents are very fortunate to be able to enjoy it on their doorstep. It is bounded to the east by the course of the narrow-gauge railway that once started the products of Embleton Quarry on their way to the outside world. To absorb some of the winter floods, a large pond has been formed on its eastern side. The landowner Mark Bridgeman, and Cussins the builders, have created here a landscaped ecological area, planting many trees, and aquatic plants around the margins and in the pond itself.



Already wildlife has been attracted here. Over the winter, it was a sanctuary for a wide variety of birds. We soon heard that little owls lived in a broken tree on the old railway track and were able to recognise them by sight and sound. Barn owls are resident

nearby; we see them hunting in the early morning. Hares are often seen (we even saw some 'boxing' in April last year), and occasionally deer. There is no doubt that the addition of this pond to the local landscape has offered a new sanctuary for wildlife, and since it filled, we have had so many visitors I can but list them. In addition to birds you will see in your garden, we have seen: swans, oystercatchers, mallards and their ducklings, black headed gulls, coots, moorhens, and pink footed, greylagged and Canada geese. As for the human inhabitants, in spite of Covid, a sense of community is already developing; walking the many dogs that now live here does have a way of bringing people together!

Open Air Concert Fallodon Hall

Tony Rochester

My wife and I were very lucky to attend an open-air concert in the courtyard at Fallodon Hall on Saturday 10th July. John Roper had the bravery to stage one of the first covid safe music events in the area for about eighteen months. He approached Mark and Lucia Bridgeman who were keen to try another first, music in their stableyard.



John then contacted the highly respected Scottish performer James Grant who plays pop, soul, country, you name it, not to mention all his own compositions. He was only too pleased to do his first gig for almost two years and brought with him cellist Maya Burman-Roy of the Hallelujah Quartet.

The support act was local group The Sour Mash Trio, who play upbeat rockabilly and country music, and include renowned rockabilly guitarist Joe Guillan. We are delighted to report too that for the last songs they were joined by Johnny Cavener from Embleton on saxophone.



The weather was kind to us and it was dry and warm. The musicians never ceased saying how fantastic it was to be performing again for the first time, which made the audience feel extra especially lucky. The acoustics in the stableyard were superb and Mark and Lucia opened their beautiful private gardens for picnics at the interval. We are also glad to report that the swallows nesting behind the stage seemed to be totally unfazed by rockabilly and flew in and out at will.



I was asked by the Editor if I would like to contribute to The Whinstone Times and I accepted as soon as I saw the email. It's a fantastic opportunity for AMG to share any developments with our patients. As we all cross our fingers that the county is settling after the mass vaccination programme, I can feel the continued positivity from our team at Alnwick Medical Group [AMG] and the

patients in our communities.

Firstly though, here's a very brief history about how I ended up managing the practice. I had mainly managed teams in the commercial sector for 15 years when I changed my focus and took a job managing a small practice elsewhere in Northumberland to be closer to my children at the time. Thirteen years later and I know I made the right decision. I subsequently took on the role at The Bondgate Practice in 2011. AMG has had so many challenges over the last years and we are now in a great position as we have a strong leadership team and encourage input from everyone who works in your service.

The team is passionate about delivering all we can to our patients – AMG are 100 strong, and work also closely with our colleagues in community healthcare and social care to ensure we develop and innovate to expand local services*

One of our longer-term strategies that was finally embedded into the practice was the launch of our education hub. We train doctors to be General Practitioners, Foundation Doctors, medical students, trainee nurses, pharmacy technicians, medication dispensers, managers and non-clinical apprentices. This all helps us attract enthusiastic personnel and develop our local professionals. As one of the largest employers in the area we will establish further links with the schools to enable our future brightest and best to find a career in the NHS.

As most patients local to Embleton are aware, we are a rural dispensing practice we can supply your regular medication directly from the surgery. This service is unique to rural areas in England and helps practices survive

and provide services in smaller towns and villages. If you would like to get your medication from the surgery, then please speak to one of the team at the branch. We can also deliver to those who qualify for that additional service. As we hopefully see some light at the end of a very long dark covid tunnel, we are still working with limited staffing due to isolation rules and our team finally taking some holiday with their families and friends. We will shortly also be delivering flu vaccines and covid booster vaccines to our patients but have enlisted a team of volunteers to help us with that extra work. Our vaccine service was one of the most successful in England and we were one of the only hubs that never refused a delivery – ensuring we were ahead of the game for months on end. It's very challenging but also rewarding for our team, and we thank our patients or their continued support through such challenging times. Next time I hope to update you on our clinic and how the next few years in Primary Care should be extremely exciting as new services are added to our local teams, such as First Contact Physio reviews and Mental Health Practitioners. Thanks, and stay safe.

*Article written before announcement of branch closure in Longhoughton. There are no plans whatsoever to close any others under the AMG umbrella. Embleton branch will not close.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council would like to make sure that all parishioners are aware of 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.

County Councillor Wendy Pattison's report

E-mail: wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel. 01665 579137 – 07979 067321 – 077799 83072

facebook – Cllr Wendy Pattison



Integrated support for Northumberland communities

The proposal is to develop a collaborative partnership, in which adult social care services will be one element in a wider integrated approach to supporting people with care and support needs in the community. The move will see Northumberland County Council working increasingly closely with GP practices, mental health services and the voluntary and community sector, to provide bespoke support for Northumberland residents.

Five Neighbourhood Plans adopted

Residents of Alnmouth, Craster, Embleton, Hexham and Lesbury now have more of a say over future development in their parishes, following the adoption of neighbourhood plans for their respective areas.

The neighbourhood plans will now form part of the statutory development plan for Northumberland, meaning that future planning decisions in the five areas will be made in line with policies in them, unless 'material' considerations indicate otherwise.

Free course to help people achieve improved weight and wellbeing

Anyone interested in achieving a healthy weight can sign up to a programme run by Active Northumberland which is aimed at people with a BMI of over 30.

You can check your Body Mass Index by visiting <https://nland.uk/BMI>

If you are interested in taking part, please email weightmanagement@activenorthumberland.org.uk

Or you can sign up to the programme at <https://nland.uk/refer>

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)

This is a unique tree planting initiative which invites people across the UK to plant a tree to mark the queen's platinum jubilee in 2022.

If you wish to plant a tree in your garden to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee we recommend you order a tree from a certified Plant Healthy nursery in your area.

Embleton School News



Embleton Primary School raised **£2267** in total for Children's Cancer North (the target was £1000). Well done to all the children for taking part in the run on Friday 2nd July and to everyone that donated. The charity is very grateful for the large donation and are delighted with our efforts! Photos of the event can be found on the school website <https://www.embletonprimaryschool.com> and on the school Twitter feed.

School 100 Club - June winners

1st Prize Number 1 £50 Lorna Gilroy
2nd Prize Number 87 £25 Diane O'Leary

School 100 Club - July winners

1st Prize Number 35 £50 Jean Lawrence
2nd Prize Number 59 £25 Margaret Davison

School Composting update



William Sutherland

In the last issue of the Whinstone Times you may have read about Embleton School's exciting and important venture into composting. Inspired by local parent Hatty Dinsmore, the new composting bins make a wonderful piece of “artwork” after the efforts by our local kids to apply their creative painting skills to enliven the brickwork! The compost bins should process all the food waste from the school kitchen, taking a great step forward towards “sustainability”.

Nashville to Northumberland

Janet Middlebrook

Reading last edition's feature by Gary Woodburn on the dark skies in this beautiful part of Northumberland gave me cause for reflection.



A few years ago, some friends of ours, Alan and Viv Fish, invited us to a concert at St Cuthbert's House in North Sunderland. Alan is a well-known Newcastle musician, an erstwhile member of White Heat, and now producing some brilliant music under the name of The Attention Seekers (If you have a minute, I recommend a listen on YouTube

to his version of the traditional song 'The Water is Wide' plus a new track 'Seven Bridges'). At the concert, Alan was playing for an American singer songwriter, Jesse Terry. We decided to make the trip north from Newcastle, as the prospect of good music had the added bonus of revisiting a part of the North East coastline I had not been to often enough since long ago childhood holidays.

The evening was a great success, planting the seeds for us living here now, and forming a friendship with Jesse as well as a love for his music. It was also when Jesse fell under the spell of this area, and he has revisited regularly, making what I think are two of his best videos using the backdrop of Bamburgh, Steel Rigg and our amazing dark skies – and yes, I am biased, but who can blame me - for the song 'Stargazer', as well as showcasing the coastline including Dunstanburgh, for the song 'Kaleidoscope'. As Jesse says in his notes for the 'Stargazer' video, "Northumberland is a magical place, and making the video was one of those days I'll remember for the rest of my life'. 'Stargazer' is a song that, just like the rolling firmament in the video, makes us aware that we can all reach out beyond the everyday and 'pick our universe'.

Jesse's latest album 'When We Wander' has just been released and he hopes, pandemic permitting, to tour it here next year. He will no doubt be revisiting this coastline where he found such inspiration, and where he triggered in us an impetus to live in a place so full of natural beauty, from the beaches, to the countryside, to the beautiful dark skies above.

(Jesse's songs and videos can be found on YouTube or downloaded from Spotify)

Space for Shorebirds

Katherine Dunsford

Shorebird nesting season is over for another year on the Northumberland Coast. Ringed plovers and oystercatchers have faced four months fraught with danger and peril – successfully raising chicks to fledging is a mammoth task. Despite the challenges, it was good news for the pair of ringed plovers who chose to call Embleton Bay their home between May and July. Four chicks emerged from their nest on 7th June, and quickly



The female ringed plover at Embleton

began to explore their surroundings – often pushing the boundaries of the safety of the fencing! Being wading birds, their natural food source are small marine creatures living within wet sand, and so the parent birds would often lead their small chicks on the precarious journey to the sea when the beach was quiet. Depending on the state of the tide, they were sometimes almost 100 metres away from the nest protection area! Although this busy stretch of beach may have seemed an unsuitable place to make a nest at first, these birds picked an ideal place to raise their chicks. 29th June they stretched their wings and



One of the chicks hiding in vegetation outside of the nest protection area

took to the air – two fledglings at last! We now enter an exciting phase of change on the coast as non-breeding birds arrive back to our shores in their thousands to call Northumberland home for the next 7 months or so. Look out for groups of sanderling dancing by the water's edge and listen for the unmistakable calls of curlew, redshank and oystercatcher feeding on the rocky shore. For more information about the birds you will see on the coast over the coming months and where best to see them, please visit our website - <http://spaceforshorebirds.co.uk/> - where you will find a handy PDF guide to the habitats on the Northumberland Coast.



There are exciting times ahead for Embleton Quarry Nature Reserve... Northumberland County Council has gifted the old Quarry House and surrounding land to be incorporated as part of the Nature Reserve!

The Quarry House ruins are not only important historically, they are now home to a large colony of tree sparrows and bats too. Taking on ownership of Quarry House will safeguard these features, preventing further degradation of a local landmark, preserving its history for future generations and protecting the wildlife that now lives there.

The land transfer is underway and we are preparing a programme of works over the next 18-24 months to make the building safe. The plan is simply to retain the building as it is, make it safe and protect it from further deterioration. There will also be opportunities to create more habitats for wildlife and improve access to the Nature Reserve.

This land transfer would not have been possible without financial support. Although the land is given for free, there are still costs associated with the transfer, for example, solicitor's fees and a legal requirement to advertise this Community Asset Transfer. We are extremely grateful to two local organisations who have donated to help fund this acquisition: Natural History Society of Northumbria Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club.



Without their generous support this land transfer might not have gone ahead. In that case, it is highly likely that Quarry House, its history and wildlife would have been lost forever (demolished to make way for development).

So, what happens next?

This autumn, when the birds have finished breeding, work will start to remove some of the thick scrub close to the Quarry House walls. This work is essential to make way for scaffolding, which will allow the building stabilisation works to begin.

Longer term, there will be opportunity to look at restoring a section of the building to its former glory (subject to grant funding). There could be a number of possibilities for use, for example, a small museum for quarry and parish. Rest assured that the existing residents (bats and birds) and the Nature Reserve will always remain central to future plans. Any proposed restoration will involve retaining a substantial amount of the ruins as a local landscape/historic feature and a safe home for wildlife.

Embleton Cricket Club

The Cricket team are having a good season and with just four matches still to play, are third in League 6 North of the Northumberland and Tyneside Cricket League. COVID restrictions mean that cricket teas are not yet possible, but the changing room can, once again, be used!

Raymond Carss

As an organic farmer, we have a particularly exacting challenge at this time of year, fighting weeds, because we don't use chemical sprays. A lot of topping has been going on, trying to cut down the thistles before they seed. "Topping in June is a month too soon" is an old saying much heard again recently. Ragwort removal is a mammoth job too and is hand weeded with a specific fork to get the root out. If stock and horses eat a lot of Ragwort which has got into their hay it can be poisonous, so it is important to not let it spread.



There have been good crops of hay and silage after the June rain and spell of hot weather, in contrast to last year's shortages. The crops are looking reasonable after good growing conditions. We really only know how good they are when we see the

number of lorries loading up to head for Coastal Grain. 130,00 tons of grain from this area are stored at Coastal Grain in Belford, and you will have seen their grain silos east of the A1 opposite Belford. For many farmers like us Coastal Grain offer a valuable service, cleaning, drying and storing as well as helping to market ones' crop.

“What 3 Words’...

Sarah Coxon

Have you ever been stranded by your satnav, left vaguely in the vicinity of the place you're aiming for, whilst a smug voice tells you that you've 'reached your destination'? It turns out that street addresses weren't designed for the twenty-first century. They are just not accurate enough to specify precise locations, such as the entrance to a building and don't cope with park locations or rural areas such as Embleton and Christon

Bank. Some clever geeky types decided to remedy this and designed a programme to give each 3 metre square plot of land, across the world, a randomly generated and unique three word code. Not surprisingly, this has generated a huge amount of information. The system copes with 57 TRILLION codes, whilst providing locations in 48 different languages.

I discovered *what3words* when attempting to tell friends from the south (Sheffield) exactly where to join us on the beach. I'd been brought up on Grid References but they're clunky, a bit complicated and you need an OS map. Besides, how much easier is it to say *halo.twist.robin than *NU321115? (just made up locations).

More importantly though, *what3words* can be a life saver. If you're taken ill walking in the hills, or somebody next to you collapses in a bus queue, *what3words* will pinpoint your location to an *exact* 3 metre square of land, anywhere in the world. Many emergency services now accept 3 word addresses from callers who would otherwise struggle to say exactly where they need help. Useful for breakdowns as well, companies such as AA accept *what3words* addresses to locate stranded vehicles.

My son still has the gutter-like mind of a teenager and was delighted by the thought that there could be some great combinations of words: funny, offensive or downright rude. However, as the words are not assigned manually but shuffled by an algorithm, there's no intentional offence. Apparently, some people read personal significance into the 3 words they find for a special place but again, as the combinations of words are generated automatically, there's nothing spookily 'right' when you find the 3 words 'knitting, tea, biscuit' given for your nan's house. So, how do you use it? Download the FREE *what3words* app onto your smartphone. Enter the *what3words* address into the *what3words* app, tap 'Navigate' and select which mapping function you use to get your directions. Without a phone signal, the app functions in the same way as when you have no data connection: you can view the location of any *what3words* address you enter. You can also navigate to an address using compass

mode. But to share a *what3words* address over the phone, or in a text message, you do need a phone signal. To load maps, or share in other apps or social media, you'll need a data connection (obviously, says son). There have been stories of strange destinations coming up when you give a three words combination. This is because it works via voice recognition and offers you a choice of *three* locations with very similar words. If you're say, walking in the cheviots, your 3words could be the ones that are exactly the same but for an S making a plural of one of the words, which gives a site in Alberta, Canada. Just a bit of common sense needed.

My three words are 'TRY.IT.NOW' *what3words* addresses are unique and, as the entire *what3words* grid is fixed, the 3 word address for a particular location will *never change*, even if buildings or streets are redeveloped.

Reader Photographs



We thank Milly Emmerson for her stunning photograph :

“Moon over Embleton”

Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergencies - Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard	999
Police (non-emergency)	101
Childline	0800 1111
Crime stoppers	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
Alnwick Medical Group	01665 656000
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	03444 111 444



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Howick Art Group

Carole Robson

Members of the Howick Art Group are pleased to be able to resume our meetings every Monday morning from 9.45am until 12.15pm in the Howick Village Hall. We always welcome new members via our [website howickartgroupnorthumberland.com](http://www.howickartgroupnorthumberland.com) where you can also view some of our latest work in our online exhibition which runs from the 28th August until the 30th September. If you would like further details, I can be contacted on 576768.

What's On in September

2nd Craster W.I. Partnership Quilt by Kim Six penny memories

4th Film Night at Craster 7p.m. tel. 571007 for details

6th Embleton Flower Club-members only meeting. 7.30p.m. Creighton Hall

14th Embleton W.I Creighton Hall 2p.m. tel. Joan Little 576788 for information

23rd Embleton Carpet Bowls restarts in Creighton Hall 7pm New members most welcome tel. Viv Wilson 07488235624

For information about other groups restarting in September contact:-

Pilates Tuesday a.m. Creighton Hall Tracie -07415254647

Badminton from Monday 13th Creighton Hall

contact Bobby Greenley:- 07834262911

What's On in October

2nd Film Night at Craster 7p.m. tel 571007 for details

5th Embleton Womens Club 2p.m Creighton Hall.

All details from Brenda Pilgrim- email brendajoanp@aol.com

7th Craster W.I. speaker Ruth Bull

11th Embleton Flower Club TBC

12th Embleton W.I Creighton Hall 2p.m. contact Joan Little for details
576788

ALNWICK

The Lions Car Boot Sale is held at the Homebase, Alnwick, car park on last Saturday of each month 25 Sept, 30 Oct Starts 9.00am, finishes 12.00, Cost £10



DOG BOARDING SERVICES

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Telephone: 01665 517505.

FB: Patterson's Cottage Boarding Kennels

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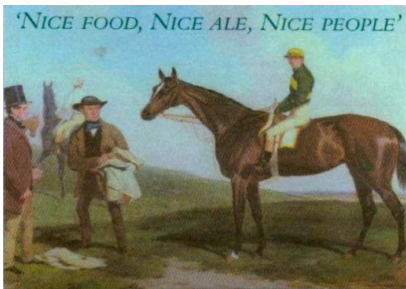
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