

Whinstone Times

Community magazine for Embleton and Christon Bank



September/October 2019

Edition No. 63



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Editorial

Welcome to the 63rd issue of the Whinstone Times. Back editions are available on the internet and can be accessed from our community website. Simply visit www.embleton-northumberland.co.uk

We have made a special effort to ensure you get this edition before the bank holiday weekend as there are many events taking place. We highlight the BioBlitz, which is to be held in the quarry. You will be amazed at the biodiversity of an area that was still a Council refuse site in the 1990's. More on this later. The second event is not new but well worth a visit; the annual scarecrow invasion of Rennington. Be brave and go along! Finally, in September there is another invasion. The Vikings are coming to Craster on September 7th and we have our usual "What's On" feature too.

We had very positive feedback following our introduction of interviews with local people who have unusual jobs. This month's cover is a huge clue, a vehicle that is no stranger to people who live on the coast. You guessed it. In this issue we interview Paul Sparrow, Station Officer of our local Coastguard Station at Howick. Three of his team live in Embleton.

How are your Sunflowers doing? One of your editors has a nine foot high one this year, but he is over 12. Don't forget to get in touch if you are entering our competition.

The Whinstone Times welcomes both letters and articles from our readers and any ideas you have for your local community magazine. Please send articles, letters, advertising or any enquiries to the Editors at our email address: whinstone.times@gmail.com or tel Jan Ainsley 01665 576019.

Please send any items for 'What's On' to Shelagh Coxon, tel 01665 576791.

The deadline for the next edition is Monday 7TH October

Whinstone Times Advertising Rates

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.

The editors reserve the right to alter or reject material.

The views expressed are those of the contributors.

HM Coastguards

We have been most fortunate to have the opportunity to talk to Paul Sparrow, the Station Officer of our local Coastguard Station at Howick.

WT: What is the role of the Coastguards ?

The role of HM Coastguard is to carry out and co-ordinate search and rescue missions at sea and along the coastline. To achieve this, we can call on a number of assets such as the RNLi, Mountain Rescue and HM Coastguard helicopters. We work closely with our colleagues in other emergency services and train regularly with them to ensure that we can provide the best possible response in the event of an incident. The teams nearest lifeboat crew is based in Craster, and we have an excellent relationship with them.

WT: Is your station at Howick staffed 24/7?

Whilst the station itself isn't physically staffed 24/7 the team are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. When somebody dials 999 and asks for the Coastguard they are put through to our Coastguard Operations Centre in Bridlington (Humber CGOC) who then page the team and they respond to the station to collect the vehicle and equipment or, depending on location, some team members may go direct to the scene of the incident.

WT: How many staff are based there, are they paid?

We currently have 11 team members at Howick which includes one Station Officer, one Deputy Station Officer and 9 Coastguard Rescue Officers. Whilst we are all volunteers, we do receive some small remuneration for certain aspects of training and incident attendance.

WT: How do you train to work as a Coastguard?



Once you have passed the application process and medical, you are required to attend the next available training course. This is completed over 1 full week and two further weekends. The full week of training covers all the basic skills needed to become a coastguard rescue officer, such as knots, tides, radio communications, map reading, navigation, etc. The next weekend is dedicated to water rescue training, quite an intensive weekend learning different in water rescue techniques and bankside safety. The final

weekend is used to qualify in the Coastguard Emergency Response Casualty Care course. This is another intensive weekend that is used to train coastguard

rescue officers in advanced lifesaving and first aid skills. All courses must be passed to progress to what is classed as 'new entrant CRO'. After around 6-8 months all new entries are then required to undergo an operational assessment which they must pass to be deemed a qualified coastguard rescue officer.

WT: What hours do you work?

We train once a week (on a Tuesday evening) for around 3 hours. In addition to that we also carry out training with our flank teams (Seahouses and Amble) on their training nights, and on some weekends. On top of that we then carry out regular patrols along the coast and attend PR and safety events with schools and youth groups.

WT: Do you have any problem recruiting staff?

We are quite fortunate at Howick as we have good team numbers at the moment. However, recruitment can be an issue as a lot of people work out of the area and are therefore not available (you need to live or work within 20 minutes of the station). In addition, we need extremely understanding employers who are willing to release their staff at a moments' notice. Whilst this may seem an obstacle, employers gain the benefits of having a coastguard rescue officer in their employment as they are all trained to a high standard of first aid and are able to keep calm in an emergency situation.

WT: Could you describe a typical shift?

There's no such thing as a typical day! You can be at work or home and be paged at anytime and the range of incidents we attend is immense. Incidents include medical incidents (falls, sudden illness, etc), search for missing persons, water rescue, establishing a landing site for the Coastguard helicopter, vessels in distress, stranded dolphins etc, unexploded ordnance or old flares, chemicals washed up on the beach, the list is endless! Every job is different, and you learn to expect the unexpected. Three of our team have just qualified as mud rescue technicians and four as mud rescue operators and they now respond as part of the mud rescue team based out of Seahouses Coastguard Station.

WT: How has this job affected your home life?

Our families form part of the backbone of the service. Without the understanding of our families we wouldn't be able to volunteer. Many a family BBQ, meal or outing has been put on hold when the pagers go. We have had Christmas Day and New Year's Eve call outs, and everything gets dropped when the team is paged. Our families are fantastic in understanding that when we are paged then somebody is in trouble and we need to respond. The families really do support and encourage all that we do.

WT: What do you enjoy about your job?

There are many aspects of the job that are enjoyable, and they vary from team member to team member. The team is very much like a second family (sometimes even a first family!) and we are all good friend as well as colleagues. The camaraderie is fantastic, along with the humour! It's also very pleasing when you finish an incident and have made a real difference to somebody's day. Learning new skills is also satisfying and a number of our team members have had to use their skills outside of the service in their day to day life.

WT: What do you not like about your job?

Dealing with fatalities is never a good side of the job but as a team we support each other, along with great support from HM Coastguard Service. We get called out at all times of day and night and in all weathers. Cold, wet and windy winters nights are never pleasant but if we are tasked in these conditions then somebody is in danger and we respond accordingly.

WT: How can people find out more about The Coastguards?

We are out on patrols in the area regularly so if you see us just stop us and say 'hello'. Alternatively pop down to the station on a Tuesday night or have a look at our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HowickCGRescue/ which is regularly updated with our current activities.

If you would like us to attend your school, youth group or any other meeting to talk about the work of HMCG then drop us a message through Facebook and we can make the necessary arrangements.

WT: What can the public do to help you ?

The biggest thing we ask people is never to hesitate in calling 999 and asking for the Coastguard if they think anybody is in trouble, in danger or in need of assistance along our coastline. We would much rather be called out and find all is well than to be called out too late or not at all. In an emergency situation, or anything that has the potential to become an emergency, minutes and seconds can have a huge impact on the outcome of the incident. We would rather be called out to a call with good intent and it be nothing to worry about than be called out later to a serious problem later because someone hesitated to call.

We would also ask people to make themselves aware of the dangers you find along the coast. Check the tide times, weather conditions and you are suitably equipped for a day on the coast where the weather can change in a matter of minutes. Also remember that inflatable toys are designed for the pool and not for the sea!!

Community Information

County Councillor Wendy Pattison's report

E-mail: wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk Tel. 07779 983072 and Facebook - Cllr Wendy Pattison



Traffic Calming - see PC Notes

Greyfield Estate - NCC Housing Department will shortly be renewing roofs on tenanted houses in the Greyfield Estate.

NCC Recycling of Plastic - following the BBC " War on Plastic" programme which showed plastic dumped in areas of Asia, NCC has confirmed that all its recycled plastic is easily recyclable, has a high value and is sold to stable markets in the UK and Europe.

Free Trees for Schools and Communities - via Woodland Trust. For further information go to their website <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/free-trees/>

Parish Council Notes

June/July 2019

Enquiries to the Land Registry confirmed that there is no registered owner of the land on which the old well at Christon Bank is sited. The PC agreed to restore the well and maintain the land, and, in 12 years' time, could apply for ownership.

The landowner had responded to the PC's letter re safety for walkers needing to use the road to access the footpath to Low Newton. He was not prepared to open his private footpath for public use. A further email had been received from the local resident, and options will be discussed at the next meeting.

The PC discussed an option to seek a voluntary donation from holiday homeowners whose premises are exempt from Council Tax, and therefore the precept for the PC. It was agreed to write to these owners, following the success of a similar scheme in Bamburgh.

NCC presented an update on the speed restriction schemes for both Christon Bank and Embleton. A local farmer has agreed to provide an agricultural vehicle to check the width of the proposed chicanes at Christon Bank. No date has yet been set for the installation of the scheme. Work is expected to start in the Autumn. The proposed scheme for Embleton was discussed and further

options on the siting of signs for the 20mph zone outside the school and the rumble strips was needed. A site meeting will be arranged once the school returns from its summer break in September.

A resident had contacted the PC about dog fouling on Sea Lane. It was agreed to ask NCC for a litter bin to be placed opposite The Villas. This would be a general litter bin as NCC are steering away from dedicated dog waste bins. It was also agreed to ask NCC if notices could be applied to all bins reflecting that dog waste can be placed in all bins.

The zip wire and basket in the play park were currently out of action, the PC agreed to fund the necessary repairs. Further discussions on the management of the play park are scheduled for the September meeting.

Planning for this year's fireworks display is continuing with a risk assessment being done and the PC funding the necessary insurance cover.

Two planning applications were discussed, one behind the church at Christon Bank and one on the Glebe Field in Embleton. The PC voted to object to both as they are not compliant with the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan continues, although not as fast as we would like, with NCC requesting further background information.

Local Transport Plan

At the September Parish Council meeting Councillors will be discussing the County Council's request for the submission of the top three highways and transport priority issues in our parish for inclusion in the 2020/21 Local Transport Plan. Two of our previous requests, which are scheduled for this year, are the installation of pavements on Station Road between Woodstead and Greyfield Estate and between Dovecote Close and the corner.

To aid the discussions residents are invited to send any suggestions for the 2020/21 programme via email to embletonpc@hotmail.co.uk or in writing to The Parish Clerk, 36 Christon Bank Village, Christon Bank. NE66 3EY.

Amongst the schemes which can be considered are highway restrictions (e.g. weight limits, one-way travel, parking, no entry, speed restrictions), major road resurfacing (not potholes), pedestrian safety (e.g. pavements, crossings) and those that support economic growth or reduce carbon emissions.

Wendy Pattison has suggested making each side of Front Street one way at the bottom around the green, and improvements to the junction at the top. What do you think?

Submissions must be received by Wednesday 11th September.

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.

Creighton/Mandell Place Update Mark Bridgeman

As at the start of August, the foundations are complete on around half the new houses. The first houses will start appearing out of the ground in August, with the first roofs on by late August. The project remains on track with the first properties due to be complete before the end of the year.

Alnwick Medical Group

Walk Your Way to Fitness

In September we will be starting FREE health walks from our Embleton Branch surgery, they will be held on every other Tuesday commencing 10th September; meet at 10.30. All ages, abilities and dogs (on leads) are welcome. Walks will last between 45 minutes to 1 hour and are run by trained 'Walking for Health' leaders.



Knit and Natter

We also run a 'Knit and Natter' Group every Friday 2.30pm - 3.30pm, at Alnwick Medical Group, Lower Building (meet in the clinic room). Meet new friends, enjoy a natter and knit at the same time. Great for relaxation and stress relief. All ages and abilities very welcome. Friendly and welcoming atmosphere with hot drinks provided.

For more information on both please contact the surgery on 01665 656000.

Tour of Britain Cycle Race

On Monday, September 9th the Tour of Britain will be passing through Bamburgh, Seahouses, Embleton, Longhoughton and Alnwick. The expected time of arrival in Embleton is 12.55. The organisers would welcome any bunting or bicycles along the route to add to the spectacle. The school and PC are putting up bunting, anyone got an old bike you could paint red/yellow?

Have Whinstone Times will travel!

Our Editors have recently been made aware that paper copies of our magazine are being posted to relations and people who once lived here who prefer this to reading it on-line. This got us wondering. Do you send a copy to someone? Let us know, we are curious to know how far the Whinstone Times travels!

Nature Notes June/July 2019

Linda Heslop

"The happiness of the bee and the dolphin is to exist. For man it is to know and wonder at it." Jacques Yves Cousteau.

A very special event occurred on July 16th - the appearance of 8 dolphins in Embleton Bay. The tide was in and they were so close. They seemed to be



fishing for a while and were followed by gulls. There were very few people on the beach that day and most were unaware, either chatting or looking straight ahead but those that were watching were treated to the most wonderful display. Some dolphins leapt right out of the water, (they can leap as high as 20 feet), some skyhopped or splashed backwards in the sea, a few did the usual dolphin in and out and one dived straight down so that its flukes could be seen disappearing. They were in the bay for about 45 minutes charming all that had the great good fortune to spot them. Dolphins are extremely playful and

curious, taking a delight in swimming around boats large and small; if there is a dog on board, they will stay whistling and performing for quite some time. Sizewise the Orca is the largest of the species growing up to 9.1 metres long. It is a most emotional experience to look into a wild dolphin's eyes, there is such a kindness and depth of intelligence.

Elsewhere there are lots of young things about, a hen pheasant with 2 well-grown chicks at the top of Dunstan Steads Road and another, I literally tripped over in the long grass, with about 12 tiny chicks. It would be interesting to know how many survive. A pair of partridges and 8 chicks beside the golf course were startled by a dog walker but they are such good parents, one led half the chicks into the undergrowth and the other carried on ahead; the dog was well under control. The first partridge then came back and tried to lure dog and owner away making a loud noise and flying backwards and forwards. Eventually, the second adult took fright at some golfers resplendent in bright orange and white tee shirts and flew over the field with the tiny chicks flapping desperately to keep up. Shirewater Low Mill has 2 mallard ducks, both with young and at 2 hedgehogs in residence. Young hares have been regularly "sunbathing" in the rape field to the north then one was found dead where it had last been seen. The second sadly, met the same fate a week later, the culprit unknown. A young badger was run over on Dunstan Steads Road. Deer are regularly seen, larks and magpies also in the fields with young and in the villages very noisy fledgling sparrows plus blackbirds, swallows, house martins etc. Swifts, 8 to 10 in number are screaming around; the good weather has given them plenty of insect life in the sky there has also been the first sighting this year of a hummingbird hawkmoth feeding on valerian. On 21st June an eerie sound could be heard "moving" around Embleton, a fox, redolent of "Midsomer Murders" where there always seems to be one present in every episode! The birds were making alarm calls. Other sightings include a buzzard helping itself to a roadkill hare on the way to Craster, swallows mobbing a sparrow hawk, a large grey/black/white furry cat eating the bird food near the Blue Bell, woodpeckers visiting nuts and ducks in the barley field. Geese are appearing again flying in groups and 12 lapwings flew over the village at the end of July. David and Jan Ainsley followed a merlin flying almost swift-shaped out of the village in late June - that must be a first, they also had a red squirrel in their garden. Rita Cavill spotted 2 linnets and sent a lovely photo of a Burnet moth in the quarry; she also saw a little blue there. Buddleias are very attractive to butterflies and they have been particularly full of bloom this year; there is one near The Greys which was covered in painted lady butterflies, these also have a penchant for ragwort (the plants need to be taken up, roots and all and destroyed as it is harmful, particularly to horses). The painted lady migrates

a huge 7,700-miles at up to 1 km in the sky attaining speeds of 30 mph. later we have further details of this years' mass influx.

A full moon, (The Buck Moon) rose over Dunstanburgh on July 16th, named



because a buck's antlers are in full growth at this time, it is also sometimes called the Thunder Moon (very appropriate). Notably there are 2 new moons in July, one on 2nd and the other, in recent years

referred to as a Black Moon, on 31st July.

The thunder/harvest flies are beginning to be irritating, not much peace out walking or in the gardens; these tiny insects, the ones that get behind your picture glass, land everywhere - very itchy! Keep looking out for the dolphins and if possible send in any photos.naturenotes.whinstonetimes@gmail.com

The Painted Lady Butterfly

Jane Lancaster

Readers may have read of the recent mass migration of painted lady butterflies. We now have some local statistics that may be of interest. Jane Lancaster one of our National Trust Rangers who is also a volunteer transect walker for the Butterfly Conservation Society walks a set walk that includes Newton point to systematically count butterflies. Normally she counts between 10 and 20 painted lady butterflies a day in June



and July. After the recent mass migration, she counted 1,665 butterflies in one day and, if you scale this up to cover the two square miles of managed hay meadow at Newton Point, Jane estimates tens of thousands of butterflies.

Shorebird Site Update

Jane Lancaster

This year has been an exceptionally successful year for Little Terns. At time of going to press the number of fledglings is over fifty. A huge thank you to dog owners and walkers who respected the site, thereby helping us to protect this rare seabird.

Garden Open Weekend Fallodon Hall, 29th/30th June

£5,300 was raised for the Red Cross and National Garden Scheme at the Fallodon garden open weekend. On the Saturday, volunteers from Embleton Church raised £670 running the teas. On the Sunday, a team from Embleton School raised £600 on the teas for the school.

Farming News - August 2019

Lucia Bridgeman

We have spent the last few weeks making silage and hay. The grass has had a



very good growing season so far with all the warmth and moisture. Farmers should have plenty of winter feed in contrast to last year's drought conditions. All our fields have grass margins around them and we wait until mid-July to cut them to allow the nesting birds to fledge. We can produce silage or hay, with the silage being made while the grass is still wet and it is cut and compressed quickly. Alternatively we cut

and turn the grass, leaving it a few days to ensure it is bone dry, before making hay bales.

We have just finished picking wild oats. A team of 7 walked up and down the fields, through each crop, handpicking the wild oats, which are then burnt. Technology hasn't yet worked out how to deal with this tough, labour intensive job, which hasn't changed in a century.

The sheep were all clipped last month, looking a lot happier now in the heat. The final preparations for harvest and autumn sowing are underway. Some farms started cutting winter barley this week before the rain came, which is typically the first crop to be ready. We are checking equipment, importantly brakes and lights on trailers and servicing the tractors before the 80 hour weeks begin.

Howick Film Nights

Held every two weeks on Fridays or Sundays in Howick Community Centre. To be added to our circulation list for details of future events please contact johnroper1@btinternet.com Tel. 01665-576413.

Craster Coastal Rowing Club at the World Championships!

Sarah Coxon

Did you know that there's a coastal rowing club based in Craster? You may well have seen one of their two, locally made 'skiffs' out on the sea and wondered who or what was involved... In 2015 the good people of Craster raised the funds to build the first skiff, 'The Jolly Fisherman', launched in 2016. They then set about recruiting people to the new club and there was so much interest that more funds were sought, and a second boat was built; 'The Craster Kipper'.



Earlier this year some bright spark suggested that the club should participate in the 'SkiffieWorlds', the World Championship for the St Ayles Class of coastal rowing boat. This takes place every three years and, with the sport now one of the fastest growing water sports in the world, gets bigger and better every time. This year 55 clubs from around the globe took part, including teams from as far away as Tasmania, New Zealand, Canada. The Club row for fun and USA. That translates to about 600 people milling around together, and all with soggy bottoms.

The plucky team that went up to Loch Ryan for the week in early July really didn't know what to expect but the overwhelming takeaway was the friendly and supportive atmosphere of the event, with a big welcome for teams of all abilities. Despite giving it their all, the Craster crew were no match for the well drilled and well-practised crews of the bigger and longer established clubs. The rowers from the Holland for example were all at least 6ft...! However, Craster didn't come last! Out of 55 clubs, our bonny lads and lassies came a creditable 52nd and went home tired but happy.

A big thank you to all those who took part and special thanks to those members of the Club who galvanized the team into action and coped with the logistics of making it all happen. And none of this could have happened without the generous sponsorship of both Robson & Sons and the Jolly Fisherman pub.

People from outside Craster are warmly welcomed with the aim being to enjoy exercising together out in the (sometimes very) fresh air. The Clubrow for fun welcome all ages and abilities. If you'd like to find out more, come along to our Sunday morning row each week, 09.30 at Craster Harbour.



**THE
VIKINGS
ARE
COMING**

CRASTER HARBOUR

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2019

INVASION AT 3PM

CRASTER COASTAL ROWING CLUB

Embleton Guides

Monica Cornall

Embleton Guides joined Jane Lancaster, the National Trust Ranger, to do a litter pick on Embleton beach. It was a beautiful evening and they enjoyed learning about the wildlife and dune roll-back as well as tidying up the beach. They had already spent a couple of evenings this term volunteering in the quarry where they cut down brambles and made some bug houses out of sticks.



Embleton Guides meets weekly on Thursday nights and we have done a wide variety of activities over the last year including a robotics competition, camping, cooking and crafts. If you are interested in joining (primarily for girls aged 10 to 14 but older girls can join as young leaders) please contact Monica Cornall on 01665 576890 or cornall@btinternet.com.

Third Paediatric First Aid Course

Eleanor Wood

The third Paediatric First Aid Course was held on Wednesday 17th July, in memory of Evie-Rose. We had a full attendance & a busy playroom of children. Caroline Davies, from Tumbles & Grumbles ran the course for members of our community. Many have found following attending the First Aid Course they now felt much more confident to carry out basic lifesaving First Aid - my aim in organising these events.



My heartfelt thanks everyone who has helped me organise these courses & for Andy & Hayley Cowan for finding the strength to agree to me running them in memory of Evie-Rose. I have been astounded by the generosity of people in our community of their donations & time. No further courses planned but a number of parents have suggested an annual Refresher Course, which Caroline would be happy to run. Please let me know if you would be interested or have any questions & watch this space for any upcoming events.

100 Club Winners July 2019

£40 David Morgan No 45

£20 Vickie Fyffe No 93

Embleton Quarry - Our New Nature Reserve

With exceptional views over Dunstanburgh Castle, Embleton Quarry Nature Reserve is a popular area to visit for dog walkers, local people and recently tourists. Not only is it a wonderful public space, but also a haven for rare plant, invertebrate and bird species. With its mixed habitat of scrub, grassland and wetland, the site requires regular management to provide a habitat for some of Northumberland's more charismatic species, such as the painted lady butterfly and the tree sparrow and to improve footpaths to facilitate public access.

The site has a turbulent history, making it far from the 'natural' habitats usually associated with Nature Reserves. The site was managed as a whinstone quarry in the 19th century, being prosperous for over 100 years before finally closing in 1961. It was so successful that the Mersey Tunnel was paved with the whinstone setts from the quarry. After this, the site was used for landfill (you will notice the silver ventilation tubes are still present) and deemed unsuitable for development, finally being left for nature in the late 20th century. The history of the reserve makes it a unique and interesting site to manage.

The site is predominantly mixed grassland and scattered scrub which is a rare habitat in a lowland agricultural landscape. Rarer still is that within the site there are important areas of species rich 'whin grassland', a very rare habitat found only in Northumberland.

Ongoing management to enhance this habitat includes removal of scrub and damaging invasive species such as pirri pirri burr, which blanket over and kill many of the grassland species and rare orchids. This removal leaves the area looking untidy at first, but it is essential as it helps to create habitats for a wider range of species such as the bee orchid. This orchid is an exciting find on the site and it prefers shorter sward and plenty of sunlight. Recent management by the Embleton Quarry Steering Committee and Coast Care volunteers, including gorse and bramble removal to the north end of the site, has seen the number of this nationally scarce flower increase to 11 plants in the quarry.



It is planned to do the same type of work in another area to allow purple ramping fumitory to become more established. Embleton is the only known site

in North Northumberland for this very rare flower and it is hoped that Embleton quarry can become its stronghold. This important management work will increase over the winter. Please ask our volunteers questions you have if you are visiting or email ellie@coast-care.co.uk if you would like to get involved.



In the long term, the Committee hopes to clear more scrub to allow grassland plants and animals to flourish, together with expanding species rich grassland, and the rare whin grassland wherever possible. Scrub will not be eradicated however as it is a very important habitat for birds and invertebrates. The Committee will be looking to maintain areas of scrub but to manage them to increase diversity in age and structure. Some 200 trees have been planted and these will develop to create discrete woodland areas including pathways through.

The Committee plans to run natural history walks within the quarry. In August, the quarry will be hosting its first ever BioBlitz, where we will be asking for volunteers to record as many species as possible in a single day to see if the number has increased from the last count - everybody is welcome to attend. Surveys are an important part of conservation and recently a bat survey was carried out at the quarry and the church where 3 species were found. Lastly the committee has purchased a storage container for the site where the tools and equipment for practical conservation work will be kept allowing everybody to get involved.

Hopefully with management and the continued dedication of our volunteers, our new Nature Reserve can become a species rich haven for animals and local people to enjoy.



Ellie Coleman is the Coast Care Graduate Trainee and member of the Embleton Quarry Steering Committee. Ellie, who recently graduated from Newcastle University with a masters in Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management has taken on a new role to provide a link between the Committee and Coast Care and help the development of a new long-term management plan.



Embleton Parish Council and Coast Care are delighted to be hosting a Bioblitz at Embleton Quarry Nature Reserve! Come along and help us find as many species as possible!

BIOBLITZ

Embleton Quarry NE66

7pm – 11pm Friday 23rd August and 7am -
5pm Saturday 24th August

Moth Trapping

Butterfly Walk

Bird Walk and
Ringing

Small Mammal
Trapping

Minibeast Hunt

Bat Walk

Plant Surveys

Pond Dipping

Bumblebee Walk

History Talk

All Activities are free, for more information contact ellie@coast-care.co.uk

www.coast-care.co.uk



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For an informal chat, Tel. Steve
or Val Gray on 0191 4148895

valerie709@btinternet.com

Sunflower Competition Reminder



Judging for the Whinstone Times Sunflower Competition will take place from the end of August. E-mail or phone The Whinstone Times if you want your Sunflower judged.

Scarecrows at Rennington

24-26th August from 10a.m each day. Live music. Refreshments will be served each day from 11am.

Embleton Primary School will be helping make our scarecrows.

Details: renningtonvillagehall@gmail.com

What's On in September 2019

3rd Embleton Womens Club 2p.m. Parish Room Speaker -Tracy Jones from Elderberries at Alwick. All information from Brenda 571299.

3rd Howick Coastal Choir meets at Howick Village Hall every Tuesday at 7p.m., is keen to attract new members. For all details contact Mike Findeisen 576979.

5th Craster W.I 'Partnership Quilt' by Sixpenny Memories Kim & Debbie 7.15p.m. Craster Memorial Hall.

9th Embleton Flower Club demonstration by Christine Ogle 'If you go down in the woods today' 7.30p.m. Creighton Hall members free, visitors £5.

10th Embleton W.I. 'The Clarsach Society' Birthday Celebrations 2p.m. Creighton Hall.

12th Andy & Margaret Watchorn Concert The Pavilion Bamburgh 7.30p.m. Adults £8 accompanied under 12's free.

16th Craster Hist Soc -Walter Runciman of Doxford Hall by Mike Fraser, Craster Memorial Hall 7p.m.

19th Embleton Carpet bowls winter season starts-new members very welcome. Contact Bill MacDonald 01665 600830.

23rd Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm at Christon Bank Methodist Church.

24th Watchorn Concert - The Crossman Hall Holy Island 3p.m. (safe crossing 13.30-22.05).

What's On October 2019

1st Embleton Womens Club- Social Afternoon, Parish Room 2p.m. Why not come along for a chat and a cuppa and make some new friends. Details from Brenda-571299.

4th Craster W.I. 'All sorts of scams including doorstep' by David Sayer of the Public Safety Unit 7.15p.m. Craster Memorial Hall.

8th Embleton W.I. AGM. 2p.m Parish Room.

14th Embleton Flower Club 'Practical evening with pooled supper' Theme -An Autumn basket non members most welcome.

21st Craster Hist Soc. A1 The route from Gosforth to Berwick with its ins & outs-speaker Phil Huntley. Craster Memorial Hall 7p.m.

26th Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm at Creighton Hall.

There is a Whist Drive in the Methodist Church Hall, Christon Bank every Monday evening at 7 o'clock.

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

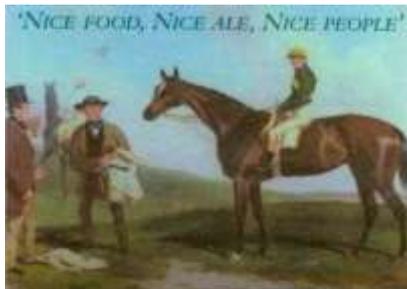


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Jane and Jude would love to hear from you!



Margaret & Michael would like to welcome you to

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