

Whinstone Times

Community magazine for Embleton and
Christon Bank



July/August 2021

Edition No. 74



THE VEG HUT

Drythropple Cottage, Charlton Mires, NE66 2TJ
(500 yards from the A1)

Logs- Dumpy bag - free local delivery or collect your own bag.
Mobile log splitting service

Fresh Home Grown Veg, Free Range Eggs
Garden Machinery Service and Repairs
Phone Jimmy on 07834 409422 (or leave a message - 01665 579286)

Stephen Knowles

Heating & Plumbing Engineers

Installation, service, repairs to gas heating appliances.
Gas fitting & plumbing work also undertaken. Natural/LPG gas.
Stumblin' Edge, Christon Bank

Telephone 01665 576855 Mobile 07866 013977
stevieknowles666@gmail.com **Gas Safe Reg. No. 232536**

T. DAWSON Ltd.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Domestic, Commercial & Industrial, PAT Testing
Inspection & Testing BS2391
Renewable energy
BS7671 – **FREE ESTIMATES**



Tel: 01670 761921 **Mob:** 07955 911720

Editorial

Welcome to the 74th edition of the Whinstone Times.

Although COVID continues to be a problem nationally and the remaining restrictions will be in place until at least the middle of July, it is lovely to be able to meet friends for a drink or a meal, as in this edition's cover photograph of the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel garden.

It was also great to be able to hold our Plant and Table Top sale at the Creighton Hall on May 31st. The mist cleared, and although not exactly tropical, the day was warm enough and dry so that everything could be outside. In total, we raised nearly £700, which, together with the Parish Council's very kind donation of £250, has provided a much needed boost to our funds. We are extremely grateful to everyone who came to support us, helped on the day and gave us plants, bric a brac and raffle prizes. Thank also to everyone who supports the Whinstone Times, with articles, letters, photographs, advertising, and donations, all of which pay for the printing costs of the magazine.

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

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

The deadline for material for the next edition is Monday 9th August, 2021.

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.

Earlier editions of the WT can be found on the Embleton community website, under 'publications', as can other interesting information such as 'Embleton Parish Heritage Trails' detailing walks in the area.

Go to: www.embleton-northumberland.co.uk

Overwhelming support for the Neighbourhood Plan!

Thanks to everyone who voted in the referendum, either in person at the Creighton Hall or by postal vote. We are very pleased to say that there was resounding support for the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan, with 88.5% voting for the plan and 11.5 % against.

The Neighbourhood Plan will now be used by Northumberland County Council to make informed decisions on planning applications in the Parish. Well done to all involved in creating the plan and thank you to all the members of the community for getting involved so positively in local democracy, the plan could not have been completed without the excellent community contributions at all stages from initial launch to the final vote on June 10th.

Karen Greenhoff on behalf of the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan team

Parish Council Notes

April/May 2021

The Parish Council met physically for the first time in more than a year on May 24th. Councillors were told that delivery of the new notice board for Christon Bank was delayed due to material problems at the manufacturer. The style of the new bench for Christon Bank village green was agreed and the purchase of a replacement tree was put in hand. The new Parish Clerk, who would take office on June 1st, was introduced to Councillors and it was explained that she would also become Responsible Financial Officer on September 1st. It was agreed to buy a new laptop and printer for the Clerk up to a cost of £500.

It was noted that the double yellow lines through Dunstan Steads and on Sea Lane were now in place and that work on installing the 20 mph signs in Embleton village would commence on May 26th.

A film showing the history of the quarry was shown to Councillors and the quarry committee will decide where best to upload and show the film to maximise its potential. It was agreed to pay NCC's advertising costs relating to the potential transfer of land within the quarry to the parish council and to employ a structural engineer to examine the ruins of quarry house to establish the potential for its restoration.

Embleton Quarry

Work on improving the access for all users has commenced with the levelling of the Quakers Row entrance and the main footpaths in the site. The layout of the gates at the Quakers Row entrance will be changed to facilitate easier entry and new gates will be installed. Further work is scheduled to further improve the accessibility.



The Exmoor Ponies have settled into their summer home and the field opposite Dene View/Braeside has been opened up for them as well.

New signs have been mounted on both kissing gates asking people to keep their dog(s) on a lead in the northern half of the quarry to protect the ground nesting birds and orchids.

Once the bird nesting season is over further projects will be started including a classroom area and pond dipping platform for the school.

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.

Dunstan Steads – Verge Hardening

The Parish Council (PC) is aware of a group called “Friends of Dunstan Steads” who oppose NCC’s scheme to harden the grass verge. The PC discussed the scheme proposed by NCC at length during its meeting on 5th March and voted by 6 votes to 2 to support the scheme as it felt it was in the best interests of the Parish and visitors alike.

The PC had already requested double yellow lines through the hamlet and a 30mph speed limit on the road down to Dunstan Steads and both these schemes have been implemented. The verge hardening scheme does not create any additional parking capacity at Dunstan Steads as vehicles already use the verge for parking. The volume of traffic using the road will not increase and there will be no additional impact on the AONB and other designated zones. No ecological evidence has been produced to show that there will be extra disturbance of wildlife as anything living on the verge will already be disturbed by the vehicles parking on it, and the hedgerow and wall are not affected by the proposal. The verge itself currently becomes churned up in wet weather due to the parking of vehicles, leaving it rutted, unsightly and difficult to walk on safely when vehicles are not present. The proposed materials will be a lattice of plastic filled with small stones, earth and seed which will in time ‘green over’ and therefore the long-term visual impact will be minimalised.

County Councillor Wendy Pattison’s report

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

Tel. 01665 579137 – 07979 067321 – 077799 83072

Facebook – Cllr Wendy Pattison



Embleton There is a new 20mph speed limit in parts of Embleton Village.

Road works to improve Front Street are also taking place.

The Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC) initiative is encouraging everyone to mark The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by planting trees. Wherever you are in the UK, you can plant a tree to celebrate the Queen’s 70 years of service to the nation.

This will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built. From planting a single tree in your garden to joining neighbours, a community group or your local school to apply for a free tree pack, every tree makes a difference. Any trees planted from October 2021 to the end of the jubilee year in 2022 can be part of the QGC. Tree planting season is October to March – this is when roots are dormant and new trees will have the best chance of flourishing. Why not use the summer months to plan your planting and arrange a day of celebration?

Connecting talent to opportunity in Northumberland

Investing in the future of Northumberland's children and young people remains a top priority for the County Council with further opportunities being opened up through pioneering EdTech platform, globalbridge.

Northumberland businesses will be able to link up with students on their doorsteps. As part of the package those that sign up to the platform will get three free opportunities to link up with students for work experience, apprenticeships or jobs. This creates a hugely exciting opportunity for the region to be the first council to create a digital network connecting education and industry, and more specifically, talent to opportunity.

More information can be found at <https://www.myglobalbridge.com/>

Parish Litter Pick

Embleton Parish Council is organising a parish wide litter pick to help keep the roadsides in the parish free from litter. It will take place at 10.00 on Saturday 17th July, meeting outside the Creighton Hall. We'd love to get as many residents involved as we can so we can cover as many of the verges as possible. Northumberland County Council will kindly supply litter pickers, gloves and Hi-Viz vests so all equipment will be provided if required. Please get involved if you are able to help keep our beautiful parish litter free. Register your interest and any equipment requirements by emailing jameswerobertson@hotmail.com

Thank you in advance for helping to keep the parish tidy!

Embleton WI

Embleton WI group hope to resume meetings in September and would like



to invite anyone who is new to the Village to come join us for our monthly meetings in the Creighton Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. We are a happy bunch and would love a few more members.

If you are interested please ring - Joan Little (576788)

Embleton Guides

We are now meeting face-to-face again, having met weekly through zoom all the way through lockdown. This week we watched sheep shearing and made tripods in the woods to hold our mobile phones.



Next week we are going paddle-boarding!

If you are interested in joining Guides (girls aged 10-14) please contact Monica and Claire at cornall@btinternet.com on 01665 576890.

Embleton Cricket Cub

The cricket team's season is going well and they are now second top of the local league. Anyone interested in playing or helping should contact Raymond Carss on 07544914657 or 01665 576589

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 (details on page 3)

Nature Notes, April/May

Peter Brown

April and May were the months of the barn owl. Almost daily sightings



were recorded, giving enormous pleasure to many people. From Howick to Beadnell, over the Skaith, over Station Road, all around Dunstan Steads, they were everywhere. A pair were often in a Dunstan Steads garden (Linda, photo, left), the female bigger than the male and one of them ringed. My close encounters were fascinating. I watched one for a long time as he hunted in the dunes above Football Hole, gliding with silent wings, unusually large for a small bird, and then sinking down to catch its

prey, using sound more than sight. I say 'he' because the females in the breeding season do all the incubating while the male does all the hunting. I saw one hovering just over the bench by the beach at Low Newton, a mere two metres from me, and then flying over The Ship to perch on beach hut 34. Twice, we followed one in the car on the road to Craster as it skimmed the hedge. With window down, we felt we could almost touch it (yes, we were driving on the wrong side of the road!), and all we needed were the whispered tones of David Attenborough. The barn owl is the most widely distributed species of owl in the world but it was still thrilling to see them here. We can only assume that these beautiful creatures that mate for life and have an average of four chicks a year must be thriving here due to the abundance of food.

Maybe the extraordinary weather helped: a dry April (the first real rain for seven weeks fell on 26th); May was cold with snow on 5th and chilly windy days until the month ended with two days of mist – good hunting conditions.

Earlier this year, Mike Smith's sightings included little owls living in a broken tree on the old railway track, near Mandell Place. The Watchorns have got the record for most first sightings: 7th April – sand martins in the Quarry; swallows on 10th; house martins on 21st; swifts on May 20th. Also, a wall butterfly on Sea Lane (until relatively recently, never seen this far

North) and bloody [sic!] cranesbill, dovesfoot cranesbill and a purple orchid (all flowers!). Rita's Quarry sightings included shelducks, coots and moorhens, and a kestrel chasing pigeon and baby rabbits. On 19th April, a rare red kite was seen near Dunstan Steads (Sarah and Jane), an even rarer



red-throated pipit (on its way from the far North of Europe to Africa) and a European honey buzzard at Long Nanny. This large bird of prey is actually more like a kite with a wingspan of 150 centimetres. There is a small group in the Tyne Valley, so maybe this one was having a day visit. They feed on wasp and hornet larvae and nests, hence presumably the slightly wrong name. Six avocets (a 'colony') are back at

the scrape at Newton, so chicks are expected, and for the first time, an area around the Embleton burnmouth has been fenced off to protect nesting ringed plovers. A large group (a 'richness') of sand martins arrived at Newton Haven right at the end of May, making their nests at the edge of the cliff. The Shirewater house martins are sensible birds and six pairs arrived a week later than usual. They just missed a visiting pair of Canada geese who made themselves at home on the lawn for a day, much to the consternation of the heron. The red squirrel feeding boxes were emptied regularly, and as a kitten was seen, we can hope that a large family is being fed. Out at sea, there was a sighting on 19th May (Anne) of four killer whales (actually orcas are dolphins). This pod could have been some of the Firth of Forth group taking a break south of the border. They were seen a few days later off the Farnes. They would all have been related as the young never leave home (know that feeling?!) and as they can live for up to ninety years, four generations can be living together.

As I write on the first day of June, the sun has appeared. April and May were truly remarkable months in so many ways; let's hope that June and July are just as exciting and that as our stunning area opens up more, our unique wildlife will not be scared away and our environment spoiled. Do keep your brilliant observations coming in to whinstone.times@gmail.com



Embleton School News

Sponsored run for Children's Cancer North

In May the school took on the challenge of completing a daily mile during their lunch break. We worked out that it was 12 laps of the school field. If you saw children haring round and round in circles that was why! As a result of our effort we won a competition organised by RISE North East, a charity aimed at increasing physical activity in the North East, giving us £1000 of vouchers towards sports equipment. On the back of this success we are planning on completing a sponsored run for Children's Cancer North on 2nd July. The younger children will be taking part in a 1 km run from school to the Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club, whilst the older children will be doing a slightly more circuitous 3 km route via Dunstan Steads.

Our fundraising target for the school is £1000. Whilst ambitious, with about 50 children taking part this only represents an individual fundraising target of £20 per child, which should be possible. If anyone would like to make a donation for this very worthy cause, please could they drop it in to school or you can donate by going to the website:-

<https://childrenscancernorth.enthuse.com/pf/embleton-vincent-edwards-c-of-alnwick-0a1dd>

Help Embleton Primary School to Go Green!

We're building our own food composter at Embleton Primary School! As part of the Eco group we are looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint. One of the simplest and most important things we can do is to compost all our food waste here at the school. Food waste that goes to landfill creates methane*, the powerful greenhouse gas that is 25 times more damaging to the environment than CO₂ and a major contributor to climate change. Food waste composted safely and securely on site can be turned back into healthy soil, and used in the school garden. Its structure keeps out rats, birds and most flies. Its slatted wooden



front lets the compost “breathe” and is removed to dig out beautiful black “soil” in years to come. We will build a brick composting unit big enough to compost all food waste from the school kitchen and classrooms. The construction will be made from brick and wood. We will make two containers - one will be filled at a time. The first will take two or more years to fill (as it continues to break down & reduce over time) and once full, we will use the other container, while the first is left for a year to complete its change to compost. We will need 350 bricks, wood and cement, and work will be done by William Sutherland, Hatty Dinsmore and any other volunteers keen to lend a helping hand. Any donations gratefully received. School children will create posters for the composting unit, and for the food waste containers within school, clearly signposting that only food waste can be put in, all labels removed from food, and no tea bags allowed (as tea bags are lined with plastic). A ‘Composting Team’ with volunteers chosen (in rotation) will “police and manage” the bins.

**You might sensibly ask ‘why composting does not produce methane’. The reason, is that one is aerobic (with air & oxygen) whilst the other (buried underground) is anaerobic (without oxygen). If oxygen is present the composting takes place because of the action of millions of bugs, beasts and fungi - they discharge the same CO2 which was trapped by the plants when they were growing. Without oxygen it is only the methane producing bacteria which can survive.*

Fundraising for the school

On 15th June the Bag2School collection made the record amount of £201.90. Thank you to Shelagh Coxon for helping to organise and to everyone who donated their unwanted clothes etc. There will be another collection in the autumn term.

Due to COVID, the school will not be holding a Summer Fair this year, but if the extended COVID restrictions allow, we will be running the teas at Fallodon Hall on Sunday 27th June.

School 100 Club – May winners

First Prize Number 57 - George Murray - £50

Second Prize Number 98 - Flo Bosanquet - £25

The Chainbridge Honey Farm, run by the Robson family, have been placing



beehives here on the Fallodon estate for over 50 years. We need the bees to help pollinate the beans, along with all the other insects that are there – the most natural method in agriculture. Through the year the hives are moved to the best feed source, and later in the summer they will move up to

the hills for the heather. In the winter some of the hives are left at Brunton against a warm south facing wall to hibernate.

We have a challenge at this time of year when the young cattle are let out of their winter quarters – they are boisterous and strong and not all the fences can last with their teenage behaviour. We spend quite a lot of time repairing broken fencing. Unfortunately much of the modern fencing material doesn't last as long as the old heavily creosoted posts.

In this wonderful dry and hot weather we have the opportunity to fill the farm tracks with old road filings and roll them in to last another few seasons. The road filings come from contactors when they are resurfacing the A1.

We have started topping the docks, nettles and other weeds in the grass, trying to stop them from spreading and dominating. In mid-July, once the bird nesting has finished, we will make silage and hay from the long grass left growing on the margins of the fields.



Fish and Chips

James Rose

The visits of the Fish and Chip van to the village and the availability of other takeaways have been highlights in the monotony of lockdown. Fish and chips, powerfully evocative of seaside holidays of one's youth, make a



great supper but what constitutes perfection is very individual. There can be no argument that the fish batter should be crispy but the acceptable degree of sogginess of the chips is debatable: not so well done that they can't absorb the salt and vinegar (or the non-brewed

condiment of the chip shop) but cooked to at least a light golden colour.

As with any food, the anticipation is a part of the event: the aroma of hot fat and vinegar; the comforting warmth from the wrapping paper; the anxiety of potential disappointment; the satisfaction of 'the best I've ever had.'

No-one should eat fish and chips slowly. To do so would invite the sad sight and taste of the last chips stuck together with cold fat, a particular risk when eating out of doors with a brisk easterly blowing off the North Sea and the harbour wall cooling your bum. No, burnt fingers from superheated fish flakes and vinegar stings from marram grass cuts must be risked and quickly sucked away. If appetites and speed differ, sharing fish and chips for one can become competitive but, as often as not, is altruistic - 'have some of mine!'

Insulation used to be provided by yesterday's newspaper, which provided light reading during the meal and a reminder of the transience of fame and notoriety around food that was here today and gone today as well. Upmarket restaurants have served their fish and chips in specially printed imitation newspaper – a sort of Disneyland version of the true experience.

Save Our Steads

Monica Cornall

Readers of the Whinstone Times will be familiar with Dunstan Steads. Many of you will enjoy walking down the beautiful lane through Dunstan Steads to the beach. You may get a special thrill watching the bats zipping or the barn owl swooping between the blossomed hedges of a summer's



evening. Some of you may even venture out early to listen to the dawn chorus of the chaffinches nesting in the hawthorn or spot the tiny wren doing her morning search for breakfast. If you are one of these people you will understand the value of this special place.

If you are one of these people you will be concerned at the council's

plans to 'harden the verge' to improve Dunstan Steads as a parking facility. At the time of writing it is unclear what this means as the detailed plans are not public, and if the council get their way by the time of publication it will already have been rushed through. The council are proposing using 'bodpave' which is a plastic foundation which is normally filled with pebbles and apparently should 'green' over with moss. This will enable vehicles to park the whole way up on what is now the grass so providing a few extra parking spaces for motorists. There are no thoughts for the impact on biodiversity, carbon footprint, or the safety of walkers.

In a bid to keep Dunstan Steads as it is, residents have formed a 'Friends of Dunstan Steads' group and have started a 'Save Our Steads' campaign and put forward an application to make the grass into a 'village green' so that everyone can continue to use it.

Friends of Dunstan Steads would like your support to save this special place as a legacy for future generations. We urge you make a point of enjoying the walk down to Dunstan Steads while you still can. Treasure this special place before we lose it forever.

If you are interested in joining Friends of Dunstan Steads please email Monica Cornall at cornall@btinternet.com and you can sign the petition on the gate at Dunstan Steads.

Embleton Quarry Dark Sky Site

Gary Woodburn

Why do dark skies matter?

Natural darkness at night is linked to human health and wellbeing. Humans



evolved to the rhythms of the natural light-dark cycle of day and night. The spread of artificial lighting means most of us no longer experience truly dark nights. Research suggests that artificial light at night can negatively affect human health. Light pollution also brings with it ecological problems, artificial light can change the behaviour of wildlife, which has evolved with the light-dark cycle too, using it to

regulate behaviours such as reproduction, sleep, foraging, migration and protection from predators. Artificial light is now disrupting these processes for many species.

It may all sound like doom and gloom, but some great news is that our Parish still has some of the darkest night skies to be found in England. This is because of our small size and rural situation, some distance away from larger towns and urban areas.

More good news is that the quarry has just been awarded Northumberland Coast AONB Dark Sky Site status! A dark sky survey was carried out at the quarry over the winter and this designation awarded in recognition of excellent dark sky quality. The survey used specialist equipment to establish actual sky darkness and recorded the same level of darkness found at some of the Kielder Dark Sky Park sites.

Our night sky spectacle is not the norm across the rest of the country. We are exceptionally lucky to still have dark skies here, but we shouldn't take it for granted. The dark sky survey also identified a few local light pollution sources that are affecting local dark sky quality.

Community action to protect our Dark Sky Site

Protecting our dark skies doesn't have to be difficult or complicated, by taking a few simple measures both as individuals and as a community we can make a big difference collectively. Being aware of light pollution and how we use our own lighting is the key. Some simple checks and minor alterations are often all it takes to see marked improvements.

Outdoor lighting:

To reduce light pollution, use lights fitted with a motion sensor or timer at an appropriate level and ensure they are directed only onto the area that needs lighting. If possible, use downward directed and shielded light units. This will minimise the impact of light pollution by ensuring the lights are only on when required and focused where needed.

Avoid using ultra-bright LED lighting. All LED lights are bright, but by using one with a lower lumens output will still produce sufficient light, whilst using less power and reducing light pollution.

Light escaping from residential properties:

Believe it or not, light coming from windows can have a big impact on our dark skies. Using curtains and blinds at night helps to reduce light leaking outside and it can also help to keep heat in and reduce heating bills.

Consider using 'black out' curtains or blinds. These are designed to block light coming in from outside and they also prevent the artificial light indoors from escaping. These offer better thermal properties, so can help to reduce heating bills further.

Streetlights:

As part of an exercise to protect and improve the dark sky quality at the quarry, the Parish Council will be asking NCC to shield streetlights adjacent to the quarry. This won't affect the lighting up of the desired areas, but it will reduce light leaking into areas where it isn't wanted.

Come and see Embleton Quarry Dark Sky Site

We are planning to run some free stargazing events in the quarry this Autumn/Winter when the longer nights have returned. This will be a great opportunity to come and see the amazing dark skies that are right on your doorstep.

For more information about the Embleton Quarry Dark Sky Site please email - embletonquarry@gmail.com



CPRE Northumberland's lockdown photo competition

Earlier this year, **CPRE Northumberland** called upon on all those with a keen eye for capturing Northumberland's diverse natural landscape, to take part in a lockdown photography competition entitled **#ViewFromTheDoorstep**. The events of the last year had highlighted just how precious our local green spaces are for everyone. Whether for their beauty, tranquillity, or just a place to escape, they are key to ensuring our mental and physical wellbeing, and we have come to appreciate them, now more than ever. CPRE Northumberland set out to capture this heightened sense of awareness and connection, whilst under Covid restrictions, by encouraging people to submit photographs that showcased their relationship with nature and landscape in their own locality.



We were amazed by the diversity and quality of the images that flooded in, making judging an enormously difficult task. However, on April 14th, 3 worthy winners were duly announced. First prize went to Janice Eckersley, who captured this timeless shot, entitled 'Alnwick Moor'. Congratulations also went to

Derek Taylor in second place, with the superbly evocative



"Sunset, Morpeth stepping stones", and Claire Johnson in third place



with her wonderful shot of a "Spittal sunset", from the very north of the county. We congratulate all our entrants, whose photos are a joy to behold, and CPRE Northumberland looks forward to using them in future promotional and campaigning work. Do follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for details on this or any of our current activity.

NOVA SCOTIA: Embleton's lost village **James Rose**

We are used to the idea that the villages in the parish have grown over the years: Embleton has seen dramatic expansion since the war, especially in the last few years; Craster is thriving and expanding, although its original site is now only a few bumps in the field to the east of the Tower, having moved in the early 19th century to its sea houses; Christon Bank has new developments. However, not all villages are so successful. Traces of villages sometimes only remain as the names of surviving farms while other communities have completely vanished.

The Black Death led to the loss of many villages in medieval times, though in 18th and 19th century Scotland mass forced eviction and emigration were the cause. In other cases, people just moved away. On our doorstep to the south of Dunstanburgh Castle, Nova Scotia was such a village. Some stones and a few grass-covered bases of houses have been recorded as evidence of its existence, although I have not identified these with any confidence.

In a map of 1769 the settlement is indicated by a pair of small black rectangles next to the junction of two roads to the Castle: one from Embleton via Dunstan Steads and the other from Dunstan via Dunstan Square. As Craster is still up the hill by the Tower, there is no road along the coast. The settlement, not large enough to be a village, is called Nova Scotia and the name persists on present OS maps.

The Union of the Crowns in 1603, the end of hostilities between England and Scotland, and the Acts of Union a century later all made Scottish migration to England easier. The economies of southeast Scotland and northeast England were similar and settling south of the border could replace long-standing seasonal labour movements.

It seems likely that Nova Scotia was named by Scottish migrants, who, like the Scottish emigrants to Canada, where Nova Scotia was cited in a charter of 1621, felt that they too were settling a new and previously unconquered territory – England. Their dwellings near the medieval harbour together with iron mooring rings indicate that they must have been fisherfolk. One can imagine that, having followed the herring south and discovered the castle's old harbour lying midway between the havens of Newton and Craster, they believed they could make a living from inshore fishing, the haven being unsuitable for large boats.



The only contemporary pictorial evidence of Nova Scotia comes from Turner, who sketched the castle in 1797 with Nova Scotia in the foreground. (*Turner's sketch of Dunstanburgh Castle from the South, 1797, left*)

From memory and this sketch, made during his only visit to Northumberland, Turner produced many other representations of the Castle. An etching of 1808 gives a clearer, closer view of two south-facing cottages with three chimney stacks.

(JMW Turner, Etching and Engraving of Dunstanborough Castle, 1808, right)



Another darker engraving shows light coming from a window in one of the cottages. In front of the buildings are the skeletal remains of a wrecked boat above the high tide line, probably inserted for dramatic effect.

By 1820 Nova Scotia is no longer shown on a map of the area and there are no roads around the castle, although there is new road from Craster down the hill to the sea houses. However, as Dunstan is not shown either there must be some doubt about the map's accuracy but the 1860 map shows Dunstan again but Nova Scotia is now just the name of an area of foreshore. A painting of 1871 with a viewpoint similar to Turner's shows a wrecked ship, roughly where the Polish trawler parked itself in 1958, with local folk

scavenging among the wreckage on the rocks. No domestic buildings can be seen.

For approximately fifty years from the mid-1760s to before 1820, a now vanished community existed beneath the walls of the Castle. We will probably never know the reason inhabitants left but the harbour, fully functional in medieval times and non-existent now, had continued to fill up with sand and rocks, which would have made fishing from there increasingly dangerous and eventually impossible.

What happened to the inhabitants? If they were fisherfolk, as I assume, they would surely move to the nearest haven of Craster with its new and expanding village. By 1828 the map shows The Square and about half a dozen houses already built. Nova Scotia's descendants may be living there yet.

Reference:

Penny Middleton & Caroline Hardie: Historic Environment Survey for the National Trust Properties on the Northumberland Coast: Dunstanburgh and Embleton Bay. Report No: 0058/4-09.

Images:

J M W Turner, Dunstanborough Castle, 1808, Tate, A00937, digital image © Tate released under Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND (3.0 Unported)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-dunstanborough-castle-a00937>

J M W Turner, Dunstanburgh Castle from the South, 1797, Tate, d00952, digital image © Tate released under Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND (3.0 Unported)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-dunstanburgh-castle-from-the-south-d00952>

Space for Shorebirds

The coast is an extremely dynamic habitat, in that sand is constantly shifting due to wave and wind action. From one year to the next, the landscape can change, which is exactly what has happened at Embleton Bay this year. Winter storms have dramatically changed the appearance of the section of beach by Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Course. The formation of a sand bank caused The Skaith burn to flow in a direction it hasn't done before, eroding the sand dunes to the south and creating an elevated shingle spit on the beach.

The creation of this new habitat attracted the attention of a pair of ringed plovers, which made a nest on the high ground on the spit – the first recorded nest here in over 25 years! Ringed plover breeding success is declining, so to give these birds a helping hand we protected the nest with fencing and signage. Nesting birds are very sensitive to disturbance at



The Skaith burn at Embleton Bay

this time of year, so the fence kept people and dogs at a safe distance and prevents the eggs from being trampled.

For 25 days the parents sat tight incubating their eggs, and their efforts were rewarded when, on 7th June, 4 chicks hatched. Resembling small balls of fluff, the chicks are precocial, meaning at just a few hours old they leave the nest and start to feed for themselves. Washed up dry seaweed and other debris on the sand is full of tiny sandhoppers and other invertebrates that are a vital food source to the chicks, and also



One of the four ringed plover chicks (four days old)

provide excellent places to hide amongst when the parents tell them danger is close by. Crows, gulls and kestrels will take chicks, so it is important that the young birds respond to calls to “stay still, stay hidden”. As the days pass, the chicks are becoming stronger and more curious of

their surroundings. To keep them safe, we have increased the size of the protected area to give them as much space as we can for safe foraging and exploring, while still allowing good access for people. We have also deployed chick shelters – small wooden ‘huts’ to give them cover during poor weather.



Adult ringed plover watching over her chicks

From the moment of hatching, it takes the chicks roughly 24 days to learn how to fly. Rangers will be at the site monitoring their progress closely and talking to visitors about the birds and the challenges they face. You can follow their progress on our social media channels – Facebook and Instagram @Spaceforshorebirds, and Twitter @ForShorebirds

We would like to say a big thank you to local residents for the support we have received over the past few weeks – we are thrilled to see so many people taking an interest in, and learning about, the birds. Good luck out there, little ones! We are rooting for you!



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

What's On

EMBLETON

Badminton and Line Dance have both restarted, check Northumberland Village Halls -Creighton Memorial Hall for details.

Parish Rooms hope to reopen fully after June 21st - check details on Facebook.

Embleton Church Fete is taking place on Wednesday 4th August at 2p.m with all the usual stalls. Details from Christine Hunter 01665 576981

CRASTER MEMORIAL HALL

The Browse in has restarted every Saturday 10-noon. Coffee, biscuits and cake.

Keep fit with Tracey takes place every Thursday 2p.m tel. 571007 for details

Film Club happens on the first Saturday of each month at 7p.m Tel 571007 for each month's film info.

Crafts with Company starts July 13th tel. 571007

Craster W.I will meet on Thursday July 1st at 7.15p.m. tel. 576305 for details.

ALNWICK

The Lions Car Boot Sale is held at the Homebase, Alnwick, car park on last Saturday of each month - 26 June, 31 July, 28 Aug, 25 Sept, 30 Oct

Starts 9.00am , finishes 12.00, Cost £10. More info at alnwiclions.org.uk

Please note that the Craster Lifeboat Fete and the Scarecrows at Rennington will not take place this year



DOG BOARDING SERVICES

Want to visit one of our Northumberland attractions or our try a spot of lunch at our amazing restaurants but they don't allow dogs?

Then why not avail yourself of our 5* kennels based just outside Alnwick?

Each dog has its own kennel and has access to two play areas where they will be exercised during their stay. It goes without saying they will also receive lots of fuss and attention.

If you want to extend their stay, we also do overnight boarding.

So why not call our kennels and speak to one of our staff who will be pleased to discuss your requirements.

We are open from 8am- 6pm

Telephone: 01665 517505.

FB: Patterson's Cottage Boarding Kennels

Web: www.pattersonskennels.com

Part of Alexa's Animals Dog Rescue, RCN (England & Wales) 1170022

Rural tranquility close to the sea



Dunstan Hall

Sleeps 18

- 10 Bedrooms
- 7 Bathrooms

Hemmel House

Sleeps 6

- 3 Bedrooms
- 4 Bathrooms
- Disabled access



Stable Cottage

Sleeps 4

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms

A select group of properties on the Northumberland coast, a stone's throw from the village of Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle.

For more info or to make a booking: visit beachandquiet.co.uk or call 01665 576929


BEACH & QUIET
Holiday Homes - Northumberland



Margaret & Michael would like to welcome you to

The Blink Bonny At Christon Bank, Alnwick

Tel:01665 576595

(dog friendly)

Check out our monthly fun quiz - £1 entry per person.

All proceeds go to Charity



DAVIDSONS DAIRY LTD

01665 602599

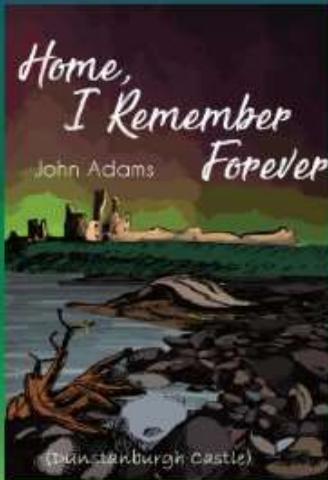
FRESH MILK IN GLASS BOTTLES
DELIVERED DIRECT TO YOUR DOOR.

WE ALSO DELIVER BUTTER, CREAM
YOGHURTS, CHEESE, BREAD AND EGGS.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE, E-MAIL OR CALL US DIRECT FOR A QUOTE

WWW.DAVIDSONSDAIRY.CO.UK

ROGER@DAVIDSONSDAIRY.CO.UK



Available at
amazon

amazonkindle



For trade inquiries, please contact

YOU CAXTON
PUBLICATIONS

newbooks@youcaxton.co.uk

<http://www.youcaxton.co.uk/>

THE GREYS INN

Embleton

At the heart of the community

Lunchtime, evening and special menus. Decking and Sun Terrace

Selection of pub meals every day

Takeaways (including real ale from the pump) available. Pizzas a favourite.

Live sport on TV

Quiz nights last Friday of every month

Fine ales, good homely food & a warm, friendly atmosphere.

The Good Beer Guide 2021 Open Daily

01665 576983 for dining room bookings



DUNSTANBURGH
CASTLE HOTEL & COTTAGES

EMBLETON, ALNWICK, NORTHUMBERLAND NE66 3UN - 01665 576 111

FABULOUS QUALITY LOCAL FOOD

Food served daily from 12-9pm

Superb Sunday Lunches from 12-4pm with the finest
Northumbrian Roasts

Open all day for Freetrade coffee, freshly-made sandwiches,
Snacks and cream teas.

Grill open each evening from 6pm for delicious *a la carte* dinners

Open air dining in our beautiful gardens

Pet-friendly fireside lounge

TO BOOK A TABLE CALL

01665 576111

or visit our menus and online table booking page:

www.dunstanburghcastlehotel.co.uk/dining/

