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The Alnmouth Village Newsletter

Alnmouth Parish Councillors

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This newsletter is published by Alnmouth Parish Council and edited by Terry Collinson. Comments and contributions are welcomed and can be emailed to alnmouthnews@fsmail.net Or left at Alnmouth Post Office.

Habitat Improvement

The forest of green plastic tubes on the grass between the beach car park and the golf course is the latest phase of the Burgage Holders campaign of habitat improvement on the Alnmouth Commons. The tubes protect from rabbits the maritime trees and shrubs which have been planted to provide a clearer boundary to the golf course and a more diverse environment for wildlife.

On the top of Bracken Hill you will find further evidence of the Burgage Holders' programme. The tree planting of three years



ago is beginning to look more established and should grow well away this year. Elsewhere along the path there are areas in the bracken and willow herb where the vegetation is being kept short to provide hunting grounds for kestrels and owls, who cannot find their prey under waste-high bracken and brambles.

With the pond cleaning down on the marsh as well, Alnmouth has a significant investment in wildlife which will pay dividends in the years to come, apart from improving the view!

The Methodist Chapel

Around 40 people met at the Methodist Chapel on Shepherd's Hill to hear Ruairi Hardman and Emma Dunn talk about their proposals to develop an "Arts and Wellbeing" centre in this sadly under-used building. Their company, PictureCircle, has a very holistic approach, aiming to provide a range of activities, including exhibitions, dance and film making, but also for reflection, meditation and other aspects of physical and spiritual wellbeing. They are working with a number of potential funding organisations, but would be in partnership with the Methodist Church so that the building could continue to be used as a place of worship.

One concern raised was the potential impact on the use of the Hindmarsh Hall and, as the proposals include considerable internal alteration, finance was a very significant problem.

However, it was clear from comments that many people have very affectionate memories of the building and wish well to any project which can ensure its future community use.

The Boathouse Roof

The large boathouse by the beach car park may be the property of Northumberland Estates but the Parish Council rents it for storage and is responsible for its maintenance. This year one side of the roof needed to have its slates replaced, but it is a Grade 2 listed building and must be repaired on a like for like basis. This meant that Alan Walker, of Warkworth, who is carrying out the repairs had to find slates, stone ridge tiles and a cast iron skylight to match the originals. Not the cheapest way to fix a roof, but the NCC's Conservation Officer will allow nothing less. The roof should be looking good again very soon – next step re-pointing the walls?



Alnmouth Organisations and Activities

Alnmouth Parish Council

Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month in HH.

St John the Baptist Church

Services 9.15am, first three Sundays of the month. (Peter Annett 830086)

Alnmouth Women's Institute

Meets on the 1st Monday of each month in HH. (Pam Muggleton 830315) www.alnmouthwi.co.uk

Alnmouth Autumn Club

Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in HH. (Alistair Sinton 830784 or Audrey McKane 830809)

Alnmouth Camera Group

Meets monthly in the Hope & Anchor. (Barbara Aitchison 830107) See exhibition in H&A.

Alnmouth Local History Group

(Fred Bettess 830638)

Brownies

Meets Tuesdays in HH. (Sue Jackson 830142)

Yoga and Yoga Bugs

(Claire Lang 581434)

Chapel Art Group

Meets weekly in the Old Methodist Chapel on Thursday mornings.

To hire the Hindmarsh Hall contact Jean Cullen (830501)

Alnmouth Women's Institute

Alnmouth WI is an active group of over 60 women. At their recent Annual Meeting, Pam Muggleton (pictured), was elected President for the coming year with a committee of eleven.



There is a monthly meeting in the Hindmarsh Hall with a speaker or some form of activity. Members not only enjoy the social side of

getting together and learning something new, but various groups also meet at other times to follow interests including Art, Bowls, Bridge, Crafts and Darts. The WI is a way of making friends and as with all WIs, the community is very important with members taking an active part in many events around the village. As Pam says, "Some even make jam – but not too often!"

Look out for posters for more details about future events. The next meeting is on Monday, 10 May at 7pm and features a talk about R.E.A.C.H. (Rape Examination Advice Counselling Help) based in Newcastle.

It's a friendly, lively group and you'll be warmly welcomed. To find out even more go to:

www.alnmouthwi.co.uk

Come and help at the 2010 Alnmouth Arts Festival

Preparations are rapidly advancing for this year's event and volunteers are now needed to help over the actual weekend itself (26-27 June). In particular we need help to set up some of the venues and the street signs. We also need people to sell the Tour Guides from the stalls which Kevin Holden is constructing and which will be strategically placed at the entry points to the village.

Please contact Barbara Aitchison (830107), Bill Bourne (830530) or Hilary Burns (830050) if you want to be involved.

The 2010 Annual Parish Meeting - Reminder

This will be held on Monday, 10 May at 7pm in the Hindmarsh Hall. Matters to discuss so far include:

- *New car parking regulations planned for Alnmouth by NCC*
- *Dog fouling notices and bins*
- *Traffic calming in the village*
- *Alnmouth in Bloom proposals*

Other issues can be raised at the meeting, but please come along and let the Parish Council know your views.

Alnmouth Post Office & Newsagents – Revised Hours

On Saturday and Sunday the shop will now be open from 8am until 5pm. Post Office hours are unchanged. On weekdays, the Shop and Post Office will close for lunch from 2 – 2.30pm

And Finally.....

Alnmouth All at Sea raised a staggering £2029 for the Hindmarsh Hall and.....
The Christmas Lights Quiz raised a splendid £257.

Many thanks to all concerned

Don't Miss!

Note HH = Hindmarsh Hall

Barn Dance

Tuesday, 4 May and at 7.30pm in HH.

Entry £2 to include refreshments.

Alnmouth WI

Mon. 10 May at 7pm in HH. Talk about R.E.A.C.H. See adjacent article

Annual Parish Meeting

Mon, 10 May at 7pm in HH. More details this page.

Alnmouth Autumn Club

Tues, 11 May at 2.30pm in HH. Gordon Smith, "The Port of Blyth" and its historic connections to Alnmouth. Entry £1 to include tea & biscuits.

Aln Valley Railway Society

Annual Quiz v Gunnerton Railway Circle. Thurs, 13 May at 7.30pm in the Waiting Room, Alnmouth Station. (Roger Jermy 606168)

Alnmouth Camera Group

Tues, 18 May at 7pm in the Hope & Anchor. Topic: "Black & White Photographs"

Looking Ahead...

Alnmouth Local History Group

Wed, 2 June at 2pm in HH. Talk & Walk by Adrian Osler, "Schooners and Seamen of Alnmouth", followed by light refreshments – Entry £1.50, children free. Walk at 3.30pm

Alnmouth Arts Festival

Sat, 26 and Sun, 27 June

Alnmouth Raft Race

Sat, 21 August

Make Your Own Coracle

2-3 Oct, one place remaining, contact Mary Hollins (830330)

Promote Your Event

email

alnmouthnews@fsmail.net or leave a message at Alnmouth Post Office, marked "Newsletter"

The Newsletter is available on line at:

www.alnmouth.org.uk

If you want to receive it by email, please contact the Editor