

No 15  
February 2011

# The Alnmouth Village Newsletter

www.alnmouth.info

## Alnmouth Parish Councillors

Ian Aitchison  
(830107)

Peter Annett  
(830086)

Bill Bourne  
Chair  
(830530)

David Denton  
(830219)

Judi Hill  
(830999)

John Hobbis  
(830208)

Donald Hume  
(830096)

Pat Murphy  
(830858)

Jack Ross  
(830557)

George Ternent  
(830444)

Parish Clerk  
Roger Clark  
(830074)

This newsletter is  
published by  
Alnmouth Parish  
Council and edited by  
Terry Collinson.

## Alnmouth – Not To Be Inconvenienced This Year

NCC's proposal to offload some local services on to parish and town councils, with a consequent increase in costs to these councils if they decided to keep these services going, was comprehensively rejected at the Northern Area Committee Meeting in Alnmouth. Faced with a barrage of complaints, Councillor Jeff Reid, Leader of the County



*A strategic convenience*

Council, announced that no change would happen this year. Actually there would have been little effect on Alnmouth because we already provide, and pay for ourselves, many of the services which NCC want to pass over. The big exception would have been maintaining our public conveniences, which NCC proposed to charge us over £8500. They also want over £3000 to continue emptying our litter and dog-waste bins. These items would double Alnmouth Parish Council's expenditure, leaving little choice but to close the toilets.

However, at the meeting we pointed out the unfairness of asking residents to pay for facilities which are very largely used by visitors. Councillor Styring then declared that ours were "Strategic Conveniences", essential infrastructure for the tourism industry, and NCC would continue to pay for them. This will bring great relief to Alnmouth!

The basic problem won't go away; NCC will cut a range of local services unless parish councils decide to pay for them. The difference is that they will now discuss in face-to-face interviews with each council what they are prepared to do and what extra we must pay if we want to keep services. There are about 150 town and parish councils in the county. That will be about 5 meetings each week if they want the process completed before the 2011-2012 budgets are set. They had better start soon.

Bill Bourne,  
Chair, Alnmouth Parish Council.



## Wellfield – Progress?

You will have noticed that part of the original wooden fence which bordered the Wellfield development has been removed recently and new posts are being erected. The metal barriers which have been there for so long are by necessity still in place. Is it too much to hope that progress is now being made and that the end is in sight for the eyesore that has plagued us for so long?

## Alnmouth Organisations and Activities

### Alnmouth Parish Council

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month in HH

### St John the Baptist Church

Services 9.15am. **NOTE**, fourth Sunday at 10am. (Isabel Chalmers 830362)

### Alnmouth Women's Institute

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month in HH. (Pam Muggleton 830315) [www.alnmouthwi.co.uk](http://www.alnmouthwi.co.uk)

### Alnmouth Autumn Club

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in HH. (Alistair Sinton 830784 or Audrey McKabe 830809)

### Alnmouth Camera Group

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Hope & Anchor. (Barbara Aitchison 830107)

### Alnmouth Local History Group

(Fred Bettess 830638)

### Alnmouth Village Golf Club

Full and Social Membership available. (Clubhouse 830370)

### 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.

### Alnmouth Youth Club

Meets Fridays from 5 - 7pm in the Old Methodist Chapel. Ages 8 - 12.

### River Aln Boat Club

(George Ternent 830444)

### Alnmouth Football Club

[www.alnmouthfc.com](http://www.alnmouthfc.com)

To hire the Hindmarsh Hall contact Jean Cullen (830501)

## Behind the Scenes at The Autumn Club

More than 40 members and guests were entertained by local residents, Bob and Marrissee Whittaker who now head up their own production company, Orion TV. They told us how their respective careers had developed, starting as a hairdresser (Marrissee!) and miner (Bob!). Marrissee later worked as a make-up artist before becoming a scriptwriter and showed she had lost none of her skills, as our picture shows.



Bob left the mines, trained as a journalist and held a variety of positions in radio and TV before starting Orion. Their latest venture is Virtual Granny, which Marrissee hopes will change the perceptions of over-50s. Find out more at:

[www.virtualgranny.com](http://www.virtualgranny.com)



### "Some hae meat..."

Gordon Inkster delivers the Selkirk Grace at the start of the Burns' Supper in the Hindmarsh Hall.

## Not Long Now

People wait in anticipation of being told that tickets for the "Hall of Fame" show are now available.



## Christmas Lights

It's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge.....no sooner had the 2010 lights been taken down than the Christmas Lights Committee held a coffee morning raising £283.66 to help with this year's display.

*The Committee wishes to thank all those householders and businesses who kindly allowed them to plug the Christmas Lights into their electricity supplies.*

## Coffee Morning – Schooner Hotel

Ken and Mike from the Schooner Hotel invite all Alnmouth residents and their friends to a complimentary Coffee Morning on Sat 19 March from 10 til noon. There will be an opportunity for a guided tour of their newly refurbished bedroom suites. They hope you will take this opportunity to see all the improvements they have, and are still, making.

## To Let

### The Small Boathouse

No services connected, but suitable for storage  
For further details please contact the Parish Clerk

## FEBRUARY

### Barn Dance

Tuesdays, 1 and 15 Feb at 7.30pm in HH. Entry £2 to include refreshments.

### Alnmouth WI

Mon, 7 Feb at 7pm in HH. "Beauty Therapy" with Eva Dubrowsky.

### Alnmouth Autumn Club

Tues, 8 Feb at 2.30pm in HH. "The Pulpit in Alnmouth Church"

### Alnmouth Camera Group

Tues, 8 Feb at 7pm in the Hope & Anchor. Theme, "Food"

### Aln Valley Railway Soc

Thurs, 17 Feb at 7pm for 7.30pm, Alnwick Station. "The Railways of Cornwall" with John Irvine

### Alnmouth & Lesbury Cricket Club

Annual Jumble Sale, Wed, 23 Feb at 12 noon in Lesbury Village Hall. Admission 50p.

### "Hall of Fame"

Thurs, Fri and Sat, 24, 25 and 26 Feb at 7.30 in HH. Dress Rehearsal on Tues, 22 Feb at 7.30. Tickets (free) from Alnmouth Grocer or Aln Gift Shop

## LOOKING AHEAD

### White Gardenias

Sat, 5 March at 7.30 for 8pm in HH.

### Christmas Lights Quiz Night

Fri, 11 March at 7pm in HH. Teams of 6 @£3 per person.

### Palace of Varieties Night

"Good C Sold out Music Hall. Sat, 12 March at 7.30pm in the Schooner Hotel.

### Coffee Morning

Sat, 19 March from 10 til noon in the Schooner Hotel.

### Bailiffgate Singers

Fri, 25 March at 7.30pm in HH.

Ticket details to follow.

The Newsletter is available on-line at

[www.alnmouth.info](http://www.alnmouth.info)