



# **KYLOE PARISH NEWS**

**October 2021**

## **Parish Council Vacancies:**

**2 vacancies remain to be filled by co-option.**

If you would be interested in helping us fill a vacancy – one person has expressed an interest so far - or know someone who might be, **please contact our Clerk, Sheila Henderson**

## **The Next Meeting of the Parish Council**

will be held on

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 7 pm**

in

**Lowick Village Hall**

**Please note that the Council decided at its last meeting to start its meetings a little earlier during the winter months**

As always, members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Council, but it is helpful if you can let our Clerk know beforehand if you intend to ask any questions.

**Future meetings of the Council are also scheduled to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> February & 10<sup>th</sup> May (AGM) 2022**

Advance notice of meetings and agendas are posted on the Council website: [www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe](http://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe)



## **Annual Remembrance Sunday Service and Wreath Laying** **Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November at 2 pm**

led by the Rev. Charlotte Osborn, will begin in Lowick Parish Church by the Kyloe Memorial before continuing to the Lowick Memorial and finally to dedicate the poppies hanging outside The White Swan

## **Contacts**

**Clerk: Sheila Henderson:** 4 West Kyloe Farm Cottages, Beal, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2PG: [4westkyloe@gmail.com](mailto:4westkyloe@gmail.com)

**Newsletter: Colin Wakeling:** [colin@itswakeling.com](mailto:colin@itswakeling.com)

**Parish Council website:** [www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe](http://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe)

**Traffic Calming and Parking in Fenwick Village:** following concerns raised by residents about parking and traffic speeds, your Parish Council arranged site visits and meetings with Northumberland County Highways planners who have identified possible measures aimed at addressing these issues and presented them in two suggested layouts.

PDFs illustrating these options have been posted on the Parish Council website in the 'News' section, but, if you have difficulty accessing these, please email Colin Wakeling ([colin@itswakeling.com](mailto:colin@itswakeling.com)) who'll forward them to you.

A number of the measures which could be taken are common to both of the plans:

- The **30 mph speed limit** through the Village could be extended eastwards by 65 metres towards the A1 and westwards by 130 metres towards Kyloe & on to the side road from Mount Hooley.
- **Street Lighting** could be extended eastwards towards the A1 by the installation of 5 new columns.
- Provision is made for the Installation of posts for the new **interactive speed signs** which are to be funded from County Councillor Hardy's small schemes allowance.
- **Village signs** would be displayed more prominently and mounted on a Glasden Gateway style product.
- **Appropriate signage** and road markings would be provided.
- **Existing trees** would remain but there might be some vegetation / foliage pruning.
- Some **car parking hard standing** could be provided west of the Manor House.



The main difference between the two suggested layouts is the form of **traffic calming** which could be introduced on the B6353 at the entrances to the Village, with both giving priority to traffic exiting the Village.



- **Chicanes** are essentially zig-zag features with each element offset and with clearances to allow safe HGV passage.
- **Road narrowing / build-out features** create pinch points designed to slow traffic down.

The suggested measures do not have to be taken en bloc – there is some room for a pick-and-mix approach.

Your Council is anxious to gather your views on these proposals, and has arranged an open meeting on:

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November, in Lowick Village Hall, doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start.**

The plans will be on display and we hope that a Highways officer will be on hand from 7.30 pm to answer questions and provide additional detail if necessary. As well as listening to comments at the meeting, we will be asking attendees to complete a simple questionnaire - if you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like your opinion noting, please email the Editor who will forward a copy for you to complete.

The Council will then be sending recommendations to the County with a view to the necessary works being included in the Local Transport Plan.



**The C D Leyland Fund**, administered by the Community Foundation, was established following the sale of Fenwick Village Hall. It aims to support activities in the Parish which advance education, improve health, foster engagement with the arts, culture, heritage, science, or amateur sport, or promote equality and diversity and relieve poverty.

If you know of anyone who might be eligible to receive support from the Fund, or any organisation which might wish to develop or expand its work for the benefit of people living in the Parish, please let us know.

The Fund has previously made grants to North Northumberland Hospice, Berwick & District Cancer Support Group (Cancer Cars) and Bell View, Belford, for its Bringo Service.

**Individuals** living in the Parish are encouraged to apply to the Parish Council in the first instance.

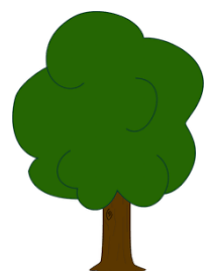
**Charitable or Community Organisations** that deliver (or wish to deliver) activity in support of the residents of the Parish should contact: Ross Wilson at the Community Foundation [rpw@communityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:rpw@communityfoundation.org.uk)



The Community Foundation also administer the **EDF Renewables Barmoor Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** which makes grants to voluntary and community organisations within a 10 km radius of the wind farm, with priority given to those within 5 km. More information from Pete Barrett at the Foundation [pb@communityfoudnation.org.uk](mailto:pb@communityfoudnation.org.uk)

**Free Trees** for planting this autumn have again been available through the County Council's scheme. Some may still be on offer, so if you can find a good home on your land for a sapling, please complete the booking form on the County's website without delay:

[www.tree-scheme.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.tree-scheme.northumberland.gov.uk)





**Parish Environment Fund**: At its last meeting your Council agreed to a proposal to establish a ring-fenced fund to support and encourage local voluntary initiatives which aim to enhance and increase access to, as well as appreciation of, the local environment. It was aware of some possible local initiatives intended to make our area more attractive for residents and visitors alike, and wanted to support these by ensuring volunteers are not left out of pocket as a result of their efforts.

An application has been made to the CD Leyland Fund for the first tranche of cash for this parish scheme. Please let us know if you or your neighbours have any plans to enhance your area or neighbourhoods.



**Bell View, Belford** provide a wheelchair accessible community transport scheme (**Bringo**) for journeys in the local area, details of which are contained in the flyer accompanying this Newsletter.

They also **deliver prescriptions** from the Belford Medical Practice for collection in Lowick where Bookless Motors have kindly stepped into the breach following the recent closure of the Village Store.

**Dog dirt**: Covid lockdowns have seen an increase in dog keeping and while most owners are responsible in cleaning up after their pets, a minority is not. Dog dirt is both unpleasant and a potential health hazard – in rural as well as built up areas. So, please be a responsible owner and clear up after your pet, secure the poo bag and dispose of it in general litter as well as dog dirt bins, or your own wheelie bin – littering a hedgerow is not a substitute.



If you sign up to the Council's **Green Dog Walker Scheme** you can obtain free poo bags from local libraries: [www.northumberland.gov.uk/greendogwalkers](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/greendogwalkers)



**Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership** is holding an online Forum with a focus on "Tranquility", one of the themes in its current Management Plan, on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 4 to 5.30pm** via the Teams platform. Places are free and should be booked via Eventbrite.

**The North of Tyne Combined Authority** as part of a Culture & Creative Initiative is supporting a pilot Zone in Berwick with an initial grant of £500,000.





**Berrington Rights of Way:** After a delay we now have costings for the repairs / replacements to make these footpaths more accessible, and discussions have begun to identify sources and funding and labour to effect the necessary repairs.

**The Protecting North Northumberland's Landscape Study** commissioned by the



Northumberland and Newcastle Society was considered by the Council at its July meeting when it was decided that it could not support the initiative until its articulation with the emerging County Plan can be clarified.

**Second Homes / Holiday Lets:** Your Parish Council agreed to support Cllr. Jen. Hall from Beadnell who had raised concerns about the growth of 'holiday let' properties in the area and the impact on local communities and services. Letters were sent to the County Council and the Treasury – both have responded.

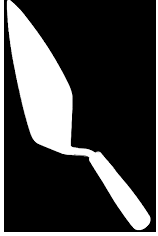
*“The Council is well aware of the pressures on small communities created by the increase in the number of ‘holiday let’ properties and indeed we share the concerns of local residents on this matter. We all agree that tourism is important for the County, supporting thousands of small businesses and many thousands of jobs. We continue to support the recovery of tourism from the impacts of Covid but, of course, this cannot come at a cost to communities. This is about getting the balance right.*

*As a local authority, we have some limited powers to address the issue through Council Tax and land use planning. We are applying these powers; for example, we charge the maximum permitted Council Tax on second homes. Our new Local Plan, when adopted, proposes a policy limiting the ability to use new build homes as second homes or holiday lets in areas where there is already a significant density of these properties. However, using an existing property as a holiday let does not generally require planning permission.*

*The Council is also committed to working with partners to increase the supply of affordable housing, both to buy and to let .... Where appropriate, these properties will come with ‘local connection’ requirements, along with primary residence restrictions.*

*Whilst we are using our powers to address the issue and get the right balance between a thriving tourism sector and sustainable communities, we recognise that the Government also must take action ... we anticipate a tightening of current rules which enable holiday lets to register as businesses and then qualify for small business rate relief. This may help, but we recognise the increased demand for domestic holidays could continue to make holiday lets an attractive option for owners of second homes.”*

**NCC Chief Executive**



**Hunting Hall Farm Archaeological Excavations:** Groups of ‘diggers’, brought together by Lowick Heritage Group have been busy in a field at the Farm since early September.

This is the latest of a series of excavations on the site which lies close to the Low. Crop marks had suggested pre-historic activity in the area, but exploratory digs were disappointing until a geophysical survey in 2018 identified features possibly worth further investigation and another excavation was undertaken in 2019. An intended follow-up in 2020 had to be postponed because of the Covid Pandemic, but the Group has been able to return this year.

Work on the site has obviously been impacted by the weather – too hot and the soil dries out so that changes in soil textures and colours are difficult to distinguish – too wet and trenches obviously flood. Nevertheless, the work undertaken so far has brought to light a number of interesting features and ‘finds’ which inevitably raise as many questions as answers – these will have to wait until the results of further investigation are known.



Items recovered include, worked flint (probably Neolithic / Early Bronze Age), agate, animal bone fragments (very useful for dating)



including a splendid set of non-human teeth, charcoal (possibly used for iron making), and part of a quern stone used for hand grinding. A complex range of features so far identified include possible burial pits and post holes, some with signs of burning, and one large enough to take something as substantial as a telegraph pole.

The painstaking work undertaken this year may not appear to have produced spectacular finds, but enough has been discovered to merit further investigation. This area is rich in hidden heritage whose secrets are being unearthed little-by-little – the geophysical survey also revealed a significant ditched enclosure underneath land on nearby Kentstone Farm - but a lot more work remains to be undertaken if we are to build up a more comprehensive picture of life here in past centuries.

Some financial support for the dig was provided by the CD Leyland Fund. More information: [www.lowickheritagegroup.org](http://www.lowickheritagegroup.org)



**Haggerston Castle** – Centuries of History – from Mud to Mega Mansion, is the title of a talk by Joy Lamb at Lowick Heritage Group’s next meeting on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm in Lowick Village Hall.**

## Help & Advice



**Bridge Northumberland** helps anyone not in work, aged between 16 and retirement age, to boost their confidence, health check their finances and access training or volunteer opportunities.

[www.bridgenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.bridgenorthumberland.org.uk)



**Playlist for Life** are a UK wide charity which believes that music can be a lifeline for someone living with dementia. It can calm an anxious mind, improve someone's mood, and can even help people reconnect to happy memories. Playlist for Life aims to share the power of personal music for those living with dementia. They have recently appointed a Newcastle-based organiser who is keen to extend their network of support in the area. More information:

[www.playlistforlife.org.uk](http://www.playlistforlife.org.uk)

**Electricity Supplier Bankruptcies:** Changeworks ([www.changeworks.org.uk](http://www.changeworks.org.uk)) offers the following advice:



“Don't panic. Ofgem, the UK's independent energy industry regulator, is there to protect you if your supplier fails. This means you will not be left without gas or electricity and any payments you have made are protected.

What should you do?

- Take a picture or a note of your meter reading(s). Continue to do this regularly so you will know how much gas or electricity you have used with your old supplier and how much with your new supplier.
- If you can still access your gas or electricity bills online, log on to take a note of your current balance and last bill date. You can also download any bills and save copies.
- If you pay by Direct Debit, don't cancel this. Your new supplier will be in touch to explain the next steps. If you have already cancelled your direct debit, don't worry. It's a good idea to put that money aside for your bills so you don't have to catch up with gas or electricity payments later.
- Wait. Ofgem will appoint a new supplier to take over your gas or electricity supply. This should only take a few days, though it might be several weeks before you hear from your new supplier. You are advised not to switch during this time. This will make sure the transfer to your newly appointed supplier is as hassle free as possible. Once your account is transferred, you'll have the choice of staying with the new supplier or looking around for another deal. Take independent advice from organisations such as Citizens Advice.

**Citizens Advice Northumberland:** [www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)



Northumberland

have teams who deal with debt, energy, benefits and people in need of consumer advice as well as a Macmillan Benefits Advice team, who can support families after a Cancer diagnosis.

The Berwick Office in Tweed Street is open for drop-in appointments on Mondays & Fridays between 10 am and 12 noon.

Phone for appointments and general advice: **0808 278 7944**: Full contact details are also on the Parish website.

**Berwick & Borders Samaritans** are seeking volunteers to join their team, and will train, mentor and support you in delivering this important service



[Berwick.samaritans@samaritans.org](mailto:Berwick.samaritans@samaritans.org)

**Lowick and Kyloe: St. John the Baptist Church:** Revd. Charlotte Osborn is hoping to be resident in Lowick Vicarage from 1<sup>st</sup> November and can then be contacted there by phone on **01289-388591** as well as email: [ceosborn@mail.com](mailto:ceosborn@mail.com).



She is looking ahead as communities begin to plan for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, which are due to take place over an extended Bank Holiday weekend, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022, and hopes that the Lowick Church bells can be brought back to life. She is keen to hear from anyone who has further information to share about their history. The Church Bell Ringers' Association have indicated that there are three bells – one cast in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and two at Whitechapel in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. They are reported as not being in good condition and safe access for closer inspection may be difficult.

Holy Communion is regularly celebrated in **Lowick** on Sundays throughout November at 9.15 am, when all are welcome. On **31<sup>st</sup> October** at 10 am there is a combined parishes service with Ford and Acroft when the Guest Preacher will be the Dean of Newcastle Cathedral.



**Glendale Curling Club** are inviting you to come along and try curling at Kelso Ice Rink on **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at 4.15pm.**

Members of the Club will explain the basics of curling, with a short training session, followed by a game, and, hopefully, refreshments.

This is a **FREE** event funded by the CD Leyland Fund.

Please contact Richard Murray for more details and to book a place

**01289-388702 or [rmkentstone@gmail.com](mailto:rmkentstone@gmail.com)**