



# KYLOE PARISH NEWS

August 2022

At its annual meeting in May, the Council re-elected Stephen Biglands as Chair and Derek Eltringham as Vice-Chair. It was agreed to hold the following meetings during the coming session:

**2022** September 27  
December 6

**2023** February 21  
May 2 (AGM followed by regular meeting)

All meetings will begin at 7 pm, and are scheduled to be held in Lowick Village Hall.

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 attend and ask any questions.

The Parish Council website: [www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe](http://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe) will contain advance notice of meetings and confirm venues and agenda.

**We anticipate that Northumberland CC Leader, Glen Sanderson, will be present at the September meeting; please let us know of any issues you would like us to raise with Glen.**

**Vacancies:** There remains a vacancy on the Parish Council which can be filled by co-option; if you would be interested in joining and supporting your community please, without obligation, get in touch with Sheila, our Clerk.



**Community  
Foundation**

**The Capt. C D Leyland Fund** exists to support residents and organisations in Kyloe Parish; if you know of any which might benefit from the Fund, please contact the

Community Foundation: [www.communityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk)

## 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)

**Road Closure:** the B6353 will be closed between Lowick Silos and the Black Heddon Crossroads to the east, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August between 7.30 am and 5 pm. The signposted diversion is likely to be via the B6525 and the A1. The closure is to enable work to begin on repairing the carriageway following a landslip.



**Transport Priorities:** Your Parish Council has identified as its 'wish list' for 2023-4:

- Provision of street lighting between Fenwick village & the A1;
- Re-surfacing the B6353 between West Kyloe & Fenwick;
- Extending the no-overtaking double white lines at the Berrington junctions on the B6525 with associated warning signage.

**Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points:** Motorists are being encouraged to 'Drive Green', but limited access to charging points, especially in rural areas, may well deter many from making the change. The Parish Council has also been concerned about the provision of charging points for the many residents who do not have parking on their own premises and for whom on-street charging is unlikely to be an option. A site has been identified in Fenwick Village which could potentially accommodate 4 charging points and so an installation request was made to NCC. Councils are able to bid for central government funding over the coming years to support the uptake of EV use; this is from the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEV) on street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS)



We have not been successful in the first round of grants for 2022-3, but there are due to be successive annual funding rounds across England. We are aware that Scottish Power would need to upgrade their supply to the area to accommodate a rapid charge facility, but we are continuing to press for a resolution of the problems.



**Defibrillator at West Mains:** Funding is in place for a defibrillator unit to be located by the Lindisfarne Inn. Once the funds are with the Parish Council an order will be placed with the supplier and it should be delivered within 10 days. The expectation is that installation should be complete before the end of August. Training in the use of the defibrillator will be provided at the Inn in due course for both Inn staff and residents of Kyloe Parish.



**Travelsure's H1 bus service** runs between Belford and Holy Island via the A1 on selected days, dependent on the tides, offering the prospect of 2 to 4 hours on the Island without the hassle of parking: Timetable information at: [www.travelsure.co.uk](http://www.travelsure.co.uk) On an experimental basis they are also operating journeys on most days to the Island to and from Beal, with a shuttle on Holy Island between the Car Park & Castle; [More information on their Facebook page or by phone: 01668-219291](#)

**The Northumberland Coast AONB** commissioned a report from Martin Higgitt Associates on Visitor Access and Traffic Management within the AONB. The Report which has been posted on the Parish website (News), found that more than 80% of visitors to the area arrive by car and the majority then use their vehicles to get around the area

This has a significant impact on local communities with inappropriate parking and traffic congestion affecting residents' ability to go about their daily business as well as restricting public transport access to the centres of several communities. This is particularly evident in tourist 'hot spots' such as Holy Island, Seahouses and Bamburgh.



Some areas of the AONB are arguably 'over-touristed' and are experiencing problems with staffing businesses and lack of affordable accommodation.

The Report identified that work needed to be done to facilitate non-car access – the present situation means that non-drivers may be effectively excluded from enjoyment of the area. Existing car parking provision needed to be managed to support sustainable transport provision in the area. It is not recommending increasing car parking provision.

The AONB Partnership agreed that to 'do nothing' and 'build more car parks' would not conserve and enhance the AONB and that a sustainable transport-led strategy is required. The Consultants have been contracted to produce a further report focused on creating a sustainable transport strategy for the AONB.



**Footpaths:** Obstructions to footpaths & public rights of way can be reported directly to NCC on-line: [www.northumberland.gov.uk/report](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/report)

If the problem affects a path in this Parish, it is helpful if you let us know as well. Many of you will be familiar with the pothole reporting form on the County's website – this one is very similar. The more reports which are made the better the chance of remedial action being taken.

Network Rail closed the footpath crossing over the East Coast Main Line at Fenham Hill without warning over alleged safety fears. This affects Path 9 which runs from Fenwick Granary towards the Causeway which forms part of the Coastal Path, and is only temporary while a solution is obtained which mitigates the safety fears. A diversion remains in force during the closure which means following the road towards Fenham Mill, crossing the railway bridge and then following the railway line north to rejoin the former route.





**Avian Flu:** Seabird colonies along the coast have been affected by Bird Flu which has particularly hit the gannet colony on the Bass Rock, but will also have affected birds out to sea. Especially, if you are walking along the foreshore and come across a dead or distressed bird, please do not touch it, or let your dog pick it up (it makes sense to keep dogs on short leads).

**Please note the exact location of the bird and ring DEFRA on 013459 33 55 77 (option 7) or the Lindisfarne Nature Reserve Office on 01289-381470**

If you keep poultry or caged birds, please maintain bio security.

**The Lindisfarne Festival** will be returning again this year to Beal Farm between 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> September, with 8 stages in operation.

**LINDISFARNE**  
FESTIVAL



**BERWICK  
ACADEMY**

**A Berwick School Consultation** lasts until 12<sup>th</sup> August. The County Council has pledged to fund improvements in the Berwick Partnership area but with a degree of surplus school capacity, it wants to make sure that its investment meets identified needs. Currently a significant number of pupils who could attend Berwick schools choose to attend alternatives in Alnwick, Scotland and the private sector.

The consultation seeks your views on two principal issues;

- Whether to retain the present three-tier structure (first / middle / high) or move to a two-tier system (primary / secondary)
- Whether Glendale area schools should be formally included in the Alnwick rather than Berwick Partnership area.

Full details can be found on: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk) (School Consultations)



**Police Representatives** were unfortunately unable to attend the last meeting of the Council but indicated that there had been no reported crime incidents to report, but they continue to advise residents to sign up to the Northumbria Connected service which offers regular updates from the Force in relation to ongoing policing matters in this area:

[www.northumbriaconnected.co.uk](http://www.northumbriaconnected.co.uk)



**Pingo:** You may have seen a minibus branded 'Pingo' around Morrison's or in Berwickshire. It is operating a demand responsive service within Berwickshire 7 days a week between 7am and 9pm aimed at covering areas without regular public transport links. Supported by Scottish Borders Council and operated by Borders Buses, the vehicles are wheelchair equipped and can also carry bikes, and journeys can be booked through an app or by phone. So far, Northumberland CC do not seem to be considering any similar schemes on this side of the Tweed.

What we would the likely demand be for such a service in this area?



**Hospice Care North Northumberland** hold a Bereavement Drop-in Café session at the Berwick Hospice Building – Hazel Marsden House, Violet Terrace, Low Greens – just beyond the Infirmary – on the third Tuesday of every month. Their Bereavement Support Service is free of charge. There is also a weekly Dementia Walking Football Group at the Swan Centre and a Dementia Drop-in Café on the second Monday of each month at Hazel Marsden House. Their Dementia Support Worker can offer advice and signpost the most appropriate support for both the person with dementia and their family. Contact: [nursingteam@hospicecare-nn.org.uk](mailto:nursingteam@hospicecare-nn.org.uk) (01289-309997)

**Healthwatch Northumberland** ([www.healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk))

aims to improve care in the County and acts as your local health and social care champion. It provides advice and information and makes sure that NHS leaders and decision makers hear your views. Over the past year it has made representations about access to dentistry services for NHS patients, delays in GP referrals and accessing GP services online.



**Phone: 03332-408468**

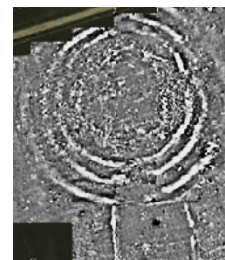


**Roadside Verges:** There is increasing recognition that biodiversity can be encouraged in our roadside verges. For a few years Northumberland CC has been able to change the verge maintenance arrangements – cutting less to encourage wildflowers - in several places, as well as wildflower sowing. The Friends of the Yorkshire Dales National Park ([www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk)) has listed some simple nature positive verge management principles:

- Cutting verges no later than April & clearing away cuttings;
- Not cutting between May and August to allow plants to flower & set seed;
- Considering mowing only narrow edge strips but leaving some areas uncut as a wildlife refuge;
- Removing invasive weeds such as nettles & docks by chopping or uprooting, but not spraying;
- Making a second cut in September & again removing cuttings.

Are there areas with the Parish which could benefit from such treatment?

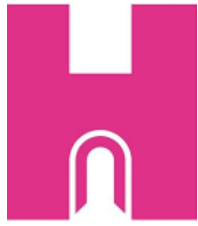
**Kentstone Hill:** Google Earth images of the area plus a geophysical and magnetic resonance survey of the area, undertaken by members of Lowick Heritage Group, under the guidance of Roger Miket and staff from Manchester Metropolitan University, suggest the presence of features dating from the early Bronze Age to Medieval periods. The site sits in a



commanding position, overlooking the coastal plain and inland as far as Cheviot and the Milfield Basin. Because of its potential interest Roger Miket hopes to lead a small-scale investigation of the area at the end of August after it has been harvested and before replanting. More information from Roger Miket ([yearlemill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:yearlemill@yahoo.co.uk))

**Local Heritage:** The National Library of Scotland website ([www.maps.nls.uk](http://www.maps.nls.uk)) allows free access to a huge range of historic Ordnance Survey maps (many of them large scale).

The Historic England website ([www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books)) contains a large collection of aerial photographs, many of them of this area.



**Heritage Open Days** ([www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)) allow public access to several interesting buildings which are not generally open to visitors – this year from 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September. A range of openings, guided walks and events are planned, both online and in person – in Alnwick there are guided walks from 12<sup>th</sup> September and building openings, mainly on 17<sup>th</sup> September, while a large programme in Berwick runs throughout the period. Check the website for more details and booking arrangements.



**Hunting Hall:** Between May and July members of Lowick Heritage Group and other volunteers have again been excavating a site at Hunting Hall Farm. Over 52 days they have uncovered stone footings for a number of dwellings, with evidence for occupation of the site over a considerable period.



Charcoal, a loom weight, mill stone, animal bones and teeth, flints, and worked agate (thought to be several hundred years older than other 'finds') have been unearthed.



Two roundhouses, roughly 15 metres apart, have been identified. Judging by its flagstone floor one may well have been a high-status dwelling. Some of the most 'significant' finds came towards the end of the dig – a damaged cooking pot, a bone spoon, possibly with a human tooth mark, and Iron Age pottery – thought to be the largest find in Northumberland to date. It is rare for such pottery to survive because it was often poorly fired.



The Group describe this as their best and most productive season to date and hope to be able to continue their work next year. Meantime further analysis and dating of objects recovered will be needed to confirm what are at present educated guesses.

Natural England have also given the Farm permission to undertake a feasibility study into the possible recreation of a roundhouse on the site.

Lowick Heritage Group's website – [www.lowickheritagegroup.org](http://www.lowickheritagegroup.org) – contains information on previous excavations at the site.

If you would like additional images of 'finds' from this year's excavations, please contact the Editor