

CommunityTalk

IN RENNINGTON, ROCK & STAMFORD SUMMER 2023

Thank You...

.. for all the positive feedback we received about our first edition of the parish council's Community Talk.

We hope you enjoy reading this summer edition just as much. And if you have an idea or article in mind for our autumn edition, we'd love to hear from you.

Editor Peter Purdom



Village Hall Update

After announcing the Hall would be closed for four weeks from 15th May to replace loft insulation and carry out timber treatment, we postponed the work temporarily after receiving an unexpected report that bats may be present in the main attic. We now have to obtain an independent bat risk assessment and, if necessary, obtain a licence from Natural England before proceeding with the work. Fortunately we will still be making a start on our grant funded Solar PV project by installing the Back-up Storage Battery to improve energy efficiency and to provide an "off-grid" electrical supply to the Hall during power cuts. The Solar Panels will be installed later in the year once the bats issue has been addressed.

If you know of anyone interested in using the hall for new activities or private functions, or if you would like to be added to our emailed information list, please get in touch at renningtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Laurence Dent



Coronation Celebrations and more!

A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who came along to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla on Sunday 7th in Rennington and Monday 8th May in Rock.

The Village Hall Committee were overwhelmed by the support for the Rennington event on the Sunday; there were kind donations of food, raffle prizes and all matched with good cheer! A great time was had by all. In Rock the Church/Community group also hosted a fabulous tea party on the Monday to celebrate the Coronation. It was great to see so many turn up and enjoy themselves.

On the Monday in Rock Church, Councillor Wendy Pattison was kind enough to officially open the exhibition on Helen Sutherland, an heiress and indomitable patron of the arts, who lived at Rock Hall in the 1930s. The exhibition documents several episodes from Helen's time at Rock, as well as prints from artist David Jones' paintings of Rock Village. It will run until October. Do come in and have a look.

Bird Watch

While many of our birds have suffered from avian flu and some commonplace birds have disappeared from the locality due to habitat loss and climate change we tend to forget the endless adaptability of nature: birds have been existing and evolving for far longer than humans on our planet. In Northumberland this has resulted in new species, never historically seen here, appearing and then beginning to breed. Avocets are an example. An iconic and elegant wading bird with a characteristic upturned bill - the symbol of the RSPB. They are now successfully breeding locally, at Cresswell, Druridge pools and on the scrape behind The Ship at Low Newton.



Little Egrets are another. Pure white, small, herons with a dagger shaped bill, black legs and large yellow feet. Frequently seen at Warkworth and around the land side of Holy Island causeway, also successfully breeding. Their larger cousins, Cattle Egrets and Great White Egrets are established now in Southern England and their range is moving further North each year.



Reintroduction programmes have resulted in Red Kites successfully re-establishing themselves after becoming extinct in the UK. Kites are nature's scavengers and don't really hunt live prey. They are amazingly agile in flight due to their light weight and characteristic forked tail.

Whilst the disappearance of some species is of concern, nature is certainly fighting back!

Tim Walls

Rennington Scarecrow Festival

'Scarecrows' is our next big event. It runs over three days - August Bank Holiday weekend Saturday, Sunday and Monday August 26, 27 & 28 - from 10am to 4pm each day.

To make it a big success like last year we really do need your help! And so, to prepare and plan for the Festival, the Village Hall Committee invite you to a VOLUNTEERS AFTERNOON TEA on Sunday 30th July 3 - 5pm in the Village Hall.

Please come along and join us; we would love to hear from you if you can volunteer to help on any or all of the days! We are also keen to hear about any new ideas and suggestions you might have to support the

event and to improve this major community fundraising opportunity.

There are many ways for you to get involved - from car parking, selling raffle tickets, helping with stalls and games to serving teas and coffees and washing up in the Village Hall! You might wish to help by donating a raffle prize or lucky dip prizes, by baking cakes or helping with the clean up on Monday afternoon.

Without the continued help of our volunteers and supporters we wouldn't have our wonderful Village Hall, so please come along and get involved! We value whatever help you can provide.

Laurence Dent



Better Together



Coronation celebrations emphasised volunteering - helping to make a difference. Making an effort for others is a key principle of Christianity, an understanding of the common good. It's basic human kindness. Volunteering takes us out of ourselves, it's good for our wellbeing and good for our communities. Everyone benefits. Many organisations rely on volunteer support, our local churches in Rennington and Rock are no exception. We are so grateful for those who already give their time and energy, There should be no boundaries between church and community and offers of help will always be gladly received.
revalisonhardy@gmail.com

Litter-picking & The Big Help Out

Litter has always been a problem and volunteers are again doing something about it - helped with kit provided by the County Council. The original idea was to have an organised litter-pick on the Big Help Out on 8th May. We were, however, advised to litter-pick before the start of the bird nesting season. So in March we had a series of highly successful litter-picks: a big 'thank you' to so many volunteers who did a great job. Once the nesting season is over we intend to arrange regular litter-picks. Please help if you can.

We therefore looked for other ways of tidying our area on the Big Help Out. Despite the rain the enthusiasm of the volunteers was not dampened: they successfully cleaned the road signs, benches, waste and gravel bins around Rennington - and even dead-headed daffodils! In particular we must thank Alex from Wisplaw because without his support and enthusiasm these initiatives would not have been such a success.

If you would like to help in the future please contact Andy on 07753 659759 or email andyssisson1@sky.com



Rock and Biodiversity

Rock Farms have engaged with a number of organisations and individuals to improve the biodiversity around the Estate. We have entered into a pilot scheme with DEFRA called the Sustainable Farming Incentive which targets ways to improve biodiversity and soil health. Sixty hectares of fields have been sown with a mix of flowering and seed bearing plants to provide food

for pollinating insects, birds, and other wildlife. Cultivation techniques continue to evolve to minimise soil disruption, and hedges are being grown and further established to increase the amount of nectar and berries. Look out for these areas as they start to flower and will continue to grow over the summer. In addition a number of new trees have been planted in various

places around the farm, some of them to replace the woodland lost from Storm Arwen, and several down the Avenue. Another pleasing feature are the several owls that have taken nest in the owl boxes that have been installed around the Estate following advice from a local owl expert.

Fred Bosanquet



Garden Talk



Image courtesy of Jonathan Gaunt

Have you seen a hedgehog snuffling around your garden? Here's how to make your garden safe and appealing to our spiky friends.

Make sure they have lots of dense undergrowth so they can hide and possibly nest there. They love to munch on slugs and snails, so forget the slug pellets. Our spiky friends will drink from ponds and have been known to fall in, so why not provide a platform or slope so they can easily and safely escape from the water. If you want to feed your hedgehogs, you can leave out cat kibble, wet cat or dog food and some water - particularly helpful during periods of drought.

Prior to burning piles of leaves, grass cuttings or a bonfire, please check for hedgehogs as they may have taken up residence!



Finally, should you find an injured hedgehog or one out during daylight hours please contact the Northumberland Hedgehog Rescue Trust for advice on 01665 570911 between 9 - 12am.
<https://hedgehogs-northumbria.org.uk>

Jackie Sisson

KPW666 Challenge 2023

Peter & Doreen Pringle together with David & Laura King have recently finished their six-day challenge to raise money for a new 'Daft as a Brush' Ambulance for Alnwick - providing free transport for people undertaking cancer treatment.

And it was to fulfil a promise they made to their great friend, David Purvis, who died of cancer. There were six challenges over six days because Peter was celebrating his 66th birthday on 18 May - hence the title. It was also a challenge with a difference.

The day before his birthday all four climbed Snowdonia. This was followed by a gruelling two days with Peter & David cycling 220 miles accompanied all the way by Doreen & Laura in their support vehicle. With little - if any - rest, early on Saturday 20 May, all four climbed Scafell Pike and - not to be outdone - Peter & David cycled a further 65 miles that very same day! The next two days - and 200 miles later - the cycling duo with their team in tow reached Fort William. That was 485 miles in total! For their finale on the sixth day all four climbed Ben Nevis in bad weather. And all for David Purvis and the charity dear to their hearts.

If you would like to make a donation and support this very worthwhile challenge please go to the Just Giving website and search for KWP666 Challenge 2023.



Village Hall Stop Press...

Great news! Four new members have joined the Committee: Rev Alison Hardy, Andy Sisson and Bruce Minty from Rennington and from Rock, our youngest member yet, Emma Lynn!

Whats On

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| 8 June | 7pm Parish Council, RVH |
| 11 June | 2 - 4.30pm Table Top Sale in Rock Church |
| 29 June | 6.30pm Brian Eke - Eric Atkins, WW11 RAF pilot, Part 1, Rock Church |
| 13 July | 7pm Parish Council, RVH |
| 14 July | 6.30 pm Summer BBQ with music in Rock Church (or outside if weather good) |
| 30 July | 3 - 5 pm Scarecrows Volunteers Afternoon Tea, RVH |
| 26 - 28 August | 10am - 4pm Scarecrow Festival, Bank Holiday Weekend |
| 28 August | 6.30pm Fred Bosanquet - Rock Hall and Rock Estate, Rock Church |
| 14 September | 7pm Parish Council, RVH |
| 21 September | 6.30pm Brian Eke - Eric Atkins, Part 2, Rock Church |

Next Issue

September 2023; please submit content by 4 September

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