

CommunityTalk

IN RENNINGTON, ROCK & STAMFORD WINTER 2023

Rock and Rennington Christmas Trees Lights Switch On

Rock and Rennington will feature their annual Christmas Trees this December thanks to Rock Estates, Rennington Village Hall and Rennington Parish Council. 'Light Switch On' ceremonies will be held at both trees. Rock's will be on the Village Green, next to the post box - details will be announced on the Rock WhatsApp.

On 2 December - 6.30pm for 7pm "Light Switch On" - Rennington's event will be in front of the Village Hall. Please come along to this community Christmas social evening which includes turkey sandwich, mulled wine, mince pie and nibbles - entry £5 to cover costs (accompanied children under 16 free). Please contact any member of RVH Committee or email us at renningtonvillagehall@gmail.com to reserve a place.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Progress

Thanks to everyone who attended the public meetings and completed the questionnaires. Your feedback has helped clarify what we do next.

There was general acceptance in both meetings that there would be more housing over the next 15 years and this view was confirmed in the questionnaire results. Please access the Parish Council website if you wish to read the notes of the meetings and the analysis of the questionnaires.

The working party believes we have a responsibility to develop planning policies and criteria to guard against inappropriate housing developments

in the parish. To help in this, the working party is now commissioning the planning consultant to undertake a technical review of the draft criteria for the appraisal of housing development sites and to draft outline planning policies based on the feedback from the two community meetings and the results of the questionnaires. Following on from this the planning consultant will be asked to assess all potential sites against the revised criteria.

This will take time. The timing of the next round of public consultation will therefore be in the New Year. At that stage we will want your reactions to:

- proposed criteria for site selection;
- sites initially selected for housing on the basis of the criteria;
- sites not selected - importantly with rationale for non-selection;
- any recommendations for settlement boundaries for Rennington & for Rock;
- draft planning policies;
- the draft Design Code.

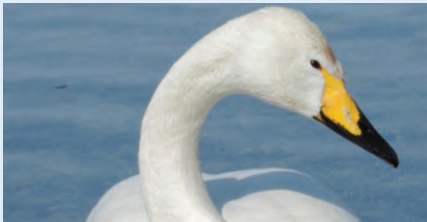
The working group is committed to consulting and engaging with you every step of the way - before firm proposals are made. Hopefully we will then have your support when the development plan goes to a referendum.

Alan Tremlett

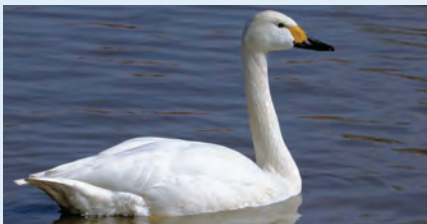
Bird Watch



Mute swans are a resident UK species. Most local lakes and ponds have some and there are larger groups in various locations, particularly where the A1 crosses the Tweed. Their main distinguishing feature is the black and orange bill - the colour most obvious towards the tip.



Whooper swans breed in Iceland and migrate here in October. They are slightly smaller with a longer neck. Their bill is yellow - about 60% of the bill's length and the tip is black. They are commonly seen feeding in groups near Buston Barns and Hauxley reserve and along the coast during winter.



Bewick's swans are named after Thomas Bewick. Thomas was apprenticed in Newcastle where he learned to engrave on wood and metal. He engraved wooden blocks to illustrate 'Land Birds' - published in 1797 and 'Water Birds' in 1804: both regarded as the first field guides to British birds. They breed in northern Russia and make a long, hazardous migration. Those that reach the UK overwinter notably on the Ouse washes and at Slimbridge. Slightly smaller again they have a yellow and black bill with the yellow colouration only at the base of the bill below the eyes - the majority is black.

Tim Walls

Rock Cricket Club Awards

We held our annual awards dinner on 14 October in Rennington Village Hall. Our celebrations included a delicious three course dinner provided by Company B.



The Senior First Team were celebrating second place in Northumberland and Tyneside Division 5 North, securing promotion into Division 4 for the 2024 season. This will bring the highest standard of cricket to Rock in the history of the club; exciting times ahead! Rock also has a fantastic ladies section, playing both hardball and softball cricket. The Ladies came a respectable third in Northumberland Division 1 North this season.

Award winners were:

Senior First Team: Batting – George Cockayne; Bowling – Harry Parkinson; Fielding – Andy Bottomer; All Rounder – Joe Ingram; Captain's Trophy – Iain Long; Junior Player – Henry Ferry; The "Duck Bat" – Dylan Simpson

Ladies Team: Batting – Rachel Murray; Bowling – Molly Roberts; Coaches Most Improved Player – Amy Purvis; Captain's Trophy – Eve Dixon

Club Caps were awarded to: Harry Parkinson – "Five-For"; Joe Ingram – "Five-For"; George Cockayne – high score 173; Rachel Murray – 50 not out

Thanks are due to the Bosanquet family for their ongoing support and to the ground staff Thomas Parkinson, Alex Woodcock and Stephen Gray.





Join the Celebrations

Lots of opportunities to support our parish churches and celebrate this Christmas. A warm welcome assured for all. There is something for everyone!

Saturday 2 December 6.30 for 7pm 'Switch On' - Christmas Tree Event with Carols at RVH

Sunday 10 December 9am 'Deck the Church' - Ss Philip and James, Rock. Come and bring something with which to dress the Church for Christmas with a short, informal service and refreshments.

Sunday 17 December 4pm 'Candlelight Carols' in All Saints Church, Rennington

Monday 18 December 2pm 'Come and Sing Carols' at Grange Care Home

Christmas Eve 4pm 'Nativity Live!' - Ss Philip and James, Rock. Dress for the conditions as we will be outdoors for part of this family friendly, interactive service - starting with a warming drink as we journey to Bethlehem.

Christmas Day 10am 'Holy Communion with Carols' in All Saints Church, Rennington

revalisonhardy@gmail.com

Pétanque News

Plans are in place to construct the site during the winter/spring periods with a view to having the facility open and active by the end of March 2024. We will be organising an official opening with representatives from Northumberland CC and England Petanque. Anyone interested in joining the petanque working group should contact me at norman.hughes52@btinternet.com; or Phil Green at philgreen48@btinternet.com



Christmas Bingo

Join us for a fun evening with Christmas prizes for everyone! - Friday 24th November 7.30pm in Rennington Village Hall; doors open at 7pm. We are always very grateful to those who sponsor a Line for £5 or Full House for £10. If you would also wish to donate prizes for our Raffle please contact Wendy Swinney or email us at renningtonvillagehall@gmail.com

What's New From Rennington Village Hall

Our work to upgrade the Hall and complete essential maintenance continues despite having to overcome hurdles along the way. The solar panels and storage batteries are now fully operational providing back-up power enabling the Hall to be used as a warm hub in emergencies as well as improving general energy efficiency. Without the generous financial support of Northern PowerGrid Foundation this project would have been beyond our reach and the Foundation's Trustees will shortly be visiting us to see what's been achieved. On the 'Bat Front' we are preparing a licence application to Natural England to make a start on much needed loft maintenance and installing energy efficient LED lighting, for which we have secured funding from NCC's Community Chest and the Parish Council. We remain hopeful of completing this work by late spring next year.

The Hall continues to be well used by groups, private parties and recently for another local wedding reception. Congratulations to former Rock residents, Anthony and Leanne! The Ceilidh on 7 October attracted people of all ages - and families from neighbouring villages joined us for a fun packed evening of dancing! Although not all tickets were sold, it helped to raise much needed funds for All Saints Church.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone who would like to use the Hall for private or business events, or for regular use by clubs and groups - visits to the hall to see our facilities and discuss your needs are welcome anytime by arrangement.

Laurence Dent



Garden Talk

Winter can be a quiet time in the garden, many plants are dormant and there is often little colour to brighten the dull days. However, there are plenty plants still to enjoy.



Evergreen box balls and topiary will give structure whilst plants such as winter jasmine, cyclamen, hellebores, snowdrops and aconites will bring welcome splashes of colour. Daphne and viburnum are strongly scented as well as being colourful. Bare root plants like roses and fruit trees can be planted now.

Plant up some containers with evergreens such as ferns and ivy and add plants with colourful berries or flowers – cyclamens, narcissus, miniature irises, tête-à-tête and pansies.



Leave plants with attractive seedheads such as rudbeckia, sunflower, teasels and ornamental grasses intact in order to enjoy their unique beauty and to help feed our hungry birds in the bleakest of times.

Most importantly winter is a time to get the seed catalogues out and plan for next year.

Wendy Swinney

Your Help Please

Before the end of November we'll be planting bulbs for the spring. So if you would like to help and bring more colour around the Parish, please contact Andy.

Andy is also organising another round of litter-picking towards the end of November/early December. As we can't guarantee the weather and set times don't work for everyone - we're being flexible. We have all the kit you would need for litter-picking - pickers, gloves and bags! Join a team or - if you wish - do it when it suits you best. Please just call Andy on 07753 659759 or email him at andy.sisson1@sky.com - either to collect the equipment you need or to put your name down to join one of the teams.



North Farm Streetlights

Northumberland's Local Area Planning Committee refused our application to turn off/ remove the streetlights installed with the North Farm development.

Despite this setback, the Planning Committee recognise that the installation of streetlights in rural areas should be done in partnership with the local residents. They have now asked Highways and Planning to hold discussions with the Parish Council to arrive at a solution that satisfies Highways road safety concerns without an overly intrusive lighting scheme.

Hopefully, this approach will also ensure that the lighting schemes required for any future developments will be more in keeping with a rural environment. We'll keep you posted.

Stephen Baggott

Whats On

- 12 November** 4pm Short Remembrance Service, War Memorial, All Saints Churchyard
- 24 November** 7.30pm Christmas Bingo and Raffle, RVH (Doors open 7pm)
- 27 November** 7- 9pm The Bottoms Up Club, RVH
- 30 November** 7pm 'Hauxley Nature Reserve' - talk by Sophie Webster, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, RVH
- 2 December** 6.30 for 7pm 'Switch On' - Christmas Tree Advent Evening with Carols, RVH
- 10 December** 9am 'Deck the Church', Ss Philip & James, Rock
- 14 December** 7pm Parish Council, RVH
- 17 December** 4pm 'Candlelight Carols' in All Saints Church Rennington
- 18 December** 2pm 'Come & Sing Carols' at Grange Care Home
- 24 December** 4pm 'Nativity Live', Ss Philip & James, Rock
- 25 December** 10am Holy Communion with Carols, All Saints Church Rennington

Next Issue

Spring 24; please submit content no later than 1 March 24

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