

CommunityTalk

IN RENNINGTON, ROCK & STAMFORD AUTUMN 2023

Scarecrow Festival 2023 - a resounding success!



And it certainly was! All the feedback we've received - from visitors and on our Facebook page - has been particularly positive. Some commented on just how much they appreciated a day out for all the family without it costing 'an arm and a leg'. Another positive when times are tough for so many!

We appreciate that this success would not have been achieved without help and support from right across the community. It definitely was a tremendous effort reflecting village community spirit at its best.

Residents, Village Hall Committee members, Church members, Parish Council members, the Grange nursing home residents and staff and not least the Pub staff - well done to all concerned! The result is that Scarecrow Weekend has once again secured essential funds to subsidise your community hall, supporting its continued availability for everyone. A huge thank you - your contribution to Rennington Village Hall Charitable Trust is greatly appreciated.

Laurence Dent



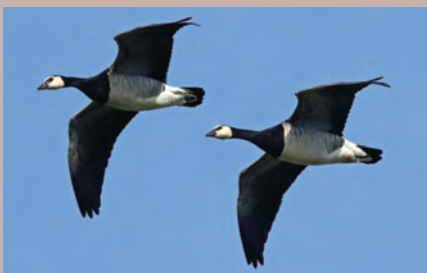
Bird Watch

A wonder of the natural world!

Birds rely on habitat to feed, nest, reproduce and survive. Changing seasons impact habitats and about half of our bird species migrate each year, some taking short journeys, others travelling thousands of miles - each species having their own migration route. Birds use many techniques to navigate their flyways. Genetic factors play a part; birds use visual landmarks like rivers or stars to navigate; the earth's magnetic field influences their direction as does sense of smell.



A great example are the three species of geese returning each autumn to overwinter. Around half a million pink footed geese overwinter but do not breed here. In the Spring they make long, overwater flights to Iceland and Greenland, arriving when the ice has cleared and food is available. They fly in large V-formations led by older birds, continuously making high pitched honking noises. They are frequently seen and heard flying overhead between October and March.



Barnacle geese breed in small numbers in the UK and some 100,000 return from Greenland and Svalbard to overwinter - at Budle Bay and on the Solway. They fly in groups and long lines, making barking noises.

Brent geese are slightly smaller, some 100,000 return each Autumn from Svalbard and Northern Russia; they overwinter at Holy island. They fly in family groups - older birds leading their youngsters.

Tim Walls



Neighbourhood plan update

In July a newly constituted and expanded working party set about reviewing the work on the housing element of the plan. To date the group has met four times and made good progress with advice from NCC's Neighbourhood Planning Team.

The initial draft plan is being refocused. We have also developed draft criteria against which to assess potential land for housing and discussed the question of settlement boundaries. Additionally work is starting on the Design Code to make it much more fit for purpose.

Any plan has to carry the support of residents within our parish - and that at the end of day it is you who decide and not the working party nor the Parish Council. We want your views on the possible options as soon as possible so we have decided to hold two public meetings:

Rock 7pm Wednesday 18 October
in Rock Church

Rennington 7pm Thursday 26 October
in Rennington Village Hall

There will just be a brief introduction and update - and the 'floor' will then be yours.

Nearer the time we will circulate an information leaflet about what we've done so far. It will also act as a reminder - because we want as many of you as possible to attend. If you want further information please just ask any member of the working party. Additionally all Minutes of the working party are available on the Parish Council website.

Most importantly we want to hear your views and reactions so we can make realistic and sensible progress towards a Neighbourhood Plan that works and has your support.

Alan Tremlett

Marine Life Rescue - Help Please!

The grey seal pupping season is about to start and we need your help in supporting our rescue work over the coming months. Any old towels you no longer need would be of great use to us when out on rescues and welfare work. If you are able to help, please contact me at; andysisson1@sky.com or on 07753659759.



Village Hall Update



As we have two pairs of bats, long eared brown and pipistrelles, roosting in the main hall loft, we need a licence from Natural England before carrying out essential work in that area. The bat surveys have added to our costs - about £2,500 so far and the cost of the licence will also be significant. Fortunately, the bats have not gained entry in the smaller loft and the work to complete installing solar panels will go ahead at the end of September. Scaffolding will be needed at the kitchen end, but the hall will not have to close, and all groups and activities can thankfully proceed as normal.

We have also been successful in securing an additional Community Chest Grant of £2,750 from Northumberland CC to replace obsolete fluorescent tubes with LED lighting - estimated to reduce electricity costs by 75%. The Parish Council has also shared a further £1,300 of Big Lottery Grant Funding towards the considerable cost of this work. These generous contributions are greatly appreciated.

The work needed to run the hall is enormous and, as Chair, I am particularly grateful to the hardworking Village Hall Committee who undertake a whole variety of business and practical tasks to keep the hall running for the benefit of our community. Our regular groups and activities can be found on renningtonvillagehall.co.uk, on our new Facebook page, or simply email renningtonvillagehall@gmail.com.

And finally - we're currently looking for a volunteer willing to organise and run Film Nights. If you're interested, please contact me.

Laurence Dent

Down at the Farm

We've been very busy with the harvest. The weather has been unsettled and we have had to make the most of every opportunity to get the harvest in. We are also busy preparing fields ready for sowing next autumn crops. With a very small weather window, planning and preparation is key to it going as smoothly as possible.

Earlier in the summer we finished our brand new grain store, which looks very smart and will be a great

asset to the farm. We have also been continuing to instal new gates on field entrances. This is to stop unwanted 'visitors' driving round the fields in vehicles.

Once harvesting and autumn sowing has finished, we will be planning to plant more hedges over the winter months and also carrying out ditching and other maintenance jobs on the farm.

Stephen Siddorn Farm Manager



Mike Jevons is the caller at the Ceilidh that's been organised for 7 October - in Rennington Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8 o'clock start.

With Mike Jevons' reputation for running increasingly popular Ceilidhs in Alnmouth, it's certainly going to be a fun event! Please book your tickets in advance by calling 01665 577048. It will be popular - so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets cost £10 which includes a glass of wine and nibbles. There will also be a bar to quench your thirst! Funds in aid of All Saints, Rennington and Rennington Village Hall.

Image by Janet McCrorie Artwork and Science Ceilidh

Garden Talk



Autumn in the Rose Garden

Growing roses is very rewarding - their fragrance and blooms are so lovely. And Autumn need not be an anticlimax - you can still find a super-looking rose in flower and even several roses in bloom.

In late October I prune and tie in climbing and rambler roses to protect them from the winter winds. I also cut off the tall stems of my bush roses to prevent strain on the roots. It's also a good time to clean up fallen leaves to prevent carryover of disease.



Rose bushes and climbers flower off new wood - so it's important to prune in January/February before the new growth appears. I cut my bushes down to around 2 feet and, if possible, take out one or two of the older stems from the root up. My best advice is 'be bold - they will grow back!'

Mid-March I top dress with poultry pellets. When the first buds appear I start spraying for black spot, rust, and other nasties and continue throughout the summer - spraying fortnightly. Start dead-heading once you've been rewarded with the first blooms of the season - and just keep dead-heading to continue enjoying roses well into the Autumn.

Bill Devonshire

Pickups for Peace

Pickups for Peace is a UK based charity that sends vehicles to Ukraine to support their troops in the war with Russia. Each month, a convoy drives used pickups to Lviv where they are handed over to the Ukrainian army. Those donating the vehicles meet Ukrainian troops and hear first-hand their stories of what is an all-consuming war.

Rock Estates has participated in three trips so far, and hopes to continue sending vehicles into the autumn. Alex, in the picture, on crutches, is one such beneficiary. Whilst on the front line last winter, his ankle was smashed by a mortar that killed his friend standing next to him. His life was saved by a pickup that delivered him to safety. Now, recuperating back in Lviv, and having had six operations to repair his shattered ankle, he hopes to rejoin the war when he has recovered.

The realities of war were very much in evidence - even far away from the front line. Returning, we reflected on the heroism of ordinary people like Alex, thrust into this tragic conflict on the gateway to Europe.

Fred Bosanquet



Churchyard Volunteers

Join our team at **All Saints in Rennington** on Wednesday mornings from 9.30am.

Tasks to suit all abilities – do as much or as little as you like!
Please bring your own tools. Refreshments will be provided.

Interested? Just come along or contact Rev Alison
revalisonhardy@gmail.com 01665 571314

Whats On

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| 14 September | 7 pm Parish Council, RVH |
| 21 September | 6.30 pm Brian Eke - Eric Atkins, Part 2, Rock Church |
| 7 October | 7.30 pm Ceilidh Barn Dance, RVH |
| 12 October | 7 pm Parish Council, RVH |
| 18 October | 7pm Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting, Rock Church |
| 26 October | 7pm Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting, RVH |
| 9 November | 7 pm Parish Council, RVH |
| 24 November | 7 pm Christmas Bingo and Raffle, RVH |
| 14 December | 7 pm Parish Council, RVH |

Next Issue

Winter 2023; please submit content no later than 27 October

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