



UPPER COQUET RESOURCE GROUP

Supporting the Local Community

www.uppercoquetresourcegroup.com

Registered Charity Number: 1083089

Newsletter OCTOBER 2014

ALWINTON VILLAGE

Alwinton Parish Council – following the death of Councillor Pringle there is a vacancy on the parish council. In order to trigger an election a written request from 10 electors should be sent to the Elections Office, County Hall, Morpeth – NE6 1 2EF

NETHERTON VILLAGE

Netherton Quiz Evening – on **Wednesday 1st October** at the Star Inn, Netherton from 8.00pm. All welcome.

Netherton Folk Club - on **Saturday 18th October** – will be a residents evening with the focus being on a “Geordie Night” of songs and stories. So come along for an enjoyable evening. Entry is £2.00 at Netherton Memorial Hall. Bring your own drinks.

Netherton W.I. – on **Wednesday 15th October** are having a pie and pea supper followed by some dialect poetry with James Tait. Evening commences 7.00pm in Netherton Village Hall.

HEPPLE VILLAGE

Hepple Women's Institute will meet in Hepple Village Hall on **Thursday 9th October** at 7pm for a talk by Fran Elson on “Adventures of an Austrian Dress” and the competition is a piece of First World War Memorabilia. New members always welcome.

HARBOTTLE VILLAGE

You can find information about Harbottle Parish Council's activities on the noticeboards and at www.harbottleparishcouncil.wordpress.com

Harbottle Yoga Sessions ~ in Harbottle Village Hall every Tuesday evening 7.00-8.30pm and every Wednesday lunchtime 12.30 to 1.30pm. For further information please contact Margaret Ranken – 650281

Harbottle Calendar 2015 – photographs need to be in to the Star Inn by the end of September.

Harbottle Leek & Onion Show 2014 –

Leeks:

- 1st Coral Hall (plus Best Leek, First Lady & Most Improved)
- 2nd David Dakers
- 3rd Neil Angus
- 4th Fiona Gibson (plus Most Uniformed)
- 5th Jon Short
- 6th Janet Wood
- 7th Linda Common
- 8th Alec Plater (plus Mike Wigmore Trophy)
- 9th Anne Dunn
- 10th Jim Rutherford
- 11th Ann Hennessy
- 12th Sue Braine
- 13th Robert Dunn
- 14th Danny Wood
- 15th Billy Gibson

Onions:

- 1st Billy Gibson (plus Best Onion)
- 2nd Alec Plater
- 3rd Danny Wood

Onion Sets:

- 1st Alec Plater

Harbottle Leek Show has been going for 20 years and Coral is the first lady to win – well done Coral!

Harbottle School Community Group ~ are collecting good quality complete jigsaws and boxed games for their stall at the school Autumn Fayre. Donations greatly received by Margaret Ward, Jackie Bickmore, Ann Hennessy or Tracey Boldy.



The Harbottle School "Bistro"

The next dates for the lunches are -

Thursday

2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd October

Time - 12.00 mid-day

To book a place or a take away please call -

01669 650271

ADVANCE NOTICES:

Star Inn Domino Club – the domino league begins on **Wednesday 12th November**. New members welcome.

Harbottle C of E (Aided) First School – are holding their annual Christmas Fair on **Saturday 15th November** from 10.00 – 12.00 noon. There will be a large selection of stalls as well as homemade cakes, produce, tombola and raffle. Please come along and support us.

Friends of Harbottle C of E (Aided) First School are holding a Body Shop Party on **Friday 28th November** at 7.30pm at Harbottle C of E First School - Come and get your Christmas Presents! Please bring nibbles to pool and your own choice of drink. There will also be a raffle. For further details please contact Sam Wood 01669 650222

CHRISTMAS BINGO – to be held at the Rose & Thistle Inn, Alwinton on **Friday 5th December** – eyes down 7.30pm.

Star Inn Quiz nights - in aid of the Christmas lights on **15th December and 5th January** – 8.30pm start.

Star Inn Christmas Darts Knock-Out Competition – to be held on **Saturday 20th December** at 7.30pm.

Star Inn Christmas Domino Knock-Out Competition – to be held on **Friday 26th December** at 1.30pm.

Carols around the Christmas Tree - on **Wednesday 24th December** at 6.30pm.

Northumberland County Council Dog Warden Service – offers free micro chipping for dogs. Visit the NCC website for details or phone 0845 6006400 to arrange a visit.

Northumberland Fire Service – recommend that every home should be fitted with a smoke alarm with at least one on each floor of the house. These can be supplied and fitted free of charge by contacting Glen Thompson at Rothbury Fire Station on 01669 620956.

The Spirit Bus Service is now up and running and timetables are available in local bus shelters.

BLAKEYS HAULAGE

WAYSIDE, NETHERTON, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 7HD

Tel: 01669 630225 Mobile: Les 07850 529970

Email: joan@blakeyshaulage.co.uk

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e.mail - feeshearer@goolemail.com

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Contact Peter Bates on

01669 640231 or 07854665456 - pgbates@tiscali.co.uk

RICHARD PACKER – Countryside Service

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Tel: 01669 620385 OR 07775930169

www.richardpacker.org.uk

Hedgeley Antique Centre at Powburn

Open 7 days a week

Summer opening – 10.00am until 5.00pm

Winter opening – 10.00am until 4.00pm

Come and browse.....

Thrunton Long Crag – a newly opened fishery at Thrunton (near Powburn) offers a quality fishing experience

Open all year round from 8.30am - Tuition available and rods for hire

Disabled access and facilities - Fishing lodge with log burner and snacks

Boat hire - Corporate/club events very welcome

Check it out on www.thruntontrouthfishery.co.uk

Tel: 01665 574400 - Mobile: 07801 595739



We have on sale at various local outlets, notelets featuring a drawing of a dipper (which is the Upper Coquet Resource Groups logo). We have two designs, one a pencil drawing very kindly drawn for us by Chrissie Buckley.

The second one is a watercolour kindly painted for us by Linda Radwanski. The notelets will be sold to raise funds for us to distribute to local organisations.



Big Draw theme for

October 2014

'It's Our World'



www.campaignfordrawing.org



During the month of October the Big Draw is a campaign for drawing to recognise the importance of drawing in our daily lives. Throughout the month there will be many activities taking place throughout the country and worldwide to mark the event. Check the website www.bigdraw.org. To mark this event Clennell Hall will be organising a Big Draw on the **18th October 2014** from 10.00am - 4.00pm, open to the general public and local community of the Upper Coquetdale where adults, families and children of all ages can come along. FREE to join in the event. Refreshments will be available to purchase from Clennell Hall.

This poem was inspired by Pat Hedley the last teacher at Windyhaugh School, who retired in 1995 when the school finally closed. She intended spending her retirement researching the life of Teacher Blythe, about whose early life so little is known. Sadly she died before it could be completed. However she did begin some work on the life and work of this remarkable man, and it is on this research that the poem is based. It is therefore fitting that it should be dedicated to Pat and of course, Teacher Blythe, the first "Maister of Windyhaugh School.

*Anne Shelley
Harbottle*

THE BALLAD OF TEACHER BLYTHE

Now gather round the fire. Lads
And listen to my tale.
About a man of high esteem
Who lived in Coquet Dale.

His story starts long years ago
And I will tell it true
When life was harsh and work was hard
And pleasures they were few

A Gypsy boy called Blythe. My Lads
Was poaching for the pot
He never saw the Gamekeeper
He never heard the shot.

But he was felled for sure. Lads
And there was great alarm
For though they saved his life. Lads
They could not save his arm.

The Lady of the Manor
Was remorseful and contrite
And vowed the little Gypsy lad
Should learn to read and write.

And so he went to school. Lads
And found to his delight
A whole new world was waiting
When he could read and write

He could have been a scientist
A scholar of renown
He could have been an engineer
And gone to London Town.

But he found a vocation
Much better than a trade
And he became a teacher Lads
And `they are born not made`

Now Coquet Dale is beautiful
It cannot be denied
But Shepherds crofts and Farmsteads
Are scattered far and wide.

So a teacher must be hired. Lads
And lessons learnt at home
For schools are far away Lads
Too far away to roam.

So Teacher Blythe was hired. Lads
To go from Farm to Farm
With his long clay pipe and bags of books
And only one good arm

T`was threepence a child for a week Lads
And all the valley folk
Thought Board and Lodge small price to pay
To learn to read and write.

And so the valley children
Went to the nearest Farm
From Linbriggs to Uswayford
In parlour or in barn.

And many a jovial evening
With the peat fire burning low
Was filled with conversation. Lads
And tales of long ago

And then in 1879
(Our hats Lads we must doff)
A schoolroom and a Post office
Was built at Windyhaugh

So Postmaster and Schoolmaster
A destiny made clear
For `certainly a man he was
To all the County dear`*

For he loved books and reading Lads
A love he did not hide
With his knowledge of the Natural World
Respected far and wide

And as for all his pupils
for them it was enough
To remember with nostalgia
Their time at Windyhaugh

And now he lies at Yetholm
And for an epitaph
He leaves a thousand memories
Of his school at Windyhaugh

So gather round the fire. Lads
And raise you glasses high
To a life well lived and a job well done
To the Maister -Teacher Blythe

CLENNELL HALL COUNTRY HOUSE

Tel: 01669 650 377

E-mail: info@clennellhall2012.co.uk

www.clennellhallcountryhouse.com

Clennell Hall Country House has been chosen to host the national OMM 'Original Mountain Marathon', previously known as the Karrimor. The event will be taking place over the weekend of 24th, 25th and 26th October 2014. Headquarters, together with the start and finish line will be based at Clennell Hall, with up to 2000 competitors walking / running to various check points on and around the cheviots. More information can be found at www.theomm.com. All authorities, land owners and tenants concerned have been notified of the event.

Clennell Hall will remain open to the public over the weekend, though the main car park will be closed to the general public – and parking will be available at the side of the hotel. There will be a limited food menu over the weekend and there will be no Sunday lunches available on Sunday 26th October.

Dates for the Diary 2014

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Disco & Fancy Dress

From 7pm

SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Hog Roast & Refreshments

From 6pm

MONDAY 1st DECEMBER

XMAS FAYRE MENU

Available For Bookings From £16pp

Dates for the Diary 2015

MUSIC 'MAY'HEM AT CLENNELL HALL

16th, 17th & 18th MAY 2015

INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

23rd, 24th & 25th MAY 2015

REIVERS ROCK & BLUES FESTIVAL

30th, 31st MAY, 1st JUNE 2015

COQUET CREEK COUNTRY MUSIC

Discount Tickets Available Now

www.clennellhallcountryhouse.com

CLENNELL HALL – SUNDAY LUNCH “SPECIAL” THREE COURSE MEAL FOR £10

Pate or Soup of the Day

* * *

Roast lunch (choice of meat) served with seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes & Yorkshire puddings

* * *

Choice of ice-creams

If you wish to have an item included in the Upper Coquet Resource Group Newsletter then please forward the information to Susan Rogerson by 15th of the month
e.mail – jsjrogerson@btinternet.com

OilCAN

As part of CAN's commitment to help combat the rising costs of domestic and commercial heating oil, in 2012 we linked with Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, to start up a county-wide oil bulk-buying scheme which we named OilCAN. This provided administration to use the power of bulk buying to negotiate the best possible price 'on the day' so that individuals did not have to ring around to check prices.

From relatively small beginnings we now have 473 members and 14 volunteer/member co-ordinators as local contacts.

We were concerned that originally, the far north of the county suffered with higher prices, purely due to the distance of their homes and businesses from the depots but in March this year we were delighted to find that the whole county was now being serviced by one supplier and all at the same price, no matter what their post code. The hard work and advertising of our co-ordinators and members in the far north attracted so many new members that, even in Oxfordshire, they are now well known as the 'TDs', and order more oil themselves than several of the other counties who are part of the scheme.

The June orders have just been negotiated, and despite the expected rise in prices, the details of these, and the May orders still show a healthy saving for our members:

Order date	Highest price on the day	Average price on the day	Internet price	Members paid	Savings per litre against the highest price	Savings per litre against the average price
19 May 2014	69ppl	57.55ppl	53.74ppl	51.1ppl	17.9ppl	6.45ppl
16 June 2014	59ppl	55.6ppl	53.57ppl	52.9ppl	6.1ppl	2.03ppl

Business and community memberships: As we are part of a national project where the prices of membership are set nationally, we have always had a concern that small rural businesses and schools in Northumberland would be deterred from joining due to the £100 membership fee. Following representation from CAN and other Rural Community Councils involved in the project we have agreed a staged membership fee based on annual usage.

Under 5,000 litres usage per annum = £30

5,000 to 10,000 litres usage per annum = £60

Over 10,000 litres per annum = £100

As existing business memberships come up for renewal they will be moved to the new charging system based on previous use. New members will be asked to provide evidence of usage over the past 12 months, orders, invoices etc.

We still need a new co-ordinator to cover a small group of members in the Kirknewton/Milfield area, as our previous co-ordinator has moved out of the area; we will also be saying a sad farewell to one of our founding co-ordinators who covers the Byrness area, as she too is moving away. Thanks to all of the co-ordinators for their hard work and perseverance in advertising the scheme, answering queries, putting potential members in touch with us and pulling together the orders from members of their group each month.

We couldn't run the scheme without their help.

If you would like to become a co-ordinator, do get in touch via oilcan@ca-north.org.uk or 01224 500812 to find out more. As one of our current co-ordinators already knows, you don't even have to be an oil-user yourself, but if you are, then we can offer an incentive for your time.

