

# Hedleyhope Newsletter

July 2011

*This Newsletter is produced jointly by the Hedleyhope Community Association and the Hedleyhope Parish Council. It brings you news of what is going on in the village of East Hedleyhope and the surrounding area.*

## LITTLE GREEN HUT ART EXHIBITION

The first ever Little Green Hut Art Exhibition took place in the village hall the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> June. It was very well attended on both days.

It was an opportunity for not only people in the village but those from further afield to see what we do on a Wednesday morning. Home made cakes and biscuits were provided by the members. As well as the many paintings that were for sale there was also an opportunity to buy greetings



cards, jewellery and photos. Ten per cent of all the money raised was put back into the funds.

The event was so successful, we are having a pre-Christmas art and craft sale in November. Look out later in the year for more details.

To see more of our work go to [www.thelittlegreenhut.co.uk](http://www.thelittlegreenhut.co.uk)

Thank you to all those in the village who came along.

## **Village Summer Barbecue on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August.**

Starting at 6 the food will be served from 6.30. Don't forget to tell us in advance if you are coming so we can be sure of having enough burgers, chicken, sausages etc. Contact Anne on 731316 / Dorothy on 730465 / Suzanne on 731316 by 28<sup>th</sup> July. Cost £3.50 adults, £1 children under 11.

## **New Ward Boundary**

In order to have each county councillor representing approximately the same number of residents there are to be some changes in wards in County Durham. Hedleyhope may be part of a ward including Tow Law, or maybe one including Waterhouses and Esh Winning. Watch this space!

# NEWS FROM THE NATURE RESERVE

## Don't Make Hay While the Sun Shines

Due to the very low rainfall in spring it is unlikely that there is enough grass in the Meadow for the farmer to take a hay crop. This situation was similar to last year when the grass did not grow because that spring was very cool.

The soil in the Meadow is very thin, being an early reclamation of the East Hedleyhope Colliery site, and the fertility is very low. Whilst this is not very good for growing grass as a hay crop, the poor fertility means that conditions are excellent for wildflowers. Indeed following recent rains many of the flowers are just starting to flower.



We are hoping that the farmer will do as he did last year and put sheep in the Meadow in late July and August. This seemed to encourage the growth of a large number of Waxcap mushrooms in the autumn.

Whilst the Waxcap mushrooms are not rare in themselves the existence of a 'Waxcap Meadow' IS a rarity. Waxcap Meadows are a 'Biodiversity Priority Habitat' which means they are quite important!

A Marbled White butterfly was spotted in the Meadow in June. This was a surprise as Marbled White's are a butterfly associated very much with the south of England. At the most they would not normally be expected to be seen north of north Yorkshire and certainly not on the Pennine fringe. Are these butterflies doing well generally or is this a sign of global warming?

In the spring Curlew spent a few days investigating the Meadow, obviously with the view of nesting there. Unfortunately we are unlikely to get nesting birds like Lapwing or Skylark due to dogs being run in the Meadow during the nesting season.

There can be no complaints about the mowing of grass on the paths.

Malcolm has been carrying out a brilliant job again this year cutting all the paths around the Meadow. I think you will agree that Malcolm's efforts really make our community Nature Reserve look well cared for.



## **Path Works**

We have an offer in principal for funding to carry out further works on the path through the Wood. This work would be to drain the area that now forms a pond in the winter and to go back and treat the sections that were not surfaced last time. When the path was last surfaced we did the worst sections so in winter as you are walking along the path surface is like – ‘good surface – muddy surface – good surface etc’. I realise that the surfacing work is contentious but this improvement will be the last surfacing on the Reserve for a long time and stands the path in good stead for the future. Unfortunately timing of this work is crucial and the grant must be received and work started before the rainy season starts again!

## **Woodland Management**

We are hoping to start this year’s thinning much earlier in the autumn so hopefully will start ‘marking trees for thinning’ in September. To encourage regeneration we may be putting deer tree guards on young oaks growing in the Wood. The Forestry Commission has requested that we do this. Whilst this does look a little intrusive in a wild wood it is considered necessary to secure the future of Oaks in the Wood in the very long term.

## **Scouts**

Over 40 Scouts from Brandon Troop (which is our local Scout Group) attended 7 wildlife sessions on the Nature Reserve as part of their Natural History badge. They took part in a range of activities including bug and bat hunts, planting flowers and building bat boxes. The Nature Reserve is excellent for these activities and the Scouts seemed to have an enjoyable time.



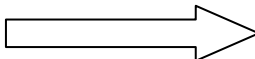
## **Volunteer Work**

If you would like to get involved in volunteer work please contact Clare on 01388 731553. It is good fun and you can feel like you are putting something back into the Nature Reserve. Some of our recent work has involved getting in the River to pull out Himalayan Balsam which is an invasive weed, but all types of works may be carried out including wildlife surveys.

*Clare Ross*

**ATTENTION LADIES!  
COME AND CRAFT AWAY  
SPEND A COUPLE OF HOURS PLAYING WITH FIBRES  
CREATING A UNIQUE GIFT OR  
SOMETHING SPECIAL JUST FOR YOU!**

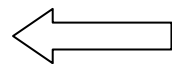
**Beginners Needlefelting 13 August 10.00 – 12.00**  
in the Little Green Hut in East Hedleyhope.  
At the end of the workshop you will take home a beautiful brooch.

An example of needlefelted brooch 



**Beginners Wet Felting 20 August  
10.00 – 12.00** in the Little Green Hut  
in East Hedleyhope.

Learning the ancient art of wet felting, you will create your own unique art work which can be used in a variety of ways.



An example of wet felting

These wonderful fibres make your very own piece of art!

Price: £10.00 all materials included as well as refreshments. To book your place please ring Tina on 0191 373 1619



The next **LOCAL HISTORY MEETING** is on 13th September. We are asking residents to provide us with any old photographs you may have of the village and surrounding area and its residents. We would like to take copies of the photographs and return them to their owners straight away.

**The intention is to frame a selection of photographs and display them in the newly refurbished village hall.**

So if you have such a photograph (or several!) please bring them along on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. We meet in the Village Hall at 7.30.