

# The Hedleyhope Pages

Hedleyhope Parish Council and Hedleyhope Community Association  
The Village Hall, East Hedleyhope, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL13 4PS

*Hedleyhope is a small rural Parish one mile west of Waterhouses and eight miles from Durham City. It includes the small village of East Hedleyhope and a number of outlying farms – about 80 houses in all.*

Newsletter

April 2010

## Little Green Hut

Summer term programme

### Art Group

Every Wednesday,  
Village Hall,  
10 am – 12.00  
£2 per session

April 21<sup>st</sup>: Guest speaker Tony Burn (Architect),  
Architecture in Art  
April 28<sup>th</sup>: Pen/ink or pen/wash Architectural drawings  
May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>: In the style of Gauguin  
May 19<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>: Guest artist Sue Abel, Working  
with Gesso  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>: The Glasgow Boys  
June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Reflections – if it is good  
weather we could go outside to the stream.

Book illustration with Linda Birch will be at the start of  
next term.

Anyone can join. You don't need experience just  
enthusiasm.

For more information contact - 01388 730113

## Summer Barbeque

**19<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm**

At East Hedleyhope Village Hall  
Tickets £3 adults, £2 children  
Includes one free drink  
Booking essential by the 12<sup>th</sup> June  
Ring Geoff on 01388 731220

## Works on the Nature Reserve.

Everyone welcome – you don't have to be fit. Just work at your own  
pace and enjoy the craic! We can provide the tools.

**2<sup>nd</sup> July, 10am**

**Clearing Himalayan Balsam** from the riverbank. Wear wellies!  
Meet at No 5 Rose Terrace

## Nature Club Young Rangers

### Summer Picnic

**26<sup>th</sup> June – 2pm**

If the weather is fine meet at the SINGLE picnic table near the Meadow  
on the East Hedleyhope Nature Reserve, if raining meet in the Hall.

**Treasure Trail, Bug Hunt, Crafts and Games.**

This is a 'one off' family summer event suitable for all ages.

**Bring a picnic** and clothing suitable for playing outside. Costs £1

## Committee Meetings

### AGM

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm – Village Hall

## Hedleyhope News

### Works to Hedleyhill Colliery Wood Woodland Management

The Forestry Commission has approved our application for a 'Reversing Woodland Bird Decline' Woodland Improvement Grant. The aim of this initiative is to conserve a number of woodland birds which are nationally in decline. At least three of the species targeted by this grant have been seen on the Nature Reserve but if you are out and about and see any of the following throughout the year please let us know,: Redstart, Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, Tree Pipit, Lesser Redpoll, Spotted Flycatcher, Woodcock, Willow Warbler, Garden Warbler, Marsh Tit, Bullfinch and the rarer Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Hawfinch.

You may have seen Matt Baker on 'Countryfile' in October 2009 at his parent's Farm, across the road from our Wood, advertising this grant. Mike Riley, from the Forestry Commission, who was seen with Matt, is our Forestry Commission adviser. Mike, the Woodland Officer, has always been incredibly helpful and supported our work over the last few years.



*Bird ringing*

Mike has advised us to create a series of small clearings in the wood and also to carry out thinning throughout the Wood. This work will be phased over 4 years to take place each winter to ensure that local residents are not too disturbed by the thinning. Some work has already commenced as a small coupe or clearing was created in the wood in February.

The aim of the thinning work is to create more opportunities for birds to feed and nest and to increase the overall biodiversity of the wood, ensuring its natural regeneration in the long term.

This spring Northumbria Bird Ringing Group kindly carried out some bird ringing in the Wood to monitor the effects of management operations. Thirty new bird boxes were installed in the wood of which 15 were occupied, mostly by Blue Tits. Following the hardest winter for 30 years the birds nesting were found to have larger broods of eggs than average and this may be as a result of the abundant food supplied by local bird tables!

## Path Repairs

As mentioned in the August Newsletter we had arranged to carry out improvements to the main path through the Wood. This work was to fill pot-holes and hollows and attempt to try and drain and improve the notorious muddy section. The works carried out in September 2009 look quite drastic at the moment but will gradually settle down over the next year or two.

Due to concerns about damage to the path by horses a chicane was built at the Rose Terrace end of the path.



## As Seen on [Youtube](#)

The Big Lottery Fund film made about the Community Association in November 2008 can still be seen on Youtube.



The real star of the show, showing BAFTA-like-talent was Geoff Dixon as the Wizard of the Woods (and himself also). Seven people were interviewed on the day and many people were filmed working and playing - but unfortunately not everyone who was filmed on the day could be shown in the final 3 minute video. Thank you to everyone who took part in the filming including the Ladies Club for providing hospitality for the film crew.

## The Nature Reserve – Background information

*Hedleyhope Community Association manages a 13ha nature reserve on land leased from Durham County Council.*

*The Nature Reserve, called Hedleyhill Colliery Wood and Meadow, includes woodland, meadow and riverside and incorporates two Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.*

*The Association is currently seeking the designation of the Reserve as a Local Nature Reserve to secure its long-term legal protection.*

*Volunteers from the Community Association regularly carry out a range of public events and conservation tasks on the Nature Reserve such as tree planting or coppicing.*

*A children's Nature Club/Young Rangers also holds events on the Nature Reserve at least 7 times a year. For more information on events, conservation tasks, walks, talks and meetings related to the Nature Reserve see the Events listings.*



*For more information on paths and what to look out for on the Nature Reserve see the events listings.*

**[Nature Reserve Leaflet](#)**

*Nature Reserve contact – 07789352474 on Tue, Wed or Thurs during working hours*

*Hedleyhope Parish Council and Hedleyhope Community Association thank Waterhouses Community Association for kindly hosting 'The Hedleyhope Pages'*