

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.

Hedleyhope Events

Little Green Hut Art Group
Every Wednesday, Village Hall, 10 am – 12.00

Costs £2 - to cover the cost of Hall hire and 2 guest artists per term. 'We work out a programme for each term between us so that everyone has an input into what we study. We like to study at least one artist per term. So far we've looked at Cezanne, Braque, Klimt, Beryl Cooke, Norman Cornish and Breughel. Anyone can join. You don't need experience just enthusiasm.'
For more information contact - 01388 730113

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.

Friday 19th February, 10am

Meeting with Mike Riley Forestry Commission's Woodland Officer

Meet at No 5 Rose Terrace

Saturday 20th February, 2.00pm

Tree Planting

Meet at Village Hall

Bring a spade if you have one.

Friday and Saturday 12th and 13th March, 10.00am

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Clearing branches and small amount of coppicing trees

Meet at No 5 Rose Terrace.

Young Rangers NEW for 2010!

Saturday 13th February, 2pm - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Valentine Day in the Countryside

Meet at East Hedleyhope Village Hall

Make a nature potion and give the Nature Reserve some tender loving care.

Young Rangers – wildlife themed events for over 10's including conservation work such as tree planting and fun activities such as orienteering. Young Rangers is affiliated to Durham Wildlife Trust. PLEASE

BRING OLD CLOTHING AND WATERPROOFS.

Costs £1 to cover refreshments etc.

Committee Meetings

Environment Group Meeting

Tuesday 2 March, 7.30pm – Village Hall

Full Meeting

Tuesday 13th April, 7.30 – Village Hall

Goodbye Nature Club...

Due to falling numbers of children attending Nature Club we have decided to close this club for the time being after the Christmas Party on the 21st November.

Since Nature Club started in September 2006 we have run 23 sessions with 38 different children. We have made bird boxes, planted trees, gone on bug hunts, introduced the Easter Egg Rolling competition and the annual Halloween event and lots more. Nature Club was also included in the Big Lottery film and was featured in several magazine articles.

Unfortunately numbers of children attending Nature Club has fallen since this May, due in part to the sad loss of one of our Leaders - Liz Henderson (who went to live in Newcastle) the infrequency of the club (being bimonthly) and competition from lots of other Saturday morning activities (especially football coaching).

So a big thank you to everyone who has attended and supported the club over the last 3 years. We do hope to still organise a small number of family orientated activities in the warmer weather for under 10's including the annual Easter egg rolling competition, a summer picnic in the Meadow and of course the annual Halloween Spooky Walk.

Hello Young Rangers...

However some time ago we did make a commitment to try running a nature type club for the over 10's. We will be running this from 2pm on Saturday afternoons. Young Rangers will still be bi-monthly as the Leaders often have other commitments at the weekends. The Young Rangers will also still continue to be affiliated to, and the Leaders checked by, Durham Wildlife Trust.

With Young Rangers there will be an emphasis on meeting friends and enjoying the environment. There will not be any adult-led craft activities as hopefully the Young Rangers will set their own priorities for the type of projects they would like to get involved with. The first Young Rangers event is in January 2010. See the events listing.

Works to Hedleyhill Colliery Wood Woodland Management

The Forestry Commission have asked us to apply for a Woodland Improvement 'Reversing Woodland Bird Decline' Grant. The RSPB are a partner with the Forestry Commission in this Grant and it is the RSPB that requested that the Forestry Commission get us to apply for this funding as they believe we have a number of the 14 'declining' bird species.

We think we have at least three of these species visiting 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.

Mike is now asking us not only to create a series of small clearings at the top of the wood but also to carry out thinning throughout the Wood, especially of the Silver Birch at the Rose Terrace end, over a period of several years. There are also other specific operations that we can do to help woodland birds. Funding for this will hopefully be available next Winter ie in 2010/2011. In the meantime we may do a small amount of coppicing ourselves over this winter – see events.

Northumbria Bird Ringing Group have kindly offered to do some bird ringing in the Wood this year to see how our work is having any effect. There may also be the possibility of watching one of the ringers in action. Watch this space and the Newsletter for more information of ways of being involved.

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 look quite drastic at the moment but will gradually settle down over the next year or two. We also have to sort out a new wet area (pond) which has appeared on the path at its lowest point.

Due to concerns about damage to the path by horses a chicane is being built at the Rose Terrace end of the path. We are considering installing a similar barrier near the sewage works end of the path.

Grassland Management

We were very happy to see the sheep over December taking part in 'conservation grazing' in the Meadow.

Unfortunately we received quite a few negative comments about the grass cutting in East Hedleyhope. This was carried out to try and help the wildflowers as this area – which is part of the designated 'Deerness Valley Site of Nature Conservation Importance' had 'gone-over' and was becoming dominated by less interesting plants and rank grass. The cutting and raking of the hay was carried out here for a reason to try and give the more interesting and varied wildflowers a chance to thrive again.

As Seen on Youtube. The Big Lottery Fund film made about the Community Association in November 2008 can 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 [Nature Reserve Leaflet](#)

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

Newsletter

[January 2010](#)

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