

The Alnmouth Village Newsletter

No 200
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Arts Festival Draws Crowds to Alnmouth

Alnmouth enjoyed one of its brightest weekends of the year as the Arts Festival returned in beautiful sunshine, bringing thousands of visitors into the village across Saturday and Sunday. Around 50 Northumberland artists exhibited over the weekend, with work shown in galleries, public venues and 14 private houses generously opened up by local residents.

The weekend began on Friday evening with a lively gathering on Church Green, making good use of the Festival's new marquee. From there the programme moved through art, music, talks and family events, with live music on the Green, James Grant in concert at St John the Baptist Church, and a closing guitar performance by Mark Boden in the beautiful surroundings of the Friary on Sunday evening.

The Reverend Richard Coles brought some celebrity sparkle to the weekend, giving a very well-received talk, leading a children's workshop, and entering fully into the spirit of the Festival by joining the KEVI Steel Band as a drummer.



The Festival has a real impact. Local artists achieved over £60,000 in direct sales over the weekend. Hipsburn Primary School presented a wonderful Coastal Bird Exhibition in Hindmarsh Hall, one of eight local art projects supported by Festival grants so far in 2026.

Our thanks go to the organising committee - Helen Holden, Jayne Billington, Helen Farrow and Nick Mattlock, to the small army of volunteers who make the event possible and of course to the residents of Alnmouth who extend a warm village welcome to the many visitors old and new.



Village Signs Set for Refresh

A volunteer-led effort is getting under way to clean, repair and repaint Alnmouth's street signs and other village signage.

The work will be led by Simon Rushton, Helen Holden and members of Helen's art group, beginning properly after the Arts Festival. The aim is to smarten up signs that have become faded or weathered and help maintain the character and beauty of Alnmouth.

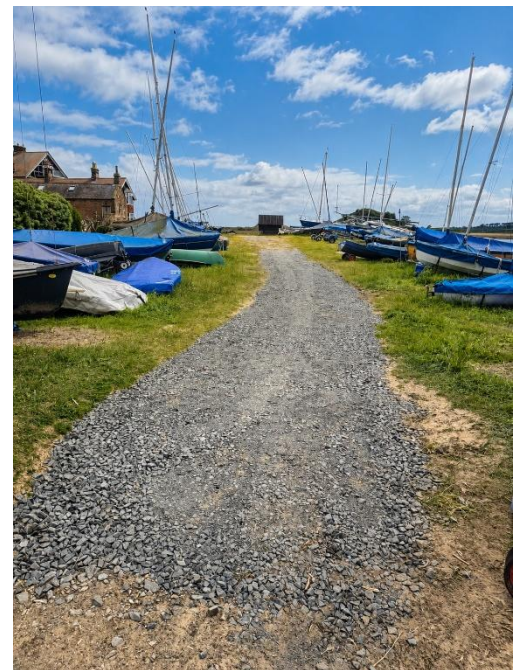


Boatyard Improvements Take Shape

Visitors to the boatyard will have noticed a much-improved surface through the dinghy park after a series of recent Alnmouth Boat Club volunteer working parties.

The most visible change is the resurfaced access route. The ground had become pitted and uneven, making it harder to move trailers and boats safely. Volunteers have now dug in and compacted 18 tonnes of roadstone, creating a firmer and more even surface. A wider footpath has also been cut around the Ferryman's Hut, improving access both to the hut and into the dinghy park.

A further section of wall has been re-pointed, despite poor weather, and the canoe rack has been extended. The club has also installed trial tie-down chains and ground anchors for dinghies stored ashore. If the trial works well, the system may be extended across more of the park.



Franciscan Pilgrimage Begins in Alnmouth

Alnmouth Friary will soon be the starting point for a remarkable national pilgrimage marking 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi.

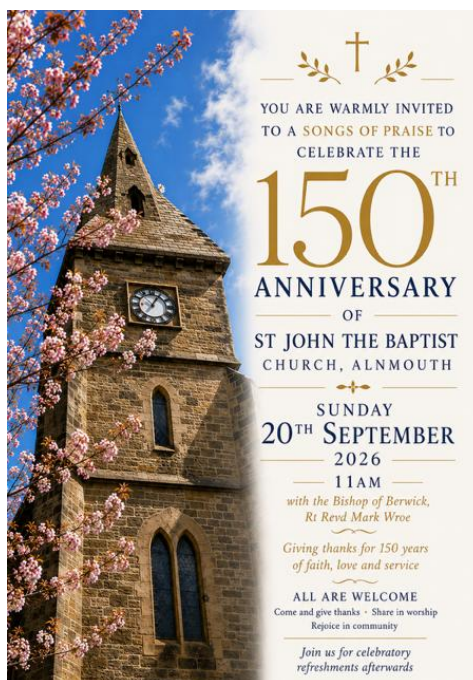
The Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage begins with a rest day in Alnmouth on Friday 17 July, before pilgrims set off from the Friary to Amble on Saturday 18 July. The first week continues through Cresswell, Blyth, Newcastle upon Tyne and Chester-le-Street, reaching Durham on Thursday 23 July.

Parish Council Vacancy

Worried about what's happening in the Country? Concerned about the state of the World at the moment? Why not do something about it and consider joining Alnmouth Parish Council? There are currently two vacancies. Please contact our Clerk for further details; clerk@alnmouthparishcouncil.org.uk

Pease's Park Playground

Another successful month of fundraising, including a coffee morning and some generous donations. The total raised now stands at £35,000 against the target of £80,000.



An Alnmouth Parish Council publication.

Parish Clerk: clerk@alnmouthparishcouncil.org.uk APC Chair Shaun Whyte: 07717 448354
Parish Council meetings occur on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Hindmarsh Hall at 7PM.
Send items for inclusion in August newsletter: alnmouthnews@hotmail.com by 21 July.