

# HEAR ABOUTS

APRIL 2021

The Free Community Magazine for Eglington Parish  
North Charlton | South Charlton | Eglington | & Everywhere Between

## From the Editor

Welcome to spring everyone! Just as they are forecasting wintry showers tomorrow, as I write this...

And of course we (and unfortunately everyone else) will soon be allowed out and about. That will be a shock to the system, and my car, as it's not moved off the drive since mid December. It'll be so good to go to far flung places again, such as Lindisfarne and Warkworth! Bring it on!!!  
Andy

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## Easter Services

### St Maurices' Eglington

**2nd April 2021 Good Friday** 2.00 -3.00 p.m.

Meditations at the Cross: music, readings, prayers

**4th April 2021 Easter Sunday** 10.00 a.m. Communion Service

### St James' South Charlton

**4th April 2021 Easter Sunday** 11am

## Next Issue:

Early May

All content must be recieved by the 20th of April

[www.eglington.info](http://www.eglington.info)

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Hear Abouts is all about you the reader within our Parish. It is written by yourselves (or by those just beyond our borders) and without those submissions there would be no Hear Abouts. Just a few things to note while submitting content to us which helps us out though.

Please **email** all content to the email address [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com) and no other. There is less chance of it getting lost and forgotten about then. written content or content on paper will not be accepted. Please send content typed in an attached document file (eg Word). Please name the file with the article title, or be descriptive in it. It gets a little confusing when you have 4 files all called hear\_abouts\_artcle.docx. Pictures make things pretty! If you have an image to accompany the article great! Pictures tell a thousand words! A good size image helps us deliver a quality print. So ideally images should be around 2000 pixels on the longest edge. Please remember to own or have permission to use the picture you send. Even as a non-profit we are liable to claims of using copyrighted images, even within our small print run.

### DISCLAIMER

Just a reminder for the easily offended or argumentative. Please note that the views expressed within are those of the named contributors not the Hear Abouts team. Thank you. Feel free to write in with a reply to anything to be published though!

Also please be aware that Hear Abouts is made available online digitally at [www.eglington.info](http://www.eglington.info) and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".

# Local Council Elections May 2021

## Elections and Voting

Northumberland has 'all out' elections for all County Council and Parish Council seats, including the Police and Crime Commissioner on 6th May 2021.

Details of the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections can be obtained via the following link: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections.aspx#elections>

If you are not already registered to vote, you can do so using the Register to Vote link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

You can still register for a postal vote for these elections, up to 5:00pm on Tuesday 20th April 2021. Do not delay if you wish to exercise your right to vote by post.

## Nomination Papers

**Please note that this magazine might not be delivered prior to 8th of April**

The nomination papers for candidates who wish to stand for any of the 10 seats on Egingham Parish Council – are available from Northumberland County Council – Voting & Elections <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections.aspx> or the Parish Clerk [eglinghamclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghamclerk@gmail.com)

Nomination papers can only be handed in to Northumberland County Council (NCC) between 29th March and 8th April at designated locations in Alnwick, Berwick, Hexham and Morpeth (addresses are provided within the nomination process guidance).

## Polling

If there are more nominations than seats available, there will be an election, with polling on 6th May. If there are the same number of nominations as seats available, there will not be an election and candidates will be 'elected unopposed' on 9th April 2021.

Election information will be periodically updated by the Elections Office. Click on the NCC Elections page link below to view the latest information.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections.aspx>

The following documents are available from the Parish Clerk

- Elections 2021 Timetable
- Becoming a Parish Councillor
- A Guide to the Nomination Process for Parish Clerks and Candidates
- How to Complete Your Nomination Papers

## Suggestion Boxes

Eglingham Parish Council has installed two suggestion boxes. There is one at Eglingham Village Hall, sited below the post box in the external porch. A second is sited at South Charlton Village Hall on the gate to the car park. They are both clearly labelled. The Parish Council is keen to encourage input from residents. It is hoped that the boxes will make it easy for people to do that. The boxes will be emptied monthly so that suggestions can be tabled at the next Parish Council meeting. Contact details with suggestions are preferred, but not essential. Outcomes will be fed back to the residents concerned. They will also be documented in the council's minutes which will appear on the parish website <http://www.eglingham.info/minutes-meetings> and in Hear Abouts Magazine.



Eglingham Village Hall



South Charlton Village Hall

### Compost

60 litre bags

Clover Compost

£4.50 per bag

Call Bob on 579317

All profit goes to Brownieside and  
South Charlton Leek Club

## Tennis Court Opens 29th March

The village tennis court will be open again from 29th March, singles and doubles can be played but no more than 2 households on the court at any one time unless organised coaching (government rules). For the time being, to use the court it needs to be booked via the booking App which is very easy to use (contact Nicky 07919172355).

Grant Watson is planning junior and senior coaching to commence in the Easter holidays. The first session is on April 2nd. Please contact myself or Grant if interested. All abilities can be catered for and equipment is available for those that don't have it. We would love to see some new faces as well as anyone that has joined in in the past. Please practice social distancing when on or around the court and use the hand sanitiser provided in the tennis hut.

It's great that we can finally get going again!

Nicky Dickinson 07919172355

Grant Watson 07921078198

PS. Please don't forget the honesty box. Kids free, adults £1 per person per play.

## News just in...

...the Tankerville Arms in Eglington will re-open on **Monday 17th May** at 4pm. and the summer menu can be viewed on the website - [www.tankervillearms.com](http://www.tankervillearms.com)

As last summer, Covid guidelines will be rigorously followed, and social distancing and masks will still be needed.

George, Mary, Ellen and the team are looking forward to welcoming everyone again

See you soon

PS: they are also looking for housekeeping staff (two mornings a week) - if you're interested then please call

Mary on 578444



## *Letters to the Editor...*

Sirs,

I write with regard to that charlatan Icarus T Helms article, shamelessly promoting his 'forthcoming' talk in your rag of a magazine last month. As even a cursory examination of the provenance of Mr Helm's credentials would have revealed he has blatantly plagiarised my own scholarly work on the history of Beanley which is to be published by Hodcarrier and Stoughton this autumn.

I shall be seeking an injunction forthwith to restrain Mr Helm from continuing with his deception and expect immediate redress from yourselves otherwise I will sue you for punitive damages.

Yours

Daedalus B Bopalula

# *Letters to the Editor... (cont.)*

Dear Editor,

## **Indecision Syndrome and the government (or the Cabinet, or both)**

Firstly, or to get straight to the point (it could be either to be honest), I am grateful to you for publishing Relieved Voter's response to my recent communiqué which extolled the virtues of the Council's Indecision Syndrome Service. I wasn't at all sure what to do about it at first, but I'm almost certain that the following reply is hopefully the most constructive way to proceed. Fingers crossed!

Could the Service offer its assistance to the Cabinet office, Relieved Voter asks? The answer to which is an unequivocal yes. And no. That is to say, kind of. If you follow my drift.

In the early stages of the pandemic/Novel Coronavirus/Covid-19/plague/call-it-what-you-will situation, the Service did actually have an undercover operative embedded deep within government whose mission was to instil unwavering decisiveness in the PM and all those around him. Unfortunately, however, said operative 'went rogue', as I'm pretty certain they perhaps say in the world of espionage. Although I could be wrong about that.

Seemingly, Mr X (can we call him that?) was possibly or indeed quite probably over-trained in the art of purposeful decision making and as a result became convinced that everything he said was right and that everything anyone else said was plain wrong. Or incorrect. Or both. Which in fairness it almost certainly quite often was. So to much alarm, Mr X took it upon himself to make all the decisions for the entire Cabinet. An unelected bureaucrat telling the whole country what to do? We had to act. So thank goodness he decided to drive back to the North East for a quick eye test as it gave us an opportunity to grass him up to the PM's current other half.

Since then our efforts to engage openly with the government have met with some world-beating equivocation. So I'm afraid, Relieved Voter, that at this precise moment in time the corridors of power aren't actually blessed with the reassuring presence and steadying hand of the Indecision Syndrome Service. However, we are hoping to have the situation under control and back to normal by Christmas. Or next Easter. Or by the time the pubs re-open. Whichever's the sooner. Or later.

I hope that clears everything up.

Di Lemma  
*Team Lead/Principal/Manager/Administrator*  
*NCC Indecision Syndrome Service*

# County Councillor Report

[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk)

Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook



## **EGLINGHAM PARISH**

### **South Charlton –**

The village now has a 30mph speed limit.

### **Eglingham 30mph flashing speed indicator –**

At the time of going to press with my County Councillor Newsletter, the 30mph flashing sign was still in progress and there was an issue with the original post re the broken sign still in situ at the west end of the village which was considered at first to be appropriate to use, however, it was then felt that the new sign may be rather too large and a new post may have to be ordered.

## **NEW ONLINE FITNESS EXPERIENCE LAUNCHED**

Active Northumberland has launched a new online fitness experience which brings professional group exercise classes to your home.

With the help of the latest technology, the new Active at Home sessions allow you to join the fitness team at Active Northumberland for your favourite exercise classes either live or on-demand.

The monthly subscription of £7.99 offers fantastic value for money, launching with over 20 live classes a week and access to workouts you can do at any time, delivered by Active Northumberland instructors.

Classes include Yoga, Pilates, Les Mills Body Combat, Body Balance and Body Step, HIIT and Zumba so there is something for everyone.

Mark Warnes, Acting Chief Executive of Active Northumberland said:

“Over the last year, due to the pandemic, residents have increasingly used online platforms for work, social events, shopping and services. While the gyms have been closed during lockdown many of our customers have been accessing exercise online too. This new online monthly subscription membership is separate from our centre membership. It offers an alternative digital solution for residents who want to keep fit, experience professional exercise classes delivered by some of their favorite instructors, but can't get to the gym.”

For further information on timetables and how to join go to <https://bit.ly/ANactiveathome>

## A Story in 300 Words

This month's start was.. **"It had been a year since I was last here"**

Next month's starting point is... **"Are you sure that's right ?"**, --

**It had been a year since I was last here** on this beach and now I was flying, really flying. Moments before I had been like all the other pebbles on the beach, glistening on the sand, left by the tide. One amongst a million others, but now I was flying, flying fast over the water beneath me. Flying through the thin air, outward, smooth, it felt wonderful.

I'm a smallish, flattish, greyish pebble, that must have felt just right to the small pink hand that had picked me up, and then I was off, into the sky. Suddenly I noticed that although I was flying fast, I was not flying upward. For some reason that felt right. Going up might mean I would never come down; although I'm only a pebble I know that a pebbles place is on the ground. Too soon I noticed that I was slowing down and that the water was getting closer. "Oh well" I thought "that was nice but all things must end".

Slowly I flew towards the water. It looked big, it looked cold, but mainly it looked wet! I'm used to that when the tide covers the beach, but this was more fun to be flying above the water. Onward I flew, ever closer to the sea until I felt myself gently touch the surface, slippery as glass, cold as a cold thing. Sliding, skidding, skimming across the water surface until the faintest of ripples lifted me back off and into the sky. Not as high this time, not as fast but still flying again, onward, outward, downward to kiss the water again, and again, and again until, without the faintest splash, I slip beneath the water and spiral slowly down. Still spinning, into the sand and mud, to start my long journey back to the shore. Where I will lie again for an age until it's my turn for my smoothish, flattish, greyish appearance to attract another small hand to reach, flick, fly and skim me out across the waves.

by Doggerel

**It had been a year since I was last here**—I hoped I'd left it long enough. With a furtive look around, I approached the back door, fingers twiddling the key in my pocket. Were they still watching the house? I couldn't be sure, which was why I'd chosen the hideous hour of four in the morning to make my return, and why I wouldn't be lingering once I'd accomplished my mission.

The door swung inwards too easily, too silently: someone had recently oiled the hinges. I hesitated on the threshold, heart jerking my ribs in warning. Run. Don't do it. It'll be one mistake too many. But I had to keep going.

Inside, darkness was my friend as I skirted the kitchen table and headed for the front room. There, by the eerie glow from the street, I could see few changes from the intervening months: the same TV, the same old sofas, the same ornamental clock with its stupid cherubs. I picked up a photo off the mantel-piece, gazed at the faces – the blushing bride and the guy who looked nothing like me – and clenched my teeth.



*Jaw set, I glanced out the window before making my way up the stairs. I knew which ones creaked, how to avoid them, and soon my hand grasped the bedroom door handle. I eased it down.*

*The bed was overlarge for one. Dwarfed by its massiveness, she slept towards the edge – easy prey. I crept forwards, arms extended, and grabbed the nearest pillow. With a single pounce, I pressed it over her face. Her eyes sprang open, a garbled scream through the duck-down giving way to a whimper.*

*I relaxed the pressure, finger on my lips. “Shh – it’s me.” I removed my mask, let her see my eyes. “There’s a boat waiting in the harbour and a man with a passport. I’ve come back for you.”*

*By Frances Buckingham*

***It had been a year since I was last here***, and I was under strict instructions to play by the accepted rules on this occasion. The aroma of institutional paintwork and polished wood, with summer light streaming through vaulted skylights, and desks spaced at regular five foot intervals, took me back to the anniversary now being celebrated.

*Then I had been confidently carefree, approaching the situation with youthful unconcern, giving no thought to the consequences of failure. I breezed through precis and comprehension, and was feeling positively buoyant as I moved on to the essay section of my English O level paper.*

*‘In your own words write about 3 of the following, allowing twenty minutes for each.’ It was simple to select 3 subjects that fired my imagination, but then the trouble began. ‘In your own words.....’*

*This was grist to the mental mill of a 15 year old who had recently spent 3 days reading Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings trilogy nonstop, with hardly an hour of sleep, delighting in the linguistic contortions of middle earth. I lapsed into an etymological reverie for 10 minutes or so, then launched into my first essay.*

*‘Yg mothba gefrathert Julshin, geb vronid plog Klim.’ Words leapt into consciousness and off down my right arm onto the sheet in front of me. Soon a page had been filled, within which patterns of grammar and syntax could be discerned by those who cared to look. Unusual conjunctions of letters and a positive disregard for conventional phonetics made the exercise a jolly game rather than an inquisition. Six sides of foolscap later and I ended feeling my creative urges had not had such an outing within memory.*

*Examiners took an unsympathetic and limited view, clearly lacking in imagination, awarding me an unclassified grade. Parents and teachers were unimpressed, so here I was back again, constrained by the drudgery of convention, and limited to the confines of the Queen’s English.*

*by Ian Smith*

## THE LINDISFARNE LEGACY

There is a very special patch of ground in our parish that has had an almost continuous history of use for over 1450 years, St Maurice's Church and churchyard in Eglington. From 1842 to 1980, the church was the home to the Archdeacons of Lindisfarne – a patch of special ecclesiastical status stretching across north Northumberland. During this time, there were 13 Archdeacons: all but two lived in the Vicarage, and 10 are buried here. Although the influence of the church has diminished in today's society, a new project – The Lindisfarne Legacy – is reflecting on the significant contribution the Archdeacons made to our parish's life in the past. The story has never been told before, and our research is in its infancy, but here is a taster story of the social achievements of one of the Archdeacons.

George Ormsby, a Dubliner first came to Eglington as a young man in the 1860's to work as a curate supporting Archdeacon Hans Hamilton. He was involved in the establishment of the Church of England National School in Eglington which opened in 1868. This new building was a welcomed replacement for the two former schools in the village- the 18th century boys' school above the Coach House on Church Lane and the girls school purpose built in 1827 (and now converted to a house on the Beanley Road). He then left for America eventually becoming the Bishop of Honduras, Central America and the Panama Canal. In 1912, after a spell in Paris, he returned to Eglington. Aged 71, in 1914, he was the 8th and oldest of all the Archdeacons when he was promoted to this post, but with a lifetimes experience.

One of his first social projects was to find a site for a Parish Hall. Architects were employed and early plans were sketched out for a new hall in either the Vicarage garden or in the field behind the Croft. When the village mill burnt down in 1913, and the site became redundant, he decided this would be the perfect location for a new community venture. Ormsby became Chairman of the Management Committee, and promoted events including, in 1918, the idea for a local company of the Church Lads Brigade, which was formed to promote the personal and social development of young people.

One of his last projects was to help provide permanent accommodation for the curates who had previously boarded in rooms in and around the village – the Schoolhouse, the Croft, the Post Office and Eglington Hill. The Carr-Ellison family generously bought and renovated a house in the village for this purpose. It was ready for occupation in 1925 and was known as Memorial House, dedicated to Col. And Mrs Carr-Ellison, and to Archdeacon Ormsby, who had died a year earlier, aged 81. By a sad coincidence, his close friend of 55 years, Edward Burn, died aged 85 on the day Ormsby was buried. The Burns family had run the Tankerville Arms for generations. Edward had supported his friend's endeavours as a churchwarden, school-manager, parish councillor and trustee of the Parish Hall.

There are more stories to tell of the connections between the Vicarage and the Pub. In the 1960's, the son of Archdeacon Hawkes taught the pub's Mynah bird to say 'Good evening Archdeacon', even though his father never went into the pub! But more of these tales another time.

*Lindisfarne Legacy Research Project*



## HEDGEHOGS – UK'S MOST POPULAR WILD ANIMAL

In March last year, just before lockdown, 4 hedgehogs arrived in Eglington from the sanctuary in Longframlington as our village garden ticked all the boxes as a suitable release site. This was great news, as in the 10 years we'd lived in the village, our sightings of hedgehogs had reduced significantly. This parallels what's been happening nationwide where their numbers have reduced by 50% since the Millennium.

Feeding them over the summer, we got used to seeing adults and their offspring every evening. Usually one at a time, but sometimes two at a time, and once when 3 young ones turned up, we witnessed an adolescent bust up!

One of the consequences of climate change is that autumn mating produces second broods of hoglets that can't put on enough weight to safely see them through hibernation. Here, in November, we caught 2 little females, Thistle and Teasle, and took them to the sanctuary to over winter.

Released back into our garden together with 2 others this March, we are hoping for another successful year.

We need to do everything we can to help them so, please remember if you need to use slug pellets, choose the ones that are hedgehog friendly. If you don't already feed them, try leaving meat flavoured cat or dog food in jelly, dried calci worms (not mealworms), and a bowl of water (never milk) in your garden, and see who turns up....

*Carolyn B*



## All Greta Garbo...



Observant readers of Hear Abouts will recognise me from last year; that's right, Major Pax. I told you about those dogs and pups being rescued and once they'd all been homed I was finally demobbed to a human of my own. Difficult settling down though, tourist invasion after lockdown near drove me doolally, hostiles all over my patch but not allowed to sort 'em out! Upshot is, I'm back here looking for a special person with whom to be alone, in a cave – you and me against the world, what d'you reckon?

While out on manoeuvres I couldn't help but notice how badly trained some humans are in the art of simply going for a walk with their dog – my guy was great, couldn't fault him – but others were either new to the job or just not trying so I think a refresher might be timely.

Please do bring a lead that keeps us close together and twice as many poo bags as I normally use; just in case. For once, turn the phone off and put it in your pocket – this is ME time and I crave your attention, we could play a game or just enjoy being outside. When I do what you brought me out here to do you have to pick it up; if I am off the

lead and you're not watching it could be a £1000 fine. Having mastered the scoop bit please, please, please bring it with us until we find a bin. It is such bad form to leave the bag dangling on a bush, you have no idea how embarrassing we dogs find it and it makes people hate us. Here in Northumberland, the County Council maintain good bin coverage and even provide poo bags to help humans do the right thing. There really are no excuses. None.

To celebrate the opening of our shop in Wooler this month (paws crossed, following wind and all that) we will be promoting the Green Dog Walker scheme and giving away said poo bags...unused ones. If you can't get to Wooler for retail therapy then find out more about the Green Dog Walkers at [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk) All our humans are really looking forward to seeing you so the latest on shop opening will be on our face book page: Alexa's Animals North East Charity.

Hope I'm not alone for long,

*Pax*

## Rural News and Views

- In recent weeks I have been fascinated and delighted in watching a barn owl in a field of permanent grass on the edge of woodland. Most evenings the owl circuits around the field, occasionally resting on a fence post before flying on then suddenly swooping down into the long grass having located its prey. Previously I have more often seen barn owls caught in car headlights at dusk, a ghost like figure. I know several of you have had great success in putting up nest boxes to encourage these birds and just to confirm the worthwhileness of this, a recent estimate is that 3/4 of barn owls now live in man made nesting boxes. What other barn owl sightings have we had in the parish?
- Northumbrian Water are investing over £10 million on a water treatment facility near Wooler, replacing the existing one at Fowberry built in the 1960s. The new facility will treat and clean up to 3.6 million litres each day. Another such plant is being built at Murton near Berwick upon Tweed.
- National Trust did have an ambitious plan to spend nearly £90 million on planting 18,000 ha of woodland over the next 10 years. The Corona virus has put paid to these plans which, controversially, would have involved not renewing dozens of farm tenancies.
- According to the Forestry Commission 13% of the UK land area is woodland. In response to timber shortages after the 1st World War the Forestry Commission was established in 1919 at a time when just 5% of the land area was woodland. Again after the 2nd World War tree planting became a priority. It seems we are about to enter another huge phase of tree planting, this time in response to climate change. Indeed the Committee on Climate Change has recommended the area in trees should be increased from the 13% to 17% or even 19% by 2050. The need to plant more trees in urban areas has been recognised by the Tree Council who along with The Daily Mail have an ongoing tree planting campaign, "Be A Tree Angel." Notable donations have come from Lord Sugar as well as organisations such as Dobbies Garden Centres, Lloyds Banking Group and Sainsbury's.

# Eglingham Parish Council

Clerk Lesley Long, 5 Meadow Riggs, Alnwick NE66 1AP  
Email: eglinghamclerk@gmail.com

Minutes of the electronic meeting of Eglingham Parish Council held on Wednesday February 24th, 2021

Present: Chair - Cllr D Alston (DA), Cllrs D Biesterfield (DB), A Gray (AG), A Blackmore (AB), J Hamilton (JH)

In attendance: Clerk - Lesley Long.

**These minutes are edited for brevity, for full minutes always read them on the website**

## **Matters Arising**

Village Gateway Sign for South Charlton. After considering residents' responses to the consultation, the PC APPROVED the design. The Clerk will find out if a 30mph roundel can be incorporated.

**A Memorial Tree for Henry** Donations to the fund to date total £110

**Consultation on Planting Trees in the Community Field** – DA confirmed he had written an article for the next edition of Here Abouts inviting residents' feedback.

**Consideration of the Co-Option of a Parish Councillor.** The Parish Council formally AGREED that Richard Faulkner be co-opted as a parish councillor. DA will write to confirm the appointment and the Clerk will send out the necessary paperwork.

**Middlemoor Community Woodland Planting Project** – AB reported he had approached Sarah Radcliffe, of the Forestry Commission, for advice on how best to proceed and had spoken with several landowners about the project. DA suggested AB might find it useful to approach NCC to enquire about the feasibility of planting along NCC verges. JH, who is a member of the Woodland Trust, offered to work with AB on taking the project forward.

## **Suggestion Boxes for Residents' Responses**

JH mooted the idea of suggestion boxes to encourage residents to contribute ideas anonymously and offered to check them and collate responses. After discussion, it was AGREED to site suggestion boxes at both village halls. JH will speak to the village hall committees about fitting them to the building and The Parish Council APPROVED expenditure in the region of £40 for each box and the installation, which JH will organise.

## **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Sarah Brannigan, of NCC Planning, has indicated that the Plan may need to be screened by NCC in case it has an impact on any European designated conservation sites, DB thought such an impact was unlikely.

Progress has been made on the discussion of settlement boundaries and the designation of green spaces. Sarah Brannigan has suggested the EPC conduct an intermediate consultation with the parish residents and the Steering Group are considering this

although, conscious of 'consultation fatigue', they are presently inclined to consult on all aspects of the NP, together.

Initial progress has been made on drafting policies and the Steering Group are scheduling a (Zoom) meeting to advance these. JH offered to contribute to the Steering Group on the drafting of a Biodiversity Policy and a Habitat and Species Policy.

It was AGREED JH will approach consultants for further information about the service they could provide with an indication of costs. Consideration could then be given to applying to the Windfarm Fund for financial support.

AB reported that he had seen **suspicious people and vehicles in the area purportedly looking for hen harriers and kestrels**. He agreed to put the information in an email to JH who will pass it to Natural England.

**New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – Councillors had received the New Code of Conduct, and noted that NALC would be recommending at the National Assembly on March 9th that it be adopted by all local councils. It was agreed to defer the adoption of the Code of Conduct to the April 7th meeting.

**Planning Matters:** To discuss current applications received and specifically:

21/00369/FUL Staff Accommodation Charlton Hall Ellingham Chathill – The Clerk to post a NEUTRAL response.

20/01422/FUL – Land East of St James Church. DB reported that he had reiterated the EPC's position on both the planning conditions and the Housing Needs Survey to Barry Spall of Northumberland Estates, and that it was now up to NCC Planning to determine the application.

To NOTE: 20/03330/FUL Harehope East Lodge – Single storey extension & replacement porch – GRANTED

To NOTE: 20/01917/FUL Land North of Middlemoor Windfarm, Control Building - GRANTED

### **Highway Matters**

Highways England Consultation on Scheme Amendments – There were no comments. The council noted the request from a resident of North Charlton for a 30/40mph speed limit into the Village to reduce speed of wood lorries travelling up to Middlemoor Wind Farm. County Councillor W Pattinson has asked NCC for speed monitoring equipment to be installed. The parish council confirmed it was happy to support the request and the Clerk would write to Richard McKenzie at NCC accordingly.

### **Any Other Urgent Business**

AG said that residents of South Charlton were unhappy with the proliferation of 30mph signs throughout the village. Cllr Wendy Pattinson has advised that the parish council do not ask for any to be removed at present, as the fact there as so many may help to deter speeding drivers.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting** – Wednesday April 7th at 7.30pm via ZOOM

**Remember full minutes are posted on the website <https://eglingham.info> shortly after a meeting.**

# Doggerel Corner

*definition of doggerel: trivial or comic verse composed in an irregular rhythm*

A grandparents job is a joyous affair  
Cherubs and smiles and sweet smelling hair  
Tantrums and tears and stamping of feet  
And that's just your own child when the grandkids  
won't eat.

Spooning in chickpeas and ham when they're properly  
mashed  
Can leave the high chair and your carpet thoroughly  
trashed  
Cleaning up the mess is a less pleasant task  
But you do it with a smile so they don't have to ask

As the little ones get older their precociousness grows  
You need yoga and a workout just to keep on your toes  
And there's more of them honestly each time I look  
"Come play with us Grandad, stop reading your book!"

The eldest is too fast to catch when we are out at the  
shop  
He's only a toddler but he's away with a skip and a hop  
Down the next aisle he runs with a wink and a grin  
When you are up against a five year old you'll never win.

Don't get me started on the ones less than three  
They're up to mischief that only they can see  
Let's climb up this tree stump, or pour mud on our hair  
I'm too old for all this malarkey I don't think it's fair!

Grandad let's play on the floor or maybe let's go outside  
I'll soon be wheezing and puffing keeping them safe on  
our slide  
And after our picnic they'll want to play hide and seek  
I can never find them unless I cheat and take a quick  
peek.

But they are all gorgeous, mischievous, funny and sweet  
Stop all your moaning about aches and pains in your  
feet  
Cherish them all whilst they are still innocent and small  
Too soon they'll be off grown up but still having a ball

Not up to my usual politically jaundiced diatribes about  
our esteemed leaders, it must be spring and I'm feeling  
joyful amongst the daffodils.

## **Carnage! More Blood on the Road!**

Some time ago in 2016

I wrote a piece for this magazine  
About pheasants who sit on the wall and laugh  
Then leap out suddenly as you drive past.  
They bounce off your bumper, or off your  
windscreen  
Or scuttle across before you have seen  
Them, or considered their fate,  
They dice with death, and leave it too late!  
If there is such a thing as Natural Selection,  
Only the bright and the brave will survive – no  
question.  
Road Kill is back, daily squashed and gory  
The feathered and the fluffy tell a poignant story.

Now I am a carnivore, so be brave if you're not  
I do eat dead animals, if cooked in a pot!  
Rabbit stew, breast of pheasant and those lush  
chicken pies  
But to see damaged animals before my eyes?  
It's all too graphic, too dead, too sad,  
But still I enjoy meat, am I really that bad?

I look on with concern as brave cows in Oz  
Are rescued from floods – almost in tears I was!  
How could I think of slaughtering those beasts  
Once I'd looked in their eyes, how could they be  
meat?

But the facts are the facts, in nature and farming  
A finite life for us all, it sounds alarming;  
So feathers or fur, big beasts or small,  
Human beings are omnivorous after all!

Keep alert and mind those pesky pheasants!  
*Margaret B*

## Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship

After Gameweek 29, your top 3 are...

- 1st - Andy Gray - 1754 pts
- 2nd - Clair Leishman - 1508 pts
- 3rd - Gordon Leishman - 1406 pts



# Residents @ Email List

A resident of the Parish? Then if you haven't already... Sign up for our community email list!

Our very successful email list is open to any resident within our boundaries, just send an email to [david@eglingham.org.uk](mailto:david@eglingham.org.uk) and you will get added.

**Next Issue:**

**Early May**

**Please submit content by 20th of April**

[www.eglingham.info](http://www.eglingham.info)

## **DISCLAIMER**

Just a reminder for the easily offended or argumentative. Please note that the views expressed within are those of the named contributors not the Hear Abouts team. Thank you. Feel free to write in with a reply to anything to be published though!

Also please be aware that Hear Abouts is made available online digitally at [www.eglingham.info](http://www.eglingham.info) and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".

## **Covid-19 Help and assistance**

Should you find yourself in a position where you may require some additional assistance - this might include a chat on the phone, help with shopping, collection of medication or general advice please in the first instance contact any of the people listed below for your community who will either be able to offer direct assistance or signpost you to someone who can:

### **Eglingham area:**

Jane Hamilton - 01668 217179 mob: 07546 487121 [jane.hamilton99@sky.com](mailto:jane.hamilton99@sky.com)

Jess Angus - 07912 625195 [jess.angus101@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jess.angus101@hotmail.co.uk)

Brenda Robertson - 01665 579337 [brobertson2852@gmail.com](mailto:brobertson2852@gmail.com)

### **South Charlton area**

Sue Courty - 01665 579295 [thecourtys@gmail.com](mailto:thecourtys@gmail.com),

Lorna Turner - 01665 579212 [gavin@middlecroft.co.uk](mailto:gavin@middlecroft.co.uk),

Sue Jackson - 01665 579470 [susan.jackson@green-synergy.co.uk](mailto:susan.jackson@green-synergy.co.uk)

### **North Charlton:**

Terry Carrington Wathey - 07963 366898 [terry1ra@hotmail.com](mailto:terry1ra@hotmail.com)

Or contact representatives of the WI, Eglingham Church, Eglingham Community Association or the Parish Council whose contact details are on the last page of HearAbouts and are also listed on the Eglingham.info website.