



HEAR ABOUTS

DECEMBER 2020

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

From the Editor

Email: hearabouts@outlook.com

Address: The Croft
32 South Charlton
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 2NA

While I write this it is only the 25th of November and still a full month until Covid19 has decided, with agreement from the Government, that it will have a few days off to allow, those of us that want it, a Christmas with extended family.

Yes, I'm being facetious...

Honestly though, I and the rest of the team wish you all a very Merry Christmas for this strange affected season. Please take care as we want to see you all fit and well by the time February and the next issue rolls around.

Things I've enjoyed this month: Binge watching the new series of The Crown, seeing Sir Humphrey's son-in-law eventually resigning, my new 4k monitor (I can see again!) and seeing the South Charlton community coming together to put up more Christmas lights, decorate trees and enjoying the socially distant fireworks display.

I'll miss the Cummings puppet in Spitting Image though, absolute genius portrayal!

Merry Christmas!

Andy

**Next Issue:
Early February**

All content must be received by the 20th of January

www.eglingham.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 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_article.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.eglingham.info and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".

The Eglington Calendar 2021 – buy now while stocks last!

The Eglington Calendar 2021 has the theme 'Celebrating the Spirit of Eglington' and as in previous years, each month features a full page colour photograph taken in the local area by members of our community.



The cost of the calendar remains at £5 but as advertised last month, in view of the particularly difficult times we are living through, all the proceeds from the sale of this year's calendars will go to the Alnwick Food Bank.

To overcome the problems of lockdown, the calendars are on sale from a box outside Copper Beech, Eglington, - the first bungalow up the road from the Tankerville Arms. The box will be available during daylight hours. Payments should be posted in an envelope through the letterbox. This arrangement will remain in place even if lockdown restrictions are lifted.

The calendars have been selling fast so to avoid disappointment buy yours now while stocks last. Please note that calendars cannot be reserved and are being sold on a first come, first served basis.

In the event of any queries, please email eglingtoncalendar@gmail.com

*Julian Tyley
Eglington Community Association*



Christmas Trees

To brighten the mood for Christmas 2020, South Charlton residents are decorating "trees". Have a drive through the village from the 5th of December to see everyone's creations!

27 bare "trees" have been built and distributed around the village residents by the Stafford family ready for decoration.

It Takes All Sorts!

Your Invitation to Become a Parish Councillor

The Eglingham Parish Council currently has three vacancies for the office of Councillor which it would like to fill by co-option.

The parish council works towards community wellbeing and providing services at a local level. It is the tier of local government closest to the people. Parish Councillors are residents who give up a little of their time each week to represent the interests of the local community. Ideally, a parish council reflects the community it serves, so all sorts of people of different ages, backgrounds, skills and work experiences can play their part.

As a councillor representing the communities of Eglingham and South Charlton you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and training will be provided. You should be comfortable using email and Zoom, have a positive outlook, a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

To be eligible candidates must be aged 18 years or older and must, in addition, either be on the Electoral Roll of the Parish or, during the whole of the past 12 months, have either lived in the Parish, owned or leased land in the Parish, worked in the Parish, or lived within three miles of it.

Ready to represent your community and make a difference?

If this sounds like you - please send your application to Lesley Long – Eglingham Parish Clerk.

If you have any questions, please get in touch, using Lesley's contact details below:

Email: eglinghamclerk@gmail.com

Tel: 01665 606841

Compost

60 litre bags
Clover Compost

£4.50 per bag

Call Bob on 579317

All profit goes to Brownieside and
South Charlton Leek Club

Hand-dyed Indigo
Shibori Silk Scarves
£35 incl. P&P

SUE JACKSON
TEXTILES

Inspired by and handmade
in Northumberland

susan.jackson@green-synergy.co.uk

Frances Buckingham Art



For a gift with a difference this Christmas:

Unique, hand-painted Christmas cards, £3.95

Original paintings from £35

Gift vouchers for 1:1 tuition by zoom from £20

For more information or to discuss a
commission contact Frances on 01665 578919.

Collection from 7 The Terrace, Eglington.
Delivery by arrangement.

Botanicals by Lucy



Inspired by the stunning surroundings of the
Northumberland countryside, Botanicals by
Lucy delicately crafts unique jewellery and
gifts using beautiful real flowers encapsulated
in resin. Perfect as special gifts!

Visit www.botanicalsbylucy.etsy.com

Also available at the Alnwick Gardens



Avocado and Fig Designs is a
Home Accessories brand based in
Northumberland.

I design and create unique products from
hand printed wall art, greetings cards,
printed tote bags and more.

Looking for unique and special Christmas
presents this year?

Check out my website
www.avocadoandfigdesigns.etsy.com

County Councillor Report

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook



EGLINGHAM PARISH

South Charlton - Weather depending, the path to the village hall should be resurfaced in Decmeber.

Covid business support grants

Teams have been working through the guidance and information required to put in place processes to take applications for the business support grants which have been announced by Government over recent weeks.

Northumberland County Council are very pleased to have been able to open the first grant type for applications from Friday 13 November. This is the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum scheme - and is for businesses which have been required by law to close during the current national lockdown.

The next grant to launch, will be the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) - which is for businesses in the hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast and leisure industry which remained open but were severely affected by the Local Covid Alert Level: HIGH restrictions.

A further scheme to support those businesses which were required to close in March and have never been able to re-open, for example nightclubs, will also be opened as soon as possible.

The council will also receive a one-off payment which can be used to support businesses which have been impacted but are not able to be supported by the grants above or wider Government support. Proposals for this are currently being developed.

Businesses can find out more and apply at www.northumberland.gov.uk/businesshub

On that page there is also a wide range of additional information aimed at supporting businesses during these difficult times.

Enforcement activity

NCC enforcement teams are continuing to work with businesses across the county, taking a proactive approach to provide advice and guidance, to make sure they are ready to reopen safely when the current restrictions end. The team have undertaken 600 operational visits since early November, and plan to continue this programme of work over the coming weeks. Work also continues with Northumbria Police and action will be taken is there is blatant disregard to the current restrictions.

As previously mentioned, there is concern around the level of footfall within our towns and villages, with more businesses now able to maintain an operating position and trade in some way eg click and collect, in this second national lockdown.

Since 2 November, the team have received over 200 enquiries on the new legislation, with around 130 seeking clarification on their interpretation of this, and some 80 complaints about those who are trading.

Isolation payments are also available to residents who are required to self-isolate - further information and eligibility critieria is available on the Council's website.

Merry Christmas! Wendy

A Story in 300 Words

Two new 300 word stories this month and they aren't from the editorial team either! Thanks so much for contributing to this new feature. The beginning line for the next issue is at the end of the piece.

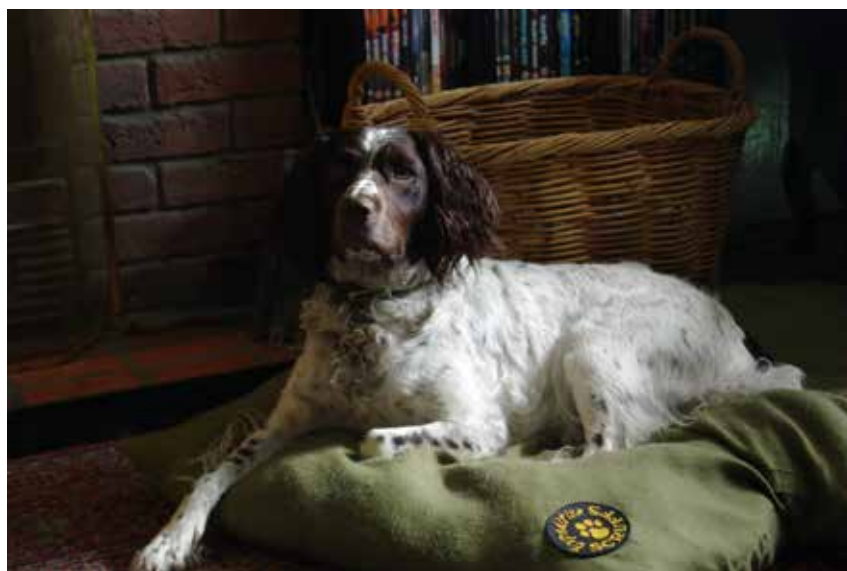
“One path led to the woods, the other down to the beach – decisions, decisions – Lucy looked back eagerly, her tongue hanging out the side of her mouth, the noise of her heavy breathing clearly audible, the sun glinting off her one eye as she noticed her human motioned her to go on with a gesture, the mist, nothing to do with the countryside she stood in, obscuring her sight, with all sound muted Lucy turned again, which track to take?

A heavenly smell drifted through the undergrowth on a slight breeze, snaking through the trees, decision made, Lucy ran on as fast as her aching bones would allow, the early evening sun glinting through the dying leaves, autumn colours casting a golden hue across the footpath. Onward she ran, gaining pace, panting harder, questing the delightful scent ahead of her nose up sniffing the wind.

As she ran, Lucy looked back, her human just visible behind her, still encouraging her on with a wave of the hand. Lucy stopped perplexed, she thought she heard her human speak in a gentle whisper “go on then”. With no further encouragement needed Lucy ran on, as she did, she began to feel younger, bones aching less, the mist in her eye clearing her vision returning, she could hear the birds, their voices denied to her for so long. On she ran gathering pace, hearing clearly now, her humans voice giving her heart.

The path twisted and turned before her, she could see a bright light through the thick trees, behind her the voice still, ‘good girl it’s ok’. As Lucy burst through the trees, she heard the voice fainter now ‘goodbye darling, sweet dreams’, as before her in a large sunny meadow dogs everywhere, all wagging their tails.”

- Carole



“One path led to the woods, the other down to the beach — decisions, decisions. Hazel hesitated for a moment, a torrent of thoughts flooded her mind. Should she meet Jake in the dunes behind the beach or Sarah in the glade by the big Beech tree. It was so confusing in these times of gender equality to know which route to take. The thought of swooning in the arms of a handsome young man was intriguing, what was a swoon she wondered, would it be painful? Of course Sarah was more intense, her challenging gaze and talk of sisterly solidarity was very exciting. What would

they get talking about beneath the woodland canopy? Hazel was sure she didn't have a sister when she was growing up. Could you acquire a sister in later life? On a whim she headed for the dunes. She liked the smell of the sea, the brackish cluster of drying kelp, the mourning cry of the gulls as they floated effortlessly above her head. As she was trudging through the soft sand she thought she could hear voices faintly in the distance. Intrigued and moving a little faster she reached the crest of the dune... there in the fading late afternoon sunshine she saw Jake, but he was not alone. Standing next to him in what she imagined was a swoon was Sarah. Held close to Jake's chest in a warm embrace. Shocked and upset she ran towards the sea, slipping on the soft sand as she plunged down through the dunes. She arrived on the beach in an untidy heap, arms and legs tangled with sand trickling around her neck and through her fingers. She lay there contemplating her choice and decided that all in all it would have been better to stay in bed."

- Pete

Next issue's starting line is...

"Hi, - glad to see you today —"

and if you need some help, Jean has provided this painting as a possible subject!

Thank You

Thank everyone for donating to Children in Need at our Firework Display we raised £210 & Little Acorns raised £160 from their sponsored Pudsey Bear Hunt.

Sue Courty

Seasonal Recipe

My family was strictly teetotal so I was late discovering alcohol!

One recipe I came across was called **Raspberry MacRomanoff** but also appears in some cookery books as **Cream Crowdie**

- 2 oz medium oatmeal
 - 10 fl oz double cream
 - 4 tbsp clear honey
 - 3 tbsp whisky
 - 12 oz fresh or frozen raspberries
1. Lightly toast the oatmeal in a dry pan
 2. Cool for 15 mins
 3. Whip cream to soft peaks then gently fold in honey, whisky and oatmeal
 4. (the whisky could be optional ???)
 5. Reserve. Few raspberries but layer raspberries and cream mixture in four sundae glasses
 6. Cover with cling film and refrigerate for at least an hour
 7. Bring to room temperature for 39 minutes
 8. Decorate with remaining raspberries

Jean Sawyer



Panel Members Needed

We are currently recruiting for Community Advisory Panel Members for the Innogy Renewables UK Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.

We are particularly interested in attracting applicants from North Charlton and South Charlton, which are currently unrepresented on the Panel.

The Advisory Panel member position will involve three meetings a year to make recommendations on grant applications to the Community Foundation.

The £81,000+ per year Fund prioritises applications that come from, or benefit residents within the Parish of Eglingham. This includes community groups, charities, parish councils and schools who can apply for grants from £250 upwards for a range of projects. Individuals can apply for grants up to £2,000.

For more information on the Fund in general or how to apply to become an Advisory Panel member please contact:

Pete Barrett, Senior Programme Advisor on 0191 222 0945 or by email at pb@communityfoundation.org.uk

Kind regards,

Pete Barrett

Senior Programme Advisor

Christmas 2020 Church Services

Eglingham: St Maurice's Church
CHRISTMAS DAY Communion 10.00 a.m

South Charlton: St James' Church
CHRISTMAS DAY Communion 11.00 a.m.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend St Maurice's so we can anticipate numbers and accommodate you safely according to social distancing.

Thank you

Lawrence Holmes: lawrence.h@live.co.uk or Margaret Bell : margaretbee48@gmail.com

UPDATE on Ultrafast Broadband for proposed SHIPLEY CFP Residents & Businesses

Some time ago, 26 properties in the Shipley area, were submitted in a Community Fibre Project (CFP) request to Openreach for a quotation for the installation of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). The quotation was prepared and returned in May 2020 to the Community Lead. As there is no longer a Community Lead, it is possible that the quotation may not have been shared with all 26 householders in the original CFP. The quote issued on May 13th, 2020 to connect all 26 properties was £125,721 and would have required almost all of the available 26 householder / business vouchers to cover the cost in order for the CFP scheme to be financially viable. In the meantime, and given the lengthy wait time for the outcome of the CFP Openreach quote, a number Shipley homeowners may have opted to use their Gigabyte Vouchers with a local provider delivering wireless broadband and are no longer interested in FTTP. Gigabyte Vouchers already used with a wireless provider cannot be used again towards a CFP scheme.

PLEASE return your form to the Parish Clerk

It would really help the Parish Council to focus their efforts with iNorthumberland to know exactly how many Shipley residents are still interested in pursuing options for faster broadband. It would also be extremely helpful to hear from those of you who have already made your own arrangements with a wireless or a 4G provider.

To this end the Parish Clerk has written to all 26 properties included in the original CFP to ask for a response by December 9th 2020. You can return your form either by post or email to the, Eglington Parish Clerk, Lesley Long. eglingtonclerk@gmail.com

Seasonal Recipe

I love the flavours of Christmas, especially nutmeg and cinnamon

Try these buns/ muffins

- 8 oz SR flour
- 2 level teaspoon baking powder
- 4oz margarine
- 5 oz caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 6 oz cooking or dessert apples
- 1 level teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 level teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons milk

1. Mix everything apart from apples to a light creamy consistency
2. Add chopped apples and mix
3. Put into individual cake cases
4. Bake 20 mins or so (you know your oven !!)

Jean Sawyer

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

The joy of Nihilism is coming to North Northumberland!

I'd like to make your readers aware that I am thinking of setting up a branch of the Nihilism Society in our area.

Founded in 1900, Nihilism is a wonderfully rich, inspired and intensely fulfilling belief system which is based on the sure and certain knowledge that life is meaningless, that all moral principles should be rejected and that nothing in the world has a real existence. As such it is a profoundly vibrant, uplifting and illuminating ideology which for over a century has brought immense pleasure, meaning and comfort to the lives of countless millions of people around the globe.

I'm therefore sure that there will be many folk locally who would be fascinated to learn more about Nihilism. If so, I would encourage them not to waste their time contacting me.

Then, if enough people aren't interested, the idea would be to not hold meetings each month where we won't discuss the very many benefits which Nihilism can bring to everyday non-existence, followed by not going to the pub for a drink and a chat afterwards where we wouldn't make any attempt to get to know each other better.

As I am also acquainted with a number of prominent Nihilist thinkers and speakers, not just here in Britain but also in parts of Togo, I'm sure that none of them would be even remotely interested in bothering to come to Northumberland to share their informed views, compelling experiences and deep understanding of Nihilism, as it would be absolutely futile and nothing worthwhile would be gained from it by anyone.

To help get the word out to a wider local audience, I am also considering creating a North Northumberland Nihilism website that would contain no information and which no one could access even if it did. If anybody would be interested in contributing to this project either in terms of design, content or funding, then don't. Just don't.

Finally... Oh, never mind. What's the point?

Remembrance Sunday

Leading up to Remembrance Sunday this stunning display of a poppy arrangement was on display in Eglingham Church. It was very much worth the visit to see.

With restrictions preventing dedicated services, each village laid wreaths at 11am and observed a socially distant 2 minutes silence in the pouring rain.

In South Charlton, Andy Grant played his pipes making the moment extra poignant.



Harvest Festival

While services could be held in October with Covid restrictions in place, South Charlton Church did the best it could in the circumstances with both the churchyard and church interior decorated with limited produce. Thanks to all who helped.



Re-homing Round Up

Bailey here, as this is the last edition of the year I've been asked to look back on the whole shebang even though I only arrived in September. Seems a bit of a tall order but here goes.

One thing that has not changed in 2020 is the steady stream of us canines needing a rescue bed at Patterson's Cottage. Whatever the reason - our own (expensive) ill health or that of our humans, family circumstances or the work of NCC Dog Wardens - we keep coming. There have been 52 admissions so far. Fortunately the supply of lovely people looking for a furry addition to the family has been almost equal to the flow; there have been 48 adoptions in the first 11 months of the year. Every one of your pawthors in 2020 found a permanent home – Chance the lurcher, George from Wooler, all those terriers, hairy Rosie, teenage Zeus, Big Barney, elegant Archie, Miss Big Tongue Ella and Simba the unrepentant terrier.



That wasn't me dropping the hint in by the way –I still need a bit of coaching on this “being a companion” thing. My first human wanted me to catch wildlife so I react to small furry critters and – seeing as I wasn't what you'd call a natural at that sort of work – I'm still fearful of people standing over me. I've learnt to travel in a car and can do walking on a lead so maybe next year...

All of this board, lodging, veterinary attention and trust-building personal development has a cost though. In terms of fundraising I'm told it has been a very difficult nine months, so many activities like the pop up cafés, local shows and street collections were impossible. Thanks to you lovely people, donations and re-sale through the shop and online were great until everything closed again. They're ready to go with a full Christmas theme at the shop in Wooler during December if we get the go-ahead. Paws crossed things will be opening up again when you read this so please check the Alexa's Animals North East Charity Facebook page for the most up to date shop opening days and times. If all goes well we will also be open on Sunday 6th as part of Wooler Christmas Market.

Best wishes for a woofing good Christmas and a barking New Year,
Bailey

Doggerel Corner

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

Victory at Last for Scotland!!!!

*They've waved their flags and thundered forth
To stop us English venturing North.*

*For many years their kilts have swirled,
Their teeth have clenched their lips have curled,
They've built a wall, fought many a battle,
And sent out herds of Highland Cattle,
And black faced sheep to stand and glare:
'Keep back you hoards, Sassenachs beware!'*

*The Covid Pandemic gave Scotland some clout,
Five tiers of restrictions for locals no doubt,
But also intruders intent on spreading
That lethal virus, to the North would be heading.
Then came the edict 'Ye cannae come here!'
Ms Sturgeon decreed, 'twas a very real fear
Huge swathes of English, uncouth and unwashed
Would hasten contagion and all would be lost!*

*We cannot, we dare not traverse those Borders
It's all official - on Assembly Orders!
No one in, no one out, ay what a result!
Divided for now and not a wall has been built!*



'I don't care if it's only a day trip, you're not getting in!'

- MIB November 2020; Cartoon by Pete Ridgway

*So Dom has gone, his lip was curled
Trudged out of No10, box in hand, whilst insults were hurled
We won't really know, for years, what happened inside
The tantrums and the threats, with luck he might have even cried
But its so unfair because he was Boris's top dog
Now all he's got is his expose memoirs to flog
But we are told it was a power struggle and the women are to blame
Somehow Carrie and Alexa, have ended his game
But I for one will celebrate now that he's departed.
Let's just hope that Boris can get his Cabinet restarted
Without his mentor who told him, day by day, what to say
With Brexit and Covid unfortunately it's us who will have to pay*

.....I wonder, is it too late to bring back Theresa May?

- Pete Ridgway

To create some verse - it can't be hard
To write and release the inner Bard?
I often think the form is fine
To craft ideas in a few short lines...

So that was mine – do you have one?
A Doggerel Corner we have begun!

GOVERNMENT GIGABIT SCHEME

The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme is open until March 2021 and aims to future proof people's internet connections for a generation.

The scheme is being targeted at rural, hard-to-reach areas that aren't likely to be connected through the commercial rollout of gigabit networks soon.

This is the site to register addresses to obtain a quote from Openreach: <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/community-fibre-partnerships>. Homes and businesses with broadband speeds of less than 100Mbps can use vouchers to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections when part of a group scheme. Group projects are when two or more residents and/or SMEs get together to combine their vouchers towards the shared cost of installation.

Rural Gigabit Voucher scheme: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

NCC top up scheme for properties with speeds of less than 30Mbps: <https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Digital-Voucher-Scheme>

Please note that the top up voucher can only be used for properties with speeds of less than 30Mbps.

For more information, contact Sylvia Pringle inorthumberland,
Sylvia.pringle@northumberland.gov.uk

Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship



After Gameweek 9, your top 3 are...

1st - Clair Leishman - 479 pts

2nd - Andy Gray - 464 pts

3rd - John Waters - 437 pts

Its not too late to join in! Use the League Code: **6bpxly** once you've setup your team on <https://fantasy.premierleague.com/>

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 and you will get added.

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Please submit content by 20th of January

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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

Jess Angus - 07912 625195 jess.angus101@hotmail.co.uk

Brenda Robertson - 01665 579337 brobertson2852@gmail.com

South Charlton area

Sue Courty - 01665 579295 thecourtys@gmail.com,

Lorna Turner - 01665 579212 gavin@middlecroft.co.uk,

Sue Jackson - 01665 579470 susan.jackson@green-synergy.co.uk

North Charlton:

Terry Carrington Wathey - 07963 366898 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.