

# HEAR ABOUTS

DEC & JAN 2021/22



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

## From the Editor

Email: [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com)

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

*As predicted this issue is late and indeed with the Christmas breaking coming up, I'm not even certain this will have reached you by Christmas! So, if you are getting this after Christmas - I hope you **had** a lovely time. If you get it before Christmas, I hope you **have** a lovely time!*

*I'm still surprised we are in December to be honest. It doesn't feel like mid December, and July still feels like yesterday. By the way, can anyone remember what life was like before March 2020? I'm sure we all had much more free time before then, nowadays there is no free time at all! (My excuse for the last few issues being late anyway...)*

*Best wishes to you all from all of us on the Hear Abouts team, we'll see you in February hopefully remaining safe and free of Omicron and with more of the damage from Arwen cleared up.*

*What a rubbish November/December its been!*

Andy

**Next Issue:  
Sometime in February  
All content must be recieved by the 20th of January**

[www.eglingham.info](http://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](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.eglingham.info](http://www.eglingham.info) and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".



## We have a New Vicar!

Rev. Tracey Usher will be joining us in the New Year and living in Eglington. As well as St Maurice's Eglington she will be serving churches in Old Bewick, South Charlton, Ingram, Chatton and Chillingham.

Rev. Tracey Usher has given her permission to include these few lines about her background and interests:

*I was born and bred in the West End of Newcastle, and lived so close to the city centre that I could open the front door on a match day and hear the crowds at St James' Park. I love rock music, from all decades, but my favourite band are the Foo Fighters (don't worry if you haven't got a clue who they are!). I've seen them live twice, and would love to see them again!*



*You will often see me wandering around with a four-legged friend, his name is Diesel, and I keep describing him as a 'little pup, in a big dog's body'. He is my faithful companion, although his snoring is a lot to be desired! My other four-legged friend lives in a tank. He's a 16 year old terrapin called Squirt, who is currently waited on hand and foot at my parent's house.*

*Through the lockdown I took up a little hobby, having been unsuccessful at playing the guitar for the last 13 years (it makes a lovely ornament in the corner of a room!), I started playing the ukulele –I'll apologise now for my terrible playing! My Mum started taking me to the toddler group at St Peter's, Cowgate, and from then we became regular worshippers and I worshipped there until I went to Theological College.*

*I studied Business at Newcastle College and then Psychology at the University of Sunderland, with the intention of furthering my studies. But that was not God's plan! Instead, I found myself going through the discernment process to ordination, and moving to West Yorkshire to train at the College of The Resurrection, where the rhythm of prayer life and the nature of serving each other has created, a strong foundation for my ministry.*

*I have served my curacy in two parts which has given me a wealth of knowledge and understanding in different contexts. I spent the first part of my curacy in the parish of St Gabriel, Heaton, in the East End of Newcastle, and the second half at Holy Trinity with St Mary's, Berwick Upon Tweed. They were the complete opposite of each other in more ways than one, as well as being at completely different ends of the diocese!*

*I really feel that God has called me to serve in such an unexpected and wonderful way, that even though it was not part of my original plan, I am privileged to be a part of it. I am really looking forward to moving to Eglington, serving the benefice of Breamish and Till and getting to know you all as we start this journey together. '*

We wish her well during her time with us!

## RWE Winfarm Fund Consultation

I would like to thank everyone that took the time to take part in the recent community consultation on the Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Fund. The conversations and written feedback you have provided will really help me when I plan the next stage for the fund in response to this review.

Look out for updates on the fund in Hear Abouts in the New Year, and although the consultation is closed, you are always welcome to contact me about the fund by email: [kathryn.harries@rwe.com](mailto:kathryn.harries@rwe.com) or leave me a message on 07905 560453 and I'll get back to you.

In the meantime I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year. I look forward to seeing what 2022 brings in relation to the fund.

*Kathryn Harries*

UK Community Investment Officer, RWE Renewables

## RWE Windfarm Fund

The Fund will open on Mon 12/12/21 with a deadline for submission of applications of midnight on Sun 06/02/22 for the next meeting in March 2022

The Fund will open on Mon 20/02/2022 with a deadline for submission of applications of midnight on Sun 04/04/2022 for the June 2022 meeting

Applications are invited for the RWE Renewables Middlemoor Windfarm Community Benefit Fund at the Community Foundation.

#### Area of benefit:

- Priority consideration will be given to applications from individuals, groups, projects and activities based within the Parish of Eglington.
- Consideration will also be given to applications from groups and organisations outside of Eglington Parish that provide services and activities that are deemed by the Fund to be of benefit to residents of the Parish.

Groups can apply for a minimum of £250 up to £81,000.

Individuals can apply for a minimum of £250 up to a maximum of £2,000

For applications from individuals please use the individual application form

#### Who can apply?

- Constituted voluntary, community groups and charities based within the Parish of Eglington. Consideration will also be given to constituted voluntary, community groups and charities which operate outside the Parish, if the proposal benefits people living within the Parish of Eglington.
- Individuals resident within the Parish of Eglington: See guidance notes on the Community Foundation website for individual applications: [www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply](http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply) and please contact the Community Foundation before applying.

#### What can be funded:

The Fund is particularly interested in receiving applications which support young people, older people, mental health, biodiversity and energy conservation and renewable energy, and will:

- consider requests for both capital and revenue funding.
- support requests that are charitable, educational, philanthropic and benevolent in purpose.
- make grants to community groups, voluntary/charitable organisations and schools (for non-statutory purposes only).
- consider capital items, which have tangible lasting benefit, including improvements to community buildings.
- other projects which are community based and/or community led.

Applications will be considered from charities and other organisations which provide services to residents of Northumberland, but perhaps not currently to residents of the Eglington Parish, for funding of up to £10,000, in exceptional circumstances higher amounts may be considered.

Please note: this list is not exhaustive, and you are encouraged to contact the Community Foundation to discuss any proposals that you may have.

*Pete Barrett*

Senior Programme Advisor

Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

# Local History Board Project

In November, the 7 members of the history project were delighted to hear that their application to the Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Fund had been successful. Two design and communication consultants have been employed to help the working group realise this exciting parish wide project. Work with the consultants will begin in earnest in the New Year, but in the meantime representatives in each village continue to pull together their historical researches so that the interpretive boards, in the 3 villages and 2 churches, will be as interesting and informative as possible.

## 300 word Stories

**'That wasn't supposed to happen, what do we do now'**, my colleague and fellow SPAD whispered as the PM rustled amongst his voluminous notes, vainly seeking an elusive thread to rescue his disordered thought. Visibly perspiring and rapidly running down his reserves of bluster, he compounded team Bojo's skewering by resorting to nursery tactics and recruiting his recent bedtime ally, Peppa pig.

The assembled dignitaries and captains of industry, generally considered political soulmates for 'our leader', rapidly passed from embarrassed coughing to undisguised sniggering. Later this would for many progress to a strengthening fear of the medusa-like character of the administration and its apparent hostility to addressing pressing national needs.

Covid, economic stresses, migration challenges, unrelenting media attacks, and the ability of a young child to distort routine and reality, were all taking their toll. The jovial 'everyman' who had assumed power was being transformed into a world-weary Sisyphus by the daily grind of leadership, yet considering mutinous thoughts was unrewarding as no potential successor sprang to mind.

After the hasty winding up and retreat from the meeting, it was clear by the frozen expressions on senior figures faces that there would be consequences for us amongst the lower orders of political species. Someone had to answer for pages out of place. The long journey south by train, anticipated as a moment of light relief, lubricated by beers and network rail cuisine, was instead a masterclass in workplace torture, without actually transgressing labour law. Had this been Tudor times the torment would have been continued in the Tower, culminating in public decapitation before an invited audience. But in 2021 I simply advised my mate to start scanning the jobs pages.

Imagine my surprise when days later a senior minister of state invited me for a chat, but 'those who live by the sword.....'

## Something New for '22?

Hello people, I know you are depending on me – well that's what humans sing when they hear that my name is Patch. It's a lot of responsibility for a little dog who came to Alexa's Animals because my previous home wasn't working out – it seems buying a dog from Gumtree as a lockdown companion for your elderly mother isn't always the right thing to do. Despite that start I do really like people; I've been going out in the car for lead-training at the beach and in the woods. It makes my tail wag just thinking about it!

The rescue kennels here are full and it is taking ages to re-home some of my companions; Rupert, who wrote to you in June, is finally out on trial and we hope his adoption will be confirmed soon. It's like waiting for Christmas – which reminds me...

The sparkly jumpers and other Christmas stock will be in our shops from 21st November and it is Wooler Christmas Market on Sunday 5th December so our shop will be open from 10am until 1.30pm in addition to the usual hours. The shops will be closed between Christmas and 10th January to give us time for a big tidy up.



So what will be new for you in 2022? Paws crossed it brings me a home and people of my own but we really hope that your new thing might be helping us. Alexa's Animals desperately needs your time, the rescue kennels meet a real local need and we are looking for volunteers to fill a variety of roles:

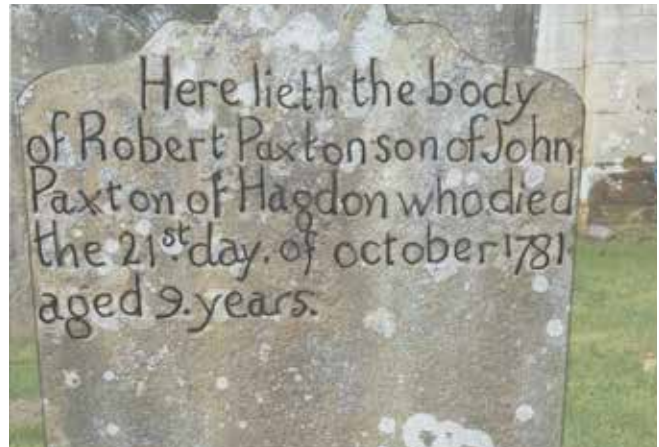
- Supporting dogs directly by walking them, taking them to the vet or fostering them after operations
- Supporting the kennels by helping with maintenance, cleaning, administration, keeping our social media updated or checking out adoption applications
- Fundraising to keep the operation going by working in the shops, staffing one off events or managing online sales

If you have a spare hour or two a week and would be interested to know more please get in touch at [alexasanimalscharity@gmail.com](mailto:alexasanimalscharity@gmail.com) and Annie or another of the volunteers will tell you all about it. If you'd like to support us but just don't have the time you will find a "Donate" button on our website. That's the same place that you will find more information about me under "Adoptions" [www.alexasanimals.com](http://www.alexasanimals.com)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,  
*Patch*

## Smallpox Stones

These memorable memorials on the south side of St Maurice's churchyard come from a time around 250 years ago when another deadly and infectious disease was common in Britain. Unlike Covid which affects older people, smallpox disproportionately killed children.



Neighbours in both life and death, the two stones are memorials to 13 year old Mary Bickerton and 9 year old Robert Paxton who both died of smallpox within a month of each other in 1781. Their fathers both worked at the small colliery at Hagdon farm which was one of several at that time extracting coal from seams on Eglington Moor. The coal was mostly used by the farmer, in conjunction with his limekiln, to neutralise the acidity of the moorland soil. Their families lived in poverty in basic one room Coal Houses which were hastily built to accommodate the colliers and their families.

By the late 18th century, smallpox was common in Northern England and was affecting children even in rural communities. It began with a fever and red rash that spread all over the body which after a few days, the rash turned into blisters. Mary was the first recorded smallpox death, but over the winter of 1781/82, Robert and another 6 children died in Eglington parish. By 1795, as many as 17 more children had succumbed to this contagious disease. 70 years too late for these children, smallpox vaccination only became compulsory 1853. This date also saw the birth of the antivax movement which continues to be controversial in today's Covid times.

Memorials for children are rare in St Maurice's churchyard, and in the 18th century only 40 of the 1,000 burials are marked by a stone. Mary's is also unusual as it is only one of two 18th stones carved with an epitaph. Composed by Charles Wesley (the brother of the founder of Methodism) this was commonly used in other parts of the country for children's gravestones. Her stone is one of only four at St Maurice's that has been listed by Historic England.

Mary and Robert's families were in no position to pay for their gravestones, so the most likely explanation is that their children's tragedy touched the hearts of one or a group of kind benefactors who arranged and paid for these handsome memorials to the first casualties, in Eglington, of the deadly smallpox.

*Parish Taphophile*



# Eglingham WI

Fourteen members gathered for our November meeting. Our speaker for the evening was Amanda Barrell who runs The Tau Tong School of Tai Chi Chuan. She gave us a history of Tai Chi and how she came to give up her previous career, as an airline pilot, to focus on this oriental art and start her own school. Following a short demonstration we then went through a routine using different slow arm and leg movements to those most peaceful type of music.

Supper was followed by the raffle which was won by Tracey.

At our meeting December we shall be making a Christmas table decoration.

*Pat Ives*

**County Councillor Report**  
[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk)  
Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook



## EGLINGHAM PARISH

### **National Highways – Dualling of the A1 A1 MORPETH TO ELLINGHAM DUALLING**

Subject to final approval in January 2022 by the Secretary of State, work will start in Summer 2022 to dual the A1. The work will start in unison at both ends of the A1 at Morpeth and at Ellingham.

The scheme will involve upgrading eight miles of the A1 to a dual carriageway between Morpeth and Felton, including construction of a new dual carriageway bypassing the existing A1 between Priests Bridge and Burgham Park. The old section of the A1 carriageway will be de-trunked and become a local road – meaning this section of road will be owned and maintained by Northumberland County Council.

Between Alnwick and Ellingham a further five miles of the existing A1 will be upgraded to dual carriageway. This will be done along the existing single carriageway road.

#### **As well as the dualling, National Highways will also construct:**

- four new compact grade separated junctions at Highlaws, Fenrother, West Moor and Charlton Mires providing safe access onto and of the A1 as well as maintaining links to the local road network
- a new bridge where the A1 cross over the River Coquet parallel to the existing bridge
- a new accommodation bridge at Heckley Fence

#### **As the route is one of strategic national importance our aims are to:**

- improve network resilience and journey time reliability
- improve safety
- maintain access for local traffic whilst improving conditions for strategic traffic

- facilitate future economic growth
- work to prevent potential impacts on the natural and built environment, and identify opportunities to provide a long-term sustainable benefit to the environment.

## WHAT IS NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER?

Northumberland Communities Together are available to keep you and your community safe and well. If you or anyone in your family needs a bit of extra support please get in touch. If you're having a difficult time or struggling at the moment we'll find you support and connect you with people in your area.

Phone the Northumberland Communities Together Response Hub on 01670 620015 9am-6pm, 7 days a week or email: [NCT@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:NCT@northumberland.gov.uk)

- Has your financial circumstances changed with reduced hours, redundancy or benefits
- Worried about staying warm, winter bills and financial pressures - we will work with Citizens Advice Northumberland to connect and support you and your family
- If you, your family or neighbour needs a bit of extra help, please get in touch and we will find the support that is right for you
- Feeling lonely, overwhelmed or struggling with mental health
- If you don't have family or friends nearby, please contact us and Communities Together will assist you.
- Worried about someone experiencing domestic abuse or concerned about a neighbour. Call us on 01670 620015 we are open 7 days a week from 9am until 6pm.

## Hear Abouts Letter To The Editor

Recently, as a contributor and avid reader of Hear Abouts, I've missed the regular reports of the meetings of our Parish Council. Maybe not everyone's idea of a good read, but it does keep residents informed about what decisions are being made on our behalf, and it is more accessible than checking out the minutes posted on the parish website. Could our editor please arrange for them to be reinstated?

*Editor - Good(?) news! I can confirm that they will be returning in the new year. They went missing from Hear Abouts (they were always available from the Parish Council's website - [www.eglingham.info](http://www.eglingham.info)) as your editor had enough on his plate. Sorting out dissemination of PC propaganda for Hear Abouts consumption wasn't high on his list of priorities when he had everything else to manage.*

*Now that he no longer cares about types of messaging coming from the PC and someone else is doing all the work, we'll print anything! (as long as it fits) 😊*

# Get compensation if you have a power cut

## Citizens Advice Bureau information

You might be able to claim compensation if the electricity or gas supply to your home goes off.

Whether you can claim will depend on:

- how long the power was cut for
- if the power cut was planned

Your supplier won't be responsible for power cuts - it's your local electricity distributor that maintains the electricity supply to your home.

If you use a prepayment meter and you're cut off because the meter is faulty your supplier will be responsible. They have to fix it within a certain timeframe. If they don't, you could get compensation.

Depending on your situation, you might get extra help from your energy supplier if there's a power cut. You can check if you can get extra support from your energy supplier.

### When you can claim

You'll only get compensation if the power cut was the electricity distributor or gas transporter's fault. For example, you can't get compensation if you accidentally cut through your supply while doing work on your home.

You won't get compensation for financial loss, for example if your food spoiled because your freezer defrosted.

### Planned electricity power cuts

Your electricity distributor must give you 2 days' notice if they plan to cut off your supply to do work. You can claim £30 compensation if:

- they don't give you 2 days notice
- they cut you off on a different day from the date on the notice

You must claim within 1 month.

### Unplanned electricity power cuts

If the power cut wasn't planned, the amount of compensation you can get depends on how many homes were affected by the power cut and whether it was caused by bad weather.

If you want to find out how many homes were affected by a power cut, contact your local electricity distributor.

### How much you'll get

If fewer than 5,000 homes were affected, you'll get:

- £75 if the power was out for longer than 12 hours
- £35 for each following 12 hours

If more than 5,000 homes were affected, you'll get:

- £75 if the power was out for longer than 24 hours

- £35 for each following period of 24 hours up to a maximum of £300
- If the power cut was caused by bad weather, for example a storm damaged power lines - you'll get the following compensation regardless of how many homes were affected:
- £70 if the power was off for 24 hours (this can be 48 hours if it was a severe storm)
  - £70 for each following 12 hours, up to a maximum of £700

#### Multiple power cuts

You can get an extra £75 compensation if your power goes off more than 4 times in 1 year, for more than 3 hours each time. The year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

## Storm Arwen Damage

What a few weeks we all had, some of us worse than others, going by a few stories over here in South Charlton we had it much easier than Eglington as some of the outlying areas were without electricity for 7+ days!

Visually the damage can be seen from roof damage, garden sheds flattened, a "new" gateway into your neighbours garden, lost wheelie bins and the customary trampoline in the most humorous of places...

Mainly though the damage can be seen from the trees we've lost in the Parish.

Thanks to Ian Smith for supplying most of the images below.







# Doggerel Corner

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

## Desperate Times!

What do sheep and goats eat? I hear you say:  
'Why grass of course and sometimes hay  
From those pastures in our green and pleasant land! '  
It's the order of things: All in God's Hands.'  
Except it isn't.

We lowly humans have some responsibility  
After seeing 'Life at 50 degrees' on the TV.  
And parts of the globe sparse and empty-  
Few trees, no grass, the wind blowing hot  
A rural idyll it is not !

A makeshift tent to shelter from the heat  
And in the food troughs what do animals eat?  
Cardboard and paper - it's all they have  
It brought me to tears it's become that bad!  
It's happening already the effects of warming  
COP26 has given us a warning.

We can all make a difference, it may be too late  
But we should stay vigilant, or we seal our fate!  
Margaret B.

## Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship Season 2021/22



Current standings are after Game Week 16...

- 1st - Andy Gray - 1037 pts
- 2nd - Kay Waters - 765 pts
- 3rd - Jon Waters - 718 pts
- 4th - Sarah Henry - 686 pts

You can still join in by using the  
League Code: m4ioik



# 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:**  
**Sometime in February**  
**Please submit content by 20th of January**

[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".

