



HEAR ABOUTS

DECEMBER 2022

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

From the Editor

Email: hearabouts@outlook.com

It's that time of year again when we come together to celebrate the holidays with our loved ones. As we enter the festive season, we at Hear Abouts would like to wish all of our readers a very Merry Christmas. As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the support and engagement of our readers who have made this publication a success. We have enjoyed sharing stories and information about the people and events that make our community such a wonderful place to live. We hope that this holiday season brings you joy, laughter, and time spent with those you hold dear. From our family to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited to continue bringing you informative and engaging content that showcases all that our community has to offer. Thank you for being a part of our community and we look forward to continuing to serve you in the year ahead.

Can you tell that the above wasn't written by me? Yeah, I wouldn't be so nice to you so it was obvious! haha The delights of AI! Maybe by the end of 2023 AI will be doing the whole magazine for me - what a great 2023 to look forward to! More AI later in the issue.

Have a fab Christmas and New Year!

Andy

Hear Abouts is supported by the Middlemoor Windfarm Fund

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_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 and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".

Next Issue:

Sometime in February 2023

All content must be recieved by the 20th of January

www.eglingham.info

Christmas 2022

Church Services in Eglingham at St Maurice's Church

9 Lessons and Carols: Wednesday 21st December 6.30.p.m.

Midnight Communion: Saturday 24th December 11.30 p.m.

Please join us in your village church as this year we can celebrate Christmas together!

CHRISTMAS DAY Communion
will be at South Charlton
Sunday 25th December 11.15 p.m

The Eglingham Calendar 2023

We are pleased to announce that the Eglingham Calendar 2023 is now on sale.

This year we had the biggest ever response to our request for photos and with the standard particularly high, the selection process was extremely difficult. Thirteen entries, all from different photographers, feature in the calendar or on the front cover, with another fifteen on the back cover. We would like to thank everyone who submitted entries.



We have kept the price of the calendars unchanged at just £5 and they will be available at the Christmas Coffee & Chats in Eglingham Village Hall on Saturday 3rd December from 10am – 12 noon.

They are also available now, while stocks last, from a box outside Copper Beech, next door to The Tankerville Arms. Please put your payment through the letterbox in an envelope.

Alternatively phone 01665 578460 to arrange delivery

Eglingham Community Association



**We're here
to help...**

For free and confidential support and advice
call our friendly team on 01670 784 800

**We provide services that support, enable and inspire
you to live well and thrive in your local community.**

We can help with...



Information & Advice
Help with Welfare Benefits &
Attendance Allowance Claims
Advocacy Support
Health & Wellbeing Advice
Friendship Services
Social Groups
Activities and Exercises
Home Care Advice & Support

Call our friendly team on 01670 784 800, email info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk or visit www.ageuk-northumberland.org.uk



Registered charity 1072394



You are cordially invited to
Christmas Afternoon Tea

at

Eglington Village hall

Saturday 17th December

3pm - 5pm

Free admission (Donations welcome)



RWE Windfarm Applications

The link to apply for funding is now on the GrantScape website. You will find instructions and guidance there too on how and what you can apply for.

There are three rounds each year to consider applications over £2,000.

All grant applications, for individuals and organisations, requesting less than £2,000 will be fast tracked whereby a decision will be reached and notified within a month of the application submission.

<https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/middlemoor-wind-farm-community-benefit-fund/>

Eglingham WI

Our meeting on the 10th November was the last one of the year. We had a very good attendance and another new prospective member. The meeting was chaired by Gill, standing in for Brenda and Romaine.

After the normal business Gill welcomed Judy Wong from the Origami cafe in Alnwick who was going to show us how to make origami Christmas trees. We were given assorted sizes of coloured paper/card and Judy then demonstrated how to use it. There were many stages to follow and it was very fiddly with lots of folding and refolding but eventually we managed to produce these trees in various sizes. Some ladies even managed to finish two. Jane Hamilton gave her usual excellent vote of thanks.

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

In December we are meeting for our Christmas meal. This year a lunch at The Milan in Wooler.

Pat Ives

John Grundy in Eglingham

'Under the spell of Northumberland's quiet drama'

John Grundy loves this neck of the woods! His enthusiasm and humour entertained us one evening recently, as he shared tales of past histories, ancient stones and windswept kingdoms: the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, the Border Wars, the Industrial Age and local people who had left their mark here in Northumberland. Throughout history in these

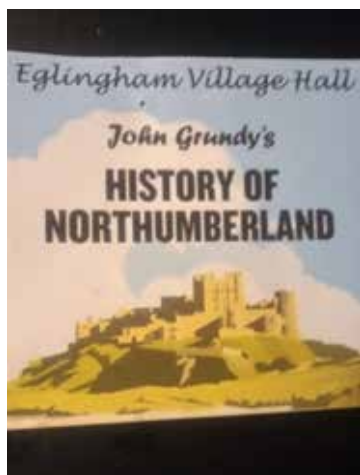


parts, there were those who built dwellings, churches and farms, raised up rocks from the ground, left rings and symbols on the rough outcrops and carved primitive panels and artefacts for our ancient churches.

This is a man who has come over from 'The other side,' nothing sinister - just Carlisle! Despite being a stone's throw from the stunning Lake District and its magnificent scenery, John had visited Northumbria many times and decided to settle here in the 1970's - because he loved it! I too was born and bred 'over there' in Lancashire, my father's family have their roots in Cumbria. We have chosen to settle here in our retirement. Like John Grundy, we appreciate the beauty of open skies in this part of the country; the fabulous stars in the dark canopy of the clear night sky; the broad horizons and sweeping contours; the distinctive colours and textures of the natural vegetation in this windswept Ancient Kingdom of Northumberland! In his book Grundy quotes Wilfrid Gibson, a local poet from Hexham:

(Northumberland)... 'Where time falls in solitary places calm and slow, Where pipes the curlew and the plover calls Beneath an open sky'

On Wednesday 9th November John Grundy gave an illustrated Talk to a packed Village Hall in Eglington, and as with all our Talks on Local History it was free admission! We even had to borrow extra chairs from South Charlton Village Hall as there were around 60+ people there! John brought with him copies of his beautifully illustrated book: 'The History of Northumberland' his recent publication which he signed at the end of the talk - he sold every copy from his box! I believe those people in the room, whether born and bred here, or incomers like myself, were fully in agreement with his sentiments! I think 'preaching to the converted' covers the underlying ethos of



the evening! Seeing magnificent views on the big screen, the details of buildings, the stones and outcrops of rock, and hearing those anecdotes, (John Grundy is big on anecdotes, his is not a dry academic delivery!) we were able to appreciate afresh the unique aspects of this land around us. As a field worker involved in Listed Building surveys, he has visited many historic houses and domestic dwellings, churches and castles in the North East. He has also worked as an English teacher, a broadcaster and journalist, as well as an author, with regular articles in 'The Northumbrian' and programmes on BBC Radio 4. He has in the past contributed to the Pevsner's 'Guide to Northumberland' which, when I was at school (studying Architecture as

part of my 'A' level Art), Pevsner was The Reference Book, the 'Bible' of architecture and a comprehensive history of classical building development and style details. Impressive! John gave us some statistics which brought home just how unique are the large open spaces in our county and how under populated it is. Northumberland is 15th largest county in England; 31st for population density by county; 90% of those live within 10 miles of Newcastle! John, a great communicator, was really fired up and was intending to finish the second half after 'just a few more things!' It didn't pan out that way! He gave us yet more fascinating facts from his extensive knowledge of History in Northumberland. More than fifteen minutes later he was still enthusiastic and animated, and we were still enthralled! It was indeed a memorable evening.

Margaret Bell

300 Word Stories

The next issue of Hear Abouts isn't until early February so we'll communicate the next starting point to you in January.

Your start for December was ***"I only wanted to stay a short while, I didn't realise how difficult it would be..."***

"I only wanted to stay a short while, I didn't realise how difficult it would be, the big cosy chair, the warm heat from the fire as flames licked at the logs. Sighing deeply, no this was not good, I simply had to get on, the animals needed fed, watered and ready for work, the baking needed finishing, although I'd made the same recipe for so long I could do it with my eyes shut.

Looking up at the unique clock above the fireplace, realised the time, the big man, although a cheery sort of soul would brook no tardiness from his wife.

Sighing again I eased my homely figure out of his chair and went to the stables, the sight that greeted me made me smile, nine wonderful faces looking over their stall doors, stamping their hooves, shaking their heads eager for food and what lay ahead, of course a specialist job like no other.

"Well now my beauties," I said, "time for dinner before you're off".

Blowing loudly through noses and nodding their heads in agreement as I hastily filled their mangers making sure they had plenty of the finest nuts and of course the special ingredient, just don't ask for the recipe.

Giving them all a quick pat, I left them to get ready, while I hastened to the kitchen to finishing baking, a task like no other due to the quantities needed. Just as I finished the last batch, I heard the all too familiar call as the big fella was about to leave.

"Ho, ho ho" he cried, "Time to fly my beauties, see you my dearest." He added whilst

blowing me a kiss from behind his splendid grey beard, as he took to the air circling once before disappearing over the dark snow-capped horizon.

Carole

I only wanted to stay a short while, I didn't realise how difficult it would be extracting myself from the usual jar after days tending sheep in the hills.

Yesterday evening was something else. At first I fancied shooting stars, then maybe a flare of Aurora, but I was stumped when I heard the strangest thing - like the crowd at St James's after a home goal, heard from miles away. I guess it lasted 30 minutes, light and sound rising to a crescendo, and then fading to eerie silence.

I couldn't sleep much afterwards, but tonight I heard what followed. Some of my pals from across the valley say the sound was a bunch of 'angels' telling them to go to the back of our inn and witness something unique.

When they got to the bar the staff were pretty animated. Some lass had pitched up on a donkey with her bloke and was going into labour. They'd let them use the room at the back and by the time my mates went round, it was all over. Strange thing was a load of animals had showed up as well, and they were just lying there entranced, not noticing each other or the lads, as if it was the best show in town. What's more, later on, guys in fancy dress from out east arrived bearing gifts, saying this babe was royalty. They seemed pretty knowledgeable and reckoned he could be a threat to the established order, and were advising the couple to move on sharpish. And that's what they did this morning- just packed and left, heading south.

Today everyone had something to say - the odd jest, but mainly a sense of awe and having experienced a special moment, myself included. No wonder we all missed supper.

Ian

I only wanted to stay a short while, I didn't realise how difficult it would be. *It was a simple trip to the grocery store, just a quick run to pick up a few things for dinner. But as I walked down the familiar aisles, something felt off. The colors were duller, the lights were dimmer, and the air felt heavy. I shrugged it off as a fluke and continued shopping, but the feeling only grew stronger.*

As I made my way to the checkout, I realized that time seemed to be moving slower. Every step felt labored, and I found myself struggling to keep my balance. I looked

around and saw that the other shoppers were moving in slow motion, their faces frozen in expressions of confusion and fear.

Panicked, I tried to make my way to the exit, but my legs felt like they were made of lead. I could barely move, and the store seemed to stretch on forever. I was trapped, and I didn't know why.

As the minutes turned into hours, I began to understand. This was no ordinary grocery store, it was a place where time stood still. And I had stumbled into it by accident.

I was horrified and terrified, unsure of what would happen to me if I couldn't escape. I searched for a way out, but the doors were locked and the windows were sealed shut. I was trapped, and there was no way out.

But then, something strange happened. I heard a voice in my head, gentle and soothing. It told me not to be afraid, that I was safe. It said that I had been chosen, that I had a special purpose.

At first, I didn't believe it. But as the voice continued to speak, I found myself calming down. I listened to its words and began to understand. I was not alone, and I was not trapped. I was exactly where I was meant to be.

And so, I stayed. I stayed for what felt like an eternity, learning from the voice and growing stronger. I learned to control my fear and to trust in myself. I learned to embrace my destiny, and to use my newfound powers for good.

And when the time came for me to leave, I did so with confidence and purpose. I stepped out of the grocery store and into a new world, one where I was no longer just a simple shopper, but a hero.

ChatGPT - AI chatbot from OpenAI.com

Just to experiment I asked this AI tool to do the same challenge we asked of you. All I did was type in Write me a 300 word story that begins "**I only wanted to stay a short while, I didn't realise how difficult it would be**"

This above is what it produced. No other prompts, just left to its own devices. The future is indeed a scary place!

County Councillor

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook



NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE

Protect yourself and your family from the devastating effects of fire by installing a smoke alarm today.

Safe and Wellbeing Visits

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service provide free safe and wellbeing visits and smoke alarms to members of the public who live in the county. We can supply and fit either standard 10-year battery alarms, or alarms suitable for those who are deaf/hard of hearing. If you wish to apply for a Safe and Wellbeing Visit, please contact us today. SWV.nfrs@northumberland.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: If your property is owned by a private landlord, they must comply with the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to £5,000 for your landlord.

THE COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT AIMS TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE IN THEIR HOMES AND WHEN THEY ARE OUT AND ABOUT IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

As part of a large team that includes Community Risk and Response officers, the Community Safety Department work to help prevent incidents from happening, through a range of community engagement activities and initiatives including; Safe and Wellbeing Visits, schools and community education and by tackling anti-social behaviour through education.

The team provide education, information, advice and guidance to empower residents of Northumberland to keep themselves safe and well.

To apply for a visit call us on 01670 621149

WINTER IS COMING...AND OUR TEAMS ARE READY

As the county braces itself for winter, the council's cutting-edge gritting fleet is ready to tackle everything that's thrown at them.

With a rolling programme of investment, the council's bought nine new state-of-the-art gritters to replace older models in its 28-strong fleet which cover thousands of miles each year.

In addition five new spreaders and ploughs have been fitted to the council's 4x4 vehicles. These are placed across the county and can quickly get to some of the more difficult areas across Northumberland's vast road network.

Out of the cab, all weather stations in the county were upgraded over the summer – and new ones installed. These contain a vast range of cameras and sensors - for more accurate reading of conditions, salt concentration and more accurate weather forecasts.

There are over 100 staff dedicated to our winter services operation – tasked with keeping our road network running and residents safe.

We have continued to invest in state-of-the-art equipment which is particularly suited to Northumberland as the geography of our county presents unique challenges where it can be snowing over the tops but bright sunshine at the coast.

While we don't yet know what the winter months will bring, our staff and equipment are ready for action.

The winter in numbers:

105 staff including managers, supervisors and drivers

44,000 tonnes of salt in place ready to be used

28 multi-purpose gritting vehicles

Two purpose-built snow blowers and four gully tankers

1,600 grit bins and 200 grit heaps

Over 3,000 miles of county's road

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for live updates on:

- School closures
- Severe weather warnings
- Winter service information
- Service disruptions and closures

AGEING WELL

Ageing Well is coordinated by the Integrated Wellbeing Service. We use a positive partnership approach to planning and working with local people, valuing and respecting their rich knowledge, skills, experience and energy to ensure Northumberland is a good place to grow older.

By working with local partners who, as part of their everyday role, are in contact with older people and their carers/families, we can make sure that everyone who can help older people to become or sustain being more active, better connected and well, has a clear understanding about what they do best and work well together to strengthen existing provision.

Ageing Well runs a series of seasonal roadshows throughout the year. These are Stepping into Spring, Summer Sizzlers and Winter Warmers. These roadshows are held throughout the County and offer an opportunity for older people to come along to find out what is going on in Northumberland to benefit older people. The roadshows are supported by partner organisations and charities and local information is also available. The events are free and everybody is welcome.

We also have an Ageing Well Network which is a Countywide information sharing network. It meets four times a year sharing information through presentations and updates on topics relevant to older people. It also has a virtual function via emails providing members with information about up and coming events and opportunities.

If you would like to join our pro-active Ageing Well Network, or would like more information on our seasonal roadshows, please contact the team on ageingwellnetwork@northumberland.gov.uk

Cousin Vinny

Whad'dya, know I got myself a job here representing Northumberland Dog Rescue. To avoid stereotypes I laid down a few ground rules: no talk of frankfurters, salami or other types of sausage, not even a chipolata, no reference to lederhosen or the war and no height jokes, OK? So, the name's Vinny, I am four years old, and my sleek coat will save you on visits to the groomers. I like other dogs, enjoy a frolic in the autumn leaves and love a bit of affection. My pointy nose helps me pick pockets and the only thing that is holding me back is a tendency to poop when I get scared – I ask you, who doesn't? – you can't be serious about locking me up for a little thing like that!



There was a good meeting in the Village Hall and the Annual Report and accounts have been published on the Charity Commission page of www.gov.uk for anyone who wants to know what's what. Our October raffle raised £419 and the hamper full of dog treats was won by one of our bro's from the 'hood – Boy. He came to collect it with his new family – double lucky guy. Tickets are now on sale for a Christmas raffle, the prizes for this one are hampers and seasonal things for humans; you can get tickets from the kennels at Charlton Mires, from the shop in Amble or stop one of my people and buy one. The raffle will be drawn on 16th December; maybe you'll get lucky too, remember; every pound helps a hound.

In December anyone who has adopted one of us is invited to Bamburgh for a dog walk and coffee, meet by the pavilion at 11am on Sunday 4th. Then volunteers will be at Pets At Home, Morpeth to promote the Santa Paws campaign in the run up to Christmas. If you are stumped by a Secret Santa £5 challenge just visit our shop on Queen Street Amble; you could get 10 paperbacks or five items of clothing for that sort of money – they're open from 10.30 to 3.30 every day but Sunday. Moving on, January will find our people jumping into the waves (us dogs ain't that dumb) at Bamburgh on New Year's Day to kick off our time as Bamburgh Castle's Charity of the Year. Have yourselves a happy holiday!

Vinny

With apologies to Joe Pesci

Warm Hub Welcome in February

Due to the success of the first session held in Eglington in October, Community Action Northumberland, Supported by the Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Fund, will be providing a Warm Hub Welcome at the village hall in February. Further details to follow in the next edition and via residents@

Alnwick & District Choral Society

Britten's **A Ceremony of Carols** and **Other Christmas Music**



CONDUCTOR
ORGAN
HARP

PETER BROWN
ALAN GIDNEY
JANET BENNETT

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2022 AT 6PM

ST. PAUL'S CURCH, ALNWICK

ADMISSION £12.50 AT THE DOOR. STUDENTS FREE



13th Oct Meeting of Eglingham Parish Council

Held at St Maurice's Church, Eglingham

Summary

(full minutes available via www.eglingham.info)

By the looks of this list it was a busy meeting!
Far too much to write up here in one page so go read it online...

Matters Arising from September

- Local History Project
- North Charlton Defibrillator windfarm application
- 1st Aid/Defibrillator courses
- Insurance/SCVH Lease
- Tree planting project
- Second speed camera at Eglingham windfarm application
- Christmas Lights windfarm application
- Biodiversity Report
- Refurbishment of bus shelter and bin relocation
- Litter bin beside North Charlton Recycling bins
- Planning Training for Councillors

Agenda Items

- Suggestion boxes:
 - Village landslip (anonymous)
 - Overhanging tree branches
 - Access issues from bridge to bottom of The Terrace
 - Playground in Parish Field
- Review of Code of Conduct
- New Parish Clerk
- Interim report from External Auditors 2021/22
- Parish Council Budget/precept 2023/4
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Bins at the bottom of The Tarry
- RWE Fund
- Community Field/Green/Potential Allotment
- Community Resilience
- Viewpoint seating and fingerposts

Finances/Payments

Planning Matters

Next Meeting was set for 24h November 2022 at SCVH

Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship Season 2022/23



Current standings of the new season after Game Week 16...

1st - Andy Gray - 908 pts

2nd - Jon Waters - 868 pts

3rd - Kay Waters - 841 pts

4th - Jack Dhawar - 703 pts

If you'd still like to join in, the league code is **x1xf18**

Sign up at -

<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 we'll endeavour to get you added.

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