



HEAR ABOUTS

FEBRUARY 2021

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

From the Editor

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Happy New Year and welcome to 2021!
We were so desperate to see the back of 2020, we forgot 2021 might not be the knight in shining armour we were expecting!

Here we are, Lockdown 3 with no hint of when it might end, added together with Brexit finally happened - early signs being that that is going well! (irony) At least the USA will be boring for a while... (fingers crossed)

We hope you are wintering well and staying safe. Don't be too disheartened, it'll be 2022 before we know it!

Thanks for your content, with nothing happening in the Parish for the foreseeable and the last 10 months, pulling together a regular sized issue has become more and more challenging. But you've been brilliant with new contributions and new regular features working so well. Thanks so much!

See you in March

Andy

Next Issue:
Early March

All content must be recieved by the 20th of February

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_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".

Eglingham Calendar sales boost Food Bank Funds

Eglingham Community Association has donated £500 to the Alnwick District Food Bank as a result of sales of the 2021 Eglingham Calendar.

In normal times, the calendar is sold out well before Christmas, due in part to the Village Hall Christmas Market and other social events in the community but this year the only point of sales was from a box outside my door. In the circumstances, we were delighted to sell so many calendars, which have been distributed not only around the parish but indeed worldwide! To our knowledge they have made their way to Australia and California and perhaps to many more distant places.

ECA normally uses the sale of calendars to help fund social events in the community but with no such activities allowed over the past year due to Covid-19 restrictions, the decision was made to donate the proceeds from the sale of this year's calendars to the Alnwick District Food Bank. That decision certainly proved popular, with several people making additional donations to support the work of the Food Bank.

A formal hand over of the cheque was not possible due to lockdown but we received the following letter of thanks from Food Bank Treasurer Deborah Baker:

"Thank you very much for the generous £500 donation from Eglingham Community Association. I can assure you that the money will be used to ease food poverty in our area.

Thank you also for the calendar. The photos are a lovely representation of our beautiful area and congratulations to you and all the other talented photographers."

Chair of the Food Bank Trustees Clive Gibson added:

"This will go a long way to helping us maintain our service at this most difficult of times."

Thank you to everyone who bought a calendar this year. Your contribution will help to brighten the lives of some of the more disadvantaged members of the community and we hope the photos in the calendar will brighten your own lives during the coming year.

Julian Tyley
Eglingham Community Association



Christmas Spirit in South Charlton

Did you pass through South Charlton in December? Did you notice an influx of decorated wooden Christmas trees? (and also lots of Christmas lights if you passed through in the evening?).

Well it was all to get into the Christmas spirit early seeing as 2020 had been a little bit pants!

Derek and Bev lit up their corner of the village with their now yearly show of lights hung from every conceivable part of their house! The rest of the village attempted to keep up as most houses put up at least one set of lights in a window.

The Christmas trees though, wow! What an amazing range of creativity was on show! Judged by the Stafford boys, Hugo and Ross, winners were declared with Gavin and Lorna Turner taking home first prize! Followed by Alex and Tom Charlton and third going to Derek Bowden and Bev Hope. Lots of others could easily have taken the top prize, but there is always Christmas 2021 to up your game for!

A huge thank you to everyone in South Charlton for stepping up and getting involved bringing the community together when we couldn't get together.



1st - Lorna & Gavin Turner



2nd - Alex & Tom Charlton



3rd - Derek Bowden & Bev Hope

Compost

60 litre bags
Clover Compost
£4.50 per bag

Call Bob on 579317

All profit goes to Brownieside and
South Charlton Leek Club

County Councillor Report

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook



EGLINGHAM PARISH

Eglingham – It is hoped to have the new 30mph flashing indicator sign in place at the Wooler end of the village in February {weather permitting}!

The road at West Ditchburn has now been resurfaced.

South Charlton - The path outside South Charlton Village Hall has now been completely resurfaced and looks great.

The 30mph scheme for the village is progressing

DOING THE RIGHT THING AND STAYING LOCAL

Staying Local - While most people are doing their bit to follow the guidance on staying at home to help protect the NHS and save lives, the county's countryside and coastal hotspots and villages are still seeing a large influx of visitors, especially at weekends. There has also been reports that some of our communities are finding it difficult to access local shops due to the numbers of visitors to the area.

Huge electronic signs have now been placed on key roads in Northumberland reminding people of the "Essential Travel Only – Stay Local" message, with more signs in production for town centres and country parks.

Council Leader Glen Sanderson said: "We want to thank all of those who are doing their utmost to stick with the guidance and either stay at home or stay very local when they do go out.

"We know it's difficult and none of us enjoy these restrictions but our hospitals are still under immense pressure supporting increasing numbers of patients becoming seriously ill.

"With the more transmissible variant of the virus now accounting for approximately half of the current cases, it's vital we all follow the regulations at all times.

"Currently people are asked to stay at home except for a few exceptional reasons, including for exercise. However the guidance is clear that people should stay local if they do have to go out, and if they go somewhere that is already busy, turn around and go home.

"We're doing all we can to reinforce that message, with electronic signs out at key points across the county. We would really ask people to do the right thing. Do they really need to travel any distance to do their exercise or get fresh air?

"We must all continue to stay at home except for the permitted exemptions and avoid mixing with other households, maintain social distancing, hand hygiene and the use of face coverings and do everything we can now to prevent our NHS services from becoming overwhelmed and vulnerable people in our communities from dying."

Northumberland Libraries

The Library Service are organising doorstep deliveries to the most vulnerable customers in partnership with the Support Planning team. If you know a resident

who might welcome a doorstep delivery of books, please let the library service know. Unfortunately the mobile library will not operate its normal schedule, however the library service will be reinstating befriending telephone calls. Unfortunately, Alnwick Library will remain closed. Fines on overdue books are currently suspended. The digital library continues to be available and members can access hundreds of eBooks, eAudio and magazines.

Our Digital Helpline is also still available for anyone who needs help and with getting online or accessing online services. Call 0345 600 6400 and request a call back.

Library website - <http://mylibrary.co.uk>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandlibraries/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/NlandLibs>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/nlandlibs/>

SHARE YOUR LOCKDOWN STORIES

Have you been keeping a diary of your time in lockdown, or maybe you have been writing poems about your experiences?

Then Northumberland County Council's Discover our Land campaign wants to hear from you.

The campaign team is looking for submissions from people of all ages and abilities of pieces of art, diary entries, poetry, song lyrics, sculpture, paintings, drawings, collage, knitting or anything else that you used to express yourself during lockdown.

Some of these pieces will be saved into the Northumberland Archives so that future generations can look back and know what it was like during lockdown. Other pieces will be featured in an exhibition which will go live on the Discover our Land website on March 23, to mark the one year anniversary of the first national lockdown.

Due to the nature of the storage we are only able to select a limited number of pieces to preserve, but we will do our best to include as many submissions as we can.

As well as artwork submitted, the exhibition will also include audio and videos from people who have been volunteering or working through the lockdowns.

To submit your entry go to www.discoverourland.co.uk/lockdown-stories. The following formats are accepted:

- Image - jpeg, png, bmp, tiff
- Video - mp4, mpg, mkv, avi
- Audio - mp3, wav
- Documents- Word files or pdfs

There is no limit on file size, but remember it may be difficult to attach and send very large files. If you are sending a large file, please complete the online and form and then separately email your entry to discover@northumberland.gov.uk. The deadline for entries is Monday, February 18.

A Story in 300 Words

Thanks so much for contributing to this new feature, you are excelling yourselves! The beginning line for the next issue is at the end of the piece.

Hi, -glad to see you today -Shortie...

...I reflected to myself as your silhouette above the skyline alerted me to someone unfamiliar. I had made my regular wandering above and beyond human habitation, into the world of heathers, moor-grass, bracken and sedge. Only the occasional wind-blown tree survived except in hollows where runnels fed down to more hospitable terrain. Here fences, tracks and powerlines alone betray our passage.

Your presence confirmed what would be evident had I only your eyes to see with. This bleakness, largely left alone save for ramblers, hill-farmers and grouse men, teems with hidden life. Countless thoroughfares and tunnels give home and society to myriad scampering meals, while bees and moths find plenty to taste when abating winds permit.



My pleasure at spying you was evidently not reciprocal. Initially you dipped to earth and quieted, your body tones blending perfectly with all around. As I came on you took to wing again and now flew low and direct upon me. The swoop was of an instant, a brief moment of dialogue, but it was no welcome.

Sulphurous eyes dominating your dislike visage betrayed animal fury more than interest, a statement that I had strayed into your domain. No fear or wish to conceal now, rather a display of dominance and disdain, coming straight on you passed directly above, almost in touching distance. No lingering circling contact, simply an imperious glide over your territory, onto which I had trespassed, and a dip below the edge beyond.

I've ventured back in hope of further communion, but though I'm sure the land remains in your thrall, you've chosen to stay apart.

Our otherness is profound, our concerns barely ever intersecting, and mutual understanding an illusory ambition. A moment of transient contact with an alien crated consciousness is a privilege, an epiphany of comprehending unbridgeable difference.

Perhaps one glad encounter should suffice, and memory simply be the richer for it.

Ian Smith

“Hi glad to see you today after so long” said the Gobbin to the little boy. At least that’s what he wanted to say, but Gobbins, who are shy and retiring creatures, never let themselves be seen by humans. This can be difficult because Gobbins work hard each day making chocolate treats for little girls and boys to discover and eat.

Grumble, for that was the Gobbins name, lived in a wood near a cottage. A little boy visited his Grandparents there each week, and when he visited, Grumble carefully hid the chocolate he had made for the little boy to find in the garden. In the past that had always been on a Friday. Grumble would hide in a bush to watch the little boy find the treat and eat it. The problem was the boy had not visited his grandparents for weeks and weeks. All the chocolate Grumble had made was still uneaten. He had stored it in his cupboards until they were full, then his rooms filled up. It had even filled his bath, but Grumble didn’t mind that, because he wasn’t keen on washing at all. What he did mind was the chocolate that now covered his bed. Gobbins do like a comfortable bed and last night the chocolate bars had poked his ribs, the wrapping scratched his skin and some of the chocolate had melted under his duvet and left a large messy stain.

Grumble decided he would stop making chocolate until the little boy reappeared and today he had, hooray! His Grandma and Grandad had received their Covid jab. Grumble wanted to ask the little boy to eat the chocolate filling his house, but Gobbins must not be seen or heard, that was the rule. It looks like he will be uncomfortable for a long time...

Pete

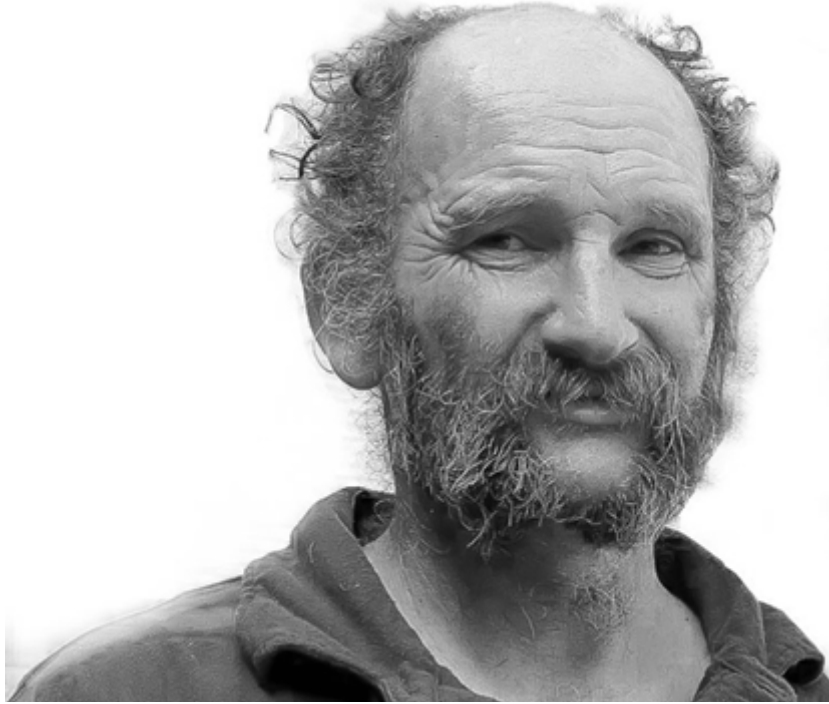
The Opening line for next month’s story is...

The snow had been falling all night and there were footprints leading into the field..

Submissions to hearabouts@outlook.com as usual



A Tree For Henry



The Parish Council have been approached by a resident suggesting that it would be a good idea to fund raise to provide a tree to be planted in the village in remembrance of Henry Knotts who died just over a year ago.

The Parish Council have agreed to support and co-ordinate fund raising for this purpose.

Henry was a well known character to everyone in the village frequently seen in his yellow fluorescent waistcoat hitching between Eglington and Alnwick and at times beyond. Henry was born in Eglington and spent his whole life in the village. His funeral service was held in the Church just over a year ago with no memorial to him in the village.

Should you wish to donate to purchasing and planting a tree in memory of Henry then please donate by transferring money to:

Bank: Lloyds Bank|

Account Name : Eglington Parish Council

Sort Code: 30-90-13

A/C No : 00048424

Reference: Henry

Or

Drop a cheque through the door at 23 Eglington Village made out to:
Eglington Parish Council

All money received will be used for the purpose outlined and any surplus will be donated to Alnwick Food Bank.

Eglington Parish Council

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

Support for sufferers of Indecision Syndrome

Where to start?

Well, perhaps the best place might be by stating categorically that here at Northumberland County Council we are highly, if not acutely aware of the increasing number of issues being faced by local people who suffer from Indecision Syndrome (or you can call it IS, I'm pretty certain it doesn't matter which).

You may not have heard of IS before, or maybe you have, I wouldn't know - I mean how could I? But if you haven't, it is, potentially, a concerning medical condition which can leave those affected feeling baffled, bewildered, mystified, bemused, confused, confounded or disconcerted about who they can turn to for help and/or counselling.

By way of a so-called response, NCC will almost certainly be putting in place a support service that will most likely, although obviously I wouldn't want to claim definitely, be able to offer guidance to those affected and, who knows, maybe even their families, too.

The objective of this service, if that's how you can describe it, will be to ensure that sufferers can access practical advice from experts like myself who will, hopefully, be able to talk them through any problems and enable them to come to reasoned decisions about what to do. Or what not to do. I'm pretty sure it would depend on the circumstances, really.

Anyway, I suppose the point of it all is that if any of your readers know of somebody with IS who could conceivably benefit from a helping hand, a sympathetic ear, or a shoulder to cry on - however they prefer to think about it - then I reckon there's a good chance we'll be there for them.

I'm delighted to say that in all probability this resource will be free. But the jury's still out on that one for now.

Many thanks,

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

A BIG THANKYOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED TO THE CARE4CALAIS APPEAL

But don't forget we're still collecting!

One load of. Winter clothing and bedding has already gone down to the depot in Kent to be taken over to the warehouse in France for refugees at the camps there. We're well on the way to collecting enough for a second load which will go as soon as lockdown is lifted.

Please drop donations off to the grain loft at East Lilburn Farm, NE66 4ED (up the stone steps by the road) or let us know if you want anything collected.

Many thanks,

Ali Wrangham

07970857603

Eglingham Village Hall : Electric vehicle charging unit

Increasing numbers of electric vehicles are coming onto the road and this trend is gathering pace. One of the concerns that needs to be addressed to help matters is the provision of more charging points and this is being encouraged by the County Council. A representative there has told us that Northumberland is one of the top counties addressing this problem and Electric Vehicle chargers are being installed at various locations with car parks throughout the County, including sports centres, supermarkets and village halls. We are looking into the feasibility of installing a charging unit at Eglingham Village Hall and are currently in contact with the County Council who are being very supportive. Their electrical contractor has so far confirmed that the Hall electricity supply would be suitable for a 7.2Kw charging point, which would be capable of charging up to two vehicles at any one time. The charging point would be in the form of a small black column 140cmsH and 30cms square which could be tucked away at the East end of the car park, against the fence.

The provision of a charging unit could be of benefit to locals as well as those with accommodation at The Tankerville.

We are seeking to help in the push to reduce harmful emissions and to do our bit for the environment. We are currently awaiting confirmation of the costs involved and are looking into whether any funding is available, for example from the County Council before considering things further.

Eglingham Village Hall Committee

Good Golly!

Well there are no prizes for guessing that my name is Molly and I sure like to...walk. You might not believe it but there are several kilos fewer of me than there was when I arrived at Alexa's Animals – I can now get a collar to fit and the coat fastens if I breathe in. I'm not a lazy dog; the weight issues started when my devoted human had a car crash and ended up having to stay at the people-vet for ages. Now that I have the collar and coat sorted out I am really enjoying gruntling through the woods when I get the chance and am looking for an owner who can manage a couple of miles at a time so I can continue to work on my figure. If a cuddle-monster lady Staffy is not your bag other dogs are available; most of them with much longer legs, which isn't difficult.

We're all a bit bored at the minute so being a cheerful sort I thought I might do a bit of blessing counting starting with the roof over my head, the (small) portions of grub, daily play on the paddock, sniffing in the sensory garden (5 stars on Kennel Adviser) and the days are getting longer. Looking back there's also the Doggy Stockings



that Santa left for each of us at Christmas with toys and treats, the success of the Santa Paws appeal at Pets At Home (their highest national total ever) and the helpful donation made by Motorcare Alnwick; big licks all round for those lovely people.

The kennel staff would also like to thank Alncom for helping out when something called "The Drier" died on the 23rd of December causing something called a "Meltdown" amongst the humans. Frankly I don't see the problem – if you didn't get stuff all wet by putting it in that thing you call "The Washer" you wouldn't need a Drier in the first place. In fact if there was less of this hygiene we dogs wouldn't need to waste valuable walkies time searching for fox poo and dead animals to roll in.

Unfortunately, as you might have guessed, the retail operation at Wooler is out of action at the moment. When regulations change please look at our Alexa's Animals North East Charity Facebook page for updates on opening.

Until then, keep on rockin' and a-rollin',

Miss Molly

Doggerel Corner

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

I've not had my Covid jab yet, have you had yours?

*I've not had my Covid jab yet,
have you had yours?*

*Do you think it's injected in the
nether regions, will I need to
drop my drawers?*

*I'm on a list or think I am, cos
I'm old and my health is not the
best*

*But there are lots before me
who need it more and my place
can't be second guessed.*

*We are told each day they are
getting better and the vaccine's
ready to roll*

*Two million a week is what
they say, but that's just the
latest Matt Hancock goal*

*And while we wait, lockdowns
back, but you can exercise if
you keep it local*

*Is 5 miles ok, they tell us not, so
why is Boris cycling 7 miles in
total?*

*I've used the web to find out
where I'm standing in that
Covid queue*

*It said maybe March, if they do well, but there's still 10 million in front of you
But that's what we Brits do best, we know our place and are prepared to stand
in line*

*And wait, and wait, and wait, and wait, until we get the jab and hope we'll still
be fine.*

*But one day soon it might all pass into the shroudy mists of time
And I can start to look for other words than Covid with which to find a rhyme
And doggerel corner might blossom forth with verses so much better than this
It's possible, but I'll not hold my breath, the political villains are still out there,
Bah! Boo! and Hiss!*

- Pete



2021 is here!

*2021 has at last arrived, 2020 has gone but we survived:
Many did not, we should remember - cases increasing 'til December.
Christmas came and Christmas went,
Some families abandoned with presents they'd spent
Good money on, collecting dust under the tree.
No grannies, no kids to shout with glee
As they tear off the paper their gifts to see.*

*These Covid statistics are part of our days,
The appearance of vaccines will change the ways
We face the New Year, with hope in our hearts.
After having the jab, in life we'll take part.
We'll plan to meet with friends again,
Drop in on our neighbours and reminisce when
The fear of Covid brought many restrictions.
Summer is coming what are our predictions?*

*Away with masks we'll frolic in the sun!
Hugs, smiles and laughter, we'll have some fun!
Tables will groan with mountains of food,
Restaurants will open, we'll be in the mood
To plan vacations and escape abroad
Sun, sand and sea no possibilities ignored,
Impulsive purchases not just Essentials:
Scarves and perfume and eyebrow pencils!*

*We can't lose heart at this late stage
Soon we'll be able to turn the page
On this great pandemic, which we hope will be over
By Easter, by Summer, or at least October*

*Stay at home, keep wishing, keep hoping, keep planning,
Normal life will return, believe and keep smiling!
- Margaret B*

Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship



After Gameweek 19, your top 3 are...

1st - Andy Gray - 1121 pts

2nd - Clair Leishman - 1042 pts

3rd - Gordon Leishman - 900 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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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.