

HEAR ABOUTS

JULY / AUG 2020

Cover: Andy Grant

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

From the Editor

We just want to thank everyone who has helped Hear Abouts out over the last few months as the world imploded (and also for your patience with us). We'll see you in early September when hopefully there will be a little more normality around...

Andy

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Social Distancing for the Socially Distant

Lockdown has been great hasn't it! (Barring the concern for the at risk or stricken friends and family and mourning those we've lost of course).

Once "social distancing" became a phrase and before Boris told us (finally) to lockdown on the 23rd of March, I wrote somewhere online "Social Distancing – Shouldn't be a problem, I've been socially distant for 43 years!"

Granted we live in a great place to be locked down in, but the reduction in our pace of life has been a blessing, peaceful roads, the constant drone of the A1 all but silenced, villages busy with residents unable to leave or working from home made for a rise in community spirit. Many hours chatting over garden gates and walls as the community's dogs got (many) extra walks.

This pace of life was great, no deadlines to meet, no forced family dinners, no wasting money going out, no hustle and bustle, no multiple Sainsburys shops a week. Heaven! The first few weeks I admit I couldn't concentrate enough to do much work as the main thoughts were, what's for the next meal and have I got enough Dairy Milk to get me through to the next essential shopping run. Having worked from home for 10 years now, nothing changed. The phone still doesn't get answered, emails get replied to after about 10 days, but being self-employed you get the chance to swivel your work in a different direction to adapt. So I'm surviving. Unfortunately many businesses couldn't and that's very sad.

Shopping – What a pleasure ...mostly! Quietly queuing to gain entry, quiet aisles, a shopping list written out in order of produce locality round the one way system. This fluid near military exercise only disturbed by lost looking women stalling at products unsure what to do when they don't spend half the day chatting to friends in said supermarket. "Pick up that tin of tuna, put it in your trolley and move! They're all the bloody same!" No long queues to checkout because there's more than 2 checkouts open! Never go back to "normal", please!

2metre rule – Before and after Covid, if you're within 2m of me, you're in my personal space – get back you bastards!

Face Masks – Brilliant! No one recognises me so I don't need to talk to them, combine it with a cap and shades and not even the government's ID tracking cameras know who I am. Oh and if you forget to brush your teeth in the morning, no biggie.

Unfortunately this had to come to a halt (for the moment anyway) as Cummings decided he needed a trip to Barnard Castle and immediately the British public stopped giving a toss. Now we have the countryside, parks and beaches being overrun and littered. Quick! Open the airports open get these folk back to Spain! Oh yes, had no holidays for a couple of months? My last holiday was Scotland 5 years ago, and the one before that was so long ago I can't even remember when or where it was! Believe me, you can cope with 3 months in Blighty.

The list of things I was going to achieve during lockdown? Not even scratched the surface, can we have another 3 years please? *Andy*

100 Club Results (The Catch-Up Edition)

April 2020

1st (£25) Mary Elliot (47)
2nd (£15) Katie Robertson (33)
3rd (£10) Jennie Lamb (66)

June 2020

1st (£25) Margaret Bell (71)
2nd (£15) Vall Hooks (88)
3rd (£10) Jackie Jones (57)

May 2020

1st (£25) Gordon Leishman (100)
2nd (£15) Andy Gray (44)
3rd (£10) Jane Marriot-Lodge (86)

July 2020

1st (£25) Joanne Angus (8)
2nd (£15) David Robinson (77)
3rd (£10) Julia Robson (7)

An invitation...



Please come along during the day on **Friday 3rd. July between 1pm and 5pm** to see for yourself how the **Tankerville Arms** has adapted to the current challenge – and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine.

We will re-open on Saturday 4th. July for food, drink and accommodation – plus the addition of a takeaway service. You can see the take-away menu on the website – www.tankervillearms.com

Amongst the measures that have been taken are:

- Long-lasting anti-coronavirus application
- Screens
- Sanitising stations
- Table separation
- Employee PPE
- Social distancing

So please come along – you will be very welcome
George and Mary Elliott,
The Tankerville Arms,
Eglingham NE66 2TX
01665578444

Churches Update

St Maurice's Church in eglingham will open for personal prayer, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, From 10am to 3pm, allowing 72 hours between openings.

This has been decided following the recent government statement and advice from the Newcastle diocese about opening churches for personal prayer.

The diocese has provided a great deal of guidance and advice about how to open churches safely at this time, therefore as you will see in the attached notice, visitors will be required to sanitise their hands when entering the church and on leaving. Also to use only the last three rows of pews at the rear of the church, and observe social distancing if others are visiting.

St Maurice's has been thoroughly cleaned, and this will be maintained between openings, and is now a welcoming, safe and peaceful place for a quiet moment.

At St James church in South Charlton

On Sunday mornings at 10.55am the church bell rings for 5 minutes to remind all who hear that we are never alone. Residents are invited to pause, pray, or light a candle for solidarity and hope.

The church building remains locked but the situation is under constant review.



Holy Trinity Church at Old Bewick

Sadly, Holy Trinity church must remain closed for the time being.

Note: Info correct at time of article submission, keep an eye on residents@ for updates

The Eglingham Calendar 2021 - Theme Change!

Since we started planning for next year's Eglingham Calendar, life for all of us has changed quite dramatically and so we have decided to reflect the events of recent months with a new theme for the calendar.

We are looking for photos reflecting how people in the parish have been coping with lockdown – examples of new hobbies perhaps, activities in the home, gardening or indeed views of wide open spaces seen on the daily walk or cycle ride that have been a part of so many people's lives, maybe how people have been supporting the work of the NHS and our carers. We would also welcome photos of views from the garden or from a window in the house. Also examples of how people have been supporting each other, though not images that identify any individual. Perhaps you have seen and photographed some unusual wildlife in the garden.

The aim is to collect a wide variety of positive images of this year so our 2021 calendar theme is Celebrating the Spirit of Eglingham.

In order to fit the calendar page, the photos need to be in landscape format (the longer side is the horizontal). Images should be sent in jpeg format to eglinghamcalendar@gmail.com and this year need a slightly more detailed description than previously. This is to put the photo fully in context. Remember also to include the name of the photographer!

The closing date for entries is Wednesday 16th September but please send your photos as soon as possible. As always, the more entries we have to choose from, the better the calendar will be.

*If you have images for the original theme of 'The Farming year –past and present' please save them as we propose to use this theme at a future date.

Julian Tyley
Eglingham Community Association

Face Masks (Coverings) for Charity

I am making washable face coverings in B&W stripes for Toon fans.

I am selling for £6 each which includes £1 towards postage - £5 per mask goes to the **Sir Bobby Robson Foundation**.

Two would be £11 - 4 would be £22.

Kay Waters
waterskp@yahoo.co.uk





EGLINGHAM PARISH

Grass Verges – Verge cutting started on June 5th.

Eglingham Traffic Design Plan – The original traffic design plan for the village has not progressed as expected at the South End of the village due to concerns regarding the installation of a pathway along the bridge as a traffic calming measure. Parish Councillors will look again at the traffic design plan and submit changes to NCC.

South Charlton – I am awaiting costings for the installation of a new path outside South Charlton Village Hall from NCC Highways, this work will be paid from my NCC Members Allowance.

30mph Speed Limit – The traffic regulation order for the speed limit change has been delayed slightly due to lockdown.

Superfast Broadband for our rural communities - With the help of inorthumberland officer, Mrs Sylvia Pringle, I recently asked all Longhoughton Ward Parish Councils to obtain a Community Fibre Partnership quote for bringing fibre to properties into your Parish for those residents and businesses who currently don't have access to Superfast Broadband. See link for more info on the Community Fibre Partnership scheme: <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/community-fibre-partnerships>

Broadband for Rural Communities – Gigabit Vouchers

As part of the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity programme business and residents in some of the hardest-to-reach places in the UK are eligible for additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project.

gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk

Anyone who would like to have more information on this project, please contact Sylvia Pringle, by email: sylvia.pringle@northumberland.gov.uk

Books by the Sea

You may have seen some little book libraries while out and about during lockdown. There are three locations currently, North Sunderland, on the back road out towards Fleetham, Embleton which many of you may be familiar with, and also one just north of Alnmouth by the coastal footpath heading in the direction of Boulmer.

Books by the Sea expect to be in a position to announce two further branches to the reading project in the near future with two new recruits to the project. The idea behind this initiative is to promote reading through the Books By the Sea network and create happenings connected to each branch involving local children, writers, illustrators, artists, runners, walkers, and even County Councillors? It is hoped that each local community will embrace their library and get involved with it. Each one really needs a steward to look after it, keep the stock presented well, rotate the stock every now and again – The books are all stamped in the library with an Ex Libris book stamp so that people can remember where they found their book. Please do get in touch if you would like to be more involved. There is a lot of information about how successful libraries have become successful here: <https://littlefreelibrary.org>.

The optimal place for people interested in the Books by the Sea project is on the Instagram account, account name is [@booksbythesea_lfl](#) There is a page on the website all about the project here: <https://emble.org/books-by-the-sea>. There is a messaging function in Instagram which is used all of the time, so people can get in contact that way. However, if anyone is not comfortable on Instagram and would rather email, then please get in touch via email hello@emble.org

There is no need at the moment for anyone to donate books at this stage, there is a lot of books in stock already. Although the project title is Books By the Sea, this does not preclude all of our rural areas from taking part at all and Longframlington have now acquired their own little library.

Every library is equipped with a spray bottle of sanitiser, donated by Seahouses Co-Op and a microfibre cloth. If people are at all wary of borrowing the books it might put their mind at ease to know that Books by the Sea are very conscious of the risk of Covid 19 and have consulted with the Little Free Library website which provides good advice. The libraries installed so far were designed carefully not to jar with their surroundings and were built with care by a local builder.

Tennis Court

Tennis at the Eglingham court has been in full swing since play was allowed again. The weather has been kind on the whole and with the long hours of daylight it seems everyone wants to get back to their favourite sport!

The WhatsApp group is buzzing with bookings. Contact Nicky Dickinson on 07919 172355 if you want to join the group.

Social distance has been observed and players have been using their own balls. Coaching with Grant Watson has started on Fridays for juniors and seniors and if there's enough interest, evening sessions

with be available too. Contact Grant on 07921 078198

On July 4 the tennis hut will be reopened with hand sanitizer and wipes available inside, which must be used if playing with communal racquets and balls. We'll restart the competition tennis ladder then too.

Tennis was one of the first sports to restart during the pandemic and the court is once again proving what a great asset it is to our village.

The setting is ideal, sheltered and peaceful and we all appreciate the work the Eglingham Community Association do caring for the parish field and particularly the magnificent herbaceous border.

We all feel very lucky to play tennis on a court in such beautiful surroundings.



Extraordinary Times

'May you live in interesting times' goes the Chinese proverb. There's a rich irony!

Three months into this crisis I'm getting used to this socially distant world I suppose. I do miss having a pint, a bar meal or going for an 'Injun'. This has been replaced by Zoom drinks parties, but it's not the same when you have to drink your own booze. And as for Zoom quizzes, I seem to do particularly poorly when all are self-marking - strange that? Too thick or maybe too honest, me!

I should be fairly attuned to epidemics having lived and worked through Foot and Mouth (twice); Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE) and the Horse Meat Scandal. The latter two were somewhat self-induced, all be it not by the farmers themselves, but by processors bending to the ever downward price pressure from ultimately consumers looking for ever cheaper steaks.



But those dramas paled to insignificance compared to this genuine pandemic. I'm sure like me you were horrified to hear of the loss of the enigmatic Allan Jones to Covid 19. He will be sorely and hugely missed by his family, all at Hedgeley and the wider community. His wit and wisdom as he sat like Buddha on his bar stool in the Tanky, and his kindness, are such a loss. Allan's leaving has brought the crisis frighteningly close to home.

This crisis has for once affected farming somewhat less than other industries. When



I ask farmers how their self-isolating is going, they say "but I do that all the time anyway, particularly when I'm lambing", or "wey, I was socially distant afore it was fashionable".

With the closure of restaurants and food

outlets we've seen wobbles in the red meat market. But generally lamb prices have held up well, and cattle fully better, recently. And as far as how the lambing itself went, weather conditions were nigh perfect, this memorable Spring. So any farmer who moans about having had a bad lambing has only himself to blame. Lamb crops are therefore good and this recent rain should ensure they now have plenty of grass to eat. So there'll be plentiful supplies to look forward to this autumn which invariably means a difficult, possibly over-supplied, selling market. The difference now is the marketing, which has become much more fraught. At auction marts social distancing

rules apply. Sellers have to drop their stock off and leave the premises. Only buyers may attend, keeping two metres apart and those over 70 years of age are precluded. So that's excluded about 70% of farmers! This is all far from satisfactory for trading. But as ever the market (the interaction of supply with demand to establish the price) will prevail, no matter how it's arrived at. Inevitably crises create innovative solutions. My company may not have the solution but have a part to play. Since we established ourselves as livestock brokers 25 years ago we have evolved into an internet based business. We have had an exceptionally busy spring presenting farmer's livestock on line, on our website (www.borderlivestock.co.uk) and on Facebook where we have up to 30,000 followers. (I let the yoofts in our offices, now in their bedrooms, manage our Facebook presence, and keep a very emphatic distance with my private presence - I don't want any pictures of me horizontal at a wedding (remember them?) on it). We have even managed to conduct a Farm Machinery Sale by tender on line which went amazingly well.



So all in all I think the farming community have been touched by this dreadful crisis less than many other communities. Although rarely mentioned in the list of key workers, it must not be forgotten that they are key workers too - they supply the supermarkets that keep you fed. The gratitude to the health workers has been rightly enormous and it is to be hoped that the general kindness and looking out for one another by everyone that has become so much more evident becomes an ongoing and lasting legacy of the Covid Crises.

I know some farmers, particularly those in pretty areas and National Parks have been inundated with tourists, some leaving litter, which is reprehensible, but my sympathies with their protests are a little thin. If I'd been cooped up in a flat in Byker with three under ten year olds for ten weeks I'd be desperate to break out up Ingram valley to get fresh air and sunshine. Farmers must remember they get quite a bit of public money so must put up with a bit of public.



I think that we all must feel incredibly blessed that we all live in the beautiful place where we live and can do what we all can do, unencumbered.

Jamie Logan

Remember when we could travel? This was written for us back in those days...

Kandinsky Gave Me Blisters

I am at a little café most of the way up Pico del Teide, the volcano at the centre of Tenerife. The bus is carrying largely elderly people and this 'comfort' stop is probably for all those on diuretics to manage their blood pressure. There are a lot of us out there. Comfort managed, I go to the counter and get a coffee then saunter out on to the terrace to enjoy the view. A pleasant looking gent approached. 'You from Newcastle' he said in an unmistakable Geordie accent. 'Close, I said. North Northumberland.' 'Ahh. Man



it's grand t' hear the Northern Accent again. A've been doon in Birmingham for the last twenty year.' 'God yes, I sympathised, you must get sick of all that kipper tie malarkey'. From nowhere, up popped a small round face. 'Oi loiyk a kipper tie, oi do.' I had just met the wife.

Four days into life in Puerto de la Cruz. What to do next. Been on the tour. There are no more volcanos to climb. There is no beach, but I am not one for lounging about anyway. 'The Botanical Gardens, dahling, we can go around this afternoon'. PJ was enthusiastic and I thought they would be worth the effort. Not much else in the Port of the Cross. Not even a cross as far as I could see. 'We'll take the bus,' I said. PJ looked dubious. 'Or a taxi,' she ventured.

We wandered along to the bus terminal at the end of the road. Brand new station, with brand new shiny green busses whizzing in and out. Travelsure it was most certainly not. We jumped on the number 8 which would stop at the Gardens. 'Gosh, said PJ, only one euro 40. Cheap dahling, that would have been a tenner in a taxi'. And off we went.

'What's your favourite gallery' I asked. Oh, The Rijk's. It's fantastic. I love it in there.' We launched into our gallery trips, Rothko, Dali, The Miro Foundation in Barcelona, The National, what we liked and what we didn't. I glanced out of the window at The Botanical Hotel.

'Kandinsky! Exclaimed PJ, love Kandinsky'.

'Yep, with you on that. I have one of his pictures as my little id picture on a government chat hub I use. Where did you see his stuff'?

'The Rijk's'.

'There are no Kandinsky's in the Rijk's I said. At least there wasn't when I was there'.

'It must have been when I went to the Stedelijk with my Aunt'.

I looked out of the window. Fields. Bus moving at 70 miles an hour. A sign flashed by. We were heading to Santa something or other. I looked at PJ. Hmmm.

I asked the driver for the Botanical Gardens. He gabbled away in Spanish, as they do when you are in Spain, then kicked us out at a tiny bus shelter on the dual carriageway. PJ, dressed in some floaty, flouncy green material and a pair of flip flops. Me much more reserved in shirt, shorts and trainers. We darted over four lanes of traffic, with the excitable locals wishing us well with many a toot on their horns. Then began a long trek back to Puerto de la Cruz. Flip flop. Flip flop. Flip flop. Don't know where they get their name from.



Figure 1 Our bus shelter. Look closely. It is behind the sign.

Eventually the town hove into view. We now had a pavement instead of the side of the road to walk on. The well wishers stopped tooting. We came to the Botanical Gardens. Might have taken a bit longer than we expected, but we were there. Turned the corner to the main entrance gate which bore a sign:

THESE GARDENS ARE CLOSED DUE TO STORM DAMAGE.

There was a great big padlock on the gate in case you could not read.

'Drink said PJ. I need a drink'

Hayheck

A Shaggy Dog Story

Oops, sorry; my microphone was on mute so you missed the intro! I'm Barney and I arrived here at Patterson's Cottage about a month ago. As you can probably tell – although you may have got used to dodgy coiffures on screen – I am as desperate for the groomers to open as you are for the hairdressers to break out the shampoo and sharpen their scissors. At my last home I didn't get much in the way of exercise yet the grub was in plentiful supply, the staff said I had something called K9OBCD (not sure about the spelling but that's what it sounded like).



Here it is like Slimming World with tons of exercise and measured meals but I am a much happier chap.

Things are returning to normal for both parts of Alexa's Animals; the boarding kennels are now open for customers and we are allowed to open the shop in Wooler again. Some of our volunteer retailers are under the vet and have to shield so opening hours are limited to between **11am and 3pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays**. If you have items to donate please hang on to them a little bit longer until there's a full team available to deal with them – thank you for your patience.

Those of you in need of a new online purchasing opportunity might like to have a look at our latest innovation – the **Alexa's Animals Dog Rescue Charity Sales** page on **Facebook**. Not the snappiest title but it contains all the right words for an internet search. This is where you will find top quality items that are a bit big to put in the shop – guards to keep dogs like me safely in the back of the car, furniture, fitness equipment -that sort of thing. There are no dates for street collections yet but I am really looking forward to that getting started; Chance has told me it is a good day out and I will get lots of pats, kind words and treats.

I am not the only one looking for a home, if I am too big and hairy, we have an equally big but less hairy Rottweiler, a sleek and slender Saluki or a small and snuggly terrier to name but three so please have a look at us on www.alexasanimals.com
Hope you have a lovely summer,

Barney

The Covid Creative Corner

Lots of us have suddenly had plenty of time on our hands. Time we'd spend usually going to work, or other inane activities and we've had the chance to spend time being creative!

If you'd like to send in examples of your lockdown creations, please email pics etc to the usual address.

First up is Sue Smith, who has been busy sewing! ...or as she calls it "The Lockdown Sewathon"





and more fantastic paintings by Jean Sawyer



Desert Island Discs - Jess Angus

Needless to say, working from home and having a completely different lifestyle over the past couple of months has given me plenty time to write this. However, I am a musical person and I have a very varied taste in music so here it goes... I have only chosen 6 songs as there is a word count to keep to and for those who know me, I talk a lot. (If anyone is still wanting to get involved, please feel free to get in contact! My details are on the back of the magazine).



Rotterdam (Or Anywhere) – The Beautiful South

This song has a very happy melody, but very cutting lyrics. It's a fun song to sing along to and it would give me something to giggle along to.

Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen

It is an all-round classic, by a classic band. However, this is one of my favourite songs. I will always remember having a bus full of 14-15 year olds in the middle of Paris, stuck by the Arc De Triumph belting this out because we were being held up by the riots happening at the time. We managed to get another bus next to us to join in.

Tragedy – The Bee-Gees/Steps

Again, another classic song. But as soon as I hear the intro to this, I think back to a certain memory shared by my mother and cousin. Sitting in the truck one day when I was roughly 8/9 years old, checking the sheep in the field behind PJ's house and this song came across the radio. My cousin and I getting very excited, thining it was the Steps cover, to begin singing and dancing until we heard the very high pitched BeeGees. We were horrified and sat in silence glaring at the radio. I believe that mum had to stop the truck as she was laughing so hard...

Highway to Hell – ACDC

I am a HUGE speedway fan and I am missing it terribly on a Saturday night. For those who do not know what Speedway is, it is motorbike racing but, with no breaks and speeds around 60 mph. This song is played every time the Berwick Bandits come out for the "Rider Parade" at the beginning of every match. Each rider is introduced and they give a cheeky wave to the fans. It is also used at the beginning of each race (there's 15 in total). I would have to have this in my playlist to that I can reminisce on all the races I have seen over the past 12+ years.

He's A Pirate – Klaus Badelt and Hans Zimmer for the movie soundtrack of "Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl"

In the words of Captain Jack Sparrow, if I am "marooned on this god forsaken spit of land", I can at least channel Mr Depp's character and find my way off... be it using Sea Turtles. Having this playing in the background will allow me to keep focussed. And hopefully find a hidden stash of Rum.

Adiemus – Adiemus and Karl Jenkins

There are many versions of this classical, chilled out piece of music and I like them all. I plan on having this piece of music playing full blast when I leave this island on my Sea Turtles. What a fantastic "leaving" track, whilst looking in to the sunset. I first heard this track when I was around 10 years old on a classical "chillout" album my mum owned. I played it that often that I may have worn the CD out (yes, I can remember CD's!).

Book - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night – Mark Haddon

A strange choice as it is aimed for young people aged from 12 to 14 years old. But, this book gives a great insight to the mind of a young boy on the Autistic Spectrum. It is funny, upsetting and intriguing. But every time I read it, you pick up on more detail the author has put in to the book. For example, all the page numbers are prime numbers... I refer to this book a lot working in the sector I do because not only is it entertaining, it is also educational – for adults and children.

Luxury Item - Matches

You can do a lot with matches, from making a fire to creating new materials/alcoholic beverages. 'nuff said!

Letters to the Editor...

Dear sir/madam,

New, health-enhancing waste disposal scheme

I would be grateful if you could please reproduce this letter in your publication as I'm keen to alert residents in the area to a new initiative we intend trialling next month.

Over the past few weeks our 'Blue Sky Thinking Team' has been hosting a really amazing series of super-serious, in-depth focus groups (via Zoom, of course!) to understand what the residents of our county think about the big issues of the day. The topics raised included the current Covid-19 pandemic (naturally!), climate change, the economy, race relations, tree hugging and so on.

However, what has emerged as by far and away the biggest 'hot topic' concerning people right now is the fortnightly task of putting out the rubbish. In fact, almost 103% of participants told us it is a tedious, soul-destroying chore that can result in serious mental health problems and has caused many to turn to drink.

So we have put on our thinking caps and come up with a brilliant new idea which we hope will help alleviate the hidden anguish of putting out the rubbish. We've called it 'Sack The Stress' and all people have to do is post their rubbish to us in a black bin bag and we will put it out for them.

If the scheme is successful we are planning to open it up to those who usually prefer to dispose of their rubbish by throwing it out of a car or van window. Once we've received their usual mix of energy drinks bottles, McDonald's cartons, Costa Coffee cups, empty beer cans and the like, a number of Council vehicles will then tour the highways and byways of the county, which we will litter liberally on their behalf.

By offering this service we hope to live up to our team motto: 'Never stop pushing the envelope of life (but don't forget to recycle it once you've removed the plastic bit)'.

Yours faithfully,

Dee Tritus
Blue Sky Thinking Team
Northumberland County Council

Observations from a Tricycle

Once upon a time, in a previous life, I learned the Japanese craft of oshibana. This entails collecting flowers, pressing them and then making pictures, note cards, bookmarks, etc. Finding myself bored during lockdown, I decided to see if I could resurrect this ancient art. My personal lockdown actually began back in November last year, when I injured my knee while on a cycling holiday with Bill Purvis in Portugal. As a result, I had been housebound at Rock Nab ever since. So, when spring arrived, desperation to get out into the fresh air came along with it. Step one was to purchase an e-trike, as my walking skills were limited while waiting, possibly forever, for the elusive new knee. Waking early one morning the picture of a tricycle flashed before my eyes. After a bit of research, I discovered that cycle shops were considered as 'essential', and low and behold there was a tricycle manufacturer in York, called Jorvik Tricycles.

First it was necessary to master the idiosyncrasies of the wayward tricycle, which is determined to drive its rider into the verge at any hint of the slightest camber on the road. However, landing in a grass verge frequently allowed me to start noticing the spring shoots beginning to appear. Those driving hurriedly along in their cars may never have noticed the sprinkling of bluebells as you travel through South Charlton on the B6347. I searched in vain for the lesser celandines which look like bright yellow stars when preserved. But such a charming surprise to see an abundance of primroses near Shipley Hill. Meanwhile the gorse is changing into broom, and cow parsley is starting to show off its delicate flowers becoming taller every day. Little did I know that these fragile, lacy flowers would not be there forever. They were replaced in early June by a much sturdier white bloom known as hogweed. When I lived on an island in the Pacific there were no seasons, so if I wanted a bit of decorative fern, maidenhair was available all year round. Now I'd better grab a couple of bracken fronds to divide up in case it suddenly turns brown without notice.

So, tricycling along I'm seeing clumps of bright red clover and the lovely delicate red campion, whose buds hang like bells. There's lots of purple/blue tufted vetch, which probably goes unnoticed by most folk as they hurry by, and its season seems to be quite long lasting, thankfully. Soon there are also groups of yellow meadow vetchling, or is it common birdsfoot trefoil or maybe it is horseshoe vetch. They all look very similar in my copy of the Observer's Book of Wild Flowers 1978 edition.

You have to look really closely in the shade to spot the tiny herb Robert, which grows in abundance at the bottle bank; one of my regular stopping places. Likewise, you need to stand and stare to spot the little blue speedwells. I've never before seen the ox-eye daisy and now, wonder of wonders, there are masses of wild purple geraniums – I thought they only grew in gardens. Looking up in the hedgerows the dog rose is coming into bloom, both white and pink. And all the time we are continually accompanied en route with daisies and buttercups.

Of course, it is illegal to pick or dig up wild flowers in parks and on roundabouts. But hopefully I'm not breaking the law by selecting a few blossoms here and there to preserve and share with friends in faraway places.



A finished card with buttercup, vetch, cow parsley, bracken fern and wild geranium.

Vanessa Braidwood

Inaugural Village Cycle Ride

A few like minded people from Eglington village have taken up the challenge of getting more bike fit and completed a relaxed 17 mile cycle ride through surrounding quiet lanes, going as far as Glanton and Branton via Bolton and returning through Beanley. The weather was fantastic and the views amazing. The quiet tranquil roads helped the hardy gang to fully enjoy the vistas despite the odd hill and slipped gear. Riding in a socially distanced group was good fun and a follow up trip is planned. Current restrictions limit outdoor exercise groups to 6 but we are hopeful that the group will grow in the future and regular group cycling trips can be established. There are many wonderful quiet roads to explore and others are welcome to join us on future trips. Road bikes, hybrids and electric bikes, lycra/non lycra are all welcome - we draw the line at anything with an internal combustion engine!



Contact Phil Kennedy at- philipjjkennedy@gmail.com

Phil Kennedy

Helicopters, Money Trees and the Zombie Apocalypse

When Covid 19 hit us, the latest disaster of a never-ending string of disasters, the over reaction was dramatic. We did not react like this for war, bank crashes, another war, Sars, Bird Flu, more war, Aids or any of the other appalling cockups that we inflict on ourselves. Close down 25% of the economy.

Being someone who dabbles in the stock market a bit, one of the first things I noticed was the stimulus packages that governments around the world started talking about. They were huge. Trillions. Money no object. Whatever it takes. And this was not going in to the M4 money supply to aid the banks (though some of it will, they have started Quantative Easing again), this was helicopter money going to the general population in the form of cold, hard cash. The population spend the cash and the economy bounces back to health. That's the plan.

In reality, this is a huge transfer of wealth, from the debt of the Nation to the profit of business via the population. This is how it works: If your country has its own bank and fiat currency (Pound, Dollar, Yen, Renminbi, whatever), you can print or lend as much money as you like. You can always pay the bill as you just print whatever amount you need to cover it. The check and balance is inflation. But providing you have a large enough functioning economy, there will be enough money in the system to cover a bill for Trillions and then some. Imagine it like this: The total income of the country is like the total income of a household. You can get a mortgage based on total income of your household. So the country can print itself its own mortgage and providing the countries income is constant and does not drop, everything should be hunky dory as it can always pay the bill.

Doing this can devalue your currency a little, but if America, Europe and Japan pile in with money creation at the same time then your currency stays equal, as everyone is doing the same thing. This is Modern Monetary Theory, MMT for short. Magic Money Tree if you are a non-believer. The money that is created is the debt of the Nation and the debt belongs to the whole nation, not that they know it as they queue at Primark and Mac'y D's. Anyway, the money is helicoptered in to the general public, be it through furlough schemes, VAT reductions, rent holidays, direct handouts (Germany are giving each family 1,000 euros) or other incentives, and they spend the loot on all sorts of Critically Required Affordable Products. New Apple iPhones, subscriptions to Disney/Netflix, Adidas track suits, Fruit of the Loom clothing from a grateful Berkshire Hathaway (who happen to need the loot this year), bought from Amazon using PayPal. All of these companies take your tokens of debt, provide you with your Critically Required ...(ok – enough) and drool as the government sponsored stimulus makes their profits boom.

This transfer is in the process of happening and is why many shares are back and ahead of pre Covid prices. Tech companies are flying. But not the zombies. There will be one good thing to come out of this. Zombie apocalypse. Bring it on.

Hayheck

Thanks

I'm sure everyone in South Charlton would like to join me in saying thank you to Sue Jackson for supplying the whole village with brilliantly crafted face coverings BEFORE there was official recommendations to use them in certain situations. There is a hell of a lot of work gone into making them.

Thank you Sue!

Andy Gray



Food For Thought

I thought it might be worthwhile correcting a couple of misconceptions concerning estates and inheritance.

First misconception, In England there is no such thing as a common law wife or husband. So if you and your partner do not have any form of a legal document tying your estates together i.e. a marriage certificate, then there is no automatic transfer of an estate in the event of death. No matter how long you have been together. In other words, your Partner will not automatically inherit from you. If, like many people you were previously married and you are separated but never went through the formality of a divorce involving a decree absolute, then sadly your ex-spouse is still your next-of-kin and yes, he or she will inherit your estate.

If you have children from your previous marriage below the age of majority (18 years) they cannot inherit directly and the courts will appoint a guardian for the children and yes again, it will probably be their mother, even if you are divorced. This will be because as you are not married to your current Partner; your children are your next of Kin and yes again, your ex-spouse as their appointed Guardian will also have access to your estate on their behalf. You might say 'that's ok because I am happily married and if I die it will all go to my wife anyway so I don't need a Will. Wrong again. Testacy law states that if you are married with no Will (die intestate) your wife/husband will get £250,000 and the rest goes into trust for her/him and your children. (a life interest)

The only way to guarantee your estate goes where you want it to go is by writing a Will. But it must be a good Will and not an off-the-shelf document as that could be worse than no Will at all.

Second misconception, Is to do with property. Many people have thought it a good idea to put their house in the name of their children. It would appear to make sense, 'we are not going to move again, when we die it is all going to the kids and it will stop the local authority taking it if we have to go into care'. Although this would appear to be a sensible approach and sadly I have to say I have come across a number of Clients where this has been done on professional advice. It is a big mistake. Under such an arrangement the only rights you have are those of a normal residential tenant. If one or more of your children are married and were to divorce, your house will form part of a divorce settlement as one of their assets and may have to be sold. Or if one of your children is declared bankrupt the bank can take the property as part of your child's assets. Worse still, if one of your children were to die, their share of your house will be transferred to their spouse and if the spouse re-marries? I leave you to work that bit out for yourself! If none of this happens and you and your spouse die and the children decide to sell your house they will face a very large capital gains tax bill as they will have sold their share in a second property.

The only safe way to transfer the property to the children is via a Trust which gives you protection and the right to stay in your property. In other words no one can put you out of your home or force it's sale.

If I have given you something to think about and you would like to discuss it please give me a call on 07771905936 or email me on marriottlodge@gmail.com. Also a video call on messenger or WhatsApp. I can discuss your situation and take an instruction from you without having to meet in person.

Peter Marriott-Lodge

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.

Next Issue:
Early September
Please continue to submit content as normal

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

Covid-19 Help and assistance

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

Eglingham area:

Jane Hamilton - 01668 217179 mob: 07546 487121 jane.hamilton99@sky.com

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.