

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

From the Editor

Well, May was a bit miserable wasn't it? Cold, wet ...people from elsewhere milling about on our beaches! What has the world come to?! At least the pubs are open again though and as I type this the weather looks

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more spring-like than what we've had over the last month. Just in time for the Bank Holiday weekend, we're promised some warmer temperatures - maybe my tomato plants will begin to grow now...

Anyways, some news to share... I've decided to do another book of my photography! Oh, no wait. That's not relevant to Eglingham Parish.. what might be is that my fellow councillors nominated me to become the new Chair now that David Alston has stepped down from the Parish Council entirely. Thanks for your service David!

Being raised in, and living in the Parish for 44 years now - I think I'm the most qualified, so I accepted.

Whereas David was an experienced committee man, I'm more of a lone wolf and quite relaxed when it comes to "rules", so for the time being cut us some slack as I, and the rest of us all bed into our new roles on the Parish Council. But I do lookforward to sticking my nose into everything in the coming years!;)

Andy

Next Issue:
Early July

All content must be recieved by the 20th of June

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 WI

Although no reports have been submitted to Hear Abouts over the last year our WI has been active for some months now. Obviously, there have been no meetings in the

village hall since March 2020 but members have been in contact with each other.

Before lockdown a programme for 2021 had been planned but that had to be put on hold. However, before Christmas it was decided to present each of our members with a 'you have not been forgotten' gift. A team from the committee worked very hard sourcing and planting containers with a variety of spring bulbs

and then these were delivered to each member.

Early this year it was decided to use Zoom for our meetings, with speakers, and we now



have regular monthly meetings using this approach. In March we had a really interesting talk on Scandinavia with lots of slides of that part of the world. In April it was a vegetarian/vegan cookery demonstration, but we

did miss the aromas and tasters normally associated with these kinds of events. For this month there was a speaker talking about the history of rock and roll with music. Our next meeting in June will be a cheese tasting event.

Pat Ives

Breaking News:
State Controlled Media
source 'Hear Abouts'
declares A New Chairman
for Eglingham Parish
Council

After several years of subliminal indoctrination and susceptibility to



the propaganda of *Hear Abouts* since its taking over 11 years ago, fellow councillors fell into the long laid trap of nominating **Andy Gray** as new Chairman of the Parish Council.

Quoting his hero, Emperor Palpatine of the first Galactic Empire, his acceptance speech opened with the cry of "UNLIMITED POWERRRR!!".

God help us all...

Gardening continues at Eglingham Community Field

After the long period of dry cold weather, which extended the flowering season of the spring daffodils, recent rain and slightly milder conditions have encouraged rapid growth and new colour in the Community Garden. From the bright yellow of the cowslips to the pale green of the tall grasses and golden early growth of the spiraea, there is plenty to enjoy for visitors to the Field at this time of year. The ECA gardeners are currently busy spreading the contents of the old compost heap, well rotted after fully two years and ideal for feeding the plants and improving the soil in the garden.

There is also plenty of work to be done dealing with the sudden growth of weeds. The late winter frosts have taken their toll of some plants, with early tender growth of the hydrangeas scorched, but fortunately there are signs of recovery with new buds appearing lower down the plant and at ground level. It is a similar story with fuschias so while the flowering season for these shrubs may be delayed, there should still be a good



supply of colour in the garden as the year progresses.

The gardeners are usually busy at work at the Field on Monday afternoons and at this time of the year there is always a lot to be done so any extra pairs of hands to assist with weeding would be very welcome! We have a supply of tools available and are happy to offer guidance to any novice gardeners.

Julian Tyley
Eglingham Community Association



Church Services

Regular Sunday services have resumed.

Services at **Old Bewick** will continue to be held on the first Sunday of each month,

Eglingham church; 2nd Sunday. 10am **South Charlton**; 3rd Sunday. 11am

Little Acorns Art Competition

Here are the winners of a recent art competition organised by our parent committee. Several of our neighbours grandchildren entered and all present & past children (of the right ages) were invited to take part. (many in the parish)

The Competition theme was 'what makes me happy' and entries in 3 categories were invited -drawing, painting and photography.

Winners for the photography competition were:

1st - Caroline Hester and a picture of her dog.

2nd - Daisy Burgess and a picture of her brother

3rd - Sofia Bonnett and a picture of all her favourite people.

Winners of the drawing Competition were; 4years and under

- 1. Ruby with Rapunzel
- 2. Eliza Whitfield with Robin
- 3. Charlie Burgess with Fireworks 5-9year olds
- 1. Ella Wynne with Waterfall
- 2. Ethan Arthur with Trees
- 3. Mila Arthur with Hens







Letters to the Editor...

Sir,

Ghost writer required

Please could I ask whether any of your readers would be able to put me in touch with a good ghost writer as I am thinking of publishing the story of my life and could probably use some assistance.

If it helps to whet anyone's appetite for the job, I've enjoyed what I consider to have been a rather unusual and varied existence, which started on the night I was left in a basket on the doorstep of No. 10 Downing Street.

It was Marcia Williams, Harold Wilson's fragrant private and political secretary who found me, took me in and hid me for several years in a cupboard under the stairs. Once I was eventually discovered, Harold, then Ted Heath and Jim Callaghan were all good enough to allow me to stay and preside over every aspect of foreign policy. But sadly this all came to an abrupt end when, as a direct consequence of her draconian fiscal policies, I was branded a freeloader and unceremoniously kicked out onto the street by Margaret Thatcher.

Within a year, however, I had found fame and fortune by becoming the first person to circumnavigate the globe on a lilo, and as a result I was invited to paddle to the USSR to meet Mikhail Gorbachev. Having successfully persuaded him to dismantle the entire Soviet Union I returned to the UK to work as a body double for Melvyn Bragg, while spending my spare time writing a string of hit songs for artists such as Prince, REM, Motorhead and Boyz II Men.

The many unforgettable months I spent coaching Mohammed Ali aside, perhaps the happiest time of my life was the 20-year spell I spent as commander of the International Space Station, during which I was struck by a meteorite while performing a particularly audacious extravehicular activity. This caused me to become separated from the station, but over the course of six harrowing months I was able to make my way back into the Earth's atmosphere by performing a freestyle backstroke manoeuvre which propelled me ever-closer towards the horror of re-entry. After streaking through the evening sky like a cosmic fireball, I was found steaming profusely by the crew of a mini-sub that just happened to have surfaced beside me in the shallow waters off Anglesey. This vessel, I soon discovered, was operated by a ruthless Columbian drugs cartel and was laden with several hundred tonnes of illegal narcotics which they had recently stolen from the mafia.

Anyway, I'm never going to sell any books if I keep giving it all away like this. If anyone has any information regarding a ghost writer, please could they contact me by leaving a note down the back of the seat in the Eglingham bus shelter. One of my witness protection programme handlers will collect it just as soon as the coast is clear.

Many thanks,

Charlie Mugs (nom de plume, bien sûr)

Dear Sir

I note that your publication does not have an obituaries page, as such I have written with the following enclosure which I think will be of interest to your readers.

It is with sadness that the well known local academic, noted author and raconteur Daedalus B Bopalula has passed away, apparently by his own hand, having been falsely accused and subsequently incarcerated for crimes he did not commit. It was reported by the Coroner that Mr Bopalula forced himself to eat a slice of humble pie, on which he subsequently choked. He will be sadly missed by his pet tarantula, who it is reported to have escaped during an attempt by the RSPCA to repatriate him to South East Asia.

Last reported the tarantula, who goes by the name 'Hirsute', was seen heading in the direction of Titlington Mount by amateur naturalist Jane Hamilton, who regularly walks her dogs Paddy and Piper in that area. Residents in the vicinity are asked to keep alert for sightings.

Yours Mr B. Y. Ovid

A Story in 300 Words

This month's start was.. "One, two, buckle my shoe" -Next month's starting point is... "You need to get a hobby" she said - "What do you think you're going to do with your time?"

"One, two, buckle my shoe...three, four"......drat who is that knocking on my door? Can't I be left in peace whilst I am trying to analyse the semantic symbolism of this Georgian gem of a childhood counting rhyme.

"All right I'm coming".

I stamped across my study and threw open the door with great irritation. The man who stood before me smiled slightly

"Good evening professor" he said softly "Forgive me, we haven't been introduced but I know of you by reputation. Can you spare me a moment of your time, I have a matter of great import to discuss with you."

I was slightly flustered, I had expected the intrusion to be one of my lacklustre students rather than this softly spoken, but somehow slightly menacing gentleman.

"I suppose you had better come in" I muttered as I stepped back from the door to allow him in.

No sooner had I done that, he stepped swiftly forward pirouetting as he came to turn and slam the door closed behind him. Turning back toward me his smile was quite different now, more malevolent and intimidating.

"Now professor, I'd like to talk to you about your work. Of course when I say work I don't mean these childish nursery rhymes you publish in your research. I'm talking about your more sinister activities on behalf of the KGB. I have evidence that you are responsible for the latest breach of our security codes which has done incalculable harm to our interests and those of the western alliance."

A cold shiver gripped me. Until now I thought I'd covered my espionage perfectly. I casually reached for my concealed Beretta pistol.

"Be very careful what you do next professor" he said. I grabbed for my pistol, two shots rang out. After which only one of us was left standing...

Pete

County Councillor Report

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EGLINGHAM PARISH

Eglingham 30mph flashing speed indicator – The new speed sign is now in place at the North End of the village.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON WASTE IN NORTHUMBERLAND

Residents are being asked to give thier views on waste management in the county by filling in this year's Waste Services Customer Satisfaction Survey.

The survey is an opportunity for participants to provide feedback on their experiences and interactions with council household waste disposal services, including:

- Weekly bin collections (rubbish and recycling wheeled bins)
- Bulky waste collection service
- Garden waste service
- Local recycling points (glass and textile banks)
- Household Waste Recovery Centres (the tip)
- Other household waste disposal services

By taking part, residents have the chance to win a £50 prize. To be entered into the prize draw, complete the questionnaire and provide contact details when requested.

Greg Gavin, Head of Neighbourhood Services for Northumberland County Council, said: "The council is constantly reviewing how services are delivered to residents and customers across the county.

"To help shape future service delivery, we want to capture the views and experiences of those who use our services.

"I encourage all residents to spare a few minutes to help us improve our services and possibly win £50!" $\,$

Responses should be submitted by Saturday 12 June.

For more information about waste, bins and recycling in Northumberland, visit: www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste

Litter Picking

A big thanks to Sue Giles of South Charlton for regularly sweeping the verges from the village to the A1 to tackle the increased littering on this road.

If you see anyone littering, remember to report them.



Eglingham WI Afternoon Tea Boxes

To celebrate and mark NHS day in July, Eglingham WI are offering for sale afternoon tea boxes to raise funds for health care workers as a thank you for all their amazing work during the recent pandemic.

Each box will include a generous selection of homemade savory and sweet afternoon tea "goodies" and orders will be hand delivered locally to your door on Sunday 4th July.

The cost of each box is £10 per person

We will require orders to be placed in advance by tuesday, 29th June 2021. To do this please contact:

Joan Sharp by email <u>joansharp56@icloud.com</u>
A confirmation email will be sent to confirm receipt of order.

Please include your name, full address and contact telephone number together with the number of boxes you require. Payment can be made to Eglingham WI by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

Please indicate preferred method of payment when ordering.

We do hope you will support this fundraising event which, we feel sure you'll agree, is for a good cause.

A Quiet Life?

Have you ever wondered about the sacrifices we would have to make if we were ever overruled by Aliens? Unfortunately, I do. A lot. So much that my mother now blocks my messages at a certain time every night. And it has caused some dilemmas.

This story came about a few weeks ago and it has been a topic of discussion with everyone I have spent time with recently - unfortunately

for them.

If you have ever seen the movie "A Quiet Place" starring Emily Blunt, you will understand this a bit more. If you don't, the plot line is based around blind Aliens with an acute sense of hearing. They will kill anything or anyone that makes a noise. I mean the whole movie is entertaining but fantastically farfetched. If you don't like suspense horrors, I suggest you watch it during the daytime.

Back to the dilemma... the main thought that completely overtook my mind was "I'm going to have to shoot Vinnie". Morbid I know but, if anyone knows my dog, they know that he is rather gobby as well as clumsy. Vinnie will bark at a single blade of grass if it moves half a millimetre. To be quite frank, he is currently grumbling at a bird that has landed in the garden, whilst backing away from it as I write this.

If our world was to be taken over by the Aliens from this movie, there is no way I could keep him quiet. So my thought process tries to think of ways I could keep him quiet. I could get is voice box (if that is a thing in dogs, I'm not a vet!) removed. It will stop the constant talking and barking



but, there's his clumsiness. Even if he were to break a stick under his gangly legs, the Aliens will eat him. I could buy one of those backpack type carriers for him and carry him on my back whenever we need to travel anywhere - that could sort it. But, when he needed the toilet, I'd have to let him walk around - that will cause noise. In my head, I cannot think of an Alien ruled world where I could keep Vinnie. He'd have to be put down. I discussed this at length with my mother to the point she told me to leave her alone and hung up on me. If I was her, I would have done the same thing.



Queue a random night with PJ and some wine. We may have found a solution. PJ was quite invested in this discussion due to her pet Goose also being very vocal - however, looking back, it may have been the amount of wine we had consumed throughout the evening. I came up with the idea of living in a sound proof complex, PJ suggested life on a Submarine. Now, luckily for me, PJ and I are on very similar wavelengths when it comes to

these sort of discussions. However, she is on to something... Surely the Aliens couldn't get us if we lived under water? We could keep our pets, not have to kill them then use their waste as "ammunition" to shoot at anything that came towards us. We could modify the torpedoes, dedicate certain rooms for the animals and living quarters for the family. Sounds plausible - if we had them dotted around the world. So off we went, researching how much and how easy it is to buy a submarine. Let me tell you, it is not easy to find these details out. Not even a single life size submarine on eBay. There is however, a website where you can order life size submarines but no prices are included, which makes me suspect that I'll not afford one in this lifetime. From this disappointing research, my counter argument was: "what if the Alien's can also hear things under water?" We both sat there in silence. You could hear our brains ticking away (realistically it was the clock in the background). Well, basically all animals are screwed as are we as a human race. End of discussion and some more wine to console ourselves of our grim outcome. However, I open this discussion to all. If you have any potential solutions, I would love to hear as I am now sick of thinking about it. Jessica

Lessons In Love And Affection

Welcome to June 2021 - warm sunshine and the freedom to hug. My name is Rupert, I am 5 years old and the NCC Dog Warden picked me up from an allotment in Ashington where I had been hanging out. It was clear I had been eating rather more than Pick Your Own vegetables – the bins at the local take-away were less than secure and the dog god helps them as helps themselves. I've transferred to a healthier diet since moving to the rescue kennels at Charlton Mires and the pounds have just dropped away. Initially I was a bit scared of people but I've got over that now and am very fond of the staff. One of the best things here though is all the other dogs – I love to tear around the paddock with anyone on four legs. At first I loved them in a different way but Maggie the German Shepherd Dog explained, as only she could, that she's not into that sort of thing and I had a trip to the vet's so that behaviour is all in the past.

We've had the Covid Security Inspectors round our shop in Wooler and got a good report so are OK to trade and can safely welcome customers in; the flags were out on Sunday 16th May and we opened to celebrate Wooler Farmer's Market- there'll be one every month. Alexa's Animals has also taken the leash on a shop in Amble so watch out for that opening soon. Oops, I think I meant "lease", didn't get much opportunity to develop my vocabulary living among the leeks.

If any of you are Pets shoppers Αt Home please could you consider joining their VIP Scheme? All VIP members can support a charity and the more people that choose us the more vouchers we get to spend. I've also been asked to say a huge thank you to Morrisons at Amble: they donated a pallet of dog food in May and we have all been enjoying troughing it...well, apart from the staff but they are picky like that and probably wouldn't survive on the streets for long.



We know some of you are struggling with the return to physical contact; my hairy colleagues and I are prepared to help you learn to hug again so check out who else is available at www.alexasanimals.com



#1 - Timing is Everything

Timing is everything and something I seem to inherently lack, always missing the boat on the good times of growth, whether personally, professionally or financially. Spoilers: Again, that curse strikes!

The FOMO (fear of missing out) of cryptocurrency has eaten away at me for a few months now, seemingly exponential growth showing how the little guy can do pretty well financially for little investment. To the outsider it felt like people were doubling their money in a day.

Some of you will know what cryptocurrency is, to me its something electronic on the internet and something to do with chains and code. You buy coins (or fractions of them) wait a while and sell them for many times the price a little later. I'd also looked into selling my art via NFT's (non fungable tokens) after the artist Beeple sold a piece that didn't exist in the *real* world for \$69 million. I have loads of images that have never seen the outside of a hard drive, or been shown on the internet, nevermind committed to paper and ink – so in other words, now saleable! (Turns out it's quite pricey to set up each one to buy AND there's an environmental cost too). This is all to do with these blockchains and crypto and paid for via Ethereum, so I found out there are more coins out there other than the ubiquitous Bitcoin!

So, as I'm not busy (distracted) enough already, I decided to spend time to educate myself the fun way and jump in with two feet with minimal research. Recently I'd seen friends talk about various coins they were buying and recommending. One of these friends, Leigh from Sydney, has been big into crypto for a few years now so I kept an eye on his Facebook for any hints.

Earlier this month after it felt like everyone online was talking about crypto and Bitcoin, I thought "Right, as you have a bit of spare cash (and if I need it, the next payment from Rishi is available soon anyway), get some coins bought!".

First problem, how do you buy and where from? Lots of apps, all unknown to me. **Coinbase** seemed popular but was missing certain popular coins. **Binance** was another that seemed more liberal with coin choice but suspiciously was banned in the US – but then again, the US was founded by Puritans and I have little time for evangelist

nutters, so Binance it was!

Of course, once signed up there was a delay in being able to buy due to having to manually verify identity – including a facial scan! I suppose if I ever leave the house again the Russians and Chinese will be able to track me now...

With this delay I missed out on 5 days of growth – again, my timing is amazing!

Finally I got to buy some coins (there's a £15 minimum buy) I went for:

£30 of Bitcoin (BTC)

£40 of Ethereum (ETH)

£40 of Cardano (ADA)

£15 of VeChain (VET)

£15 of Dogecoin (DOGE)

£15 of Litecoin (LTC)

£15 of SHIBA INU (SHIB)

It costs you a % in fees which ranged from 20p to £2 to buy, but I thought that's okay, 30 mins and I'll have made that back...

Well, not quite... My timing is impeccable and after 2 days I was about £1.50 up. The next day Elon Musk tweeted something and it dropped, then dropped some more – it's been a rollercoaster since!

Over the course of a week, I went from £170 to £80, and I hadn't even bought a beer yet! Long term with this experiment I was going to see how things were by late November to either buy an Xbox Series X (£500) or put the money towards a new poo hole we are being forced to install in the coming years. Ideally this £170 was going to pay for that fully with this exponential growth, but that's looking like a pipe dream... Squatting into a bucket and slinging it over the fence is looking more likely!

At this stage the Xbox is looking unlikely too. There has been lots of fluctuations bouncing this way and that, affected by tweets from Mr Musk, India saying they were banning the ownership of crypto, China banning mining of Bitcoin, amongst others. Everything took a hammering. Thankfully, I only had £170 in the pot, many people have life savings in them, and they, like me, saw the value halve. As fast as



things go down, at least crypto can rebound. On a few days even my small investment has seen an increase of almost £20 per day a few times in just over a fortnight. I was just disappointed I didn't have the spare money to by the dip!

I'll keep you up to speed on how things are going in the coming months and try and explain some of the things I learn as I go...

As I type this now I'm on £115.55.

Andy

From the Suggestion Boxes

The Parish Council have provided suggestion boxes in each village for residents to make suggestions to be discussed by the PC. Boxes are checked before each meeting. S – Suggestion R - Response

EGLINGHAM

- S Would it be possible to have a dog poo bin at the top of Tarry? (2 suggestions received)
- R All bins, including public ones such as those for dog waste, are emptied by the bin lorry. Unfortunately, being such a large vehicle, it cannot access Tarry because it is too narrow. The County Council is trying to encourage the installation of multi use public litter bins in which dog waste can be placed. There is one in the bus shelter and one at the village hall.



- S Fly tipping of builder's waste on the roadside heading towards Chatton.
- R The waste has now been removed and the Parish Council thanked the resident concerned for their co-operation.

NORTH CHARLTON

- S This road was not meant for the current volume and weight of heavy vehicles.
- R This is the subject of an ongoing discussion with the County Council as it also affects South Charlton and Eglingham.
- S Please can we have "Slow Down" signs
- R A speed monitoring system has been installed. Results will be discussed with the County Council and any appropriate action taken.
- S Planters would be nice
- R There is a type of planter which incorporates a speed limit sign. This item to be deferred until/if a speed limit is agreed.

SOUTH CHARLTON

- S To ask holiday home owners who are not residents in the village to make a financial contribution to community services each year.
- R This will be discussed at a future meeting

Doggerel Corner

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

So they have opened the cafe's again, let's give out a cheer Of course if tea's not your tipple the pubs will now serve you beer It's great to get inside if you are planning to be out on the town The tea terrace or beer garden was ok but the cold & the rain got me down

Obviously we still need to be safe and keep our two metres distance Sanitising our hands after each delectable sip is the governments insistence I think hugging's ok if it's grandkids or friends and you know where they've been But watch out for that Indian variant, it's agile and infectious and creeps up unseen

So let's sing out a heartfelt cheer for our leader Boris and his mate Matt Their sleazy criminal antics illustrate just how low you can sink as a political rat Claiming credit for a job well done and hiding the financial scams they've perpetrated Whilst 128,000 of us have died and half a million more have needed to be intubated

And what's their reward, apparently success in the national elections
Bigger majorities for their councils and support for their Tory right wing direction
But Boris is a buffoon we are all meant to laugh at his hapless behaviour
Until it's too late and we find ourselves up sh**t creek without a saviour

If only I was Scottish I'd vote for Nicola to be my political leader Someone who talks to her electorate and listens when they need her I'm sure she's got her faults; who hasn't as a politician So pity us in England, what we need now is a magician!

Pete

Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship

Final results are in and your top 3 are...

1st - Andy Gray - 2305 2nd - Clair Leishman - 1888 3rd - Gordon Leishman - 1832



As soon as FPL opens for the 2021/22 season I'll post the new league joining code on residents@ as it will be when Hear Abouts is on its summer break. Also over the summer are the Euros and I'll set up a league for that too if you want to play along for those few weeks.

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 July Please submit content by 20th of June

www.eglingham.info

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