

HEAR ABOUTS

JUNE 2022



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

From the Editor

Email: hearabouts@outlook.com

You may notice that this issue is much stripped down than usual.

As many of you will have seen by the use by some of the residents@ email system there is a lot of conflict in Eglingham village and here at Hear Abouts we had a number of "opinion" pieces submitted. Wrestling with what to do with these in the context of the impending election of councillors was setting off all the bad things I was going through last year when I had to walk away from the Parish Council.

Those Hear Abouts team members who were available to meet, have taken the decision to only publish the requested "manifestos" from standing candidates, plus an important post about South Charlton Village Hall, and Rev. Tracey's first article since joining us. We apologise to those who sent in articles that won't now be published until later.

Apologies but, also due to the disquiet, Hear Abouts is taking an earlier and longer summer break. The next issue will likely be in September, long after the new Parish Council will be formed and there for you to vent at!

We are also all disappointed in the way the residents@ list has been used as of late and as Hear Abouts runs this service, further misuse of it will result in the suspension of what has been an extremely useful resource.

Can I also say that we will also not stand for any of our volunteers being verbally attacked for news content published here.

Peace and love

Andy

Eglingham Village Hall Events

Sunday 12th June @ 2pm

Flamenco Guitar with Clifford Blakely and Tapas

Tuesday 14th June @7:30pm

A History of Lindisfarne, a talk by Nick Lewis (NT)

please book for both with gil30@icloud.com or tel: 07808 881730

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".

Sacred Spaces In Our Communities

I still can't quite believe it was nearly 4 months ago since I was appointed Interim Minister of the Breamish and Till benefice, and it definitely has been a very busy few months. Since my appointment, we have had to deal with a number of things; the continual process of returning to normal after COVID, the aftermath of Storm Arwen and Malik, dealing with an interregnum and getting used to having a new priest. These situations are all challenging in their own ways, and all the parishes across the benefice have coped remarkably well.

Here at Eglingham, we have had to contend with the aftermath of Storm Arwen, with trees down in both the churchyard and the vicarage garden, including some damage to walls and buildings. As most of you will know, the hole in the vicarage wall was repaired within a week and the tree has also been cut down in the garden. At Old Bewick, we have seen the sheer desecration of trees, and the impact that these have had on some of the gravestones. At South Charlton, the storm blew in some of the panes of the East window, which will hopefully be repaired by early June.

But looking around our churches, it astonishes me that they have not sustained more physical damage, a testament to the people that built them. When I first looked at this appointment, I read through the parish profiles of the benefice, a document that does exactly what it says on the tin! It includes profiles for each parish. It is written by each parish, outlining what is already happening in their churches as well as their hopes and dreams for the future. What struck me was the passion for these beautiful church buildings, and the important part they play in each of our communities. One of the things that I was aware of coming into this appointment was that the churches needed to be 'put on the map' as it were.

Before I had looked at the vacancy on the diocesan website, I didn't even know most of these churches existed, I had been past them or through the villages, but never quite seen them or visited them. Yet these churches play such an important part in the story of our communities. They teach us about the people that have gone before, we still tell the stories that have been passed through our communities, and there is still so much more to uncover!. Often as I go to morning and evening prayer with my dog Diesel, at our church in Eglingham, I think about all the people that have walked through those doors over the years, and how many more will walk through them in years to come.



As Christians, we are called to be a living presence of Christ in our communities, to love and serve one another, our wonderful and historic churches are sacred spaces where everyone is welcome.

Rev. Tracey

Your Village Hall

The hall and village garden are owned by The Duke of Northumberland and over the past 30 years or so have been leased to The Parish Council for community use. A Charity was formed 'South Charlton Village Hall Management Committee' comprising a small number of trustees from the village and members of those groups regularly using the hall, with the aim of maintaining and managing the building for the benefit of all the inhabitants of South Charlton and surrounding hamlets.

Most villages have a Village Hall somewhere at their hearts, possibly hardly noticed anymore! just buildings where the Parish Council meets, where non-controversial things like referendums and general elections take place, or maybe where local friends occasionally get- together.

But our village hall is a rather remarkable place. It is genuinely owned by you the whole community and does get used for an array of different activities. And it is going to get even better!

With the old Village Hall lease reaching expiry Northumberland Estates on behalf of the Duke have agreed to grant a new lease to the village, to a newly formed Charitable Incorporation Organisation. The existing charity will be dissolved in accordance with the constitution and will be an agenda item at the AGM on 18th July at 7.30pm in the village hall. All are warmly welcome to attend.

It will continue to be run by people who give up their time to do so, not by a profit-making company, Parish Council, or the local authority, but by The South Charlton Village Hall Management Committee.

For those living in a large town there are separate buildings for everything but in a village, there are not enough of us to justify this. Instead, a Village Hall can cover a remarkable range of uses: Mother and Toddler groups, the Pre-School Playgroup, cinema nights once a month, a lunch club every month for older people living on their own, gardening club and, of course, any amount of fine dining events. But most importantly it is about having that space to develop and grow a sense of community. Somewhere to connect with people, somewhere we feel safe and secure. It's important for every person to have a sense of community.

We really do want to engage as many people as possible to improve our village hall and strengthen the village community.

The trustees will continue to manage the material and financial sustainability of the hall however we would really welcome anyone to join us with new and exciting ideas to ensure the longevity of this special community asset.

Sue Courty
South Charlton Village Hall

Parish Council Elections

The following eight members of our community have put themselves forward to be elected for seven seats on the Parish Council on the **23rd June 2022**.

Joanne Angus, Paul Davies, Rick Faulkner, June Lawson, Clair Leishman, Jamie Logan, Judith Scott and Lorna Turner.

All candidates were offered a chance to submit a “manifesto” for publication. Those submissions received by the set deadline follow in no particular order...

Best of luck to all candidates and to the Parish Council as a whole once it reconvenes.

It is beyond regrettable that the affairs of the Parish Council have come to need an election. Since January 2021 Council meetings have become progressively acrimonious and confrontational resulting in the loss of two very competent chairmen and probably two secretaries. In the whole of the history of Eglingham Parish Council never until that cooption has this atmosphere existed and divisions, I fear, have extended into the village.

However it's time for a fresh start.

Going forward, should I be elected, I would like the Community Field (the legacy from the school playing field and only communal space in Eglingham) remain a field for our children and grand children to play in, particularly now that the magnificent tennis courts are so well used. As the over ambitious playground concept of four years ago, was in my view, rightly jettisoned, I feel a renewed community consultation should be held to ascertain whether the village would rather have a wooded rewilded area or a mowed playing field where children can play and community parties such as the Jubilee Celebrations and Summer music events can take place.

I would like to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is completed and adopted.

I would also endeavour to complete the CPR and first aid courses that I engendered and the installation of the speed camera at the east end of the village. I am also minded to, with wind farm funding, explore the possibility of fire wood distribution throughout the Parish as takes place in Ellingham.

I was only co-opted onto Eglingham Parish recently and reluctantly and attended three increasingly acrimonious meetings. My desire to remain a councillor in this atmosphere is extremely tenuous but I feel duty bound to see the above projects through. Once hopefully completed I will review my position.

I am very local having been brought up on my parent's farm near Wooler only moving to Eglingham after our marriage 40 years ago. We brought up and schooled our two children in the village. I have worked as a livestock auctioneer, stock agent and agricultural valuer all my working life. I recently retired in April. So I am steeped in the agricultural community of North Northumberland and The Borders.

Jamie Logan

I've lived in Alnwick and the surrounding area for 20 years, moving to our home in Eglingham nearly 5 years ago. I am married, have 2 teenage sons and my parents live nearby. I work full-time, mostly from home running our family businesses and keeping the home. I also volunteer as secretary/treasurer for a local junior football team.

Should I be elected I hope to bring skills learned during 14 years of working for multinational organisations in project and financial roles to the Parish Council

(PC) environment. These roles have allowed me to develop my interpersonal skills by working with people from different backgrounds, cultures and countries.

I have attended a few PC meetings over the last few months but hadn't considered joining myself until quite recently.

My approach would be a pragmatic one, resident focused, collaborative, objective and I believe that effective communication is really important to success.

I hope that I can contribute towards building closer relationships with NCC departments to ensure the PC can deploy more of their services as efficiently and cost effectively as possible to the benefit of parishioners.

Additionally, I would like to build on the current communication channels between PC and parishioners by perhaps holding drop-in surgeries or something similar at community events such as 'Coffee & Chats'.

As a parent who has raised children in a rural environment, I believe that I can empathise with and put forward the views of other parents and also grandparents in the Parish to the PC. Road safety is a concern that I have and would like to work to reduce heavy vehicle usage within the parish communities.

Finally, after my call for the local community to help donate for the Ukranian refugee appeal (and the fantastic response!) I could organise similar initiatives perhaps led by the PC if appropriate.

Hopefully you will feel that you are able to give me your vote at the election in June.

Many thanks,

Clair Leishman

I was due to be co-opted on to the Parish Council at their last meeting but due to events, that meeting didn't take place.

Apart from my first two years of marriage, I have lived in this parish all my life and with my husband, raised our two children here. I worked alongside my Father farming Eglingham Moor and after his passing, I continued to run the farm. Now the next generation -my son- works alongside me farming. I have also worked extensively in the social care sector and continue to do so. In the past I have served on the Parochial Church Council, as a school governor at Eglingham First School, the Eglingham Village Hall management group as well as leading the Eglingham Village Hall events group.

One of the greatest losses to our community was the closure of Eglingham First School, but with the closure came a great opportunity of creating a communal green area by taking over the school playing field. It was also a chance to keep a piece of the village's history alive. I believe this is a very important asset to the community which has brought about a thriving Tennis Club enjoyed by many adults and children, a place where children often play football (years ago football was played on the field every Sunday!), a place for community events to take place eg Festival on The Field, the up and coming Jubilee Party and in the past, Bonfire Nights. A team of dedicated volunteers have worked very hard planting fruit bushes and flowering plants as well as keeping the field neat and tidy. Visitors to the village have made very positive comments about the field. I would like the Parish Council to support this asset because if it is lost it will be gone forever.

I would like the Parish Council to be a council that works for the benefit of everyone in our community and to have better communication about what is going on,

allowing public opinion to be heard and taken into consideration.

Joanne Angus

The following questions will inform my decision-making process on Parish matters: Who will benefit from the proposal and how? How long will the benefit last (ie. Can the money spent be justified) and, Is there a downside? (ie. Will there be a negative impact on others or on the environment). I will base my decision on evidence of public opinion, and researched facts. My personal opinion will have little impact on the decision if the evidence is against it. I intend to be the voice of the residents of a place I have come to love over the last twenty years.

My attitude to contributing to a successful Council will be based on transparency and teamwork.

In preparation for the coming election, I have read "The Good Councillors Guide" and am now working my way through other publications. I have much to learn. I am inspired by the following quotes:

Central Government is encouraging local councils to deliver more services to improve community well-being and play a greater part in their communities.

Diversity often arises because councillors have different backgrounds, enthusiasms and interests. We should celebrate this. Councillors have different skills and attitudes... The local council needs a range of skills to work as a team.

The best councils will have councillors who work as a team to provide a service for the community. (The Good Councillors Guide 2016)

I was born and raised on a farm on the coast, opposite Holy Island. I have farming in my blood, and whilst I care a great deal for the environment, wildlife and natural habitat, I see it through agricultural eyes, and appreciate the challenges facing land managers today. I care greatly for the community, and volunteer to help with village activities, here and in Eglingham. I value long established traditions, like the village church (I am a churchwarden) and the village hall (I am a trustee), and I look forward to identifying, with your help, local needs, then working to address them.

My best objective would be to eliminate loneliness and insecurity by supporting a community which enhances personal resilience and community well-being. My husband, Gavin, often, speaks reality into my dreams, but I don't think it does any harm to set high personal goals.

Lorna Turner

My name is Judith Scott. I am 62 years of age and currently live at Walk Mill, Eglingham. Since marrying my husband Andy, I have lived initially at Wooperton and then Eglingham, for 37 years. I am a farmer's daughter of 4 generations and worked on our farm until getting married in 1985. I have 3 grown up children, all of whom attended Eglingham school, and 4 grandchildren. I know exactly what it's like bringing up children in a rural community.

After my marriage, I worked in the family business of A & J Scott Ltd where I am currently, company secretary. Over the years, my roles there have involved working closely with customers, travelling Northumberland and the Borders visiting landowners and farmers to value timber. As a result, I am used to working with people of all ages and rural backgrounds.

Since I have been living in Wooperton and Eglingham, I have always enjoyed being involved in the Village Hall. For the last few years, I have chaired the Steering

Group Committee and am now familiar with insurance matters and the day to day running of this important community asset.

As a Parish Councillor, I would like to improve the sense of community across the whole parish, its 3 villages and settlements in-between whilst recognising their individuality, communication and working together I feel is essential. As the role of a Parish Councillor is to represent the views within the parish, to listen and understand the needs of different groups in the community, Coffee and chats the first Saturday of the month for example would be a good platform for this, as it has a informal and friendly atmosphere.

Coming from a farming background, I want to encourage residents to enjoy our beautiful countryside whilst recognising the challenges faced by our local farmers and landowners, tackling the issues of access, litter, and dogs off leads, making sure the countryside code is adhered to at all times, as sheep worrying is an ever-increasing problem for farmers and landowners causing the death or injury to valuable stock.

Pedestrian safety in our villages and speeding traffic are also another of my concerns, with the roads becoming ever busier and the paths ways becoming narrower the danger to pedestrians is very real and needs addressing.

Judith Scott

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Residents @ Email List

A resident of the Parish? Then if you haven't already... Sign up for our community email list!

Our very successful email list is open to any resident within our boundaries, just send an email to david@eglingham.org.uk and we'll endeavour to get you added.

Next Issue:
Sometime in September
Please submit content by 20th of August

www.eglingham.info

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