

# HEAR ABOUTS

MARCH 2022



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

## From the Editor

Happy March everyone! Feels like spring is on the way! Though that hoar frost this morning didn't feel too spring like...

Well, this issue is a little late (again) more on remedying that below. Mainly because with the mad Russian having his trigger finger poised above the nuclear button, my priorities changed a little.

Do I spend the best part of 3 days pulling this together or do I spend that time doing something fun just in case?.. I chose "fun", and that extra cream cake, and that packet of sweets, and that larger measure of scotch, and those extra hugs with the dog, and spending that time with people who I enjoy being around. I hope you are all doing the same.

Andy

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## A Change is as good as a Holiday

Well then, after my plea for help last month was ignored, I felt like I was doomed to struggle on here infinitely. But joyfully after I put it out on the email appealing for content, we got some help offered! Which should mean that from April, Hear Abouts should be with you faster and those of you who get it digitally will actually get it! (yes, I know you've missed the last 2 – we'll get caught up).

Thanks to those who have volunteered! It will mean that email communications from Hear Abouts won't be from me from mid-March. The email address will stay the same though.

Also, I'd like to thank David Marshall for his years of help in being our treasurer. Due to life getting busy he has resigned, and we are in the early stages of transferring everything over to a new treasurer.

More on the new team members next month!

Andy

## Next Issue:

Sometime in April

All content must be received by the 20th of March

[www.eglingham.info](http://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](mailto: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\_article.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](http://www.eglingham.info) and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".

# Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Fund - Update

Following on from our consultation last November, which some of you kindly took part in, I have now had a chance to consider all of the feedback and am ready to share an overview of our plans for our next steps in improving the fund:

**Making the fund more accessible – to summarise the feedback we received, the overwhelming majority of responses asked for the funds to be more accessible by:**

- a) simplifying the application process
- b) speeding up the response time for applicants
- c) making sure the fund is open to receive applications for more of the year
- d) making the availability of the funds more widely known with greater clarity on who can apply

I am currently working with the Fund Administrators, the Community Foundation, to look at addressing all of these issues as it is clear from the feedback we received that the current system has become difficult to navigate and off putting to potential applicants. I should have another update on this in the next issue of Hearabouts.

**Options to extend the current funds existing scheme to increase help for individuals**

One of the questions in our survey gave several options on ways the fund might extend its support of individual households. The option that got the most support was “Helping household to reduce CO2 emissions by contributing to measures such as insulation, renewable technologies, electric vehicles and charging points etc” with 95% of respondents agreeing they would like the fund to look at doing this. I am currently looking at options for doing this and will be attending a meeting with the advisory panel (the local community members that decide on the allocation of the funds) to discuss this in more detail with them. When I have more news on this I will update you all.

**New project ideas – how can we help?**

Several really good suggestions were made on potential new projects that have not yet applied to the fund. In some cases community members said they were put off trying to get new projects underway by the current grant application process. Other people had ideas but not necessarily the time or sometimes the knowledge on how to go about getting these projects off the ground. To address this feedback I am also looking at various options to give your community some extra support to take some of these ideas forward into projects that are ready to apply to the Middlemoor Fund. I will also discuss these options with the Funds advisory panel.

**Next steps**

Once I have met with the advisory panel I will have more information to share with you all in future issues of Hear Abouts. In the meantime, the fund is still open for

application, for more information please contact Pete Barrett on 0191 222 0945 or email: [pb@communityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:pb@communityfoundation.org.uk). Or you can contact me on the details below if you'd like to discuss anything else about the fund.

Very best wishes,

*Kathryn Harries*

Community Investment Officer

RWE Renewables (the operators of Middlemoor Wind Farm)

07760 190477

[Kathryn.harries@rwe.com](mailto:Kathryn.harries@rwe.com)

## Dorothy Hall

Dorothy Hall of Bewick Folly Farm, Old Bewick, Eglington died peacefully on January 7 this year.

Dorothy, who had reached the grand age of 98, was church warden at Old Bewick church for many years and a well-known and active member of the local community.

Born in Felling, Tyne and Wear, she moved to Wooler during the second world war and met her husband, Oliver, who farmed Bewick Folly, at the Tankerville Arms pub, Eglington. They went on to have three children and five grandchildren. Their son James continues to farm at Bewick Folly.

A great many family members and friends gathered to say farewell to Dorothy at the crematorium in Newcastle. They heard how Dorothy was a treasured mother and grandmother, still full of life well into old age - even joining her grandsons sledging at a snowy Bewick Folly when she was 82!

Prayers were said for Dorothy at the January service at Old Bewick chapel where she will always be remembered for her dedication in keeping the church so beautifully. We continue to treasure the magnificent communion kneeler Dorothy made and gave to the church in memory of her beloved husband, Oliver.



## Eglington WI

Little to report about our February meeting. Our speaker was to be a representative of the new Ad Gefrin distillery in Wooler but due to unforeseen circumstances (possible Covid infection) he had to cancel. Therefore after usual formalities our members discussed forthcoming events such as outings and then enjoyed a pooled supper. At our next meeting in March there will be a demonstration of silk painting.





### **EGLINGHAM PARISH**

The Government announced that all Covid-19 restrictions would end in England on Thursday 24th February. The legal requirement to self-isolate after a positive test will be removed.

From April 1, free mass lateral flow testing will also be stopped.

While the law may be changing, the fact that these measures help to reduce infections, prevent illness, and help keep yourself and those around you safe has not changed.

The lifting of these requirements does not mean the pandemic is over. Covid-19 continues to spread and people of all ages remain susceptible to infection.

We would continue to ask you to be sensible and cautious in the weeks and months ahead as we all learn to live with Covid.

It's also not too late to get your jabs if you're yet to begin a course of vaccination. Every jab helps build levels of protection within our community. So whether you still need your first jab, or you need a 2nd or a booster dose, please come forward.

As with any other illness, if you are unwell then please stay at home and remove the risk of passing your illness on to others. If your children are sick, then similarly try to keep them home from school so others don't become ill as well. Other measures we have become used to, such as wearing a face covering in crowded indoor spaces, keeping a safe distance from others, washing hands regularly and ventilating rooms will also continue to be effective.

While the pandemic has had a significant impact upon us all, please be considerate of those who may be more vulnerable or nervous than you as restrictions and requirements are lifted. For some, this will be a daunting time if they are at greater risk of serious illness. Please, continue to be kind.

We are in a very different place to where we were when the pandemic began. We have a largely-vaccinated population offering a very good level of community protection, and we of course understand the need for people to get on with their lives and focus on their physical and mental well-being. Living with Covid is new to us all, but communities have stuck together through all we have faced so we are confident you will do the same again.

Working together as a region has got us this far in challenging and uncertain times, and that is exactly how we will continue through this next stage. We will do all we can to make sure we progress smoothly and protect our most vulnerable residents, limit the pressures on health services, keep children in school, and help our region recover from the effects of the pandemic.

### **THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY**

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girl guiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates were encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October 2021 to March 2022.

Tree planting will commence once again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

Everyone should be able to get involved in Planting a Tree for the Platinum Jubilee in celebration of The Queen's 70 years of Service to the Nation. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or a complete novice, the QGC will guide you through the process of planting trees so that they survive and flourish for years to come. If you wish to plant a tree in your garden to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee, we recommend you order a tree/trees from a certified Plant Healthy nursery in your area. From October 2022, you can once again add your Jubilee tree to the QGC map.

You may also wish to mark the occasion with a commemorative plaque. The QGC is offering a physical, as well as a virtual commemorative plaque option, in keeping with an environmental initiative.

To celebrate the Jubilee, Northumberland County Council have linked up with residents, schools, community groups, towns and parishes across Northumberland to plant tree saplings this winter.

Trees help capture harmful emissions in our atmosphere and convert them into the oxygen that we breathe on a daily basis. Planting more trees will help the county become carbon neutral and create an environment that our residents can enjoy for generations to come.

A message from Council Leader Glen Sanderson:

*“Planting more trees is just one of the many ways we’re involving residents in helping achieve Northumberland’s target to become carbon neutral by 2030.*

*Our fantastic Free Tree Giveaway scheme aimed to give every household in our county the opportunity to plant a tree over the next decade, with 15,000 tree saplings up for grabs each winter.*

*Tree planting is more important than ever following the destruction caused by Storm Arwen in November, leading to the loss of thousands of mature trees across the region. If you weren’t able to plant a tree this winter, please consider taking us up on the Free Tree Giveaway for next winter to help us replace the trees we have tragically lost. Applications for NCC free Tree Giveaway are currently closed.*

*Applications will reopen again in summer 2022.”*

## **THE WOODLAND CREATION PARTNERSHIP**

The Northumberland Woodland Creation Partnership is made up of 14 organisations. The partners include: DEFRA, Northumberland County Council, Forestry Commission, Natural England, the Woodland Trust, Northumberland National Park Authority, the Environment Agency, the Country Land and Business Association, Forestry England, the MOD, Confor, Northumberland CAN (Community Action Northumberland), the National Farmers’ Union, and the Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

The Great Northumberland Forest is a plan to plant millions of trees, creating more wooded landscapes across the county by 2030. This will help tackle the big challenges facing society, such as climate change, biodiversity decline, promoting health and wellbeing, and supporting a thriving local economy.

The idea is inspired by our determination to leave a better, more diverse, and more productive natural environment for the benefit of future generations. By planting more trees, we will create new, natural environments that our children, communities, and businesses will benefit from for decades to come.

The new wooded areas will:

- Provide beautiful new and enhanced landscapes
- Absorb carbon and reduce climate change impacts, such as flooding
- Help grow our agriculture, forestry and wood processing businesses, creating jobs and prosperity
- Provide recreational areas to improve health and wellbeing, and offer new activities for visitors
- Improve and expand habitats for plants and wildlife
- Provide clean air and water
- Lead a green recovery in Northumberland as we emerge from the Covid 19 crisis

A variety of different woodland types and sizes will be created to suit local needs, from the planting of individual trees, orchards, and small community woodlands, to larger-scale schemes bringing together farming, forestry, biodiversity, and recreation. In some places there will be slow growing native woodlands providing habitats for treasured wildlife. In others, faster growing, highly productive woodlands will rapidly absorb carbon and produce timber.

New trees will be planted in places across our diverse county, from our rural and farming heartlands, to our stunning coastal communities, on the fringes of our traditional industrial towns, to remote upland locations. Together they will be known as the Great Northumberland Forest.

For farmers and businesses, this will mean new opportunities to earn income from the land, diversifying into woodland management and outdoors-based tourism, or building sustainable forestry and wood processing businesses, creating jobs and wealth along the way.

For local people and communities, it will mean more opportunities to enjoy nature, live healthy lifestyles, appreciate our beautiful landscapes, and play our part in protecting the environment, fulfilling Northumberland’s commitment to become a ‘net zero carbon’ place by 2030.

In creating new woodland areas, we will take great care to safeguard our most precious open landscapes and wildlife habitats, including in our National Park and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), as well as preserving our best land for sustainable local food production. We will work closely with farmers and land managers, encouraging them to plant trees for the benefit of their businesses and local communities. People, communities, and land managers are at the heart of planning and leading the growth in tree planting across the county.

The Great Northumberland Forest will be a very visible expression of our unique identity and our passion for landscapes, nature, and the environment. A legacy from our generation to the next - created for the benefit of all Northumbrians from all backgrounds and communities, strengthening the distinctive character of the county for many generations to come. Learn more about the Great Northumberland Forest’s vision.

[enquiries.forest@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.forest@northumberland.gov.uk)

Find out more about the Woodland Creation Planning Grant on the gov.uk website

### **Support Music Partnership North**

The arts have the power to shape a young person's future. Find out how you can help support music in Northumberland.

The arts are not simply 'nice to have', or an 'add-on' to education. They have the power to change and shape young lives. Music in-particular can create opportunities for children to express their ideas and form their values.

Funding is reducing every year and families are finding it harder to find the money to pay for music lessons for their children.

Music Partnership North are the Music Service for Northumberland County Council and work in partnership with Newcastle music service and Sage Gateshead.

£15 per month can sponsor a child's place in a county ensemble.

- £18 per month would provide free instrumental or vocal tuition for a child.
- £6 per month would provide free instrument hire for a child.
- A one off donation of £15 would buy a child's place on a workshop day.
- To find out more about this, please contact as below

Business Development Officer: Fiona Johnstone (01670 624039)

[Fiona.Johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.Johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Welcome to our new regular (we hope!) feature:**

## **Favourite Walks** in and around our local area

With spring around the corner, what better time to spend a bit more time enjoying the beautiful Northumberland countryside and coastline? We hope many of you will share your favourite walks with us over the next few months.

Here's a favourite of mine to start us off, which I think of as the St Cuthbert Circuit.

Drive: 12.5 miles from the Tankerville.

Walk: 3.3-3.5 miles round trip.

Time: 2 hours, depending on how many stops you wish to make.

Park in the St Cuthbert's Cave carpark and head straight up the track. It's inclined to be very muddy, but once you've negotiated the clarts and reached the gate at the top, you can relax! I'll describe the route going clockwise, so turn left here.

I love this short walk because despite its brevity, just about every type of scenery is encountered. We start off on a broad grassy path that winds through gorse bushes, the Cheviots hills rising beyond the valley on our left. Shortly, the path gradually descends, passing a young deciduous plantation on the right. Keep straight on, ignoring the path on your right, and heading for a coniferous wood ahead.

Go through the gate onto the track and turn right. At the next gate, you can either continue up the path by the wall or follow the track up to the left, and at the slight







summit, choose a gentle route on your right which leads back to the wall.

Pass through the gate onto the moors. Now you are surrounded by heather, with views of Holburn Lake on your left. Towards the end of the lake is a splendid boulder for taking a short break to watch the wildfowl, have a coffee, or both.

Continue up the track, taking the right-hand fork, and after a while explore a narrow path which leads to the right to where a small escarpment reminds me of the Derbyshire edges. Enjoy the crags and the views towards the Cheviots from here, before continuing to the top of the main track to the trig point.



From the trig point, there's a splendid panoramic view of the coast with Lindisfarne and Bamburgh Castles easily visible on a clear day. If you've brought binoculars, you'll probably use them here.



Drop down the far side of the hill towards a sturdy wall. Either climb the stile (if you want to explore the crags) or continue at this side until you reach the main St Cuthbert Way. Turn right and head towards the wood. A small stile (slightly rickety) leads over the fence and down towards St Cuthbert's Cave.

Sadly, Storm Arwen has brought down several trees here, and it is no longer safe to enter the cave, but it's still worth a visit.

Having explored this area and encouraged any adventurous members of your party through the narrow cleft in the rocks (not part of the cave), head down the path and turn right. You are now on the same path on which you started, and it's a short trip back to the car. Enjoy!





## 300 Word Story Time

The designated opening for these stories was **"The wind was whistling through the treetops, but the earth was firm beneath my feet. The light was beginning to fade..."**

Next month's opening is...**"Machines whirring, lights flickering, then the air becomes heavy with acrid smoke..."** Get your 300 word stories in to the usual email [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com) by the 20th of March

**The wind was whistling through the treetops, but the earth was firm beneath my feet. The light was beginning to fade**, which was strange considering the time of day, and I looked up apprehensively. Was it about to thunder?

I peered through the trees, half-glimpsing something that moved above the tossing canopy, and swallowed as a tremor ran down my spine. A dark shape blocked the sun; not rainclouds. No cloud was that—black. My pulse began to race.

'Let's get out of here, Sandy.' I tugged on his lead, but before I could get him to abandon his rabbit hole, an ominous whine cut through the air. Around me, the gloom intensified, while at the same time my skin prickled with static. It crackled through my hair, lifting the straggly strands like a Van de Graaff generator. I gasped as Sandy, his eyes rolling, took a flying leap at my stomach, crashed me to the floor and thrust his face into mine.

Above me, the turbulence in the trees increased, whipping branches into a frantic dance of death. The spindly firs shattered with a crack. They fell outwards, leaving me spreadeagled in a gap through which the wind cavorted at will, scattering twigs and briars. I stared upwards and saw—hair and dog.

Shoving Sandy's head to one side with difficulty, I gazed past his slobbering face at the devastation, and at the approaching vessel – a huge monster built of light-absorbing material in gunmetal grey. It hovered above me, evil-looking. The whine intensified and an opening appeared in its belly. The thing was the epitome of an alien spaceship, and I knew it had come for me.

I scrambled from under Sandy, desperate to escape, but the lead was tangled in the briars and I couldn't get it free.

'Cut!' yelled the director.

Frances

**The wind was whistling through the treetops, but the earth was firm beneath my feet. The light was beginning to fade** and, yet again, I had mislaid my door keys! I hunted through every pocket and crevice in my bag but no keys...I found my phone in my pocket and clumsily attempted to switch on the torch. Success! and then I was plunged into darkness as my phone battery failed "must remember to charge it" I muttered myself.

By now the rain was starting to lash against my face and the shopping bags at my feet were in danger of floating away. No choice left, I trudged back to the car and climbed in and started fumbling around the car trying to locate the missing keys. I started spooling back through the memories of the day, when had I last had them? No obvious answer came to mind and I reluctantly concluded I must have left them on the table this morning.

*By now the wind was buffeting the car and the rain had become a constant torrent, I resigned myself to waiting until my husband returned and hoped the car wouldn't be washed away in the meantime. Shivering and cold I started the engine and waited for the heat to come through while rifling through the bag for the "I shouldn't really buy them but" chocolate biscuits. As the storm built I anxiously watched the tree by the house thrashing wildly, we loved the tree, which gave us such comforting shade in the summer, but now seemed so threatening. And then I noticed...a light in the upstairs window! I struggled out of the car and waded to the front door, knocking furiously. My husband opened it moments later "Here you are, sorry I nodded off...I did wonder what you were doing sitting in the car on a night like this"*

Alyson

***The wind was whistling through the treetops, but the earth was firm beneath my feet. The light was beginning to fade*** as I trudged wearily down the track between the creaking trees, leaves rustling in agitation as I walked between the bending branches. I fervently hoped that none would fall before I made it clear of what was left of the old wood. I could see the welcoming warm glow of light in the distance, a sure sign that at least there would be a warm fire to sit beside once I made it home.



*Would this wind ever cease? I wondered plodding on wearily, what name were we up to now I mused, there had been so many. I tried to recall their names, there had been Arwen, the first of many and, perhaps for us locally the worst, then came Barra, Corrie, Dudley, Eunice, Franklin, Gladys and then lord knows what this one was called but it was a nasty monster of a storm in the making, I pleaded to whatever god maybe listening to get me home safe before it unleashed its unholy breathe upon the already savaged wood. So many wonderful trees downed before their time scarring the landscape.*

*At last I sighed, as I reached the front door, home, the thought of a hearty meal before collapsing in front of a blazing fire. I scratched at the door and waited patiently for someone to open it. The door opened slowly, held firm against the push of the wind swirling viciously around, "Ah, there you are puss, was beginning to wonder if you would show up. Thank goodness your home before the storm hit," The human said as she pushed the door closed.*

Carole

## Lost Maiden's Stone

This sadly neglected gravestone has a tragic story to tell

On a Friday night in November 1890, 27-year-old Annie Gray, who was a servant girl working at Great Ryle, near Whittingham left to walk home. The last part of her 2 ½ mile journey involved crossing the footbridge across the River Breamish close to her parent's house at Brandon.

That night there was a violent storm and the wooden footbridge was swept away in the floodwaters. After a week, when she hadn't returned to work, the police began searching for her. They found her hat on the river bank, and it was feared she had drowned but mysteriously, despite searches and enquiries, no one could find out exactly what had happened. In March 1891, 5 months later, her body was eventually found, trapped in the branches of willows, near

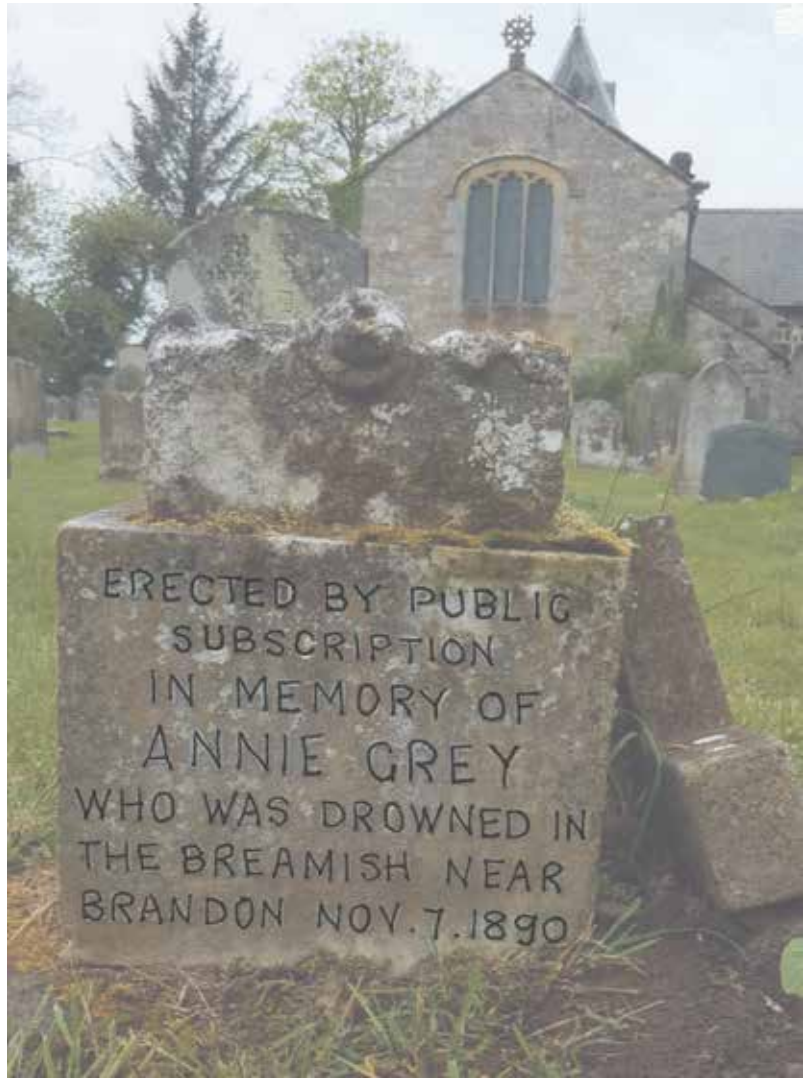
Chillingham Barns more than 10 miles downstream in the River Till. Her father recognised her decomposed body, and the little handkerchief found in her pocket. The coroner returned a verdict of Found Drowned as there was no evidence of any violence.

Moved by the tragedy, her gravestone was erected in Eglington churchyard by public subscription. Her story was immortalised in the 23-verse ballad of The Lost Maiden, written 20 years after her death by James Thompson. Here are just 2 of its 23 verses:

*The mighty flood in darkness rolled  
In silence on its way;  
It swept away from home and friends  
The loving Annie Gray*

*Poor Annie Gray, your fate we mourn,  
And feel for your parents dear;  
Time's gentle hand their wound will soothe,  
And hope their hearts will cheer.*

*Parish Taphophile*





## Ready, Teddy, Go!

Don't be fooled by the photo; although I look like a fluffy little lapdog I am known here at Patterson's Cottage as The Greedy Grubster. I am anybody's for a biscuit and really enjoy a wet walk through the woods with plenty of puddle opportunities; the muddier the better. I arrived here after my human family, who loved their fur-baby very much, got themselves a hairless baby and the pressures just became too much. I reckon the last in first out system is the fairest but apparently the hairless baby didn't have growling and teeth in his repertoire so it was "Down the road" for old Teddy. I'm a Cockerchon – one parent a Cocker Spaniel and the other a Bichon Frise – which means I have the energetic nosiness, and interest in mud, of a spaniel with a desire for human affection that comes from the Bichon side of the family.



Anyway, enough about me, well, not really but I have been told to move on. Our dog charity now has a new name –

**Northumberland Dog Rescue** – which pretty much does what it says on the tin. This means we have a new website page [www.northumberlandogrescue.co.uk](http://www.northumberlandogrescue.co.uk) (and yes, just the one d) as well as a new Facebook page Northumberland Dog Rescue – Home. Please visit these to have a look at other dogs who are available for adoption. I'm nearly there – haven't shown my teeth for weeks now – but the humans here like to be sure before they let us go out to new homes.

We were all "pups on parade" a couple of weeks ago when the Boarding Kennel Licencing people came to inspect the premises and see how the staff care for the dogs. The 5 Star Rating was confirmed again. I can't say that I am surprised as the facilities are marvellous, a good muddy patch at the bottom of the paddock and humans who carry sausages will always be a winner in my book. Now that restrictions are over, we expect to see a lot of boarding dogs over the summer (by which time I plan on being out of here!) and we have a lot more volunteers about the place, mopping kennels and taking us out for lead training. If you would like to get involved, please drop us an email at [northumberlandogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:northumberlandogrescue@gmail.com) and one of my people will get back to you.

*Teddy*

# Eglingham Parish Council

Clerk: Angela Meek, 21 Orchard View, Linton NE61 5SP

Email: [eglinghamclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghamclerk@gmail.com)

## MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of Eglingham Parish Council held on 12 January 2022  
at South Charlton Village Hall

Present: Councillors D Biesterfield (DB - Chair), J Lawson (JLa), J Hamilton (JH), J Logan (JL), R Faulkner (RF)

In Attendance: Clerk – Angela Meek, County Councillor W Pattison (WP)

**Apologies for Absence** – Aaron Blackmore

**Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021** – the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

**Matters Arising** – none raised.

**Managing Clerk's Time** - The contractual hours had been increased by 3 hours to 15 hpm as agreed by A Gray when Chair. DB and Clerk would hold liaison meetings regularly to monitor workload with the intention that, in so far as possible, the Clerk's workload be contained within her planned 15 hpm, and the intention was that any requests for work by the Clerk should be made via the Chair.

To receive reports on the following:

**Suggestions Boxes** – none received.

**Eglingham Parish County Councillor's Report** – January's report was received. The PC resolved that the report would be circulated by the Clerk to residents via [residents@eglingham.org.uk](mailto:residents@eglingham.org.uk) email.

- Noted that funding is available to claim for Jubilee planning, and should be circulated on 14 January. PCs are recommended to apply as soon as possible.

- North Charlton Gateway signs – to be funded by WP. The installation plans are in hand and due for Spring/Summer 2022.

**Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan** – Noted that a revised draft had been submitted to Northumberland CC. The Non-Heritage Assets work had been undertaken by D Alston. The SEA five-week consultation was underway and, it was hoped, might be completed by end of February.

**Local History Project** – Noted the Project comprised the history of the churches and the history of villages. The board proposed for the Coach House Eglingham requires listed building consent to mount it on the gable end wall. There is also a small church services board on the front wall of the house which we want to remove and re-site on the church gates/wall. Removal of the small board had been granted. The conservation team wanted more detail about the style of the board to be mounted on the gable end. An extension to 3rd March has been granted to allow a more detailed proposal to be submitted. The consultant is producing a mock-up within the accepted timeframe.

JH reported that all other planning and listed building applications had been granted. JH to send copies to Clerk for filing. Action JH

**Biodiversity Study** – update report received and noted that all farmers' biodiversity plans held by Natural England are believed to have been lost by NE. JL would endeavour to obtain copies from farmers as they were thought to be a valuable asset [N.B. post meeting, it became clear that these plans are likely to be very difficult to source and are, anyway, likely to be out of date, so it is no longer intended to pursue them]. Action JL [cancelled]

**Broadband Project** - deferred

**Second Speed Sign for Eglingham** – JL has received two quotes (£2894 plus VAT, and £4600). The PC resolved to progress the proposal to informal consultation via Hearabouts and then JL would consider the quotes and submit a proposal to the PC for agreement to make a CF application. DB/JL to provide information to A Gray for Hearabouts. Action DB/JL

**Bins on Tarry** – a quote of £885.39 has been obtained for putting the bins in an enclosure and with a dog litter bin on the outside. AB had previously via email declared an interest in the item, two of the four bins belonging to him. The PC resolved to approve the submission of a CF application by M Angus.

**Tree Planting** – the LATF planting had been postponed until next planting season due to the amount of work needed following Storm Arwen. Noted that the trees donated by the Woodland Trust for community space area and to be planted in the Community field had been delivered. A commitment had had to be made to plant the trees by the end of March, as per an aerial photo. The PC resolved that AB would liaise with D Alston to agree the location and planting to ensure the timescale was met and agree the way forward. Action AB [N.B. post meeting, AB has indicated that there is greater flexibility as to where the delivered trees may be planted]

**PC's Insurance and New Lease for SCVH** – DB had met Sue Courty, Michael Stafford and Lorna Turner for productive discussions. Report received on current position and noted.

**Logging Routes & Heavy Vehicles** – update report received and noted.

**Storm Arwen – EPC Response** – the PC noted that both sets of VH management committees had indicated that they were not in favour of installing generators (potentially at a cost of £9000 to be fully funded by the CF). After consideration:

- EVHSC had decided to reject generators on the grounds of size (which would include a shed and safety barriers), value for money and need. They felt they could be better prepared to help the community if needed by providing gas heaters, gas bottle camping stoves and the community spirit of the village.
- SCVH were considering advice on how community groups could assist people in emergencies.

The PC expressed its disappointment in the VHC's decisions regarding generators (and by a majority of 4 to 1, the PC favoured their provision as a valuable means of enhancing the use of the VH's as community hubs in future emergencies) but recognised that the issue is entirely a matter for the respective VH Committees to decide.

The PC resolved, otherwise, to liaise with and support the VHC's in terms of their forward, emergency planning. JH stated that she understood the VHs decision and felt it was reasonable to have concerns about location and cost.

**Finances** – report received and all payments listed were approved for payment. A payment to M Tate of £230.46 was agreed as refund of additional expenditure for the Christmas Lights, payable from the remainder of the CF award.

**ECA Requests and Suggestions as per email from ECA Chair** – noted the proposals from the ECA about Eglington Bus Shelter and 70th Jubilee Party. A quote of £532.71 had been obtained for the work to the bus shelter to be done via CF award.

The PC resolved:

- 1) to agree to all matters in the ECA's email with, pro tem, the exception of the item on re-locating the bin (see 2) below);
- 2) to note the decisions previously made by the PC regarding the location of the bin inside the shelter (6 October 2021 item 118/21 and 13 March 2019 item 19/20), and to seek residents' views via Hearabouts on re-locating the bin in view of the ECA's advice about the bin attracting wasps and flies and creating an unpleasant environment for the children and others using the bus shelter;
- 3) Otherwise, to accept M Angus' offer to prepare a CF application on behalf of the PC. Action DB

**Publication of PC Minutes and Reports** – the PC resolved that the minutes would 1) continue to be sent to A Gray for publication in Hearabouts, with links to the PC's website; 2) be posted on the PC's website (together with background reports - which would be too long for inclusion in Hearabouts); 3) be placed on noticeboards together with the reports; 4) be circulated to residents as a PDF version with reports. The PC noted D Alston's reminder that there was a commitment in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and in the Communications Strategy for the PC minutes to be published in Hearabouts.

**Planning Matters** – NCC Planning had confirmed to DB that it had a backlog of planning applications so a delay in the PC responses was not of concern.

The following permissions were noted to have been granted:

- 21/02331/FUL Permission Granted – 2 new dwellings land SE of the Terrace Eglington
- 21/03701/FUL Permission Granted – Demolition and replacement of garage at 11 The Cottages North Charlton NE67 5HR

DB would draft responses to the following: Action DB

- a) 21/04783/REM Land South of Yarrow Cottage Ditchburn Rd South Charlton
- b) 21/04693/COU Middlemoor Narrow Boats Chathill NE67 5HP

**First Aid Courses & Defibrillator Training** – the PC had previously agreed the need for both defibrillator training – in view of defibrillators being installed in the parish - and for first aid courses – following a resident's suggestion. JL obtained quotes from St Johns Ambulance for a 4 hour course for 40 people at £600; and from Red Cross for course for 12 people at £340 which covered only heart issues and defibrillator demonstration. The PC resolved that JL would submit an application to CF for an award to fund both courses, and invite attendance from residents via residents@eglington.org.uk on a "first come first served" basis. A copy of the online link to be sent to DB. Action JL

**Updates on:**

**Proposal to Adopt NALC National Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – deferred, pending consideration of requisite amendments.

**Co-option of Parish Council Members** – Adam Wilson had withdrawn his application for co-option for personal reasons. The meeting with A McGarrigle was postponed by mutual agreement and was to be rearranged on her return to the Parish. Nikki Dickinson's CV was to be submitted to the next PC meeting for consideration. JH expressed her concerns about any lack of routine process for co-option of members but it was noted that the process was essentially consistent but required the PC to meet candidates who were less well known to prospective colleagues.

Any Other Urgent Business



**Defibrillator Costs for North Charlton** – the PC received JH's report and resolved that JH would make an application to CF for the purchase of the defibrillator, and send a link to the online application to DB. Action JH

**Christmas Lights** – M Tate was seeking approval for costs to be obtained on the basis of what residents would like in the future. The PC agreed costs could be obtained for discussion at a future meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.26pm

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Wednesday 23 February at 7.30pm – Eglingham Village Hall

**Future Meetings:**

Wednesday 6 April 2022 at 7.30pm – South Charlton Village Hall

Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 7.30pm – Eglingham Village Hall

**Hear Abouts note** - Itemised minutes and associated reports, that there is no room for in Hear Abouts, can be read on the Parish website - [www.eglingham.info](http://www.eglingham.info)

## **Doggerel Corner**

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

### **Eat Meat?**

*Yes I do eat meat! If you're a Veggie look away now!  
And I don't mean hens, or even a cow.  
A butcher in Rothbury has a board outside  
The choice of meats came as such a surprise!  
Ostrich and kangaroo I've seen as a dish  
Wild Boar and Pheasant can be quite delish'.  
Goats, Rabbits, Grouse at their optimum time,  
I have eaten them all and they tasted sublime!  
We live in the country and feed off the land  
But others on his list should surely be banned?*

*Crocodile – yes crocodile, what caught on the Coquet?  
No, of course they are farmed for huge sums I bet.  
'The flesh is not fishy and it's really quite lean,  
People come back for more!' says the butcher - I mean  
How far removed from our own rural setting?  
And that's not all - you could be getting  
Zebra, yes Zebra – roaming free over Beanley?  
How bizarre is that, and how unseemly!  
So close to a horse, it has hooves, mane, long neck,  
Would I knowingly eat him? Would I heck!*

*I have just got my head round battery hens,  
And accept there are fish farms, but the concept of pens  
Of 'Exotics' reared only for gourmets to eat,  
Is really quite shocking, and beggars belief!*

*So I'll keep buying 'normal meat' and keep to old habits,  
'Exotics' for me are deer and wild rabbits!*

Margaret B

# Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship Season 2021/22



Current standings are after a partially complete Game Week 28...

**1st - Andy Gray - 1710 pts**

2nd - Jon Waters - 1325 pts

3rd - Kay Waters - 1228 pts

4th - Sarah Henry - 1133 pts



## 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 [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com) and we'll endeavour to get you added.

**Next Issue:**  
**Sometime in April**  
**Please submit content by 20th of March**

[www.eglingham.info](http://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!

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