

HEAR ABOUTS

MAY 2022



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

From the Editor

Email: hearabouts@outlook.com

Address: The Croft
32 South Charlton
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 2NA

Was it just me or did April fly by? I'm already beginning to worry that Christmas is just around the corner and those dark nights will be back! Maybe it's the way I think but before nature can make the countryside beautiful and colourful again, I'm already thinking of the return to drab winter dress... Anyways, lets make the most of these next few weeks - spring is such a wonderful time! (unless you've spent all of it so far pulling mini sheep out of bigger sheep).

I just want to thank everyone, the many of you who reached out to me directly with such positivity about what I wrote about the Parish Council debacle in last month's issue. Over all the years I've put the magazine together, reactions to what appears in the pages could be counted on one hand. Yet after the last issue I was getting texts, emails, phone calls, stopped on the dog walk and supermarket to express their support and agreement with my sentiments - even from people I was convinced never actually read Hear Abouts!

Maybe I'll have to get wound up and write my opinions down more often...

Andy

**Next Issue:
Sometime in June
All content must be recieved by the 20th of May**

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".

Parish Council

I was appalled to read the Parish Council's letter published in Hear Abouts without Jane being given notice of publication or the right to reply. Whoever was responsible for this should be ashamed of their actions.

As the recent former Parish Council Chair of eight years (resigning just a year ago in April 21). I did not feel I could let this unpleasant episode pass without comment. I feel that the debacle involving the Parish Council is a very sad state of affairs and does not reflect well on the capabilities of the Parish Council to resolve conflict and dissent except through autocratic and drastic measures.

The letter recently published includes the signatures of all the Parish Councillors. Of those signatories two of them as new co-optees have never attended a parish council meeting and one of the other councillors has largely been absent from meetings for the last five months due to work commitments. One has to question why they signed the letter? A third recent co-optee sensibly did not sign.

A majority of those councillors including Jane had served with me whilst I was Chair of the Parish Council. A part of the role of the Chair of the Parish Council is to mediate and to try to reconcile differing views and reach a consensus viewpoint to the benefit of the community. There should be no need to resort to extreme and counterproductive actions.

Whilst I chaired the Parish Council, several members presented challenging views which were often difficult to reconcile. Jane's views were never anything other than trying to put the wishes of the residents forward and do the best for the wider community.

Vilifying a single member of the Council is rarely a productive strategy. To put the blame on one individual is unjust and cannot be representative of the truth. I feel through the actions of the Parish Council that they all must bear some of the responsibility for this state of affairs which is detrimental and costly to the community and importantly the reputation of the Parish Council.

I look forward to the appointment of a new and effective Parish Council.

David Alston
Former Parish Council Chair

Parish Council Vacancies

Casual Vacancies from the mass resignation last month have been advertised on the Parish website www.eglingham.info/news

Taken from each vacancy notice...

Notice is hereby given that due to the resignation of (*name of each resigning councillor*) a vacancy exists in the office of parish councillor for Eglingham Parish Council.

An election will be held if ten local government electors for the parish area make a written request to the Returning Officer to fill the vacancy.

Written requests should be made by not later than Thursday 19 May 2022 to:

*The Returning Officer
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Northumberland
NE61 2EF*

Community Foundation Clarification

In the absence of a current Parish Council we would like to take this opportunity to correct the minutes of the Parish Council meeting as reported in the April 2022 edition of Hear Abouts magazine circulated within Eglingham Parish. The minutes referred to an application by Eglingham Community Association and supported by the Parish Council, which was not awarded a grant from the RWE Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. The minutes stated that "*The PC will wish to understand why the Community Foundation has, in effect, blocked works expressly approved by the PC*". We would like to make it absolutely clear that the application was not 'blocked' by the Community Foundation. All applications are assessed by the Community Foundation and presented to an advisory panel. The Advisory Panel is an independent representative body convened by the Community Foundation which, after due consideration, makes recommendations on whether an application is supported or not. These decisions are then ratified by the Community Foundation, to ensure that obligations under charitable law are met. In this instance the Advisory Panel chose not to recommend it for a grant at this time. We will be writing to the Parish Council once duly elected to ask them for the same correction.

Pete Barrett
Senior Programme Advisor
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

Eglingham Village Hall Events

Eglingham Village Hall is opening its doors to a varied programme of events over the rest of this year with the support of the Middlemoor Windfarm Grant.

The ongoing plan is to present you with this programme so that you can plan ahead and put the dates into your diary.

Eglingham Village Hall is such an important asset to our community, and as such we need the community to support our efforts in bringing these events to the village to enrich and broaden our cultural experiences.

So please support us and contact me now to book tickets!

Email gil30@icloud.com Tel 07808881730

Saturday 7th May @ 7pm

Richard Kain Band

Tuesday 18th May @ 7pm

Gardeners' Question Time

Sunday 12th June @ 2pm

Flamenco Guitar with Clifford Blakely and Tapas

Tuesday 14th June

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

If you have any thoughts or ideas about what you would like to see in the Village Hall they would be very welcome.

Youth Club

After a few discussions with parents and grandparents within the parish, we would like to invite those interested in a "youth club" along to the Eglingham Community Field, on Saturday July 2nd, after "Coffee and Chats" at 12pm for a picnic and games on the field.

This invite is open to all – Parents, Grandparents, Young People and those who wish to be involved or just want to see what it is all about.

Any queries, please get in contact with me via email on jess.angus.101@hotmail.co.uk.

Thanks

Jess

Eglington Village Hall

THE RICHARD KAIN BAND



Saturday 7th May

Doors open 7pm for 8pm

Pre-booked tickets £8
(£10 on the night)

Bar available

Contact Gil 07808881730
gil30@icloud.com
or Morrison 01665578591
morrison.tate@btinternet.com

Eglington Village Hall

**Gardeners' Question
Time**

Ask our panel
about your garden

Sarah Davidson, NGS Lilburn Tower

Tom Pattinson, Journalist and Broadcaster

Robert Jamieson, Head Gardener, Howick Estate

Wednesday 18th May



If your garden or pot plants are in
need of attention then please
submit questions in advance by
30th April 2022. Photographs and
illustrations welcome.

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm

Bar available

Tickets Gil 07808881730
gil30@icloud.com

Eglington Village Hall

An afternoon of
Flamenco Guitar
with Clifford Blakey
including Tapas

Sunday 12th June

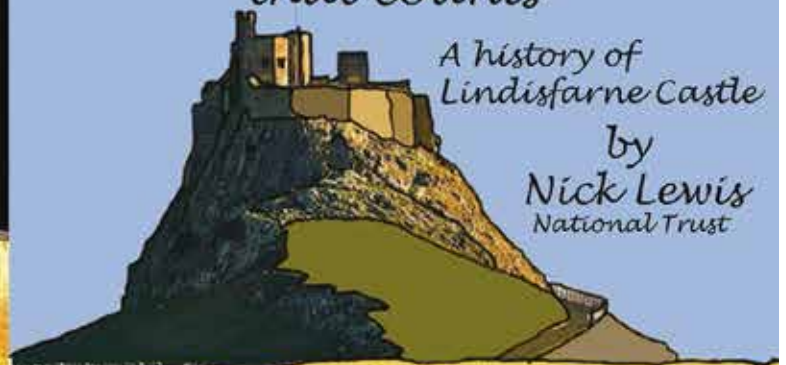
2 - 4pm

Pre booked
Tickets £5
(£6 on the day)

Morrison 01665578591
morrison.tate@btinternet.com
Gil 07808881730
gil30@icloud.com

Eglington Village Hall

**"Lindisfarne, it's the fort
that counts"**



A history of
Lindisfarne Castle

by
Nick Lewis
National Trust

Tuesday 14th June

Doors open 7pm for
7.30pm

Admission free (Donations welcome)

Tickets Contact

Gil 07808881730
gil30@icloud.com

• **WE'RE HERE TO HELP** •



ADVOCACY

Advocacy is taking action to empower you.

We provide free & independent support to help you say what you want, secure your rights, represent your interests and obtain the services you need.



BEFRIENDING

Not having someone to talk to regularly can be lonely, but it doesn't have to be that way. We run a range of Friendship Services across the county to support and offer friendship to people who are feeling isolated, lonely or would just like to make new friends.



BEREAVEMENT

When we experience loss, the weight of grief can feel overwhelming.

Our Bereavement Support service can assist with:

- Practical advice and signposting
- Self-help information
- Emotional Support



HEALTH & WELLBEING

The Health and Wellbeing team provide a county wide service with a strong focus on delivering exercise classes to suit all levels and abilities.



HOME CARE

Our Home Care services are tailor made to provide you with everything you need to enhance your life and to maintain your independence.



INFORMATION & ADVICE

Free, confidential and impartial advice for over 50s, their families, carers and organisations. Services include Welfare Rights, Housing and home care advice

For more information, give our friendly team a call on
01670 784 800 or email info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk

Little Acorns Pre-school “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”

To mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee the children at Little Acorns, together with some village friends have planted a mini orchard of apple, pear, plum and cherry trees in the village garden in South Charlton.

We were keen to create a special commemorative space where the community can become custodians of our trees or simply enjoy their shade, beauty, and fruit.

We would like the whole community to benefit from the project. South Charlton is a small village with a big community spirit. The intergenerational activities we have held in the past have been so well supported by young and old. 0-100 years. We have designed and created bird feeders with the residents at the former old people’s home, shared memory boxes with them and many singing and storytelling moments. There is little to compare with the shared excitement and fascination as a child or senior spots a bird feeding from one of their homemade feeders or discovers the first shoot appearing from their seed tray. So, to be able to share even more wonderful experiences and memories together in a space surrounded by nature would be amazing.



Once the trees were planted the children had a great time mixing compost, clay and water together with some wild flower seeds and enjoyed a crazy few moments throwing them and some special jubilee seed bombs into the carefully prepared ground. Thanks to June and Ruth for the seed gifts.

We will plant our sunflowers around the trees to add some extra colour and wildlife interest, thanks Bob!

Please do all come and enjoy.



300 Word Story Time

The designated opening for these stories was **“Machines whirring, lights flickering, then the air becomes heavy with acrid smoke...”**

Next month's opening is... **“You'll be fine' she said. I closed the door behind me and set off down the path...”** Get your 300 word stories in to the usual email hearabouts@outlook.com by the 20th of May.

Machines whirring, lights flickering, then the air becomes heavy with acrid smoke...

Judd's eyes widened in horror, his lips mouthed unspoken words of incredulity. In over 30 years at the plant he'd never witnessed anything like this. It had all happened so damn fast. For several seconds he couldn't move. Not a muscle. But as panic washed through him he finally reached out and hit the alarm button, then grabbed his coat and his lunchbox and ran as quickly as his frail legs would carry him towards the corridor. Within seconds he found himself swallowed up in a terrifying crush of co-workers, all jostling, shouting, coughing and straining with all their might to get to the distant door.

By the time he made it out into the blinding sunlight, men all around him were moaning and groaning, yelling wildly at no one in particular, or leaning against outbuilding walls gasping for breath. He turned to look at the awful scene behind him. Flames were now surging through huge, gaping holes in the roof, reaching like grasping orange fingers high into the sky; panes of glass were exploding in window frames; and a distant, haunting scream could be heard mingling with the shrill wailing of the sirens. It was the air conditioning unit expiring.

The pall of smoke could be seen even at a half-dozen miles distant, hanging like a smudge of grey paint against the cobalt blue of the sky. Old Jess pushed a handful of rebellious hair back under his sweat-stained baseball cap and shook his head in disbelief. 'My God,' he muttered. 'There goes the fire extinguisher factory.'

Marcus

Machines whirring, light flickering, then the air becomes heavy with acrid smoke...

I had the awful feeling that things were definitely not going to plan, thankfully my wife's voice rang out from the doorway at that moment.

“Pete what are you doing in there”, she bustled in and within seconds had silenced the whine from the over worked food processor, she removed the vegetables from the hob so they stopped bubbling over wildly and the steam began to clear, and she yanked the sausages out from under the grill, spitting and smoking and definitely more charred than the illustrations in Jamie's '30 minute meals cookbook'. I looked shamefacedly at the remnants of the ingredients I'd prepared so optimistically only an hour before. The sausage casserole had looked like the perfect offering for lunch and Jamie's directions were usually so straightforward.

Today things had not proceeded smoothly. I'd needed the loo after putting the vegetables on to boil, and I'd taken a little longer than expected. At my age I've begun to find it

takes as long as it takes! When I came back into the kitchen the sausages which I'd put under a low grill, to just brown off a little, were spitting and smoking as the hot fat hit the elements. Distracted by the sausages I'd forgotten to turn down the veg which had started to run riot itself spitting water and clouds of steam across the range. The mixer which had been quietly mixing the filling for some Frangipani tartlets was now howling like a banshee. For a moment I was paralysed with indecision until my wife raced to my rescue...

Lunch that day was a desultory affair, charred sausage with soggy carrots and overcooked green beans, followed by yoghurt as the frangipani for the tarts had curdled. The lesson for the day had definitely been "if you can't stand the heat keep out of the kitchen, but don't forget to do the washing up first!"

Pete

Eglingham WI

Well, we had a very good attendance at our April meeting, held a week early due to Easter. Brenda opened the meeting and welcomed seven visitors who had been invited. Our speak was Mark Hatton whose talk was on gravestones. Actually the subject was entitled 16th and 17th Century Gravestones around Northumberland. He had many slides showing different headstones in many of the local village churchyards and there were also some from Edinburgh. The talk was extremely interesting and Mark explained what all the carved symbols on the gravestones represented.

During supper the raffle was drawn and was won by Maureen Sullivan.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

Our next event is a trip to Beamish.

Pat Ives

Tennis News

The Eglingham Tennis Club will be starting "hitting sessions" on a Monday night 6-7.30pm on the community tennis court.

There will be a maximum of 6 players per session and it will be done on a first come first served basis. £2 per person per session. These sessions will improve stamina, skill and performance.

For these sessions you need to be able to rally a ball.

If there are any rusty players out there, or beginners new to the game and want to get back into tennis we are offering coaching sessions for all abilities. DONT BE SHY!

Please contact me Nicky Dickinson 07919172355 or look out for info re hitting sessions on the tennis Whatsapp Booking app.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Nicky

Learning about leads...

...that's what I've been up to; finding out how to walk properly when I'm tied to a human. My name is Oscar, I am a Saluki cross – not a cross Saluki, I have an incredibly happy nature – and have just celebrated my first birthday. Being at the Northumberland Dog Rescue kennels at Charlton Mires isn't just about having a safe place with the right grub-exercise combination and access to a vet; we have to learn how to fit in to homes and lives so that we can be successfully adopted.

I'm fascinated by other dogs, people, birds and, well, just everything really – it's to do with me being a young dog but, according to my trainer, not everyone appreciates a snout in their nether regions. Even when it is my rather elegant snout. I have been taking a volunteer out so that she can teach me how to keep the elegant article mentioned out of other people's business and I have done tremendously well. Don't just take my word for it, you can watch me, on film, ambling coolly through the busy streets on the Northumberland Dog Rescue Facebook page. It's a shame we missed the (pun alert) Oscars; I wonder if Jane Campion wants a dog?



There was a great turnout for the first Adopted Dogs Dog Walk at Bamburgh. Everyone behaved brilliantly on their leads and some old faithfuls even gave a masterclass in good off-lead manners on a busy beach. The humans enjoyed cakes and drinks, in The Stables courtesy of Bamburgh Castle, and catching up with old friends. There will be more walks like this as opportunities for excitable dogs to meet new challenges surrounded by calm humans and dogs are really valuable; and because everyone likes cake and a natter.

A quick adoption update – Gus the French Bulldog from last month has gone to live with some people who have another Frenchie. This is handy as he won't have to struggle on in a second language. Gerrald the windy, elderly, Chihuahua, has retired to some lovely people who must have excellent ventilation and Lola the Lurcher has moved to the coast.

We are always keen to make new friends so anyone interested in volunteering at the kennels, as a dog walker or in our Charity Shop should contact anniewallace60@gmail.com to find out more. To adopt a dog please visit the website www.northumberlandogrescue.org.uk

Autographs later darlings,

Oscar

County Councillor
wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk
Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook



Northumberland to share in £300m Government funding to create family hubs

Northumberland is set to benefit from a share of multi-million-pound funding to transform its children's centres into Family Hubs that give young people of all ages the best start in life.

The county's network of Sure Start Children's Centres currently provide a wide range of support services for children aged 0-5 and their families.

As Family Hubs, this support will be rolled out to all young people from birth through to adulthood, making a difference to and improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Midwives, health visitors, early years and mental health professionals, youth workers, and a host of other services - including relationship, parenting, and financial advice – will be brought together into a vibrant one-stop-shop that meets the needs of family life for young people of all ages.

As well as bringing investment into the current children's centres across the county – the Family Hubs will also build on lessons learned during the pandemic and will offer online and virtual services too, so that support can be as accessible as possible.

Enter your green schemes for a LOVE Northumberland award

Applications are now open for this year's LOVE Northumberland Awards – the annual celebration of all that is great about community environmental work in the county.

The awards, now in their 11th year, will culminate in a special event at the Alnwick Garden with the Duchess of Northumberland in the summer.

Community groups, schools and individuals can apply in seven different award categories for projects and initiatives which improve their local areas or neighbourhoods.

The LOVE Northumberland Awards 2022 allow the county council to recognise the fantastic work of a great many groups and individuals who are doing their bit to make the county greener and cleaner.

This is an event to celebrate the amazing work of schools and community groups, as well as individual volunteers, whose commitment showcases the fantastic

environmental work going on in our beautiful county.

Judges have always been extremely impressed with the high calibre of nominations and we are certain that this year will be no exception.

If you have an environmental story to tell, please do make an application.

Entries are invited for the categories of:

- Best children's project;
- Best young people's project;
- Best urban project;
- Best coast or countryside project;
- Outstanding individual;
- Best community response to the climate change emergency

The closing date for entries for the 2022 awards is Friday 13 May at 4pm, and full details and an application form can be found at www.northumberland.gov.uk/love or by email from carrol.hessey@northumberland.gov.uk

Winners will be presented with their awards by Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland at an event at The Alnwick Garden on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

County Councillor Wendy Pattison
Longhoughton Division

Portfolio Holder for Adult Well-being
Northumberland County Council

County Hall

Morpeth

NE61 2EF

Tel. 07779983072

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk

The Gimmer

*Come bye, come here, where the hell are you
Screams the shepherdess as she tries to
Corner a gimmer with a head stuck out
But the dog clears off at the terrible shout
And the sheep bolts past, the leg stick missing
Then down comes the rain, a steady hissing.
She removes her hat and tips out the water
While she wonders whether she oughta
Hurl her stick at the donnered dog
Or brain the gimmer with a handy log.
Mind made up, she advances
The teeth are clenched, eyes like lances
Inching forward, sheep in sight
The dog returns to join the fight
She knows this is a big improvement*

And leg hooks the gimmer with a pincer movement.
The sheep takes off and sends her flying
She lands on the dog who thinks he's dying
The sheep starts wriggling pulling and worse
In a vain attempt to escape its nurse
With a twist of the crook (which did it no harm)
She upended the gimmer and dived in with her arm.
Fishing around she gets hold of a leg
And drags the lamb out, sure that it's dead
But a few seconds of poking and squeezing
Soon has the little lamb steadily breathing.
She takes a step back, her work to admire
And feels satisfaction glowing inside her
But then she looks up and sees in the distance
The gimmer's cleared off and she needs some assistance.

She returns to the farm to get the tractor
The poor donnered dog hobbling after
She gets the machine with the box on the back
And returns to the field to renew the attack.
The gimmer is blaring and tearing around
Quite unaware she's a lamb on the ground
Twice 'round the field and the sheep is tiring
when the tractor breaks down with faulty wiring
Finally on foot, she has it at bay
Out comes the crook to collar her prey.
But the gimmer's determined she'll not be caught
and hurdles the fence without a thought.
The shepherdess is thoroughly sick
and in frustration throws her stick
Which turns and twindles through the skies
and smacks the gimmer between the eyes.
The gimmer is stopped, dead in its tracks
down it goes, as if poll axed.
She is over the fence in double quick time
and ties its legs with binder twine.
Singing and dancing and kicking her height
Was one shepherdess, who was filled with delight.
A passing hiker says to his friend
'That bloody girl's loopy, she's gone round the bend.
It'll be us she next fells with that crook,
let's not hang about' and with that off they took.
The morale of this lengthy tale
Is enough to make a grown man quail
It's also true and very sad
DON'T LAMB GIMMERS THEY'LL DRIVE YOU MAD.

Storms

They were the same age: side by side they stood, tall and handsome. They had already survived many storms together.

Seasons had come and gone but they stood firm, growing stronger with each passing year.

Mature now, no longer tossed this way and that by those winds of change. They had an air of stability and continuity, so rooted in our memory that life without them was difficult to imagine.

But all life is fragile and can be crushed in time by the violence of outside forces. One fateful day their lives and ours would be changed forever: they would be battered, wounded and felled in the battle.

As the winds tore into them, only one would be left standing, stark against the bleak winter skies. The other uprooted, lying lifeless on the ground.

Storm Arwen was akin to the force of the Enemy in the midst of a Battle for Life. Mature trees damaged, or felled, just as combat had taken those other lives of soldiers on the Front Line. Some would survive, but others close by them, and always by their side would not. It is a stark allegory for Life.

Help arrives and people rally round to share the grief. Eventually new saplings will take their place. Life goes on and people embrace the signs of regeneration. The memory of those lost will fade with each passing year. The circle of life of life will be complete.

Margaret Bell

BOOK QUIZ- Famous Opening Lines...

Do you know the title of the book and even the author of these?

1. *'Last night I dreamt I went to Manderlay again'*
2. *'Marley was dead to begin with'...*
3. *'All children except one, grow up'...*
4. *'Until he was four years old, James Henry Trotter had a happy life'...*
5. *'Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy'...*
6. *'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness'....*
7. *'Miss Brooke had that kind of beauty which seems to be thrown into relief by poor dress'....*
8. *'Scarlet O'Hara was not beautiful, but men seldom realised it when caught by her charm as the Tarleton twins were'....*
9. *'I was born in the year 1632, in the city of York, of a good family, though not of that country, my father being a foreigner of Bremen, who settled at first at Hull'....*
10. *'The first place I can remember well was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it'...*

Answers in the next issue

Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship Season 2021/22



Current standings are after a partially complete Game Week 35...

1st - Andy Gray - 2167 pts

2nd - Jon Waters - 1640 pts

3rd - Kay Waters - 1507 pts

4th - Sarah Henry - 1437 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 david@eglingham.org.uk and we'll endeavour to get you added.

Next Issue:
Sometime in June
Please submit content by 20th of May
www.eglingham.info

DISCLAIMER

Just a reminder for the easily offended or argumentative. Please note that the views expressed within are those of the named contributors not the Hear Abouts team. Thank you. Feel free to write in with a reply to anything to be published though!

Also please be aware that Hear Abouts is made available online digitally at www.eglingham.info and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".