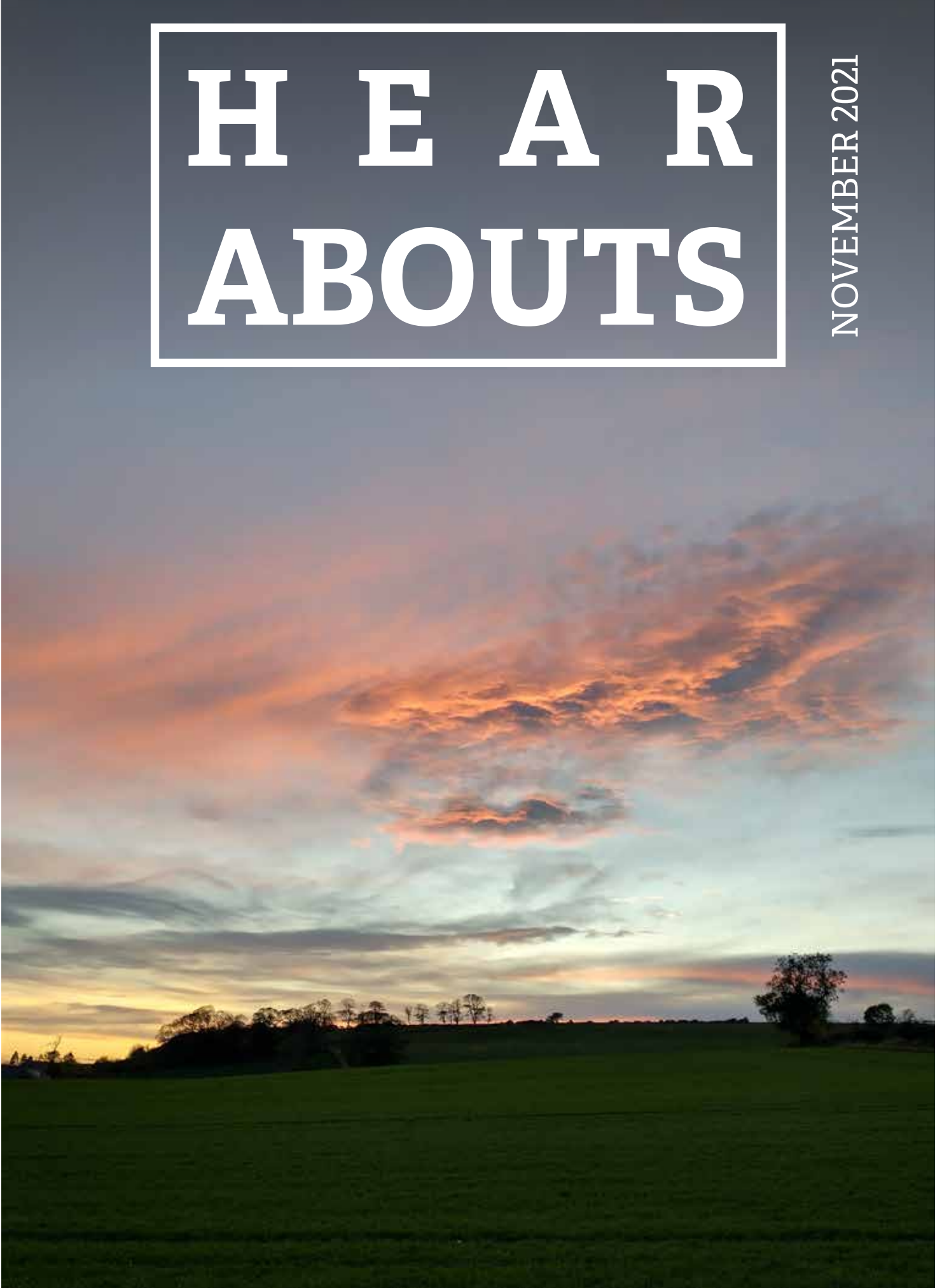


# HEAR ABOUTS

NOVEMBER 2021



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

## From the Editor

Email: [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com)

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

*Firstly, apologies for this issue being quite late. As I'm finally laying it all out its the evening of the 14th of November. In the 12 years I've done this is easily the latest I've been!*

*But it has been quite the tumultuous few weeks! Which is why you may have found out on the parish jungle drums that I've stepped down as both Chair of the Parish Council and as a parish councillor. It turns out that trying to do almost everything around here has a negative effect on your health, your productivity, your business, and the enjoyment of the company of your friends and family. Thinking about you all 24/7 (for good reasons) isn't healthy ...who knew?!*

*So that will now be someone else's responsibility to politic and bend various views for the betterment of the community.*

*As this issue is late, don't be surprised if December's is out in the middle of the month too...*

*'Til then, stay safe! (again)*

Andy

## Next Issue:

Sometime in December

All content must be recieved by the 20th of November

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

# The Eglington Calendar 2022

We would like to thank everyone who submitted photos for the 2022 Eglington Calendar. The standard of photos was better than ever, making the selection process a challenging task!

We are hoping to have the Calendars printed in time for this month's Coffee & Chats on the morning of Saturday 13th November when they will be available for £5 a copy.

This year we are also selling notelets using some of the photos submitted for the calendar. The notelets come in packs of six, each with a different photo. We will be selling these for £4 a pack.

The calendars and notelets will also be on sale at the Christmas Fair on Sunday 5th December in Eglington Village Hall from 2-4pm.

If you cannot attend either event, these items are also available by phoning 01665 578460

*Eglington Community Association*



## Leek Club Christmas Events

Christmas Bingo - Saturday 4th December - eyes down 7:30pm  
Christmas Quiz - Saturday 18th December - 7:30pm

# VERY IMPORTANT!!

## Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Fund

RWE (previously Innogy) would love to hear your views on Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Fund. After 8 years in operation, and with around 17 more years to run, RWE (the wind farm operator) is currently reviewing how the fund is progressing. We'd love to know if there's anything more we can do to support your communities to get even more benefit from the fund.

There are a number of ways you can get involved:

- Fill in a questionnaire –you can complete an online version by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Middlemoor> or you can pick up a hard copy locally (from noticeboards in each village). We'd be grateful if these could be completed by 30th November.
- Arrange a telephone call or send us an email. I'd be really happy to arrange one to one telephone calls, or to receive emails from community members. As before you can email us on: [community.investment@rwe.com](mailto:community.investment@rwe.com) or leave me a message on 07760 190477 and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will look out for updates on the fund in future editions of Hear Abouts.

*Kathryn Harries*

Community Investment Officer, RWE Renewables (the operators of Middlemoor Wind Farm)

## Christmas Lights

Keep an eye on the residents@ email list about the “switch on” event for the trial lights display in Eglingham, in early Decmeber.

## WI

No meeting as such this month. Instead, on 14th October, instead of our usual proceedings, a group of our members went to see the NTC production of The Importance of Being Earnest at Eglingham village hall. It was a lively and excellent production and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our normal meeting will be resumed as normal in November.

*Pat Ives*

*Eglingham Community*



# Christmas Fayre

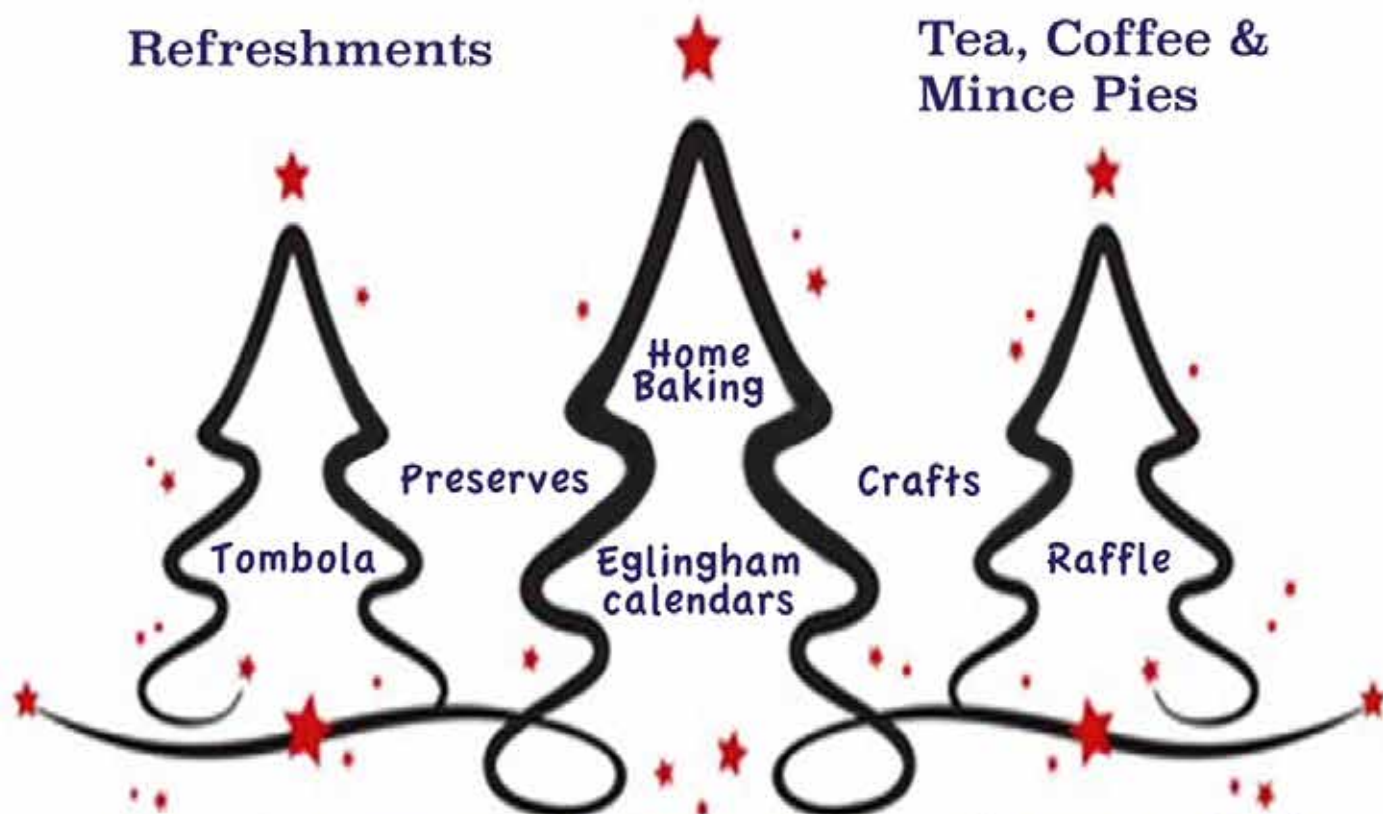
**Sunday 5th December**

**2-4pm**

**at Eglingham Village Hall**

Refreshments

Tea, Coffee &  
Mince Pies



*Women's Institute, St Maurice's Church, ECA & EVH*

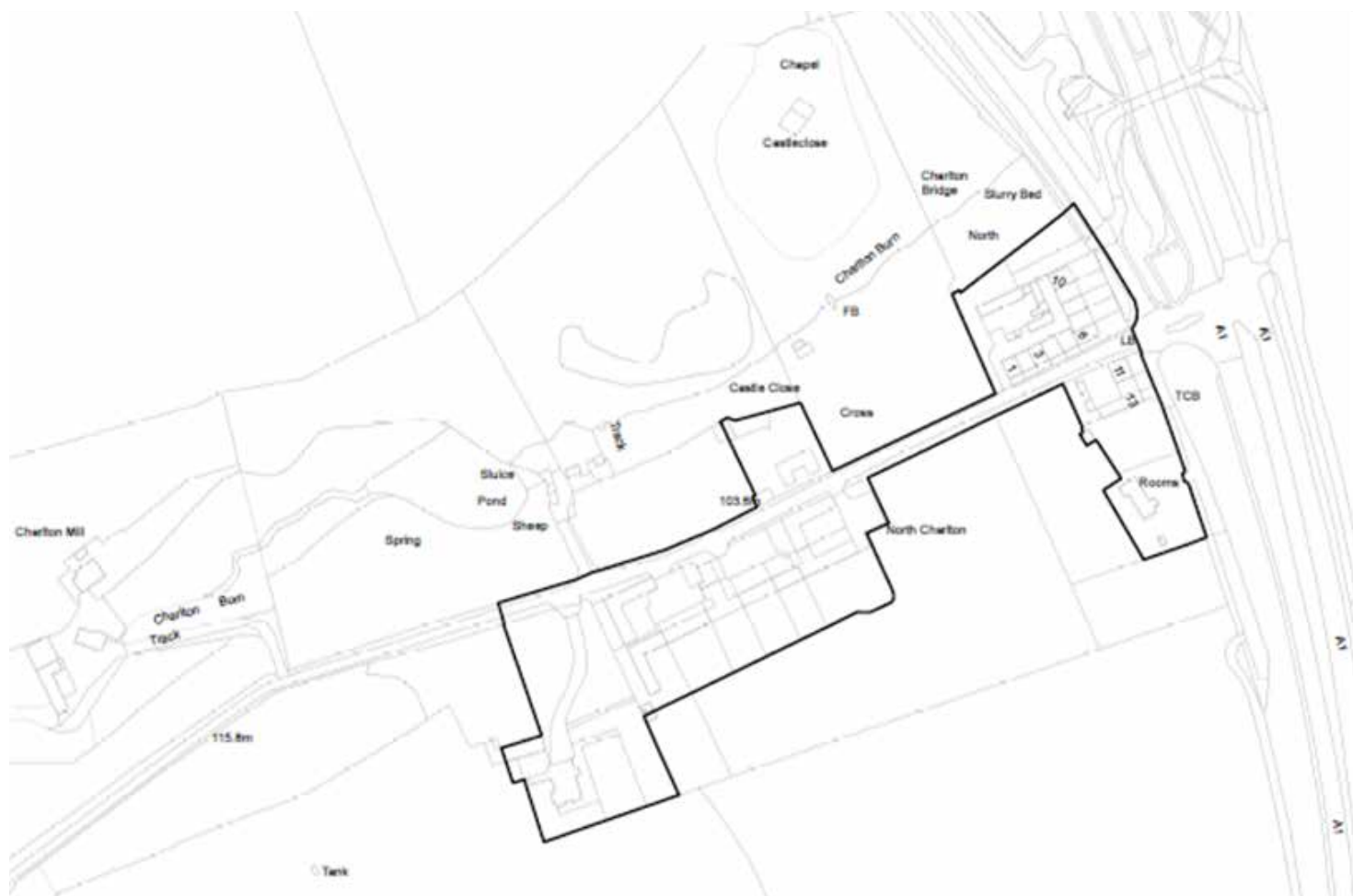
# North Charlton – Proposed Settlement Boundary

Eglingham Parish Council is preparing a neighbourhood plan for the local area. Neighbourhood plans are planning policy documents prepared by parish councils that are used by the County Council to help make decisions on planning applications. The Parish Council are proposing to create settlement boundaries in the Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan. A 'settlement boundary' is a dividing line, or boundary between built-up areas (the settlement) and the countryside. The purpose is to give clarity about where new development could happen.

The Parish Council are seeking views of residents and businesses in North Charlton on their proposal to create a settlement boundary.

A draft settlement boundary is shown on the map.

Please send feedback to the PC via [eglinghamclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghamclerk@gmail.com) no later than 1st of December.



## I'll be your Buddy... if you'll be mine

...if you'll be mine! Hello there, my name is Buddy. I am an 8 year old Staffy who was brought in as a stray; I don't have many foibles but I do like to wrap myself up in a towel or blanket to go to bed which is a little bit odd but harmless. My job today is to give you the headlines from Alexa's Animals' Annual General Meeting which was held at South Charlton Village Hall last month and gave people the big picture of 2020 from the point of view of the charity.

The Trustees told us that it had been a very difficult year – can't imagine why, seemed pretty normal to us furry types – for the boarding business with everyone apart from key workers staying at home and no-one going abroad on holiday. This meant our overnight bookings were down by 75% and our day stays by 50%. Financially we were kept afloat by the kindness of people and businesses, the success of our online second-hand sales during lockdown and the shop in Wooler once things opened up. Our humans took the opportunity to improve the premises with a sensory garden and digging pit for us. They also laid some Astroturf for dainty dogs and those who are under the vet so don't want to get their bandages muddy. We're getting somewhere for the staff to sit under cover in the paddock too because they spend a lot of wintry days out there with us. Early on in 2020 there was a lot of interest in adopting dogs as companions through lockdown and not everyone who got in touch was really ready for a furry friend. Assessing whether a home is safe for a dog via Zoom was a bit different but Alexa's still managed to re-home 52 dogs during the year. Although that's an average of one a week there are seasons for adoption with March and September being the busiest months.

Back in the present, there are a couple of Christmas events that

we are supporting that you might want to put in your diary: Amble Light Festival on Thursday 21st November 5-7pm so we will be opening our shop a bit later and Wooler Christmas Market on Sunday 5th December and our shop will be open 10.30am-1pm.



## 300 word Stories

We're back on form with lots of contributions again! Well done to you all. The next opening for you to have a go with is... "That wasn't supposed to happen, what do we do now?"

**After that it all went quiet, but I could still hear some voices.** I breathed deeply, sucking on the plastic tube in my mouth. The pain was still present, sharp and insistent. Another deep breath, suck, again and again, feeling the edge of the pain receding, the insistence slipping away. Breathe, suck, breathe, suck. I'm moving away, slowly at first, descending down what feels like a well shaft. It's dark, but the voices and the light are above me. Suck, suck, slipping further down the shaft, the voices and the light receding. Am I dying? My chest feels odd, heart racing, a muffled roaring in my ears, the light above bright but too far away. Surely they will know there's something going wrong here. Suck, I don't feel right at all but I can't say anything, I've just got to suck on this tube which now I can't feel anymore. I don't think I'm breathing either. Surely someone will notice? I'm very tired, it's dark now. I can't hear them anymore. Am I dead?

"Peter, we have finished now".....somewhat louder....., "Peter".....louder again and with a tinge of unease..... "Peter can you hear me, are you alright?"

I'm shaken gently. Someone takes the plastic tube out of my loose lips and I'm turned to look at the light which is now very bright and just above my head. My head begins to clear as the effects of the supplementary entenox gas and air begin to wear off. I'm not dead, thank goodness, I'm not even dying, but I am recovering from the sedation I've been given for my minor surgical procedure. Ten minutes later I'm up with a cup of tea, and reflecting that if that's what gas and air can do to you it's too scary and I'm going to ask for full anaesthesia next time...

Pete

**After that it all went quiet, but I could still hear some voices.**

Norton High Street was a mere stone throw's away. Perhaps revellers were cutting through the cobbled alleyway which bordered the school grounds. It was my first night in the caretaker's bungalow. The Head Teacher had offered it to me when he heard that I was staying at The Hollies Guesthouse in Barnard Castle a fifty minute drive away. "You are welcome to stay here until you find somewhere more permanent Ann. You will be doing me a favour keeping the place aired and of course there will be no charge." So I accepted and I was now truly regretting my decision.

The voices had subsided but worse than that there was a heavy, pregnant feeling in the air. The silence was palpable. I strained to hear a sound, any sound, even the whirr of a refrigerator or the tick of a clock but there was nothing. Then I sensed a presence. Something was moving in the house. I switched on the bedside lamp and hastily dressed, throwing a fleece on top of my tracksuit and shoving my feet into trainers. The whole house was freezing. But nothing was amiss. The



place was devoid of life.

A cold draught of air moved past my right shoulder and as I turned I heard muffled, guttural voices coming from the empty living room. Fear flooded through me as I grabbed my bag and keys, and dashed for my car. One hour later I was drinking sweet tea proffered to me by a sympathetic landlady who listened intently to my story.

"I am not surprised Ann. Decades ago they uncovered a Pagan Anglo-Saxon burial ground there and they still built a school on it. They should have left them to rest in peace."

Gill Cadwallader

(A true story - experienced by a friend and colleague)

**After that it all went quiet, but I could still hear some voices,** insistent and anxious, but strangely distant and indistinct. Immediately before I had experienced flight, or rather freefall, followed by the sharp crack of shattering bone and the overwhelming sensation of pain, succeeded by the welcome journey into unconsciousness.

Thus, a day of brilliant sunshine softening the frozen nip of clear January air on the tops, turned from exuberant strenuous exertion into near tragedy in an instant. Compacted but unstable snow on invisible slab ice close to a stunning viewpoint had deceived us into seeking the best position for a picture, and I had paid the price, slithering uncontrollably the few feet to the edge and helplessly proceeding into the void.

The mercy of my faint was soon disturbed by a return to fractured reality, and the voices strengthened as my companions worked round the cliff to locate me. Survival bag, extra clothes, warm fluid, and the most comfortable position were soon deployed, while relief was expressed that there was mobile signal. Details were asked and given, and advice welcomed for the agonising interval before help arrived.

At first a faint and distant hum, music metamorphosed into the familiar thump of rotors beating up the valley. Never have I so welcomed the sound and sight of assistance, nor acquiesced to every request to comply so willingly. Morphine was suddenly a friend rather than a threat on the streets, and all those years of taxes small price to pay. Gentle handling contested with necessary movement as I was manhandled into this magic transport and lifted from desolation to a place of hope.

Many white coats and hours under anaesthetic later, the road to recovery begins, and never again will I utter a word against our emergency and hospital services.

Ian

## Live Theatre returns to the Village Hall!

### **An Earnest Review of the Importance of Being Ernest by Oscar Wilde adapted and performed by the Northumberland Touring Company**

This October we were treated to an adaptation of the original play described as a 'Trivial Comedy for Serious Folk'. The bar was open again and the stage was set. There was a buzz of anticipation in the hall. It was well attended but seating was spaced out, and some wore masks, but there seemed to be a return to some sort of normality.

Louis Roberts had adapted and edited the play, and doubled up as technical director, stage hand, a bit part actor and producer. There was a cast of six, three men and three women, and the actors stayed close to the original characters. Only one female had to double up as the governess and Lady Bracknell. We have seen many of the Touring Theatre's performances in Eglington and again they did not disappoint.

The staging was formal and traditional, the players moved around with remarkable ease considering the restrictions of space. Usually the NTC actors are closer to the audience, even known to sit in with us and heckle. Because of Covid restrictions the actors were at a distance and contained on the stage, although we still had some exits and entrances through the main auditorium, which was quite exciting and unexpected at times!

The costumes were splendid, the female characters really showed off some colourful Victorian costumes, and hats! The mannerisms and speech of Victorian gentlemen were dramatically parodied, with the hint of melodrama, of course, we expect no less. The 'Big Lad' David McCarthy was there again and cast as Algernon. As well as the clipped tones of a gentleman, (Ay it's called acting Bonny Lad!) he sported a dramatic new hair style, flowing locks at one side and a traditional short back and sides on the other.

I thought at one stage he may be playing two parts, turn one way and he is a smart gentleman and the other a rakish bohemian. His costume was not split down the middle so we presumed it was just a fashion statement?

Those of us familiar with the plot of the young 'Jack/ Ernest' being found in a Handbag at a Railway Station were waiting for those immortal lines from Lady Bracknell: 'A Haaaand Baag? But these were fully integrated back into the dialogue – hardly noticeable, delivered with gravitas but not the same dramatic intonation as expected! What a shame! Oh, and The Bag too – it looked like a Sports Bag (?) not a proper carpet bag possibly big enough to hold a baby! What a shame! Other parts of the dialogue were parodied and the play was turned into a melodrama most of the time, which is what we had come to see. This was after all the NTC's version of events! The women shone, with affected smiles and barbed remarks to each other and to poor Ernest, the butt of their snobbery. They played it for comedy, their dramatic and sometimes frivolous take on events, battling it out with the male characters.

It was a good well-rehearsed production again, and entertaining, but I did miss the adlibs and the audience participation. I expect all that to be back Big Time for the Pantomime.

Look out for dates - coming to a village hall near you! It should be another great evening.

*Margaret Bell*

# Henry's Tree

A big thank you to all the people who contributed to the collection for Henry's tree.

The Parochial Church Council and the Diocese have kindly given permission for the tree to be planted in the churchyard.

The tree chosen reflects Henry's love of the seasons in particular the spring and autumn. The tree is a *Crataegus laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet' a rounded hawthorn tree with glossy mid green-leaves with clusters of double scarlet flowers (March to May) followed in the autumn by red or orange fruit.

The tree has been planted adjacent to the wall at the eastern edge of the churchyard (the side nearest to Village farm) together with a commemorative plaque.

*David Alston*



**County Councillor Report**  
[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk)  
Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook



## EGLINGHAM PARISH

I wanted to include the following information which is from the Social Farms and Gardens Website and are a charity based organisation amongst others in the Country which support a supervised, structured programme of farm-related activity for people with a defined need.

### WHAT IS CARE FARMING?

Care farming means the therapeutic use of farming practices. It's sometimes called social farming.

Care farming sits amongst other nature-based therapies that are collectively called 'green care'. Green care means structured nature programmes for people with a defined need to benefit health, social care or education outcomes.

Social Farms & Gardens is a founding member of the Green Care Coalition. The coalition represents green care providers in the UK and promotes green care as effective option for health and social care.

People attend care farms for different reasons. It can be for health and social care, dementia, mental health and wellbeing, rehabilitation or a specialist education programme.

There are around 300 care farms of all shapes and sizes right across the UK providing care places. Care farms can look very different from each other and are as diverse as the people that they support.

One thing all care farms have in common is providing a supervised, structured programme of farm-related activity for people with a defined need. Care is bespoke, person-centred and focused on the individual.

What is unique, is that care farming activity has a real purpose behind it. People are able to make a meaningful contribution to the running of a farm. This might be through animal care, growing crops and vegetables, horticulture or land management. People who commission care services are increasingly recognising the benefits of care farming.

Care farms:

- Deliver health care, social care or specialist educational services for individuals from one or a range of vulnerable groups of people
- Provide a programme of farming-related activities for individuals with a defined need
- Provide supervised, structured, bespoke care services on a regular basis for service users
- Are commissioned to provide services by a range of referral agencies
- Deliver services for adults, young people and children

Social Farms & Gardens is a UK wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together.

UK & Head Office

Head Office:

The GreenHouse, Hereford Street, Bristol BS3 4NA

Tel: 0117 923 1800

Email: [admin@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:admin@farmgarden.org.uk)

## Your Village?



Picture Quiz: Do you recognise these?

What are they and where in Eglingham are they to be found?

Answers can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

# THE BLACKSMITHS HEADSTONE



This small headstone is the Eglington Calendar's 2021 November scene. Lying on the southside of St Maurice's church, it is a memorial to William Humble who died in the village on 22 April 1749, aged 55.

In the 18th century, you didn't need to be able to read to understand the symbolism of this touching theatrical scene. It is executed with great sensitivity and detail – a memorial which is like no others in the churchyard here or anywhere else in Northumberland. It is a very personal, and a unique example of local folk art.

If you are wondering what it all means, here are some clues to help:

The horizontal depiction of the **sands of time**, a reminder of the inevitability of death, at the top of the stone suggest he died suddenly.

The **twin angels of the resurrections** have safely carried his soul to heaven. They look like they enjoy their job. I love their fashionable haircuts and striped skirts!

**The tools of his trade** - anvil, hammer and horseshoe - ensured everyone knew William was the village blacksmith.

The angels are holding back the pleated **drapes** giving a last glimpse into his smithy, before the curtains finally close on the scene ...and his life.

Of the 1,000 or so burials in the churchyard during the 18th century, there are only 40 marked with a gravestone. William's is the most elaborate, and I like to think he was a very special person who deserved this moving memorial.

*Parish Taphophile*

# Doggerel Corner

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

## **Creepy, creepy, crawlie**

There's a creepy, creepy crawlie underneath my chair  
I think I saw it scuttling very fast on the way back to its lair  
Was it grey and furry or black with lots of feet  
Either way it's not something that I'm awfully keen to meet  
Perhaps if I lift my feet up and keep them off the floor  
And shout as loud as I can for someone to open up the door  
Maybe I'll be rescued by someone with a glass and a card  
They could trap it when it next appears I hope it's not too hard  
Otherwise I'm stuck in here and I sort of need the loo  
I've double crossed my legs again but I think maybe it's a number 2  
"Oh look there it goes", it must be a Tarantula with all its hairy legs  
No I'm not panicking I'm really not that can't just be a daddy longlegs  
Well now you have safely caught it I might just take a look  
See if I can identify it in my Invertebrates and Arthropod reference book  
It's quite sweet really it's Latin name is 'Tipulidae' and it's actually a fly  
If you are a bird looking for a snack then this is the one to spy  
But indoors it's out of bounds so please take it to the door  
And throw it out as far as you can I don't want to see it any more.

*Pete*

## **The Footprint of our Fruit!**

'Blueberries from Zimbabwe' Blueberries from Zimbabwe!  
I don't believe what I'm reading, just how can we  
Have come so far from the roots of our fruits  
Burning up fuel to transport what suits?

There was a time when fruit was local,  
Can't let it go by without being vocal!  
Strawberries from Spain when ours are not ripe  
That's all quite rational, about that I will not fight.  
A short journey over from Continental neighbours,  
With oranges, and figs they are doing us a favour.  
The olives, the grapes and even avocados  
I can live with that distance, but that's as far as it goes!

But when crops come in crates transported by air,  
Or even in containers I don't really care -

They are burning up fuel as they arrive on our shores  
We develop exotic tastes and expect even more!

Just choose local produce when it's in season  
Support our farmers, there is no reason  
We should expect all this choice,  
It made me think - I have found a voice!  
Blueberries from Zimbabwe?  
We can't just eat them regardless can we?

*Margaret B*

Answers to the picture quiz:

- 1) The Virginia creeper on the gable end of Ogle House, formerly the Ogle Arms once the 'other pub' in the village. It is on the left after Eglingham Burn, going south to Alnwick;
- 2) The old Church Notice Board, at the end of Church Lane. It was installed when the buildings were the outhouse to the previous vicarage behind;
- 3) Topiary of a pheasant sculpted from a yew bush. It is in the garden of the Lodge (to Eglingham Hall) at the cross roads.  
All buildings now private residences

## Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship Season 2021/22



Current standings are after Game Week 10...

- 1st - Andy Gray - 650 pts
- 2nd - Kay Waters - 516 pts
- 3rd - Jon Waters - 457 pts
- 4th - Sarah Henry - 454 pts

You can still join in by using the  
League Code: m4ioik



# 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](mailto:david@eglingham.org.uk) and you will get added.

**Next Issue:**  
**Sometime in December**  
**Please submit content by 20th of November**

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

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## Citizens Advice Northumberland Contact Details

Face to face office opening hours can be found on our website: [www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)

Adviceline: **0808 278 7944**  
Mon to Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm

Email advice via our online form at  
[www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)  
Online advice [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

Universal Credit Help to Claim service  
Telephone **0800 144 8444**  
Mon to Fri 8.00am - 6.00pm  
Or **01670 339985**  
Email: [uc@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:uc@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)

Debt and money advice  
Telephone **01670 339960**  
text "**DEBT**" to **81400** for a call back  
Email: [debt@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:debt@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)

Energy advice  
Telephone **01670 339960**  
Email: [energy@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:energy@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)

Macmillan benefits advice  
Telephone **01670 339985**  
Email: [macmillan@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:macmillan@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)

Bridge referrals: **01670 339960**  
Email: [bridge@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:bridge@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)

If you are interested in volunteering for us, email  
[volunteer@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)

