

A large, mature tree with vibrant yellow autumn foliage stands in a rural landscape. The tree's branches are full of leaves, and its trunk is thick and textured. The background shows a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds and a distant horizon line. The ground is covered in dry, brown grass and some green patches.

# HEAR ABOUTS

NOVEMBER 2022

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

*You'll be relieved to see I have little room for my intro this month, so not much Tory bashing...*

*Its great to see so many events happening in the next few weeks before Christmas, after 2-3 years of desolation, seeing things finally return stronger is heartening.*

*December's issue will be the last until February, so if you want notices out for then. Get then in ASAP*

Andy

## RWE Windfarm Applications

The link to apply for funding is now on the GrantScape website. You will find instructions and guidance there too on how and what you can apply for.

There are three rounds each year to consider applications over £2,000.

All grant applications, for individuals and organisations, requesting less than £2,000 will be fast tracked whereby a decision will be reached and notified within a month of the application submission.

<https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/middlemoor-wind-farm-community-benefit-fund/>

Hear Abouts is supported by the Middlemoor Windfarm Fund

### **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".

**Next Issue:**

**Sometime in December**

**All content must be recieved by the 20th of November**

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

## More than just a Cookery Demo

A Community Action – Northumberland (CAN) event was advertised in the last Hearabouts – a Slow Cooker Demonstration, a presentation on Energy Saving advice available through CAN and a free lunch! It was so much more!

Did you know you could have FREE, dry, seasoned logs delivered. The Northumberland Log Bank is a non-registered charity supported by Northumberland County Council. It sounds too good to be true to me – check it out.

Energy Adviser, Leanne had lots to say about Winter fuel payments, energy bills support and how to avoid scams relating to the energy crisis. Do not give financial information to anyone contacting you.

If the temperature drops below zero degrees and remains that low for seven consecutive days, you can claim £25 for each 7 day period. £25 may not be much to you, but it may make a difference to someone you know.

Register for “Priority Support”: Think back to Storm Arwen: If you register for priority support, in future crises, electricity restored to your home will be top of their list. If reconnection is delayed you will receive extra support to the extent that they will deliver a hot meal or whatever you need to survive. You can register if you are a pensioner, if someone in your household has a disability or long term illness, if you have little children under five years old.

Brian said “Interest in renewables is increasing as people consider how they can reduce their bills and their carbon footprint”. He can advise on energy efficiency, available incentives and energy saving measures from light bulbs to solar panels. He told me about a landlord who established one large heating system and was heating several houses. The energy efficiency in our homes (Eglington Parish) is, overall, worse than the national average.

Contact CAN for more information – their parting comment was: if you need any kind of help or information, this is the winter to ask for it. (Leanne Shipley: 07724867010 Email:[leanneshipley@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:leanneshipley@ca-north.org.uk) or Brian Watson 07715408343 Email: [brianwatson@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:brianwatson@ca-north.org.uk))

Several people applied for a free energy audit to their home. We enjoyed a free lunch, plenty of banter, and came home with lots of leaflets and recipes.

And finally...this year, instead of three or four hours in the oven at a cost of £2.20 ish, I shall be baking my Christmas Cake in the slow cooker at a cost of 36p!! (NB. you need their special instructions – don't try Nigella's recipe in it!!)

*Lorna Turner*

# DEFIBILLATOR TRAINING AND SKILLS COURSE

Dougie McEwan of the Stephen Carey Fund will kindly be providing a free training course for emergency life saving skills to be held in Eglington Village Hall on Thursday 1st December at 7pm. All welcome.

Contact Jamie Logan on 07976 634669 if further details required

**Robbie Burns – “O wad some Power the giftie gie us, To see oursels as ithers see us! “**

We are constantly being told “things are going to be tough for some folks this winter”. What does that mean for you? What should that mean for me, as a Parish Councillor? I can't make promises I may not be able to keep, but I wouldn't mind knowing what you think.

Whilst the PC gets to grip with the issues we inherited, regroup as a team, think about priorities, the grass and the weeds continue to grow. There is a constant need for the “everyday” as we try to plan for the future. I am grateful for everyone who contributes to our community in so many different ways - so many good times when people get together – so much being done behind the scenes which few notice - but we would notice if it stopped. So thank you – you know who you are.

In another village, years ago, I lived two doors down from an old lady. She was 93 years old, housebound and almost immobile, yet she was a “powerhouse of positive vibes”. She thought of others constantly. She couldn't get to the village events but she read the village news and seemed to engage even though she couldn't attend. And in her own way, she made a contribution by speaking positively about all that was going on. So, from the old to the young, from local committees to CA-Northumberland and AgeUK, we have potential. With RWenergy funding we have financial resources. We, (that is residents not the PC), have been allocated a Community Development worker, - a lovely gentleman called Martin Conway, working one day a week, to pull these resources together.

My old neighbour would say “that sounds wonderful, dear, we need to make that pay”.

*Lorna Turner*  
*Chair - Eglington Parish Council*

*Eglington Village Hall*



**FILM NIGHT**

*The Blues Brothers*  
*with Supper*



*18th  
November*

*with  
Licensed bar*

*Free  
admission*

*(Donations welcome)*

*7.00 pm*

*contact [gil30@icloud.com](mailto:gil30@icloud.com)  
07808881730*



**We're here  
to help...**

For free and confidential support and advice  
call our friendly team on 01670 784 800

**We provide services that support, enable and inspire  
you to live well and thrive in your local community.**

We can help with...



**Information & Advice  
Help with Welfare Benefits &  
Attendance Allowance Claims  
Advocacy Support  
Health & Wellbeing Advice  
Friendship Services  
Social Groups  
Activities and Exercises  
Home Care Advice & Support**

Call our friendly team on 01670 784 800, email [info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk](mailto:info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk) or visit [www.ageuk-northumberland.org.uk](http://www.ageuk-northumberland.org.uk)



Registered charity 1072394

## FESTIVE LIGHTING : December 2022



Numerous favorable comments were received about the coordinated lighting display that was trialed last year. A small sample of the comments include

*“the effect is very cheering”,  
“Looks amazing”,*

*“such a lift In these gloomy times and made us smile. It would be great to see more lights this Christmas”,*

*“We thought the Christmas lights were brilliant and would be very happy to participate next Christmas if they are available”,*

*“Can I just say that I LOVE the Christmas lights. They always make me smile....”.*

Following this very positive feedback, the Parish Council are pleased to have facilitated a successful application to the Wind Farm Fund for those additional residents who have expressed a wish to join in the scheme this year. The additional lighting displays have now been ordered and they will be distributed during November.

The plan, like last year, is for lights to come on at 4pm but to switch off at 10pm. Again, like last year, The Tankerville Arms will host a social gathering for anyone wishing to participate in a festive get-together on the first evening that the lights will display, which is **Sunday December 4th, from 4pm**. All are welcome. The more the merrier!

*Morrison Tate*

# Eglingham WI

We had a good attendance at our meeting on the 13th October. Brenda who now has a date for her hip operation was still unable to attend and Romaine our vice-chair has the dreaded Covid. Gill chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone, including four prospective new members.

Business as usual including discussions re our Christmas meal, this year a lunchtime meal at The Milan in Wooler, and a forthcoming trip to the Sunderland Glass Museum. We were lucky enough to have Dan Turnbull from the Alnwick butchers as our speaker. He had brought along half a side of lamb and proceeded to joint the carcass into rolled shoulders, lamb chops etc whilst telling us how he started as an apprentice and answering questions from our ladies. All this following a journey back from a hunting/stalking trip in the Highlands and some celebrating the night before. He was kind enough to donate one of the rolled shoulders of lamb for our raffle. Catherine Lister gave the vote of thanks.

This was followed by our usual pooled supper and the raffle. Two prizes this evening - the shoulder of lamb was won by one of our visitors and the bottle of wine by Patricia Easton (her first win).

Our next meeting is on the 10th November when we have a 'hands on' evening with Judy Wong demonstrating origami.

*Pat Ives*

## The Northumbrian Pipes in Eglingham A Talk with Musical Accompaniment:

At the end of September Eglingham Village Hall was the venue for another night of Live Music. This time it was the Northumbrian pipes and the 'Squeeze box'!

Our feet were soon tapping on the wooden floor, which was not as thunderous as it might have been before the installation of the new acoustic panels!

Anderson came to entertain as well as inform us. He is that combination of a 'Local Lad' and internationally recognised artist on the Northumbrian small pipes and the English Concertina.





He has played with many big names in the Music Industry including the 'Legend' that is Kate Bush! He accompanied her on a 'cover' of Rocket Man by Elton John in the 1970's. He has toured the USA, Australia and Europe and was a founding member of the High Level Ranters in the 1960's.



Anderson founded 'Folkworks' in the late 90's which is an organisation that promotes this distinctive music, the singing, and dancing, and encourages young people to continue these Northumbrian traditions. He has launched Summer Schools, workshops and Education projects in our area. He has also been active in teaching Music and Folk History as part of a University Course.

'Folkworks' was one of the two founding partners of The Sage Gateshead and he was a director there until 2008!

Alistair brought the distinctive character of the instruments alive, with stories of local players: humble farmers, shepherds and countrymen. He gave us a snapshot of social history in Northumberland from the 1800's to the present day.

We also heard recordings of music from local shepherds, farmers, stockmen - Billy Pigg, Will Atkinson, Joe Hutton who were local pipe players, and Willy Taylor who played the fiddle with them. Anderson would take them all over the country to perform.

Alistair played the English Concertina with great sensitivity and dexterity, moving around the floor before us, eyes closed, really feeling the music! It seemed like he was tapping into something remote and lyrical from far away times - Northumbrian fields, coasts and castles, and the lives of those who had worked our lands. We could feel their tears, the bad years and the good, and the joys of dancing with their own folk at times of celebration. The pipes sounded melancholy at times, but then Alistair would burst into a dance rhythm which was very compelling. He ended up doing a jig between the tables to whoops of delight and much clapping and stamping from the audience. If only he had broken free a little earlier we could have been there until the early hours, like those players from the past!

*Margaret Bell*

## Dog Mess

Just a polite reminder to dog owners and dog walkers in the Parish to clean up after your dogs and dispose in the appropriate bins.

## 300 Word Stories

Okay, we're back and sorted with your starting sentence for stories to be published next month. You have until the 20th of November - email them to [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com)

Your start is... ***"I only wanted to stay a short while, I didn't realise how difficult it would be..."***

## Frightened Of The Outside World



Hello, I'm Teddy, I know my photo is a bit dull but there's a reason for that. Until the NCC Dog Warden brought me to Northumberland Dog Rescue, I spent my days locked in a bedroom. This means I have a big list of fears and am startled by pretty much everything outside; I have got to grips with going to the toilet in the right place and I really love a bit of affection. I'm 4 years old and looking for someone with patience who wants to put time into the "Make Ted Normal" project\*. You don't have to take me home, just helping me learn about going for a walk or to sit in a park while people go by would make me more adoptable. \*In case you're wondering, normal for a French Bulldog is the 3 L's; loyal, loving and long-lived; please get in touch by the Contact Us button at [www.northumberlandogrescue.co.uk](http://www.northumberlandogrescue.co.uk)

Shy I may be, but I make good use of my outstanding ears, and there's tons of stuff going on over the next month or two. On 9th November there is the AGM in South Charlton Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. The Trustees are looking for new people to join them, particularly those who know about social media, business or fund-raising. If you have those skills, please come along or contact David Francis, Chair, at [drfrancis@btinternet.com](mailto:drfrancis@btinternet.com) to

learn more. NDR volunteers will be helping our friends at Pets at Home, Morpeth to raise money for their Santa Paws Appeal, if you are in Morpeth from 21st November to Christmas Eve please call in and give us a woof. From November there is a Christmas raffle with hampers for Christmas, for dogs and for pampering as prizes; tickets on sale from Patterson's Cottage and our shop in Queen Street, Amble. Speaking of the shop, donations are always welcome, particularly toys, kitchenware and winter clothing. Please leave donations at the shop (open Monday to Friday 10.30-3.30) or email [anniewallace60@gmail.com](mailto:anniewallace60@gmail.com) to arrange collection. Four-legged chums can join the Adopted Dogs Walk at Bamburgh on Sunday 4th December, your human can visit the Northumberland Dog Rescue Facebook page for the start time and meeting point.

Looking ahead, in 2023 Northumberland Dog Rescue will be Bamburgh Castle's Charity of the Year. Some Trustees will be celebrating with a New Years' Day Dip – put it in your diary, it'll be bracing!

Yours,  
Teddy

# County Councillor

[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk)

Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook



## **COUNCIL RECOMMENDS APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



Northumberland County Council is pleased to announce a recommended appointment for a new Chief Executive of the Council.

Dr Helen Paterson is currently at Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, where she has been Chief Executive since 2017.

Helen was Executive Director of Children's Services in Sunderland for five years before becoming Strategic Director for Transformation, leading the council's business transformation, efficiency and improvement work.

She joined Walsall after being Chief Executive at Wrexham County Borough Council for six years. Helen is currently Secretary of the Association of Black Country Authorities and Black Country Executive Joint Committee and Chair of West Midlands Metropolitan Chief Executives Group.

Council leader Cllr Glen Sanderson said: "We're looking forward to welcoming Helen as our new Chief Executive, subject to full council approval. "Helen stood out as our first choice among a very strong field of candidates. She brings with her a wealth of skills, experience and an in-depth knowledge of local government and shares our vision to take Northumberland forward over the coming years."

Her formal appointment needs to be confirmed at a full council meeting in early November following an interview and selection process overseen by a cross-party group of Councillors and senior officers.

## **RETROFIT PROGRAMME ACCELERATES NORTHUMBERLAND TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL**

Northumberland County Council is pioneering the installation of low carbon ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) in its non-domestic buildings to help reduce emissions in the county.

To date, 20 GSHP projects have been undertaken by the council, including in fire stations, schools and office premises saving 1025.09 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to date – the equivalent of a petrol car driving 2,544,484 miles around the county.

The pumps are being supplied by British manufacturer and installation partner, Kensa and present the best value benefit against the carbon saved which will help accelerate Northumberland towards its carbon neutral goal by 2030. Especially as GSHPs have a typical lifespan of 20 years and become even more efficient as the grid continues to decarbonise.

Ian Goodchild, Director of Non-Domestic Sales at Kensa Contracting, said: “The success of our partnership with Northumberland County Council demonstrates how ground source heat pump technology can be a mainstream heating solution for public buildings, and how forward-thinking councils and local authorities can capitalise on available funding streams to make these projects happen.”

“Kensa has worked closely with the Council to provide bespoke ground source heat pumps solutions in each scenario, leading to better thermal comfort and drastically reducing emissions. The higher efficiencies provided by the heat pumps lead to lower running costs, which delivers savings for the council across their asset portfolio, helping them get the most value and best delivery from their properties.”

For public sector customers wanting to install ground source heat pumps, Kensa offers a free feasibility report service that can be included within funding applications and it is advised to look at projects in advance of future funding rounds.

### **STAYING WARM THIS WINTER**

Northumberland Communities Together is here to listen, chat and support at this time of year. If you want advice on how to stay warm are worried about the cost of living and household bills. Or, you would like some pointers on positive mental health

## **We are here to help**

If you, your family, or neighbour need a bit of extra help, please get in touch we can connect you to support that's right for you:



**Phone us on 01670 620015**

9am - 6pm, 7 days a week

[NCT@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:NCT@northumberland.gov.uk)



and wellbeing. Or if everything feels a bit overwhelming and you're feeling lonely or isolated. Please get in touch with us.

There are lots of ways to talk to us; you can ring, email, or drop into one of community hubs or warm spaces. Phone us on 01670 620 015 9am-6pm, 7 days a week.

# Branton Primary School Community Garden

It is almost a year since Storm Arwen wreaked havoc through our area with devastating effect. As the clear up continues, many of us would rather not remember her, given the damage and distress caused for so many.

But sometimes a positive can come from a negative, and a brilliant example of this is Branton Primary School's Community Garden Project.

The lawned area in front of the school has been covered in broken glass in the storm and, for safety reasons, all of the turf had to be lifted and replaced or reseeded. But out of adversity comes opportunity, and so the Head Teacher, Mrs. Zoe Ryan, her staff and the pupils put their collective heads together and devised an innovative and exciting scheme to develop a Community Garden for use by everyone in the area.

We first saw the garden in June, when it was beginning to take shape – a central pergola from which four raised beds fan out, with paths between giving ease of access for adults and children alike. After much hard work over the summer by the school team, and a local forester, Michel Allen - who kindly took the job on, the garden was officially opened on September 30th.

The children have been very much involved in the planning of the garden and will continue to enjoy and improve it, working on ideas and designs for the pathways, choosing plants for their visual and sensory qualities, and creating wildlife habitats.

They will be involved in deciding what to plant where and how the garden can be an asset to the wider community. A main objective of this project is that Branton Primary becomes a sustainable school and to this end great emphasis will be placed on plants and indigenous insect life.

Inspired by their regular visits to the Warm Hub Lunch, held on the first Tuesday of every month at Breamish Hall in Powburn, the children are keen to grow vegetables which can be used in the meals cooked by May Wilson and her team of volunteers. The pupils also take part in May's Crafty Cookies classes and want to cook the produce they have grown!

To make the space inclusive for the Community school hopes to place benches along the pathways, possibly with commemorative plaques dedicated to past pupils, teachers and community members, to which local people could make financial contributions.

There are some plants in place already, but any donations from green fingered locals would be very welcome!

Branton Primary School very much hopes this project will be a success, not just as an asset to the school, enabling the children to have hands on experience and knowledge of how their food grows and the wonder of nature, but as a welcoming outdoor space open to everyone to experience. The school team and the children love to engage with the local community and would be delighted for anyone to come forward to offer their time, expertise or plants, so that it really does become a long-term community project which can be enjoyed by all.

If you would like to be a part of this project please contact Mrs. Ryan

On 01665 578225

Email [admin@branton.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@branton.northumberland.sch.uk)

Projects are often like plants, starting off as just a seed or two of an idea that with careful nurturing and care can blossom and grow into something great. Get in touch if you would like to help this project flourish and mature into something really great for our Community.

*Jan Johnston*

*School governor*

## Fear

Why the fear? For somebody that's fearful of a hell of a lot of things, I struggle to understand the reluctance to embrace the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence generated Art, or design work, or writing. Yes, there is already out there, web-based AI that will write articles for you, don't worry though this is written by me ...well, dictated into Word as who can be bothered to type anymore?!

Yes, we've seen the Terminator films and how the machines rise to obliterate the human race after AI becomes sentient, and rightly this should be feared but do we, even as professional artists fear what AI can already do?

If 2021 was the year of the NFT, then 2022 has been the year when AI art has come to the forefront. Even though it has been coming for several years, this year it has leapt on and become accessible to all. Looking around, taking in people's thoughts that I've read online, on social media, in blogs, in videos on YouTube, etc. I've been very, very surprised or maybe I haven't been surprised! Maybe the reaction was obvious. I was surprised by the amount of people that were disturbed by what was coming. This has been telegraphed



for many years. Why? Did we think we'd stop at building cars by robots, financial market trading run by algorithms, your online grocery shop or Amazon order, there is AI running the show, their algorithmic brains working 100% of the time to achieve the job efficiently. Why did the artist think that they would be the last bastions of creativity? When ourselves, pretty much regurgitate what has come before whether from a millennia ago, 100 years ago, or copying what your photography buddy was shooting at the weekend. It's just inspiration but done by algorithm, you all know I start all my pieces in the hope of them looking like a JMW Turner masterpiece by the end of it! So what's the difference?



Earlier this year I began playing around with the AI art generation software called **MidJourney** and then later had a brief try with an alternate AI tool called **DALL-E**. Now, photographically, at the moment or at least the last time I experimented with it, DALL-E gave the best recreated photographic results. Whereas MidJourney produced a much more

artistic result from close to identical text prompts. From my experimentations MidJourney produced images that looked more art based than photographic – Ideal for me and my work! These tools are constantly changing, almost daily. This is due to continuous feedback from users and new artwork being continually fed into the system for the AI to then be able to generate new imagery from. They will always be developing, they will all be, always be changing. If you put in a prompt on one day, and then you go back and put the same prompts in another day you could get significantly different results. Some of the stuff that it has generated for me, under my prompts, just blew my mind. To be honest, some were so good, I would happily have it hanging on my wall. These viewpoints are from the results that I've generated myself but looking at other creator's AI created images on Discord and other places on the internet there is some incredible, incredible imagery coming out of it! Maybe, the artist of the future, rather than being talented with a paint brush, a sculpting knife, a hammer and chisel, or Photoshop, maybe the skill in the future will be word-craft. Learning what the AI requires to bring out the best results.



While at the moment, I don't see this fully replacing my own work. I can see the potential of using this technology as it develops as an element within my workflow. My workflow is obviously already quite unique and intricate but seeing what AI can produce to "help", it excites me. To see where introducing elements produced by the AI into my workflow and to see how it may change my overall style excites me. I've already experimented with using these tools to bring more texture into my work, as I do recognise that a lot of my work can come across as being quite flat, and also for sky replacement when what I captured was less than ideal. Admittedly the early results have been varied but I do look forward to experimenting further in the future.



I would like to see how opinions develop in the near, and further future as we continue to have arguments, or rather discussions, about the validity of this art form and the technology behind it. Whether it is a view of it dancing on the grave of a long dead artist or looking in a more positive light, allowing new artists to bring their style back from the dead for those masters no longer with us. In some ways, it may be a great democratisation of the art world, where average folk's drawing or painting ability may well be very limited but if they can input words into a online form and artwork comes out the other end, then is that not great for everybody?

Andy

Taken from my latest Newsletter - <https://andrewsgray.photography>

All images you see here were produced only by feeding words and phrases into the AI

# Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship Season 2022/23



Current standings of the new season after Game Week 15...

**1st - Andy Gray - 867 pts**

2nd - Jon Waters - 828 pts

3rd - Kay Waters - 802 pts

4th - Jack Dhawar - 679 pts

If you'd still like to join in, the league code is **x1xf18**

Sign up at -

<https://fantasy.premierleague.com>



## 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 we'll endeavour to get you added.

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

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

### DISCLAIMER

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