



HEAR ABOUTS

SEPT 2022

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

Welcome back from our extended summer break, and what a different world we are in!

The Parish Council is back!

Congratulations to those elected councillors and especially to our new Chair, Lorna Turner. Some fresh blood uncorrupted from previous fallings out is just what was needed to lead in the coming years. I look forward to bending her ear at every opportunity I get! Thank the lord they are back, as we no longer want Hear Abouts and its volunteers to be the ones being shouted at because someone has their knickers (or boxers) in a twist. We can go back to being a place of information deliverance and interesting (to some) articles. Want to whinge? I'm sure you can find a brick wall somewhere willing to listen.

Now back in the day when Geoff handed over the Hear Abouts reigns to me, and then continued to remind me up to the point he moved away, he always told me not to get political in these pages. But to be honest, as much as it infuriated me, I bloody loved having a rant about things as the PC situation got totally out of hand earlier this year. So I'm making the executive decision that as my reward for spending these hours putting this magazine together, I may, from time to time, pass comment on the state of the world etc. Just to warn you in... It'll probably be mainly blue bashing!

A new start should fill us with some optimism or hope but having just witnessed the long drawn out removal of a clown, only to be replaced by a wooden toy with a expression as vacant as a bowl of sawdust, this country, or rather 99% of its people, will be on their knees by January due to 12 years of complacency, handing out our money to the elite, Russians, and hedge fund managers instead of screwing those lot over and building from the bottom. She talks about tax breaks, not much use if you didn't earn enough to pay tax. These lot can't be hounded out fast enough in my opinion. Who would be better though?...

It's a sad state when with disaster coming this winter (even with rumoured price capping) that my first thoughts were to the feasibility of the village halls being open daily through the winter to be the mooted "warm banks" for our community to stay warm in...

One good thing about the new cabinet appointments, Traveyan is now Transport minister so she's got no excuses to not dual the A1 all the way to Berwick!!

Andy

7/9/22

Note: Due to space my views expressed are very basic, I know there is much more nuance to these matters.

Next Issue:

Sometime in October

All content must be recieved by the 20th of September

www.eglingham.info

Parish Council

The first meeting of the new Parish Council, following the recent election, was held on 28th July. County Councillor Wendy Pattison introduced us to Jan Anderson, who agreed to be our Clerk for the first few meetings. Jan has been invaluable in setting up, and we look forward to employing a permanent clerk as soon as possible so that we can continue working together, to enhance the place in which we live. It would be wonderful if we were able to appoint someone, suitably qualified for the job, who is familiar with the area. If you would like more information, contact Lorna (07510096067) for an informal conversation.

A formal job advert will appear in specific local authority publications, when all the details are finalised, but please note the following:

Lorna Turner
Chair, Eglington Parish Council

Vacancy for Parish Clerk

DETAILS Job title: Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Organisation:
Eglington Parish Council
Part Time: 15 hours per month

SUMMARY

The role is a home-based part-time position of 15 hours per month which will include attendance at 10 evening meetings per year. Remuneration for the role will be in line with NALC NJC pay scales LC1 (Points 7 – 12) which are reviewed annually. Expenses for office consumables and travel are reimbursable. The Employment Contract is in line with the NALC Model Contract for Local Clerks.

The successful applicant will be a confident communicator, who is able to multi-task with close attention to detail in all their work. Previous administrative experience is essential, and applicants must be able to demonstrate good organisational, communication, IT and financial skills. Ideally, applicants should have previous experience working in or knowledge of local government. A CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification is preferred or a commitment to work towards the qualification. A knowledge of the local area will be a definite advantage.

The Eglington Calendar 2023

Once again it's the time of year when we are asking you for photos for possible inclusion in next year's edition of the ever popular Eglington Calendar.

For 2023 we have decided to broaden the scope of the calendar beyond the Parish to include photos from a little further afield.

The title of the calendar will be '**Coast to Country**'.

We are looking for photos of your favourite views, scenes or locations not just in the Eglington Parish but in an area extending from Holy Island to Amble and from Rothbury to the Cheviot Hills.

The photos could feature villages, upland areas, river valleys, waterfalls, coastal landscapes, castles, hidden gems, anything you feel that is special to our part of Northumberland.

The photographs should be sent to eglingtoncalendar@gmail.com by 23rd September 2022

Please note that the photographs must be in landscape format to fit the calendar layout. Please remember to include the name of the photographer and state where it was taken.

If you have not previously submitted photographs for the calendar, now is your chance. You do not need to use an expensive camera. Many photographs taken on mobile phones have been included in the calendar in the past and are equally welcome. Thank you and we look forward to receiving you entries.

*Our thanks to those who have already submitted entries following the advertisement on residents email.

Eglington Community Association

Glass Bins

North Charlton now has glass recycling bins, so you don't have to go far to get rid of your empties... it's on the right on the road up to Brownieside so please use it!

We're Back with a New Pilates Class

suitable for all levels

Tuesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm

At Eglington Village Hall.

To book your place call

07977071566

**8 free
sessions
starting
6th September**



Pilates brings awareness to posture, mobility and core strength. Any specialist equipment will be provided, let us know if you do not have your own mat.

I am afraid I have just received a message from Age UK to say that they are having to cancel Pilates in the Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons due to illness. They are hoping to re-start the group in a couple of weeks' time, but it is likely to be on a Tuesday or Friday morning. I will of course let you know when it is due to start as soon as possible. Please be aware that the course proposed is free of charge.

Thank you

Gillian Ridgway



Slow Cooking Communities

Join us!

An interesting and enjoyable Slow cooking demonstration highlighting the diversity and energy efficiency of slow cookers

Information on the energy price cap and government support via the energy and cost of living grant

Preparing for winter, free energy saving measures fitted as part of the EARN (Energy Advice in Rural Northumberland) project and free home energy audits

Carbon Monoxide safety this winter

A limited number of Slow cookers, recipe books and CO monitors will be available free to take away on the day on a first come first serve basis for those who attend the event.

A light lunch will be provided! Dates, times and venues below:

Eglington Village Hall - 7th October 2022, 11.30 am - 1.30pm

South Charlton Village Hall - 11th October 2022, 11.30 am - 1.30pm

For more information contact:

Community Action Northumberland

01670 517178 or info@ca-north.org.uk

Flamenco Flourishes!

Platters of potato wedges with sundried tomatoes, olives, garlic aioli, small chunks of manchego cheese, serrano ham, fresh bread and mini meatballs...

Viva Tapas and Viva Espagne!!

A Sunday afternoon early June and we were in holiday mood!

Circular tables were set up at the hall, and platters served. We were all able to have a nibble before Cliff started to play. The bar was open - chilled beers white wines were the order of the day. It was only 2 o'clock in the afternoon but the festival vibe was with us, despite the lack of sunshine!

The hall was buzzing with the conversation, the sound of people familiar to us, and those who had travelled far - well at least 7 miles!

Then we were in for a treat! Clifford Blakey was a veritable maestro on his acoustic guitar and was there to entertain and to transport us to sunnier climes. Playing Flamenco involved flicking and banging on the body of the guitar, as well as the strumming and fingering. It was really exciting and compelling listening. Clifford raced his way through the opening numbers, but then there were changes of pace too, and some more lyrical melodic renditions. At times it seemed like we were hearing more than one musician! Magic! A recent CD was available to buy, recorded in Madrid, (how authentic!) with his friend Paco, who has shared his technical skills and mentored Cliff over the past eight years. Many of us bought a copy. The CD is certainly evocative, and provides us with a wonderful sound track to our Summer Evenings at Home in 2022.

Margaret Bell July 2022



We even had a member of the audience who was sketching as the music played! Thanks to Tim Hampton for allowing us to use his illustrations.

(see below)



Alnmouth Community Rowing

What's an article about rowing doing in Hearabouts I hear you asking. Well, I'll start at the beginning. Last July, after a conversation with someone else in the village who is also a skiff rower, I decided to look into rowing as a possible new activity/sport. So what exactly is a skiff? It's a type of rowing boat based on the design of a traditional sea going Fair Isle skiff. The boats we row are called St Ayles skiffs and were designed by Ian Oughtred. The first one was built in 2009 and today there are over 250 that have been built in the UK and Worldwide, across nine other countries.

The skiff is supplied as a kit of marine ply parts and is designed to be built and rowed by the community. This is where Alnmouth Community Rowing comes in. They built and launched their first skiff 'Pride of Aln' in 2015, followed by a second skiff, Enfladea, built and launched in 2018/19.

When I first went along for a trial row I found an extremely welcoming group of people who were keen to pass on their skills and interest in skiff rowing. A skiff has four rowers and a cox and you row as a team, timing your strokes to match the rower in the stern who sets the pace. We row at sea whenever the conditions allow, but when the sea state is not conducive we row in the River Aln around high tides.



The club provides opportunities for both social and competitive rowing. Their main focus is on people enjoying the experience at whatever level they can participate. There are regular social rows during the week as conditions permit and these are supplemented with competitive training rows for members who want to take part in the inter club races that occur. My first taste of competitive rowing was at the 'World Championships' held in Holland this June. The Skiffie Worlds had 60 teams taking

part from 7 countries, including teams from America and Canada. As a sport it is in its early days but as more countries become involved the championships will grow. It felt such a privilege being there representing the club in a genuinely international setting. It was a fantastic experience, and what other sport could you join at age 64 and compete in a World Championship?

I rowed in two categories, and with the 60 plus women's team, we won our heat and subsequently came fifth in the final. To get there however we had to undergo a training schedule that started in September and went all through the winter; that was tough at times!

The Skiffie Worlds are held every three years and in the previous competition Alnmouth came 24th. This year we improved to 16th overall and had around 40 club members supporting the team. But I hasten to add it's not all about racing, many rowers just take part in the regular social rows, which are very relaxed and enjoyable.

I have found the club members to be very welcoming and the friendliest group of people you could hope to meet. We are however always on the look out for new members from 18 years old upwards. If you are interested, you get to try both a river and a sea row to see what skiff rowing is like before you decide whether you want to join the club. If you fancy being involved in skiff rowing then take a look at the website (alnmouthrowing.org) and get in touch, or you can speak to me direct at gil30@icloud.com. Non-rowing members are also welcome!

Gillian Ridgway

A Note of Thanks

On behalf of Gillian, Philip, and Jessica, may I thank all the kind villagers of South Charlton for their support during our recent bereavement. Everyone has been extremely kind in thoughts and words and has been greatly appreciated by us all. A special thanks also to all who helped with the service and the refreshments and gathering in the village hall. Advice and support from Rev. Tracy and Peter Townsend were also much appreciated.

Alan Hodgson

Goes Nicely with a Cup of Tea



Flapjack's the name, yes, I know, nobody wants to be shouting that across the park, so I do answer to Jack or "Jackjack" if you are worried about your image. I even let the lady who serves dinner call me "Flappers" but, in the aforementioned park situation, it's not really any better than Flapjack. Before moving in with Northumberland Dog Rescue I was living rough in Blyth cemetery – think of me as a ginger and white Greyfriars Bobby – and I'm between 3 and 4 years old. I walk nicely on the lead,

have an affectionate nature and am available for adoption via the website www.northumberlandogrescue.co.uk

Thanks to the National Highways Agency we've got a bit of a re-vamp at Patterson's Cottage; there's a nice new pull-in with tarmac to make it easier for customers and volunteers to park outside the kennels. This is just as well because we have a lot of boarding customers, a crop of new volunteers and ridiculous volumes of traffic on the A1. There has also been a big rise in the number of rescue requests – we are getting 3 or 4 calls every day from people unable to keep their dogs due to losing their homes or needing to work much longer hours just to pay their bills. We can't take on more of these desperate dogs until some of us move on, paws crossed the four out on trial are keepers. Foster homes are a help for some dogs so, if you have the capacity to care for a dog, even on a temporary basis, our humans would really like to hear from you. There is a Contact Us form on the website and we'd be very grateful for any help at all.

To tackle our own cost of living problems, there will be a pop-up café in operation at Bamburgh Cricket Pavilion on Sunday 4th September; tea, cake and homemade dog treats all on sale. We are collecting at Pets At Home, Morpeth on 10th and 11th and have a stall at the Dog Oscars at Northumberland Park, Tynemouth on the 10th. There's also a Fashion Show at Acklington Village Hall on the 23rd September featuring a selection of items from our shop in Amble. For shop opening times and special offers please have a look at Facebook for Northumberland Dog Rescue Charity Shop Amble.

*Yours,
Flapjack*



LOSS OF THE 470 BUS SERVICE

Transport Officers have advised that unfortunately, the 470 and 473 weren't operating efficiently (using far more resources than the low level of demand justified) and there wasn't scope in the budget to replace this on a like-for-like basis. The decisions made on all the service changes were based on ticket data supplied by Glen Valley and Travelsure covering periods earlier this year that were free from school holidays or other seasonal variations in demand. In the case of Eglington, the data showed an average of 13 boardings per day, but ten of those were students travelling free to the Duchess High School in Alnwick. The remaining fare payers or pass holders were spread across all trips on the 470 (with no sign of regular usage) and didn't feel this justified the level of resources being deployed.

The 869 will run on schooldays between Wooler and the Duchess High School via Haugh Head, Lilburn, Eglington and Alnwick Bus Station and will be available to students who are entitled to free travel and anyone else who would like to pay a fare (or use a concession pass). The morning bus will leave Wooler at 0750 and the afternoon one will return from Alnwick at 1555. Although the 869 will offer some service for Eglington, it is realised that this is still very limited. We are working with community transport operator NEED on extending the coverage of resources it already has in the area and hope to finalise plans soon.

9 PARISHES MEETING – Tuesday, September 13th 2022 at 6.30pm

A meeting for all nine of the Longhoughton Division Parishes has been arranged for Tuesday, September 13th at 6.30pm at The Old Court House, Alnwick Police Station, Prudhoe Street, Alnwick, NE66 1UJ.

Community Police Officer, Andy Newby will be on hand to discuss all village/parish concerns and this will be followed by a discussion with NCC Transport Manager, Neil Easton about local bus services.

SILVER SUNDAY, SUNDAY OCTOBER 2ND 2022

<https://silversunday.org.uk/>

WHAT IS SILVER SUNDAY?

Initially launched as a local campaign to tackle loneliness and isolation, Silver Sunday is now a national day where people of all generations can come together by hosting fun and free activities for older people. It is a day where older people can meet new people, visit new places, try new activities and connect with their local communities and the generations around them.

It started with a tea dance and within a few short years it has turned into a national campaign to tackle the blight of loneliness that affects so many older people. Silver Sunday is a day in the national calendar, the first Sunday in October, when we ask the nation to pause and think about older people and celebrate their contribution to society.

Silver Sunday is a powerful vehicle to draw attention to the problem of loneliness amongst older people. Celebrating the contribution of older people to society, also increases their happiness and well-being and presents an opportunity to bring generations together.

WHO IS TAKING PART IN 2022?

Anyone and everyone can take part. In 2021 there were more than 750 events for older people across the UK, organised by wonderful local groups, businesses and volunteers. At a time when the loneliness and isolation being felt by our older citizens has never been more acute, please help us by making this the biggest Silver Sunday yet by putting on a Silver Sunday event, helping others who are already involved or simply take part in a Silver Sunday event in your community.

Many organisations have already pledged their support and are starting to plan their Silver Sunday activities.

Silver Sunday started in Westminster in 2012 and since then has gained widespread support. The aim is to turn it into a national day matching Mothering Sunday and Fathers' Day, establishing it in the national consciousness as a day when we think about older people and help them. With the support of the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, Silver Sunday has grown to the point where thousands of activities and acts of kindness towards older people take place each year – from the south of England to Glasgow and all the way to Northern Ireland.

We want to make a step change in the number of activities, making Silver Sunday truly national. Our strategy sets out the following objectives:

- To reach isolated, vulnerable older people through activities and events which celebrate the contribution of older people and help connect them with other people and services
- To use Silver Sunday to increase the awareness of elderly isolation and celebrate the contribution of older people
- To make Silver Sunday inter-generational, targeting the involvement of schools and youth movements
- To develop a partnership model across the country where charities, local authorities and businesses work together to support communities.

Silver Sunday is a day that offers us all the opportunity to focus on older people's contributions to our communities and to our society. Different generations gather together across the UK to celebrate their elders and to make new friends, through a variety of fun, free activities that range from tea parties to curling to Zumba dancing. As a member of Silver Sunday's target audience, I can honestly say that it is a completely brilliant initiative. Different generations gather together across the UK to celebrate their elders and to make new friends, through a variety of fun, free activities that range from tea parties to curling to Zumba dancing. As a member of Silver Sunday's target audience, I can honestly say that it is a completely brilliant initiative."

*HRH The Duchess of Cornwall
Silver Sunday supporter*

Eglingham Community Field Tree Planting

South Charlton's tree planting scheme to mark the Queens Jubilee, as reported in May's Hear Abouts, is a great example of a small village with a big community spirit. In Eglingham, the community had similar plans for tree planting on the village's Community Field after a consultation with residents who were overwhelmingly in favour. Although there was a limited supply of trees, the Woodland Trust generously donated 60 whips to plant two copses of 30 trees, each giving lots of benefits for the environment, the climate, and diversifying the habitat for residents to enjoy, whilst maintaining adequate space for other community events.

The Woodland Trust, the country's foremost tree planting charity, gave detailed advice on the spacing and planting of the trees. However, the majority of the Parish Council disagreed with this and used anecdotal advice to change the originally agreed plan. This was done without any further consultation with the community. The few trees that were eventually planted were not even sited according to the revised plan approved by the Parish Council and are unlikely to survive. This is a tragic waste as the trees could have been enjoyed by another committed community.

Tree planting on the Community Field was a great idea to support biodiversity, and the Woodland Trusts Big Climate Fightback. It was a missed opportunity for community involvement and to get more residents invested in the management of the field.

The tree planting could have been the village's lasting memorial for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and it is such a shame that individuals without the necessary expertise and a differing agenda from the community have denied the opportunity for Eglingham's residents to Plant a Tree for the Jubilee as South Charlton's have done with their commendable positive community spirit.

Carolyn Brewster

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

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Some Space Filler!

As we ease back into this again we had a space to fill and as its bloody AGES since the last “proper” issue we never looked back on the Jubilee celebrations. This wasn't planned, so you'll have to put up with the few I got with my phone... (and the weather for South Charlton's was grim so nothing from there!)



Doggerel Corner

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

A Lefthander's Lament

Do you write with your right hand?
It's what I tried, it's what I planned
But my brain is wired in a different way
Left! Left! Left! Was all it would say
To my developing body as my young brain grew
And controlled my hands, the opposite to you.

Is this a problem I hear you say?
Well it started with Mirror Writing - can still do it today.
Perfectly formed but from right to left,
I could read it back, the teachers were impressed!
And then it 'flipped' and stayed normal and plain
I was writing legibly but other things were a pain.

Scissors blades are angled for the right handed cutter
I lacked the control I would always mutter:
'These don't work!' My face in a frown
And then I turned them upside down!
Those fixed blade peelers for me are not made
Need to slice out and away to catch the cutting blade!

Writing in ink takes quite an age
As the edge of my hand just smudges the page!
Right handers move cleanly away from wet ink,
We lefties have to push, it slows us down, just think
We can split the nib and blot the page,
My school days were blighted until the Biro Age!

As a leftie I am 'right brain dominant'
Brain controls my motor skills - it's totally permanent
But with it I celebrate those key characteristics:
Language, art, creativity – and in case you missed it
Leonardo da Vinci was a famous left- hander
Artist, inventor and back to front writer!

If anyone like me has bravely fought
In a right-handed world, please share your thoughts!
Margaret B.

Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship Season 2022/23



Current standings of the new season after Game Week 6...

1st - Andy Gray - 368 pts

2nd - Jon Waters - 345 pts

3rd - Kay Waters - 317 pts

4th - Sarah Henry - 231 pts

If you'd still like to join in, the league code is **x1xfl8**

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 and we'll endeavour to get you added.

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