

February 2011

Hear **Abouts**

A Newsletter for the Civil Parish of Eglingham

<http://www.eglingham.info>

A rough December for Snow Could of been worse though...



More Inside

...It could have been 1963!

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Editors Notes:

Happy New Year! And welcome to February's issue. I hope everyone survived the snowy weather in December and that the last issue reached you eventually!

I'd just like to say how nice it was to see in the New Year in Eglingham for a change. Hopefully those people that told me where we can improve the magazine or the bits that they liked and disliked will accept my apologies for not remembering many details from that night. So we'll just carry on as before with our own ideas to continually try to improve the magazine for your benefit.

This month's issue came together quite nicely. Now I'm into my 2nd year of putting 'Hear Abouts' together I can tell when there has been a month's break - there's too much to fit in! But as usual if anyone out there would like to contribute anything, please don't be shy and get it in!

In other areas, we've changed the design of the website (www.eglingham.info) to be much more readable and easier for us to maintain. There are no monthly deadlines for this so please feel free to send stuff through to be published, and it can be anything remember! We'll try and keep the events page up to date, and all-encompassing, as possible but if we don't know about an event - we can't include it, so please let us know of any event that don't already appear there.

Andy Gray

A Taste of Scotland at Little Acorns Pre-school

We were delighted to welcome so many members of our local community to join us for a lunch of Haggis neaps and tatties in a celebration of Robbie Burn's Birthday.

Our Resident Highlander Andy Grant totally captured the children's imaginations, with stories of Nessie, flying hairy haggis', and poetry which culminated in the stabbing and killing of their lunch!



Andy addresses the Haggis

The event was a wonderful finale to our explorations and investigations of Scottish Traditions, where we have designed and created our own tartans, constructed Loch Ness Monsters in all shapes forms and sizes, studied Highland Cattle, baked shortbread and identified places of personal significance to the children throughout Scotland and The Highlands. We are now jetting off to China for a wee peek at The Chinese New Year Celebrations.



The villagers view the large scale Nessie formed at the Hall

The Children's Society – Christmas Fund raising

Amongst the many church activities at Eglington which were cancelled as a result of the snow was the annual Christingle service. This was a great pity as the children of Junior Church had worked hard to make the Christingle oranges ready for the service. To salvage something from their hard work the enterprising group went around the village selling the Christingles, and through the generosity of the village raised over £80 on behalf of the Children's Society.

Just a couple of days before Christmas a small hardy band went Carol Singing round Eglington despite the somewhat Antarctic-like weather. This traditional activity is to take the joy of Christmas from house to house. It isn't intended as a fund raising activity but people are very generous in their donations and this year £100 was put into the "tin". This has been split between the Children's Society and an orphanage in Rumania.

Thank you to all who made donations to this excellent cause.

Help Wanted

Eglington Village Hall Committee are looking for volunteers to help prep and paint the inside of the Hall over two weekends in February. The dates at present are the 19th and 26th, both Saturdays and the work will be mainly cleaning and washing down on the first weekend with the paint to go on the week after.

Anyone who can spare some time to help, please get in touch with

Penny Blackmore 578327, or Julia Robson 578804, or finally Janice Myers on 578967.

Coffee Morning

A big thank you to Barbara Biesterfeld for planning a festive coffee morning at her home to raise funds for the Ogle Chapel Re-Ordering Scheme, Eglington Church.

Wine, tasty bites, coffee and mince pies were order of the day, Christmas goodies were on sale and the total raised was £363.00

Ruth Hunter

Eglington Parochial Church Council AGM

AGM of the Parochial Church Council for St Maurice, Eglington & Holy Trinity Church, Old Bewick. The meeting takes place on March 28th at 7.00pm in St Maurices church and is open to everyone. The council is also in need of new members and those interested can come along to the meeting.

Groewood House Coffee Morning & Giant Raffle

In aid of Residents Fund

Friday 15th April 10:00am

Leek Club - Events

The very successful and very competitive *Tattie In A Bucket* competition will be run again in 2011.

Contact Bob Stuart on 579317 for full details and to enter.

Quiz Night – Wednesday 16th February – 7:30pm

Supper Provided

Keep your diaries free for the **Saturday the 26th of February**, plans are being confirmed as we go to print. Keep you eyes on the notice boards and the Parish website for further details!

Quiz Night – Wednesday 16th March – 7:30pm

Supper Provided

Easter Show – Saturday 23rd April

Schedules available from Bob (579317)

South Charlton Village Hall

Giant Cabbage Competition 2011

Entries to Bob Stuart (or any Village Hall committee member) as early as possible so Bob can get the plants ready.

Village Partied On Through Adversity

South Charlton Village Hall Committee has started the New Year off with a Party for all the villagers and locals on Saturday the 8th of January. This is all the more surprising as on Monday the 3rd of January Sue Courty opened the hall to set up for the first day of term for Little Acorns, to be met with copious amounts of water.

On investigation it was found we had **four separate burst pipes** with one each in the ladies and gents toilets, one in the cellar, and the most worrying one, in the attic above the boiler room with water running down over the boiler. Our local plumber **Ian McDougal** turned out immediately despite

it being a holiday to assess the damage and make everything safe, returning on the Wednesday to fix everything, amazingly enough after the replacement of the pump the boiler still works, and if you leave it on long enough, it does warm the hall. After a spell drying out and a clean up the hall was ready for the little acorns on Friday.





Anyway back to the party, we started the evening with a pooled tea which was first class both in quality and quantity giving everyone the chance to catch up with all the gossip and news as most people hadn't been far for the previous five weeks, followed by entertainment provided by Ritchie Newbiggen playing the keyboard and singing a range of hits and classics from the sixties that everyone could join in with. Obviously with the music being from that era I don't remember it all.

At the interval wine and soft drinks were served followed by another session from Ritchie. After this the raffle was drawn bringing the evening to a close. It was great to have such a large turnout from the village, but what struck me was the number of people who as well as bringing something for the tea also brought a prize for the raffle as well, giving us an amazing selection of prizes, and emphasising the community spirit in the village.

So thanks to everyone who turned out on a cold icy night to support this event and the village hall committee in their efforts to provide a varied programme of events throughout the year to ensure the continuing viability of the hall.

Our next event is a games night on Saturday the 12th of February, look for more details elsewhere in this issue.



South Charlton Village Hall Games Night



Saturday 12th February
7:00pm

Fun and games for all ages
Pooled Supper
£1 entry



South Charlton Village Hall
BINGO!
March 5th
Eyes down 7:30pm

Village View

The village people gathered for our annual party which was greatly enjoyed. A lovely spread (as one of my grandchildren would comment) by the communal efforts of all, a Christmas drink and music by a very able singer accompanying himself on the electric piano, many songs both old and new. Lovely to get together and enjoy the news and talk of old times. It was nice to see those that are relatively new to the village joining in at our annual traditional party. A good raffle brought the evening to a close.

With all these Christmas cancellations and the dreadful snow storm I quite forgot to mention the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. The great sum of £287.26 was raised. The church collection helped and we were pleased to see so many people from Eglingham attend. We must never forget the sacrifice of so many young lads and lasses who gave their all or who were so injured, their lives were ruined.

Our village is once more becoming inhabited, the Knight's house has Pauline, husband David and son. Frank's house is awaiting a family from Rock village and a lady (Ruth) has moved into Ann Dawson's house. I have had a long telephone call from Ann who is delighted with her new home in Yorkshire and thanks everyone in South Charlton for their kindness.

Ruby Bowden

Rural View

November and December proved to be entertaining to say the least with the arrival of a wee bit of snow; I think

it is safe to say not many of us expected to look out on that first morning to see so much of the stuff. The sheer volume of it meant that the stock outside had no way of reaching the grass below, this meant that in a military style operation fodder had to be provided to the hungry beasties.

Large round bales of haylage were expertly (by me) distributed to the various fields. The bales are produced from the surplus grass in July and are made by compacting the grass very tightly and then a layer of plastic net secures the grass into the round shape before being covered with a layer of air tight plastic. When feeding them in the winter months the plastic and net layers are removed allowing access to the ewes. The bales are then placed into metal cage like ring feeders which stop the sheep standing and thus soiling the feed stuff, it takes approximately 12 seconds to place the feeder around the bale but it does however only take 11 seconds for a ewe to notice the potential entertainment which can be achieved by getting the plastic net wrap caught on her foot and then proceed to leg it across the field trailing the plastic in a hysterical manner so the weary farmer can then set off in hot pursuit with only obscenities as ammunition as retaliation, ungrateful..... erm..... sheep! They never seem to tire of this game, I however do!



The other exciting task once the morning's 400 meter ewe and net wrap race had ended was to bucket water in for the housed stock due to the fact all the water troughs and pipes were frozen. The 150 fattening lambs I had inside came up with a new game too, it was called "drink as much water as possible even if you don't want it" I honestly believe the lambs found this highly amusing as they thought I had nothing better to do than carry water from the farm house kitchen all afternoon!

With the in lamb ewes now on their daily routine strip grazing the turnips means the countdown to lambing has started, it will soon come round there is no doubt of that. What is in question is the new fatal medical condition the girls will read about and then develop this year.



Here's to a nice dry warm spring!

Michael

South Charlton Pubs

Yes you read that right! There I was doing what you do when you're self-employed, researching a specific CSS styling element on the internet, when the next thing I knew I was on a website of old maps (ok I had been on Facebook as well...). I'd seen (and infact own) the 1865 Ordnance Survey map of the village before, but on offer there was a 1:2500 (1 to 6 inches) map from what they said was 1895. On this map, I spotted two curious words I thought would never have been part of this village as I thought it had always been (annoyingly) a very dry village through all its history.

The words – **Plough Inn...**

Since then I have spent some time talking to Joe Bowden and what he knew, was passed on from Tommy Nicholson and Dick Taylor, that there was at one time 3 (yes three!) “back kitchen” pubs in the village. One was located on “The Slade” or “Moor Road” which is now Ditchburn Road, the other two, he didn't know their location. One of them though could have been called “The (something) Hen”.

So what we're asking is if anyone else knows of details, names, locations, has access to records, knows who might have records, someone with an Ancestry.co.uk account to check census records etc we'd love to hear from you!

Or if someone wants to open (completely unofficially and on the quiet) a “back kitchen” pub, do let me know, I'll drink in it every night!

More History Help

Joe has also lent me a transcribed terrier of South Charlton dated 1771, which I hope to get typed up and will make it available on the website (<http://www.eglingham.info>) in due course.

In the meantime I'm looking for more help, this terrier threw up names of some farms that are no longer in existence. I'd only heard of and knew the location of one of the redundant farms listed.

Listed are:-

- Bucklaw Farm
- Langlee Farm
- Thomsfield Farm
- Banks Farm
- Pillow-row Farm
- Peaths Farm
- Hesley-dene Farm

Plus another farm of 238 acres that is not named.

Also included were Charlton Mires Farm and Brockley Hall Farm, we know where the modern farms are,

but does anyone know about their previous incarnations?



If anyone has any maps or more information that could help me identify the locations of these old farms or even the families which worked them, it would be much appreciated, and the ultimate aim would be to present findings at a later date.

In the Country...

No sooner had I waffled on about the weather being the problem with living in the country than a whole savage Siberian onslaught arrived as if to underline my point. Seven weeks of ice and snow were enough to convince me that I would not like living in a place that freezes all winter, although it was not enough to persuade me that living an expat existence in a warm climate would be an improvement on life in general. On balance, I'll take the Parish.

One thing that has improved with the thaw is the chickens. I renewed the entire flock with brand new shiny point of lay hens last year.

Twenty in July that started laying one week after arrival and twenty in October with similar expectations. Hayheck was rubbing his hands with glee at the thought of eggs all winter. The last batch arrived on the 20th October. On 23rd, autumn turned to winter with a two week downpour of rain that turned everyone's farm to liquid mud and the chickens switched off immediately. Went from 20 eggs a day to three overnight. And it stayed like that. For week after week Hayheck was poring increasingly



expensive pellets down the gullets of pullets that flounced about in a teenage strop. I threatened them with henocide. I cajoled them with carrots and even upped their ration to try and encourage them to lay. I contemplated lighting the sheds, but the price was prohibitive. On and on, week after week, month after month, nothing. Then, on January 10th, for reasons known only to chickens, they decided it was spring and started laying eggs again. Bang. Eighteen a day. Just like that.

Finally this month I would like to offer my first ever 'well done to walkers' award for country sense. Long term readers will remember that my original column was a plea to walkers to close gates following two batches of ewes and lambs getting irretrievably mixed up one weekend. Well. I was feeding the ewes alongside a well used track this weekend when I spied two walkers out for a ramble, complete with dog and some of them ski poles you seem to have to carry about these days. That'll push the sheep off the feed and cause mayhem when they come through, I thought as I wheeled away on the quad. I headed off to feed a batch of ewe lambs and kept an eye on the developing situation.

Lo and behold. The walkers stopped. They waited for the ewes to have their breakfast and start to wander away before they carried on with their walk. It only takes sheep a few minutes to wolf down their oats so they were not put out too much, but it does not half gladden the heart to see folk out for a walk who are aware of what is going on and act in such a sensible manner. Well done indeed.

Hayheck

Food For Thought - Snippets of info to educate and inform those of you interested in all things countryside

The Commission for Rural Communities, soon to be abolished under the Government spending review, has published a report on the cost of living in rural areas. The main conclusion of the report is that the nearly 10 million people living in the English countryside need about 1/5 more income than city dwellers to maintain a decent standard of living because of higher heating and transport costs. Rural incomes, however, tend to be lower than those in town resulting in 1 in 5 people in the countryside living in poverty, a figure set to grow. According to the report, someone living in a remote village needs £18,600 a year to maintain a decent standard of living. The equivalent figure for someone living in a town is £14,000.



There are more deer than at anytime in the past 1,000 years with some estimates putting the population in England at 700,000. This fact and the greater number of cars on the road have led to an increasing number of road accidents involving deer. The figure is reckoned to be 74,000 a year resulting in over 1,000 people seriously injured and between 15 - 20 deaths. The biggest risk of accidents is in the South East where traffic density is greatest and there are large areas of forest such as Thetford, Ashdown and the New Forest.



In Northumberland we are lucky having four of the five cleanest rivers in England and Wales. A report by the Environment Agency details the analysis of 6,114 rivers and tributaries. The list is topped by the Ridlees Burn, Barrow Burn Catchment, River Till and Linhope Burn. Encouragingly water quality throughout the country has improved year by year to the benefit of wildlife.

Footsteps in the Past

Glanton/Branton Circular

This is not the time of year for a leisurely stroll and yet the thought of being marooned in the house for several weeks was sufficient spur to do this relatively short walk. The footpath is well signposted although parts get a little boggy and there's some spurious notices up at present referring to work being carried out on the power lines overhead.

Begin at Glanton.

At its centre is a tall conical hill, called Glanton Hill, with the village nestled under the eastern slopes. It is not certain what the name Glanton means but 'Look-out Hill' and 'Hawk's clearing or hill' have been suggested.

There are two sites that may date to the Iron Age or Roman period. Both are on Glanton Hill. Aerial photographs show an enclosure and what may have been a small farm. The discovery of some querns, used for grinding grain, shows that crops must have been grown nearby. The Roman road called the Devil's Causeway also passes through the parish on its way northwards towards Berwick-upon-Tweed.



Glanton in the 1880s

Although there was some settlement at Glanton in medieval times we have no clues about the size of the population. Many hamlets and villages are recorded in old documents and the name Glanton can be traced back to the 13th century. A village certainly stood here in the 17th century when the Hearth Tax of 1665 recorded 18 households

The medieval and early post-medieval periods were an unsettled time in the borders of England and Scotland with battles, skirmishes and raids taking place. However, no defensive buildings seem to have been built at Glanton. We do know however, that 180 Royalist troops were taken prisoners here by the Parliamentary forces in 1648.

Leave the village and head west to Glanton Pike.

As more peaceful times came to the Borders in the 17th and 18th centuries it was a fairly prosperous time for this region of England. People started to invest more in their

surroundings, new roads were built and new farming methods were introduced. For example, a new country house was built at Glanton Pike and planned farm buildings at South Farm. In the 18th and 19th centuries Glanton became an important stop on the coach road from London to Edinburgh. This brought such prosperity that much of the village was rebuilt in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and it served as a distribution centre for goods brought from Newcastle for over 50 years.



Elwy, Laburnum and Branton cottages at Branton

Just beyond Glanton Pike climb over the stone stile on the right, through a small wood and continue down through the fields, following the well marked path to Branston Middle Steads farm. Follow the road into Branton village.

As you enter the village, you will pass some beautiful listed cottages.

Take the footpath due east in the direction of Powburn but bear to the right and head for Hemmel House. The right of way goes through the grounds. Continue up the driveway, turn right and follow the road back into Glanton where a pint or your preference awaits you!

Parish Council January Meeting Report

Precept Controversy

An important notification from the County about the annual precept for the Parish had been received and, after a discussion it was found that the contents were a load of nonsense! Details of costings were given, for services that are not applicable to the

“the contents were a load of nonsense!” Parish – there were no paths, green spaces etc. Only services provided were for street lights and refuse collection. Bill said a reply would be sent immediately to the Chief Executive and attendance at a meeting

given priority.

Finance

After referring to the precept, the subject of finance for the Parish was discussed. There would be no bill for the traffic sign erected at Eglingham but, in view of extra costings being forecasted, mainly related to the school playing field, that an increase of the present precept by £1500 was required. The request from the County would be replied to accordingly.

Playing Field

The school playing field came under discussion with Bill remarking that no progress had been made with the County but it was felt that pressure should be put on them for a settlement.

Roads

The state of the roads to East Ditchburn and the access to Brockley Hall Farm were reported as deplorable.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council had previously sent comments to the County Council on a planning application at East/West Cottages, Charlton Mires, including questions on the site as a whole and, requesting the removal of permitted development rights for the whole site. No response has been received from the County Council but the meeting was informed that the Enforcement Officer had visited the site and issued warnings.

Planning applications were proposed to go on-line by the County Council, the Parish Council had made observations on this and requested that hard copies, be continued as usual, for various reasons. It is understood however that the County Council is not yet geared up to go on-line!

Correspondence

Correspondence had been received including a letter from the County about grass cutting and also a letter about a meeting at the county regarding mobile post offices. The mobile Post Office will still be a reduced service at Brownieside, no intention of one for South Charlton or Eglington and the impression given by the Post Office was that they are intending to reduce the service even more in the future.

More 1963 Snow



Many thanks to Eileen Duncan for letting us use these photos from her late uncle's (Ronnie Lowdon) collection which she is currently spending hours and hours scanning slides of hundreds of photos of many local events from over the last 40 or so years.



Church Business

New Vicar Update

Finally after being in limbo for months we have progress to announce.

There are three individuals applying for the post of Vicar in Eglingham, South Charlton and Ingram.

The interviews will take place in February.

We are therefore hoping a new vicar will be in place in the late spring or early summer.

Ruth Hunter & Patricia Fleming, Church Wardens.

While we are still “Vicarless”, if you need to speak to someone about Church matters, please contact to one of the churchwardens, namely:

Eglingham:	Ruth Hunter, (01665) 578944
Old Bewick:	Patricia Fleming, (01668) 217009
South Charlton:	June Lawson, (01665) 579207 Eddie Stafford, (01665) 579262

If you need the services of a priest, please contact, in the first instance, the Team

Rector: The Revd Bob Burston, (01668) 281551.

Otherwise contact: The Revd Jeffrey Smith, (01668) 281468.

Eglingham & Old Bewick Services

Our services will continue as usual and be taken by other members of the Glendale team or visiting clergy.

(That is 10am every Sunday at Eglingham and 9am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month at Old Bewick)

A Thank You

Thank you to Geoff and Andrew, the lumberjacks, for removing the fallen branches from the trees in Eglingham Churchyard. Any help is much appreciated.

Ruth Hunter

South Charlton Services

6th Feb - 11am - Holy Communion/
Candlemas
Rev. Bob Burston

Tue 8th Feb @Groewood Retirement
Home - Holy Communion

20th Feb - 11am - Holy Communion
Rev Raymond Best

27th Feb - 6pm - Child Friendly Service

6th March - 11am - Holy Communion
Rev Bob Burston

...and finally a load of jokes

Well one Andy Gray has lost his job over some sexism, so naturally I attempted to resign after the copious amounts of sexist jokes in the last few issues. Naturally the all male editorial group could see no problem, but Geoff supplied a list of sexist jokes where men are the subject of ridicule. So to balance it out I'll include a few of these to keep the women of Parish happy reading this ...while making sandwiches.

Worst day of my life, I've been caught wearing the wife's stockings.

...On my head ...In the bank.

You know what they say about the early bird? She gets to take the kids to school whilst I have a lie in.

I had a fight with a man on some moving stairs today.

We started arguing at the bottom, and things just escalated from there.

I was diagnosed with colour blindness yesterday.

I have to admit, it was a bit out of the green.

I phoned my girlfriend and told her we're breaking up. The next day I came home to find all her stuff gone. Bit of an overreaction to a bad connection.

Most of my relationships are like fat women - they don't work out.

I was trying to find out what was wrong with my pen then suddenly... It clicked.

I was driving today without my seat belt on when a copper pulled me over. He said, "Come on son, what are you not wearing?" I said, "My glasses, do I know you?"

Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water... for £2 a month we can help build a well in their village too.

Do you reckon Thomas Edison got the lightbulb above the head moment and thought, "Yes! I'm going to make one of them!"

What a load of crap it is about women multi-tasking ...I just told the wife to sit down and shut up... Can she do it? ... Can she bugger!


I think the First Direct advert has taught us all a valuable lesson!

You make Whale noises in Primary School, you end up working in a crap call centre job.

If you cut a horse in half and bang it together does it sound like someone riding a coconut?

Anyone who thinks paying over a pound for bottled water is value for money should try reading Evian backwards.

The news that Andy Gray had been sacked from Sky Sports just came up on the TV, my wife was going on about how he deserves to be sacked from Sky Sports. I told her it was just a joke that has been blown out of proportion and that it was over the top to sack him. She insisted that it was fair to sack him and I should look at it from a women's point of view, So I unplugged the TV, took it into the kitchen and watched it there.

I was just making a sandwich when I thought to myself, 'So, there is a downside to divorce...'.


Why is it good that there are female astronauts?

When the crew gets lost in space, at least the woman will ask for directions.

Why do men like BMWs?

They can spell it.

Why are men like blenders?

You need one, but you're not quite sure why.

Guest Joke of the Month

Thx to Neil Tonge

The Talking Centipede

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet.

So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time.

This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting my bloody shoes on!"

Useful Numbers

Village Hall contacts:

South Charlton

Alan Hodgson 01665 579494

Eglingham

Penny Blackmore 01665 578327

Local Councillor

John Taylor 01665 603825

NHS Direct: 08 45 46 47
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Consulting Rooms 01665 602388

Bondgate Surgery 01665 510888

Parish Council Chair

Bill Purvis 01665 579255

Clerk to the Parish Council

Alan Hodgson 01665 579494

Advertise In Here

'1/4' page advert (60mm x 70mm)
£25 (business in parish) or
£30 (business outside parish)

A5 leaflet or flyer
Commercial: £15 to deliver 200
copies (1/4 page ad also to be
taken)

'Hear Abouts' design & print:
£38.00 produce & deliver 200
copies (no ad required)
'not for profit' organisation in
the parish ; no charge for
delivering your leaflets
ring 01665 579479

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