

# Review of 2017

Eglingham Community Association are a body of people who are interested in 'doing' what they can to improve community life in Eglingham. It is not a fundraising body, but we do undertake a few things to keep the wheels turning.

One of the things I wanted to do as the new Chair, was to increase the amount of things that get done. Try to make more of a difference, get more people involved and create more community.

We started the year trying to persuade the PC to put a seat in the bus shelter. Unfortunately the Council said no, making it one of the very few bus shelters out there that is seatless. I wanted to discuss this amongst other things, in person with the PC, and am meeting with them at the next PC on 1st November 2017.

One of the most visible improvements to the village early in the year was the painting of the milepost. It still looks terrific. I would love to have the 30 mph sign opposite the village hall re-done. It is maybe a project that we could take on in future, together with any other old signs that need revamped in the surrounding area. We should look after our heritage before it disappears.

Village entrance signs were also tidied up as we moved into spring, with Margaret donning the fluorescent waistcoat and removing bags of rubbish.

Work started in the Village Field and we purchased a whole array of tools to enable us to work better. Margaret formed a plan of work that she has stuck to all year, tidying, digging, planting and pruning to get the banking looking cultivated.

The Parish Walk was at Eglingham this year, and ECA carried out the organisation. Julian led a great little working party to ensure the route was safe, mapped, watered, and provisioned for the big day. It chucked it down, in case anybody didn't notice. None the less, the tea was enjoyed by around 50 people and most people had a good time, especially those that walked. Even more especially, the one with the emergency phone, who had to stay in the dry and count them all out and count them all back.

Work carried on a-pace at the field. With Margaret being joined by Joyce Wilson, things really got moving. Henry Knott was drafted in to provide muscle power on the removal of the nettle roots and other debris.

By the time of the Festival, with the grass cutting having been sorted out with Greenfingers, we had a field that looked as good as ever it had.

What is to be said of the first Festival on the Field. Fortune favours the brave, would be the first. The decision to go ahead despite a dodgy forecast was borne out by a cracking afternoon enjoyed by over 60 people.

Then it was straight on to the Christmas Calendar, which at present is residing at Julian's, ready to be launched for sale in the next week or so.

Finally, discussions from the grant panel on how to provide improvements to village life by way of night classes. This resulted in ECA being the first constituted body to take advantage of the funding. The Art Class in Watercolours are on now, with ECA managing the funding.

This new way of thinking and funding has still to be fully developed and there may be classes in crafts, photography, keep fit, IT Skills and the like. There is also an attempt to 'improve the Cultural footprint' in the parish, and I have been working with people from other organisations to try and bring this to fruition. It is not far away (I need to write the application).

That concludes my review of the year. What pleases me most is to see everyone in this group pitching in. There have been no shirkers, everything is done on time, with good grace and no back stabbing. I would like to thank you all for your contributions.

There are many ECA supporters out there who deserve a mention. Morrison, for the enthusiasm with which he approached the Festival. Joyce for pitching in with the hard work on the gardening. Jane Hamilton, for bringing up the idea of sponsorship and helping to create the Festival on the Field. Gwen and Paul Bateman for helping out whenever required.

My final special mention, is for someone who has just quietly helped out in the background. Ronnie. Thank you very much.