



# HEAR ABOUTS

FEBRUARY 2017

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

## From the Editor

Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone is wintering well? Hopefully not playing with fire, but its been a mild one so far! Now with the tax return filled in, and various plants starting to show signs of life it feels like the year is now about to begin.

Here's hoping for a great 2017!

With whats going on in the US though, it certainly could be one to not be too far away from a news broadcast!

Cheers!

Andy

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## Eglingham Village Hall 100 Club Draws

### January 2017

1st 95 Margaret Bell  
2nd 17 Susan Cartmell  
3rd 90 Tom Alston

### December 2016

1st Bill Purvis  
2nd Janice Myers  
3rd Angus Robson

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

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Hear Abouts is all about you the reader within our Parish. It is written by yourselves (or by those just beyond our borders) and without those submissions there would be no Hear Abouts. Just a few things to note while submitting content to us which helps us out though.

Please email all content to the email address [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com) and no other. There is less chance of it getting lost and forgotten about then. 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".

# Parish Elections 2017

On Thursday 4 May this year there will be all-out County and parish elections.

All residents of the parish on the electoral register of March 2017 are eligible to stand for election to the Parish Council.

The Notice of Election will be published on Monday 20th March and this kicks off the election and opens the nomination period which runs until Wednesday 4th of April. Anyone wishing to put themselves forward for election to the Parish Council can obtain blank forms either electronically or they can be collected from County Hall at Morpeth and from a number of information centres across the County. There are firm requirements that a nomination must satisfy and in order to demonstrate that these are met the form must be correctly completed.

In a statutory change since 2013 all nomination papers must now by law, though not necessarily by the candidate be hand delivered. A booking process for submission of forms will be in operation.

Further information can be obtained from the County Council web site at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Councillors/Vote.aspx>

*Eglington Parish Council*

## Brownieside & South Charlton Leek Club

### Dates for your Diary

February 15th – Quiz Night with supper

March 15th – Quiz Night with supper

Easter Saturday April 15th – Easter Show

July 15th – BBQ

August 5th – “Tattie in a bucket” competition weigh-in

September 2nd – 2017 Leek Show

Held at South Charlton Village Hall

## Lunch Club

South Charlton Village Hall

**Wednesday, 15th February  
at 12 noon**

Join us for  
Soup and Pudding followed by a Cuppa

**All welcome!**

**Further dates are... 15th March (and more tbc)**

## Eglingham Parish Photo Club Photo of the Month



In a new feature, members of the Parish Photo Club are submitting images to the Hear Abouts team to select an **Photo of the month** for each issue. Our first feature is by Ian Smith taken in the January storms.

SOUTH CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL

# Irish Night!

FRIDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH at 7pm

A HEARTY SUPPER TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICKS DAY'S  
IN TRUE IRISH STYLE, WITH MUSIC BY  
SAM AND SARAH - AN AMAZING DUO

In the interest of community friendship, the ticket price is £5, with  
donation on the night should you wish to give more.  
Contact details below or speak to any committee member - book early as  
demand is likely to be high.



Northumbrian String duo is a family duo consisting of mother and son. Sarah taught her son Sam once he reached the age of 5 at the Sage Gateshead. At 7, Sam was one of the youngest children in the country to gain a place in the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain after impressing the Principal director and being congratulated at audition. Sarah is a North East based violinist and violin teacher. She recently founded Northumbrian Strings which provides annual concerts for young, talented string players. Alongside her role as violinist in the folk band Gilded Thieves, she plays classically as a freelance musician. Sam has joined in with many of Sarah's gigs around the country including folk and classical



Contact

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# From Your County Councillor...

## **Eglingham Bridge**

Work starts on 30th January for 10 days to repair the masonry arch bridge in Eglingham.



## **Footpath Repairs**

I was contacted by constituents who were concerned about the state of the pavement between Eglingham village farm and Tailor's Cottage. Remedial works have now been carried out and the pavement made good.

## **Cattle Grid**

I have been contacted by people concerned about the cattle grid in South Charlton that has been damaged by HGVs. NCC officers assessed it to be in an adequate condition and could not justify spending £4000 to replace it. Whilst I understand the need for wise spend of council money it was highlighted again at the January Parish Council meeting that residents had concerns particularly about smaller vehicles and taxis carrying school children in navigating the grid due to the enlarged gaps. On inspection of the grid myself I understood and shared this worry and so will contribute £2000 from my Member's Fund towards a new grid. Officers have agreed to make up the difference and this is already being progressed through the system so I hope that the replacement can be installed quickly.

## **Speed Limit**

I am investigating with officers at the council to see if a speed limit of 20 or 30mph can be introduced in South Charlton particularly to improve safety of those walking between the care home and church and nursery. Whilst the hamlet does not meet the required number of dwellings and length for standard 30pmh criteria I am suggesting that the consideration could be given under the new policy for 20mph around schools.

## **Dog Control Campaign**

Officers are preparing a report on a future dog control campaign that will include wider ranging aspects including a responsible dog owner charter. This will be presented to both urban and rural cabinet advisory groups (CAGs) on the 8th March. Following those meetings and after the 'Purdah' period in May all Parish Councils will be consulted on proposals and invited to a campaign launch event in early June 17.

## **MyStreet Northumberland**

A new mobile phone app has been launched to make it easier to report issues affecting local communities. 'MyStreet Northumberland' can be downloaded and used to access information on a number of problems such as anti-social behaviour, noise, litter, dog fouling, streetlighting and roads, all in one place.

## **England Coast Path**

Natural England is implementing the England Coast Path and is holding public 'drop-in' sessions along the stretch. Anyone who has concerns they will be affected by the route or is interested in finding out more information is welcome to attend the following sessions.

Wednesday 15th February 2017

The William Elder Building, 56 - 58 Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1JT 1.00pm - 3.00pm

The Pavilion, Front Street, Bamburgh, NE69 7BP 4.30pm - 7.00pm

Thursday 16th February 2017

The Pavilion, Front Street, Bamburgh, NE69 7BP 9.30am - 11.30am

Crossman Hall, Crossgate Lane, Holy Island, TD15 2WP 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Friday 17th February 2017

Methodist Hall, Chapel Lane, Alnmouth, NE66 2RR 9.30am - 12.00pm

## **Northern Area Committee Meeting**

The next NAC meeting will be held on Monday 13 March 2017, 6pm at Hindmarsh Hall, Alnmouth. The agenda is posted to all parish clerks and includes a public question time. All members are invited to attend (questions may not be asked relating to ongoing planning applications).

The previous northern area committee was held on Monday 9th January. The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council were in attendance to present amendments to the budget and the CEO of Active Northumberland was present to report on new leisure centre charges. Minutes will be available on the council website.

It was reported that the council is in a very difficult position in provision of local services due to significant cuts by current central government to 55% on 2013 levels. This will increase to 75% by 2020. Central government policy is moving towards local councils raising money for service delivery through retaining all taxes raised from council tax and business rates, in order to offset the increasing reduction in government grants. This financial context explains the council's promotion of new businesses and more housing developments.

Please do contact me if you would like me to help with any issues. [Kate.cairns@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.cairns@northumberland.gov.uk) Tel: 07769 304310

*Kate Cairns*

# EGLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk; Amy Smith 01665 603755

Email; amycartmell@googlemail.com

Minutes of the meeting held on **Friday January 13th 2017 at Eglingham Village Hall.**

- The clerk had sent a letter of thanks to NCC's highways department for work at to clean the gullies by the cattle grid East Ditchburn Road. Cllr Sutcliffe asked Cllr Cairns that the cattle grid at East Ditchburn Road be reinspected as residents remained concerned, particularly in bad weather, that continued erosion meant it had to be driven over with exceptional care. Cllr Cairns has sent a request to Council officer Mitch Graham to re-inspect the cattle grid at beginning of next financial year. Cllr Cairns suggested potentially using her members fund to contribute to replacing it.

- Cllr McIver reported that a public meeting on Improving Community and Public Transport was due to be held on at South Charlton Village Hall on January 30th, 7.30pm.

- The Chair reported that work on Eglingham Village Hall funded by a grant from the Community Fund was due to start within the next couple of weeks. It was agreed that the next few meetings may be held at South Charlton Village Hall while work was ongoing at Eglingham Village Hall.

- Attention was brought to the lack of a speed limit in South Charlton. Cllr Cairns explained that as South Charlton is a Hamlet there is no requirement for a speed limit however the fact that it has an Early Years school, church, and old peoples home, with 40 plus residents, could be a significant factor in requesting speed limits. Cllr Cairns has sent a request to Council officer Neil Snowdon.

Middlemoor Windfarm Community Funds Applications; Community Warden; Cllr Wright is to make further investigations concerning the employment and role of a Community Warden for Eglingham Parish, for which an application for funding may be made to the Community Fund.

Planning; The clerk had received the following notification; 16/03676/FUI telecom mast, Craigs House, Eglingham, Granted.

Parish elections; The clerk had received correspondence regarding the forthcoming May 2017 elections for all Parish, Town and Community Councils in Northumberland. All 10 Parish Council seats will be up for election. The Notice of Election will be published on March 20 opening the nomination period which runs until April 4.

Date of next meeting - The next meeting will be held on **Friday March 3 at South Charlton Village Hall.**



# Hedgeley & Branton Lakes



SAND AND GRAVEL HAVE been quarried on the Hedgeley Estate since the 1920s. While the purpose of the extraction has been commercial, the restoration of the land and gravel pits has given an opportunity to create a wide variety of habitats attracting a wide range of bird species and other wildlife.

At Hedgeley, two lakes have been finished and a third will be so at the end of the year. The East Lake (furthest from the A697) was the first to be completed. It is relatively shallow and attracts dabbling ducks (mallard, teal, gadwall, wigeon, shoveller), little grebes and a variety of waders such as oystercatcher, common sandpiper, ringed plover, snipe, curlew and redshank. We have recently installed a sluice which enables us to raise the water level by over one metre in the autumn and then drop it in spring to attract migrating waders to feed in the muddy margins. The recently remodelled island is designed to attract breeding waders such as little ringed plover and lapwings. The West Lake is much deeper and attracts diving ducks such as goosander, tufted duck, goldeneye and pochard. At the end of the project there will be five lakes in total, along with reed beds and marshy areas. Some areas will flood further during the winter months and some will be managed for wintering wildfowl by use of extensive grazing by our herds of Galloway cattle and hill sheep. There will be a network of connecting footpaths to enable the public to view the sites.

In 2015 our family charitable trust bought the Branton restored gravel pits from CEMEX, an international aggregate company. The purpose of the purchase was to protect the site from future commercial development and to maintain its designation as a Nature Conservation Area. It is intended to manage both the Branton and the Hedgeley sites in conjunction. To date, 169 species of birds, 14 of mammals, 5 of reptiles and amphibians, over 80 of butterflies and moths and 7 of dragonflies and damselflies have been recorded. Some of the species are uncommon but some are both locally and nationally rare.

We hope the project will be visited and enjoyed by both the local community and visitors alike.

### Further information

If you would like a lists of species that have been recorded and those that you are likely to see, please contact the Hedgeley Estate office by email on [livestock@hedgeleyfarms.com](mailto:livestock@hedgeleyfarms.com)

In due course we may send an occasional newsletter to those who have registered an interest.

*John Carr-Ellison*

## Pushkar Camel Festival, Rajasthan, India

In November my son and I went on a tour of Rajasthan in North Western India, one of the highlights of the tour was visiting the Pushkar Camel Festival.

Pushkar is quite unlike anywhere else in Rajasthan. It is a prominent Hindu pilgrimage town. The town has developed around a holy lake which is said to have appeared when Brahma dropped a lotus flower. On the lake are numerous bathing ghats and a great number of temples. The main street of the town is one long bazaar selling virtually everything you could ever want to buy.



The camel festival occurs during the eighth lunar month of the Hindu calendar, the month of Kartika at the time of the full moon. This year the camel festival fell during the first two weeks in November culminating on the night of the 'super moon'. Each year around 200,000 people converge on the town bringing with them camels, horses and cattle to trade.

The whole town descends into organised chaos, the roads are choked with people animals and traffic, the air is full of dust and the noise levels are unbelievable. As well as the camel festival there are days of sports, a fair ground and numerous stalls selling everything from the latest camel tackle, street food, raw sugar cane and dubious electronic goods.

Trading generally begins a week before the official fair. However, this year because of the demonetisation of the 500 and 1000 rupee notes by the Government, as across the whole of India, there was a shortage of cash. As a result many camel traders left early to try their luck elsewhere. Consequently the roads around Pushkar



were full of small camel trains making their way homewards adding further chaos to the already overcrowded roads.

The whole of the seething mass of the camel festival is just a sideshow to the holy festival of Kartik Punima when the Hindu pilgrims come to bathe in Pushkar's sacred waters.

The religious event is a magical collection of chanting, singing, fireworks and processions. On the last day of the camel festival thousands of devotees descend on the lake to wash away their sins and set candles afloat on the holy lake.



The whole festival is a once in a lifetime experience, however it is also uncomfortably crowded, touristy and tacky in part, noisy and very dusty. It is a grand epic event and well worth visiting if you are within spitting distance.

*David Alston*



## Here comes Johnny Yen again

I see that rosy cheeked little poppet Cheryl Tweedy has got herself a new whippet. Interesting one, wor Cheryl. Last I heard she was going to re-launch her singing career. I reckon she bowled up to the Xenomania mansion in Kent expecting more red carpet and met Ms Cooper in a tatty fettle. *'For (expletive deleted) sake Cheryl, you have had a fair kick of the ball. We are busy with Little Mix and half a dozen others. You know from experience how hard it is to produce something worthwhile from the rubbish that Simon sends us. Why don't you find a second career? Not marriage obviously. Why not become a Dame. Have a baby or something'*. So Cheryl became the new face of Childline and started baby production.

Xenomania is one of the most successful production houses that there has ever been. Bananarama, Kylie, Cher, The Sugarbabes, The Pet Shop Boys, Sophie Ellis Bextor, The Saturdays, Alesha Dixon, Little Mix, and 20 top twenty hits for the stonkingly average Girls Aloud, amongst many others. Their talent lies in moving the pure pop song into a more indie arena, blending Motown, rock and synth influences to produce fantastic hooks that snare us again and again (for an example, listen to the Pointer Sisters 'Jump' and listen to it again after Xenomania fitted the afterburners in the Girls Aloud version for the film 'Love Actually'). The songs are hard to hate. They have great tunes and enough about them to carry along seasoned cynics who would cheerfully machine gun all purveyors of pure pop. Musically, it is utterly useless. But that is not the point. It persuades millions of people to part with their cash, making Cheryl, Miranda and Simon as rich as Croesus. But. Is that what music's about?

The thing that makes the blood run quick are the crashing chords at the beginning of a Who song. Being in the same room as a bare chested psychopath when the bass pounds out the opening lines of Lust for Life. Wilco Johnson's coke addled darts about the stage, eyes bulging whilst he chops his way through 'She does it Right'. Joe Strummer telling the warring tribes from Heaton and Benton that if they didn't stop fighting they'd stop playing. They stop. Straight into 'White Riot'. I mean, what else could they play? Fit your own moments of live brilliance when music made a difference.

These are the moments where the body releases floods of endorphins/adrenalin and the thrill as you are raised to an emotional plane of pleasure is intense. It is what people are searching for when they are wading through the Glastonbury mud. It is what you get when Beethoven unleashes Ode to Joy.

And it is not what you get from our chums at Xenomania. If it doesn't aim to make the spirit soar, what's the point? Xenomania - music to make the wallet poor.

Hayheck



*'Well that's like hypnotising  
Chickens'*



## Winter Visitors

*“Free entertainment twelve months of the year from the comfort of your own home.”* No, it's nothing to do with radio, television, mobile phone apps or any other form of technology. What I'm referring to has been on the planet far longer than any human. It's the abundant variety of wildlife in our countryside and our gardens.

Especially on a dull winter's day, the garden can be a hive of activity with animals searching for food and of those it's the birds that are most easily spotted as they make the most of the limited hours of daylight to take on enough food to see them through the long and cold nights.

By mid January there had been very little real wintry weather but even so significant numbers of winter migrants, totally unaware of any possible restrictions that might be imposed following Brexit, have been spotted locally. Flocks of fieldfares, not so much garden visitors but as their name suggests more often seen in the nearby fields, have made the journey across the North Sea from their breeding ground and summer home in Scandinavia, while smaller numbers of redwings have been seen feeding on berries. In December there was a rare sighting of a flock of waxwings. These colourful birds with an unmistakeable crest made a brief visit to the village, quickly stripping a bush of its berries before moving on.

The more common garden birds are the ones that provide the regular entertainment, getting through large supplies of peanuts, sunflower hearts, seeds, crumbs, fat balls and doubtless other items provided on bird tables and feeders.

Possibly attracted in the autumn by the larger than usual supply of fallen apples I have noticed an increase in the number of blackbirds feeding in the garden this winter, sometimes chasing each other away from the feeders and disturbing the more peaceful and tolerant goldfinches that flock around the bird table in remarkable numbers.

Of the other animal life in my garden, the sudden disappearance of rabbits and mice may well be explained by the sighting of a stoat. This predator was not in its winter ermine colour but clearly distinguished by the black tip to its tail and spent quite some time rooting around undergrowth and trying unsuccessfully to climb up the side of a compost bin, possibly having scented prey inside.

By the time you read this edition of Hear Abouts, the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch 2017 will have taken place. It is an annual event held over the last weekend of January when the general public are invited to spend an hour counting the numbers and species of birds they see in their garden and record them online on the RSPB website. It's Britain's largest wildlife survey and shows trends in bird population across the UK. Which will be the top ten garden birds spotted in this year's Big Garden Birdwatch? Blue tits, robins, house sparrows and chaffinches will doubtless feature but will Eglingham and the surrounding area be in line with the national statistics? Look out for early results of the survey in the next edition of Hear Abouts.

*On the wing*

# Christmas Market Photos



# Christmas Past

It all seems a long time ago now..... Christmas 2016 came and went. No snow, no floods, no major disasters - in the village of Eglingham and hereabouts!

Remember the Christmas Market? On 11th December we opened our doors at Eglingham Village Hall to a variety of local businesses, as well as local charities. We brought the Market to the Customers.

What a great day it was. People turned up in great numbers all afternoon, to buy gifts, their Christmas Trees and wreaths, as well as food for Christmas.

Several stallholders commented on the warm reception, and the festive atmosphere. Local people came prepared to spend, and businesses received a welcome boost to their coffers. Many have asked to be considered for next year's Market.

We did not set out to raise funds. It was mainly a Community Event, but we still need to cover the running costs of the Hall. We took a £15.00 fee for each table, which gave us £180.

There was an opportunity for Children North East to raise money by running the Tombola. Eileen Morgan took £81.00, and there were still some wrapped presents to leave at the Family Centre for those dealing with a crisis over the festive season.

The Raffle was run by representatives of St. Maurice's Church, and raised £145.00. All gifts for the Raffle and Tombola were donated. Thank you for your generosity!

The Women's Institute Bakers provided a vast range of seasonal cakes, and pastries, and were busy all afternoon. A few hundred pounds was raised, and there was little left! 50% of the proceeds will be donated to local charities chosen by the members.

The Eglingham Community Association sold out of: Historic Views of Eglingham Calendars, and cards. Only a few Christmas cards from last year were left unsold.

Copies of mounted and framed prints from the calendar sold steadily all afternoon, and funds for the ECA, which is a registered charity, were raised. Hand crafted wooden items made by Men in the Workshop from Wooler, set up by the R.V.S. and run by volunteers, were represented, as well as a local shepherd who makes walking sticks.

Tea, coffee, mince pies and mulled wine sustained us all, as Christmas music played, and people chatted. The Village Hall Committee had decorated the Hall with festive boughs, and twinkling lights, inside and out. The new Christmas Tree, which was donated to us this year, sat magnificently on the stage, fully decked in lights, baubles, and festive decorations.

If you missed it, or even if you came along, do join us again next year. It will come round all too soon! Thank you for your support at this event, and others over the year. We have Great Plans for 2017 when the Hall re-opens after building work in Jan/Feb, with new disabled toilets, new Ladies and Gents, double glazing, new meeting rooms, fresh paintwork, improved lighting and a new location for the Bar..... see you there.



## Useful Contacts

Local Councillor - Kate Cairns: 07769304310 [Kate.Cairns@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Cairns@northumberland.gov.uk)

Clerk to the Parish Council - Amy Smith: 01665 603755

Vicar - Rev. Marion Penfold: 01665 578250

South Charlton Village Hall (bookings) - Andy Gray: 07730 559223

Eglingham Village Hall (bookings) - Julian Tyley: 01665 578460

Northumberland County Council:

Main Switchboard - 0345 6006400

Alt. Number - 01665 660733

[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

Health:

NHS Direct - 111

Consulting Rooms - 01665 602388

Bondgate Surgery - 01665 510888

## PhotoClub

Our next evening is February 20th at South Charlton at 7:30pm.

## Coffee & Chats

10-12noon first Saturday of each Month

## Residents @ Email List

A resident of the Parish? Then if you haven't already... Sign up for our community email list!

Our very successful email list is open to any resident within our boundaries, just send an email to [david@eglingham.org.uk](mailto:david@eglingham.org.uk) and you will get added.

Next Issue:

Early March 2017

Content Must be submitted by 20th February