

HEAR ABOUTS

SEPTEMBER 2016



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

From the Editor

Welcome to the 2nd half of the year, summer is pretty much done already (did it even arrive?!) and if your reading this as it dropped through your door, yes you have not slept through half of September, this is Hear Abouts being published early!

From this point on we are going to **try** to have the issues out for delivery for the 1st weekend of the month (as if I didn't need any other pressure!). This means that there will be a few changes going forward. Namely deadlines. For regular contributors I'll be emailing around the 1st of the month then a polite reminder 2 weeks later. For everyone else out there. Please ensure your content is in by the 20th or it is unlikely to be published in that issue.

Please also note (and please use it) that each issue going forward will be going online onto the Parish Council's website. More on that over the page...

Cheers!

Andy

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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. 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 and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".

Digital Hear Abouts

At the request of the Parish Council the editorial team recently reviewed its position on publishing a digital version of Hear Abouts on the newly established Parish website.

Concerns had been expressed about privacy, security of personal information and consent. There was discussion of a possible difference between the public domain of a delivered paper copy and the public domain of a digital version available worldwide and searchable on the internet.

It was agreed that digital publishing would fit the aims of Hear Abouts to improve communication and provide information across the Parish but we should be mindful of the possible downsides.

The team agreed that from the September edition we will make the magazine available on the Parish Website having first obtained a one off consent from regular contributors. If new contributions contain personal details then consent will be sought by Andy before publication or personal details removed.

Back issues are more problematic and we will work on creating redacted copies with personal details removed in due course. In the meantime Andy will eventually create and publish batched zipped archives.

A mechanism will be put in place shortly so that readers can request a particular back issue which can then be emailed to them.

We believe that this policy meets our aim of bettering communication and information across the Parish while addressing the concerns of security of personal details.

Digital Copies will be available from
www.eglingham.info

Leek Show

at South Charlton Village Hall

Saturday 3rd of September

Stageing 11-12noon

Show Opens at 4pm

Trophy Presentation 6pm
Auction of Produce 7pm

Eglingham 100 club winners for August

which is drawn at coffee and chat first Saturday of the month

**1st Michael Appleby
2nd George Elliott
3rd David Jackson**

Windfarm Fund

Apply now for a chance to receive funding from Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

The RWE Innogy UK Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is open for its next round of funding at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland.

The Fund supports voluntary and community projects, and individuals based in the Parish of Eglingham. Applicants can apply for a minimum of £250 upwards, with the deadline for applications on **Friday 21 October 2016**.

The Fund aims to support charitable projects or to help support individuals living in the Parish of Eglingham. During the last round over £53,000 was awarded to complete refurbishment to the village hall, support repairs at Eglingham Church and help a resident complete their post 16 studies with an award for transport costs.

Pete Barrett, Interim Principal Advisor for Community Programmes at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland said:

“I’m delighted to introduce myself as the Interim manager of the Middlemoor Wind Farm Fund.

“For residents and community projects in the Parish of Eglingham, the Community Benefit Fund is a fantastic opportunity to gain support, establish new projects, or help established projects grow. Through the fund we aim to create strong communities and support Eglingham in being a great place to live.

“I look forward to receiving applications to the fund, and I hope I can support the Parish in establishing some great new initiatives that gives further opportunity to local residents to engage in community.”

For more information on how to apply visit www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply

Or contact Pete Barrett at the Community Foundation on 0191 222 0945 or email pb@communityfoundation.org.uk.

Lunch Club is Back!

South Charlton Village Hall
Wednesday, 21st September,
at 12 noon

then 3rd Wednesday, monthly
until further notice

Join us for
Soup and Pudding followed by a Cuppa
We are currently applying for 'Warm Hub' status
– come along and find out more

St James' Church

Invite you to a
Festival of Family, Community and Culture
2 - 5pm, Sunday 25th September
with displays and exhibits from various community groups
There will be music, flowers, and refreshments

RWE/Innogy Middlemoor windfarm community fund

At the start of the process of applying for grants to the Community windfarm fund, the Parish Council agreed to act as a conduit for those community organisations applying for funding who could not meet all the administrative criteria set by the Community Foundation.

Recent experience by the Parish Council has forced them to review their position in relation to supporting and facilitating grants to the Community Fund.

We are happy to support community groups who are not in a position to satisfy all the Community Foundation's administrative criteria, have met the Fund criteria and have fully explained their proposals to the Parish Council.

However we will not support applications which are likely to bring the reputation of the Parish Council into disrepute.

The criteria for application agreed by the local advisory panel can be found on the Community Foundation's website

<http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/funds/rwe-innogy-uk-middlemoor-windfarm-community-2>

Individuals can apply for grants up to £1000.00 with a view to encouraging and nurturing talent or supporting an individual to take up a life enhancing opportunity. It can also be used to access an apprenticeship, a vocational training course, or a further educational college course.

Grants over and above the £1000 must be on the basis of community and voluntary organisations or projects which are community-based or community led

Any group wishing for the parish Council's support should submit their application in detail to the Parish Council in time, to enable the full Parish Council to take a view on the application, before it is submitted to the Community Foundation for consideration by the grant panel

Eglington Parish Council

Leek Club Tattie bucket competition

Top 5

P North
P North
I Gibson
T Sutcliffe
D Stuart.

EGLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Race Night



Fri 2nd Sept

Starters Orders 7.00pm

Fancy a flutter?

Back by popular demand! Trot along to Eglingham Village Hall on Fri 2nd 7.00pm for an evening of equine fun. No need to lose your shirt.

Experience the thrill as your favourite romps home or the despair as your old nag trails in last.

Entry £5 to include pie and pea supper and race card.

Old Post Office Bar available.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Curry and Quiz Night

South Charlton Village Hall



KEEP
KORMA
AND
QUIZ
ON

Time and Date TBC (Mid October but keep your eyes open)

We are planning to organise a very informal curry night at the village hall followed by a very extraordinary quiz in aid of South Charlton village hall. There will be great prizes for the winners as well as wooden spoon prizes. There will also be a raffle and bar. This is a new event to which we welcome all from far and wide. Exact details to be released soon!!

Broadband and Parish Email Update

BT/Openreach have now installed a new combined telephone and fibre-broadband cabinet in North Charlton. This is great news. It means that all three settlements within the Parish have been connected. Of course, that leaves a lot of isolated farms and hamlets still without a service. The situation has been frustrating. We have access to funds from the Wind Farm, but we can't make any application to use them until BT/Openreach provide costs for the work. It has taken longer than expected, but they have promised a quote soon to extend fibre from South Charlton. We are also looking at other schemes.

There are other frustrations. Although Eglingham village has fibre, there are a couple of houses in the village who can't get it because they are connected in a different way from the rest of the village. They can see the cabinet outside their houses but have so far failed to persuade BT/Openreach to alter the wiring so that they can be connected to it. There are also a few houses in the parish connected to the Wooperton exchange which is further down the list for upgrading.

The cabinet in North Charlton should be ready for use by about the end of September. Residents within North Charlton village should then be able to get superfast broadband. If you are one of them, look out for a big sticker on the cabinet and no doubt a lot of advertising. Once fibre is enabled you don't have to use BT. Any Internet Service Provider should be able to offer a superfast service using the new cabinet.

Meanwhile, the residents' mailing list run by Hear Abouts continues to link us all together quietly and efficiently. Recent messages have included notices of forthcoming events, items for sale and to give away, property lost and found and some strategic planning issues. If you live within the Parish boundaries and are not already on the list, send an email to david@eglingham.org.uk with your name and address and I will add you to the list. It's very easy to use.

Administering the email list has had a few frustrations, too. Our previous service provider decided to put all messages through an automated filtering process. For some reason – which we were never able to establish – the robot took exception to one of our residents. This was a lady of spotless reputation who needed to send out regular notices to the parishioners. Her emails were ruthlessly blocked by the robot and the only way we could restore her service was by changing to a different company with a more sensible approach to security.

We also suffer from extraordinary policy decisions by some of the well-known email companies. AOL, for example, has a policy of advising other email providers to reject messages sent by AOL's customers through a mailing list. Yes, I really mean it. If you have an email account with AOL and you send a message to a mailing list (any list, not just ours), AOL advises that your message should be rejected. Yahoo does the same. Fortunately many email companies ignore these recommendations but some, Hotmail for example, follow them. It means that if you are on AOL or Yahoo your messages will not get through to everyone. Time to change to a more sensible provider, perhaps?

David (david@eglingham.org.uk)

Eglingham CC

On one of, if not the best prepared wickets in Northumberland the Eglingham Cricket Club's annual Blue Ribbon event, "The Hunt Game" took place on Sunday 14th August. On a beautiful sunny afternoon in front of a record crowd Eglingham retook the Peter Cotham Cup in a spectacular game full of big hitting and deadly bowling.

It was decided at the toss that the Hunt would bat first and with Oldfield and Ben Verril at the crease a blistering start was made before Oldfield was bowled for 26 in the 5th over with the score on 34. Dave Bateson joined Verril and kept the run rate up before Verril was bowled by Andrew Scott with the score on 50. Four more wickets in 3 overs shook the Hunt and with the score on 62 for 6 an early tea looked likely until man of the match Daniel Graham came to the crease. With a fantastic innings of 85 including 11 fours and 3 sixes he helped his side to a grand total of 183 before falling victim to bowler Gareth Bateman's deadly spin. He was helped on the way by brother Ali Graham who looked set to rack up the runs with a four and a six in his first 4 balls before falling to James Hugonin's first wicket of the season. Simon Landale took the final wicket of Tom Chrisp, bowled for 1, to make the Hunt total all out 184.

Tea was eaten and with energy levels refuelled Eglingham began the run chase. Henry Boyden, (feeling confident after his 2 wicket haul) and Rod Macauley opened the batting for the home side, it was Macauley who shone first with 8 fours and 2 sixes in his 28 ball 51, he was retired to enjoy the sunshine. In came Ben Threlfall who obviously had been working extra hard in the gym as he hit 5 sixes, each one getting bigger before he too was retired on 50 (off 31 balls). Boyden became the Hunt's first wicket with skipper Ali Graham claiming the scalp and with 2 more wickets, Landale bowled by Brian Dugdale and Ben Courty run out falling in the next 2 overs a few nerves were starting to appear. However, Bateman and Scott steadied the boat and carried their bats for 32 and 7 respectively bringing home the trophy.

A fantastic game of cricket, played in the true spirit of the game, at a fantastic venue, a massive thank you again to April, thank you to all our VP's and all the spectators on the day who hopefully enjoyed it as much as I did. A quick trip to The Tankerville as ever finished off a superb day with more sandwiches, potato skins and some liquid refreshments, thank you for your hospitality.

The Scorer

Village Halls Of North Northumberland

The Howick Heritage Group is planning to produce a book about traditional village halls of North Northumberland to celebrate the diversity of the buildings and the part they have played in village life down the years. The Group hopes to produce a book of 20-30 chapters, one for each hall, and each comprising 4-7 pages of between 400-800 words, and with a large number of pictures.

Eglingham Village Hall Support Group has agreed to participate in the project. We already have some memories gathered as part of our centenary celebrations, but if you haven't already let us have yours please share any old photos, newspaper cuttings, stories and recollection with any committee member.

Eglingham Village Hall's Centenary Celebration

It is just over 100 years that the Parish Hall was built from the burnt out ashes of the old corn mill in the middle of the village next to the Eglingham Burn. When Marion Wilson was recently given a copy of the original programme for it's opening on 14 February 1914 by Lady Milvan of Eglingham Hall, it was the impetus to arrange another celebration to mark its centenary. An application for funding from the wind farm was successful and the event was planned for 25 June 2016.

Invitees were all those who had over the years supported what we now call Eglingham Village Hall, and the event was planned as a thank you to them for all their efforts. Nearly 90 guests filled the Hall for an evening of entertainment and celebrations.

The Hall looked amazing thanks to the lights and bunting kindly left after the Hook's family wedding, and floral arrangements from Brenda Robertson's garden, as well as flowers kindly donated by the Rev. Marion Penfold.

Ami Huntly sang beautifully whilst the guests tucked into tasty pulled pork rolls with homemade salads provide by Piggies in the Middle (who have a base in the village), and our award winning Tankerville Arms provided the bar.

Providing a link with the original opening, April Potts cut the birthday cake (made by Brenda Robertson), and introduced by Judith Scott (Chair of the Village Hall Support Committee) David Alston (Chair of the Parish Council and MC for the evening) asked us to raise our glasses in a toast to the village hall past, present and future.

The evening's entertainment concluded when the pop/rock band Gladstone from Newcastle took to the stage, the floor filled with energetic dancers, and a good night was had by all. So many people made the event the success it was, so a big thank you to everyone involved.

Carolyn Brewster



BUSY, BUSY, BUSY,

It comes to August and from my point of view the agricultural world explodes into manic activity. This seasons lambs come fat (or prime as we are supposed to say, as fat and sugar are blasphemous words) and need to be marketed; breeding sheep that have been brought out by specialists need to find new homes to produce next year's 'prime' lambs; straw in the swath sales need conducting and farm sales need organising.

After my Brexit rant a couple of months ago I am feeling rather contrite. Lambs are selling at about £12 per head more than this time last year at £80 each. This is due to a combination of the Brexit caused weakness in sterling and the dull wet summer (don't think that was caused by Brexit) meaning lambs thrived less well and aren't yet forward in last year's quantities. The Aldi/Lidl effect over all the supermarkets means that despite my previous statement, lamb in all its guises is incredibly good value and at its best quality at this time of year as they naturally wean themselves from their mummy's milk onto the good green grass. Despite George Mombiot and his environmental disciple's anti sheep tirades, I have yet to see any other method of converting Britain and Ireland's abundant grass into something that we humans can eat. What else than to raise cattle and sheep upon it? It's too high and impractical to cultivate so what else? Scrub, thistles nettles and ragwort - good for butterflies I suppose!

On the Brexit front, after this currency caused flurry of improvement, I feel confident that when the ties are cut the ever accommodating and reasonable French continue to import our lamb! Over the last few years they've imported almost 40% of our product. Our website (www.borderlivestock.co.uk) is brim full of young maiden female sheep (gimmers) gagging to meet gentlemen on pastures new. These are last year's ewe lambs who have been kept specially for this job over Autumn, Winter and Spring on the best of everything for this purpose because they are 'cute' and 'breedy' or as the shepherds would say "grraend sorrrts". Average Mule (Bluefaced Leicester cross Blackfaced ewe) gimmers are currently selling at £135 per head.

On the straw front, our Internet Sale of Straw in the Swath, ie after the combine ready to bale, has not been so easy to sell this year because after last year's exceptionally large (but consequently difficult to sell harvest) and mild winter there is still a large hang over of last year's straw. Straw in the Swath has been making around £25 per acre. Not much more than the fertiliser value had the straw been chopped by the combine and incorporated by the plough.

We have two Farm Sales and Kelso Ram Sale to look forward to. The first farm sale is very near the village at Whitehouse (just beyond Shipley on the east side of the main road) on 16th September. James and Ian Leslie, who's family have been tenants on the Northumberland Estate for 102 years are retiring. There will be the full gambit of agricultural equipment old and new, but having been meticulously maintained by these traditional gentleman. All are welcome, it'll be quite a spectacle and quite a rare event. More about these sales in next month's edition.

James R. Logan

On The Migrant Trail

A feature of the news over the last year or two has been scenes of migrants heading for Europe and of all of the horrors that they have to endure along the way. But the news never seems to explain one of the fundamental reasons behind the movement of so many people to Germany. Why do they increasingly want to risk their lives heading to Germany when they never did before? And why, when many countries are building fences to keep migrants out, Germans are welcoming them with open arms? Let's look a little closer.

The population of the world is about 7 billion people. Some have forecast this to rise on a never ending trajectory with ensuing dire consequences for mankind (consequences are always dire). 12 billion in 10 years' time. 17 billion in 20 years. That kind of stuff. But it is not happening as expected. Over the last 20 – 30 years, the rich nations of the world have seen their birth rate change dramatically and the effects of this are becoming very apparent. To keep your population stable, you need 2.1 children per female. The 0.1 dies off and you replace the two parents with two children. Simple. Your country produces a steady stream of children who become young adults in the workplace producing more children and eventually retiring.

During the late 1980's the birth rates of many developed nations throughout the world began to fall. Japan, Germany, Russia, Poland, Italy, Ukraine and many others found their birth rates dropping to as low as 1.3 children per female. Year after year they were not producing enough children to replace themselves. Nobody thought of the consequences. The populations started to decline. Japan has 5 million less people now than it did 10 years ago. The last German census, despite healthy immigration, showed that they had lost one and a half million people. Their population is forecast to drop from 85m to 65m by 2060. The Germans have a head start in population decline as their birth rate dropped in the 1970's, ten years before everyone else. They have a disproportionately old population and not enough young people to make Audi's and all the other stuff they are famous for in order to pay the countries bills. There are towns where 8,000 people lived (towns the size of Alnwick), that have been reduced to 2,000 inhabitants. Imagine Alnwick with 2,000 people. Not just empty houses. Empty streets. Empty districts.

So. What to do? A rather large dollop of financial support for young mothers 20 – 30 years ago would have helped, you would think. The Germans and others tried this, but children are a lifestyle choice, as well as a financial one. It did not work. Other than that, you could try to persuade people to come, live, work and pay taxes in your country to keep the VW on the road, keep the hospitals open, houses filled (and with a value), and generally preserve the quality of life. The whole of Germany can see the problem. It is not even on their doorstep. It is in their house and eating their bratwurst. The country is dying in front of their eyes and it is happening right now. The choices are to carry on as if nothing is happening and manage the decline (Japan has chosen this route) or to try to correct the population decline by opening the borders and inviting refugees to come to work and live in Germany. Germany needs one million people a year to migrate into the country for the next 20 years to correct the population deficit, an enormous and probably unachievable task. They have long had a positive attitude to immigration, but the numbers have escalated as the Middle East and North Africa was turned into a battlefield and people sought to escape. They

are absolutely struggling to cope with the numbers, but the policy remains the same. Until the election next year, mass migration will, I expect, continue. After that, who knows?

What about the UK, where the average punter is completely unaware of the German predicament. Do we have similar problems coming down the line? Well, we are in a much better place demographically than the Germans. Our fertility rate, whilst being below replacement levels, never sank as low as theirs. We have been quietly filling the gap with migrants for a long time, latterly by nicking the youth of Poland to the tune of one million people. Our hospitals function, our houses are worth money and our schools are full as the migrants have boosted the birth rate to 1.8 (it was 1.6). Culturally, we can just about cope with it.

It will be interesting to see how the Germans integrate millions of people who do not have the same cultural identity as them. Angela Merkle bravely says 'Dies erreichen wir' (We can do this). Best of luck Angela, 'Wir werden sehen' (We will see).

Hayheck

A Busy July in The Parish.

A very big thank you is due to those who worked so hard to prepare and man the Pop up Charity shop in Wooler on the 20th to the 22nd of July, which raised £750 for much needed church funds after 10% to St Mary's for use of hall, and also to those who donated a huge variety of treasures to fill the hall, particularly popular were the jams, chutneys and cakes provided by Brenda and Prudence and the delicious soft fruit supplied by Patricia but these were just a small part of what was on offer including books, games, china ornaments, clothing, baskets, homewares, pictures, old children's bikes and even a beadmaker and electric golf cart courtesy of Pauline's pre move clearout. Also thanks to those who generously supplied goods to provide prizes for the daily raffle, even I who always say I never win anything came home with a bottle! There was a steady flow of visitors to the shop including a gentleman of the road who between sitting in the sun keeping up his spirits made extensive use of the hall's facilities. There was a very welcoming atmosphere at the event so if you didn't manage to get this time you missed out on a treat.



On Sunday the 31st of July it was the group service at St Maurices in Eglingham, this was a very happy occasion it was wonderful to have a really good and enthusiastic congregation. And as this followed the wedding of Clare and Kevin on the 30th, the church was looking particularly beautiful, decorated with the most amazing Flower arrangements the result of hours of work by Joyce & Brenda we are so fortunate to have such talented people in the village. Reverend Marion lead the service and gave a short sermon, and we were addressed by Richard Gascoyne who is the Diocesan

Parish Giving officer. He was entertaining and enlightening and quite subtle in his exhortations to greater giving and the need for each parish to fulfill the full amount of of its parish share.

After the group service Rev Marion and Bill hosted what Marion refers to as the 'Faith Lunch' in the Vicarage garden to which everyone was invited from the congregation and the wider village population. also included were Richard Gascoyne and a couple holidaying in Powburn. Marion's Faith was well rewarded with a trestle full of quantities of delicious food both savoury and sweet and Bill dispensed glasses of wine or soft drinks to taste. The weather stayed dry and we all enjoyed both a very good lunch and also a relaxed and convivial social occasion. So many thanks to Bill and Marion.

Lawrence Holmes.



History Hearabouts

By janwhin

10. Distant Drums

The Victorian Age which lasted from 1837 to 1901 saw an explosion of industry, invention and self confidence amongst the British people which led ultimately to the creation of an industrial powerhouse and the emergence of the British Empire. It presented opportunity for many, at home or abroad, whether in civil administration or military endeavour. It also gave people the opportunity to emigrate in their thousands to seek better lives in the colonies.

In my own family, two brothers of my 2x great grandfather left Warkworth for the island of Jamaica. Their father had died at a young age and their mother re-married. My ancestor was too young to travel with them and became a master tailor in Warkworth, the occupation of their step-father. The travelling brothers returned some years later, one obviously wealthy. His nickname locally in Warkworth was "the Nabob". His son became a curate at Eglington before taking on the living at Alwinton.

The Army became a large employer of local men who discovered that their employer would take them, and sometimes leave them, in the far flung corners of the globe. Several men who

served have their graves elsewhere and are remembered, sometimes, in wall plaques in local churches.

The first two recorded deaths relate to battles in New Zealand which were part of an ongoing struggle against the Maoris.

Old Bewick Church, having long been a ruin, was restored in the 1860s by JC Langlands, the farmer of Old Bewick. Sadly, a plaque inside the church, and the chancel and rose windows, remember the death of his 21 years old son, Charles John, an ensign, who was killed on 29 April 1864.



Plaque in Old Bewick church.

Charles became an ensign in the 43rd Light Infantry in 1861 and had only landed in New Zealand the day before his death. He had volunteered to join an assault against the Maoris, acting as the Colonel's orderly officer. He died of a gunshot wound to the chest at the Battle of Gate Pah at Pukehinahina, his body being found inside the Pah (a Pah is a Maoris fortified settlement). 31 British soldiers were killed and 81 wounded despite having vastly superior forces. The suggestion, both in New Zealand and in the UK, was that the battle was a costly and unfortunate mistake. Charles Langlands' remains lie buried in the Mission Cemetery, Tauranga, North Island, New Zealand.



Courtesy of the National Library, New Zealand (Photograph taken about 1865)

Oswald Carr was the fourth son of Ralph Carr (later Carr-Ellison) of Hedgeley Hall and Dunstan



Ruakituri Cemetery Reserve (Courtesy of National Library New Zealand)

Hill. He had been in the army for some years, a captain in the Royal Artillery and had taken part in the Campaign in China of 1857 to 1860. He served in the Battle of Canton in 1857 but because of deafness brought on by the noise of the artillery at this battle, he had left the army, but remained on half pay. He and a brother had decided to emigrate to New Zealand and take up farming. A group of captive Maoris had escaped and Oswald volunteered to join the forces being sent to recapture them. On 8 August 1868, Oswald was killed near the River Ruakituri, North Island aged 31 years.

In 1870, the parapet and roof of St Maurice Church, Eglington were rebuilt in memory of Oswald. A brass plate explains:

"Unto the honour and service of God, the parapet and roof of this tower were reconstructed in May, 1870, in token of the cherished memory of Oswald Carr, captain in the Royal Artillery. He was born and brought up at Hedgeley, and he often expressed a hope that the tower of the Parish Church might be restored in its early likeness. He fell in action in the colony of New Zealand, on the 8th of August, 1868, aged 31 years. From a sum of military pay, then due to their most dear son, the work has been effected by his parents."

The Carr-Ellisons were landowners at Dunstan Hill, Gateshead, as well as at Hedgeley and another plaque has been placed in the church of St Mary, Whickham:

"Unto the memory of Oswald Carr captain in the Royal Artillery. Fourth son of Ralph Carr of Dunstan Hill and Elizabeth his wife: Throughout the Campaign of 1857-1860 he served in China and was prominently engaged in the Battle of Canton and in the year 1868, in the Colony of New Zealand, whilst advancing with the Colonial Forces against the insurgent natives, he was killed in action near the River Riuaki-Turi on the 8th August, aged 31 years and 11 months."

The wars of Empire have claimed a member of my own family. Robert Whinham was a cousin of my great grandfather, and like him he was very tall, being well over 6 feet. Robert was born at Whitehouse Farm in 1848, the son of William, a gamekeeper to the Duke, the family living at Brizlee. By 1871 he was a gunner in the Royal Artillery in Penang. In 1876 he married at Woolwich and by 1878 he was in Africa, a farrier sergeant in N Battery, 5th Brigade, Royal



Farrier Sergeant Robert Whinham, Royal Artillery

Artillery where he was in action during the Zulu Wars. He was killed on 22 January 1879 at the Battle of Isandhlwana, when the British were over-run and massacred by the Zulu warriors.

The Alnwick Mercury of 8 March 1879 reported:

"Among the English soldiers, who, we were sorry to learn, were killed at Isandula, on 22 January last, when the Zulus made their overwhelming attack, were two natives of Alnwick – Gunner Marshall, son of Mr. J. Marshall, photographer of this town; and Farrier Whinham, son of the late Mr. Whinham of Brizlee Mount, Hulne Park. They both belonged to the Royal Artillery, and every officer and man attached to the same two guns were also slain at the time."

Queen Victoria died in January 1901 on the Isle of Wight, she had reigned for 63 years and most people had known no other monarch. She had taken over at a time when the Hanoverian kings had brought the monarchy into disrepute. By the time she died the reputation of the monarchy had been salvaged and had found a place as a ceremonial political institution. She

had presided over a vast Empire created and run by the people of a small Northern island lying off the European continent. Whatever opinions people have nowadays about the suppression of sovereign countries by one nation, it represented stunning confirmation of the self- confidence, drive and innovation of our island race.

The lads were down at the Tankerville raising a glass to the memory of old Queen Vic and her passing....

“Aye, they reckon there were all the heads of the royal families from around Europe walking behind her coffin. She’s the grandmother of most of them mind...”

“That son of hers, Edward, lovely wife Alexandra, but a womanizer and gambler. What’s going to happen to the country now with him on the throne? He’s no spring chicken either...”

“Did you hear about that grandson of hers from Germany? Kaiser Wilhelm. Dressed up to the nines in military uniform, all braid and feathers. In the Queen’s funeral procession, he jostled for position next to Edward. Germany hasn’t been a country for five minutes and he already fancies an empire the size of the British...”

“Aye, we’re in choppy waters now I reckon, who knows what’s to come...”

CAN YOU HELP?

Over the next few issues of Hear Abouts, I hope to be able to produce information about the people named on the war memorials in Eglingham and South Charlton. If anyone is able to help with photographs or snippets about those named, please get in touch.

Janet Rice on jandg.whince@talk21.com. I would love to hear from you.

The plan is that the information will also be placed on the website of the North East War Memorials Project www.newmp.org.uk NEWMP is a registered charity and its website has been identified by the British Library for future preservation in the UK Web Archive.

R e s i d e n t s @ 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 you will get added.

Next Issue:
Early October
Content Must be submitted by 20th September