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# ELLINGHAM NEWSLETTER

£ 3 . 5 0 P E R A N N U M

## March 2026



It's Spring (but you wouldn't know it at the time of writing!).

As we continue to evolve the Newsletter, to include new content and ideas, we would be grateful for any suggestions you have.

We are always interested in receiving contributions from all parishioners and also advertisers who would like to play a part in our new Newsletter

All copy to the Editor (eileenduncan76@gmail.com) by 15th of the month, for inclusion in the next month's edition.

For non parishioners cost is £3.50 per year, payable to PCC Ellingham, via Eileen Duncan at 7 Ellingham.

**40p per copy**

Delivered free to all parishioners, thanks to a grant from Ellingham Community Trust  
[www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org](http://www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org)



*Cannon Tony has been on vacation, so in lieu of his piece, this month we focus on St David, the patron saint of Wales, who's life we celebrate on March 1st*

## **1<sup>st</sup> March - St David (Dewi Sant), Guiding the Welsh Through Turbulent Times**

On 1<sup>st</sup> March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David - or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined, and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.

It's likely that David was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'Bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia, David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary.

At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy - indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as Archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi - *brefi* in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously, in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David's death is disputed - either 589 or 601. It wasn't until the 12<sup>th</sup> century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries - including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It's traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St David's Day (*Gwyl Dewi Sant* in Welsh) - but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day - oh, and they look nice!

# Sunday Rota

Reader (R)      Sidesman (S)

**1<sup>st</sup> March      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent      Purple**

Mr N Mundy (R)    Mrs A Laidler (S)

**8<sup>th</sup> March      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent      Purple**

Mrs A Laidler (R)    Mrs D Lightfoot (S)

**15<sup>th</sup> March      4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent      Purple**

**Mothering Sunday**

Mrs D Lightfoot (R)    Miss E Duncan (S)

**22<sup>nd</sup> March      5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent      Purple**

**Morning Worship**

**29<sup>th</sup> March      Palm Sunday      Red**

**United Service at Ellingham: 10 am**

ELLINGHAM CHURCH,  
North



# To Make You Smile

## **Politicians Welcome**

At the pearly gates, St Peter greeted a church minister and member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nice single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite."

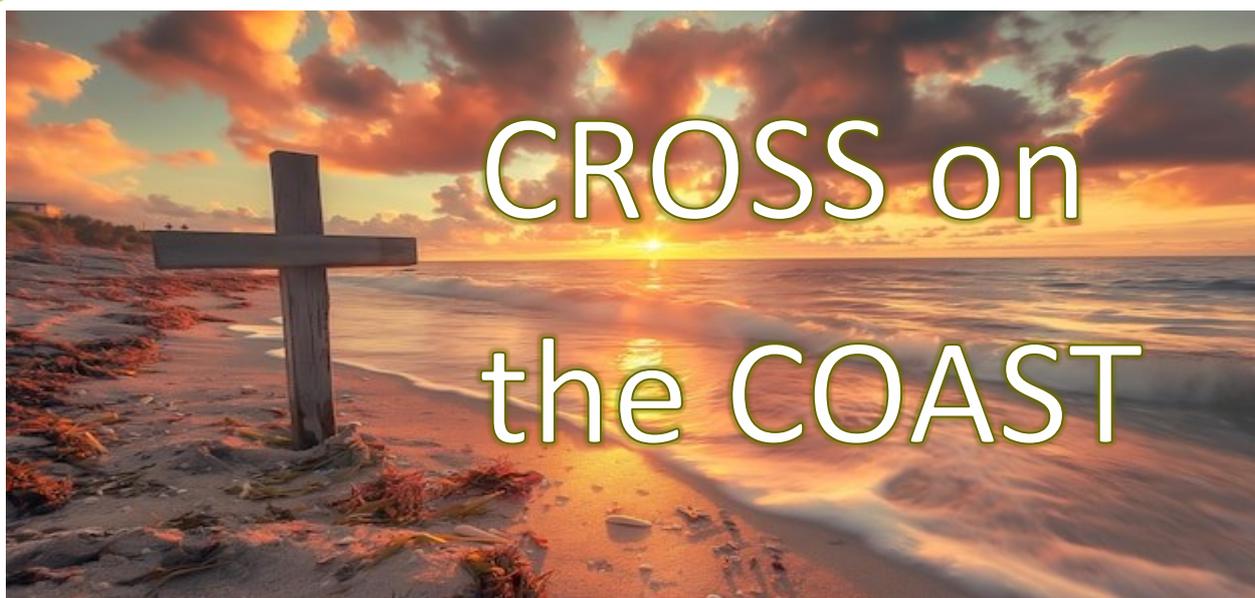
"This is unfair!" cried the minister.

"Listen," St Peter said, "ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."

## **How God Works**

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."



Our Cross on the Coast services (shared among Belford, Lucker, Beadnell, Ellingham and North Sunderland) take place at 7pm each Wednesday during Lent, until the week before Palm Sunday starting at St Mary's Church.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to come to as many of these as possible as part of our own Lenten journey.

The theme this year is "The Way of the Cross: Our Faith Journeys"

4th March Lucker

11th March North Sunderland

18th March Bamburgh

25th March Ellingham

**All services at 7pm**



## Home Made Jams

Available at the church



All proceeds to St Maurice Church

The Newsletter is here to be a communication tool for every parishioner.

If you would like to express a view, on anything that is happening in our around the Parish, please send us your views.

Email to:

EllinghamViews@gmail.com



### “Knowing Me, Knowing You”

Can I just say that I really enjoyed reading the pieces on Judy Glower and John Dobson in the last couple of issues. I didn't know either of them before, but I feel I do now!

I think it's a great idea to help us, the newer parishioners get to know some of the more established parishioners. Coming into a village like Ellingham means coming here to be part of a community, and so the chance to read a little about people in the parish seems a good idea to me, it helps us understand some of the things that have happened before, some of the history of the place we have moved to as our new home.

Might I suggest that you also include something similar, but focused on some of us who have recently moved into the village? It's not that we want to come across as being pushy, but it might help people in the village understand why other people want to come to live here, and to be part of this community.

For what it's worth, arriving here quite recently, we have

found everyone to be so welcoming, especially in the pub! We also think the Village Hall is a wonderful asset and we love that there is such a range of activities going on there. Like Judy Glover said “it's looking like the right place for us too!

*Name and Address Supplied*

**EDITOR:** You will be pleased that this month we have featured a piece on one of our newest villagers, Lesley Purves. See page 20.

### EVRY Deliveries

I'm sure I'm not alone in saying that there have been problems galore with Evry deliveries around the area. Personally, I've had non-deliveries and deliveries made to locations other my own address, In face, I've had to chase my own deliveries bt trekking round the village to identify doorsteps where parcels addressed to me have ended up! Is there such a thing, or would it be worth setting up, a village WhatsApp group so that we can communicate.? A missing parcel, for example could be easily traced if we had a group?

**EDITOR:** I'm not aware of one, would there be any interest?

# Go wild this winter!

With events from Northumberland Wildlife Trust

## Habitat Heroes

**Sat 31 Jan | 12:00 - 15:00**  
Wildroots Community Garden NE12 0QE

A demonstration on human made open mosaic habitat creation for 16-24 year old.

€ Free

## Hauxley reserve walk

**Wed 11 Feb | 11:00 - 13:00**  
Hauxley Nature Reserve NE65 0JR

Find out what goes on behind the scenes at Hauxley.

€ £3 per person

## Weetslade spring trail

**Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb | 10:00 - 15:00**  
Weetslade Country Park NE23 7LZ

Downloadable family-friendly trail to learn about spring wildlife.

€ Free

## Creative writing workshop

**Sat 7 Mar | 10:00 - 15:00**  
Hauxley Nature Reserve NE65 0JR

Join Hauxley's poet-in-residence to express in writing the beautiful and awe-inspiring landscape!

€ £10 per person (plus booking fee)

## Northumberlandia in springtime

**Thu 12 Mar | 11:00 - 12:00**  
Northumberlandia NE23 8AU

Join us for a relaxed and informative walk around the Lady of the North.

€ £3 per person

## Hauxley reserve walk

**Thu 12 Mar | 14:30 - 16:30**  
Hauxley Nature Reserve NE65 0JR

Find out what goes on behind the scenes at Hauxley.

€ £3 per person

## Northumberland dark skies

**Sat 14 Mar | 18:30 - 20:30**  
Hauxley Nature Reserve NE65 0JR

Join NASTRO for a really far out, immersive stargazing experience.

€ £12 per person (plus booking fee)

## Roe, a deer!

**Wed 18 Mar | 19:00 - 20:00**  
Hauxley Nature Reserve NE65 0JR

Join a local wildlife expert, as he shares his knowledge, images and videos of this well-loved mammal.

€ £3 suggested donation

## Weetslade in springtime

**Fri 20 Mar | 11:00 - 12:00**  
Weetslade Country Park NE23 7LZ

Discover fascinating facts as Weetslade bursts into life this spring.

€ £3 per person

## Mindfulness day retreat

**Sat 21 Mar | 10:00 - 16:00**  
Hauxley Nature Reserve NE65 0JR

Join Michael Atkinson, mindfulness expert, as he leads a wonderfully re-energising, springtime retreat.

€ £60 Adults, £50 Concessions



For full event listings and to book, visit

<https://www.nwt.org.uk>



**Northumberland**  
Wildlife Trust



## ELLINGHAM COMMUNITY TRUST MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 5 FEBRUARY 2026 AT ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

**ATTENDEES:-** David Metcalfe (DM)(chair), John Thompson (JT) (Vice chair) George Unwin (GU), Brenda Frier (BF), Judy Glover (JG), Graham Edmonson (GE), (Trustees) Virginia Mayes-Wright (VMW) (clerk)

**1) APOLOGIES:-** Louis Fell (Treasurer)

### **2) MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Trustees reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **3) TREASURES REPORT:**

LF was unavailable to present the Treasurer's Report.

**ACTION :** LF to provide the accounts prior to the March meeting.

### **4) APPLICATIONS/REVIEW OF SCHEMES**

#### **New Applications:**

**Village Hall** – The Clerk presented an application from Ellingham Village Hall requesting £5,167 to contribute funds within a larger project. The Trustees noted that this current year is the lowest in the ECT funds, as predicted in the financial plan. The Trustees agreed to defer the decision on the application until the next ECT meeting, this allows for a full review of funds requested against the ECT financial plan.

**ACTION:** DM to contact the applicant to provide an update.

**Defib Pads** - GU noted need for two new sets of defib pads. The Trustees agreed the funding for the defib.

#### **Grants In Progress:**

**School Laptops** – The Trustees noted that there had been no update on the application.

**ACTION:** BF to request an update from the School on the progress.

**Defib batteries** – This grant has been paid and completed.

**Photographic Archive** – Discussions took place to identify what the final goal would be to this worthwhile project.

**ACTION:** GE to work with David Griggs to get to an end project.

**St Maurice's Church** – No report for this meeting.

**Solid Fuel Scheme** – The Trustees agreed that the suppliers have been good this year and that feedback has been generally positive. The Trustees will seek to use the same local suppliers for the 2026 scheme.

**ACTION:** Clerk to draft the forms for the 2026 forms.

**Green Scheme** – GU reported that there has been one application received in this period.

**TESS** – no applications in this period.

**5) Welcome Pack for Residents** The Clerk and JG reported on the progress on the Welcome Pack. The Clerk reported on a meeting with CBS World, the Trustees approved the quote received.

**ACTION:** Clerk to email CBS World requesting a pdf prior to printing.

**6) COMMUNICATION**

The Trustees suggested communication regarding the new look Parish Magazine.

**ACTION:** Clerk to post on website.

**ACTION:** Clerk to email BF with post for Social Media. **ACTION:** BF to post on Social Media.

**7) AOB: None****8) ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

5<sup>th</sup> March 2026, At Ellingham Village Hall

Minutes compiled by : Virginia Mayes-Wright

ECT telephone number – 07841437614 (Trustee Brenda Frier)

## Home Made Jams



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Church



### Preston Tower

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(children 50p :  
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# Ellingham In the News

## Falldon, the Greys, and the Ellingham Schoolhouse Tragedy

Falldon lies to the south east of our parish and is historically associated with the Grey family, including Sir Edward Grey (Viscount Grey of Falldon), one of Britain's most notable political figures of the early twentieth century:

To the wider world, Grey is remembered as the Foreign Secretary during the tense years leading up to the First World War, and for the sombre words often attributed to him in 1914: "The lamps are going out all over Europe." Yet behind the public career was a deeply personal story of love and loss — one that unfolded, unexpectedly, in the village of Ellingham.

### A Northumberland Marriage

In 1902 Edward Grey married Dorothy Widdrington, a member of another long-established Northumberland family. It was widely regarded as a happy and affectionate marriage. Dorothy became Lady Grey, and the couple made their home within the orbit of Falldon and Howick Hall, the Grey family seat near Alnmouth.

At the turn of the twentieth century, estates such as Falldon were closely connected to surrounding villages through employment, tenancy, church life and community ties. The Greys were part of the wider county fabric, not distant figures but familiar names within

Northumberland society.

Only four years into their marriage, however, tragedy struck.

### The Accident Near Ellingham

On 19 February 1906, Lady Grey was travelling by horse-drawn trap near Ellingham. Contemporary newspaper reports describe how the horse suddenly shied and bolted. The trap's wheel struck a tree stump, causing the vehicle to overturn and throwing Lady Grey violently to the ground.

The accident occurred approximately fifty to sixty yards from the Ellingham schoolhouse.

Villagers and those nearby rushed to help. Lady Grey was carried into the schoolhouse itself — ordinarily a place of lessons and children's voices — which suddenly became an improvised sickroom. Doctors were summoned and quickly recognised the seriousness of her injuries. She had suffered concussion and a fracture at the base of the skull.

Sir Edward Grey was urgently called and travelled north from London at once. He remained constantly at his wife's bedside in what newspapers described as the "little schoolhouse." For several days there was anxious waiting. The modest village building, so familiar to local families, became the centre of intense private grief and wider public interest.

Despite medical care, Lady Grey's condition

worsened. She died in the Ellingham schoolhouse a few days later, aged just 38.

### The Inquest

An inquest was held shortly afterwards at Fallodon Hall. Evidence described the bolting horse, the wheel striking the stump, and the trap overturning. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, recording that Lady Grey died from a fracture at the base of the skull caused by the upsetting of the trap.

This point is important. Over time, some retellings have suggested that political unrest of the period — particularly militant suffragette activity — may have played a part. The early twentieth century was indeed a time of growing tension in the suffrage movement. However, contemporary newspaper accounts and the inquest findings describe a tragic accident, not an act of deliberate harm.

The loss was sudden and devastating, but it was ruled to be misfortune rather than political violence.

### The Schoolhouse at Ellingham

For Ellingham, the schoolhouse holds a special place in this story.

Village schoolhouses in 1906 were modest but central to community life. They were places of routine, learning, and stability. Children from surrounding farms and cottages would have gathered there daily. The building would have been known intimately to local families.

During those February days in 1906, its purpose changed completely. Instead of lessons and recitations, it sheltered a gravely injured woman and her anxious husband. Instead of children's chatter, it held quiet consultations and worried vigil.

It is not difficult to imagine the atmosphere: the plain interior of a rural classroom set against

the gravity of the situation unfolding within it.

For villagers, the experience must have been deeply affecting. News would have spread quickly, and the presence of Sir Edward Grey in the schoolhouse would have brought a sense that something extraordinary was happening in their midst.

Even today, the knowledge that Lady Grey spent her final days in the Ellingham school-



house gives the building a particular poignancy. It stands not only as a place of education in the village's past, but also as a silent witness to one of Northumberland's most personal tragedies.

### Edward Grey's Enduring Grief

Lady Grey's death profoundly affected her husband. Friends, and later biographers, observed that Edward Grey was never quite the same afterwards. Though he continued his distinguished political career — guiding Britain's foreign policy through increasingly turbulent European affairs — a deeper melancholy seemed to mark his later years. He never remarried.

In later life he turned increasingly to the natural world for solace, writing about birds and the countryside with sensitivity and affection. Fallodon and the landscapes of Northumberland remained his refuge, though they must also have carried memories of loss.

When Grey spoke in 1914 of lamps going out

across Europe, many have interpreted his words as reflecting not only political foresight, but also a man already acquainted with personal darkness.

Sir Edward Grey belongs to the world of cabinet meetings and diplomatic negotiations, yet one of the defining tragedies of his life unfolded not in London but beside a country lane near Ellingham, ending in the village schoolhouse.

It reminds us that history does not happen only in capitals and great halls. It happens in villages. It happens on ordinary roads. It happens in buildings we pass without a second thought.

For Ellingham, the connection is solemn but significant. The schoolhouse forms part of the village's history not only because of the generations educated there, but because it briefly became the centre of an event that touched the wider county.

More than a century has passed since that winter day in 1906. The world has changed, yet the landscape around Ellingham remains recognisable. The fields still stretch wide beneath Northumberland skies, and the roads follow familiar lines.

To remember Lady Grey's death is not to dwell on sorrow, but to recognise how deeply local places are woven into larger stories.

The Ellingham schoolhouse, in its quiet way, holds a small but poignant place in Northumberland's history — a reminder that even the most modest buildings can become part of a story that reaches far beyond the village boundary.

**Next Month: Murder at Coldrife Farm!**



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**Yoga classes are running in  
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Yoga is for everyone and we would love to welcome you to our

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**W: [CarpeVitamYoga.uk](http://CarpeVitamYoga.uk)**

**E: [CarpeVitam.yoga@gmail.com](mailto:CarpeVitam.yoga@gmail.com)**



## Ellingham Village Hall Trust

### Minutes of the meetings held on 13 January 2026

#### Attendees – EVHT Management Meeting

G Macleod, E Duncan, G Duncan, G Edmondson, C Stevenson, Jayne Dobson and R McKibbin.

Apologies: None

#### Conflicts of interest

None reported.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 16 December 2025 were approved and signed by GM.

#### Matters arising

RM will forward a summarized set of minutes for November and December 2025 are to be forwarded to ED before 15 Jan 2026 for incorporation into the Ellingham Parish magazine.

#### Treasurers report

Income and outgoing totals to 31 December 2025 were as follows (previous month in brackets):

Room hire – £106.75 (£67.50).

Fund raising – £1479 including £1024 (net) from the Christmas Fair (£144.50).

Other income – Interest – £38.11 (£15.37).

Expenditure - £411.19 (£1459.80). Includes costs of fund raising (£93.21), maintenance (£22), Electric (£120.83) Licenses (£57.55) and new equipment (£117.60).

#### Funding update

The Joicey and Sir James Knot trusts both looking positive. There is also an outside chance that the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund will provide the final 20% of our fund total if we reach 80%.

It was agreed that Anne Hunt should purchase a roller banner which will explain why EVH are raising funds and also show the current progress towards our target. We will also produce posters for the local notice boards.

#### Notice board

It was agreed we should progress with the procurement of a separate notice board for the Village Hall (subject to a visual inspection after the meetings). It will be located where the 'No Parking' sign is using new extended posts. The notice board will be made from recycled plastic, approximately 1.4m x 0.7m in size with two lockable sections. Keys will be held by designated EVH trustees and volunteers. The existing notice board will still be available for the use of all villagers.

#### Policy updates

Health & Safety and Complaints policies are complete.

Note: At the sub-committee meeting J Rose agreed to take on the responsibility of making a regular inspection of the contents of the First Aid box.

#### Hallmark II

The Hallmark II checklist was discussed. We have completed the Health & Safety checklist for village

for village halls, approved by the HSE. There are no items which require attention other than a PAT test, which will be organised by GM.

The Health & Safety section of Hallmark II has now been addressed. The next section to be completed is 'Maintenance and Security'.

### **Hall checks and cleaning requirements**

For the purpose of general duties and monthly checks the following rota for 2026 was agreed: January – GD, February – J Rose, March – CS, April – GM, May – I Stephenson and June - JD

### **AOB**

Solarfold cancelled the visit scheduled for 22 December 2025 and will reschedule in February. It was agreed we would carry out a simple survey at the next coffee morning to help us assess the potential usefulness of the MPLC (Motion Picture Licensing Company) license.

EVHT management meeting ended at 10.10 am



## **Ellingham Village Hall Trust**

### **EVH sub-group feedback meeting 3 January 2026**

**Attendees** –G Macleod (T), G Duncan (T), E Duncan (T), Jayne Dobson (T), R McKibbin (T), A Hunt (V), J Rose (V) a and I Stephenson (V)

**Apologies:** G Edmondson

### **Events**

It was agreed that EVH would not take any of the Highlight offerings this year. We will formally inform them in Feb/March 2026.

There is a potential wedding booking for 2027 (yet to be confirmed).

An open day for potential wedding groups was discussed. We will need to give this detailed consideration so that our 'USP' and the details of our offer can be presented in the best possible way. AH agreed to upload some example photographs on Instagram to get the ball rolling.

*Coffee mornings:* To be held on 17 January, 14 February, 14 March, 4 April 2026 and 9/23 May (depending on the date of the Packhorse Leek Club plant sale date). The April coffee morning will also be the Easter Fair, which will have a substantial Easter raffle prize. RMcK to forward Alnwick Food Bank 'certificate' to JR for presentation along with the Salvation Army 'thank-you' so that they can be circulated at the 17 January coffee morning.

*Quiz nights:* 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month until May 2026.

*Rummage sale:* Proposed date 29 August 2026. We need to consider how many clear days we need before the event to allow preparation. Initial suggestion is that the hall should be kept free immediately after the Yoga class on the Thursday. A rummage sale review meeting will be arranged.

*EVH BBQ:* Proposed date 4 July 2026.

*Wreath making:* It was agreed that we should book again for next year. Final date to be decided.

*Christmas Fair:* Likely date to be 15 November 2026 to avoid JD commitments and to 'get ahead' of the other fairs so that we can attract stall holders. JD to check and confirm if this date is suitable.

*Leek Show:* 12 September 2026, a Macmillan charity event.

*Salmon City Blues Band* will play at the hall on 14 February 2026. Support group at 7.30pm and SCBB at 8.30pm. First & Last Brewery may provide beer casks and pump on sale or return – GM to investigate. Tickets £10/person – food to be provided for the band only. The bar will be open from 7.30pm. It was agreed that a second Sumup card reader will be purchased to facilitate events where bank cards may be used at the entrance door and inside the hall.

*Village Hall Week:* Northumberland date is 18 March 2026 at Stannington VH.

### **Rumpelstiltskin feedback**

It was generally agreed that the show was the right length, popular and well received on the night. The Northumberland Theatre Company (NTC) brought an 'audience' linked to them which increased the numbers attending. The start time of 3.00pm was good as it allowed a significant number of younger children to attend. NTC are a touring theatre charity based in Amble with a mission is to make professional touring theatre available to rural communities who would otherwise have no access to this form of entertainment. With that in mind EVH will investigate other shows that they provide.

### **Landscaping**

Christmas lights: CS has purchased 4 x outdoor lights and is investigating how they could be installed and how an electrical supply can be provided.

### **AOB**

None.

### **Date of next meetings**

10 February and 10 March 2026 at 09.00 (thereafter the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month).



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## WHAT'S ON AT ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL?

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### COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 14th March, 10am - 12 noon  
Come and join us for a cuppa, a cake and a catch up.

---

### FELTED EASTER EGG DROP-IN CRAFTING SESSION

Tuesday, 17th March, 1.30 - 4.00pm  
Come and join us to make a hanging felted egg for your Easter tree and maybe enter it into the EVH Easter Egg competition at our Easter Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th April.

Cost: £5 to cover materials.

---

### MARCH QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday, 19th March, 7.30 - 10pm  
Bring your own drinks and snacks. Teams of up to six.

---

### EASTER COFFEE MORNING AND DYED EGG COMPETITION

Saturday, 4th April, 10am - 12 noon  
Meet friends old and new. Why not enter our Dyed Egg competition?

Entry fee: Any donation welcome. Prizes!

- 1. Painted egg.*
- 2. Needle felted egg.*
- 3. Onion skins dyed - 3 eggs*
- 4. Natural dyes (NOT onion skins) using nature's bounty and your kitchen cupboards (e.g. nettle, turmeric, beetroot, red cabbage - 3 eggs*

Everyone welcome.

---

[admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com) or phone: 07938 828699

# FIRST AND LAST BREWERY: TALK AND TASTING

Friday, 6th March 7.00 - 8.30pm



*"We're passionate about making beer and love talking about the science, art and history of beer & brewing! We'll tell you a little bit about the F&L story, how beer is made and talk about what makes our foraged beers so special. Plus an opportunity to ask any questions you have!"*



**Tickets: £5** in aid of **Heart Wood**, a mental health charity based in Hexham.

## MAMMA MIA! SINGALONG

Friday, 13th March 6.30pm for 7pm Show



*Mamma mia, here I go again  
My, my, how can I resist you?*

Join us for a fabulous evening's entertainment. Fancy dress encouraged with prize for best effort!

Bar & refreshments.

**Tickets: £5**



For all details see [ellinghamvillagehall.com](http://ellinghamvillagehall.com).

To book any event or activity, email:

[admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com) or phone: 07938 828699

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# ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL Development Fund

**2026 Target:  
£50,000**

**Current Total:  
£33,800**



Gus Macleod, Chair of the EVH Trustees, updates the fundraising thermometer at the February 14th Coffee Morning

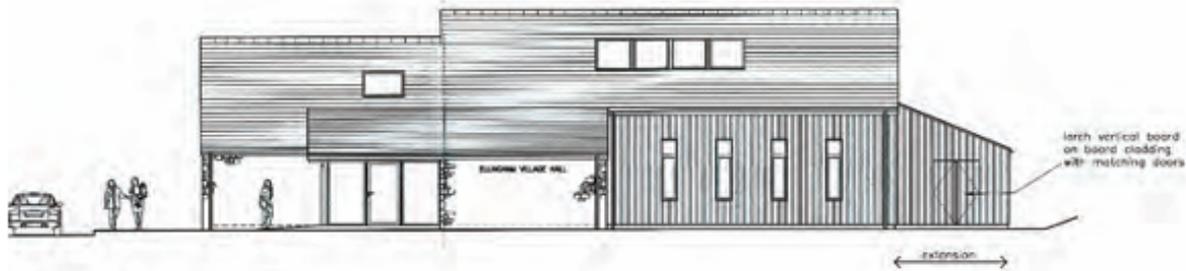
If you are interested in helping the village hall by becoming a trustee or occasional volunteer please make contact via the email address below.

Every time you buy a ticket to an event, hire the hall or simply buy a cuppa at a coffee morning, you are helping to maintain, develop and improve our village hall for us all to enjoy. Thank you for your support.

### Fundraising so far:

- EVH fundraising – profits from events and activities: £10,000
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation: £5,000
- The Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust: £5,000
- Lord Crewe's Charity: £5,000
- Rothley Trust: £1,300
- Sir James Knott Trust: £5,000
- The Joicey Trust: £2,500

Grateful thanks to our generous benefactors.



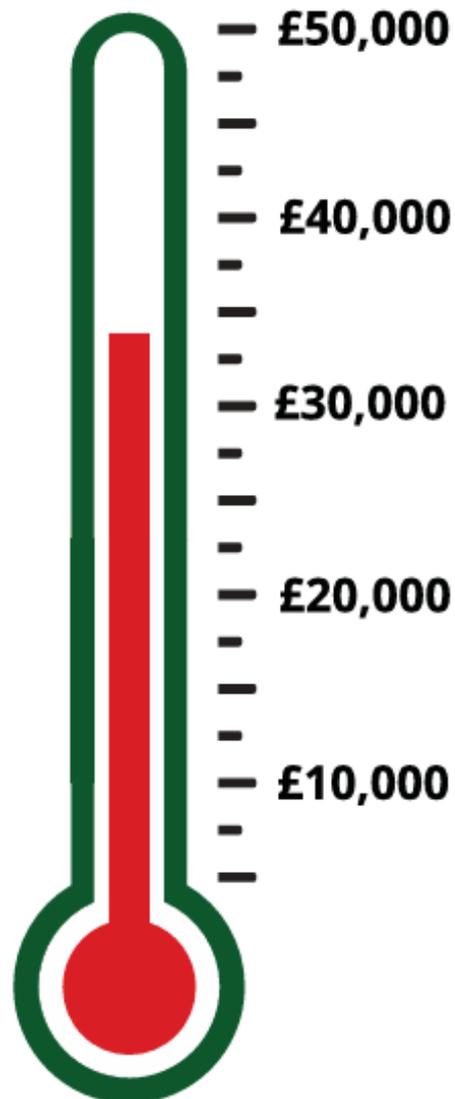
We need to raise funds to proceed with multiple items on our wishlist as well as to maintain and improve the building and landscape.

Crucial in our development plan is Phase 2 of our build. The original design of the Hall had an additional space which was omitted due to rising costs and the impact of Covid.

The Phase 2 extension will add this valuable area to the Hall and provide new facilities for performances, for example, a back-stage area or green room, as well as extra storage space to allow for a new programme of events and activities, both indoor and outdoor.

**Also on the wishlist...**

- Safety fence - completed 2025
- Patio extension - completed 2025
- External plug for transformer - completed 2025
- Replacement notice board
- Heavyweight A-frame noticeboard
- Mobile staging system
- Drama lights & screens
- Outdoor tables & seating - part complete 2025
- Outdoor lighting



For all details see [ellinghamvillagehall.com](http://ellinghamvillagehall.com).  
 To book any event or activity, email:  
[admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com) or phone: 07938 828699  
 Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

*This month we chat with Lesley Purvis, who moved into village late last year, after living in Tughall for the past 30+ years.*

**Lesley, you've only just moved into the village, but you've known Ellingham for decades.**

Yes, I moved in this past December, which still feels quite new, but my connection to Ellingham goes back over 30 years. I was at Tughall before that—what was meant to be a three-month temporary arrangement that somehow stretched into three decades! During all that time, Ellingham was always part of my life. We had friends here, my children were part of the old playgroup in the village hut,

Each month we are going to try to get to know one of our villagers a little better.

If you'd be willing to speak as a villager, new or established, and allow us to get to know you a little better, then please let us know by dropping us an email at [KmKyEllingham@gmail.com](mailto:KmKyEllingham@gmail.com)

Knowing Me,  
Knowing You  
It's the best I can do.



and they both went to Ellingham School. Socially, we spent time here too, whether that was at the pub or at events in the hall. So although I'm technically a "new" resident, the village has never felt unfamiliar.

I always used to say that if I had to live in a village, I'd choose Ellingham. It had that sense of being lively without being busy, friendly without being intrusive. So in a way, this move is a case of "be careful what you wish for" — because here I am! But it feels right. It feels like coming home to somewhere that's quietly been part of my life for a long time.

What has really struck me since moving in is seeing children playing in the street. I know that sounds simple, but it genuinely moved me. You don't see that everywhere now. It feels safe here. There's space, there's trust, and there's that old fashioned sense of community where people look out for one another. That's been very special to witness as a resident rather

than a visitor.

**You've seen a lot of change over the years. What stands out to you?**

The development, of course—but especially the transformation of the village hut into the Village Hall. It's just beautiful now. What a fantastic asset for a small village. There can't be many villages our size with a facility like that.

**You've been to quite a few events there, haven't you**

Yes, I have. I even went to a theatre performance last year—a two-hander about two brothers who lost their father at sea. It was excellent. It's wonderful to have that sort of cultural offering right here in the village.

**Are there other things you'd like to see the Village Hall offer in future?**

I'd love to see more films shown. You all sent around something about that, and I thought it was a great idea. Perhaps not just brand-new releases, because you can watch those at home, but classic films—maybe from the

'80s or '90s. There are so many brilliant films from that era that you can't easily stream anymore unless you've still got the DVD tucked away somewhere.

**Let's talk about the Pack Horse. You've known it through many changes. What does it mean to the village?**

It's still a real centre of the community. We don't have a shop, but we do have the Pack at one end of the village and the Village Hall at the other—and the church as well, of course. Those are three real pillars. I think the village would feel very different without the pub. So many of the village children worked there and earned their first pocket money there, it's woven into people's histories.

**You had a memorable Christmas Day visit there, didn't you?**

I did! I had a spare 20 minutes between family visits and thought I'd pop in. I'd never been to the pub on Christmas Day before. It was joyous. As soon as I walked through the door, someone handed me a glass of champagne, I got a kiss on the cheek from Ollie, and it was just so welcoming. I remember thinking, "This is lovely. I'm glad I'm here."

**What are your strongest memories of Ellingham over the years?**

The Millennium Village Fete stands out. I designed all the posters and signage for it. It started off beautifully—sunshine, traditional stalls, tug of war, face painting, even the infamous "pooping cow" grid! Then the heavens opened. It was biblical rain. I remember sweeping water out of the vil-

lage hut as fast as it was pouring in. There weren't enough mops in the world. But everyone mucked in, and that's what I remember most—the sense of community.

**You were also part of the first toddler group and had children at Ellingham School. What did that mean to you?**

It meant a lot. Both my children went to Ellingham School, and they did very well there. Lynn Turnbull was a wonderful teacher. In fact, volunteering at the school—listening to children read and running craft sessions—reignited my desire to teach. I'd once turned down a place to do my PGCE, but helping at the school put the idea back in my head. It set me on the path to eventually going into teaching.

**Your move into the village was quite fortuitous, wasn't it?**

Very. I needed to move somewhere not too far from my stepfather. While I was away with family for the birth of my granddaughter, my daughter Alex spotted the house online. It was just perfect timing. I feel very lucky.

**And how are you enjoying village life now you're officially here?**

I'm loving it. I enjoy looking out over the green. I've got Ted, the Highland bull, who occasionally bellows nearby—he's magnificent. And I seem to have acquired a pet pheasant who taps on my window for food! It's peaceful, friendly, and exactly what I always thought Ellingham would be.

I said years ago that if I ever lived in a village, I'd choose this one—and I'm very glad I did.

**THANK YOU LESLEY!**

Watson

## Memorial Hall Lucker

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

Come along and join our mammoth  
Quiz with or without a team

£3.00 per person

Bring your own refreshments

Raffle (donations welcome)

Maximum 6 people per team



## THE PACK HORSE LEEK CLUB



We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our events throughout last year and allowed us to make the superb donation to Hospice Care Alnwick, which was really appreciated by the Hospice.

The “Tattie in a Bucket” will again take place this year. Buckets can be collected on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April between 10 and 12am from 2 Golden Close Ellingham. The cost is £2 per bucket

We would also like to thank all those who contributed to the monthly draw, the recent winners were:

**Lucca Molle – December**

**Pam Allen – January**

**Gerald Milburn February**

The club always welcomes new members. Plenty of advice and help is always available, so please contact Diana Milburn for further details if you are interested.



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## Lights, Camera, Northumberland: The Films That Put Northumberland on the Big Screen

There is something undeniably cinematic about where we live. We live in a county of vast skies and bigger horizons, where moorland rolls towards the Cheviots, castles rise from rocky outcrops, and the North Sea crashes against sweeping, empty beaches. It is no surprise, then, that filmmakers have repeatedly turned their cameras towards this dramatic corner of the country.

From wizarding schools to swashbuckling legends, dystopian futures to gritty historical dramas, Northumberland has played host to some of cinema's most memorable moments.

### Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001) & Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2002)

Perhaps the most famous cinematic use of Northumberland is Alnwick Castle's starring role as Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the first two Harry Potter films. The castle's Norman walls and grand bailey provided the perfect backdrop for the magical school, instantly cementing Northumberland in the imagination of millions of fans worldwide.

It was here that Harry had his first flying lesson with Madam Hooch, wobbling nervously on his broomstick before soaring into wizarding legend. The castle's medieval architecture lent authenticity and gravitas to the fantasy, grounding J.K. Rowling's world in real, ancient stone.



Today, Alnwick Castle has become one of the county's best-known attractions, proving how powerfully film can reshape a location's global profile.

### Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991)

Before Hogwarts, Alnwick Castle also played Nottingham Castle in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, starring Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman. The castle's imposing façade and dramatic position made it a convincing stronghold for the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Although the film roamed widely across Britain for locations, Northumberland's rugged landscape helped create the sweeping medieval atmosphere. The county's ancient woodland and brooding fortifications are tailor-made for tales of outlaw heroes and tyrannical rulers.

### Elizabeth (1998)

Shekhar Kapur's *Elizabeth*, starring Cate Blanchett as the young Queen Elizabeth I, used Northumberland locations to evoke Tudor England. Alnwick Castle once again proved its versatility, standing in for royal strongholds and palaces.

The county's architecture is uniquely suited to historical drama. Stone keeps, fortified towers and sweeping parklands offer ready-made period authenticity. For filmmakers seeking grandeur without excessive modern intrusion, Northumberland is a gift: its rural character means contemporary elements are often easily kept out of frame.

### Transformers: The Last Knight (2017)

Northumberland's cinematic appeal is not limited to period drama. In 2017, Bamburgh Castle and its surrounding beaches appeared in *Transformers: The Last Knight*. The film's explosive, CGI-heavy action may have been a world away from Tudor intrigue, but the castle's silhouette against the North Sea provided a striking setting for epic confrontation.

Bamburgh is one of the most visually arresting castles in Britain, perched dramatically atop a rocky plateau overlooking miles of sand. Its windswept grandeur feels almost

mythic — a quality that suits both Arthurian legend and alien robot warfare.



The film introduced a new generation of global audiences to Northumberland's coastline, even if they arrived expecting Autobots rather than seabirds.

### Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (2023)

More recently, Northumberland returned to the blockbuster spotlight with *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*. Bamburgh Castle once again took centre stage, fitting seamlessly into the adventurous archaeologist's globe-trotting world.

Few places look more like the setting for a secret buried in history than a cliff-top castle staring out over the North Sea.

**28 Days Later (2002)** Danny Boyle's *28 Days Later* is most famous for its haunting images of an empty London, but parts of the film were shot in Northumberland. Kielder Forest and its surrounding areas provided isolated, atmospheric backdrops for the film's bleak post-apocalyptic world.

### The Railway Man (2013)

Based on the memoir of Eric Lomax, *The Railway Man* starred Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman in a story that moves between wartime trauma and post-war reckoning. While much of the narrative is set abroad, scenes were filmed in Northumberland, including around Alnwick and on the county's heritage railways.

Northumberland's preserved rail infrastructure and period settings make it ideal for films

exploring Britain's twentieth-century past. Its rural stations and stretches of track can be transformed into almost any era with relative ease, giving filmmakers a powerful sense of time and place.



### Why Northumberland Works on Screen: What is it about Northumberland that keeps drawing filmmakers back?

First, scale. Northumberland is England's least densely populated county, meaning sweeping shots are rarely interrupted by modern sprawl. Directors can capture epic landscapes without the intrusion of motorways or high-rise buildings.

Second, history. With castles, Roman forts along Hadrian's Wall, and centuries-old villages, the county offers extraordinary architectural variety. It can double as medieval England, Tudor Europe, Victorian Britain — or an entirely fictional fantasy realm.

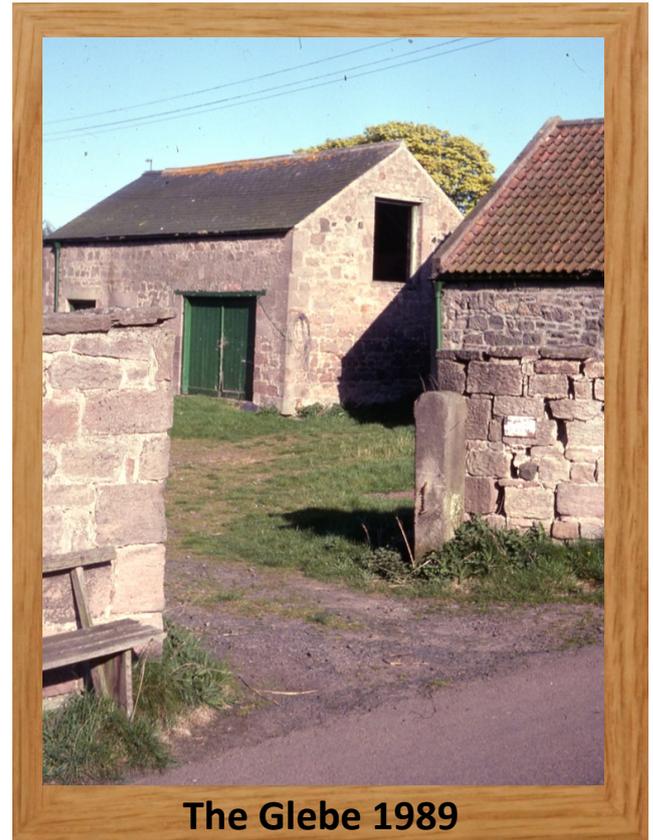
Third, light and atmosphere. The region's expansive skies and coastal weather create dramatic natural lighting conditions. Mist rolling off the sea, golden light over heathered moorland, storm clouds gathering above a fortress — these are visuals that production designers cannot easily fabricate.

Finally, Northumberland retains an authenticity that many filming locations lose. Step away from the main tourist attractions and you can still find solitude on a beach or silence on a hilltop. It is a place that feels untamed, even when it is hosting a major production. In Northumberland, the camera may eventually pack up and leave — but the drama, written into the landscape itself, remains.

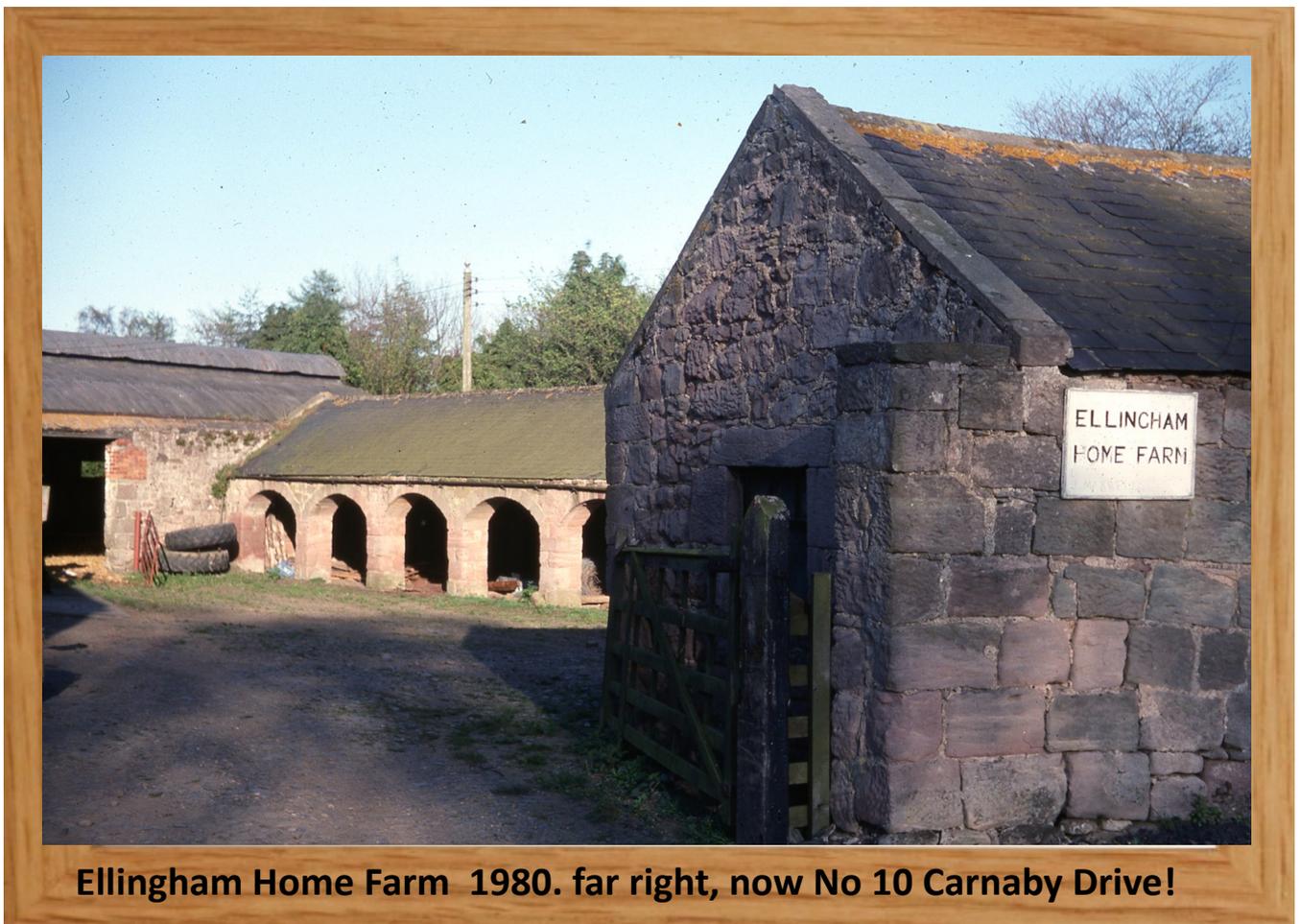
# Old Ellingham

These pictures of old Ellingham are drawn from David Griggs collection and feature in his “ELLINGHAM:-THE CHANGING FACE OF A RURAL PARISH” presentation.

Do you recognise these old locations as they are now?



**The Glebe 1989**



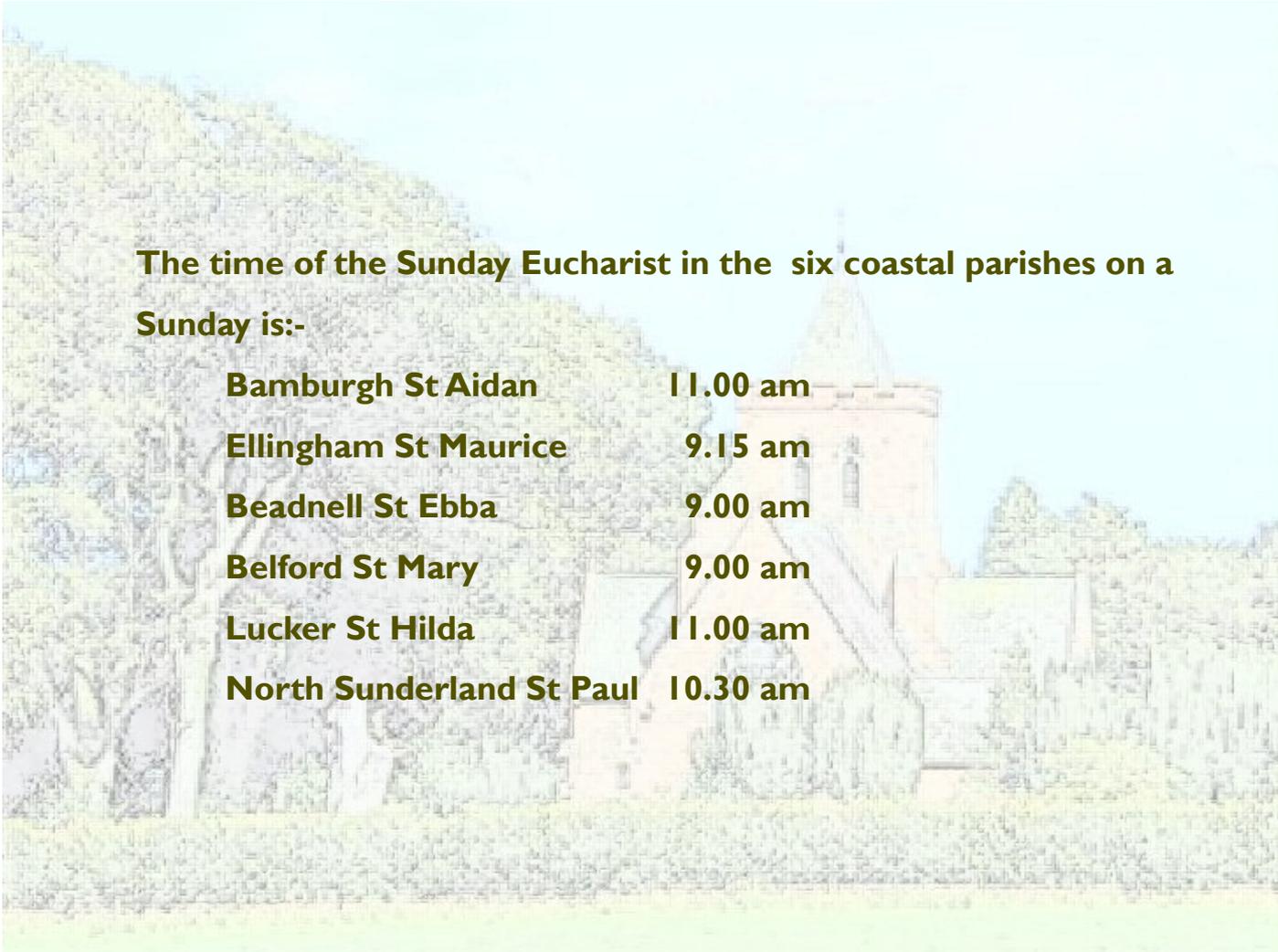
**Ellingham Home Farm 1980. far right, now No 10 Carnaby Drive!**



**The Glebe 1986, renovation begins— now private homes**



**The old stable block, 1989— now an elegant private home!**



**The time of the Sunday Eucharist in the six coastal parishes on a Sunday is:-**

<b>Bamburgh St Aidan</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>Ellingham St Maurice</b>	<b>9.15 am</b>
<b>Beadnell St Ebba</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Belford St Mary</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Lucker St Hilda</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>North Sunderland St Paul</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>

## Useful Contact Information:

### **Vicar:**

Rev Tony Macpherson: 07780990354 email: [canontonymac@gmail.com](mailto:canontonymac@gmail.com)

### **Churchwardens:**

Dorothy Lightfoot : 01665 589463

Neil Mundy: 01665 589347

### **Clerk to Parish Council:**

Isobel Hunter email: [ellinghampc@gmail.com](mailto:ellinghampc@gmail.com)

### **Ellingham Community Trust:**

07841 437614 (Trustee Brenda Frier) email: [ellinghamcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:ellinghamcommunitytrust@gmail.com)

### **Northumberland County Councilor:** Guy Renner-Thompson

[guy.renner-thompson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:guy.renner-thompson@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **North East Mayor ( Public transport) Kim McGuinness**

[mayoroffice@northeast-ca.gov.uk](mailto:mayoroffice@northeast-ca.gov.uk)

### **Ellingham Village Hall:**

07938 828699 email: [admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com)

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