

**THIS  
MONTH**

**“Voices of Old  
Ellingham: John  
Maxwell”**

**Ellingham in  
the News:  
“From Preston  
Tower to the  
Atlantic”**

**INSIDE  
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# ELLINGHAM NEWSLETTER

**MAY 2026**

**£3.50 PER ANNUM**



**Spring is here, the days are lengthening, the weather is warming, up, and with all that positivity, we welcome to the latest edition of the Ellingham Newsletter.**

**Thank you, as always, for being part of our community, and we hope you are finding this Newsletter a nice way of keeping connected?**

**We are always interested in receiving contributions from all parishioners and also advertisers who would like to play a part in our new look. The whole point of the Newsletter is to keep the community connected, so please help us by telling us what you want, contributing and getting connected yourselves!**

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

**For non parishioners the cost is £3.50 per year, payable to PCC EI-**

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



*“I have loved being part of the Easter Celebration in our Churches since my arrival in 2019 and this year there will be for Lynne and I a powerful mixture of emotions”.*

Canon Tony  
Macpherson

Canontonymac  
@gmail.com

## 25th May: The Venerable Bede – Great Historian, one of our Northern Saints

The Venerable Bede was an outstanding scholar who accomplished several ‘firsts’.

He was the first historian to date events from the birth of Christ. He was the first person to write scholarly works in the English language. And, of course, his world-famous, magisterial Ecclesiastical History of the English People, completed in 731, is still in print today.

Bede was born in about 673, and sent as a child to Wearmouth monastery, and then later transferred to the monastery at Jarrow. His was a quiet life: he probably never travelled further than Lindisfarne to the north, and York to the south. In about 692 Bede was ordained deacon, and then, in about 703, he was priested.

Bede once described his own life: “I have devoted my energies to a study of the Scriptures, observing monastic discipline, and singing the daily services in church: study, teaching and writing have always been my delight.” It sounds unremarkable, but Bede’s fruitfulness has been extravagant: his writings have informed and influenced millions of people over 14 centuries.

As a theologian, Bede translated the Gospel of John into Old English, completing it on the very day that he died. He also wrote commentaries on various books of the Bible. But Bede’s outstanding gift was as an historian. His Ecclesiastical History of the English People is one of the most important sources that we have for understanding early English history. Bede was scrupulous in his use of sources, clearly identifying them. He also was careful to distinguish

between fact, hearsay and legend. He had a healthy scepticism, and certainly did not believe that everything he was told was necessarily true.

His Ecclesiastical History tells the history of Britain up to the year 729. It starts with the story of the Celtic peoples, who converted to Christianity in the first three centuries after the death of Christ. Bede then moves on to the invasion of Britain by the pagan Anglo-Saxons, in the 5th and 6th centuries. They themselves were in turn converted by Celtic missionaries from the north and the west, and by Roman missionaries coming up from the south and the east.

Bede himself lived during the time of the Anglo-Saxon church, of which he was a wise observer of its various problems. He urged that episcopal visitations, confirmations, and Holy Communions should be held more frequently – for the good of the Church.

## Sunday Rota: May

	Reader (R)	Sidesman (S)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter 5</b>	<b>White</b>
	<b>Mrs D Lightfoot (R)</b>	<b>Mrs A Laidler (S)</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter 6</b>	<b>White</b>
	<b>Mr N Mundy (R)</b>	<b>Miss E Duncan (S)</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter 7</b>	<b>White</b>
	<b>Sunday after Ascension Day</b>	
	<b>Miss E Duncan (R)</b>	<b>Mrs D Lightfoot (S)</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>	<b>Red</b>
	<b>Morning Worship</b>	
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	<b>White</b>
	<b>United Service at Beadnell at 10am</b>	
	<b>No service at St Maurice's</b>	



## ELLINGHAM COMMUNITY TRUST MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 2 APRIL 2026 AT VILLAGE HALL

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

- 1) **Minutes from the Previous Meeting;** The Trustees reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- 2) **Treasures Report.** -LF talked the Trustees through the Treasurer's Report.  
**ACTION:** LF to complete investment application process with JT
- 3) **Applications/Review of Schemes**  
Grants/Applications Received:  
*Village Hall Application* – the Trustees discussed the application and a decision was agreed.  
*Solid Fuel Scheme* – The Trustees talked through the timeline for launching the Solid Fuel Scheme. Everyone agreed that the Trust should start distributing the application forms and publish the new online digital form. All forms will be delivered in plenty of time to make sure residents can return completed forms by 31<sup>st</sup> May.  
*Green Scheme* – GU informed the Trustees of two new applications that have been processed.  
*TESS* – One TESS application reviewed and agreed by the Trustees.  
**ACTION:** DM to inform the Ellingham Village Hall Committee of the Trust's decision concerning the application for funding the Village Hall extension plans.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to email all parishioners of the link to the new digital online Solid Fuel Scheme application form.  
**ACTION:** BF to prepare Solid Fuel Scheme application form letters.
- 4) **Welcome Pack for Residents** The Trustees reviewed the Welcome Pack and agreed that it is now ready to be shared. **ACTION:** Clerk to arrange the printing of the Welcome Pack
- 5) **Communication** The Trustees discussed how the Parish Magazine is progressing and were pleased to hear how positively it has been received
- 6) **AOB.** No items were raised.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to confirm that the active scheme forms/website request for proof of residency has been actioned
- 7) **Next Meetings:-** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2026, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2026, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2026. All meetings to be held at Ellingham Village Hall unless notified otherwise.

Minutes compiled by: David Metcalfe (Chair).

ECT telephone number: 07841437614 (Trustee Brenda Frier)



# Ellingham Community Trust

## Solid Fuel Scheme 2026

**The Trust's Solid Fuel Scheme for 2026 was launched in April.**

If your primary residence is within the Parish of Ellingham you can apply to Ellingham Community Trust for a voucher for solid fuel.

If you do not have an open fire or log burner it is still worth taking advantage of this offer. Ellingham Community Trust buys in bulk, the more we can buy, the better value achievable. It is acceptable to sell the fuel (please ask a Trustee for contacts of people who would buy) or to pass on as a gift.

Alternatively, you can request to receive a cash sum from the Trust.

To receive notification of the launch of the Solid Fuel Scheme, contact the Clerk to be added to the mailing list or sign up to receive updates from the website. To apply, simply complete the application form available in April at [www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org](http://www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org) by the deadline on the form and either post or email it to [ellinghamcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:ellinghamcommunitytrust@gmail.com) or post to Virginia Mayes-Wright, 1, Chathill Farm Cottages, Chathill, NE67 5DE by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

Households submitting after this deadline will only be eligible for the £100 cash payment option. If you submit an application and do not receive confirmation of this order by phone or email, it is your responsibility to get in touch with Ellingham Community Trust.

### **Conditions**

Only one application per Household will be accepted.

ECT accepts no responsibility for use or misuse of this fuel and makes no guarantee about its performance.

Ellingham Community Trust (ECT) is committed to the protection of your privacy. We will only use the personal information that we collect from you in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. ECT will only use your personal information to process and administer the Solid Fuel Scheme. Your information is held securely during this process and is deleted immediately afterwards. We do not transfer your personal information to any third party. For further information on GDPR, please visit [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)



## 30 Days Wild: The UK's biggest nature challenge!

Embracing nature like never before! 30 Days Wild is The Wildlife Trusts' annual challenge event, where we ask you to take on wild activities throughout June.

We've lots of wild and wonderful ideas for 2026 - why not sign up for 30 Days Wild today!

[Sign up for 30 Days Wild](#)

From planting wildflowers for bees, to listening to bird song, there's endless ways to spend your wild month! Whether you complete an activity a day, or a couple in a week, you'll be connecting with wildlife, boosting your well-being and making a positive impact on the planet at the same time.

## More about 30 Days Wild

30 Days Wild is a free, month-long challenge designed to inspire people of all ages to connect with nature during June. From birdwatching in your garden to exploring a local nature reserve, every action – big or small, daily or weekly – helps you get closer to nature.

<https://www.nwt.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/30-days-wild>

## CHURCH MEETING REPORT: APRIL 23rd 2026

I attended the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) as a parishioner of Ellingham.

This evening's APCM was held at EVH St Maurice's Church, Ellingham, and was opened by Canon Tony with today's collect for St George's Day. Fifteen members of the community were present, including members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the church wardens. The meeting commenced with the election of church wardens; Neil Mundy and Dorothy Lightfoot were unanimously re-elected and received sincere appreciation for their dedicated service over many years.

Neil expressed sincere gratitude to Canon Tony and his wife Lyne for their dedicated service over the past seven years. Their commitment was particularly noteworthy during the challenging period of lockdown in 2020-21. Canon Tony is set to retire this summer.

Reports from Deanery Synod, Church Wardens, Finance, and the Electoral Roll were distributed. Appreciation was extended to individuals who contributed to the upkeep of the churchyard, floral arrangements, and various other responsibilities. Overall, the event reflected a strong sense of community collaboration.

There was a discussion regarding potential future initiatives within the parish to support the church by engaging individuals who do not regularly attend services.

It was anticipated that this would be addressed through biannual discussions.

It was genuinely heartwarming and demonstrated a sincere sense of community spirit.

Thank you all

*Brenda Frier*

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, or anything related to the Newsletter, please send us your views.

Email to:

EllinghamViews@gmail.com

# Have your say

## The Future of St Maurice's

Personally, I attended the meeting about the future of the church, and I was both pleased and also surprised by the fact that so many people attended and I feel that shows support for the church. But I couldn't help but wonder how nice it would be to have a congregation of that size! I am not a weekly church attender myself, but I do try to attend as and when I can. And I think it would be a shame if the church went to

one service every month, or became simply a festival church. When Canon Tony requested a show of hands from those wishing for Ellingham St Maurice's to remain an active church in the future, the support was unanimous, as Brenda said in her report. Perhaps people like myself and others who were there, should show our support more often?

*Name Supplied*



## DINE | STAY | RELAX

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Yoga classes are running in  
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'Seize your Life' and come and join us in  
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Come with a mat or I have some to buy

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**[Karenmundy@icloud.com](mailto:Karenmundy@icloud.com)**

**W:CarpeVitamYoga.uk**

**E:CarpeVitam.yoga@gmail.com**

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John Maxwell's father came down from Scotland to farm Home Farm in the 1930s, with John taking over and finally retiring in 1989. Here we reproduce the words of John Maxwell, as recorded in his interview with David Griggs in the late 80s. Thanks to David's recordings, we still have their recorded voices, and each month we will be featuring transcripts of some of David's interviews with old villagers. You will soon be able to access these recordings online. More to come!

**John, I wonder if you could tell me about the first time you ever remember seeing a working horse?**

*"Well of course I don't remember the first time I actually saw a working horse, because they were all around, I was brought up with them. Up on the farm in Scotland, where we came from, the usual horse strength was 6 horses, two*



*working pairs of horses and two what we called "odd horses". And they were all Clydesdales, which is the breed preferred in Scotland over the shire horses which were preferred in Southern England, mainly because the legs were cleaner. In other words, it had n't much hair, the bone was rather finer, and the feet weren't so big, which is quite an important point when you are working among root crops, growing in rows. Horses with big feet tended to knock plants out, you see. On the farm here, in Ellingham, we always used Clydesdales, which were reared in South-west Scotland, sold at Lanark. My father used to go to buy one or two, 2 yr old colts, or what we used to call "cowts" as we called them in Scotland, bring them home and then, when they were 2.5-3 years old he would start to break them in.*

**You broke in the horses yourselves on the farm?**

*Well, there were professionals who went about doing that for you, but he did it himself. They were mainly quite amenable and it wasn't not too much of a difficulty, to break them. You had to teach them to accept the harness, this this was usually the first thing, to accept the harness. And then after that to accept the chains around their legs, and then the next thing was to yolk them into a heavy log. And then they were introduced, alongside another horse onto the plough. And mainly, until they were settled, it was with 3 men with them, one at each side of the head, and one with reins at the back. The plough was the first and then eventually they would be introduced to the cart and, again, this was a job for three men*

initially, until they were settled. The greatest care was that you didn't want to frighten them, They had to be treated gently until they've been taught to do what you wanted them to do.

I have seen horses where things have gone wrong during the breaking in period. Once I remember seeing one when it was getting accustomed to chains. And this was done again by three men, with two men walking along with the plough, rattling the chains against the horses legs. And I remember, I don't know exactly what went wrong, but one of the chains got wrapped around the horse's leg and after a bit of trouble when they got it off you know that horse it never forgot it. And the interesting thing about

that horse was it ended up being the very last horse on Ellingham Estate.

He came here with us, that horse, from Scotland. And he finished up as the Estate horse, the last one we had. "Vic" was his name and he always remembered that if anybody ever dropped chain or keys near his feet he'd remember it.

The horses were always kept in pairs you know. Each ploughman had his own pair. And as they gradually got older they graduated down, towards what we used to call these "odd horses". Those horses often worked with the carts and they were asked to stand still for a long while.

And the thing to remember is that even during the winter you know, even in a



John Maxwell, hand in pocket. Making silage. Pic from David Grigg's collection

spell of bad weather in the wintertime, when the horses couldn't be ploughing, they'd still have to be taken out every day, exercised, whether they were working or not.

The horses were always brought in from grass in July, a fortnight before the harvest started. To have them off on an amount of oats and hay before they started into the harvest work. And then they were at grass a very short time because normally the putting in of turnips was a long job with horses, stretching to weeks, and they were never put out to grass until the turnips were in! They were probably only at grass from the end of May to the beginning of September. They were stabled all the time after that.

They were allowed a stone of crushed oats with bran every day, and hay, and if they weren't working very hard during winter, they often just got a ration of oats. One of the interesting things, when you hear people say we should go back to horses, you know it took about 5 acres of green to feed them. That was the production we got.

### **It was a hard day wasn't it?**

When we first came down here to Ellingham in the 1930s, when I was driving a team regularly, I had to be in the stable at 5.00 o'clock. The first thing that was done was that the horses were fed, then

bedding was shaken up, and then we went back and had our breakfast. About a quarter to 6, came back, watered the horse, groomed them, cleaned the stable out and then there was harnessing to be done. We were off to work at half past six.

The working day we did was from 6.30 till 11.30, and then 1.00-5.00, with breaks at 10 and 3, that was for the horses. The ploughman's day was regulated by what the horse could do, not what the man could do. The horses would have a nosebag at 10 and 3. The long break at lunch was for the benefit of the horses, not the ploughman.

A good team of horses, in a stubble field, ploughing about 10 inches deep would do about 3/4 of an acre a day. On ground where you weren't ploughing so deep, a crop of potatoes or turnips, you might do an acre. (**NOTE:** Apparently, today, you might expect to do between 10–20 acres per day with a modern tractor).

### **Did you shoe the horses yourselves?**

Oh, no, there was a blacksmith... You took the horses to the blacksmith, but certainly the larger farmers had their own blacksmith's shop, and they had the journeyman blacksmiths who came in and did the shoeing.

### **Where did you take horses from Ellingham?**

Up to the Nest, Low Nest that was Mr. Davidson. Jack Davidson's father.

The horses had to be shod fairly regularly.



*Mr. Smith, on left, farmed Home Farm before the Maxwells. From David Grigg's collection.*

Not always with new shoes. But once the feet grew to a certain extent, the shoes had to be removed, and the feet repaired. You know, there were really just new shoes put on when we needed them. And of course, if it was icy weather, the horses always had shoes with square holes in them, which had what we called "blunts" in them. These blunts had a tapered neck, hammered into the hole, and then you just had a square peg. When it was an icy morning, we had a special implement for taking these out. And we put in "sharps" which also had a tapered neck, but they were sharpened to a point, there we four of them in each shoe if we

had any special work to do on the roads.

One of my earliest recollections, of when we used a horse for something unusual, when I was quite young, I can remember the roads being all blocked, and the postman coming along, he borrowed the old horse, put a sack over him, climbed on and went off. And he would be away for hours and hours you know. Through the fields, through all the countryside.

### **Apart from ploughing, what else did the horses do?**

Apart from ploughing, they would have done almost every other job on the farm. Cultivating, drilling, preparing the land for



*Ella Gilholme's cousin driving a hayrake. Pic from David Grigg's " collection*

roots and potatoes. In older times they even did the threshing, in what we called gin gang, you can still see these little round buildings around the countryside, where two horses were yolked. They would simply walk round and round. There used to be one at the Glebe, but a tree fell through it.

It was well into the 30s when we had pneumatic tyres. They were wooden wheels well into the 30s. There was a wheelwright at Preston. It was common to have the blacksmith and the joiner's together, back to back. Sometimes, in the summertime, we used to have to take the wheels we weren't using, and sometimes those we were, and dump them in the pond, to keep the hoops tight.

Brownieside was a blacksmith shop- Mr Thompson- and he was a journeyman blacksmith, he would go to Newham Barns and shod the horses on the farm .

**People get very emotional about this. , but did the horseman, or the ploughman, get very attached to his horses?**

Well, some did, and some didn't. Some people cared for the horses a lot... In fact, I think most of them did. You know the odd ones who didn't. And then... a lot depended on the horses, because of course, horses are like people. There were some that were attractive and some that were not. And you always got the odd one that decided it wasn't going to work at

times, and things like this.

*During my time, the horses were well treated. A workhorse would go on until they were 17 or 18, but they wouldn't have started full work till they were 4/5. Horses were much better taken care of than they had been. I think if you read some of the books. on horse transport, and the days long ago, when the... a lot of the transport was done at night because of the poor condition and whatnot of the horses. They didn't bring them out in daylight, you know, almost as bad that. The unfortunate thing was that, even I have seen this, often the horse that he thought was done for farm work, and it was sold, and it would go to some of these people who used to cart stones on the road, you know, and it weren't very kindly used..probably heavier work, you know.*

**RECORDED with John Maxwell, 1988, shortly before John sadly passed away in the early 1990.s The original recording will be available on line by end of month., along with David's other interviews with villagers.**

**FOOTNOTE:**

John and Joan Maxwell retired to Humbie Croft (next door to Home Farm farmhouse) in the early 90s. They named the house after the village where the Maxwell family had come from. When they came to Ellingham originally, they arrived by train, with all their farm equipment and animals, from Humbie, arriving at Newham station. They then drove the stock through the lanes to Ellingham.



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# ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST MARCH MANAGEMENT MEETING MINUTES



## **Attendees:**

Duncan, G Duncan, C Stevenson, Jayne Dobson and R McKibbin.

**Apologies:** G Macleod, G Edmondson

**Conflicts of interest:** None reported.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the 10 February 2026 were approved and signed by CS.

## **Matters arising**

Health & Safety and Complaints policies now finalised and available on EVH website.

## **Treasurers report**

The fundraising benchmark percentage for EVH's normal annual running costs is showing a healthy 54% for the first 4 months of our financial year, which started on 1 November 2025.

Income and outgoing totals to 28 February 2026 were as follows (previous month in brackets):

Room hire – £217.50 (£240.00).

Fund raising – £1086.00 (£425.70).

Other income – Interest – £20.07 (£48.46).

Expenditure - £874.54 (£1237.75). Major costs include fund raising - £173.46, maintenance - £497.36 and electricity - £213.44.

Salmon City did not charge EVH for the music night they provided. EVH made £820 profit and it was agreed that we transfer £800 to the EVH building fund.

## **Funding update**

A further £1500 has been received. The funding 'roller blind' will need to be adjusted.

## **Policy updates**

*Hire Policy:* Statement to be added that ensures no storage of highly flammable materials and also, more generally, any storage by hirers requires EVH permission.

*Access Statement:* GM has reviewed and signed off.

*Maintenance Record:* IS has produced a maintenance schedule which sets out a timeline for tasks with person(s) responsible and due dates. The only noted obvious omissions from the schedule were the need for an annual fire inspection and a weekly fire alarm test. IS will produce an updated Maintenance Schedule so that trustee/volunteer names can be allocated to tasks.

Possible night time trip hazard identified to the front of the hall where our pavement meets the public pavement. To be investigated.

## **Hallmark II**

A preliminary meeting to discuss our Hallmark II preparation has been arranged for 30 April 2026. GM has prepared a schedule of requirements which will be discussed on his return from holiday on 24 March 2026.

J Rose has provided an accident book (located near the first aid box). JR has agreed to administer this document and the associated forms as part of her first aid checks.

RM will produce a draft energy audit for discussion with the CAN representative. Date for meeting to be agreed (post meeting note – subsequently held on 1 April 2026. An update will be provided at the next EVH Meeting).

## **Hall checks and cleaning requirements**

For the purpose of general duties and monthly checks the following rota for 2026 was updated and agreed: March – AH, April – GM, May – IS and June - JD

## **AOB**

CAN will hold its Village Hall Week event at Stannington Village Hall on 18 March 2026 starting at 12.00 noon. J Rose has kindly agreed to attend as the EVH representative.

It was agreed that the EVH minutes would continue to be offered to ED (editor) and GE for inclusion in the Ellingham Village magazine.

EVHT management meeting ended at 10.27 am



## Home Made Jams



Available at the church  
All proceeds to St Maurice  
Church

## WHAT'S ON AT ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL?

### COFFEE MORNING AND THE PACK HORSE LEEK CLUB PLANT SALE

Saturday, 9th May, 10am - 12 noon



Come and join friends old and new for a cuppa and a catch up with the added benefit of an opportunity to pick up some lovely locally grown plants from The Pack Horse Leek Club plant sale.

Everyone welcome.

### MAY QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday, 21st May, 7.30 - 10pm

Bring your own drinks and snacks. Teams of up to six.

## The Grand Rummage Sale is back in August!

Sorry no furniture, CDs or DVDs

### WHY NOT HAVE A CLEAR OUT?

We need your unwanted clothing, toys, books  
household items & bric-a-brac

#### Drop-off days to be announced

If you are moving house, having a de-clutter or wanting to make a bit of extra space then please hang on to your stuff and we will gladly take it off your hands.

Money raised goes to EVH Development Fund.

or contact [admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com)



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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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**Saturday 11th July**

Further details coming soon...

Entry includes BBQ and salads (including vegan options).  
Live Music. Everyone Welcome.

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**GRAND RUMMAGE SALE**

at Ellingham Village Hall,  
Ellingham, Chathill NE67 5HA

**August 29th**  
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admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com or phone: 07938 828699



**Attendees** G.. Macleod (T), C Stevenson (T), G Duncan (T), E Duncan (T), Jayne Dobson (T), R McKibbin (T), A Hunt (V), J Rose (V) and I Stephenson (V)  
 Apologies: G Macleod, G Edmondson and A Hunt

### **Bookings & marketing**

With regard to all day bookings that require substantial effort/time to set up EVH will consider allowing access on the previous day provided no other booking is affected.

Our cleaner has agreed to extend her bookings with EVH until December 2026.

AH has successfully negotiated with Carnaby's to allow EVH to display an A4 events frame. We can also display a special events poster provided it does not clash with any Carnaby's event. We also have Carnaby's photos to add to the 'wedding page' on the EVH website.

### **Events**

*Mama Mia sing-along* on 13 March 2026. ED and JR will host. Doors open at 6.30pm and movie at 7.00pm. £5/ticket and the bar will be open.

*Coffee mornings* to be held on 14 March, 4 April 2026 (Easter) and 9 May to coincide with the Packhorse Leek Club plant sale.

*Quiz nights*: 3rd Thursday in the month until May 2026.

*Felted Easter egg drop-in* crafting session on 17 March 2026 (1.30pm to 4.00pm). £5 towards the cost of materials.

*Simply Smallholdings* will run an all-day course on stained glass making for £140/person. EVH will offer the hall at £15/hour for this event – 19 April 2026.

*EVH BBQ*: Proposed date 1 July 2026 (music by Lee & Tom).

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

*Christmas Fair*: 15 November 2026 - £40/table.

*Wreath making* run by Vanessa Wellock on 28 Nov 2026 (morning and afternoon sessions). £32/person with early bird price available. Market this event from July onwards.

JR has discovered online a number of old films related to Northumberland. Possible presentation of some of these before mid-May with a top and tail introduction.

*Possible Horse Racing* night similar to the event being run at Bellview. Consider for October 2026 if successful at Bellview.

**AOB:** None.



# ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

## Development Fund

Thanks to recent fundraising events and generous donations from members of our community the total now stands at **£36,410**.

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

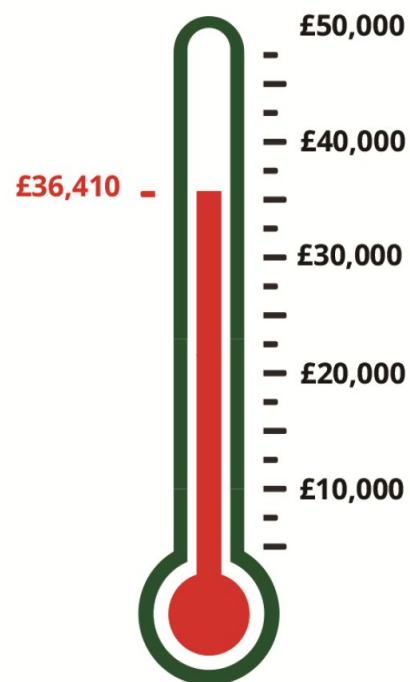
**2026 Target: £50,000**  
**Current Total: £36,410**



The Phase 2 extension will add a valuable area to the Hall and provide new facilities for performances; 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...

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



To donate please contact [admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com)  
 Every little helps!

**Minutes of the of Parish Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall**  
**Website:** <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/ellingham>

**PRESENT:** Chairman P Robson, Parish Councillors O Simpson, G Unwin & Mrs J Thompson (joined the meeting during Min 288) County Councillor G Renner-Thompson, Clerk: Mrs I Hunter, 1 member of public

**Public Question Time:** None

**Apologies for Absence:** None

**Declarations of interest:** None

**Request for Dispensation:** None

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2026 Parish Councillors agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd February 2026 were a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed a hard copy of the minutes.

**Matters Arising:** None

**Min 287- Ellingham Neighbourhood Plan-** The Chairman asked County Councillor G Renner-Thompson if he had any updates. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson advised the meeting that Northumberland County Council have been advised that they must deliver 32,000 houses through the Local Plan, therefore the Local Plan needs to be revised to accommodate the increased number of houses to be delivered. I suggest that Ellingham Parish Council continue to progress their Neighbourhood Plan. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact the Planning Consultant and ask her to progress the work on the Ellingham Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman proposed changing the order of the agenda items and that the County Councillor report is the next agenda item. This was agreed.

**Min 288- County Councillor report-** County Councillor G Renner-Thompson provided the following verbal updates:

The 2026/27 Local Transport Plan includes works to be undertaken in Ellingham parish i.e. works at Chathill & near Ellingham School as well as works on the Chathill landslip. Northumberland County Council will be administering the Central Government heating oil etc financial support scheme, however, at the present time we do not know the criteria, but it is estimated to be approx. £35 per property for the people who are eligible.

The flashing sign at Ellingham School is to be re-instated. The Chairman asked for the sign to be placed further back on the grass verge as large vehicles catch the sign due to it being too close to the road and the width of the road. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson agreed to ask the question.

The back road at Ellingham village has been accessed by Northumberland County Council Highways Department and has been added the road to reserve list for highways works.

**Min 289-Noticeboards**

Parish Councillors ratified the order and payment of £3180.36 to Noticeboard Warehouse for 2x noticeboards. Parish Councillors asked the Clerk to contact Noticeboard Warehouse to ascertain when the noticeboards will be delivered.

**Min 290- Defibrillators-** Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £158.70 to Wel Medical for 2 sets of pads for the Chathill defibrillator. The Clerk advised the meeting that a payment of £158.70 had been received from Ellingham Community Trust to cover the cost of the purchase of the pads.

**Min 291- Financial Statement**

Current Account	£ 2819.13
Savings Account	£ 943.30

**Min 292- Receipts**

Barclays Bank	£ 2.38	Savings A/c- Interest
Ellingham Community Trust	£ 158.70	Defibrillator- grant- pads

**Min 293- Accounts for payment-** Parish Councillors agreed the following payments.

Wel Medical Ltd	£ 158.70	Defibrillators- 2x sets of pads
Noticeboard Warehouse	£ 3180.36	2x Noticeboards
I Hunter	£ 117.97	Salary 13.25 hours @ £14.82 per hr
HMRC	£ 78.40	PAYE
I Hunter	£ 24.06	Expenses

**Min 294- Planning Application-** Parish Councillors ratified the Parish Council's submission of No Objections to the following planning application.

26/00469/FELTPO - Tree Preservation Order Application to: Group 1 (Elm Trees) T1, T2 T3 - remove. T4 (Beech) - potential removal due to uneven growth and unbalanced crown. T5 (Ash) - Removal. Group 2 (Elm Trees) - T6 - remove, T7 & T8 Crown lift to 1.75m from the ground level and spread reduced to 2m T9 (Rowan) remove.- Milking Parlour Ellingham Hall Ellingham Chathill NE67 5EY

**Min 295- Planning Approval**

25/04312/FUL- Removal and replacement of I no equipment cabinet and I no new power generator and associated ancillary works thereto- H3g Communications Mast Brownieside Northumberland  
Min 296- Highways/ Local Issues – updates- None

**Min 297- Correspondence-** Parish Councillors noted the following correspondence received.  
NCC- Email- Stage One Community Governance Review Public Consultation- closes 30th April 2026.

Resident- Email – Various issues

NCC- Email- Help shape the future of Northumberland Libraries- Library Consultation closes 13th April 2026

Beadnell Parish Councillor- Email- Transport updates

CRAG- Email- Newsletter No 6

North-East War Memorials Project- Email- request for a donation. Parish Councillors agreed not to donate.

**Min 298- Parish Council website & email addresses**

Parish Councillors agreed to progress the setting up of their gov.uk email addresses. The Clerk to re-circulate the login details.

Parish Councillors agreed to start using the gov.uk email addresses for Parish Council emails asap. Parish Councillors considered and agreed to adopt the previously circulated draft Accessibility Statement.

**Min 299- Annual Audit 2025/26**

Parish Councillors agreed to appoint G Goodwin as the Internal Auditor for the Parish Council

annual accounts, if Ms Goodwin is willing to undertake the work.

Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Asset Register and agreed that the Asset Register is up to date.

Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Financial Risk Assessment and agreed it was up to date.

Parish Councillors considered and agreed to adopt the previously circulated draft IT Policy. The Chairman signed a hard copy.

Parish Councillors noted the previously circulated GDPR documents and agreed that the Parish Council is GDPR compliant.

Parish Councillors agreed that the Parish Council is Assertion 10 compliant.

### **Min 300- Future Parish Council agendas & communications**

The Chairman proposed that in future only Parish Council related business will be added to the Parish Council agendas. This was agreed.

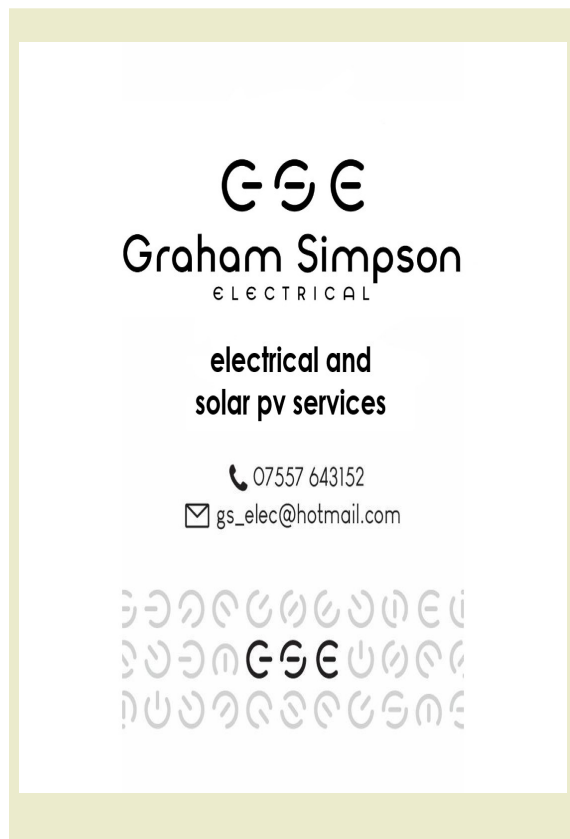
The Chairman proposed that in future that questions & queries received from residents between meetings will only be considered if the resident's name is available to Parish Councillors. This was agreed.

### **Any other Urgent Business:** None

The Annual Parish & Annual Parish Council meetings will be held on 26th May 2026 at 7p.m. In the Ellingham Village Hall, Ellingham.



An advertisement for 'Alnwick & Area ODDJOBZ Handyman Services'. It features a central illustration of an orange toolbox filled with various tools like a hammer, wrench, pliers, and a saw, with a yellow measuring tape and a yellow level. Below the illustration, the text reads: 'Alnwick & Area ODDJOBZ Handyman Services No job too small'. At the bottom, it says 'Call Mark 07774 186197'.



An advertisement for 'Graham Simpson ELECTRICAL'. It features the company logo 'GSE' at the top, followed by the name 'Graham Simpson' and 'ELECTRICAL' in smaller letters. Below that, it lists 'electrical and solar pv services'. Contact information includes a phone number '07557 643152' and an email address 'gs\_elec@hotmail.com'. At the bottom, there is a decorative pattern of various electrical symbols.

# The Pack Horse Leek Club

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## Annual Show



The Leek Club will be holding its annual show on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, when not only leeks will be shown, but we hope to have a full show to include the following: -

Flowers

Vegetables

Cakes and Jams

Photographic Competition

Art Competition

Premature Baby Hats Competition

Children's Competition (New This Year)

Please see the schedule included in this magazine, further schedules will be put in noticeboards.

We would like to see some new members to help strengthen the club. There is plenty of advice for growing and showing. So don't be afraid!

We also have a monthly prize draw, one ticket costs £2.50, starting from the end of January, for 12 months. These are available to non-members and all numbers go into there draw for a monthly prize of £10.

For further information on membership or the prize draw tickets please contact: Diana Milburn, 2 Golden Close, Ellingham or 07732 553931

# THE PACK HORSE LEEK CLUB ANNUAL SHOW 2026



Saturday 12th September  
Ellingham Village Hall

- 10am Hall open for staging of entries (until 12 noon)
- 4pm Show opens to the public, afternoon teas available
- 5pm Presentations and prizes
- 9.30pm Auction at The Pack Horse Inn

## VEGETABLE & FLOWER SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per class entered

## SHOW LEEKS

Open to Leek Club Members only

## INDUSTRIAL SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per class entered

## PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per entry

## KNITTING SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per entry

## ART SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per entry

## CHILDRENS' SECTION

Open to all children, fee 20p per entry



**3 Potatoes** - kidney white

**3 Potatoes** - kidney coloured

**3 Potatoes** - round white

**3 Potatoes** - round coloured

**2 Carrots** - stump

**1 Onion** - dressed

**3 Onion** - sets flat

**3 Onion** - sets round

**2 Courgettes**

**1 Marrow**

**3 Pea Pods**

**1 Leek** - intermediate

**3 Beetroot** - round

**4 Tomatoes** - red

**1 Cucumber** - judged in quality

**1 Collection of Veg** - 4 varieties, 2 of each

**1 Veg & 1 Flower** - any variety

**1 Vase Mixed Flowers**

**1 Vase of Sweet Peas**

**3 Roses**

**SHOW LEEKS (open to members only): 2 Leeks**

## **INDUSTRIAL CLASSES**

**4 Cheese Scones**

**4 Currant Scones**

**4 Shortbread Biscuits**

**4 Chocolate Brownies**

**4 Millionaire Shortbread**

**1 Savory Flan**

**1 Carrot Cake (iced)**

**1 Fruit Cake (6" to 8" round or square)**

**1 lemon Drizzle Cake**

**1 Chocolate Cake (baked in 2 tins)**

**1 Victoria Sponge**

**1 Full Jar Blackcurrant Jam**

**1 Full Jar Blackberry Jam**

**1 Full Jar Raspberry Jam**

**1 Full Jar Strawberry Jam**

**1 Full Jar Lemon Curd**

## **PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION:**

**Wildlife in Northumberland**

(Format 5" x 7", Landscape or Portrait, unframed)

## **KNITTING SECTION**

**Premature Baby Hats (pattern will be available)**

## **ART SECTION**

**Any Medium**

**Overall size no bigger than A4 (mount optional), 1 entry per person**

## **CHILDRENS' SECTION**

**A Dinosaur made out of vegetables**

## From Preston Tower to the Atlantic:

### An Ellingham Connection to a Turning Point in the War.

Preston Tower, which stands within the parish of Ellingham near Chathill, is one of the area's most recognisable historic landmarks. For centuries it has been part of the local landscape, closely associated with the Baker-Cresswell family, whose roots in this part of Northumberland go back many generations.

While the tower is regular sight for the parishioners, what is perhaps less well known is that this same family connection links directly to one of the most significant naval episodes of the Second World War.

At the centre of that story is Captain Joe Baker-Cresswell, a Royal Navy officer whose actions in May 1941 helped to influence the course of the war at sea.

Although Joseph Baker-Cresswell was born in London in 1901, his family's long-standing association with Northumberland—and Preston Tower in Ellingham parish especially—remained an important part of his background.

Like many of his generation, he joined the Navy at a young age and built a steady and respected career in the service.

By 1941, Britain was facing a critical situation. With much of Europe under German control, the country depended



heavily on supplies brought in by sea. Merchant convoys crossing the Atlantic carried food, fuel and essential materials,



but they were under constant threat from German U-boats.

To protect them, the Royal Navy deployed escort groups made up of destroyers, corvettes and other vessels. These ships often operated in difficult conditions, with limited equipment, but their role was vital.

In May of that year, Captain Baker-Cresswell was commanding one such escort group, protecting a convoy of 38 ships heading west from Britain. His flagship was HMS Bulldog, supported by a number of other vessels positioned around the convoy.

On 9 May, the convoy came under attack. Two ships were hit by torpedoes, and the escort ships immediately moved to respond. Using depth charges, they forced one of the attacking submarines to the surface.

The U-boat, later identified as U-110, emerged within range of the escort vessels and came under fire. In the confusion, the German crew abandoned the submarine before they had fully succeeded in sinking it.

At that point, Captain Baker-Cresswell made a decision that would prove to be of lasting importance. Rather than destroying the vessel, he ordered that it should be boarded. This was not without risk. The submarine

could have been booby-trapped or might have sunk at any moment. Nevertheless, a boarding party led by Sub-Lieutenant David Balme crossed over from HMS Bulldog and began searching the vessel.

Working quickly, the team recovered documents, charts and equipment from inside the submarine. Among the items brought back was an Enigma cipher machine, together with codebooks and other materials used by the German navy.

These items were of considerable value. At the time, British codebreakers at Bletchley Park were attempting to decipher German naval communications. The material recovered from U-110 provided crucial assistance in that effort, allowing messages to be read more effectively. The impact was significant. Allied forces were better able to track U-boat movements and guide convoys away from danger. Shipping losses, which had been dan-



generously high, began to fall in the months that followed.

King George VI later described the capture as one of the most important single events in the war at sea. However, at the time it remained highly secret, and those involved were not able to speak about it publicly.

Captain Baker-Cresswell was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, but like many of his generation, he did not seek recognition. His own record of the event was brief and understated.

After the war, he returned to Northumberland and spent much of his later life at Budle Hall near Bamburgh, remaining closely connected to the county where his family had long been established, including their historic association with Preston Tower in Ellingham parish.

He later served as High Sheriff of Northumberland and lived to see the events of 1941 gradually become more widely known. He died in 1997.

In recent years, his grandson, Ralph Baker-Cresswell, has helped to share the story more widely, including through a presentation linked with Bamburgh Castle .

For those living in Ellingham, the presence of Preston Tower is a reminder of the area's long history. It also serves as a connection to a much wider story—one in which a local family, with deep roots in the parish, played a part in events that reached far beyond Northumberland.

## The Story That Made the Screen... But Missed a Name

When the dramatic capture of a German U-boat—and the Enigma machine aboard it—finally became public knowledge decades after the war, it inevitably found its way onto the screen.

Films and television dramatisations have drawn on the tension and danger of those Atlantic encounters, bringing the story of codebreaking and submarine warfare to a wide audience.

However, in some portrayals, the real-life figures behind these events were altered, merged, or omitted altogether.

Notably, Captain Joe Baker-Cresswell—the Northumberland naval officer whose quick thinking made the capture of U-110 possible—has not always been clearly recognised in these adaptations.

At the time, this omission did not go entirely unnoticed. Press coverage and commentary highlighted the fact that, while the drama of the moment was being retold, the contribution of key individuals—particularly those outside the most famous circles like Bletchley Park—risked being overshadowed.

For the Baker-Cresswell family, whose roots stretch back to places like Preston Tower near Chathill, this was a reminder of how easily even extraordinary contributions can fade from public view.

Yet here in Northumberland, the connection remains strong—and the story, now more widely shared, ensures that Captain Joe's role is not forgotten.

### **When technology goes wrong**

The father of a family - who was a big-time techie - got his oldest daughter an iPhone for her birthday. He also got an iPad for his son. Later he bought an iPod for the youngest daughter. Then, when his wedding anniversary rolled around, he got his wife an iRon. That's when things went wrong.

### **Geraniums**

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The clerk explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."

### **How to get rid of squirrels**

Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels.

After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied.

The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

It was the Anglican church which succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now, they only see the squirrels on Christmas and Easter.

(Wonder if this works for moles?)

### **Flying High**

The Sunday School teacher asks the children to draw Easter pictures. She goes over to one student and sees he's drawn a picture of four people on an airplane.

"What is this?" she asked.

"Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus on a flight to Egypt," he says.

"Well... who's the fourth person?"

"That's Pontius, the pilot."



**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**

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

### **Ellingham Village Hall:**

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

**All copy to the Editor ([eileenduncan76@gmail.com](mailto:eileenduncan76@gmail.com)) by 15th of the month. For non parishioners cost is £3.50 per year, payable to PCC Ellingham**