

## THIS MONTH

- How to Beat the Scammers
- “Voices of Old Ellingham: Norma and Geoff Radford”

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# ELLINGHAM NEWSLETTER

JULY / AUGUST 2026

£3.50 PER ANNUM



Saint Cuthbert's Cave, Holburn

*According to legend, the monks of Lindisfarne fled from Viking raids carrying St Cuthbert's tomb and rested at this cave. It can be reached by a short walk from the National Trust car park at Holburn Grange, or if you enjoy a longer walk an 8 mile circular walk from Belford (OS map 75).*

Welcome to our Summer Special (July/August) edition.

We will not be going to print next month, but we are still extremely interested in receiving contributions from all parishioners and also advertisers who would like to play a part in our new look.

We'd also love to hear your thoughts on the Newsletter, the content and what you suggest we include. Comments to [ellinghamviews@gmail.com](mailto:ellinghamviews@gmail.com) please.

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.

**40p per copy**

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

*July holds special significance as it marks the feast of St Thomas the Apostle on 3 July. The day commemorates the patron saint, remembered for his faith, honesty and devotion. It provides an opportunity to celebrate the church's heritage, reflect on its place within the community, and give thanks for generations of worship and fellowship.*

## St Thomas the Apostle – Confused and Doubting

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

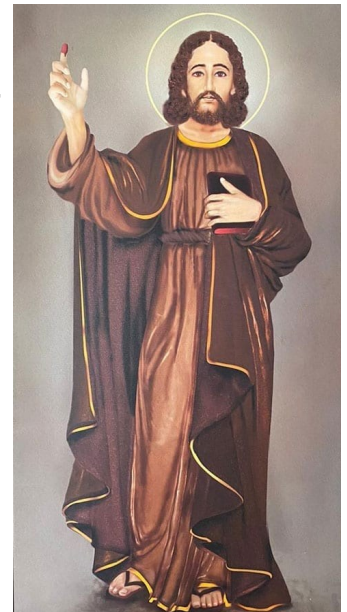
Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras.

46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.



## 2026 SUMMER ROTA

### JULY and AUGUST

Reader (R) Sidesman (S) All Green

**5<sup>th</sup> July , 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Mr N Mundy (R) Mrs D Lightfoot (S)

**12<sup>th</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

**19<sup>th</sup> July , 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

**26<sup>th</sup> July, Morning Worship**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Aug, 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Mr N Mundy (R ) Mrs A Laidler (S)

**9<sup>th</sup> Aug, 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

**16<sup>th</sup> Aug, 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> Aug , Morning Worship**

**30<sup>th</sup> Aug , UNITED SERVICE at ST EBBA, BEADNELL 10 am**  
**No service at St Maurice's**

## TONY MAC'S RETIREMENT

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June Ellingham and the other two parishes in the Benefice will be marking Tony's retirement first with a service at St Paul's Church North Sunderland at 2.00pm and at then a Retirement Party starting at 3.00pm at the Seahouses Community Hub, Stone Close, NE68 7YL to which all Parishioners in the Benefice are warmly invited and are most welcome.

# The Pack Horse Leek Club



## Tattie in a Bucket & Rose Competition



Just a reminder that the “Tattie in a Bucket Weigh In” will take place on

**Sunday 26th July**

Please bring your buckets, with the foliage cut off, to the Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon Results will be announced at 1pm.

There will also be the Rose Competition: Roses to be displayed in a rose bowl no more than 6 inches across.

This is open to everyone and the Tony Ashworth Trophy will be awarded to the winner following the weigh in results.

Please bring your roses to the Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon.

The winner of the June Monthly draw was **Edith Anderson**.

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

## Home Made Jams



Available at the church  
All proceeds to St Maurice  
Church



# WHAT'S ON AT ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL?

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**Saturday 11th July  
from 5pm**

Ticket includes BBQ and salads (including vegan options).

EVH BAR will be selling beer, wine and soft drinks.

Live Music. Everyone Welcome.

Please bring a chair or picnic rug if you can.

**Adults £12, Children (up to 16), £5, Under 3s, free.**

**Limited tickets. Book now!**

**[admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com)**

Please contact us if you have special dietary requirements.



## COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday, July 25th  
10am - 12 noon**

Join friends old and new for  
a cuppa and a catch up.  
Everyone welcome.

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



# Ellingham Community Trust

## Solid Fuel Scheme 2026



### **The Trust's Solid Fuel Scheme closes on 19th June 2026.**

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 **19th June 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)

## Why Are Scams So Common Today?

Many of us grew up in a world where a person's word meant something. If somebody knocked on your door, phoned your house, or sent you a letter, there was usually a good reason for it. Unfortunately, the world has changed.

Today's scammers are professional criminals. They operate from all over the world and use telephones, text messages, emails, and social media to try to steal money and personal information.



The important thing to remember is this: anyone can be scammed. It is not a question of intelligence, education or experience. Scammers are experts at exploiting trust, creating pressure and catching people off guard.

The good news is that a few simple habits can dramatically reduce the risk.

## The Golden Rule: Stop, Think, Check

Almost every scam relies on creating urgency. They want you to act before you have time to think. They may tell you:

Your bank account is at risk/A family member is in trouble/A payment is overdue/Your computer has been hacked./A parcel cannot be delivered./You have won a prize./Your pension needs urgent attention.

Whenever someone asks you to act immediately, pause.

## Ask yourself: "Why the rush?"

A genuine bank, utility company, government department or business will allow you time to verify information. A scammer will try to stop you thinking.

## Remember:

- Stop.
- Take a breath.
- Speak to somebody you trust.
- Check before you act.

**Remember: If someone wants you to act immediately, that is often the first warning sign.**



Telephone scams remain one of the most effective methods used by criminals. You may receive a call from somebody claiming to be:

Your bank/The police/HMRC/Amazon/Microsoft/Your internet provider/A fraud department

The caller may sound professional and confident. They may even know your name, address or other details.

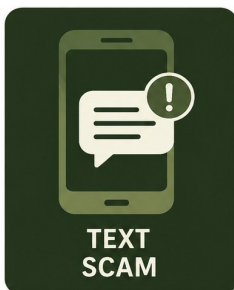
One common scam involves the caller claiming that money has been stolen from your account. They then tell you to transfer your savings into a "safe account".

There is no safe account. It belongs to the scammer. Banks never ask customers to move money to another account for security reasons.

If you receive an unexpected call:

- Hang up.
- Wait a few minutes.
- Call the organisation back using a number from an official website or statement.

Never rely on a number provided by the caller.



Most of us have received them. A text message arrives saying:

"Your parcel could not be delivered." "A payment of £1.99 is required."  
 "Your bank account has been restricted." "You have unpaid road tax." "You owe a parking fine."

The message contains a link and urges immediate action.

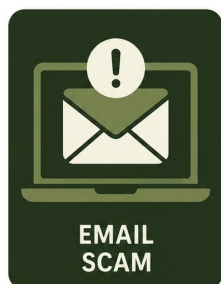
These messages often look genuine. They may even use company logos or official-looking language.

The safest approach is simple: **Do not click the link.**

Instead:

- Visit the company's website directly.
- Log into your account independently.
- Telephone the organisation using a trusted number.

A genuine parcel company will not disappear because you ignored a text message for a few hours.



Email scams, often called "phishing", are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

Gone are the days when scam emails were full of spelling mistakes and obvious errors. Many now look almost identical to genuine messages.

Be particularly suspicious of emails that:

- Ask you to click a link/ Request payment details. Claim your account will be closed.
- Warn of legal consequences/ Offer prizes or rewards/

If an email appears to come from your bank, do not click the link.

Open your browser and visit the bank's website directly.

If there is a genuine problem, it will still be there when you log in normally.



This scam has become increasingly common and, because people naturally want to help family members, many fall victim.

A text message arrives saying something like:

"Hi Mum, I've lost my phone. This is my new number."

A conversation begins.

The scammer pretends to be a son, daughter or grandchild.

Eventually they claim to need money urgently for:

A broken phone/ A car repair/ An unexpected bill/ An emergency.

Before sending any money:

- Call the person's usual number.
- Contact another family member.
- Verify the story independently.
- Never rely solely on the message you received.

Don't be fooled, the scammer is preying on your desire to help.



Many people have received a call saying:

"Your computer has a virus."

The caller claims to be from Microsoft, Windows, Apple or another technology company. They then ask you to install software that allows them to access your computer remotely. Once access is granted, they may steal information, install malicious software or access your online banking.

#### **Remember:**

- ⇒ **Microsoft does not make unsolicited calls about computer problems.**
- ⇒ **Neither does Apple.**
- ⇒ **Neither does your broadband provider.**

#### **What If You Think You've Been Scammed?**

Do not feel embarrassed. Scammers target thousands of people every day.

The sooner action is taken, the greater the chance of preventing further loss.

Many victims delay seeking help because they feel ashamed. There is no shame in being deceived by a professional criminal.

#### **Looking Out for One Another**

One of the strengths of village life is community. We look out for neighbours, friends and relatives. Sometimes a simple conversation can prevent a scam.

If you know someone who lives alone, particularly an older neighbour, check in occasionally. Ask whether they have received suspicious calls, texts or visitors.

#### **If you think you've been caught out:**

- **Contact your bank immediately.**
- **Change any affected passwords.**
- **Report the incident to Action Fraud.**
- **Tell family or friends.**
- **Seek help quickly.**

Many scams succeed because victims feel isolated and have nobody to discuss their concerns with. A five-minute conversation can save somebody from losing their savings.

## Final Thoughts

Technology has brought many benefits, but it has also created new opportunities for criminals. Many of us lost a great friend, Jim Callighan, last month, after he was scammed out of his life savings. Jim was an intelligent man, but still taken in.

Fortunately, most scams can be avoided by following a few simple principles:

- Never rush.
- Never send money because of pressure.
- Never trust unexpected calls.
- Never click suspicious links.
- Always verify independently.
- Always ask for advice if unsure.

Most importantly, remember that genuine organisations will never object if you take time to check. Scammers want speed. Honest people are happy to wait.

By staying cautious, asking questions and looking out for one another,, we can help keep ourselves, our families and our community safe.



# WHAT'S ON AT ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL?

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**TATTIE IN A BUCKET WEIGH-IN**  
**& the Tony Ashworth Trophy Rose Competition**  
Sunday, July 26th. Entries 10am - 12 noon. Results 1pm.

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## HAVE YOU GOT TOO MUCH STUFF?



### WHY NOT HAVE A CLEAR OUT?

We need your unwanted clothing, toys, books,  
household items & bric-a-brac for the Grand Rummage Sale  
being held in August. All profits go to the EVH Development Fund.  
Sorry no Furniture, DVDs or CDs

Please hold onto stuff for now if possible!

There will be opportunities to drop off at the hall on the following days:

Friday 21st August, 5 - 8pm

Sunday 23rd August, 2 - 6pm

Thursday 27th August, 12 noon - 8pm

Friday 28th August, 9am - 8pm

## GRAND RUMMAGE SALE

at Ellingham Village Hall,  
Ellingham, Chathill NE67 5HA

**August 29th**

Bank Holiday Saturday 10am - 2pm



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National Association  
of  
Chimney Sweeps

## Carpe Vitam Yoga

Yoga classes are running in  
Ellingham Village Hall

Yoga is for everyone and we would love to  
welcome you to our

**Thursday morning session at 9:30am**

**Tuesday evening 6-7pm**

'Seize your Life' and come and join us in  
**Ellingham Village Hall**

Come with a mat or I have some to buy-  
**Contact Karen on:**

**Karenmundy@icloud.com**

**W: CarpeVitamYoga.uk**

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

## Preston Tower

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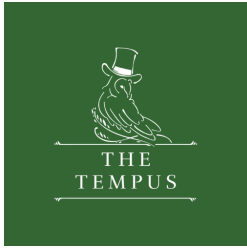
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## The Tempus Summer Soirée Continues

Join us as our Summer Soirée series brings the flavours, sounds, and atmosphere of the Mediterranean and beyond to The Tempus.

### 24th & 25th July – Indian Summer Soirée

Experience a vibrant celebration of Indian-inspired cuisine, themed cocktails, and live music, all set within the unique surroundings of our Tipi.

### 28th & 29th August – Greek Summer Soirée

Transport yourself to the Greek islands with delicious themed food and drinks, accompanied by live music and a relaxed summer atmosphere.

Gather friends and family and make the most of these unforgettable summer evenings.



Following the success of its recent Mexican Summer Soiree, The Tipi at The Tempus is inviting guests to enjoy a taste of Spain with a special Spanish Summer Soiree taking place on Friday 26th & Saturday 27th June.

Running from 4pm until 10pm on both evenings, the event will transform The Tipi into a relaxed Mediterranean-inspired setting, complete with Spanish-themed food specials, refreshing cocktails and live entertainment.



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## ELLINGHAM COMMUNITY TRUST MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 4 JUNE 2026 AT ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** David Metcalfe (DM) (Chair), John Thompson (JT) (vice chair), George Unwin (GU), Brenda Frier (BF), Judy Glover (JG) (Trustees) Louis Fell (LF) (Treasurer), Virginia Mayes-Wright (VMW)

1) **Apologies:** Graham Edmondson (GE) (Trustee),  
The Trustees reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

2) **Treasures Report.** LF presented the Treasurer's Report and the Profit and Loss for the year.

### 3) Applications/Review of Schemes

#### Grants/Applications In Progress

Application – Christmas Lights – It was noted that no update has been received.

Photographic Archive – Clerk updated the Trustees on the progress of the project.

**ACTION : DM to check in with GE.**

St Maurice's Church – Update received from Neil Mundy, including a request for final payment.

**ACTION: DM to check payment schedule and respond to the applicant.**

**ACTION: Clerk to communicate the response plan to the applicant.**

Solid Fuel Scheme – The Clerk reported 125 applications to date comprising of 35 heatlogs, 51 hardwood, 13 coal vouchers, 24 £250 and 2 £100. Last year we had 142 applications so there are approximately another 20 applications to be received.

**ACTION : Clerk to share Solid Fuel list with Trustees to identify missing applicants.**

Green Scheme – no applications in this period.

TESS – noted one application received in this period. Trustees agreed to support the application.

**ACTION : Clerk to respond to applicant.**

4) **Communication :** The Clerk suggested that this month's communication should be a final reminder for the Solid Fuel Scheme.

**ACTION : Clerk to email Eileen to add a note regarding Solid Fuel Scheme deadline post.**

**ACTION : Clerk to add post to website on the deadline of the Scheme.**

**5) AOB.:** Welcome Pack – JG showed the Welcome Pack to the Trustees. The Trustees discussed locations for distribution.

**ACTION :** JG to pass a couple of Welcome Pack leaflets to each of Community Contacts.

**ACTION :** Clerk to order 100 additional Welcome Pack leaflets at the same weight for further distribution.

DM suggested of sharing info on changes in residents within the Communication section of each meeting.

**ACTION :** Clerk to add changes to residents to the Agendas.

DM suggested survey on the schemes to be reviewed at the AGM.

**ACTION :** Clerk to draft survey on schemes.

## **6) ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING**

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 and AGM, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2026.

All at Ellingham Village Hall

Minutes compiled by: Virginia Mayes-Wright



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## Hymns for Professionals

### Dentist:

Crown Him with Many Crowns.

**Builder:** The Church's One Foundation

**Obstetrician:** Come, Labour On.

**Golfer:** There Is a Green Hill Far Away.

**Politician:** Standing on the Promises.

**Librarian:** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep silence.

**Barrister:** In the Hour of Trial.

**Dry Cleaner:** O For a Faith That Will Not Shrink.



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.

So please don't be shy, let us know what you think about the Newsletter, the topics we cover and anything else in our little corner of Northumberland!

Email to:

EllinghamViews @gmail.com

### **Children in the Pack Horse?**

We do not live within your parish we reside in Christon Bank.

We are very lucky to call The Pack Horse our local. We only visit usually on a Friday and Sunday. I was so sad to read this (letetr last month) today. I know how hard the Simpson family have

worked to retain the pub. Rightly described as a key hub in our community.

I have 4 children aged 23 to 46. We previously lived in Essex, retired here 4 years ago. There was nowhere like The Pack where families, and I include children and dogs were made to feel so welcome.

On Fridays we really enjoy spending time with the Simpsons and their extended family. My grandchildren are in Oz. The children who have their tea there are well behaved, polite but most of all none of them are staring at a phone. They are out on their little bikes. They converse eloquently with every other children or adults in the pub.

We are so extremely lucky to have The Pack. Like Graham said each person is entitled to their opinion. But to go home and be so very unkind by leaving that review is unforgivable.

If you do not like children, dogs, family then feel free to go elsewhere. But do not try and ruin the reputation of such an amazing local Pub with what I only describe as unkindness.

Thank you to Ollie, Suze, the staff and the rest of the Simpson family for all you do for our community.

Very kind regards,

**Angie and Trevor Garrard**

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*Thank you Angie and Trevor— I think there is a strong agreement from the comments we have received on this topic.*

*The Pack Horse is a centre of our community— and long may it continue to welcome families and children of all ages.*



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Who was the smartest person in the Bible? Abraham, he knew a Lot.

How many of each animal did Moses bring onto the ark? None! Moses was never even on the ark! Come on, didn't you Noah that?

How long did Cain hate his brother? As long as he was Abel.

When was Joseph mentioned playing tennis? When he served in Pharaoh's court.

What kind of plants didn't Noah want on the ark? Leeks.

Who was the world's first comedian? Samson. He brought the house down

Following on from our discussion of Chathill Post Office with David Metcalfe last month, here we reproduce the words of Geoff and Norma Radford, from Chathill.

Norma was Postmistress at Chathill from 1961 till its closure in 2000.

Geoff, her husband was postman . They recorded an interview with David Griggs .



Hill and Birchwood Hall, round Rosebrough Common, Newstead and then back through Ellingham to Chathill. It was twenty-two miles altogether and he did it six days a week. There was no post on Bank Holidays, but otherwise it was Monday to Saturday without fail.

of cycling twenty-two miles in all weathers.

The railway was a big part of the postal service. We collected mail from the trains every day and loaded outgoing mail onto them as well. The evening mail went on the half-past-six train and some of it was travelling right up to

## When did you first come to Chathill?

Well, we came to Chathill in 1961. We'd been married in 1959 and then moved there a couple of years later. The Post Office was still very much at the centre of village life then and a lot of what happened in the village seemed to revolve around it and the railway.

Geoff worked for the Post Office and had what they called an auxiliary post round. Looking back, it was quite a remarkable route. He did it all by bicycle and covered a huge area. He'd go through Newham Village, up to Hen



*Chathill Post Office 1991*

People often forget how physically demanding those jobs were. There were no vans for those rounds and no shortcuts. Geoff just got on his bicycle and went. He was fit as a fiddle then and thought nothing

Lerwick. Then there was the morning mail from Newcastle for the second delivery.

There was also a van came over from Alnwick first thing in the morning, around half-past six if I re-

member rightly. The mail was sorted for Chathill, but we still had to sort it into the individual rounds. Every postman had to get the right letters and parcels for his own route before he set off.

Eventually the Post Office decided to move the mail office into Alnwick. Once they took the mail away from Chathill, Geoff's delivery work there came to an end and he transferred into Alnwick. I can't remember exactly what year that was, but it changed things for us.

We stayed on in Chathill for a while afterwards, but gradually we realised it wasn't practical. While we could drive, village life was fine, but there was always going to come a time when we couldn't. There were hardly any buses and we kept asking ourselves how we were going to get shopping, get to appointments or get into Alnwick. In the end we decided we would have to move somewhere with better transport.

As far as I know, the post office itself opened in 1900

and finally closed in 2000, which means it served the village for a full hundred years.

### **What do you remember about the people connected with the Post Office?**

One of the lovely things about village life was that everybody knew everybody.

When we first came there were people like Tom Field, Keith Ross, John Lorimer and David Cowens involved with the postal service. Before our time there had been Alec Edmison, who lived in the village. He had retired by the time we arrived, but everyone still remembered him.

We were particularly friendly with Alec's son Gordon and his wife Doreen. They lived at Doxford Farm and were great friends of ours for many years. Doreen was very active in the Women's Institute and seemed to know everybody. They had a daughter, Wendy, and a son, Ian.

Doreen died first and Gordon only survived a few years afterwards. It was very sad because they had been such a big part of village life. When you've known people for decades and shared so much of your life with them, their loss leaves a great gap.

Looking back through old photographs brings all those memories back.



There was one photograph taken around 1980 showing David with the post bus (see above, David with Norma). Somebody wanted a picture of the driver and the postal staff together. It might have been for

the Gazette, although I can't remember for certain now. Looking at those photographs reminds you how many familiar faces have gone.

### **What role did the railway play in village life?**

The railway was absolutely central to the area.

Even in our time it was important, but older people remembered when it was far busier. Farmers used to send cattle away to market by rail and there was much

more traffic than people would imagine today.

The post office depended on the railway, but so did many local people. There was the post bus service, which carried passengers as well as mail. I remember a gentleman from Seahouses who used it regularly to connect with the train. Those services were a lifeline for many people before everyone owned a car.

People still talk about railway services today. Belford, for example, has cam-

paigned for years for a platform. The trains are there, but all the regulations and red tape make it difficult. It always makes me smile because when I think back, the railway simply felt like part of everyday life.

There were other stations too. Newham Station was busier than people remember and Chathill itself had much more activity around it than it does today.

Billy Mattches had a shop at one time, (see right, pic taken in 1920s/30s) alt-



Chathill Postcard 1931



*Matches Shop, Chathill 1920s*

though it had closed before we arrived. Older residents remembered when farmers would bring livestock to the station and send them away by rail. There was also the tank line running north. Much of that was before our time, but people still talked about it.

### **Do you think village life has changed?**

Oh yes, tremendously.

Sometimes I think we've seen the best of everything. The postal service has changed enormously. Stamps are expensive now and deliveries aren't always as reliable as they once were.

We were talking recently about strikes and missed deliveries. In all our years we never thought much

about postal strikes, but nowadays people seem to expect interruptions from time to time. Over the last few years there have been days when no post has arrived at all.

I think people used to take a great deal of pride in their work. You felt lucky to have a job and you did it properly. That's not a criticism of younger people, it's simply that the world has changed.

The village has changed too. The old village hall stood for well over a hundred years. Then one day it came down incredibly quickly and a new hall was built.

By all accounts it's a wonderful modern building, but it's strange when you've known the old hall all your life.

### **What are your earliest memories of growing up ?**

I was forever climbing where I shouldn't. My mother used to tell a story about looking everywhere for me and not being able to find me. She kept calling and eventually heard me shouting back.

When she looked up, there I was sitting right on top of the roof.

I'd climbed up using the rain barrels outside the house, got onto the coping stones and worked my way along the ridge. When she finally spotted me, I was sitting astride the roof with my arms wrapped around the chimney.

She always said she nearly died of shock. At the time I thought it was perfectly normal.

Children had a freedom then that would seem extraordinary today. We spent most of our lives outdoors and nobody worried very much about it.

**Recorded by David Griggs in January 2023**



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 Vicarage around 1900*



*The Old Hall burnt down in a fire May 20th 1904*



*The New Hall in the 1920s*



An elderly man was sitting in the front row, leaning forward to catch every word of the sermon. The pastor noticed and said, "I see you're very interested in the Word today, Brother Thomas!"

Thomas replied, "Actually, Vicar, I just got a new hearing aid. It cost me £3000 and it's the most advanced technology on the market."

The vicar smiled. "That's wonderful! What kind is it?"

Thomas checked his watch and said, "It's ten past eleven."

A husband and wife, both in their 80s, were sitting in church. The husband fell fast asleep and started snoring loudly. The vicar stopped his sermon and whispered to the wife, "Mary, could you please wake up your husband?"

Mary looked at the vicar and whispered back, "You put him to sleep, Vicar. You wake him up!"

Two elderly couples were talking after the service. One man said, "We went to a brilliant memory seminar at the Village Hall last week."

"That sounds great," the other man said. "What was the name of the teacher?"

The first man thought for a moment. "What's the name of that red flower with the thorns?"

"A rose?"

"That's it!" He turned to his wife. "Rose, what was the name of that teacher?"



# ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST

## May MANAGEMENT MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meetings held on 20 May 2026

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### **Attendees** – EVHT management meeting

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

Apologies: G Duncan, G Edmondson

### **Conflicts of Interest**

ED reminded the meeting that the Charity Commission has provided updated guidance regarding conflicts of loyalty. [Post meeting note: The definition of a conflict of loyalty has been extended to include friendships, wider relatives, and connected persons and organisations]

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the 14 April 2026 were approved and signed by GM.

### **Matters arising**

None.

### **Treasurers Report**

The fundraising benchmark percentage for EVH's normal annual running costs is 63% for the first 6 months of our financial year. Hall hire income is running behind budget at 24% for the first 6 months.

The invoice for the Hen night/Line dancing event is still outstanding. It was agreed that EVH could request payment from 'unknown' hirers before confirmation of the booking is given.

Income and outgoing totals to 30 April 2026 were as follows (previous month in brackets):

Room hire – £823.75 (£325.00).

Fund raising – £382.50 (£429.50).

Other income – Interest – £15.65 (£28.62) and a donation of £1000.00.

Expenditure - £386.93 (£307.58). Major costs include maintenance - £295.43 and electricity - £55.43.

### **Funding Update**

GM reported that some funders do not require three quotations for building work to support an application. It was agreed that after the outcome of the Awards for All application (probably July 2026) we would consider approaching a single building contractor and identify any shortfall between the funds available and the envisaged scope of the extension works.

Potential Micro Grant from Ballinger Trust for additional outdoor furniture.

## Policy Updates

No updates required this month.

It was agreed that the Maintenance Schedule should be used at each monthly meeting as an aide memoire for those works that may need to be carried out in the following period. The first of two half-yearly building inspections will be carried out by RMcK and IS to 'test run' the schedule and identify any other works required. ED noted that we need to inform the Fire Authority of the location of the solar panel storage batteries.

## Hallmark 2

The Hallmark assessment meeting with CAN was positive and the recommendation was that EVH should obtain the Hallmark 2 classification. (Hallmark 2 focuses on health, safety, security and licences) It was further advised by CAN that we should continue to work towards Hallmark 3 as most of the qualifying work has been carried out. (Hallmark 3 requires EVH to demonstrate it is working with the community and its users, including marketing the hall and building its profile.)

## Offer of stage from the Hub at Seahouses

GM will refuse the kind offer of some stage units made by the Hub at Seahouses. It was agreed that if we acquire staging at some point in the future it will be smaller in scale and also new so we know loading limits for insurance purposes.

## Glass Disposal

An EVH bin was used to dump a large assortment of drink bottles. This was not carried out by any hirer of the hall but an isolated example of anti-social behaviour. Even so it was agreed that we should place 'No Glass' stickers on all our bins.

## Mission Statement

It was agreed that we should produce a mission statement that reflects the content of our formal Charity Commission listing. CS/AH have agreed to produce relevant wording for the statement.

## Community Resilience Forum, Craster 19 May 2026

JR (V) kindly attended this forum on behalf of EVH. JR also produced a comprehensive note of the topics presented, copies of which can be provided on request. EVH is a designated Warm Hub and Rest Centre.

## Hall Checks and Cleaning Requirements

For the purpose of general duties and monthly checks the following rota for 2026 was updated and agreed: May – IS and June – JD.

**AOB:** The need for an AGM sometime in March 2027 was noted.



## ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST EVH sub-group meeting MAY MINUTES

### **Attendees** – EVH sub-group feedback meeting

G Macleod (T), C Stevenson (T), E Duncan (T), Jayne Dobson (T), R McKibbin (T), A Hunt (V), J Rose (V) and I Stephenson (V)

**Apologies:** G Duncan (T) and G Edmondson (T)

### **Bookings & marketing**

No further major bookings have been made since the last EVH meeting.

### **Events**

*Coffee mornings* to be held on 13 June and 25 July 2026. The 'Tattie in a Bucket' weigh-in will be held separately on 26 July 2026. There will be no coffee morning in August.

There are no *Quiz nights* running through the summer months.

*EVH BBQ:* Proposed date 11 July 2026 (music by Lee & Tom). Start time will be 17:00 and costs will be £10/head for adults and £5/head for children. At the moment it is envisaged we will cater for 55 attendees.

*Rummage Sale:* 29 August 2026. Drop off events for donations will be held on 21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August. It is also hoped that the vacant office in the Home Farm development can be used as a donation storage point from July 2026 onwards.

*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.

### **Landscaping**

Nothing to report.

### **AOB**

AH requested that EVH purchase a solid-state drive as a back-up unit for the large amount of EVH information that has accrued over the past few years, particularly in relation to presentation graphics and the EVH website. This purchase was agreed by the trustees.

### **Date of next meeting**

16 June 2026 at 09.00

# The Pack Horse Leek Club



## Annual Show

**Saturday 12 September 2026**



This year the club is introducing a children's section. The theme is a Dinosaur made out of vegetables, it can be any size, shape or colour just let the little one's imagination show. I'm sure we will all look forward to seeing their exhibits.

The premature baby hats are always popular; we need lots of them to show and donate to the Premature Baby unit afterwards. So please give it a go.

There is always a good show of vegetables and flowers, for the non-growers there are cakes and jams to enter.

We would love to see as many exhibits as possible to make it a great show that is open to everyone.

Don't forget the Auction of vegetables, cakes, jams etc. at The Pack Horse Inn later in the evening – great fun!

The show is at Ellingham Village Hall key times are below:

|                  |                                                             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10am - 12</b> | <b>Open for Entries</b>                                     |
| <b>1.00pm</b>    | <b>Judging</b>                                              |
| <b>4.00pm</b>    | <b>Open to Public when afternoon teas will be available</b> |
| <b>5.00pm</b>    | <b>Presentation of prizes</b>                               |
| <b>9.30pm</b>    | <b>Auction at the Pack Horse Inn</b>                        |

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

# Help The Wildlife Trusts and Northumberland Wildlife Trust secure The Rothbury Estate for nature and nation



Donate today by scanning  
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[wtru.st/rothbury-appeal](http://wtru.st/rothbury-appeal)

IMAGE © DUNCAN HUTT



**The Wildlife Trusts**  
Registered charity number 207238

**Northumberland Wildlife Trust**  
Registered charity number 221819



**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: 07712751100

### **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)

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