Philippines Disaster Appeal
No-one could fail to be moved by the terrible events in the Philippines after hurricane Haiyan left tens of thousands without food, water, shelter or sanitation. Many people may like to donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for funds, but do not have internet access or feel the small amount they can afford is not relevant. The Fourum has decided to facilitate a collection and will send the proceeds to the DEC. Etal and Ford Post Offices have kindly agreed to have collection tins for donations.

Please try to give something, but the funds are needed quickly so the collection will need to close on December 9th. The Friends of the Fourum would like to match anything you give (up to a maximum total of £100) but if anyone feels that is not an appropriate use of Fourum funds please could they let Mary Lockie know on 820226.

Norham Group of the Mothers’ Union
Monday 9th December at 2pm at Norham
The Revd. John Evans will give a talk. Title to be announced.
All welcome.
There will also be a Members Meeting on Monday, 13th January at 2pm in Norham

Branxton Village Hall
A musical evening featuring Malcolm Bennet and friends
Saturday 30th November 7.30pm
Tickets £7 includes buffet supper.

Branxton Village Hall Christmas Fair
Saturday 7th December
10.30 am
Stalls – Coffee & Mince Pies
Deadline for the February issue of The Fourum
Monday 13th January

Etal Village Hall:
Wednesday 18th December 6.30pm
NTC Show
Once upon a time...
up in the North.
Tickets on Sale at Etal Post Office,
don’t leave it too late to buy your tickets, limited space.
A new play for children and family audiences, based on the traditional stories, myths and legends of the northern region, a modern take on some scary, funny, silly and thrilling yarns. Quirky, scary, romantic and brave stories from Northumbrian folklore including ‘The Cauld Lad of Hylton Castle’, ‘The Laidley Worm of Bamburgh’, ‘My ‘Ainsel’ and ‘The Men of Lorbottle’ amongst others. Told in NTC’s inimitable style of imaginative storytelling using music, dance and puppets to create bold knights, fairies, evil queens and dragons that will entertain all ages.
Doors open at 5.45pm with Mulled Wine & Mince pie served on arrival and a small treat for Children

Etal Village Hall
Don’t be disappointed by not getting the date you need for your event
Book now for next year.
E-mail: etalvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk
Phone: 01890 820777
Web: www.etalvillagehall.org.uk

Crookham Village Hall
Village Evening
Thursday Dec 19th at 7.30pm
’1513 Club Presents ...
‘An evening of entertainment.’
Tickets £3 to include light refreshments.
Contact David Moore on 01890 820706.
All welcome.

Coffee Morning
Saturday 14th December
10 - 12 at Crookham Village Hall
Tombola, cakes and preserves, Joker and other stalls.
Proceeds in aid of the Margaret Kerr Palliative Care Unit at the Borders General Hospital.
Contact: Kathleen Newton 01890 882002 or Doreen Johnson on 01890 820667

Proof Readers:
Kathleen Holmes
Mary Lockie
Heather Pentland
Phil Reynolds

NOTE the spelling which is a play on the word Forum.
Please indicate your interest as the subject. Preferred file formats are: text (.txt); Word (.doc or .docx); photographs (.jpg); Acrobat
Another term is speeding by with lots of exciting things happening at Ford School. We have really enjoyed borrowing a set of iPads from Northumberland County Council and have been so impressed by how useful they have been that we have bought 10 of our own to support learning in all the classes.

Huge thanks to the PTA and everyone who contributed to the Bingo night for helping us to buy the iPads. They will make an enormous difference to the ICT work the children are able to take part in.

In October we had a visit from Lilliesleaf Primary School in Scotland as part of the Flodden project. The Lilliesleaf children visited the battle site and then came to our school to share what they had learned and gifts of Peace and reconciliation were exchanged. It was a lovely day and we really enjoyed their visit.

Plans are now well underway for Christmas and we hope to see many of you at either our Christmas production or our Christingle Service. Please contact the school for tickets if you would like to join us for our Christmas performance of the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

Nick Allen was the man who brought the old Newsletter into the 21st century. He used his considerable skills to create the present format which is much admired and invented the name, the Fourum, which indicates our four villages. He has been involved with every aspect of the production of the Fourum. At one time he did the editorials which were not only relevant and to the point, but also witty and amusing. You will have noticed when he stopped! He is a man of many talents who has many commitments and demands on his time among them Branxton Parish Council, Flodden BP Scouts and his job as a teacher. As a result he has, sadly, had to give up his involvement with the Fourum.

Nick, – you will be much missed by the editorial team. Thank you for all the endless hours of work you have done for the Fourum and for its present format. We send our best wishes to you and your family.

The TillVAS Christmas event for members and partners is on Wednesday, 4th December in Crookham Village Hall from 7pm - 9pm.

At the New Year we will have a walk on either 1st or 2nd of January. Members and friends are welcome. Details yet to be finalised. You will need warm clothing, boots or wellies and a packed lunch. For further information watch the TillVAS website www.tillvas.com

Thanks to Antony Chessell who has produced the TillVAS website.

TillVAS is applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to carry out a Village Study of Branxton and Crookham.

A Village Study investigates the history of a village from earliest times and looks at every aspect of village life. We plan to go back to Mesolithic times by carrying out an excavation of a local stone age site, we hope to find evidence of Branxton Tower (destroyed by 1595), construct a medieval kiln, make pots and prepare a medieval meal. An ambitious project -- and we hope that you will join in! However, we need to raise money and we need proof of local interest. We have lists of people who have visited our pilot project exhibitions but we need you to say that you are interested, that you support us and that you would like to join in.

Please fill in the form in the Fourum and return to Ford or Etal Shops -- or leave it in Crookham Village Hall or at 32, Crookham Village. It will be an exciting local project at the end of which we hope to produce a Village Atlas for each village, a booklet for local people and tourists and leaflets of local walks. Research and recording will play an important part in the project -- which means that training in a variety of skills will be necessary. You may feel that this is not for you but you like the idea -- please put pen to paper and contact TillVAS. We thank Mike Keating, Bill Walker, Maureen Charlton, and Valerie Glass who have put a great deal of work into the grant application. Please give us your support.

Saturday, 11th January from 10am – 12 noon.
TillVAS Coffee Morning at Crookham Village Hall.
Cakes and Preserves stall, Raffle, Find the Joker.
Bring a friend and have a cup of coffee. We hope to have some interesting artefacts and photographs on display.

All welcome.
Music at Ford Christmas Fair!
from 11am - 3.30pm

Every year this lovely Christmas Fair in Ford Village is getting more visitors, more entertainment and not to forget – more praise for the welcome, the food, the variety!

We would like to make it even better this year with more live music!

This year we would love to hear you play or sing Christmas tunes or songs – a medley for half an hour, perhaps a "stint" in the Hall and/or a "stint" in the long marquee.

We can offer you refreshments/lunch in return – DO feel free to see it as busking... and bring a hat for donations??!

Bring your cd's or flyers ready to promote yourself, or advertise your next own event?!

LAST year we did see 1,000 visitors on the day!

Are you interested? Do you know someone who is?

We have a good piano in the Hall available.

Dorien Irving, Curator
Lady Waterford Hall, Gallery and Museum
Ford Village, Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland, TD15 2QA
M 07971326177 (at home curator) M 07790457580 (at the Museum)
www.ford-and-etal.co.uk

FORD PARISH COUNCIL News

Ford Parish Council met on 12th November. Following traffic incidents at the east end of Crookham Village, the PC had contacted the police and County Council. There were no recorded accidents at the site concerned, and it was not possible to divert HGVs by the B6354 to the A697. Having explored various options the council decided to request "Slow" signs to be painted on the approach to the village.

There has been a large increase in dog fouling in Ford village over the summer, particularly over the newly opened footpath from the monument to the church, and also the path behind the school, but these areas are on private property. It was felt that both visitors and locals were responsible, and local dog owners are asked to deal with the problem responsibly.

A litter bin has been requested for the new car park at Heatherslaw.

The Parish Council will shortly go on line with its new website, with details about meetings, councillors, minutes and financial statements. An announcement will be made when it goes live, and we are grateful to Richard Baker for his work on this.
**HARDWOOD LOGS FOR SALE**

Logs sold by the trailer load or in a barrow bag.
All wood sourced locally and stored under cover.
For more details contact John Moore on 01668 216198 or 07771570743

Guaranteed to keep you warm!

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**The FOURUM, Financial accounts – December 2013**

At the AGM of the Friends of the FOURUM meeting on 13th November, the annual accounts for 2012/3 were presented. These show that income for the year was £1009.10 made up of fund raising events and donations from Mr & Mrs Benn, Black Bull Etal, Mr & Mrs Mills, Etal Shop, Mr & Mrs Merritt, Mr & Mrs Moore, Mr & Mrs Turnbull and ANON.

Expenditure was £396 with £42.38 yet to be paid.

The bank balance is £1823.14.

Copies of the accounts are available from the Hon. Treasurer, John Pentland, telephone 01890 820 201.

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**Thank You.**

Thank you very much to everyone who supported us by baking cakes and turning up for our coffee morning in aid of MacMillan, we raised £505, Thank you.

*The Lavender Tearooms*

The Fourum team apologise for missing this item last month.

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**Thank You!**

November 24th – Xmas party
January 29th – The Fourum

Doors open 6.30 pm for “eyes down” at 7pm.
Any offer of prizes will be gratefully received.

Thanks to Julie and Sandra for continuing this wonderful opportunity for local groups to raise funds.

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**Christmas at the Horseshoe Forge, Ford Village.**

Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
11am – 3pm.

Stocking a wide range of gifts for Christmas, China, Candles, Collectibles, Ladies’ and Gentlemen’s Vintage Clothing, Jewelry and Accessories.

Holly Wreaths, Decorated Door Wreaths, Garlands and Decorations.

Orders taken for Wreaths 01890 820 301 or 07767 675 357

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**Etal Shop Winter Fuel Price List:**

20Kg Best Coal £10.00
Heat Logs (Hot Max) £8.00
Net of Hardwood Logs £7.00
Peat Briquettes £6.00
Kindling £4.75
Fire Lighters 95p

Keep it local!
The Parish of Ford and Etal

From and including Sunday, 1st December services are held at the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Etal.

Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist every Sunday at 10.15am.

1st December and 5th January.
First Sunday Service -- a service for all ages.

Welcome the Word -- a service for children every Sunday at 10.15 but NOT on the first Sunday of the month.

28th November. Ford School Eucharist, 9.30am at Ford Church. All welcome.

Christmas Services.

15th December -- North Northumberland Scout Carol Service. 5pm at Ford Church.

20th December -- Ford School Christingle Service. 1.20pm at Ford Church. All welcome.

Christmas Eve, 24th December. Holy Eucharist of the Night. 11.30pm at Etal Church.

Christmas Day, 25th December. Morning Service. 10.15am at Etal Church.

The Royal British Legion.

Crookham and District Branch, RBL recently held a series of fund raising events in support of the work they do for our armed forces and families.

On 27th October, the author of Almost Forgotten, Chris Davies, gave an interesting talk on locating aircraft crashes in Northumberland which raised £104 for the RBL Northumbria Welfare Fund. (NWF).

On 27th October, a “Poppy Run” was held at Sandyhouse, Milfield with support from a wide area. Sponsored runners from the Black Bull, Etal, raised £310 for NWF.

On 30th October the BINGO night at Etal raised £273.63 for NWF.

On 9th November we held a Coffee Morning at Crookham which together with donations raised £541.15 for NWF.

On 10th November the Branch attended the REMEMBRANCE DAY service at Ford church with the collection of £274 going to the POPPY APPEAL.

On 13th November the POPPY APPEAL collections were counted and to date £2803 has been sent with some monies yet to be received.

This is a fantastic achievement for our thinly populated area and one of which we can all feel proud. Thanks to all who helped and supported these events.

Branxton, Carham and Cornhill

St. Paul’s Branxton
Holy Communion 9.30am
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Carol Service 4.00 pm.
Christmas Night 11.30 pm.

St. Cuthbert's Carham
Holy Communion 9.30 am.
Carol Service 11.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.

St. Helen's Cornhill
Holy Communion 11.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Carol Service 6.00 pm.

A joint service for all three parishes will be held at Carham at 11.00am on 29th December.

St. Ninians Church, Wooler.
Mass every Sunday at 9am.

Crookham United Reformed Church

Carol Service.
15th December at 2.00 pm.
Service.
Sunday, 5th January, 2.00 pm.

Remembrance
Miss Brodie

The members of the congregation of Crookham URC remember Miss Brodie of the Cottage, Kirknewton, who died recently. She was a dedicated member of the Church gave good service and was treasurer for almost twenty years. She will be much missed.
**JOHN MARRIN RARE BOOKS**
Antiquarian and Secondhand Books and Ephemera
18 Ford Village
Tel: 01890 820 500
open by appointment

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**Ed Redfearn.**
Home and Garden Handyman.
Grass cutting, Garden Tidying, Fencing, Hedge cutting.
Shed and Greenhouse erecting.
Small home repairs and improvements.
Painting and Decorating.

Phone:
01668 216419
or 07990545967

Local & reliable service.
Reasonable rates.
Dec 13th  Les Miserables.  
(158 mins  drama/musical  PG)  
In 19th-century France, Jean Valjean, who for decades has been hunted by the ruthless policeman Javert after he breaks parole, agrees to care for factory worker Fantine's daughter, Cosette. The fateful decision changes their lives forever.  EPIC!!!  
Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway.

Jan 10th  The First Grader.  
(103 min Biography | Drama PG )  
The true story of an 84 year-old Kenyan villager and ex Mau Mau freedom fighter who fights for his right to go to school for the first time to get the education he could never afford.  
Naomie Harris, Oliver Litondo.

What else is on?  
Calendar on back page.

Watch the birdie?  
Counting the birds that are counting on you

It will be all eyes to the skies on Saturday, 25th and Sunday, 26th January 2014, as the nation takes part in the RSPB’s annual Big Garden Birdwatch.  
The activity is the biggest garden wildlife survey in the world and last year almost 600,000 people counted the birds in their garden.  
Big Garden Birdwatch, which has been running for 35 years, provides the RSPB with masses of information about changes in numbers of garden birds in winter, and helps to alert conservationists to significant declines in UK garden species such as house sparrows and starlings.  
And this year, for the first time, we need you to log some of the other wildlife you see in your garden too.  
We want to know whether you ever see deer, squirrels, badgers, hedgehogs, frogs and toads in your gardens, to help build an overall picture of how important our gardens are for giving all types of wildlife a home.  
Doing the Big Garden Birdwatch is fun and easy, and you don’t even need to leave the comfort of your own home. To take part, spend just one hour at any time over the Big Garden Birdwatch weekend noting the highest number of each species seen in your garden or local outside space at any one time. You then simply submit your results to the RSPB, either online at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or in the post.
### December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 26th Nov.</td>
<td>Book Club. 7.30 pm. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 27th Nov.</td>
<td>Bingo Party 6.30 for 7.00 pm EVH</td>
<td>EVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 30th Nov.</td>
<td>Gardening Club. 10.30 pm. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 2nd Dec.</td>
<td>Walk. Meet at 10 am. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 3rd Dec.</td>
<td>Library Van 5.00 pm. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<td>Weds. 4th Dec.</td>
<td>Whist 1.30 pm BVH</td>
<td>BVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 6th Dec.</td>
<td>Etal Show Quiz. EVH.</td>
<td>EVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 7th Dec.</td>
<td>Branxton Christmas Fair. BVH</td>
<td>BVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 7th Dec.</td>
<td>Soup ’n Roll 12 - 2 pm. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 9th Dec.</td>
<td>Knit and Natter 2.00 pm. CVH</td>
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<td>Mothers’ Union 2.00 pm Norham</td>
<td>Norham</td>
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<td>Management Committee Meeting 5.00 pm. CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 10th Dec.</td>
<td>School Play (see School News on page 2)</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 11th Dec.</td>
<td>Whist 2.00 pm CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School Play (see School News on page 2)</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 13th Dec.</td>
<td>Flicks in the Sticks. 7 pm for 7.30 pm. EVH</td>
<td>EVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 13th Dec.</td>
<td>Bluebell Anniversary Party. 7.30 pm.</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 14th Dec.</td>
<td>Charity Coffee Morning 10 am -- 12 noon. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 15th Dec.</td>
<td>Carol Service. 11am. Crookham URC.</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 15th Dec.</td>
<td>Scout Carol Service. 5.00 pm at Ford Church.</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 16th Dec.</td>
<td>Walk. Meet at 10 am. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 17th Dec.</td>
<td>Library Van 5.00 pm. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<td>Book Club 7.30 pm CVH.</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds. 18th Dec.</td>
<td>NTC. Once Upon a Time up North. 6.30 pm. EVH</td>
<td>EVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 19th Dec.</td>
<td>7.30 pm Village Evening. ’1513 Club Presents’ CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 20th Dec.</td>
<td>Ford School Christingle Service. 1.30 pm. Ford Church.</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 21st Dec.</td>
<td>Coffee Morning. 10am - 12.00 noon. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<td>Mon. 23rd Dec.</td>
<td>Knit and Natter 2.00 pm. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 24th Dec.</td>
<td>Midnight Mass. 11.30 pm. Etal Church.</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds. 25th Dec.</td>
<td>Christmas Morning service. 10.15 am. Etal Church.</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 28th Dec.</td>
<td>Gardening Club. 10.30 am. CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 31st Dec.</td>
<td>Library Van 5.00 pm. CVH</td>
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### January

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<tr>
<td>Sat 4th Jan.</td>
<td>Soup ’n Roll 12 - 2 pm. CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 5th Jan.</td>
<td>Service. 11 am. Crookham URC</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 6th Jan.</td>
<td>Walk. Meet at 10 am. CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 8th Jan.</td>
<td>Whist 2.00 pm CVH</td>
<td>CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 10th Jan.</td>
<td>Flicks in the Sticks. 7 pm for 7.30 pm. EVH</td>
<td>EVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 11th Jan.</td>
<td>Coffee Morning in aid of TillVAS. 10 am -12 noon. CVH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 13th Jan.</td>
<td>Knit and Natter 2.00 pm. CVH</td>
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<td>Wed. 29th Jan.</td>
<td>Bingo 6.30 for 7.00 pm CVH</td>
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**What’s on? at a glance**

**YOGA YOGA YOGA**

**YOGA CLASSES**

Every Thursday
7 pm - 8.30 pm
Etal Village Hall

**1st Flodden B-P Scout Group**

Beavers/Cubs: 6pm Wednesdays
Scouts/Seniors: 6pm Thursdays
Branxton Village Hall
or local area
Contact Joanne 01890 882150
or Nick 01890 820219
email: 1stfloddenbpscouts@gmail.com

**Art Group**

Crookham Village Hall
Thursdays 2 - 4pm

**Branxton Exercise Class**

Tuesdays at 10.30am - 11.30am
Get back into shape with gentle exercise to music
February 21st – Spring Lunch

**Whist**

4th December at 1.30pm BVH
Note new time!

**Carpet Bowls**

Every Monday
At 7pm. LWH.