St. Valentine’s Day is, as everyone knows, February 14th. There is mystery about the life of St. Valentine. He is thought to have died a martyr’s death in 269 AD at Rome, but very little is known about him. In fact, such information there is, is very confusing even suggesting that there may have been two or three Valentines. However, he is patron saint of engaged couples, happy marriages and bee keepers — and he may help if you have the Plague.

This is a reminder of the tradition of sending an unsigned card to a loved one on February 14th — keep it secret but don’t forget to tell the bees!

**Norham Group of the Mothers’ Union**

Monday, 10th February at 2pm.
Annual General Meeting.
Branxton Village Hall.

All welcome.

**Coffee Morning.**

Saturday 8th February, 10am – 12 noon.
Crookham Village Hall.

Tombola, Raffle, Cakes and Produce stalls.

Find the Joker.

Proceeds in aid of Ford and Etal Churches.

Contacts:
Heather Pentland,
Kathleen Holmes,
Margaret Mole.

**Bingo**

Wednesday, 29th January
Doors open 6.30p.m.
for “eyes down” at 7p.m.

ETAL VILLAGE HALL

**Raffle, Cakes and Produce stalls.**

**Bingo**

Wednesday, 29th January
Doors open 6.30p.m.
for “eyes down” at 7p.m.

ETAL VILLAGE HALL

**Annual Burns Evening at Crookham Village Hall**

Friday February 14th at 7.30pm

Tickets £10 obtainable from
David Moore 01890 820706
or
Tom Turnbull 01890 820222

**Contacts for The Fourum:**
Please send material for The Fourum to our e-mail address:
thefourum@gmail.com

NOTE the spelling which is a play on the word Forum.

Please indicate the issue as the subject. Preferred file formats are:
text (.txt); Word (.doc or .docx); photographs (.jpg); Acrobat (.pdf)
The New Year's Day walk up Great Hetha in the College Valley led by Chris Burgess was pleasant and exhilarating with a fine view from the summit. However, the view was quickly obscured by cloud from the west so we beat a hasty retreat and just made it back to the cars before the rain came. We could then go home to warm fires, a book or the TV with a clear conscience.

The TillVAS committee thanks everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on January 9th at Crookham Village Hall. Alan Luton brought some beautiful Roman artefacts he found at Sedgefield while metal detecting, Wendy and Alan Urwin brought samples from the Flodden 500 Transcription project and invited people to have a go and Maureen displayed some very early documents relating to Crookham Village. It was a pleasant morning and it was good to meet clean friends usually seen in dirty clothes at the bottom of a trench! £339.00 was raised which will go towards research costs. Thank you.

TillVAS thanks treasurer Mike Keating who has spent hours filling in grant application forms. The result is two grants of £1,500 each from the Community Chest and the Community Foundation – courtesy of Kerry Grassroots. TillVAS is grateful for this money which is for equipment for display purposes. We thank Etal Show committee and Crookham Village Hall committee who have kindly lent us equipment in the past. Now, thanks to Mike, we will have our own.

Wednesday, 5th February sees the next TillVAS talk at 7.30pm at Crookham Village Hall. Berwick Archivist, Linda Bankier, will, with the aid of some her volunteers, give a talk on the progress of the Flodden 500 Transcription Project. She has some 40 volunteers who have been working on old documents relating to the Battle of Flodden. There are letters between kings and nobles, accounts relating to the cost of the Battle and lists of horses collected in and sold after the Battle. Some documents have never been looked at before. It is all fascinating stuff from both sides of the Border.

All welcome – Members free of charge, visitors £4.

TillVAS
Till Valley Archaeological Society.

The AGM of Etal Flower Show will be held in Etal Village Hall on Monday 17th February at 7pm. We are always in need of new people on the committee so please come along to show your support for this well established local village event.

Everyone welcome.

Etal Flower Show
is an important and much-loved event in the local calendar, taking place each September. The Show Committee is grateful to the many people who help on the day, as well as those who support the Show at other times. It all takes quite a bit of thought and manpower, so the Show could always do with new people to help with ideas or in a practical capacity. Our AGM will be held in Etal Village Hall on Monday 17th February at 7pm and we would welcome anyone who would like to come along. Don’t feel you have to be a horticultural expert, the Show has lots of facets and anyone can play a part. Please do think about joining us, putting on a popular local event can be a rewarding experience!

David Lockie
Ford Parish Council news
Ford Parish Council met on 7th January with a somewhat reduced agenda.

At Crookham the bus shelter needs repair and we are awaiting an estimate. The "SLOW" signs on the village approaches will not be done until the weather gets warmer.

There have been incidents reported of punctures due to hedge cuttings on the roads - we are not sure of the size of the problem so if you have been affected please let the clerk or a councillor know.

The next meetings are on the 11 March and 6 May. At the May meeting we are planning our first Annual Parish Meeting and further details will be available later.

Northumberland Digital Careers Fair
Live on YouTube!

Young Northumbrians have been getting out and about to discover what kinds of business opportunities are available in the rural uplands. Aside from traditional farming and forestry, they were amazed to see what was out there. From Unison Colour who make pastels for the world’s artists in remote Tarset, to trainee butchers, and apprentice saw-doctors at A&J Scott’s who employ 140 people at their timber business in Wooperton.

The Digital Careers Fair is one of many inspirational projects funded by the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group (NULAG), which is hosted by the Northumberland National Park Authority. The Digital Careers Fair was launched under the NULAG’s Young Northumberland initiative.

Representatives from 14 rural businesses were interviewed and filmed by young people, including John Tait and Frances Johnson from the Young Northumberland project who recently visited Sweden. Students from KEVI High School Morpeth also took part, along with young employees from A&J Scott’s, members of local Young Farmers Clubs, and a member of Rothbury Youth Club who animated the credits. Lindsey Miller from Cambo Young Farmers club won the project’s ‘Selfie’ competition with a film showcasing her passion for rural life and her job with Genus in Northumberland.

The young people were trained in interview techniques by education consultant Lesley Wood, and helped with their filming by Robin Webb, filmmaker and animator, who edited the films.

The project was managed by Philippa Raper, who said: “I was astounded by not just by the range of businesses thriving in such remote areas, but also by the character and drive of those who took part. It really is about passionate people and passionate places!”

John Tait who helped to film and interview the businesses commented: “As far as we know, this is the first digital careers fair. It highlights that young people do not need to leave home to find a fulfilling career or to set up their own business, and they can easily get a taste for what is available, and share it through social media.”

The results of their labours can now be seen on NULUG Northumberland’s YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/NULAGN.

Updates and links can also be found on Young Northumberland’s Facebook and Twitter Accounts.
www.facebook.com/NULAGyoung
www.twitter.com/NUs_Young
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From £35 per crate (Collection only)

Letham Hill Sawmill
01890 820 304
Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Friday 8.30am - 3.00pm

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION NEWS

The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, NORTHUMBRIA, held its AGM at Emanuel College, Gateshead on Saturday 11th January and representatives from the CROOKHAM and DISTRICT Branch were present.

As well as the formal business meeting, those attending were given a superb talk by John Derry, emeritus professor at Newcastle University on the “Origins and Causes of WW1”.

Crookham and District Branch were also surprised and delighted when we were awarded the shield and certificate for the most organised branch.

Tom Turnbull our president received these on behalf of the Branch.

Sandra & Julie would like to tell everyone that since 2006 Etal bingo has raised £23,124 !!! for good causes in the community.

Thank you to everyone that takes part in making it all possible.

Special thanks must go to Margaret Mole, Val Ainslie & Barrie Sturmy. It wouldn't happen without them.

And a massive thank you goes to Maria for obvious reasons.

We will see you all at the January bingo, we would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year – let’s hope its great for all of us.

Snooker News Ford Snooker 100 Club

December winners.
No. 80 – Dorien Irving. £35.
No. 7 – Brian Thompson (Dean House, Ford). £15.
No 84 – Alexine Oliver. £10.

January winners.
No 6 – Estelle Hogg. £35.
No 46 – Bill Mills, £15.
No 52 – Anne Bell. £10.

Winnings may be collected from Ford PO.

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!
In December last year I was contacted by Mark Griffiths of Tewksbury who had, by the magic of the Internet, found the June issue of the FOURUM.

You may recall it included an article about Cyril Whitworth Powell who was killed aged 29 on 12th May 1945 when his Hawker Tempest Mk5 crash landed at Ford Westfield after a mid-air collision with another Tempest.

Mark is tracing his family for his father Brian Whitworth Griffiths of Caerphilly who remembers his namesake uncle. Mark had tried before but this time, thanks to the ROYAL BRITISH LEGION and the FOURUM he found what he wanted. In his words, “I could not believe my eyes, when I read by accident the June edition of the FOURUM, and found my great uncle was mentioned”.

Correspondence and Photographs have since been exchanged and Brian and Mark plan to attend our remembrance event on 12th May 2014.

John Pentland.
**The Black Bull, Etal**

Book now for Valentines at the Black Bull Etal.

We have a romantic jazz experience from 7 o’clock.

Book a meal and enjoy the music or just come along for a drink.

Tel: 01890 820 200

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We look forward to seeing you.

Brian & Laura Thompson

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**LOCAL BELTED GALLOWAY BEEF FOR SALE**

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**CONTACT:**

**GUY WARCUP**

DAYTIME: 07778364414

EVENINGS: 01289 388 388

Email: degwarcup@btinternet.com

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Flicks in Sticks

Etal Village Hall at 7.00 for 7.30pm
Winter Programme.

Feb 14th...The Place beyond the Pines. 
(140 min - Crime | Drama .15) 
A motorcycle stunt rider turns to robbing banks as a way to provide for his lover and their newborn child, a decision that puts him on a collision course with an ambitious rookie cop navigating a department ruled by a corrupt detective. Ryan Gosling, Eva Mendes.

March 7th...Cloud Atlas.
(172 min Adventure/ Drama /Sci-Fi 15 )
An exploration of how the actions of individual lives impact one another in the past, present and future, as one soul is shaped from a killer into a hero, and an act of kindness ripples across centuries to inspire a revolution. Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Hugo Weaving.

April 11th...A Separation. ( 123 min - Drama - (Iran) PG)
A married couple are faced with a difficult decision - to improve the life of their child by moving to another country or to stay in Iran and look after a parent with Alzheimer's Disease.

May 9th Viewer's Choice.

A programme of local interest

On January 4th Radio 4’s Open Country came from Branxton and Crookham and featured the Flodden quincentenary commemorations. Clive Hallam-Baker, Lord Joicey, Chris Burgess, David Herbert and Mary Taylor all made contributions.

The programme can be heard again at http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03mj1y4

Music in Etal Village Hall.

Sat 15th Feb 2014

KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN

Winners of “Best Duo” at the 2013 Radio 2 Folk awards, Kathryn and Sean will be playing the most northerly gig of their upcoming tour at Etal Village Hall on Saturday 15th February.

Two of the British folk scene’s most accomplished performers, Kathryn and Sean have graced stages the world over in a number of guises, however, the intimacy and strength of passion shown as a duo, combined with an eclectic repertoire ensures a rare treat for any listener.

With a story that includes music making with the likes of Seth Lakeman, Cara Dillon, Levellers, Kate Rusby and Show of Hands, Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman have established themselves as pillars of modern British folk.

www.kathrynrobertsandseanlakeman.com

Tickets £10 - Contact Helen or Steve – hmoffitsvq@btinternet.com or 01890 820566

Doors open 7.30p.m., Music begins at 8.00.pm

What else is on?
Calendar on back page.
Border Villager Taxi
Local Taxi and private hire bus service
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What’s on? at a glance

January.
Saturday 25th. Gardeners’ Club. 10.30pm. CVH
Monday 27th. Knit and Natter. 2pm. CVH
Tuesday 28th. Book Club. 7.30pm. CVH
Wednesday 29th. Bingo Night. 6.30pm for 7pm. EVH

February.
Saturday 1st. Soup n’ Roll 12 – 2pm CVH
Coffee Morning. 10am, Wooler.
Monday 3rd. Walk. Meet at 10am CVH
Wednesday 5th. Tillvas. 7.30pm CVH
Saturday 8th. Charity Coffee Morning 10 – 12 CVH
Monday 10th. Knit and Natter 2.00pm
Mothers’ Union, 2pm, BVH
Deadline for the Fourum.
Wednesday 12th. Whist 1.30pm CVH.
Friday 14th. Burns Evening 7.30pm CVH
St Valentine’s Day.
Friday 14th. Flicks in the Sticks, 7pm for 7.30. EVH
Saturday 15th. Coffee Morning 10 – 12 CVH
Music at Etal Village Hall. 7.30pm for 8pm.
Monday 17th. Walk. Meet at 10.00am CVH
Etal Show AGM, 7pm, EVH
Thursday 20th. Village Evening. 7.30pm. A talk by Mike Fraser, CVH
Saturday 22nd. Gardening Club 10.30 am CVH
Monday 24th. Knit and Natter 2.00pm CVH
Tuesday 25th. Book Club 7.30pm CVH
Wednesday 26th. Bingo Night 6.30pm for 7pm. EVH

March
Saturday 1st. Talk – Heron’s Flight. 7.30pm. BVH
Friday 7th. Flicks in the Sticks 7pm for 7.30 EVH
Tuesday 11th. Ford Parish Council meeting. CVH
Friday 14th. Etal Onion Club Quiz Night, EVH.

October
Friday 10th. WW1 talk BVH

YOGA CLASSES
Every Thursday 7pm - 8.30pm
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

Crookham Art Group
2 Croft Gardens
Thursdays 2 – 4pm

Border Villager Taxi
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Carpet Bowls
Every Monday
At 7pm. LWH.

Whist night
First Wednesday at 7.30pm BVH

Branxton Exercise Class
Tuesdays at 10.30 -11.30am
Get back into shape with gentle exercise to music

YOGA YOGA YOGA
YOGA CLASSES
Every Thursday
7pm - 8.30pm
Etal Village Hall