



# Chatton News



*A Newsletter for Chatton and surrounding area*

*December 2017*

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner again. People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and New Year. But we really should be worried about what we eat between the New Year and Christmas. If only! May we wish you a Happy Christmas, and a Healthy, Prosperous New Year. *Rupert and Murdoch*

## Chatton Presbyterian Church

*Following on from the history of the Presbyterian Church, we take up the story after Robert Turnbull bought the building.*

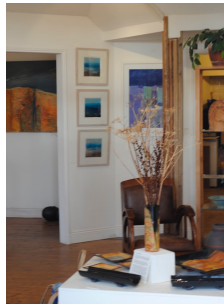
'My partners John and Kerry Fieldhouse and I bought the building in May 1994 from Jim Railton. We saw it empty and full of dust. It had been used



for storage, but, it had a great feel to it. We moved a few walls, sanded floors, rendered the old stone walls downstairs. The upstairs was converted into two flats then eventually one when I took over the whole business. In July 1995 it was officially opened by the Dowager Duchess of Northumberland as

The Chatton Gallery.

We had, and still have, a lot of custom from Tyneside, as well as local people, and passing trade mainly in the summer. I sell a lot of my own paintings and prints here which are mostly of local views, as well showcasing other artists work including ceramics and sculptures.



About 2 years ago the URC, which normally met in the Village Hall, needed a one off venue for a service and came back to their original roots in Chatton and held it in the Gallery."

Robert realised from an early age that he could paint well, always being top of his class in Art. He studied graphic design as a student and then branched into fine art to earn his living. He is well known now for his depiction of local scenes with atmospheric skies. Robert has done a lot for the community including providing the cover for the Chatton Book and a painting of Chatton Cricket Club to celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

He now also owns another gallery in Bamburgh which he has recently extended. You will be

welcome at either place at any time to simply enjoy the artwork.

## What's been happening

### A Return visit



A few weeks ago we were delighted to welcome the Johnson sisters, Lillian and Betty, back to The Old Manse for a cup of tea - it was from The Manse that they both got married in 1955 & 1961. They took great delight in looking through the Chatton book, enjoying the photos and stories, reminiscing of their life in the village, the friends and good times they had. Sadly both are now widowed, one living in Alnwick and the other in Newcastle, but keeping well and send their regards to anyone who may remember them.

*Ian and Mary Catchpole*

**80<sup>th</sup> Birthday** - Happy birthday to Ronnie Bolam who was 80 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.



*Photos of Ronnie as a little boy.*

## Chatton Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came along on Saturday 25 November to support and enjoy the coffee morning at Chatton Village Hall. It was fantastic to see such a great turnout and, from the monies raised, we were able to donate £250 to the nominated charity Help for Heroes. Once again a big thank you to helpers on the day and to everyone who kindly made donations of money, baking, produce, gifts and raffle prizes.

*Chatton Coffee Morning Team*

## Tillside Parish Council

The Parish is formed from four wards - Chatton itself, Chillingham, Hetton and Lilburn. Each of these patches has representational Councillors attached to them. We now have a vacancy for the Chatton area which includes the village. We meet approx once every two months, and items discussed are planning applications, roads, broadband, transport, signage, future

developments, grass-cutting, potholes, etc. There are 14 of us in total, and if possible we would like someone to fill this position. Anyone can apply and we would welcome somebody from Chatton itself, or from the parish in general. For further information contact Jim Railton - 01668 215323/01668 283000/0777 424 1111 or email [jim@jimrailton.com](mailto:jim@jimrailton.com)

### **Neighbourhood Plan – Can you help please?**

Do you love this unspoilt rural area? Do you want to keep the best of our wonderful Parish and look for opportunities to improve it for the future? Are you looking for something interesting and positive to do? Look no further, you can help towards this aim by joining our like-minded volunteer team putting together a Tillside Neighbourhood Plan. Run by the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan working group is looking for a project manager to lead them through the next stages of the project which will influence planning issues for many years ahead. Planning and project management knowledge or experience and an understanding of Neighbourhood Planning initiatives would be a huge asset to the group. But we look forward to hearing from anyone who can help. *Please contact Ali Wrangham. 01668217329/07970857603/aliwrangham@btconnect.com*

**Superfast Broadband** - Tillside Parish Councillors have been lobbying for better superfast broadband coverage for the parish and welcomed Sylvia Pringle of iNorthumberland to a recent meeting. Sylvia explained the factors involved in deciding which properties are included in each phase of the roll out programme, as well as some of the options available to those not in the schedule. It is important for households not currently getting superfast broadband to register their interest. To do this, visit [www.inorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk) where you can use the availability checker to find out if superfast broadband is available to you, or if not, when you might expect to get it, and what other options are available. If you find superfast broadband is available to you, you can use the price comparison tool to find the best deal.

### **Forthcoming Events** **Carol Singing**

Carol singing around the village is taking place as usual this year, and the date is Thursday December 21st. All are welcome to join us and we meet on the village green at 6pm. We usually collect for a local cause, or for someone in the community who fundraises for a specific charity, and this year we are collecting for the National Autistic Society and their local branch, as several families in the village are involved with this organisation. So do come and join in, and hopefully we will get our usual warm welcome in

people's homes, with the odd "pit stop" refreshment here and there! *Jim Railton 215323*

### **Quiz Night – Thursday 25 January**

Following the success of the recent quiz night in November, run by Tony Harrison, we intend to have another on Thursday 25 January. This will be in Chatton Village Hall, £2 per person with up to 6 people in each team. Please bring own refreshments. *Ian Catchpole*

### **Coffee Morning - A date for your diary!**

The next coffee morning will take place on Saturday 10 February in Chatton Village Hall from 10.30am. Please come along and join us if you can. Entrance is £1.50, including refreshments. Proceeds will go to Hospice Care North Northumberland. Look out for posters and fliers. Hope to see you there. *Chatton Coffee Morning Team*

**Church Services** 20th December 6pm Healing Service at Holy Cross, Chatton

**Christmas Eve** 6pm Carol service and Blessing of Crib, Holy Cross Chatton ( It would be lovely to see and meet you all.)

**Christmas Day** 9.30am St. Peters, Chillingham (Rev. Christopher Smith will preside)

*If you know anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion please contact the Vicar: 01665578250*

*"Thank you for welcoming me into your parish, it has been good to meet some of you, but don't fret I'm still trying to visit those who were out!!*

*Thank you to Jane and her team who over the year has arranged flowers for us in our church at Chatton and to Dorothy & Ronnie*

*for all they do. Thank you to Janet Clark and family for all they do for us at Chillingham.*

*And to John Lovett and Terence Pardoe, who help to keep the church doors open for us."*

### **A December Letter**

"Hark the Herald angel sings"

It was really uncanny as they say in the North when I was on holiday in Cyprus one year in late October, walking around with my shorts and tee shirt on in temperatures of 35 degrees and carols were being played and Christmas trees being erected in villages, and petunias being planted.

There was such confusion in my mind, it seemed so different from what we are used to in England. (although cards and Christmas decorations do land in the shops in September!) We are now counting the days until the shops are finally shut and we can at least think of other things.

As I write this letter we are fast approaching Advent the season that begins four Sundays prior to December 25th. Since Christmas falls on a different day of the week each year, the fourth week of Advent, more often than not is never really finished. So the length of the Advent season varies from year to year. How do you spend your days leading up to Christmas Day?

For most of us there will be the inevitable rushing around with our list, making sure that we don't miss anyone out, because that sometimes can be fatal, wrapping presents and writing the endless pile of Christmas cards (which I enjoy doing I have to say).

During Advent we should be preparing ourselves spiritually, as we approach Christmas we will start to sing carols like Hark the herald which goes on "peace on earth and mercy mild" More Christians sing this carol than any other I am told, it circles the world like one big anthem of hope and joy.

Through Jesus we can offer his love and peace to so many who will be desperate this Christmas, for the troops away from the families, the lonely, the people's kitchen, and for those whose Christmas will be so different this year than previous ones they have shared, and even those in our own community. Let us enrich our Advent and Christmas season by showing Christ's love individually, as families and as congregation and a community that the love of Christ is at the very centre of our celebrations. Then we can sing from our hearts on Christmas Morning. "Glory to the new born King"

May Bill and I wish you a Very Joyful Christmas & a very Peaceful and loving New Year.

*Yours as ever Marion.*

## Further Features

### Percy Arms – Christmas 2017

Becca, Richard and I had a marvellous evening in Newcastle on 16<sup>th</sup> November on the occasion of the North East Tourist Awards. We got the Silver award for best Boutique Accommodation, just beaten to first place by Duncan Fisher's Newton Hall. Gold next time! This award reflects the hard work put in by all members of staff 'front of house' but especially those behind the scenes. We have recently been nominated for a 'Rural Oscar' in the 2017 Countryside Alliance Awards, so fingers crossed. The pub is looking very festive with all its trees and Christmas decorations and we are now ready to watch those plates of turkey and trimmings fly out of the kitchen! The winter broth, featherblade beef and apple and cinnamon cake are all "top drawer" dishes which everyone should try. Bookings are good but we can always do more. The chef's raspberry and coconut cake seemed to go down well at the Village Coffee Morning. Good to have the congregation from Holy Cross in for a "Percy Special" on Remembrance Sunday. Our forthcoming live music events (all starting at 9.00pm) are 8<sup>th</sup>

**December "Summerland", 15<sup>th</sup> December "D-Plus" and 29<sup>th</sup> December "Unplugged".**

We will be celebrating Burns' Night on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Happy Christmas from us all. Trevor Thorne, Manager

## Chatton Village Hall News

### Chatton School: 10 years on

December marks 10 years since what is now The Village Hall, ceased to be The School. Although Chatton School was officially open until the end of the academic year in July 2008, the last pupils walked out of The School for the last time in December 2007. It was a sad moment for Chatton and the surrounding district.

Once it was clear that there was no prospect of the School remaining open, an action group was formed, led by Bob Scott, in order to save the building as a resource for the community, and this led to the establishment of our Village Hall. Much has been achieved since then; not least a thriving gym, and a Hall used for private parties, weddings, theatre productions, carpet bowls, archery, zumba, pilates, church services, toddlers' groups, lectures, cookery demonstrations and much, much more!

We have had a busy autumn, with all our normal events, as well as a superb quiz night, organised by Tony Harrison, an evening with Chatton's very own bestselling author, Caroline Roberts, a highly successful coffee morning on 25<sup>th</sup> November, a Young Farmers' Event, a 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party, and a Deanery Synod!

Many thanks to John Humphries for his excellent redecoration work, and to John and Wooler Scouts for successfully dismantling and removing the old Parish Hut. We would welcome suggestions as to how to use the site of the old Hut.

**Bowled Over** - Tony Harrison has introduced more people to the joys of carpet bowls and is now running an afternoon session on Wednesdays (1.30-3pm), as well as the normal Wednesday evening sessions. *Tony 01668 215 613*

### Forthcoming Events:

**Speaker Nights: (always 7pm).**

**Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup>:** Jeffry Smith and Richard Wallhead: The Black Madonna in Poland: a 100 mile trek.

**Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup>:** Mystery Guest!!

**Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Beer Tasting with Nick and Judith Grasse of The Hetton Brewery.

**Theatre: Northumberland Theatre Company.**

After a gap of over 4 years, NTC may be returning to CVH in the spring. Watch this space!

### Other regular Activities:

**Archery:** Tuesdays 7.00-9.00 pm. Contact Lowick Archery Club [lowickarchery@gmail.com](mailto:lowickarchery@gmail.com)

**Sing With Me:** Alternate Wednesdays 10-11 am. Contact Avril on 07772794872

**Bright Ideas and Suggestions.....** are always welcome! Contact Alistair Cochrane on 07801 981377 or any of the other Trustees. To keep up to date, do look at our website

[villagehall.chatton.biz](http://villagehall.chatton.biz) or check us out on

Facebook! *Alistair Cochrane*



## Tad's IT Spot

I've had several phone calls from Microsoft Support saying they've detected a problem on my machine. These must be genuine calls as they know your details and can quote the unique ID of the version of Windows you're running – Wrong! They only quote the details that are available from the phone book, and the unique ID that they get you to find is not unique to you but the ID number for Windows – everyone has the same number! The caller (usually from a call centre in India) will get you to look at the Event Viewer which will show an alarming number of red Errors and yellow Warnings – this is quite normal and part of the (usually unseen) start up for Windows, but they tell you it is proof of a real problem which they can fix. Once hooked they will either sell you a solution (just give them your credit card details – Ahhh!) and tell you to download a magic app – this app may do several things from giving them complete remote control of your machine and files, load malware, to locking you out to demand more money. There are a two billion copies of Windows currently running worldwide - Microsoft Support does not monitor each one and they certainly do not make personal phone calls to users – yes, they're very convincing but it's a scam so just hang up. *If there is an IT related subject you like addressed please drop a line to Chatton News. Regards Tad*

## Visit Chatton Village Store

Buy your stamps early here,  
Ready to send good cheer.  
Get cash and pensions when funds are low,  
Look no further than our local PO.

## Weather

*David and Meg Thompson of Chillingham Barns have been providing weather information for the area to the Met. Office for over fifty years. Get well soon David!*

September rainfall  
Total 1.92ins 48.8mm  
October  
Total 1.29ins 32.8mm  
Rainfall for last 10 mnths 21.8mm.

## On a lighter note.....

### Recipe



*This is a yummy recipe from 'The Cosy Christmas Chocolate Shop' by Caroline Roberts*  
**Emma's Boozy Truffles**  
Ingredients (makes approx 36)

125ml double cream  
250g of good quality (at least 70%) dark chocolate, finely chopped  
2 tablespoons whisky, Irish Cream, brandy or rum  
To decorate, 150g dark, milk, or white chocolate  
Method:  
Bring the cream just to the boil in a small pan.

Remove from heat, stir in the chocolate until melted and the mix is thick and smooth.

Stir in your chosen alcohol. Pour into a bowl and chill until firm (in a fridge for around 4 hrs)

Scoop out a spoonful of mixture, roll into a ball, place on a tray lined with greaseproof paper, repeat.

Melt the decorating chocolate gently in a bowl over hot water. Using a fork or cocktail stick, dip the truffle balls into the melted chocolate to coat. Transfer to greaseproof paper to set.

Store in fridge. Eat within a week. Enjoy!

## Seasonal Snippets



### Snow on The Cheviots

An old saying **suggests** that if snow falls on the Cheviots three times before Christmas, a mild Winter will follow. Certainly true for the last few years. (Photo by

Dean Smith)

**Handy Hints** *The first one is genuine, the last one is just for fun.*

- Keep your Christmas tree perky. Choose a cool place for it, such as a hallway, to avoid vacuuming needles too often. *Wilma Treemoult*
- When removing childrens' toys from the packaging, wire cutters and a blow torch come in handy. *Burglar Bill*

## Life After The Village Green.....



Just passing on that the abandoned wellies have been taken to a wellie rescue centre where they have settled in well making friends with other unwanted wellies, enjoying a kick about and resting in a comfy wellie bed. (Photos by Kath Nixon)

## Last word Letter from Santa

Dear Santa 'I am so sorry for what I did in the past. All I want for Christmas is 53 billion pounds. I will then buy my own presents just to save you the time' *James*



## With love from Rupert and Murdochxx

If you would like to include something in the next newsletter, please get in

touch with us by phone, letterbox or e mail, details below:-

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5 New Road              10 Mill Hill  
Phone: 215543              Phone: 215560

[chattonnews@gmail.com](mailto:chattonnews@gmail.com) (By 31<sup>st</sup> January)

**Thanks again to Richard and Caroline Roberts and Elm Bank Coastal Park in their generous support for Chatton News. It is much appreciated. Thanks also to everyone who helps deliver in the area.**