



Chatton News



A Newsletter for Chatton and surrounding area

August 2018

Since the last edition, the weather has proved interesting. From hurricane Hector to blazing sunshine, through an amazing light show, and back to heat. What next? Will it literally rain cats and dogs? We suggest you carry a sturdy brolly at all times!

We would like to thank Jeff for helping to distribute Chatton News in the shop, and to wish him a happy retirement. *Rupert and Murdoch*

Changes in Store For The Village Store



Jeff Smith has been, preparing to leave the shop after 17 years. Here he is on a cherry picker, painting the upstairs windows. He even had his sister Pam on it! He spoke to us about his time here in the shop and Post Office, since October 2001.

'It has been a privilege to have been self-employed in this beautiful village among customers who have become good friends.'

We asked about difficulties he may have encountered. He said 'One of the most difficult things has been seeing on-line shopping vans. More holiday homes should have meant more customers. Yet, holiday makers from all over the country seem to order on-line, some have even asked to store their shopping in the back shop!! Snowy days have also been difficult, but I pride myself on never having missed a day. The shop has often been the busiest then!'

When asked about taking over the Post Office, he replied. 'The Post Office training has been a challenge, but became easier as it went along, as most transactions tend to be repetitive, with customers often preferring early morning visits. The constant monthly updating has also been quite problematic.'

'There have been many positive changes to the village which have had an impact. The enlargement of the village has meant more trade from those who came. The success of The Percy Arms has been a great link, with their customers and staff using the shop. The lottery has also improved custom, as people have come from outside the village, and bought other goods too.'

Are you looking forward to your retirement we asked 'I am really looking forward to it, going fishing, a game of golf if the knee holds up, and spending more time with the grandchildren and

my family. This work has been very tying – long days, every day apart from Christmas Day. Organising days off has been a real problem, until my brother Kenneth came. He has really helped us in so many ways, and has been brilliant!. I would love to thank the villagers for all the support they have given to me over the past 17 years.'



Michael Strother, Chairman of the PC, presented Jeff with a bottle of malt and a voucher for the Percy Arms on behalf of the PC and the Parish to

thank him for his great efforts and service in keeping the post office and shop open to us all over the last 17 years. Ian Catchpole also presented Jeff with a card and collection from his grateful customers at the same time. After this took place, Jeff said 'I would like to thank everybody involved for the wonderful going away present which I was really touched by.'

I would also like to wish Shi Shi and Ally all the best for the future from August 5th

I, may, however, still see you in the PO for a short while. *Jeff*

Chatton Wedding



Four generations of a Chatton family attended the Wedding of Louise Wood and Cameron Smith in Holy Cross Church, followed by a reception at Newton Hall. Pictured are (from left to right,) Sylvia

Douglas, Great Grandmother of the Bride, Louise Smith, Bride, Jane Wood, Mother of the Bride, and Wilma Clark the Bride's Grandmother.

News from Chatton author Caroline

Roberts My writing adventures continue. I'm delighted that The Cosy Seaside Chocolate Shop - my sixth book - is now published. The novel is heartwarming contemporary fiction and continues the story of Emma and her chocolate shop.



It is set in a gorgeous Northumberland harbour village inspired by both Craster, Warkworth and our beautiful coastline here. It's about love, loss, family, friends, community, prosecco parties and

of course features chocolates galore as well as recipes.

I was thrilled to find out it is being sold at 2 major supermarkets across the UK and it is also available locally.

My books are also finding their way across the world in translation, with My Summer of Magic Moments arriving in Germany this summer and The Cosy Christmas Teashop reaching Italy in the autumn. There are two more books on the way too as I've just signed a further deal with HarperCollins. These will be set on a Cheviot farm and will feature an awful lot of puddings! Once again, thank you for all the support locally - it's very much appreciated. *Caroline*

Bull Carving Commissioned by Farmer



A bull carving commissioned by a local farmer has become quite a local attraction, with people making special trips just for a glimpse of the amazing sculpture.

Fred Murray, who farms at East Horton, commissioned the life sized carving from Chatton craftsman Tom Fiddes and based it on the first Charolais bull he bought, Cordeman Ebenezer, at the Royal Show in 1971. "This bull was a tremendous example of the breed – length, shape and quality," he said. The custom-made Charolais bull made from oak, celebrates his life in farming and his love for the breed of cattle. It has taken self employed Tom from February to complete. "This is the largest carving I have done so far. We sourced 4.5 tonnes of green wood for the project and it now weighs 1.5 ton, after carving and drying." Tom used a combination of chainsaws and axes, hatchets and chisels to carve the bull, which was worked on throughout the last few months on site at Fred's home. He hopes to continue working on livestock carvings to add to his range of wood and stone carvings at his workshop in the Northumberland countryside.

What's Been Happening?

Tillside Parish Council

Parish Councillor vacancies - if anyone is interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the PC Clerk or any member of the PC.

Bus Services - the PC have made representations to the operator following complaints about the turning/reversing of the bus at Chatton and about the aggressive driving of some of the buses on narrow country lanes in the Parish.

Chatton Bridge - Northern Area Highways have assured the PC that they are still looking to get the parapet rebuilt sometime in September which

will mean the road remains open for the main holiday season.

Parking and Traffic Flow in Chatton - the PC will be discussing the findings of the NCC Highways survey over the next few weeks in relation to speeding, parking, and traffic flow.

Broadband - the PC continue to press for more coverage across the Parish, and also reflected our strong disappointment at the failure to deliver what was promised last autumn. We have asked for a full update on the revised roll out plans by September.

Chatton Village Hall Quiz Night

The Quiz night with a difference.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the quiz night. It was a great night, and we raised £300 for the Great North Air Ambulance.

Stefan & David

Chatton Cricket Club would like to thank all of those who helped to make our village fun cricket day on the 8th July such a great success. It was good to see David Harrod and Lucy Munro captain their mixed teams with so many ladies and girls playing. All agreed that the games and BBQ format was something that should be repeated next summer. *Chatton Cricket Club*

Chatton Coffee Morning

Thank you everyone for coming along to the coffee morning on Saturday 23rd June at the Village Hall. A big thank you to all our helpers and for the kind donation of cakes, produce and plants. On this occasion we were selling bacon butties, thanks to donations of rolls from Jeff at the shop and bacon from Mary and Ian Catchpole from the Old manse. We were able to donate £150 to the Village Hall BBQ project. *Chatton Coffee Morning Team*

Forthcoming Events

Chatton Village Hall

Theatre Nights

Northumberland Theatre Company presents **Wednesday 19 September 2018 'HEARTSPUR'** A new play with music, The story of Harry Hotspur and the battle of Shrewsbury, set in gangland Newcastle in 1963, 'Henry IV Part 1' meets 'Get Carter' meets 'Six-Five Special': a jukebox tragedy! Using the very best of Shakespeare's words alongside modern dialogue and songs from the girl bands of the sixties, this play from North East writer Bob Shannon has a terrific plot, and plenty of humour and drama. *Suitable for everyone over 13 years of age.*

*Curtain up 7:30pm refreshments from 6:30pm. Ticket sales: £10 per ticket from Chatton Village Shop only on a first come first served basis. Tickets will be available approximately five weeks before the performance. **Saturday 22 December 2018 'The Little Girl Who Danced To Every Mood'** An adapted Scandinavian children's adventure by new writer Laura Jayne Ayres who has toured as an actor in several shows with the Northumberland Theatre Company. Through dance, song and physical theatre, we follow our heroine to find her true place in the world. Meeting grouchy farmers, a flock of flamenco dancing pigeons and finally a handsome prince - but is the life of a princess something our little maid truly wants? And will she still be allowed to dance? *Suitable for family audiences of all ages.**

Curtain up 6:00pm, refreshments from 5:00pm. Ticket sales: the price will be announced closer to the date. Sales from Chatton Village Shop only approximately five weeks before the performance.

Main Hall Floor and Stage Restoration

Regular visitors to Chatton Village Hall will not have failed to notice that the Main Hall floor is now looking somewhat tired and worn. The floor has not had any significant maintenance, other than weekly cleaning, since its closure as the Village School in 2008. At a recent Village Hall Trustees Meeting and as a result of receiving three very competitive and comparable quotes, the Trustees agreed to proceed with the restoration of the Main Hall floor and stage. The cost of just under £1500 is to be met largely by a grant of £500 from Northumberland County Council and profits from the up and coming Theatre Nights. Of course any additional contributions or fund raising events to help reduce the impact on the Village Hall fund would also be gratefully accepted via the Chatton Village Hall website. The selected contractor, Northumberland Floor Sanding will be undertaking the work in the week commencing 24th September 2018. The work will take one week in total. One day for the Trustees to clear the hall, three days for the contractor to sand and finish the floor with a further three days to allow the floor to fully set and dry. This will inevitably mean a slight disruption to the regular weekly users and anyone hoping to book the Main Hall for this period. The three principle user groups (Archery, Yoga and Bowls) have already been

consulted. The Gym and smaller meeting room will still be available for use. The end result will be a floor and stage that is more befitting a Village Hall that is being used as regularly as ours and will of course help preserve the floor for the future.

Regular Activities:

Archery: Tuesdays 7.00-9.00 pm. Contact Lowick Archery Club lowickarchery@gmail.com

Yoga: Tuesdays 1-2.30 pm. £8 per session. Contact Gill Rollings on 01668 215 613

Carpet Bowls: Wednesdays 7-8.30pm. Contact Tony Harrison on 01668 215 613

Bright Ideas and Suggestions..... are always appreciated! To keep up to date, do look at our website villagehall.chatton.biz or follow us on Facebook!

Anyone interested in Pilates?

There is a possibility of starting a Pilates class in Chatton Village Hall on a Thursday afternoon. If you would be interested please contact Susan Harrod on 01668 215635.

Next Quiz Night

The next Quiz night hosted by 'A trio of tarts!' will be held on Thursday September 6th at 7.30pm. Please bring your own refreshments and come along and join the fun! *Sheila, Dorothy and Isabel*

Chatton Angling Association Competition

Following the success of our Jim Nesbit Trophy fishing competitions in 2016 and 2017, we will hold another competition this year on Saturday 18th August, having been postponed from July due to poor water levels. All local and associate members are welcome. Meet at the Percy Arms, Chatton 10am, fish to 4pm, and then enjoy a buffet in the Percy afterwards. *More details from Richard Tebay on 01668215560.*

Chillingham and Chatton Churches Harvest Festival Services

Sunday 7th October at 9.30am St Peter's Chillingham.

Sunday 21st October at 9.30am Holy Cross Chatton.

Harvest Supper with Fund Raising Auction to be held on Saturday October 27th 2018, 7pm, Chatton Village Hall, Tickets £20 to include a three course meal. Any help will be gratefully received, as well as any offers of auction lots. More details and tickets from Jane on 01668 215556

Chatton Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be held on Saturday 22nd September at the Village Hall 10.30-12.00, £1.50 entrance which

includes refreshments. There will also be a cakes sales table. Any donations of baking would be very welcome. Hope you can come along. Proceeds will go towards the Village Hall BBQ project. Thank you.

Chatton Coffee Morning Team

'Tea for Angela' Sunday 19th August

This will be the fifth and final fete. We have raised over £8000 and would love to make it £10000 in Angela's memory. All donations of raffle and tombola prizes are very welcome plus donations of baking and plants on the day. Thank you and hope to see you there.

Joyce & Joan 01668215156

Further Features

Seasonal Snippets



'Heron on our Village Green. Watch out, there are few fish in the river. Is it looking for new prey!' *'Photo by Wima Clark.'*

'Pretty ducks all in a row' taken locally by *Jim Burt*



Weather

David and Meg Thompson of Chillingham Barns years have been recording for 66years.

June 2018 rainfall 27.6 ml/1.3 ins.

July 28..5 ml/1.12 ins

Actual for last seven months 12.15ins

June and July were extremely dry months.

Further Features

Tad's Spot

Open Source & Freeware

Would you like to edit your photos but are put off using proprietary apps like Photoshop because of the high cost (currently >£200)? Then, why not look at using Open Source Software? OSS is usually developed by groups of enthusiast Geeks not associated with big corporations like Microsoft, Adobe or Google, which means it's usually free to download and use by non-commercial users, plus you're not tied into expensive software at the whim of the big boys. Here are some free applications that I regularly use:-:

Firefox (Web browser equivalent Internet Explorer / Chrome /etc.)

GIMP2 (Image Editor equivalent Photoshop)

Thunderbird (Email client equivalent MS Outlook)

GNUCash (Accounting equivalent Sage)

OpenOffice (Office Applications equivalent MS Office / Word / Excel, etc.)

CutePDF (PDF Editor equivalent Adobe Acrobat)

But, is it secure as anyone can have an input into its development? It's as secure, if not more so, with the advantage that any problems are usually spotted quicker and solutions deployed. Many important commercial systems run on commercial

versions of Linux for its flexibility and separation from the likes of Microsoft & Google. Still not convinced? Look at your phone. Android is OSS and has the largest market share, worldwide, of any operating system (not just smart phones). One caveat: not all freeware is free of cost – be conscious of applications advertised as 'Free Download'. These are free to download but there may be a fee to pay to pay after installation following a trial period. Not always a deal breaker as they are usually still cheaper than proprietary equivalents. *If there is an IT related subject you like addressed please drop a line to Chatton News. Regards Tad O~*



Recipe

Watercress and smoked trout quiche

350g puff pastry

Knob of butter, extra for greasing

Large handful watercress

150ml double cream

150ml creme fraiche

4 eggs, beaten

200g hot smoked trout

Roll out pastry. Grease a 24cm flan tin and line with pastry, cutting away any excess.

Cover with greaseproof paper and fill with baking beans. Bake at 180 ° C , mark 4 for 15mins. Remove the paper and beans and bake for 10 min.

Melt the butter in a pan and sweat the watercress until wilted, about 1 minute. Beat the cream, creme fraiche and eggs. Season. Stir in the watercress and trout. Pour into the pastry case. Bake for 30 -40 minutes or until golden. Serve. *Sheila Bull*

Handy Hints

The first one is real, the next one is just for fun.

- Use full loads in washing machines and dish washers. The former saves 8.3 litres per household per day, the latter 3.8 litres. *Northumbrian Water*
- Instead of bathing, shower with a friend. Great fun (apparently!) *Joy Tubehad. (Supposedly!)*

Last word (Continuing the theme of water!)

Vodka and water harm the kidneys.

Rum and water harms the liver.

Whisky and water harms the heart.

Gin and water harms the brain.

Why is water so harmful?

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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(By Thursday 27 September please)

Thanks again to Richard and Caroline Roberts and Elm Bank Coastal Park in their generous support for Chatton News. Also, thank you to John Scott, Ian Nixon and Andy Pigg who deliver the newsletter in Chatton and Chillingham. If you know someone who would like to receive Chatton News by email please ask them to contact us.