



# Chatton News



A Newsletter for Chatton and surrounding area

April/May 2019

Spring is here, bringing sunshine, showers, and many chores with it!

We are wondering if there is still a place for Chatton News, as much of the information we give you is now available elsewhere, e.g. Facebook, Village Hall website, and on posters/fliers advertising events. We really do need your feedback on this to help us decide the way forward, as this is done on a voluntary basis. No response will indicate to us that there is no longer a requirement for the service, which we would completely understand. If the need is there we shall continue.

*(Photo above taken in Wilma Clark's garden) Rupert and Murdoch.*

## The Village Hall Down Through the Years



A specification of works proposed a Public Hall was to be erected at Chatton, for his Grace, The Duke of Northumberland, dated October 28<sup>th</sup> 1903. The contractors were Messrs Robert Muckle and sons (Wilma Clark and Michael Douglas are among their direct descendants who still live in the village today.) The stone hall was to be attached to the school. The builders were instructed to complete the building fit for occupation, and to create a passageway, breaking through into the school lobby. The Muckles were highly acclaimed local builders who had previously constructed the Presbyterian Church (now Art Gallery) and the Manse. They duly completed the Public Hall which became a location for countless dances, clubs, and other social events. In June 1919, a day of peace celebrations was held, with tea in the Hall and a dance at night.

During the second world war, The Ministry of War brought travelling cinema shows to the Village Hall. Preceding Health and Safety regulations, these were so popular that all 100 seats were always taken with many more spectators standing. My mother used to say that during this period weekly dances were held, sometimes,

someone would play the piano. As the pianist knew only one song, he played it slower for a waltz, and faster for a quickstep, which must have been quite interesting!

In 1959, the Hall was incorporated into the school, and was available for hire by villagers and village organisations. The Women's Institute, who held a fabulous sell out party every year, the Bowling Club, and Over 60s Club, fairs, fetes,



Church, and school events, including Christmas plays, were among the many functions held there. Dances were a regular feature down through the

years. I especially remember attending New Years' dances in the 60s, followed by first footing to some of the houses in the village.

*(Photo of past hall event. Best kept Village trophy ceremony on the hall stage, one of many through the years.)*

Sadly, the school closed in 2008.

The Committee and Trustees took over the building as a community resource in 2010. The hall logo represents 5000 years old Neolithic cup and rings markings that can be found on nearby Chatton Park Moor. A well-equipped gym and function rooms ensure the Hall remains as popular today as ever.

Opening celebrations are planned for a newly refurbished meeting room. (See forthcoming events.) A fundraising initiative is also underway to eventually provide children's play, and barbecue facilities. *Written by Rupert with references from 'Chatton a Portrait' by Joy Palmer-Cooper*

## Matty



My name is Matty. I'm 28 and I live in the field in the middle of Chatton with my friends the 2 sheep. I'm a sociable chap and love to fuss over the fence, and I **DO** like a treat.

However, my owner Helen says there are some things I can and cannot eat! I can

have apples, carrots, turnips all cut in small

pieces and I can have the odd sugar cube and digestive or ginger biscuits all of which I love and am really grateful for.

But things I **CAN'T** have are grass cuttings or any other garden waste, best you keep them for the compost heap. Please pass this information to all your friends and visitors to the village as I really do not want an upset tummy. Thank you for taking time to read this and if you are passing give me a call and I will pop over to see you.

*Matty*

## Electoral Roll

Application forms for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish of Chatton with Chillingham are available from the Village Shop Chatton, The Church of the Holy Cross Chatton, or St Peter's Church Chillingham. Completed forms may be returned to the same venues. Thank you. *Sheila Dodds Electoral Roll Officer.*

## What's Been Happening?

### Murder, Mystery Evening - Chatton 1943

Dark deeds were afoot in the village on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Two Italian POWs, working at Mill Hill Farm, escaped and a Land Army girl was killed in the process. Worse still, someone from Chatton Village was suspected of being an accomplice, but who could that have been? Not so dark was the fact that this was only the story (based on some historical facts) behind another Murder



Mystery evening at the Village Hall.

Many people dressed in period costume and prizes for the best dressed went to Julie & Colin Lee who each won a tin of peaches, a coveted gift in 1942. Other games, quizzes and lectures had wartime themed prizes and the whole evening was based

around a 1940's inspired six course meal. The meal, cooked by the WVS, was served by locals (in 1942 character) who had a background to tell if the right questions were asked of them. One of them was assisting the enemy, but who would do such a thing and why? All was revealed at the end with a sad story of a family broken by war – but all in fun, and what fun was had by all. A 1940s bar was available (alcohol was not on ration then) and the whole evening made a profit for the Village Hall restoration of £820.

Grateful thanks are expressed to the army of helpers who made the event such a success and to Chatton Village Stores for selling ration book style tickets that sold out very quickly – don't

delay in purchasing tickets for the next one, on sale in 2021.

## Chatton Coffee Morning

Another successful Coffee Morning was held on the 23rd February. Not only did we have the usual coffee and cake, we also had delicious sausage butties, made by Gill. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated cakes, produce and plants and also those who helped out on the day, we very much appreciate your support. A £200 donation was made to the Village Hall restoration fund.

*The Coffee Morning Team*

## Quiz Night

Dorothy Scott, Susan Harrod and Atay Dervish would like to thank everyone who took part in the last Chatton Village Hall Quiz on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Congratulations to the winning team, "We're Useless", who kindly donated their winnings back to the Village Hall. A fun evening was had by all and we raised £93 profit which will go towards much needed supplies/equipment for the Village Hall kitchen, which we can all benefit from. Thanks again and here's to the next quiz evening! Tony Harrison kindly offered to host the next one, date to be confirmed. Watch out for posters advertising this future event.

## The Percy Arms, Chatton



I am very pleased to be the new Manager of The Percy Arms and excited about what the future holds. We have our new Early Bird menu running Monday-Saturday 12-3pm 5-7pm, two courses £15

and three courses £18.

Here is a photo of Trevor helping in the community sweeping the bus shelter, which is now in use again. He is now the new manager of The Northumberland Arms at Felton but will still be popping in to The Percy now and again to see everyone. *Becca*



## Things People Tell Us

Northumberland County Council have been inundated with complaints about the colour of the stones used to repair the bridge. To address the problem this, unfortunately means that the bridge will close again in **early April**, for at least **four weeks**, while the necessary repairs are carried out! *A.F. Fibbs.*

## Forthcoming Events



## Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 from 10.30am – 12.00pm in Chatton Village Hall. £2 entrance fee inclusive of refreshments. All donations of cakes/produce very welcome. Proceeds will go the Village Hall Fund. Please come along if you can.

*The Coffee Morning Team*

## Tillside Parish Council Chatton Village Spring Clean Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2-3pm

Please come along and help if you can! We are meeting at the Village Green at 2pm. Bags, gloves and grabbers will be provided. All welcome. For further information please contact Tillside Parish Council

[clerk@tillside.uk](mailto:clerk@tillside.uk)

## Grand Opening - Chatton Village Hall Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 6pm Onwards

Come and join us and celebrate the opening of the new meeting room at our Village Hall. The evening is also to recognise the time and effort made by the local community on this extensive refurbishment. There will be a free glass of fizz for everyone, a pay bar serving alcohol, bar snacks/nibbles available and music.

We hope you can join us for a fun evening, view the new room and see what our Village Hall has to offer. Everyone and all ages welcome.

*Village Hall Committee*

## Your Health Matters

Wooler Doctors' Patient Participation Groups are holding a Health Awareness Day "YOUR HEALTH MATTERS" on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April in the Glendale Hall Wooler from 12 until 6pm. To be opened by Liz Morgan Director of Public Health, various health organisations will be present. Light refreshments will be available. Come along and find out what is available in our area to help you improve and maintain good health. *Pauline Withey*

## Chatton Angling Association AGM

Tickets are available now at concessionary rates for local anglers. For further information, contact Dorothy Douglas on 01668 215 [REDACTED]

## Chatton Village Hall Update: Speaker Events

### Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> Carl Fabergé

The man and his eggs. An illustrated talk by our local Russian Olga Douglas, who is also an expert on the Fabergé phenomenon.

### Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>

**John Caine, The Great North Run.** John, who ran for Great Britain in the 70s, sat round a table with his Gateshead Harriers pal and Olympic medallist Brendan Foster in 1981, and the rest is history. The event - the largest half marathon in the world, has been going for 30 years and started the UK fun run movement. Sporting anecdotes from the horse's mouth!

**Both evenings start at 7.30pm. £3 entrance fee which includes tea/coffee/biscuits.**

## Regular Activities:

**Yoga: Tuesdays 1-2.30 pm.** £8 per session

Contact Gill Rollings on 01668 215 [REDACTED]

**Carpet Bowls: Wednesdays 7-8.30pm**

Contact Tony Harrison on 01668 215 [REDACTED]

To keep up to date, do look at our website [villagehall.chatton.uk](http://villagehall.chatton.uk) or follow us on Facebook!  
*Jim Ralton*

## Theatre Nights 2019 Chatton Village Hall Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September - 'The Stars Look Down'

Curtain up 7:30pm, refreshments from 6:30pm.

More details will be published later in the year along with ticket prices. Tickets available from Chatton Village Store five weeks before each performance. *Andy Pigg*

## Chillingham and Chatton Churches

Reverend Marion Penfold is organising a Bank Holiday Brunch on **Saturday 4th May 2019** from 11am in Chatton Village Hall in aid of both Chatton Church and the Village Hall. There will be a raffle, home-made soup, bacon butties, pastries and home baking. Any donations of cakes etc would be gratefully accepted.

## Easter Services- Holy Week

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 6pm. Compline at Holy Cross Church Chatton.

Good Friday 10am Holy Cross. Hour by the cross.

## Easter day:

9.30am Holy Cross Chatton

## Music Evening – Date for your Diary!

Following on from last year's fantastic sell out event, a further evening is planned. **Marty**

**Craggs Little Band Jam will appear in Chatton Village Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 7.30pm for 8pm.**

Watch out for more information on tickets as they went very fast last time round. All profits to North Northumberland Hospice Care. *Joyce Fairbairn*

## Other Features

## Weather

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

daughter Anne now provides us with the rainfall figures.

January 2019 17.27mm/0.68ins

February 2019 27.94mm/1.1ins

March 2019

Gives a whole different meaning to dry January!!

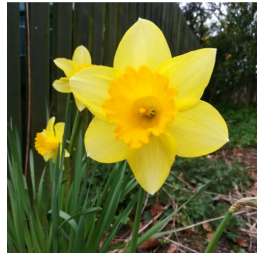
Year's rainfall

Chillingham Barns was the coldest place in England on February 3<sup>rd</sup> -11.6 at 4am

## Further Features

### Seasonal Snippets

Spring flowers have arrived in our gardens. We are sure you will have them too.



### Recipe Energy bars



175g/6oz unsalted butter

175g/6fl oz set honey

225g demerara sugar (can be omitted in favour of more honey)

350g/12oz rolled oats

1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon

115g/4oz walnut pieces, chopped roughly

150g/5oz raisins

150g/5oz ready to eat dried apricots, chopped roughly

50g/2oz pumpkin seeds

50g/2oz sunflower seeds

50g/2oz sesame seeds

50g/2oz desiccated coconut

Melt the butter, honey and sugar in a large saucepan over a gentle heat. Cook for 5mins, stirring continuously. Bring to the boil and cook for 2mins until it resembles a smooth, thick sauce.

Combine all remaining ingredients together, mixing well. Stir them into the saucepan and mix thoroughly.

Divide the mixture between two greased and base-lined 30X19cm/12X 7½inch tins

Bake at 190°C/ fan oven 170°C for 25-35 mins until golden in colour, and firm to the touch.

When cooked, remove from the oven, loosen the edges with a knife and leave for 10mins.

Mark and cut into bars. Place these onto a wire rack to cool completely.

When cold, wrap each bar individually in greaseproof paper to store. Catherine Lister

### Handy Hints

*The first one is real, the second one is just for fun*

- Add shine to your bathroom fittings. Simply dab some vodka on a soft cloth and buff up porcelain fixtures.
- Possibly, you may prefer to use the vodka for other more palatable purposes.

### Last Word

**Q.** Where do polar bears vote to leave the Arctic Circle?

**A.** The North Poll.

**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:-**

Dorothy Douglas

Isabel Tebay

Phone: 215 [redacted]

Phone: 215 [redacted]

[chattonnews@gmail.com](mailto:chattonnews@gmail.com)

**(By 8<sup>th</sup> June please)**

**Thanks again to Richard and Caroline Roberts and Elm Bank Coastal Park in their generous support for Chatton News. Also, to Chatton Village Store for distributing copies, and to John Scott for delivering copies to Chillingham. If you know someone who would like to receive Chatton News by email please ask them to contact us.**