



Chatton News



A Newsletter for Chatton and surrounding area

October/ November 2019

Harvests in field, garden and hedgerow are being gathered in once more as Summer makes way for Autumn. The nights are drawing in. Staff and children have gone back to school. Next stop Halloween, Bonfire Night, and dare we say it quietly - Christmas! *Rupert and Murdoch*

Photo of apples and pears, Lime Tree Cottage, New Road.

Chillingham Castle ghosts



Chillingham castle is an impressive and majestic 1344c. stronghold that adorns the Northumberland

countryside. Though it is surrounded by soft, serene green hills and stunning gardens the fortress itself holds many dark secrets that have spilled out all over its grounds. Many believe that it is in fact the most haunted castle in England.

In a booklet, forwarded by the owner Sir Humphry Wakefield, and written by Leonora Tankerville in 1925, many of the ghosts are written about. There are also many internet items featuring the ghosts. Here are just some of them.

John Sage This cruel and sadistic torturer, has often been seen wandering around the castle. He used to take great pleasure in his grisly work, even devising new and 'improved' methods of inflicting pain on his victims. At the end of the war with the Scots, wanting to rid the castle of the prisoners, he rounded up the Scottish adults and older children being held and burnt them to death in the courtyard. He then took an axe, which can still be seen, and hacked to death the smaller children in the Edward room. The chandelier in that room sometimes swings by itself and people report a foul smell and strange atmosphere.

Radiant Boy or Blue Boy is the most famous of the Chillingham Castle ghosts. The sound of a young child in absolute terror would be heard at the stroke of midnight in the Pink Bedroom coming from a point where a passage had been cut through the 10-foot-thick walls. Cries of a child in agony and fear were heard. The sound would suddenly cease and the wraith of a young boy, dressed in blue and surrounded by a bright aura would approach the old four-poster bed. In the 1920's, building work was being carried out and the bones of a child, with all of the fingers broken, were discovered along with scraps of a blue dress. These were interred in the local graveyard and the Radiant Boy ceased making his appearances.

However, people who sleep in the bed in the Pink Room, report that one wall of the room still lights

up with bright flashes of blue light, and some staff and visitors still report sightings of blue orbs of light.

The Haunted Chapel Within this room two skeletons were located underneath the ground in a vault. Another skeleton believed to be unrelated to the first two was also located underneath the ground a short distance away. This one was the skeleton of a young girl, many believe to have been hiding, but from who or why remains unknown. Her ghost is said to haunt the chapel, usually communicating with female visitors, playing with their hair.

The Pantry Ghost This ghost appears in the White Pantry, dressed in white, looking very pale and sickly. Allegedly one night, a guard who had locked himself inside of this room, protecting the silver stored there, was confronted by this woman who was begging him for water. He acted on instinct, turning to help this woman with her request before remembering he was locked inside the room alone. He turned back around to look at the woman who had since disappeared. It is rumoured that this woman was actually poisoned, dying within the castle but still continuing to look for help and water to this day.

Lady Grey is said to walk the corridors. The rustle of her skirt is heard as she passes by leaving a chilling air in her wake as she searches for her errant husband. The grounds, also, reportedly hold gruesome secrets, but far too many to mention here.

Pam Bailes, a former Administrator's wife, lived in an apartment in the castle and also ran the tea rooms. She recalls doing the books on a velvet covered table in the apartment, when the cashbox, full of money next to her suddenly moved along the table, hung in the air, then crashed to the floor. She remembers being alone with the children and hearing the humming of Greensleeves or similar coming from the courtyard. She said, 'I never felt frightened, it was as though they were just letting us know they were there' Others will have many tales too.

Sir Humphry was told by a gypsy in New York that he lived in a haunted home, but the spirits wished him well. 'When I fell off a high ladder, I crashed only on to a pile of softness in the rubble. The only time a chunk of masonry fell on my head, was the only time I have worn my builder's hard hat' He writes in *'The Ghosts, Chillingham Castle 1925* where much of this information comes from. *Rupert*

What's Been Happening?

Cycles

Tour of Britain



The Tour of Britain returned to the area on Monday 9th September. Ian Catchpole expertly photographed the riders as they rode at speed over Fowberry bridge as they raced towards Belford.

Motorcycles

Vinduro



Perfect weather prevailed as the annual Vinduro returned to Fowberry Moor for the tenth year. This successful event attracted 83 national entries, and once again added to the economy of the area. *Gavin Douglas (Photo by Gillian Douglas)*

Toasting the Best of British Bed and Breakfasts

The Percy Arms has been shortlisted for the Hidden Gem – North East Award at Britain's premier annual awards for the industry. The eviivo Awards, now in their sixth year, recognise the best of Britain's world-class and world-famous independent accommodation from bed & breakfasts and guest houses to vacation rentals and inns. Recently announced, the eviivo Awards shortlist has seen The Percy Arms, run by Richard Pattinson, reach the final stages of the nomination process. Over the coming weeks, their application will be judged by a panel of industry experts before the winners are announced on 15th October at the Grand Connaught Rooms in Covent Garden, London. Richard Pattinson commented "At the Percy Arms we work so hard to give our guests a fantastic and unique experience. We are absolutely delighted to have that recognised through this shortlisting for the Hidden Gem – North East Award and hope we are successful on the night."

Quiz Evening 19th September

Thank you to everyone who came along to take part in the quiz. We were able to donate £75 to Chatton Village Hall from monies received on the night. *Ian Catchpole & Richard Tebay*

Chatton Village Summer Party



The party was a great success down to people supporting the event. The weather

was initially against us, but in the end the clouds dispersed, and the games began. It was a lovely day and fantastic to see everyone really getting into it. Both adults and children were really enjoying themselves and the races were competitive! We had a delicious BBQ and buffet with all going smoothly just in time for the late afternoon rain. This didn't stop the party carrying on inside our wonderful Village Hall. I am so proud that people took part and I think this picture says it all. Everyone just having a great time
Atay Dervish

Tillside Parish Council

In addition to the existing Chatton Percy Arms site, we have now agreed to support and fund **Defibrillators** in Hetton Steads and East Lilburn farm.

We have submitted our top three road **Transport Priorities** for the coming year to NCC – speeding signage through Chillingham village (in addition to surface repairs!); general signage throughout the Parish (councillors reporting all broken/missing signs); speed warning signs to the east of Chatton.

As a start to our local **Recycling** initiative, NCC have agreed to place two large bins for glass in the lay-by on the Chillingham road just south of the bridge - depending on use/demand, we hope to further develop local recycling.

Planning permission has now been granted for the **BBQ** area at Chatton Village Hall, with funding in place work will now go ahead.

Superfast **Broadband in Northumberland** – the BT contract to roll out superfast broadband in Northumberland is due to end in December 2019. However, if your premises has not been included there is funding available via the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme

<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/> A business can use vouchers of up to £3500 and a resident up to £1500 to support the cost of installing a gigabit capable connection to your property. For further information please contact Sylvia Pringle, Business and Community Engagement Officer from iNorthumberland (NCC) email: sylvia.pringle@northumberland.gov.uk Please see our web site or contact your local councillor.

Theatre Night in Chatton Village Hall

On Thursday 26th September the Northumberland Theatre Company delivered an outstanding performance of *The Stars Look Down* in Chatton Village Hall. The evening was very well supported by an audience of seventy and generated over £300 towards the Village Hall trust. Many thanks to all who came along and helped to make the evening such a great event. *Andy Pigg*

Harvest Supper 28th September

Thank you to everyone who attended, and all the wonderful helpers who worked so hard to make the Chatton & Chillingham Harvest Supper and Auction such a good night. We don't have the final total yet but it looks as though, before costs, well over £3000 was raised. *Jo Lucas*

Forthcoming Events

Chatton and Chillingham Harvest Festival

This year the Harvest Festival Service will be held on **Sunday 13th October 2019 at 6pm in Holy Cross Church, Chatton**. All are welcome. We are appealing for donations of fresh, dry, tinned and long-life goods which can either be left in the church before the 13th or brought to the service itself. Thank you. *Jo Lucas*

Date for next Quiz Night

The next Quiz will be held in Chatton Village Hall on Thursday 17th October. Watch out for further information about the evening.

Sing-A-Long a Sound of Music

Saturday 2nd November at Chatton Village Hall. Doors open 4pm, with the film starting at 5pm. Tickets can be purchased from Chatton Village Store, £6 per adult and £2 per child. Only 60 seats available. Price includes entry and buffet. Bring your own drink/soft drink. So, come along and join the fun and feel free to dress as your favourite character!

Coffee Morning Saturday 19th October

The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 19th October at Chatton Village Hall from 10.30 – 12.00pm. £2 entrance, which includes refreshments. Bacon butties will again be on offer at an additional cost. Proceeds raised will go to Help for Heroes charity. Donations of cake and produce would be very much appreciated. *Chatton Coffee Morning Team*

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Service will be held in Holy Cross Church, Chatton at 10am on Sunday 10th November and will continue at the War Memorial at 11am. Everyone is welcome to attend. *Jo Lucas*

Come to my Open Studio, Saturday 9th November, The Old School, Hazelrigg

If you are interested in making things out of clay please come along to my open day on Saturday 9th November from 10.30-12.30 and 2.30-5pm. I am not a teacher but would like to offer the space, materials, opportunity, guidance and hopefully inspiration for you to join me at the studio to create your own pieces. Once I know how many people would be interested, we can discuss mutually agreeable times for us to get together. I do hope you can come along to the Open Day but if you can't and are interested in trying this, please give me a call on 01668 215741.

(On the open day please park inside our gates in the drive. Thank you.) Maggie Pinsent

Chatton Village Hall Theatre Night Saturday 21st December "The Snow Queen"

A new version by Gill and Rick Jukes who have for the last 30 years been writing scripts and songs for Theatre, BBC Radio and BBC and ITV Television.

When Kai is really rude to the Snow Queen (someone you really don't want to mess with) not only does she produce the biggest snow and ice storm that the village has ever seen, she snatches Kai away from his best friend Gerda to take him to her ice palace and teach him a proper lesson. Gerda is distraught and against everyone's advice sets out to rescue Kai. Will Gerda manage to reach the Ice Palace? And if she finds it, will she be strong enough to battle against the power of the Snow Queen and save Kai's life? Songs, laughs, dancing and bravery all await! Tickets will go on sale in Chatton Village Shop about four weeks before the performance. Hope to see you there. *Andy Pigg*

Carpet Bowls

Wednesdays 7- 8.30pm. *Contact Tony 01668 215613*

Yoga

Tuesdays 1– 2.30pm. *Contact Gill 01688215613*

New Year's Eve Party Chatton Village Hall

Tickets will be available in November for the New Year's Eve Party at the Village Hall. Please join us for another fun filled evening and disco. Look out for further details.

Chatton Village

Flavoured Alcohol Competition 2020 Sunday 2nd February 2020

Here is the news you have been waiting for!!! With autumn approaching and the nights becoming darker, what better way to spend that extra time you have than foraging for your favourite fruits (or vegetables) and producing some lovely flavoured drinks. This year we will see some changes, mainly having a number of

different categories of flavours (which will be agreed on the day depending on the number of entries) with an overall winner and runner up chosen from each category winner. Why not let your flavours surprise the judges as all types of alcohol flavours are acceptable. With fruits in abundance and full flourish at the moment NOW..... is the time to start developing your favourite tippie.

Get picking, blending and developing those great tasting drinks. More information in next Chatton News and **Look out for the Official competition flyer. (We do ask all participants to drink responsibly throughout the making and testing period.)** Stefan Barker

Further 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.

August 4.7ins/119.38 September 1.69ins/42.9mm

Tad's IT Spot - What 3 Words

There are so many apps out there, but here's one that's really useful and has literally Saved Lives! What3words is an App for sharing your (or someone else's) location anywhere in the world. The entire planet has been divided into 3 metre squares, and each square has been assigned a unique three word address, e.g. the defibrillator in the village is located at [///bolt.smiles.overjoyed](#). Three-word addresses are easy to say and share and are as accurate as GPS coordinates. The app on your phone will pinpoint your current position and give you the 3 word address for you to verbally share with someone on the phone or, better still, send a link through the internet – that person can then look you up on a map or even get directions to your location. Why is this useful? If, say, you were meeting someone at a large stadium or a venue like the County Showground, it may be difficult describing exactly where to meet. Send them the 3word address and they can find you to within 9 feet. More importantly, most of the Emergency Services are on board with this so, if (say) someone were injured on the moor, a 3 word address would pinpoint your location to within 3 metres – that address can be shared with fire, police, ambulance and even GNAAS helicopter to get help directly to you – whilst on a fishing trip I proved it even works off shore in the middle of the sea. Many houses & farms around here do not have street numbers, just a name – try to put that in a sat nav! Download the what3words app to your phone NOW just in case you may need it. Go to the web site at [what3words.com](#) and see how it works.

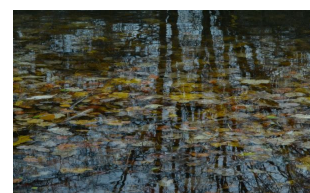
Competition: Where in Chatton would you be at

[///swung.clocking.certified?](#) Send your answer and your 3word home location to Chatton News for a prize.

Recycling

My wife and I note that the PC intends to contact the NCC with a view to citing a recycling facility in Chatton. We are very supportive of this proposal, as if a skip was cited in Chatton for the disposal of garden waste, this would obviate the need for a journey to Alnwick Re-cycling Centre, or when open, the Wooler one. Our property located at Bewick Folly generates a prodigious amount of grass cuttings, and to be able to dispose of same more locally would certainly appeal. We wish the PC success in its' approaches to the NCC. *Mr. & Mrs Derek McLoughlin*

Seasonal Snippets



Rowan berries by Murdoch and Autumn leaves on water by Sally Barker

Handy Hints

The first one is true, the second is just for fun!

- To loosen a metal lid from a jar, **tap** it on the ground twice. *Pat Glass*
- If you **bang** it on the ground, it **will** open, but the contents may be yours more quickly than intended! *Will B. Messi*

Last Word

Q. Why do witches wear name tags at Halloween?

A. So they can tell which witch is which.

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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Thanks again to Richard and Caroline Roberts and Elm Bank Coastal Park in their generous support for Chatton News. Thank you to all who deliver copies, Ian Nixon and Andy Pigg in Chatton and to John Scott, and Kingston Macauley for delivering copies to Chillingham, and Hepburn District, respectively. Also, to the Village Store for distribution.