



# Chatton News



The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 48 1<sup>st</sup> April / May 2020

## Birds of Prey and Friends

Many thanks to Andy Howey from the Birds and Reptile Centre at Haggerston Castle and Juanita for providing an exciting and interesting exhibition of birds of prey, snakes and spiders in the Village Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Children loved Saffi, the Barn Owl, who is three years old. Saffi



**Two Wise Owls Together**

Vivienne Westwood and Versace.

Creepy and crawly, scaly and slithery creatures were also available to be held, stroked and admired!! When Jake the Royal Python, and Jessica

the corn snake came out, some of the adult audience became a bit hesitant. Not so the youngsters who were keen to hold a live snake.

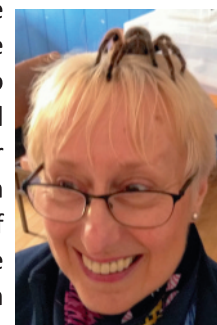
Finally, Fish the

fierce, Andy says he is calm and patient. He is also famous, as he has been used to advertise clothes for glamorous fashion designers such as Gucci,



Bearded Dragon Lizard and Bob the Tarantula were introduced to an excited audience. Juanita explained that spiders have a very fragile exo-skeleton so,

instead of holding Bob with risk of dropping him, he prefers to ride on your head. The youngsters were vying to be first to have a tarantula the size of your hand crawling on their head. Some of the ladies now have a different view on wearing fascinators.



Many thanks to Sally Douglas for organising this fascinating and enjoyable event, which raised £136 for Village Hall funds.

*Christine Lawson*



doesn't like flying but instead prefers to sit on people's arms and be stroked. Her feathers were soft and fluffy, just like velvet.

Rollo, the magnificent European Eagle Owl, was very handsome & distinguished. Although he looks



## What Else Has Been Happening

### Quiz Night

The latest quiz at Chatton Village Hall on 28th February was a great success with 8 teams taking part. Adrian Pardey came up with some varied and challenging questions on the theme of food and drink - popular with participants! All proceeds were donated to Village Hall funds. The next quiz will be on April 23rd and will be set by some of the younger members of the community so the oldies may have their work cut out especially if there are some music questions....

*Gill Rollings*

### Village Litter Pick

It was a lovely sunny, but windy, spring Sunday afternoon on 15th March when nine volunteers, armed with refuse bags and litter pickers scoured paths and hedgerows of the village on the annual litter pick. It is very pleasing to

report that nowhere near as much rubbish was collected as in previous years, which is a good sign and long may it continue.

Thanks to Tillside PC and Andy Pigg for organising.

*Ian Catchpole*

### COVID

The Chatton Operational Volunteer Isolation Delivery (COVID) service is a community based initiative set up to help anyone within Chatton Village or surrounding area who are self-isolating and can not get out to do basic shopping for essential items like fresh milk and bread, or repeat prescription collection.

A similar scheme is also being operated by Ian Fiddes in The Hettons. The response to these schemes is both phenomenal and reassuring currently with over 30 volunteers offering to help.

## Road Safety Measures

Northumberland C.C. (Highways), have announced that they are to introduce a road safety initiative in our area, work commencing later in the year as Autumn approaches.

As part of the Dark Skies initiative the street lighting in Chatton village will be switched off, as they are intending to paint alternate kerbstones throughout the village in a newly developed white fluorescent paint, with fluorescent yellow paint at the road junctions. The new paint has the ability to store light energy from the headlamps of passing vehicles, from which it can fluoresce for up to 90 minutes before requiring a re-charge from another passing vehicle.

Ms. Avril Amadán, a council spokesperson said : "We hope that this new initiative makes our communities in the Chatton area safer, as well as meeting our green energy commitment by saving electricity to power the street lamps. If successful, we intend to roll-out this road safety measure to other villages in the North Northumberland area then, eventually, into the larger towns."

Avril Amadán

## Friends Revisiting

It was lovely to bump into Maureen (nee Webb) and husband Mell Biwer in The Percy Arms, who were visiting the Village on a short overnight break. Although Maureen worked as a nanny in Newcastle, her parents, sisters Annie, Margaret & Sandra and brother Ron moved to Chatton in 1967 so she was a regular visitor and wishes to be remembered by all those that knew her.



She now subscribes to *Chatton News* online so can keep in touch with what is happening in her old home village.

## The Percy Arms

From close of business on 20<sup>th</sup> March we will be operating as a takeaway Gastropub only with our luxury rooms operating separately, all rooms will be priced at £50 pp per night until 1st June. We are going to be employing an experienced chef on a live-in basis to support our takeaway & residents plus we are going to be taking all menu requests with most items available for a small charge.

All residents of Chatton should have had a takeaway menu in their letterbox. To download one from [news.chatton.uk/percy](https://news.chatton.uk/percy) or to order from it call 01668 215244 our takeaway menu is on hand to take your orders and if not, 30 minutes it's free! We are looking to welcome more local producers to include their produce in our takeaway items. A range of our wine bottles are available at special prices of £10 for takeaway.

For anyone celebrating a birthday we will give a complimentary dessert to takeaway too.

**Percy Arms Now Closed**

## Village in Lockdown

Following Government advice, all social gatherings have had to close or cancel. This includes, but is not limited to:

**Chatton & Chillingham churches** - All public worship has been stopped for the season, and all church buildings are now closed. The Music Evening featuring Glendale Voices on 4th April in aid of the Churches is also cancelled.

The **Quiz Night** scheduled for Thursday 23rd April has been postponed until further notice.

The **VE Day celebrations** planned for May 8th at Chatton Village Hall has been cancelled.

**Chatton Village Hall** is closed until further notice for any booked events and meetings as well as for regular activities such as yoga, creative writing and bowls. The gym is also be closed.

Further details can be found on the Village Hall web site at [villagehall.chatton.uk](http://villagehall.chatton.uk).

## Photographic Competition



Congratulations to Christine Lawson for winning the photo competition on the theme of "Cheerful Spring" with this composition. Thanks to Caroline & Richard Roberts for acting as our independent judges. All entries can be viewed at <https://news.chatton.uk/photocomp/>.

## Chatton Village Stores



We'd like to say a big thank you to all our customers who have continued to support us during this mad time. We want to reassure you that we are working hard to ensure we still have lots of lovely local and essential stock to keep everyone going for the foreseeable.

If there is anything you'd like us to try and get hold of please let us know. We're here to help.



## Friends Remembered

### Ronnie Bolam 1937-2020

Ronald Bolam was born at Denwick in 1937. His dad was a Prisoner of War and he didn't see him until he was nine years old. Ronnie was fifteen when he started work as a tractor driver at Waterside House.



Aged 18 he was called up for National Service, where he became a driver. His army record shows that he was an excellent driver, with sound mechanical knowledge. He was willing and hard working, with a sound sense of responsibility.

Ronnie worked on farms for most of his life. Throughout his life Ronnie was a good driver, driving all kinds of farm machinery and a Triumph motorbike. He was also a good mechanic and gardener. His veg patch was much admired!

Ronnie and Dorothy met at the Alnwick Modern School. They married in Shilbottle Church on February 15th 1958 and enjoyed 62 happy years of marriage. On their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, they received a card from the Queen.

Dorothy says that the secrets of staying together was just put an arm around each other and be together, that's all that matters. They have a daughter Iona and son Raymond, four grandchildren and four great grand children.



Ronnie and Dorothy shared a very happy, loving life together. They most enjoyed caravan holidays in Arasaig, where Ronnie enjoyed swimming, walking and working on a smallholding.

Ronnie was a good darts player. He played darts for The Percy Arms and his team made it to the knockout stages of the News of The World competition.

He also enjoyed a drink of sweet stout in The Percy Arms. Ronnie liked listening to all kinds of music. He was a good singer and was a soprano at St Michael's Church Alnwick. He also enjoyed watching films, especially Zulu and westerns. Another of Ronnie's interests was playing bowls, playing carpet bowls in the village hall right up to the end.

Ronnie was a gentle, loving man, who loved Dorothy and was very content with his home life and family. He is greatly missed.

## Announcements

### Johnson

Congratulations to Chris and Jean Johnson who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 7th of March.

May the rest of your marriage be golden. Thank you for being amazing parents and grandparents, we appreciate you both so much.

Also congratulations to Jean on her 70th birthday on the 14th March, a birthday that she shares with grand daughter Grace who turned 12.

Not forgetting our fabulous neighbour Joy Robson who also celebrated her 70th recently.

*Claire, Martin, Grace, Alfie and Oscar*

## Temporary Traffic Regulation Order

### B6348 New Road Chatton

(Genuine announcement)

The road closure has been requested by Northumberland County Council for civils preparation and micro surfacing. The order is from 17/04/2020 to 31/08/2020. The road is to be closed from 23/04/2020 to 24/04/2020 between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00 There will be personnel on site to deal with any arising issues. Access will remain for Emergency vehicles and local residents where practicable. Road will be closed in sections to cause minimal disruption.

Details of the disruption can be viewed at <https://one.network/?tm=116813484>

Please call 0345 600 6400 and quote the reference number for further information

Further updates from Tillside Parish Council web site at [www.tillside.uk](http://www.tillside.uk)

*Northumberland County Council*

## Where Do You Read Yours?

Here's Isabel and Richard Tebay reading their copy of *Chatton News* at Alnwick Point to Point Races. They've definately picked a winner there.

Share your pictures of you reading *Chatton News* on holiday in wonderful locations, or at work, or doing something interesting like skydiving (other activities are available), or just relaxing with *Chatton News* somewhere. Send photos to [news@chatton.uk](mailto:news@chatton.uk)



## Copper's Corner

Hello and welcome to the latest issue of my blog covering issues relevant to our good selves in the rural community. Obviously there is only one subject worth covering this month and that is the coronavirus.



Just want to cover some points to update the public on how things are for us as a public service. Our Chief Constable Winton Keenan has stated that "We will play our part in supporting people in this crisis and that we have to help the most vulnerable from being exploited."

Unfortunately going back to last month's topic of cold callers there are reports of cold callers going door to door offering coronavirus tests and deceiving people of their hard earned money. The people of North Northumberland are well known for their community spirit and in times like this I am sure we will all come together to make sure we get through this in as good a position as possible.

Yes, the police service, like other services, will be stretched at times but

even in the rural community we will continue to respond to emergency calls to help those who need us. We are in an isolated part of the country but that doesn't mean we won't be affected by everything and remember to look out for the members of our community and friends/family who may have to isolate for a period of time and need our help.

I, like everyone else, will be hoping for better things in the coming months when some normality will resume but only time will tell.

Thanks for reading and be safe.

PC 8873 Curtis Ritchie

## Still True Today

*Keep Calm and Carry On* was a motivational poster produced by the British government in 1939 in preparation for World War II. The poster was intended to raise the morale of the British public, threatened with widely predicted mass air attacks on major cities and was produced as part of a series of three 'Home Publicity' posters - the others read "Your Courage, Your Cheerfulness, Your Resolution Will Bring Us Victory" and "Freedom Is in Peril / Defend It With All Your Might".



2.45 million copies were printed although the poster was only rarely publicly displayed and was little known until a copy was rediscovered (pictured here) in 2000 at Barter Books in Alnwick. It has since been used as the decorative theme for a wide range of products.

***In this difficult time its message is all the more poignant.***

## Quirky Corner

Q : How do you know when bees are happy ?

A : They hum while they are at work.

Q : What do you call a rabbit with fleas ?

A : Bugs Bunny.

Q : What is a bakers favourite garden ?

A : A flour garden.

Thanks again to Richard & Caroline Roberts, of 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 the Hepburn District.



## Spring Gardening Tips

At this time of year, thoughts turn to planting and preparing your garden for summer.

However, slugs and snails can set back your hard work, so here are some tips to keep those pesky molluscs at bay.

They love seedlings, small annuals, climbers, perennials and vegetables - so consider planting out at a later stage when their leaves are less appealing.

Dig over the soil regularly to expose slug and snail eggs so that birds will eat them.

Clear away leaves and other garden debris under which slugs and snails hide during the day.

Spread grit or broken eggshells as a mulch around your plants prone to attack : slugs and snails dislike the rough surface.

Set traps : Halves of grapefruit or melon peel open side down in the evening will attract them. Or a container half filled with beer or milk in the soil with around an inch of the container rim protruding will attract them in where they will drown.

A ring of copper tape around precious plants or pots. The copper strips emit an electrical charge when in contact with slug or snail slime.

These tips remind me of last Spring when I answered a knock at the front door to see a snail on the doorstep. I kicked it down the path. Three days later the same snail knocked on the door. On opening the door, the snail said

"What did you do that for ?"

Ed Gardner

If you would like to include something in the June / July newsletter, please get in touch with us by email to

**news@chatton.uk**

or contact any of the editorial team

(By Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May please)