



Chatton News



The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

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Chatton's Stay Home Scarecrows



You may have noticed an invasion of scarecrows in the village over the past few weeks. Don't worry, it's not a scene from a Stephen King film, but a challenge started by Claire Wilce to make a scarecrow to show support for NHS, Carers and key workers over lock down.

From L-R is: A delivery driver, postman and Capt. Sir Tom by Claire Wilce and the boys; a Farmer by Mill House, All key workers by Kath & Ian Nixon; Scientists by Vicki & Andy Pigg, Shopkeepers (Co-op) by Margaret Waldie; and North East Ambulance Service workers by Ian & Mary Catchpole.

It was good to see an impromptu gathering of people around the village green at 11am on VE Day to join the nation in a 2 minute silence followed by applause. Good social distancing was observed throughout.

Should we have a flag pole on the village green for these special occasions - what is your view?

news@chatton.uk

Chatton Angling Assoc.

Fishing is now allowed on our stretch of the Till, but social distancing and common sense hygiene precautions should be practiced.

The annual competition is cancelled of course but I hope members can enjoy a good season once water levels are up.

CAA are sponsoring a smolt fitted with a tracking device this year on its journey from the Gala Water to Berwick as part of a much larger initiative to understand what is happening to young salmon on their journey to sea. You can find details and track progress by clicking on <https://arcg.is/1neviO>. Our CAA smolt is number 45 and I am hopeful it will be one of the first to sea.

Richard Tebay

Tillside Parish Council

The Parish Council held a PC meeting using Zoom video conferencing on 14 May which allowed members of the public to log in to join the meeting. The PC have set aside a contingency fund to be used on any emergencies arising from the current pandemic, and are very keen to ensure that all vulnerable or isolated residents have arrangements and help in place.

We understand that road works on Chatton West End through the village will take place on 8-10 June in preparation for micro-surfacing. Residents will be informed by letter as the road will need to be cleared of all vehicles. Likewise, following a long campaign, we are pleased to note that work will go ahead to repair and resurface the main trouble spots of the main road through Chillingham, and minor road down to Newtown Bridge. Dates to be confirmed.

Our next meeting is provisionally planned for July. More detail can be found on the PC website www.tillside.uk.

Local Wildlife

A female Merganser (Mergus merganser) and her twelve chicks were recently spotted on Chillingham Burn.

The Merganser (aka gooseander) is a large



seaduck of rivers and lakes in forested areas of Europe and North America that eats fish and nests in holes in trees. Nesting is normally in a tree cavity, so it requires mature forest as its breeding habitat; they also readily use large nest boxes where provided

Picture by Jane Lockyer

Chatton Village Hall

Chatton Village Hall is 10 years old...

Back in the dim and distant time before lockdown we were approached to do an article about the village hall with a bit of history and a look to the future. Sadly the dratted virus has put things on hold for a while but there's still much to share while we wait for the return to 'normal', whatever that turns out to be.

But firstly a big thank you to those who use the hall, for your patience while it is closed for business. Sadly, a number of events and parties have been cancelled and regular activities are suspended. We hope to reopen as soon as possible with whatever social distancing rules are required.

So what is the history of the hall? Most readers will know that the hall was previously the village school, originally built in 1857. It has served the village and the surrounding area since that time and was extensively extended in the 1950s. At that point the then village hall was incorporated into the school. Many locals have fond memories of their time at the school and most remember which peg they used for their coats!

Following an energetic but unsuccessful appeal against the decision to close the school there was great determination to retain the building for community purposes, particularly in the light of a proposal to use the site for housing. Establishing the current village hall involved much determination and negotiation between various individuals, the Parish Council and the Duke of Northumberland (who owns the building). As a result the Parish Council now holds a long-term lease from the Duke with a

requirement that the hall operates in the interests of the community of Tillside Parish. The Duke formally opened the hall in April 2011 although it actually began operating early in 2010.

The Parish Council decided to establish a charitable trust to manage the hall on its behalf. The



trust consists of 12 local residents who meet regularly to oversee the operation of the hall, especially in complying with the requirements of the lease and acting in line with charitable status and any relevant legislation. The current chair of trustees is Jim Railton who succeeded Alistair Cochrane and Bob Scott. Bob was particularly active in establishing the hall and the current trustees are grateful for the pioneering work he did.

The responsibilities of the trustees include the repair and upkeep of the building, ongoing running costs and ensuring the hall is only used for appropriate purposes. Thankfully both the Parish Council and Northumberland Estates recognize that the building is old with all the associated maintenance and repair costs and have been very generous in supporting the hall over the last 10 years.

We've also secured many grants and individual contributions over the years. And there have been many fund raising events such as coffee mornings, quizzes, theatre productions, election hustings and murder mystery, cookery and singalong film nights. We've also had bingo, flavoured alcohol competitions and a demonstration of birds of prey, snakes and

massive spiders!

We are very grateful for all the financial assistance and support that everyone has given us. THANK YOU!

Some of our other successes include:

- Creating a logo for the hall to reflect the ancient cup and ring markings evident in many locations around the village.

- Establishing and maintaining the gym with some state of the art equipment. This has been key to the viability

of the hall with income from the many users providing a substantial and regular part of the income needed to keep the hall going.

- Generating income by hosting various elections.

- Securing rent from regular activities such as yoga, indoor bowls, archery and zumba.

- Installing a new heating system and solar panels to reduce costs.

- Demolishing the Parish / British Legion Hut (before it fell down!) and securing funds to create a BBQ area on the site. This would have had its inaugural opening by now if it weren't for the lockdown.

- Getting plans for installing a superb play area for children of all ages approved, with substantial bits of funding already secured.

Unfortunately we still have one big issue to address – the flat roof and adjoining roof areas. We've had a survey done which itself cost nearly £1000. We await the outcome but already know it will cost many tens of thousands to put right. So the fund raising will continue....

Ten years on, we're delighted with the progress made in making the village hall part of the fabric of Chatton. And we're looking forward to the next 10 years.

Trustees of Chatton Village Hall

Friends Remembered

Wally Isats 1924-2020

Wally sadly passed away on Sunday 10th May after a long & happy life. He died from the coronavirus. He was born in Latvia and came to England at the end of the war. He met Hilary & they married in 1950.

Hilary was born at Broomhouse, her father being the tenant farmer & Wally worked on the farm along with Hilary. He loved the farming life, enjoying fishing & he reared unusual hens, ducks & guineafowl.

In later life he liked to go down the croft to the little pond & sit. The Canada geese came to rest there each year. After 68 years it was devastating for them to leave Broomhouse.

On 26th April 2020 they celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary, quite a milestone. He was a loving, quiet, gentle man & will be greatly missed.

Brenda & Victor Isats



Announcements

Thanks

May I express my thanks to every who popped by for a chat at the front door, phoned me to see how I'm doing and generally made sure that I'm OK during this period of lock down. Especially Margaret Waldie who has done a weekly shop for me. You have all been very kind.

Dorothy Bolam

Dog Fouling

It's good that people are getting out for their daily exercise by walking their dogs, but it has been noticed that dog fouling is on the increase, especially along the lane behind West End. Please ensure that you clean up after your pet.

Cleaner wanted!

Calibrate Energy Engineering is after a professional cleaner to clean and stock our office on a Tuesday and Friday every week after hours - so zero contact.

Shane McDonald
01668 215544

COVID

The Chatton Operational Volunteer Isolation Delivery service has continued to help those in isolation. If you need help please contact the Village Store.

Wooler Fountain

Sunday 24th May was a red letter day and a great moment when a fountain was finally restored to Wooler Market Place. This one has been re-invented in a different form, and will be filled with flowers, but it echoes many elements of the original Wightman memorial fountain in its design, shape and impact. It is almost exactly 50 years since, one early morning, the original fountain was suddenly, and with no warning, demolished by the District Council - our fountain just ceased to be overnight.

The fountain was first erected in 1879 in honour of William Wightman who was responsible for laying on a proper water supply for the people of Wooler. It was paid for by public subscription with the people of Wooler each giving what they could in gratitude to his service and dedication to the town. But, in the severe winter of 1966 cracks appeared in the pillars and Glendale Council demolished the fountain in order to widen the road. Since then



the Wooler Fountain Restoration Group have been working to restore this important landmark.

They nearly had to give up completely last year. A test pit proved that it would be completely impossible to dig into the site in any way to put footings in - too many utilities and a mass of modern telecoms installations to avoid. A lot

has changed in the years that have passed. Although a stone built working replica could not sited in its original position, a new modern alternative has been designed and made by Catherine Dunn that is a fitting replacement - not a replica, but the spirit of the past original.

It looks beautiful in its setting and seems exactly right in size, proportion and design, with so many lovely features like the flower decorations, the bird nesting boxes at the top, the solar powered watering system and the colour chosen to harmonise with the various shades of stone around it and with the greenery it will hold.

They now need to fill it with compost and flowers, so the group have set up a Just Giving page. They need to raise at least £600 (it's a large structure) - if you can help contribute go to www.justgiving.com and search for 'Friends of Wooler Fountain'.

Friends of Wooler Fountain

Copper's Corner

At the time of writing this, we are still massively impacted by the coronavirus, both personally and professionally. Restrictions have eased slightly since the last update and I think 1st June is the next date where restrictions might lift further, then 4th July the date we are looking at after that.



Currently, daily I am dealing with calls from the public about possible lock down breaches in the rural community and every call is dealt with on an individual basis. I would add that even though these are strange

times we are still finding time to get about on the patch being seen, offering reassurance and dealing with the day to day emergency calls.

With regards the current guidelines, If you do go on a day out please adhere to the restrictions, remember your social distancing and the impact your movements will have on others or how it might be perceived. We are now allowed to be out and about more and the local council has a list on its website of car parks that have

reopened. Definitely worth checking before heading out.

As I said last time we are an emergency service and will continue to attend emergency calls where possible in the same manner we have always done.

I'm looking forward to writing for the newsletter where I can get back to matters that I feel are relevant to yourselves in the rural community but unfortunately there is currently nothing more relevant than this.

Thanks for reading and stay safe.

PC 8873 Curtis Ritchie

Decorating Tips

Like many of you, I have spent much of lockdown keeping occupied - I need 'stuff to do' to stave off boredom and have found sprucing up tired interior paintwork has been very therapeutic.

The below advice is from 35 years of experience as an amateur decorator only.

The old adage that a successful result is 90% preparation and 10% application is very true in this instance. For beautiful results do the following :

1. Wash all walls down with a suitable cleaner - sugar soap is best, but a diluted cleaner such as "Flash" can be used.

2. Rub woodwork down with FINE grade sandpaper to give a good grip to the paint you are applying. Then clean

as previous. You don't need primer / undercoat on previously painted wood.

3. You can use oil-based paint over any water-based paint as the former dries far more quickly. It doesn't work the other way around, as slow-drying oil paint causes the water-based paint on top to crack.

4. Emulsion the walls first - (I rub the woodwork down after emulsioneing)

5. GOOD quality paints are essential - cheap paints give 'cheap results' and you'll need several coats to get a half decent result - it's a false economy.

6. Use masking tape when painting woodwork to get those 'sharp' lines.

7. A minimum of two coats is needed on both emulsion and wood painting - more if

you are painting over contrasting colours.

8. Stir the paint occasionally while decorating to prevent 'settlement' of the paint.

9. For the best result on wood, good quality synthetic brushes with long bristles give an excellent result.

10. Use dust sheets!! I've used a product called "Roll and Stroll" on the carpets which saves on trips and spills. Check it out on the internet !!

11. I have high ceilings : an extendable paint roller has been a 'godsend' in saving time and preventing risk of falling off ladders - the last

thing you want in these worrying times is a trip to hospital.

12. Before the main wall emulsioneing, start with the corners where the walls meet - known as 'cutting in'.

13. Don't leave paint filled brushes for more than 15 minutes while having a break - or you may return to dried up brushes. Then you get nasty smears when you restart painting.

14. If you do leave paint brushes for that tea break, or overnight even, instead of cleaning in spirit just wrap in cling film.

Richard Allen

Corn Corner

Two painters are painting a church. They notice that they don't have enough paint, so they pour some water in it and finish their job. 5 minutes later a thunderstorm rains and washes everything away.

As the painters watch, a booming voice comes over from the clouds and says "Repaint and thin no more"

What type of fuel do painters prefer?

Whatever makes the Van Gogh

If you would like to include something in the August / September newsletter, please get in touch with us by email to news@chatton.uk or contact any of the editorial team
(By Sunday 26th July please)



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