



Chatton News



The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 50 August / September 2020

Book Publication



23rd July was publication day for Caroline Roberts' fourth book 'Summer at Rachel's Pudding Party'. So, here's a little about the inspirations behind the book from our resident author herself.

'I live in the most beautiful countryside in rural Northumberland,

and when the idea of Rachel and her family of feisty Swinton women came to mind, I knew this area would make a wonderful setting for Primrose Farm and the old stone barn that would become the Pudding Pantry.

The pudding idea grew from me knowing a local lady, Susan Green, who has created a successful pudding-making business from her farm, The Proof of the Pudding. Susan welcomed me to her farmhouse, showing me where and how everything was made, and the pudding samples she sent me home with were divine – the sticky toffee pudding being my favourite. (Research can be hard, but someone's gotta do it!)

I do love my food, and my mind goes into orbit around the scrumptious cakes, bakes and puddings which appear in the Pudding Pantry series. Alongside the stories, there are recipes which I test out at home, and they are generally very easy to make. There are lots to choose from, but I'd say my favourites are Rachel's White Chocolate and Raspberry Cheesecake and Jill's Sticky Toffee Pudding, from the first book in the series (Rachel's Pudding Pantry), the Chocolate Coconut Snowballs from the second book (Christmas at Rachel's Pudding Pantry), and Granny Ruth's Mini Raspberry Meringues from the new summer book. All utterly delicious!

I do hope you enjoy diving into the story and the wonderful cakes and bakes. I'd love to see anything you make yourself!

Excerpt from TheBookRetreat is with Caroline Roberts

Percy Arms



July 4th saw the long awaited re-opening of the Percy Arms, we decided to open with a focus in the opening weekend on our local loyal customers and do a public opening on the Monday.

The re-opening has been a success and its been great to see so many of our customers returning in the first week to see friends or family and support the Percy. We've made a big effort, with the team of Andrew, Ashleigh, Ian, Dave, Dan, Owen, Stephen and Jaci getting stuck in to make it a safe and enjoyable experience through expanding our external al fresco capability whilst sticking to 2m table distancing inside. We firmly believe this policy is the best one long term and makes it more relaxing to visit as opposed to venues who cram in tables.

The addition of the Gelateria has been a success and lots of people now enjoy a quick ice cream stop enroute to their end destination. We hope you all are well and that together we can make it easier for everyone. Other news is the railings have been getting careful restored so the pub can look its very best for another 100 years, unfortunately the recent variable weather delayed the outside painting until end of summer.

*Richard Pattinson
Operations Manager Percy Arms
Picture with permission BBC News*

Who's that dog?

Our lovely banner picture at the top of this page was taken by Richard Allen of the rock formation above Holborn, featuring his Labradoodle, Milo.

Our Churches Need Your Help

As many of you are aware Chatton & Chillingham Churches had to close in March when lockdown started and sadly they have remained closed despite the easing of restrictions. We still have no minister and both Churchwardens are shielding. This makes opening the churches for regular worship very difficult as we are a small PCC with very limited people-power to make the churches safe for public worship, and follow the new guidelines for re-opening. Currently the churches remain closed for public worship and it is likely they will remain closed for some time to come, possibly until the autumn. This has been a very difficult decision for us to make and has been taken following consultation with the regular congregation as well as the PCC and Area Dean.

However, the ongoing running costs for our churches remain. We still have to pay for the upkeep of the churchyards, repairs, electricity, water and insurance. In addition we are required to pay an annual amount to the diocese – the Parish Share. This alone is approximately £9K and our annual expenditure for 2020 is likely to be around £16K.

We would normally be able to fundraise to cover these costs and there would be additional income generated from collection plates, visitor donations, weddings etc but this has almost totally dried up. We had a series of fundraising events planned starting with a concert in early April, events over Easter, a summer dance and BBQ, a wedding dress exhibition at Chillingham, the annual Harvest Supper with entertainment, and ending with a Christmas tree display and carol service in December. It is unlikely we can hold any events until at least the autumn as the restrictions on inside gatherings and social distancing makes it very difficult to accommodate enough people to make it financially viable.

In short we desperately need your help both financially and as volunteers when we do open the churches again.

Chatton & Chillingham PCC

Open Letter

A writer in the last issue of Cheviot Herald makes some very important points with regards to some of our Churches. She could be describing Chatton & Chillingham Churches.

For some of us – over 70 years plus – this is becoming a struggle and COVID-19 has highlighted this. How long are we supposed to fulfil the many roles we hold? The Parish needs to reflect on this. When we can, finally, have our own Annual Parish Church Meeting, the community needs to be there to discuss what happens

to our Churches. Who would be willing to represent the Parish Churches on the Deanery Synod, the Mission Initiative North Northumberland, be the Safeguarding Officers (including the training), set out communion, write a piece for publication, and lead a Lay Worship Service once a month? Not to mention be a member of the PCC and a Church Warden, plus the cleaning (although others have been so helpful with this recently) and the rest.

Jo & Martyn Lucas deserve a medal, keeping an eye on our churches and distributing copious emails sent down – so much so we feel swamped by paper!

With regards to opening our churches, our PCC and regular church community feel it is still too soon to open up again. There is a proviso from Bishop Christine that parishes without an incumbent (we still have no priest) could do this - remembering that roughly half of the congregation are over 70 and wish to be careful. We intend to re-consider this decision at the beginning of August.

Dorothy Bolam wishes to thank the very many people from so many different churches, who attended Ronnie's funeral service. She so appreciates it and for all the many kindnesses shown then and since. She misses Ronnie and lock-down highlighted how she feels. We continue to remember him.

Extract of letter by Ann Murray

Chatton Village Hall preparing to reopen

Now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed plans to reopen the Hall, albeit with limited use, are being progressed apace. Guidelines for use have been drawn up and will be tested out over the next couple of weeks. It is hoped that the reopening can be linked to the inauguration of the splendid new BBQ.



Sadly plans to reopen the gym have had a set back though. The problems with the roof that were mentioned in the last edition have caused a problem in the gym area which means it isn't currently safe to use. Consideration is being given to moving the gym on a temporary basis so users can get back to fitness.

Thank you for your patience and support and we looking forward to seeing the hall in use again very soon. Watch out for future emails and notices on the website and Facebook.

Best wishes, Gill

<http://villagehall.chatton.uk>

HospiceCare's Virtual Open Gardens 2020

Because of Covid-19 everyone's lives have changed since March and sadly we have had to cancel our 25th Anniversary Open Garden events. However, instead, we're excited to bring you a virtual tour from the comfort of your own armchair. HospiceCare's Patron, Lady Joicey, has kindly agreed to introduce our Virtual Gardens 2020 tour which you can view by visiting our website www.hospicecare.nn.org.uk and clicking on the image of our 'Virtual Open Gardens' on our main page.



Over the last 12 years, HospiceCare's annual Open Gardens have become the jewel in our fundraising calendar. Each year we welcome around 3000 visitors wishing to explore some of the most beautiful private gardens in Northumberland, kindly opened by their owners and with the support of our wonderful hospice volunteers. Since 2008 the Garden events have raised over £174,000 which has been generated from entrance fees, donations, cream teas and plant sales. This incredible amount of money has contributed towards the delivery of in excess of 7,000 hours of our specialist Hospice at Home Services here in North Northumberland. So we hope that you will enjoy our virtual Open Garden tour today. If after watching you feel that you can make a donation towards our Hospice at Home care and support, however large or small, we would be so grateful – thank you.

*Rebecca Taylor
Events & Community Fundraiser
HospiceCare North Northumberland*

Announcements Thanks

I'd like it to be known that during the current disruption to our normal lives, I, for one, am very grateful for the kindness and help I have received during lockdown.

I always like that some of you go the long way round so as to avoid being caught by me to get something from the shop.

Mary Carr in particular calls every day to see what I need and deserves my special thanks. Although I am not as fit as I used to be there's always someone else worse off. The shop staff and delivery of papers daily is very much appreciated too.

Thank You everyone

Jim Burt

More Thanks

My very grateful thanks to all who delivered my newspapers and groceries during the recent lockdown. Also, to all at Chatton Village Store, for arranging deliveries, sending back unwanted parcels, and banking fishing cheques, among numerous other things.

Dorothy Douglas x

Oh Deer, That Deer

Following an appeal from the British Deer Society for help with funding during the COVID-19 lock-down, Fletch decided to raffle his next Roe Deer carcase to donate the proceeds to the BDS.

The carcase was worth about £100, so it was split in two, still making a good prize. Each ticket was just a pound with 100 being sold in just a few days.

Mr Dean Smith drew the tickets which were won by Mr & Mrs Roberts of Linworth and Matt the gamekeeper at Preston Mains Shoot.

Thank you all who supported - a cheque has been forwarded to the British Deer Society in Hampshire.

Fletch

Spotlight on Commerce - Calibrate Energy Engineering

Who are we??

We are a local engineering firm based in Chatton, which is focused on developing industrial scale Heatpump projects - 2020 is our 15th year in Business. We also have a manufacturing and Bio Gas power generation factory in Durham. During our fifteen years in business, we have won many industry awards and been to the House of Parliament for an Energy Award.

Have you heard of us? No! This is what we do:

- We currently install 60% of the total Ground Source Heatpump capacity in the UK
- We operate and maintain the equipment for our clients, which involves controlling both the heating and

chilling requirements of mainly the grain, dairy and potato sector

- We employ 20 staff and 100 full time contractors, who work throughout the UK 24/7 operating and maintaining the Heatpump equipment
- Last summer, we installed 407,164m of pipework at 1.2m below ground, which is equivalent to the distance between Edinburgh and London
- We control 50MW of power across our sites, which is enough to offset a medium sized power station. We will soon be utilising this power offset to maximise indirect power from wind turbines and solar farms for our clients.

Shane McDonald

Top Tips for Summer

During a lovely warm summer, it's easy to put off those jobs that need doing. But, the brighter months and better weather are great for doing jobs which could save you from costly, unexpected bills in the long run – such as filling cracks in external walls and repainting windows.

Take a look at our home maintenance tips, to make this year's summer preparations an absolute breeze:

Freshen up external woodwork

Now is a great time to rub down and paint any woodwork that's flaking and bare. A good lick of paint helps stop water getting in and rotting the wood in the wetter months.

Prepare your patio and decking

Your kids will enjoy helping you scrub or jet wash patios & decking – which will ensure they're not too slippery to enjoy outdoor summer fun. They're also less likely to eventually crack and split as time goes on. After cleaning, it's a good idea to apply a chemical

sealant to provide extra protection.

Check external walls for cracks

Take a good look at your home's external walls and fill any cracks or loose areas of render and mortar with a good filler (your local DIY store will be able to recommend the right type). You'll thank yourself in the long run as water leaking into walls and foundations can cause major cracking problems, and even subsidence.

If access is high up and dangerous, get in the professionals if you need to!

Fix any damaged guttering or pipework

Fixing guttering, pipework and soffits should help avoid serious issues longer term such as damp and drainage problems. And the summer is the best time to do so, before any autumn stormy weather.

You might choose to get someone in to do the work, as ladders or even scaffolding will probably be needed.

Get your roof repaired before the bad weather hits

We're not suggesting you get up on the roof yourself, but any issues, such as cracked tiles or timbers which need replacing, should ideally be fixed in the summer while a roofer can more

easily carry out the work - otherwise rain, high winds and snow can potentially cause serious damage in the winter and autumn.

Don't let your plants grow out of control

Plants which grow up the walls of houses, such as ivy and wisteria, might look great but can also spell trouble so need constant trimming and cutting back! Keeping them under control in the main summer growing season to avoiding damage to walls, guttering and even foundations.

Be prepared – check your heating system!

It might seem a little early but turning on the heating in the summer to check that the radiators and boiler are working properly is a great idea. It's even sensible to have your boiler serviced annually around July or August as heating engineers can be almost impossible to find whilst others scramble to book them later in the year. Longer term, this could save you money – as neglected heating systems break down more easily and can be very expensive to deal with.

Finally, an extra money saving tip!

As summer draws to a close, shop around to make sure you're still getting the best price for your gas and electricity! This can really pay off when your home is all systems go in the colder months.

Phil McAvity

Chatton Then & Now



This 1930's postcard shows how little Chatton has changed over the years. No traffic or road markings then but, Mill Hill was built after 2002? Wait, this is actually a photo taken by Isabel Tebay of the road just after resurfacing, with a strange light given by the grey clouds.



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 Christine Lawson for delivering copies to Chillingham.

Corn Corner

What's black and yellow and goes "ZZubb ZZub"

A : A bee flying backwards

Why don't owls mate in the rain ?

A : It's too wet to woo.

If you would like to include something in the October / November newsletter, please get in touch with us by email to news@chatton.uk or contact any of the editorial team
(By Monday 21st September please)