



Chatton News



The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 51 October / November 2020

Musings of an Old Resident

Well aren't we lucky - in Chatton we have a smart new tarmac surface through the village. One wonders how long it will be before some utilities come and put holes in it? Even the council had to come back and dig up round the drains and manholes, after the new surface was laid, in order to raise the height of them. You would have thought that they would have done this first, as it would have meant a much neater job.

Clavering, the interesting house on the hill on the way to Wooler, has finally changed hands, after a few false starts. I wonder if any local historians know the origin of the name? To "claver" means to talk idly & gossip, with Scottish derivations. And what we all know as Clavering Straight on the way to Wooler could historically have been a long road to chat along? Or General Clavering might have had local connections? Hopefully someone can educate us.

The Percy Arms seems to be thriving once again, with a crowd in

the car park, and delicious meals inside. It has put a certain pressure on parking in the village, as their own car park is out of action, so we all have to be a bit more flexible. Hopefully this will only be a temporary measure, and we will be back to normal before too long.

Has anyone noticed the container pointing down the hill towards the cricket pitch? Due to be called Greendyke Arms apparently.

The pavilion in Chillingham has finally been granted planning permission to be re-built. Locally known as The Bandstand it was built in 1872 when The Prince of Wales came to stay with Lord Tankerville. He famously stalked a king bull in the park, and by repute the drive known as The Prince of Wales Drive was built for his carriage which collected him off the train at Belford. Obviously to come along the side of Ammerside Hill was a short cut to the castle, but it was also thought that Chatton



village was too scruffy for him to come through! The building used to be a rather charming rustic shelter and The Chillingham Wild Cattle Association are hoping to recreate this, and use it as reception centre for visitors to the cattle.

Are our cup & rings marks fading? A few years ago it was suggested that Chatton could become the cup and ring mark capital of Northumberland, and we could

have a little interpretative centre for the monuments. All our local hills have fine examples of them, but it has been suggested that with acid rain and general erosion that they are getting fainter? If anyone has never seen them, we suggest getting out now, just in case they disappear forever.

A big thank you to our locals that keep the tubs in the village looking so colourful. How many years ago was it that Chatton won the best kept village competition?

Till - anonymous contributor

Percy Arms

It is now mandatory for hospitality settings to collect contact details for everyone who visits. We'd like to say a big thank you to our amazing customers for mainly booking in ahead of visiting for lunch / dinner. We do allow walk in customers so please let your server know a name and number for your party if seated as a walk in and they will update our booking system. To book a table and take advantage of the Eat out to Help

out food and soft drink offer please call 01668215244 or visit www.percyarmschatton.co.uk (over 65s 25% off 1pm-6pm Monday to Thursday, under 65s get 15%).

We are running Artisan Steak nights on Fridays & Saturdays featuring local farmers beef/lamb. Farms featured in September included Strothers and Howey. We are looking to work with all local

farmers within a 5 mile radius so please contact the pub if interested in supporting our event. Our regular Tuesday Steak night 2 for £20 still is on together with our 4-6pm £3 pints happy hour.

Richard Pattinson

Ross Castle

Thanks to Susan Lowthian for the autumnal photo of Ross Castle used as our banner picture at the top of this page.

Church Matters

Church re-opening

It's disappointing that we have not been able to re open the churches for visitors and services but, as the saying goes, these are unprecedented times. The Till & Breamish Benefice (the group of churches to which we belong) have now organised a programme of monthly services rotating around each of the parish churches – our first service will be on Sunday 4th October at Holy Cross, Chatton. Masks must be worn and no singing allowed.

Unfortunately St Peters at Chillingham will have to remain closed as, during lock down, the bats moved in, causing a serious environmental problem. It will remain closed until a suitable solution to the bats can be found.

Remembrance Sunday

The Benefice rota of monthly services (mentioned above) includes a Service of Remembrance at Holy Cross, Chatton, on Sunday 8th November at 9:30am. The Act of Remembrance will continue at the War Memorial with a two minutes silence at 11:00am and reading of the names of the fallen

from Chatton & Chillingham Parishes. As is our custom, wreaths will be laid and wooden crosses planted for each of our heroes. All are welcome to attend either or both of these services, dependant on restrictions in place at the time.

Parish Annual Meeting

We were finally able to hold our Annual Parochial Meeting in the church on 16th September – albeit with everyone spread out, wearing masks, and sanitizer being passed round. The meeting was chaired by the Area Dean, **Rev. Louise Taylor-Kenyon**. **Graeme Bone** was elected as a new Lay Chair, taking over the reigns from **Jo Lucas** - grateful thanks were expressed to Jo & Martyn for all they have done during her tenure. **Ian Catchpole** was re-elected as Treasurer but said this would be his last year (volunteers required for next year). **Dorothy Bolam** and **Ann Murray** remain as Wardens and **Nicki Bone** was welcomed as a new member, joining **Sheila Dodds** on the PCC. We are still without a Secretary and would like to hear from anyone who could help in any way.

Harvest Supper

Social distance restrictions mean that we are not able to hold the Harvest Supper this year. This has been a well supported social event, but also a good fundraiser for our much needed finances. This is why I am asking you to support a virtual Harvest Supper this year by having your own meal at home on **10th October** (possibly inviting a couple of friends if restrictions allow), thinking of others who you would have been socializing with, and making a donation that you would have spent on the night. Let us know how you get on so that we can share your experience in the next issue of *Chatton News*.

Interim Minister

Some good news at last. It has been agreed with the Archdeacon to make an appointment to our benefice of a full time (rather than half time as was considered) Interim Minister post for three years. We should be looking towards interviews in the second half of November (restrictions permitting) with appointment as soon after that as possible.

Chatton & Chillingham PCC

Chatton Community Gardens

The community garden plots have been a welcome place during lockdown keeping us busy doing all those garden tasks we never usually have time for!

The challenging weather extremes left us with water shortages and then came the downpours in a tricky growing season.

Our fruit trees suffered and sadly two had to go. The harvest has been pretty good overall - Strawberries



and raspberries provided weeks of fruit with vegetables pulling through to give good harvests.

Garden plot holders range from first time veg



growers to those with years of experience, all helping out and sharing ideas and advice. It is 10 years since we took over this once neglected area and thanks go to good Samaritans over the years who have helped us to transform and maintain the field into the garden we see today.

Kath Nixon

IT Help

Do you wish you could use a computer and get on-line to your relatives and friends?

And maybe some services you need to access?

If there's some help available to train you up and get you started, would you be interested?

If there's a number of people and if you would be interested in learning how to use the technology – in simple and easy lessons ... please just let me know and we'll see what can be arranged. No commitment! Just an expression of interest

Jane Pannell – 01289 388321

Copper's Corner

I'm not going to cover much on the Covid 19 pandemic this time but it's been well documented that the North East, is back in a lock down of sorts but, hopefully, it won't be for long. The figures for rural Northumberland are relatively low and hopefully it stays that way.

Pressing on with other matters - I touched on cold door to door callers a few months back and thought I'd follow up and pass some advice on telephone/internet fraud.

Internet

1/ If you get an email saying you have won something out of the blue then its more than likely a fraud. Ask yourself, Did I actually enter the competition or buy a ticket? If you didn't then there you go!

2/ Never ever transfer money in order to receive a larger amount. This is a well known tactic used by internet fraudsters.

3/ Only ever sign in to official agencies/banks etc through their



official websites. If I get an email from someone claiming to be from an official body and I need to click on a link to access the content I always go through the actual website itself and not the link.

4/ Fraudsters also ring up people claiming their computer has been hacked or have a virus. Unless you know about this then it is likely a fraud. Never give this person on the phone control of your computer. This can be done very easily if you pass them the appropriate information.

5/ Finally, why would a random person send you an email saying you have a fantastic opportunity to obtain money/products. Surely they would want that opportunity themselves. If it looks suspicious then it probably is.

Banking

1/ Never ever pass your passwords/Pin numbers over the phone or to third parties. Banks say they won't ask for either of them if they have to ring you. If the person on the phone asks then it is probably a fraud so be careful.

2/ Banks do not arrange for couriers to collect bank cards if your accounts have allegedly been hacked. Telephone fraudsters use this in order to take your cards from you.

3/ Another tactic is when they call you on your land line and ask you to call them back to confirm who they are but they stay on the line as they are in control of your phone line. Be very wary of this!

4/ Try to avoid using your online banking when connected to public wifi. If you do then it is advisable to have a VPN installed to help protect yourself (Please don't ask me how to do this!)

5/ Again if a third party gets in contact with you claiming to want access to your accounts etc then it is likely fraudulent and you should inform your bank immediately.

Unfortunately criminals that carry out the above sort of frauds prey on the vulnerable. So please make sure our older and more vulnerable friends and family are aware that these practices are taking place!

Thanks for reading and take care.

PC 873 Ritchie

Chatton Village Hall

Chatton Village Hall and the gym are now open for use but with precautions against the spread of corona virus. These are to protect all users and include requiring them to:

- maintain social distancing and wear masks as needed
- wash their hands and/or use the sanitisers available
- use the sanitisers available for surfaces before and after use

We have also:

- introduced a one way system to enter and exit (except for gym users who will enter and exit via the main door)
- limited access to toilet facilities to assist in maintaining social distancing
- required gym users and those making bookings to provide names for NHS Test and Trace if needed
- required all users to sign an

agreement to abide by the precautions If you want to make a booking please use the website www.villagehall.chatton.uk or ring Sebastian Moss to discuss your requirements in the light of the prevailing restrictions.

If you want to use the gym, please email Shi Shi Ord at gym.villagehall@chatton.uk

We would welcome anybody who would like to take over the Old School Garden and restore it to its former state. The school garden, just behind the village hall and approximately 13 metres x 8 metres, was lovingly tended by the children and their parents until the school closed in 2008. Although it is overgrown now, the garden is fenced and the intrepid person who takes it over would soon find that, underneath, there is an arrangement of decent paths and timber edged

beds. There are also several fruit trees, including a lovely dessert apple that fruits abundantly every year!

In this day of social distancing and greater appreciation of our natural environment, the garden could give someone great enjoyment, as well as a great deal of fruit, flowers and veg!

Finally, there is a mystery rucksack on one of the pegs in the VH corridor. It is a dark rucksack (North Face) with some electronic equipment inside, and been there since February, if not before. Does anybody know whose it might be?

The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their support and patience over the last few months. We hope that the hall can remain open for the foreseeable though we will of course react to any changes in government restrictions.

Gill Rollings

Free Family Days Out In Northumberland

As a change from the Usual Top Tips and Home Improvement Ideas, we think in this issue it is a good idea to look at free days out for our local residents - now that the holidays are over it should be quiet for you all. (Don't forget your masks and gel !)

Another great site to look at for current places to visit and upcoming events is :

<https://www.greatnorthumberland.co.uk/events-calendar/>

We strongly recommend, however, that due to the pandemic that you check that places that offer entry are still open and to check the conditions of entry :

So - with no more 'ado' here are some things to do in our lovely county to get you started :

Get stranded on Holy Island

Holy Island really has a special magic all of its own. The island is cut off from the mainland twice per day, and being able to explore the beaches, coves and wildlife when you aren't surrounded by other tourists is just wonderful.

(As locals, you won't need to be reminded to check crossing times carefully will you ?)

Pretend you're a Roman and walk Hadrian's Wall

A lot of Hadrian's Wall is free to access. Why not take your children or grandchildren on their own Roman expedition this late summer and enjoy the views as you walk by the wall and forts. Make sure you stop at the gorgeous Sycamore gap for a picnic too.

Enjoy a family bike ride

Northumberland National Park is one of the best places in our region to explore the great outdoors. Described as a cyclist's paradise, if you are keen cyclists you cannot beat the location for a family bike ride. You can download routes, maps and advice from the National Cycle Network website.

Trade your old books for new at Barter Books

Barter Books in Alnwick is

the perfect place to visit on rainy day. One of the largest second hand bookshops in Britain, children can take their old books to the counter and 'barter' them for store credit which they can spend in the lovely children's section. Look out for the model railway above your heads.

Climb the 'Lady of the North'

Northumberlandia (the 'Lady of the North') is a free-to-visit 45 acre community park with over 4 miles of pathways weaving around a unique giant sculpture of a lady's body. If you climb to the very top you will be rewarded with views of the nearby open mine and spectacular surrounding countryside.

Hunt for crabs on Cresswell beach

You will often have Cresswell beach all to yourself and it is the perfect place to go hunting for crabs. Just look at all those rockpools! We've once found a squid here too. All you need to pack is a bucket, net and suncream and you're good to go.

Spend the day as a Castle detective

Northumberland actually has more Castle's than any other region in the UK! There are over 70 Castle sites to choose from. You could start with Cresswell Castle, Kielder Castle and Thirlwell Castle which are all free to visit. Dressing up as a Knight to visit is obviously optional!

Go sculpture hunting

Northumberland is home to lots of free outdoor sculptures - you just need to go out and find them! Why not take your sketch book and take the time to draw every sculpture you find? The giant spoon of Cramlington and 'the couple' in Newbiggin can start you off.

Get lost in the Minotaur Maze

Kielder is home to its very own minotaur maze which is free to enter. Located next to the Castle Visitor centre and the (also free) Salmon Centre, children will love getting lost and then guiding the adults to safety.

Corny Corner

"Somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note, it said ~Parking Fine.""

Tim Vine

"I told the Inland Revenue I don't owe them a penny. I live by the seaside."

Ken Dodd.

Caption Competition

Can you think of a witty caption for this picture taken at Chatton Cricket Club.

Best entries printed next time.



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



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.