



# Chatton News

*Merry Christmas to all our readers*



The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

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## The Handsome Old Gardener in Chatton



**Bertie Boynton.** He can tidy up your lawn by eating the grass around your daffodils.

Many a spring day I've spent admiring this handsome old boy.

You may have seen Bertie in the paddock bordering the Scout Hill bridleway. He's leading a very quiet life nowadays. Although he's only twenty-one he has suffered from arthritis for a number of years and the magic powders no longer keep him sufficiently pain free to allow him to be ridden. He spends his days pottering in the field and garden and waiting for his breakfast and dinner, grumbling at the waitress when she's not quick enough.

Just recently on a few occasions I've seen him very alert, looking into the distance. He can hear the hounds. I know what he's thinking, I'm thinking the same. He's remembering all those fabulous days when he and my daughter could cross any country and any obstacle. Bertie's most favourite thing was jumping cross country fences. He would tolerate showjumping but only really liked it if he had a big audience. He could never see the point of dressage and was sure that one day he'd convince the rider he was right on that score.



Bertie Boynton came to us when he was 9 years old. The ten years he was on top form were golden years. Like many owners of special horses I could tell you many stories of his braveness, his sense of fun, his intuition and the feeling that together we can do anything. We owe him a lot. He owes us nothing. Feel free to give him a carrot if you're passing.

*Ruth Gibson  
Scout Hill.*

## At Home with the Sheep

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of local celebrity Matty the Horse in February, but the sheep & geese in the Mill Hill field were not without a big four legged companion to look up to for too long.

**Kiki**, the 5 year old Highland Pony, was brought from Heddon-on-the-Wall by Helen the Vet, and has taken her place in the heart of the village.

Helen hopes to show her next year as she's a fine example of a Highland Pony - if a little overweight. For that reason, people are asked to only give her the



odd carrot as a treat - she's a very sociable horse and loves to put her head over the fence to greet people, young and old, especially if they have a carrot treat (the sheep are partial to a carrot too). Neville, Helen's greyhound, is still a bit wary though but he's settling in too.

Helen & Kath apologise to motorists who may be held up as they drive through the village, but Kiki is only now being broken in and getting used to being out in traffic. Please be patient with her, give her a wide berth and treat any little parcels dropped on the road as a roundabout.

*Helen Ray*

## Remembrance Sunday

It was heartening to see so many people observing the silence together at the Chatton War Memorial. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Tillside Parish Council and Chillingham. The names of the fallen were read out by Niki & Graeme Bone.

There was an exception for Remembrance Sunday in the lockdown regulations to allow this to proceed, and it's good to report that everyone was respectful about social distancing.



## Forthcoming Events

*Please be aware that all these events are subject to change for obvious reasons, so may have to be run in a different form or cancelled altogether depending on restrictions in place at the time.*

### Carols Around the Village

**Monday 21st December**

It is going to be a funny Covid Christmas, but we are going ahead "come-what-may" in some capacity or other with our Village Carol Singing. We are setting forth from the village green on Monday 21st starting at 6pm. We may be chain-ganged together 5 metres apart, and we maybe singing through kazoo masks or perhaps it will be a solo choir? But make a note in your diaries NOW. All welcome, especially those who provide healthy pit-stops for the team! We will finish the night in The Percy with several resounding carols

*Jim Railton*

### Theatre Night

**Saturday 19th December**

The Northumberland Theatre Company will be putting on their Christmas Play in the Village Hall, which is suitable for family audiences of all ages. Tickets are strictly limited for social distance purposes. See article opposite for further information.

*Andy Pigg*

### Flavoured Alcohol Competition

**Saturday 14th February**

The ever popular competition to produce your own favourite tippie returns, but with a Valentine's theme this year. Further details to follow but get that fruit steeping now.

*Stefan Barker*

### Murder Mystery

**Saturday 27th February**

By popular demand we would like to run another Murder Mystery evening in the Village Hall early next year. It will be on similar lines to previous events but the theme this time will be Chatton 1971 (50 years ago) - so get those kaftans out of the loft.

If you would like to be involved in running the event, either playing a character, helping with the food & drink, or general organising, please contact Ian or Mary.

Tickets will be on sale in the new year (details in next Chatton News) so put the date in your diary now and think what you'll be wearing.

*Ian & Mary Catchpole*

## Northumberland Theatre Company Presents



*The year 2020 has been a bit of a strange one for everyone, even Santa Claus! After self-isolating at the North Pole (Mrs Claus was visiting her sister in Northumberland!) and having to furlough all but one of his elves, poor Santa is afraid Christmas cheer has all but disappeared and that no-one will be celebrating this year.*

*He's lost hope, he's lost faith, he's even lost his reading glasses...but most importantly, he's lost his Christmas spirit! Can Bubblegum, the odd little elf with a big heart, help Santa find his fuzzy Yuletide glow once more and remind him of the true meaning of Christmas? Or will 2020 be the year with no festive cheer?!"*

The show is an original piece and welcomes back Eilish Stout-Cairns (The Snow Queen) and NTC Touring veteran Nigel Collins (Straw Headed Peter, Little Red Riding Hood, Rumpelstiltskin, Beauty and the Beast)

**Suitable for family audiences of all ages.**

Performance starts at 6pm. It will be a 45 to 50 minute production without an interval

Tickets available from Chatton Village Shop priced at Adult £10 Child £5

**Only a limited number of tickets are available due to the reduced capacity.**

*In the event of cancellation there will be a full ticket refund.*

Unfortunately there will be no bar facilities on the night. However snack boxes will be available to pre order from the Village Shop when purchasing tickets. These can then be collected on arrival at the Village Hall on the night.

Snack Box options are:

**Rudolph Reindeer** - Red wine (187ml), crisps, popcorn, mini mince pie - £5

**Winter Wolf** - White wine (187ml), crisps, popcorn, mini mince pie - £5

**Pingu Penguin** - Prosecco (20cl), crisps, popcorn, mini mince pie - £6

**Frosty Fox** - Fruit shoot, crisps, popcorn, haribo, Christmas chocolate - £1



## Copper's Corner

**Hello everyone** and here is my last blog of 2020. By the time you read this the festive period will be upon us so here are some tips and safety advice for keeping yourself safe and crime free at this time of year. Although a lot of the advice is sensible for any time of year.



1/ Its gets dark very early this time of year so when you leave the house leave a light on or set a timer for one to come on.

2/ When parking your car for a days Xmas shopping (fingers crossed we are back on when you read this) make sure all bags and items of value are stored out of sight. I've seen cars broken into just for the loose bit of change in the centre console.

3/ Park somewhere in a well lit street or use the shopping centre multi storey.

4/ When out of your vehicle keep your phone/wallet/purse out of sight. Pick pockets are out there!!

5/ And when pushing that trolley round doing the big Xmas shop please don't leave your valuables sat in the trolley whilst you're selecting which pigs in blankets you want!

6/ If you're stopping off for that hard earned drink during your shop then consider a soft drink if you're the driver. Easily a way better option than the blue lights going on behind you during the annual drink drive campaign risking a 12 month ban!!!

7/ On another note of the drinking side of xmas if we are allowed out (and it's a big if) make sure you plan how you are getting home. We regularly pick up stranded revellers at this time of year in freezing temperatures, miles from home in T-shirts. Don't be that person who takes up emergency service time when we could be dealing with real emergencies.

Please be safe everyone this Christmas and look after yourself and the ones around you - I'll be out and about working over the festive period looking out for you as well. It's been a strange year for everyone including the emergency services and we can only hope for a better 2021.

On a final note thanks to everyone for reading my blog this year and I hope it's been of some value and interest to you.

Thanks for reading

PC 8873 Curtis Ritchie

## For Those Born Before 1940

We were born before television, before polio shots, penicillin, frozen foods, plastic, contact lenses, videos, computers, frisbees and the pill.

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens. Before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, drip dry clothes, air conditioners and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first, then lived together. We thought 'fast food' was what you ate at Lent, a Big Mac was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea! Before 1940 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirtband. 'Going all the way' meant staying on a double decker bus all the way to the bus station.

In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in a coal shed, a 'joint' was something you cooked had on a Sunday, and 'pot' was something you cooked in. Rock music was a grandmother's lullaby and a gay person was the life and soul of the party.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the ways in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap but...

By the grace of God we have survived.

Be patient and treat us gently. God hasn't finished with us yet.

John Scott

## Till's Tattle

Obviously the council are having a good long rest, after having spent all their energy giving us a new surface on the main street. Their 'Danger from Loose Chips' signs are still up after 3 months! They have also presumably forgotten to come back and replace our white central line? *But hold on*, some folk say – it is safer without it. Certainly cars parked along west end, do slow traffic down, and perhaps without the white line it makes drivers more cautious. **What do you think?** A bit like too many signs - it is certainly cleaner without the clutter.

Till

## Santa's Dilemma

It has been a difficult year for everyone and even Santa has had to rethink how he does things. Unfortunately the Elves have been furloughed, so the Reindeer have been put out to grass. He was recently spotted in Wooler trying out a new form of transport at the auction rooms.



## Welcome to Chatton

It's a sign of a thriving village that so many newcomers have moved into Chatton over the last few weeks. It's just a shame that social restrictions have meant we have not got to know them yet.

Sarah and Tony have moved from Perth into Old Road.

Debbie & Martin, plus Bear the Border Terrier, have moved into Scout Hill.

Also on Scout Hill are Diane and Robin who are moving up from Teeside.

Trish and Roy have moved from Yorkshire onto the Mill Hill Farm properties.

Next door, also on Mill Hill Farm properties, are Dianne and Peter who only very recently moved in.

Finally, Liz and David, with dad Michael, have moved into Chatton Mill Hill.

Apologies if we've missed anyone but we look forward to meeting you all properly at one of the many social events that go on in the village when normality resumes.



Wooler Farmers' Market too

## Chatton Village Stores

have an amazing selection of Christmas present ideas, including:-

**Mrs Ramage Design Cards**

**Cheviot Candle Co**

**Tillside Threads**

**Ord Originals**

...and much, much, more

**Support your local Shop!**



Don't forget Christmas Stamps from the Post Office too.

## Caption Competition

Thank you for sending in your suggestions for a caption for this photo, which were judged by Max Renwick, President Chatton Cricket Club.



Best caption was from Ian Catchpole

**"With Caddick's demon bowling, the opposing batsmen lined up like lambs to the slaughter"**

Max said 'Topical, as Caddick did just this to Manderston on the last day of the season. Plus obviously the sheep.'

Also worthy of mention was **"Local cricket club gets ram-raided"** from Richard Allen and **"Flockdown"** from Tony Lomer-Cross



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## Festive Corny Corner

**Q - What is Santa's favourite garden tool ?**

**A - A Hoe ( Hoe Hoe )**

**Q - Where does Santa get his medical treatment from ?**

**A - The National Elf Service**



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.

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Chatton News IT Department

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