



Chatton News



The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 53 February / March 2021

Church Dressing

It was a bitterly cold winter's day, as rain turned to sleet, when Tracy gathered three brave friends to the church in Chatton. Jane, Liz, and Maggie, duly instructed to wear masks, use the hand sanitiser and keep a distance, set to helping Tracy deck the windowsills of Holy Cross with fresh boughs of pine, colourful baubles, and candle lanterns. A circle of carefully arranged candles and holly on a tall stand marked the top of the central aisle. The nativity scene under the front-facing altar would provide a focal point for the much anticipated Christmas service.

Thankfully it was warmer inside the church than out and, as we bustled about, we were soon discarding coats, scarves and hats. As can only happen when friends get together, there was much banter, laughter, and general merriment, alongside the praise and encouragement we gave each other on our artistic creations. There was one moment of near catastrophe, saved by quick-witted Tracy, when her beautiful, tall flower arrangement next to the main altar, keeled over thanks to an innocent helping hand. Tracy caught it just in time, getting wet in the process, and reassembled it, adding stunning golden stems that reached upward and outward to envelop all who admired it. *Deo gratias!*

Of course, by the end of our toil, the bright red carpet was somewhat dulled by a covering of stray straw, dropped leaves, and tracked dried mud, so vacuuming and sweeping took the last of our strength and enthusiasm, before we could claim our award of hot tea,

biscuits and cake, as we sat on pews and chatted, catching up on each others news.

Alas, the services were cancelled, but I hope those of you who visited the church over the festive season enjoyed the Christmas decorations as much as we enjoyed putting them up.

Maggie Pinsent

Has anybody seen this little chap?

When I was a nipper, bullfinches were fairly common, but I am now led to believe that they have become very localised! Indeed other than seeing one a few years ago in Scotland, I have not seen a bullfinch since I was a young boy. That is, until the last week in November when I saw two male bullfinches in a hedgerow just outside the village on the road to Lilburn. They are seed eaters and are partial to plant buds especially fruit tree buds. In the past they were considered a pest. In those parishes where there were orchards a bounty was paid for each bird caught!



If you can keep an eye out for these birds the Northumberland Wildlife Trust would appreciate sightings being reported. (mail@northwt.org.uk)

So what you need to look for is a finch with a red tummy and a black cap, trust me, you will know when you see one.

Good luck!

Tony Lomer-Cross

Tillside Parish Council

If anyone has a problem with getting to their vaccine appointment, we can provide a taxi service.

They will be picked up from home, taken for the vaccine, and the taxi will wait while the vaccine is administered and then they will be taken home. Anyone requiring this service should contact Isabel Hunter, Parish Clerk, on 01289306365 or tillsidepc@btopenworld.com.

At the recent PC meeting on 14th January, councillors voted to keep the Precept unchanged for the 2021/22 financial year. We confirmed our 3 priorities for the County Council transport plan, and discussed a number of planning applications. Details will be published on our website. It's that time of year again, so we request that you report potholes on the County website - it can take time but it does work! Our next meeting via Zoom is on 11 February.



What's Going On

Such a shame that many events have had to be cancelled but good to see life going on in the village with people clearing snowy paths and helping others through these pandemic times.

Carols Around the Village

Monday 21st December

It was a joy to see a goodly number (under the circumstances) gathering on the village green, including a few new faces of new Chatton residents. Outdoor Carol Singing was one event that was still allowed under the Tiered regulations, albeit with restrictions. It was low key to previous years, but we sang on our usual itinerary through the village. A big thank you to all our "pit-stop" hosts who encouraged us with festive food and drink along the way. We were unable to end the evening in The Percy, but a small contingent continued to Harehope Hall. In total £415 was raised which has been donated to Wooler Food Bank and for a new set of pads for the Chatton Public Access Defibrillator.

Jim Railton

Theatre Night

Saturday 19th December

The Northumberland Theatre Company were unable to perform The Elf Who Saved Santa live so, instead, filmed the show and put it online for all to watch on a "pay what you can" basis via a donation. Hopefully we'll get to see them live again in 2021!

Andy Pigg

Flavoured Alcohol Competition

Cancelled for this year

Murder Mystery

Postponed till a later date

Chatton Angling Association

The good news for local members is that fishing is allowed as exercise so long as participants adhere to the rules on staying local, social distancing, and limiting time spent outdoors. Full details are available on the Sport England website.

I will let members know about renewing membership once we have had the AGM and printed cards - usually in March - but for now you can continue to use your 2020 membership card.

If you are walking the banks and see any cormorants, mergansers or goosanders, I would appreciate it if you could let me know via the CAA email.

Tight Lines

*Richard Tebay
Chairman CAA*

Working Together for Mental Wellbeing

My name is Jane Reed and I am the newly appointed RuralUS Wellbeing Officer, based in the North Northumberland

Voluntary Forum and covering an area down to Amble, across to Rothbury and back up to the Border. The aim

of the project is to enhance mental wellbeing by alleviating anxiety and depression within our rural communities.

In order to achieve this we facilitate access to existing services while identifying ways to grow services in areas where they don't exist. We are working in collaboration with statutory, commissioned and voluntary services pre, during and post clinical intervention to identify individuals who will benefit from the person centred care delivered by the RuralUS project.

What we offer is a bespoke service, specific to the interests and location of the individual. Through the identification of schemes and groups in every locality, and by forming relationships and developing connections we can best match the person to the group.

In addition to this we are able to offer encouragement and funding to anyone interested in setting up a group. This way, people can access the help and support they need and deserve in a way that they want. Following the principles of asset based community development we use the ideas, opinions and experience of the people we encounter to ensure that we are totally inclusive.

It is our mission to work in support of all services and residents. Having worked in the community for many years I understand the challenges that rural living brings, particularly in relation to transport and access. This is why we are focussed on bringing the services to the individual and doing our very best to make sure that no one is marginalised simply because of where they live.

If you have any advice to give or information to share please do get in touch.

janereed.ruralusproject@gmail.com
07493971706

Many thanks

Jane Reed



Welcome to Chatton

Welcome to a new baby in the village as Walter Prytherch was born on 29th December 2020 - two weeks later than expected but all are doing well and Peggy is loving being a big sister. Ally & Henry would like to pass on their thanks to everyone in the village that has sent cards and presents. Everyone has been very generous and they are very grateful.

Abi & David Hamilton, with their two boys, moved into New Road from Salisbury – good to meet them at the Carols Around the Village.

Apologies to Diane & Robin Metcalfe whom we incorrectly reported coming to Scout Hill from *Teeside*. They are currently sheep and cattle farmers in the **Peak District** of Derbyshire, both originate from County Durham, Consett and Darlington, but now want to return to the North East. They're still winding down the farm in order to pass on to the next generation but looking forward to soon moving fully to what looks like a very active and welcoming village.

Lockdowns, Holidays and Exercise

The two lockdowns have encouraged more and more people to stay local to go for a ramble. We anticipate an increase in the number of people coming to Chatton for their holidays, and presumably they will go for a local walk too. So I wondered if it may be worthwhile collecting a few walks on Public Rights of Way in the immediate locality of Chatton? We could produce a leaflet for ourselves and for visitors.

I try to follow the Public Rights of Way shown on the Ordnance Survey maps but sometimes find them impassable due to cropping or animals, or they have simply "disappeared". There is a temptation to find an alternative route rather than simply turn around and go home. Some of us here may know permitted alternatives but I'm sure some folks will simply find "unpermitted" routes regardless of whether they are trekking through farmyards, gardens, crops, etc.

Where these Public Rights of Way are impassable or people are worried about walking through fields of livestock could we have a word with the landowners to identify a mutually agreeable alternative route or to reassure walkers/riders they can simply press ahead? We could publish this, along with advice about dogs etc., etc?

I'm willing to co-ordinate, document, and walk the footpaths/bridleways, but do not know the relevant knowledgeable folks to be able to identify agreeable routes. Feedback, supportive or otherwise, is gratefully accepted via news@chatton.uk.

Ruth Gibson

Till's Tattle

The North Terrace houses were well built by the council in the 1960s and have stood the test of time. No doubt in today's planning world, such grey rendered properties would have a different design and finish. If built today, perhaps they would be made of stone in order to fit into the village?

The most westerly house was boldly painted a couple of years ago, and many thought it would be the start of a brightening up of the row. Let us hope someone soon takes up the paintbrush to add a splash of colour to our village – Chatton Riviera here we come!



Chatting recently to former academic residents Professors David & Joy Palmer Cooper, they reckoned that the village had its own microclimate. Nestled down between the hills we are protected by Cheviot on one side, and the escarpment that runs down from Kyloe to Charlton to the east. Well, who knows if we are fortunate or not – it is still ***** wet, cold and damp at the moment, and we're only half way through winter!

Till

Clothes & Tents Needed

WHEN IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE most of us can retreat to cosy homes. But please spare a thought - and maybe some unwanted winter clothes and bedding - for the refugees who've gathered in camps the other side of the Channel who only have tents for shelter.

Care4Calais is a charity set up to help them and now there's a collection point for donations on your doorstep.

Ali Wrangham is using the grain loft at East Lilburn Farm to store donations for the refugees. One load was delivered to the main Care4Calais centre in Kent in November and another delivery is planned once lockdown is over.

"Local people have been very generous", said Ali Wrangham. "One lady donated hand-knitted hats, scarves and gloves she'd made specially".

Unwanted tents and sleeping bags are also welcome. "We would be pleased to see children's winter clothes too," Ali added. "It's hard to imagine what it's like for families with young children and elderly people to care for in these wintry conditions."

If you have anything to donate please contact

Ali Wrangham

07970 857603/01668 217329

aliwrangham@outlook.com

Winter Driving Tips

Even if this winter ends up being a mild one, preparing as if it's going to be much worse is still a good idea for any driver. From de-icers to jump leads, here's a checklist of important things to carry in your car, for safer driving in the worst winter weather:

Ice scrapers and de-icer

You should ensure that all of your windows and wing mirrors are cleared of snow and ice before you attempt to drive. Failure to remove snow or ice properly could result in you getting points on your licence and a fine.

Anti-freeze screen wash

The water you spray on your windscreen to clean it while driving can freeze, and even damage your wipers and water jets. If you add some anti-freeze, it should help avoid this problem.

Jump leads

If you're leaving work late at night and your car won't start because the battery's gone flat, jump leads could just be what you need. You might also be able to help other

drivers in similar situations.

A towing rope

A tow rope would come in handy if your car needed rescuing or if you needed to help a fellow motorist who's in trouble.

Emergency warning triangle and hi-visibility clothing

If you do breakdown on the road, the Highway Code recommends placing an emergency warning triangle 45 metres behind your vehicle to warn other drivers.

And hi-vis clothing should help you be seen more clearly in dark and wintery weather.

A good torch

Rummaging around in the dark looking for useful items such as breakdown service numbers, water and de-icers would be a whole lot easier with a torch.

It'll also be useful if you need to check your surroundings and car if you get stranded.

Spare light bulbs

It's a good idea to keep a few spare

headlight, sidelight and indicator bulbs inside your car in case they need replacing. You should make sure you know how to change them too!

Phone chargers

It's a good idea to keep an in-car charger in your vehicle or carry a portable charger because breaking down is stressful enough without adding the lack of a phone to call for help.

Warm clothing and good boots

Keeping warm clothing and blankets in your car could prove very useful if you found yourself having a long wait with no heat in the unfortunate event of breaking down.

Boots which grip in all conditions are useful if you happen to get trapped in the snow. You might need to clear snow from under tyres to help them grip, or, indeed, to abandon your car altogether and walk to safety!

eMail Distribution

Don't miss out on receiving Chatton News or hearing important local broadcast messages. Just register at <https://news.chatton.uk> and we will email a link as soon as the newsletter is published. You will also receive occasional local announcements so you won't miss out.

Paper copies of Chatton News will still be produced and distributed as usual. This, and previous issues, can be found on our web site news.chatton.uk.

Chatton News IT Department

Driving Humour (of sorts)

Q : What kind of car does an egg drive ?

A : A Volkswagen

Q : Why can't cars play football very well ?

A : They only have one boot

Q : What kind of car does a cat drive ?

A : A Furr-ari.

Q : What do you call a Spaniard whose car is stolen ?

A : Carlos.

My wife said I couldn't make a car out of spaghetti - you should have seen her face when I drove pasta.

I gave up my seat to a blind person in the bus. That's how I lost my job as a bus driver.

A dad is washing the car with his son. After a moment, the son asks his father, "Do you think we could use a sponge instead?"

If you would like to include something in the April / May newsletter, please get in touch with us by email to news@chatton.uk or contact any of the editorial team by Sunday 21st March please



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