



# Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas  
Issue 54 April / May 2021



## Volunteering with Coast Care

Coast Care is an exciting initiative designed to support volunteers of all ages and abilities to help care for the beautiful Northumberland Coast.

With support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and working together with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Seahouses Development Trust and Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty it looks after the sweeping sandy beaches, rolling dunes, village greens and community spaces, farmland and grasslands which make up our coastal environment.

I have always taken a great deal of pride in the environment that I live in so it was an easy decision to join like minded people in clean up and conservation orientated activities. As a volunteer with Coast Care I have had the opportunity to develop new skills, learn more about the environment and the wildlife we share it with, but above all have met with some extraordinary people who are prepared to give up their free time to ensure this part of our

coastline remains as beautiful as ever.

In early 2019 Craster Parish Council approached Coast Care for help to repair a stretch of dry stone wall that runs from Craster Tower down towards the village. Seizing an opportunity the team at Coast Care organised a short course for twelve volunteers in the construction techniques required for dry stone walling in Northumberland.



*Working on the wall*

Having completed one of the training sessions I agreed to lead a small team of volunteers in completing the reconstruction of the 120 metre stretch of wall. We started the task in September 2019 and after a prolonged delay due to the coronavirus restrictions restarted again in September 2020. We completed on average about five to six metres of wall in a four

hour session. We finally finished the stretch of wall just before Christmas.



*Completed Section of Wall*

I am now in my fourth year of volunteering with Coast Care and try to commit to at least one day a week. Activities range from reconstruction and repair, invasive species identification or removal, beach cleans or flora and fauna surveys. Most activities are between two and four hours duration and volunteers can dip in and out depending on their availability. Activities are always undertaken with enthusiasm by the many volunteers who fully appreciate this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

For more information visit the website at: [www.coast-care.co.uk](http://www.coast-care.co.uk)

*Andy Pigg - Coast Care Volunteer*

## Tillside Parish Council

Our latest Zoom meeting was held on 18th March when a number of planning applications were discussed. The PC are still working with the County Council to look at cost effective measures to reduce **speeding** through Chillingham and to the eastern approach to Chatton. We are continuing to work with Wooler PC and Age Concern on **providing taxis** where necessary for those going for their Covid vaccinations, and other support measures.

Some Chatton residents will have

noticed the new **Book Box** situated at the path entrance next to Mill Hill farmhouse - we are looking for a Custodian for this. If you can help, please contact the PC Clerk or any councillor.

**Election day** is the 6th May and will include the election of Parish Councillors. If anyone who lives in Tillside Parish is interested in standing for election, please see the County Council website for full details of how to apply, or contact the Parish Clerk.

## Podcast



If you are struggling to read Chatton News, or would just like to sit back and have it read to you, then head over to our web site ([news.chatton.uk](http://news.chatton.uk)) to download or play the podcast.

Podcasts are audio files that can be played on your computer / smartphone / tablet, or downloaded to be played at some other time.

We are very grateful to Fliss Elsom-Cook of Fowberry Studios for making the recordings

## 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 hoping that we can return to normal soon*

### Theatre Nights

Northumberland Theatre Company have confirmed the dates for Chatton Village Hall as follows:

Saturday 25th September 2021 @ 7pm

***The Importance Of Earnest***

Saturday 18th December 2021 @ 6pm

***Alice In Wonderland***

Details to follow, but put the dates in your diary now.

## Exciting Sporting Opportunity



Chatton has been chosen as one of a number of villages to pilot a new sport that, it is hoped, will sweep the country – ***Mixed Rugby.***

The concept is for it to be a fully inclusive activity to encompass all ages, genders, abilities and communities. Initially, villages and small communities will compete against each other in a local league, but will quickly ramp up to an international level with exhibition games competing at the Rugby World Cup in France during 2023.

Playing teams are mixed but must comprise a minimum 20% (i.e. 3) from each gender (male, female and other), an even mix from the five age groups (primary school, secondary school, under 30, under 60, and retired), with at least one blue badge holder or registered disabled of any age or gender (assistance dogs only allowed on pitch during kicks to retrieve the ball) plus a fair spread of ethnicity. Age groups will wear distinguishing coloured shorts as hard physical tackling is only allowed within the same age group. Similarly, the genders will wear blue, pink or rainbow scrum caps with contact only being allowed between groups on defined areas of the body.

Chatton's home pitch will be shared with the cricket club as the rugby / cricket seasons only overlap by a few weeks - when seasons overlap, scrums are not to be contested directly on the cricket square.

If interested in playing, coaching (motivational or wellbeing), or sponsorship please contact us through the usual email address.

*Avril Fultz  
Glendale Diversity Czar*

## Birds of Different Feathers

Following the article in the last issue, a few people had spotted one of these little bullfinch chaps and contacted the Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Although they were grateful of people's enthusiasm, they do not store wildlife records at NWT, but have suggested the best



place to do so is with the local environmental records centre, [www.ericnortheast.org.uk](http://www.ericnortheast.org.uk), who have a dedicated online portal.

Kath Nixon took this great picture of a sparrowhawk keeping an eye open for a tasty pigeon lunch on her garden shed.



Meanwhile, Ian Catchpole was trying to take a photo of one of the buzzards that often visit his garden, when the picture was photo bombed by the buzzard's mate. Not often you get two buzzards in the same photo.



## Church Matters

### ***Easter Service at Holy Cross Church, Sunday 4th April at 10am***

With the opening up after lockdown, services in church will resume, beginning with Easter Sunday at 10am. We will have to follow the social distancing rules, which means masks are required unless you are exempt. Sadly, no singing is allowed yet but music will be played. There's plenty of space so we hope to see as many of you as possible. The uplifting celebration of Easter feels very appropriate as lockdown eases.

After Easter, services within the benefice will be on a rotation basis in the various churches, but exact details are still being agreed. The next service in Chatton will be on 2nd May at 10am. Please contact Graeme Bone if you need more details.

*Graeme Bone  
Lay Vice-Chairman*

Banner picture at top of front page is of **Tilly and Henry**, great neice & nephew to Kath Nixon, on an Easter Egg Hunt in Chatton last year.



## Welcome to Chatton

Welcome to Maggie, Bob and their border collie, Elsa, who have moved from Dorset into Victoria & Simon's old house in Mill Hill. They are enjoying getting their new home ready but looking forward to some proper village life.

## The Percy Arms



New owners of The Percy Arms, Ollie and Matt, would like to introduce themselves and hopefully welcome you back from the 17th of May (if

everything goes to plan). Due to the lack of outdoor seating space we'll be waiting until restrictions lift, allowing people to sit inside, as well as enjoying our new outside space.

Both Ollie and Matt have experience in pubs, as well as the catering industry, and will be building on the great reputation that The Percy Arms already has for food, drinks and service. Ollie has previously owned the Barrels Alehouse in Berwick, as well as two pubs in Edinburgh and Matt has run his own catering company for over 10 years, so they make a great team!

They took over back in December and have since been working hard to make improvements, ready for re-opening. One of the first jobs was to tidy up the outside areas, and they are currently planning to develop a more fixed beer garden, freeing up parking spaces for guests.

Although Ollie & Matt will not be living in Chatton, they are keen to get involved in any community issues and help assist with any fundraising events or projects. They are retaining the existing team of staff and want to be a part of the local community with plans to work closely with the Parish Council on any changes.

Ollie said, "we understand what a key part of the community a local pub is and want to embrace all things Chatton. Growing up in Northumberland I have always known of the Percy Arms and its great reputation, so it's amazing to now be getting ready to open it."

We are now taking both room and table bookings via our website or email - [info@percyarmschatton.co.uk](mailto:info@percyarmschatton.co.uk) alternatively give us a call on 01668 215244. If anyone in the village has any ideas, thoughts or concerns; we would love to hear from you so please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Ashleigh  
General Manager

## Book Box

We have a new addition in the village of a Book Box that has sprung up in the path that runs alongside the old Coach Garage towards Kiki's field - *if anyone knows what this lane is called, or what it could be called, please let us know.*

A number of these have appeared around the area and are an initiative of Glendale Connect, supported by Glendale Gateway Trust, North Northumberland Voluntary Forum, The National Lottery and Alnwick Lions.

If you fancy a read of one of the books, take it away, read it and bring it back if you don't want to keep it or swap it. If you have a book to share, please put it in the book box.

If you could act as a custodian for this facility please offer your services to Tillside Parish Council.



## Chatton Village Hall

Chatton Hall Trustees are expecting to reopen the gym to users on Monday 12th April. This is of course subject to any change in the 'road map' and we will put details on the website and Facebook.

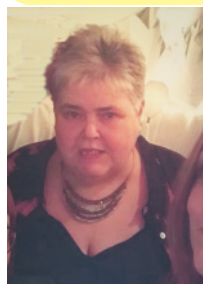
After this, there are plans to reopen for other activities as and when allowed. Alongside this we are hoping to hold some sort of celebratory event in the summer, hopefully with a christening for the new BBQ area.

We are also planning two theatre events in the late autumn and at Christmas. The former will be **The Importance of Being Earnest** on Saturday 25th September @ 7pm and the second is **Alice in Wonderland** on Saturday 18th December @ 6pm. Both will be performed by Northumberland Theatre Company who have been to us before.

Work will begin shortly on repairing the roof over the original gym room. Once complete, the gym will be relocated to its original position, leaving the meeting room available for other uses. We anticipate little disruption for gym users whilst the works are being carried out but will keep users informed as these progress.

The Trustees will be able to fund these works using balances put aside for repair and maintenance. However the remaining roof works will require the securing of grants and some fund raising once we are open. We hope that these and works already carried out will preserve the fabric of the building for years to come!

## Friends Remembered



It is with sadness to record the passing of **Jan Barrass** of Mill Hill who died in her sleep, in hospital, on Thursday 18th March 2021.

Kevin, her husband, would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes.

## Copper's Corner

As we are, hopefully, seeing our way out of COVID restrictions, and the date of each stage is well publicised, Northumbria police are continuing to have a pragmatic approach to enforcement of the restrictions but powers will be used when and where necessary until the restrictions end so please ensure you can stick to the rules. Not long to go.



On one final point, there has been a number of reports recently of people getting recorded messages from various government agencies, DVLA, HMRC and the National Crime Agency to name but a few, on their land line and mobile phones. The content threatening the recipient with arrest if they don't comply with various instructions and making them call back. Can I just remind everyone to be very careful when receiving cold calls/recorded messages or emails from supposed agencies and to be 100% sure when giving personal details or information. I don't know of any of the agencies that would leave messages of this type with a member of the public so please be aware.

Thanks for reading and will catch up next time.

*PC 8873 Curtis Ritchie  
Berwick Neighbourhood team*

## Awful Easter Puns

**Q :How do wet Easter Bunnies dry themselves ?**

*A : With a hare dryer!*

**Q : Where does the Easter Bunny go when he needs a new tail?**

*A : To a re-tail outlet!*

**Q : What kind of jewellery do rabbits wear?**

*A : 14 carrot gold!*



Thanks again to Dorothy Scott and 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, Christine Lawson in Chillingham & Ruth Gibson in Hepburn.

## Volunteers needed !

Could you spare a few hours per week to support our local community?



Northumberland Log Bank, located just outside Chatton, are looking for volunteers to collect, prepare and deliver logs to households in our local area.

Our aims at the Log Bank are simple - to help reduce fuel poverty by supplying free logs to households in need due to financial constraints, poor health, advanced age or rural isolation. As our customer base grows we need additional volunteers to process the weekly orders or to prepare and split logs at our base. Full support, training and supervision will be provided and volunteers can do as much or as little as they wish - any support is always very welcome!

All our wood is very generously donated by a wide range of estates, landowners and individuals across rural Northumberland who all recognise the need to tackle fuel poverty and support households in need.

If you would like to join our jolly band please contact Kate Thick on 07900 963234 or email Kate at [katethick@hotmail.com](mailto:katethick@hotmail.com)

More detail about the Log Bank can be found here <https://www.breamishvalley.com/northumberland-log-bank/>

Northumberland Log Bank is a non registered charity operating under Northumberland Community Voluntary Action and supported by Northumberland County Council.

## 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.

Don't forget you can have this issue read to you on our podcast, also downloadable from our web site.

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](https://news.chatton.uk).

*Chatton News IT Department*

If you would like to include something in the June / July newsletter, please get in touch with us by email to [news@chatton.uk](mailto:news@chatton.uk) or contact any of the editorial team by Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May please