



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 55 June / July 2021



Lindisfarne Castle Re-opens

It's been 428 days since it last happened, but on Saturday 22nd May 2021 Lindisfarne finally opened its heavy oak doors to visitors again. Over those long months, the castle has been eerily silent. The usual hum of visitors talking and children asking searching questions of their parents has been absent, with only the occasional cacophony of the vacuum cleaner, or the howl of the wind in the chimneys to break the monotony. Only a couple of our staff were attending the site regularly to check on the place and test the alarms, but we were mainly working from home, so the building was even denied our familiar presence for most of 2020.

Lindisfarne is and always has been about the people that use the place. From its early origins as a fort where the men scanned the horizon for enemy ships, manned the guns, and swept the batteries (we know they also got royally drunk toasting innumerable passing ships and the dignitaries onboard, regardless whether they were on

board or not) to the Edwardian holiday home of Edward Hudson and his Bloomsbury pals; eating lobster, drinking champagne, and holding fancy dress parties. Visitors today are the latest in a long tradition of folk making use of the castle in its contemporary form and without them the building feels empty, in more ways than one.

I think then it might be clear how significant and exciting the reopening is – not just for our visitors.



We have a spectacular new installation by the artists Heinrich & Palmer which has been carried over from last year and it really has to be experienced to be believed; the castle is depicted in ways never before seen, and indeed there are

parts where it is truly astounding to see. We have a number of rooms furnished but most of the collection remains offsite following the 2017-18 restoration work, this actually allows us to showcase the castle in new ways and tell stories which previously were drowned out by the displays. We are working hard on the collections to restore objects to the castle in due course. Despite saying the installation is amazing and everyone should see it, the jewel in the castle's crown remains the Upper Battery and the views on days (looking out the window) like this one as I type, where the views and stillness are indescribably beautiful. While I maintain Lindisfarne is nothing without people, its very nature is in its location, separate but visible, a high point on a flat island that isn't always an island.

If you would like to come and see us this year there is now a booking system on our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lindisfarne-castle to check availability.

Nick Lewis - Collections & House Officer

Keep Walking

Above all do not lose your desire to walk.

Every day I walk myself into a state of wellbeing and have walked myself away from every illness.

I have walked myself into my best thoughts and I know of no thoughts so burdensome that one cannot walk away from them.

But sitting still, and the more one sits still, the closer one comes to feeling ill.

Thus, if one just keeps on walking everything will be alright.

John Scott

Chatton Tramps

The monthly walks may run in a different format in future. If interested in participating please contact via news@chatton.uk

Village Hall Open for Business

The gym has been in use since mid April and yoga sessions resumed on Tuesday 18th May (please contact lyn@lynlife.org). Plus we hope carpet bowls will start again soon, probably on a Wednesday (contact Tony Harrison directly or via news@chatton.uk).

We also hope to hold events over the summer both indoors and outdoors using the new BBQ. Information will be shared on the website and Facebook as well as *Chatton News*.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and forbearance over the last year and welcome everyone back to near normality!

Gill Rollings

Upcoming Events



Tickets on sale at Chatton Village Store. Would be great to see everyone together to enjoy this event and locally prepared delicious food

Atay Dervish

Chatton 1971

Chatton will be transported back 50 years to 1971 for another Murder Mystery Evening in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd October. The evening will follow similar lines to previous events – based around a contemporary styled meal of the period, with local characters circulating to act out the storyline of deeds most foul. Can you work out who is the culprit?

Tickets will be going on sale nearer the time (details in next issue of Chatton News), but now is the time to get your old 1970s clothes out of the loft (although some folk never put them away) and put the date in your diary.

These events could not go ahead without the dedicated band of helpers. If you would like to help in front or behind the scenes, please contact us.

Ian & Mary Catchpole

Theatre Nights

Northumberland Theatre Company will be performing at Chatton Village Hall as follows:

Saturday 25th September 2021 @ 7pm

The Importance Of Being Earnest

Saturday 18th December 2021 @ 6pm

Alice In Wonderland

Tillside Parish Council

Following the AGM on 13th May, the newly elected PC comprises Michael Strother (Chairman), Richard Tebay (Vice Chairman), Alistair MacDonald Smith, Robert Ord, Iona Straughan, Henry Prytherch, Ali Wrangham, Tracie Faa-thompson, John Renner, Ian Fiddes, Dan Spours, and Tony Hume.

The Chairman recognised how well the community had supported each other over the last year of the pandemic, and thanked the Chatton Shop in particular for staying open and serving the community during some very difficult times. It was appreciated that our two new County Councillors - Mark Mather (Wooler) and Colin Hardy (Norham and Islandshires which covers the northern tip of Tillside Parish) - attended the meeting, especially as we discussed the ongoing anti-social problems at St Cuthberts Cave and they are taking this matter up with the authorities.

There are still two Parish Councillor vacancies - one for Chatton and one for Hetton - so please contact the Clerk or any Parish Councillor if you would like to apply.

There are a good number of planning applications and variations coming through for consideration, and we expect this to continue and increase during 2021. We have agreed to a late Spring Clean for Chatton on Sunday morning 6th June. Other areas of the Parish still to be arranged.

We are still looking for a volunteer to look after the Book Box - please let us know if you are interested.



Our next meeting is scheduled for 8th July, which will hopefully be held in the Village Hall replacing Zoom! All residents, especially the many newcomers to the Parish, are welcome to attend.

Once again we have had complaints about dog fouling on the old school field behind the Village Hall. This is a play area for children, as responsible dog walkers recognise and respect, but the problem is getting worse.

*Tillside Parish Council
www.tillside.uk*

The Percy Arms is Open

The Percy Arms first week of being back open has certainly been one to remember! Our newly decorated dining and drinking areas have been a hit, with a full restaurant and bar every evening. Booking isn't essential but most definitely recommended. The whole team would like to thank all our locals, friends and guests for your continued support.

Ashleigh Priest, Manageress

Church Matters

Following the suspension of Church services due to Covid, we restarted with a well attended Easter Day service and it was lovely to be able to worship together. Church services in Chatton will continue on the 1st Sunday of the month, with the next communion service on Sunday 6th June at 10.00am. Services are also taking place across the Benefice on the other Sundays (full list on the Church notice board).

Graeme Bone

Copper's Corner

Hello everyone. Thought I'd briefly cover a topic which we do deal with a lot of at this time of year. These incidents are covered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They specify that it is an offence to do any of the following:-



1/ Intentionally kill or injure any wild bird (unintentionally hitting one with your car when it flies into your path is unfortunate but not covered by the act)

2/ Intentionally damaging or destroying the nest of any wild bird being built

3/ Intentionally or recklessly disturbing any wild bird when it is building a nest or at a nest containing eggs or the young of a wild bird.

So basically be careful when you are cutting back trees or hedgerows and bushes etc

A wild bird is classed as any bird which is resident of any European state. If you see something that isn't classed as a wild bird then I would probably contact a nearby sanctuary as it may have escaped!!!

One last note, should anyone want to get in touch with us here at one of the North Northumberland neighbourhood teams via email you can go onto the Northumbria Police website, click on Contact Us then select Your Neighbourhood - there is a drop down box for the area you want to get in touch with. The local ones are here at Berwick and Alnwick.

Thanks for reading

*PC 8873 Ritchie
Constable Neighbourhood Policing (Rural)*

Chatton Angling Association

I am delighted to report that the first sea trout are coming through our waters, with a superb 4lb bar of silver being caught near the purple bridge in mid May.

We have a long established association with members who love to come through from afar and try to catch these elusive but wonderful sea trout and the occasional salmon.

There is also a good wild trout and grayling population. For the recent newcomers to the Parish, please contact our Secretary Dorothy Douglas (directly or via *Chatton News*) if you are interested in becoming a member for a nominal fee.

Our annual Jim Nesbit Trophy competition is scheduled for Saturday 3rd July - meet 10am Percy carpark, fish till 4pm and enjoy a free buffet at 5pm. All local and associate members are very welcome but please let the Secretary know if you want to join us. I'm happy to have a chat with anyone interested.

*Richard Tebay Chairman CAA
Dorothy Douglas Secretary CAA*

Now, the Weather

"Ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out"

and

**"Who doffs his coat on a winter's day
Will gladly put it on in May"**

These are just some of the old sayings about this time of year.

This year both of these turned out to be very true.

April 2021 had the lowest average minimum temperatures for April in the UK since 1922, and the third lowest since records began in 1884. We had the highest level of air frost in 60 years, with 27 days in the north, and 22 days of ground frosts compared to an average of 12. It's been a dry month with just small showery spells, but hasn't the air been cold! Bitter winds, hail, and sleet have caused considerable damage in many gardens, with flowers such as camelias and magnolias being scorched. And then along came May. We expected it to get warmer, but the early bank holiday this year was 6°C as opposed to 24°C last year. Frosts continued, as did the cold air. Our temperatures have varied between 5°C and 15°C below last year's.

On the bright side, the tulips are loving this weather. They're standing tall, blooming beautifully, and staying with us for longer than last year.

Maggie Pinsent

Incidentally: May, in the first saying, refers to the Hawthorn blossom, also known as the Mayflower

Chatton Cricket Club Report

First game out this season for Chatton on Sunday 25th April saw us at Ulgham on a bright sunny day. Doddy won the toss and we went in to bat. A solid (*aka slow*) base was laid by the openers, lots of overs, no wickets and only a few runs. They were replaced by Charles Dean who spent longer walking from the pavillion to the square and back than batting. Eventually Danny Caddick took on the scoring role. Laurie Blackburn and Mike Briggs batted well at the end to put on some useful runs, showing the rest of us what batting should look like. 179 looked a good total to defend.

Ulgham started at pace. Our opening bowlers of Briggs and Dan Crowe doing very little wrong, in fact showing that the season will be bright with a start like that. What followed though was a bowling masterclass - Caddick bowling three maidens on the trot and giving away nothing. His strike partner Max Renwick was simply on fire, swing bowling at its finest, with the ball hooping all over the place. The Ulgham batsmen simply had no idea what was coming at them. Unfortunately this devastating spell brought their star batsman back to the crease, who saw Ulgham through finishing with a creditable 92* and winning the



game.

As usual, a wonderful day out against old friends, many thanks to Ulgham CC for their usual warm welcome.

It is said that the sun shines on the righteous, so it was on an overcast, cold and showery day that Chatton CC faced St Georges CC at Mitford Park on 6th May. As usual Doddy lost the toss and we were sent in to bat. Not a bad loss as we would have probably done this anyway.

Caddick and Dean strode out with confidence, Dean returning shortly after with a solitary run to his name. Still it was an infinite increase on his previous innings in the same amount of balls. This brought in Cook who, with Caddick, attacked the bowling of St Georges until both retiring with the next wicket only falling on 116 runs.

Then things started to go a little wrong. A string of low value wickets fell until Caddick and Cook were called on once again to add a few to the total leaving us on 161

at the finish.

St Georges started their innings at pace, two expansive batsmen setting about Dodd and Briggs, who persevered and eventually got their men. The previous week's 6 wicket wonder Renwick continued where he left off previous week. Pure filth but, as usual, filth gets wickets. A repeat on previous week saw one batsman let off a few times with poor catching, retiring on a quick 50.

In the midst of all this excitement the poorly placed helmet of Steve Halbert scored 5 runs for the opposition by just being there. The 5 runs allocated were more than 12 batsmen on the day managed individually. Halbert's helmet may well be opening next week. Perhaps a new fine should be introduced for anyone who cannot score more than a helmet.

Things were tight with only a couple of overs left, the shout went out to keep it tight. Scores tied with an over and a half to go, the next ball saw St Georges home.

Another fine spirited game and we look forward to welcoming St Georges back to Chatton later in the season.

If interested in Chatton Cricket Club, please contact via news@chatton.uk

Remember that you can download this & previous copies of Chatton News, listen to the podcast, and sign-up for email notification from our web site at news.chatton.uk.

To contact us, or anyone mentioned here, email us at news@chatton.uk.



Thanks again to Dorothy Scott, and Richard & Caroline Roberts of Elm Bank Coastal Park in their generous support for Chatton News. Thanks also to all who deliver copies, Ian Nixon and Andy Pigg in Chatton, Christine Lawson in Chillingham & Ruth Gibson at Hepburn.

Corny Corner

Did you know that 10 + 10 is the same as 11 + 11?

10+10 is twenty and 11+11 is twenty too

There are 10 types of people in this world, those that understand binary and those who don't

My work colleagues used to laugh at my jokes but since the pandemic no-one on Zoom calls does anymore. I asked why and was told they are not remotely funny.

If you would like to include something in the August / September newsletter please get in touch with us by email to news@chatton.uk or contact any of the editorial team by Friday 23rd July please