



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas
Issue 59 February / March 2022



Storm Arwen

2021 will be remembered in years to come as the year we experienced Storm Arwen. Due to the potential dangers posed by heavy winds, the Met Office named Storm Arwen as the first high impact storm of the season, which runs from September to August.

Storm names are decided alphabetically by weather officials, but the public does have some input with more than 10,000 names submitted for consideration each year.

The name Arwen is believed to be of ancient Welsh origin and means "fair" or "good" (can't see much



Tree on the green split in two

similarity with the storm). It is most commonly a female name. Arwen was made famous by J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, which sees the name translated to "noble maiden" in Sindarin (still not seeing the connection with the storm!). She is one of the half-elven who lived during the Third Age; her father was Elrond, lord of the Elvish sanctuary of Rivendell.

Almost everyone reading this will have their own story to tell about their experience on that November night, and the following days coping with the aftermath. Our fallible reliance on electricity became a reality on those days we were cut off. But, the village community prevailed and many acts of neighbourly goodwill were witnessed - see Tillside PC article on emergency planning.

The clean-up operation is still on-going with fallen trees, although no longer blocking roads, still being cleared. Buildings are still awaiting repairs, now watertight but still in need of permanent restoration.

Life goes on and there is much to look forward to in 2022 living in around Chatton.

Happy New Year!

Round-up

Carols Around the Village

Tuesday 21st December

It was a joy to again see a goodly number of all ages gathering on the village green, including a few faces of new Chatton residents - hard to believe this has been a feature of the village for over 40 years. A big thank you to all our "pit-stop" hosts who encouraged us with festive food and drink along the way. We were able to end the evening in The Percy, which laid on warming refreshments for the singers. In total £300 was raised which has been divided equally between the Air Ambulance, Hospice and SPEAK - a local charity based in Morpeth that the shop are supporting.

Jim Railton

Old Year's Night

I would like to say thank you to everyone that supported the New Year's Eve party. We made £140 profit which has been used to buy lighting for future events/parties. A wonderful night.

Atay Dervish

Burns Night

Saturday 22nd January

The Percy Arms put on another Burns Night that was well attended. The menu featured traditional Scottish dishes such as Cullen Skink, Macsween Haggis and Topsy Laird Trifle, with other variations to suit everyone's palate.

The haggis was piped in by Mr Andrew Smith and addressed, in his customary style, by Mr Michael Ross.

Church Matters

Chatton and Chillingham PCC are pleased to confirm that the Revd Tracy Usher will be licensed on Sunday 30th January as the Minister to the Breamish & Till Benefice which, of course, includes Chatton and Chillingham.

We hope you will all welcome Tracy as she begins her work.

Chatton & Chillingham PCC

Banner picture of sunrise over Chatton reproduced courtesy of Chatton In Pictures.
Search Facebook and LIKE 'Chatton In Pictures' to see many more local pictures

Friends Remembered



Stuart Loudon

26th February 1946 - 26th December 2021

Stuart was born in Newcastle and lived most of his life prior to Chatton, in and around Whickham. He travelled widely as a young man and enjoyed a good life whilst running his own printing business, before selling up and moving to Chatton. Stable Cottage was his ideal retirement – a quaint old cottage next to a pub where he could enjoy himself.

I first met Stuart many years ago when he still lived in Whickham – he used to bring his beloved Dandie Dinmont Terrier to the surgery – he cut quite a dash in his open-top Mercedes and charming manners. He was always well dressed and enjoyed the chatter with vets and nurses at the surgery. Although Stuart loved the company of women, he never married.

Stuart's main love, apart from his 'Dandies' and 'Mercs', was cricket. I used to laugh at his lights being on late into the night as he followed cricket across the world – usually with a bottle of Shiraz.

Most people will remember Stuart as the slightly eccentric old boy who sat at the corner of the bar – regularly sparring with his drinking companions on the day. He had a sharp wit and equally sharp sense of humour – sometimes difficult to follow but always finishing with the most wicked chuckle.

However, beneath all the bluster was a heart of gold. Marmite would be a good description – you either got him or you didn't – a totally unique character and we will miss him.

Helen Ray

Welcome to Chatton

We give a very warm welcome to Melissa & Adam Gilroy, with Arthur and Florence, Mabel the dog and Margot the cat who have recently moved in to Mill House. Having moved from Christon Bank they have known the area well all their lives and have parents still living locally too.

Water tight at last!

The Trustees of Chatton Village Hall are pleased to report that, despite a few setbacks, the roof of the hall is now water tight again. In addition, the ceiling in the



original gym room is now repaired so the gym is back in its old position with a couple of added machines thanks to a generous donor. This also means that the meeting room is now available for booking again.

Many, many thanks to all those who supported the fund raising activities to enable this and in particular to the generosity of the Parish Council and the County Council.

The hall remains open for events and activities including the next quiz which will be on 17th February. Plans are also afoot to finally 'open' the new BBQ alongside the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee in June.

Gill Rowlings

Tillside PC

At their last meeting on 13th January, councillors discussed the lack of emergency planning with County Councillor Mark Mather following **Storm Arwen**. There is a major county wide review already underway which will lead to Parishes having their own emergency and communication plans. The consultation will include all Parishes and also be open to the general public to submit their views.

In addition to some important planning applications, the PC also discussed the forthcoming **Queen's Jubilee** celebrations and felt there was a need to start planning now. It was agreed to contact Chatton Village Hall, the PCC, and also ask all residents if they would like to be involved in organising events or volunteering to help.

It was also proposed and agreed that several benches could be made using timber from Storm Arwen and placed in locations around the Parish. Several councillors kindly agreed to donate suitable wood.

Would you like to be involved in organising the Queens Jubilee celebrations across the Parish, or are you willing to help? If so please contact the Clerk at parish@tillside.uk, or speak to your local parish councillor.

Richard Tebay

Upcoming Events

Chatton AED

Chatton's Public Access Defibrillator is located on the decking area of The Percy Arms and is available to anyone with a life threatening need of such a device.



Would you know what to do if the need ever arose?

Come along to The Percy Arms on

Tuesday 15th February, 7:00pm,

for an informal session on CPR and using and AED.

The bar will be open.

Ian Catchpole

Quiz Night

Thursday 17th February

The next quiz night will be held in Chatton Village Hall at 7:30pm. A pen and paper is useful; an intellectual brain is optional (certainly not necessary); but your own drink and nibbles is a must.

Make up a team of six when you get there. Everyone welcome.

Flavoured Alcohol Competition

Sunday 13th March

Well, it's that time of year. I imagine, with all the restrictions, people have been busy gathering all the fruits and made some great flavoured alcohol.



If you think it is a worthy winner, then why not enter our flavoured alcohol competition.

With so many new people in the village we expect the standard to be very high this year. So get blending mixing and distilling and give it a go - who knows - you may just win.

ALL ENTRIES TO BE REGISTERED AND SUBMITTED BY
2.30 PM ON SUNDAY 13th March 2022

£2 PER ENTRY (ENTER AS MANY AS YOU LIKE)

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE INCLUDING
DONATION BAR

RULES:

- All entries must be a minimum size of 100ml
- All entries must be homemade

Come along for the craic even if you're not competing

Stefan Barker

Copper's Corner

Happy new year everyone. In this edition I thought I would touch on the relevant subject of E-scooters, which I'm sure you have either heard about or even given to your children as presents. I want to make sure everyone is aware of the laws around these items as it isn't always clear when spending anything upwards of £1000 on these items.



1/ These items are legal to own but not to use on public roads.

2/ You can only use them on public roads if they are being used as part of a government backed scheme (example being the bright orange ones in Newcastle)

3/ If not being used in one of the schemes above you can only use them on private land with the permission of the owner.

4/ If you get stopped using one on the road you might receive an expensive fine for no insurance, 6 points on your licence (yes, even if you don't currently have a licence) and the e-scooter might get seized and crushed.

5/ You can also be prosecuted for using your mobile phone when riding one as well.

These restrictions apply to all modes of transport classed as 'powered transporters', which covers a variety of novel personal transport devices which are mechanically propelled (propelled by a motor) as well as or instead of being manually propelled. It includes e-scooters, Segways, hoverboards, go-peds, powered unicycles, and u-wheels.

Don't want to bring doom and gloom around the ownership of these things as they can be fun but it's more for prevention is better than cure as I wouldn't want anyone's child to at best have their Christmas present seized and crushed by the police or at worst be involved in a serious accident when using one as they generally have no lights or bright markings.

I hope this is of some use to you all, so thanks for reading and until next time stay safe.

PC 8873 Curtis Ritchie

Stamps

Thank you to everyone who has saved their Christmas Postage stamps and donated them through me for the RNIB. Remember that it's not just Christmas stamps as I shall continue to be collecting throughout the year.

Mary Catchpole

Champagne & Raspberry Possets

Here is a little treat for that romantic Valentine's meal at home (or any other time).



Ingredients

140g frozen raspberries , defrosted
2 tbsp champagne (*buy a mini bottle and treat yourself to a glass while you prepare dinner!*)
200ml double cream
4 tbsp golden caster sugar
2 tsp freeze-dried raspberry pieces
shortbread biscuits , to serve

Method

STEP 1. Put the raspberries and Champagne in a mini food processor or blender (or use a jug and a hand blender). Whizz until the purée is as smooth as you can get it, then use a wooden spoon or spatula to push as much of it through a sieve as you can. Discard the seeds left behind.

STEP 2. Put the cream and sugar in a saucepan and warm gently until the sugar melts. Increase the heat until just boiling, then boil vigorously for 2 1/2 mins, stirring constantly. Turn off the heat and stir in the raspberry-Champagne purée. Cool for 15 mins before dividing between 2 small pots or glasses. Chill for 30 mins, then sprinkle over the freeze-dried raspberry pieces and chill for at least 2 hrs more until set (or overnight if you're making ahead).

STEP 3. To serve, remove the possets from the fridge and add some (heart shaped) shortbread biscuits

Freeze-dried raspberries are available from The Good Life shop in Wooler

BBC Good Food

Ghostly Goings On?

Hoping to catch ghostly presences on a chilly night mid-January at Chillingham Castle were comedians Adam Rowe and Dan Nightingale. Local ghost hunter, Barry Dodds, came too to hold a séance.



Adam and Dan were staying in relative luxury in The Grey and Lookout apartments. But each member of cast and crew had to stay for some time throughout the night in the Oubliette. On their own!!!

To find out whether the night was a nightmare tune into The Parapod online - some podcasts turn into movies, this is one of them.

Ruth Gibson

Valentines Factoids

Around 145 million cards are sold around Valentine's Day in the UK.

Over 50% of couples in the UK are not planning on celebrating Valentine's Day.

10% of all marriage proposals happen on 14th Feb
Americans spend much more on St. Valentine than us
British men spend twice as much on gifts as women
A British man is credited with the introduction of the classic heart-shaped chocolate box.

Valentine's Day was once banned in the UK.

Corny Corner

A look at life...

A genie granted me one wish so I said "I want to be happy"

Now I'm living in a cottage with six dwarves and working in a mine.

*Instead of water I put Red Bull in my coffee maker
I was half way to work before I realised I forgot my car.*

I saw a microbiologist today.

He was much bigger than I expected.

There's a new restaurant opening called Karma
They don't have a menu - you get what you deserve.

There are two unwritten rules in life

- 1.***
- 2.***

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 Tuesday 22nd March 2022 please

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**.



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