



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas
Issue 63 October / November 2022



A Car is Reborn

It all started on Ian Catchpole's 60th birthday party when someone planted a seed saying "Why not restore another car that's the same age as you?" This idea germinated when an advert for a very sorry looking 1957 MGA in need of total restoration was spotted on eBay. It had been re-imported from Delaware, USA – 90% of 1950's British sports cars were exported at the time, the majority going to USA.



This particular vehicle was a barn find that had not been driven since 1971 – to say it was in need of repair and restoration was an understatement.

First part of the project was to remove as much from the body as possible so that new sills could be welded in place whilst the body was still affixed to the chassis – the sills had completely rusted away and the body was held together by some fibre glass that someone had made a botched repair years ago. Once strong again the body was off, the engine & gearbox removed and the chassis repaired / rust treated. The suspension, brakes and running gear were rebuilt before reattaching to the chassis. The engine / gearbox dismantled and rebuilt before installing back onto the chassis. A test firing of the engine was a special day as it burst



into life on the first turn of the starter motor - days as good as that don't happen very often.

Attention turned to the body which was stripped down to bare metal and a few repairs made to rusted and damaged panels. The bare metalwork was primed before being sent off on a trailer to a professional spray shop in Belford. It returned, resplendent in its original Orient Red, to be married back on the chassis once again with the help of a few strong friends (the bare body only weighs 100lbs). It started looking like a car again.



Seats were re-trimmed in new leather and bolted onto new carpets. Internal trim cards have been made from scratch and look the part. Much of the chrome work

has had to be replaced with new as the original was beyond repair as the price of re-chroming nowadays is exorbitant.

Along the way the vehicle was converted from Left Hand Drive to RHD - a simple(ish) job as the designers had the foresight in the 1950's to produce a British car that could be exported to LHD countries, just requiring a RHD steering rack, RHD dashboard and RHD pedals. It also has a nod to the 21st century by fitting an alternator instead of dynamo, electronic ignition, LED lights (that can actually be seen) and a few other tweaks that do not stray too far from the original concept.

The car had its outing onto the front drive as part of the Jubilee Celebration garden competition – the first time it had moved under its own power in 51 years. Now registered with age related UK plates it is out on the open road - please give us a wave if you see us driving past.



To see 'Madge' in action search YouTube for "**MGA in Northumberland**" or go to

<https://youtu.be/ZVIRXSejbag>

To follow the rebuild go to

<https://mga.chatton.uk>

Ian Catchpole

Banner picture of crocheted postbox topper in Wooler High Street to commemorate the Queen's life

What's On

CCC Race Night

Saturday 8th October

Chatton Cricket Club will again be running one of their ever popular Race Night fundraisers at The Percy Arms. These events have proven great fun in the past and a wonderful social event.

Tickets £7.50 with pie and pea supper.

Come along to place a bet, sponsor a horse or just come for the craic.

Alistair Cochrane

Quiz Night

Thursday 20th October 2022 7:30pm

Teams of up six

£2 per person entry

Bring your drinks and refreshments

Church Services

6th November 9:30 – Holy Cross, Chatton

13th November 10am - Holy Cross Chatton
(Service of Remembrance)

20th November 9:30 – St Peter, Chillingham

Rev'd Tracey Usher

Speaker Nights

Speaker nights will be held on the last Thursday of the month through the autumn / winter period. The talks will begin at 7.30 with refreshments available from 7pm. Topics will include:

Flying High - life as an RAF pilot

Tales from Berwick Barracks

The Tweed Salmon Centre: An Exciting Prospect for Berwick

Sustainable lifestyles

If you have any thoughts on topics you would love to hear about, speakers you would really like to hear from or indeed you would like to give a talk and share your knowledge / enthusiasm about something please contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

Gill Rollings

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 13th November

The Service of Remembrance will be held in Holy Cross commencing at 10:00am. Whether or not you attend the service, everyone is welcome to join together at the War Memorial for the act of Remembrance at 11:00 for the laying of wreaths, planting of poppy crosses and remembering those of our parishes who gave their lives.

Passing of our Queen



We joined together with the nation in mourning the sad loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away at her home in Balmoral on 8th September 2022.

A floral tribute was placed on the War Memorial, and Books of Condolence placed in the Holy Cross Church, Chatton, and in St Peters Church Chillingham.



Fair is Foul and Foul is Fair

These are the opening words to Shakespeare's Macbeth, chanted by the witches as warning of treachery and foul deeds.

Once again we were treated to an excellent performance by Northumberland Theatre Company of Shakespeare's iconic play, adapted by Chris Connaughton and performed on a central stage by an all female cast of three taking on all the roles. The story was told mainly from the perspective of the witches themselves.

With minimal stage dressing, all characters were distinguished with a quick change of crown, dress or jacket. Without all the trappings and distractions it made the language of Shakespeare come alive.

The audience appreciated the small nods to present times with the witches use of mobile phones and the odd Boris, Covid & Truss reference.

Be sure to catch the next performance in December.

Murder Mystery

ADVANCED NOTICE: Back by popular demand, we shall be running another Murder Mystery in Chatton Village Hall early next year (probably February again).

The theme will be a cruise night on the **RMS Chatton** in 1923 so now is the time to sort out what to wear at the Captain's Table.

Tickets will be on sale in the new year but for now the call goes out to anyone who would like to help on the night, either as a character (could you have done it?) or helping out with running things on the night (kitchen and bar staff).

Ian & Mary Catchpole

Congratulations



Congratulations to our very own vicar, Tracey Usher, who married Andy Malthouse at Eglington Church on Saturday 4th September 2022. The couple will now take up residence together at Eglington Vicarage.

Good Show



'No treats for Kiki' has been the watchword for several months as Helen Ray has been getting her into shape for her first show entry. Steve Bishop and Kiki had become a regular sight on the village green practising being paraded on a halter. It all paid off as the 'In Hand Mountain & Moorland Native Breeds' judge at

the Glendale Show loved her, awarding a fourth place rosette. Well done Kiki.

Sunflowers for Ukraine



Official measuring of the Sunflowers took place on Saturday 10th September.

Congratulations to David & Iona Straughan from South Hazelrigg with a 3 metre monster, winning the adult prize of a Glendale Garden Centre voucher.

Well done also to Grace, Alfie and Oscar Wilce for the best Junior entry whose

sunflower made it up to their bedroom window. They received a Doddingtons Milk Bar voucher for their exceptional effort.

Well done to everyone who took part.

Mary Catchpole



Happy Hiking

By now, Adam John from Smithy Cottage in Chatton will have set out on his adventure to walk from John O'Groats to Lands End.

This has been a long term ambition to make such a 1,200 mile journey on foot and now is the time to do it - just because he can! He'll be taking the scenic route with his camping gear on his back, calling in at camp sites, garages or wherever facilities are available as the need arises.

Averaging 15 miles a day, he estimates the trip will take him nearly three months but there's no rush so we'll just have to wait and see. Starting in the north, the hope is that he'll be walking into better winter weather as he journeys south. Essentially walking on his own, he hopes to meet up with some friends along the way to share the journey and make new experiences.

Adam is well known to those who frequent the Percy Arms as he has worked behind the bar since moving into the village last year with his parents Jan and Brian.

We look forward to hearing his tales on his return but Safe Journey for now.



Friends Remembered

With sadness we report the passing of

Maureen Campbell

who died at home in Church Hill on 30th July 2022.

Johnny Jeffreys

1943 - 2022

Johnny was a well known and respected character who died suddenly on 12th September at the age of 79.

As well as farming at Chillingham Newtown he was a great supporter of the local community, serving for several years on Tillside PC. Notably also a keen race horse owner and chairman of Kelso Racecourse for 25 years - he was a major factor in maintaining the independence of his local course and proud of the friendliness of Kelso.

He leaves a wife, Jennifer, son, Peter and grandchildren George & Nicholas.



Chatton Village Hall Theatre Nights

Friday 9th December 2022

'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame,
adapted by Louis Roberts

"Beyond the Wild Wood comes the Wide World!"

In this classic tale we follow Mole, who ventures forth from the comfort of his underground home to explore the outside world. There he meets Ratty and their relationship blossoms into a heart-warming friendship as they embark on adventures together and meet other characters such as Badger and Toad! Suitable for children and families of all ages, this version will be adapted by NTC and performed in our usual fast paced, physical style with live music, song, plenty of laughs and uplifting and joyous moments.

Show runtime: 35 minutes each half with a 15/20 minute interval

Suitable for family audiences of all ages. Curtain up 6:00pm, refreshments from 5:30pm.

Ticket sales:

£10 per Adult, £5 per Child from Chatton Village Shop approximately five weeks before the performance.

Northumberland Theatre Company

August Quiz Night



The August Quiz night was well supported and £70 was raised for the Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust.

If you would like to know how look after any hedgehogs in your garden

please go to their web site for advice.

<https://www.hedgehogs-northumbria.org.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**.



Thanks again to 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.

Belford Community Cinema Presents

Wednesday 19th October 2022

GREAT NORTH: A RUN, A RIVER, A REGION

+ Q and A with Filmmaker Paul Middleton

Wednesday 16th November 2022

THE BIG MEETING

A Documentary about the Durham Miners Gala

+ Q and A with Filmmaker Don Draper

Doors 6.30pm/7pm start.

Tickets: £4 on the Door

Crochet Poppies



Due to commitments it has been difficult to organise a teaching session to crochet poppies for a remembrance display.

Please follow this YouTube link to learn to make crochet poppies.

<https://youtu.be/7jveSzdj6ow>

It may be possible to get together before remembrance, otherwise we may need to defer until next year. In the meantime have a go at making poppies, it's easy! By next year we will have lots.

Jane & Mary

Corny Corner

You think oil & electric prices are high, have you seen chimneys - They're through the roof

**I asked a roofer how much to re-tile my roof
He said nothing, it's on the house.**

I lost three fingers on my hand so asked the doctor if I'd still be able to write.

He said "Probably but I wouldn't count on it"

What's the difference between a literalist and a kleptomaniac?

**A Literalist takes thing literally
A Kleptomaniac takes things, literally**

A burglar broke into my house looking for money.
So I got up and looked with him.

If you would like to include something in the December / January newsletter please get in touch with us by email to **news@chatton.uk** or contact any of the editorial team
by Wednesday 23rd November 2022 please