



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 64 December 2022 / January 2023



Strange Christmas Traditions from Around the World

Christmas is a time of year with many traditions - but those traditions vary depending on where in the world you live.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
To all our readers and contributors

All I want for Christmas is... KFC

Forget the Christmas turkey. For many **Japanese**, traditional Christmas dinner is Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Due to a combination of tiny Japanese ovens and a clever marketing campaign convincing locals that fried chicken is a traditional American Yuletide feast, reservations have to be made to eat at a KFC on Christmas Day.

During the run-up to Christmas, Colonel Sanders statues outside KFC's Japanese outlets wear Santa gear. The chicken is served in special holiday packaging.

Hide your broom

Norwegians believe that Christmas Eve coincides with the arrival of evil spirits and witches. It is only logical then, that Norwegian householders hide all their brooms before they go to sleep.

After all, nothing spoils Christmas quicker than finding your broom in broken pieces at the foot of a tree, trashed by some joy-riding witch.

Facing your Christmas demons

In **Austria**, St Nicholas has an evil counterpart called Krampus. He is the bad cop to St Nick's good cop, a demon-like creature with one task: to punish bad children before Christmas.

Men dressed in devil costumes roam the streets, carrying chains and a basket for abducting especially bad children and hauling them to hell.

It's certainly one way to keep the kids off the streets.

A Christmas dinner you'll never forget

Next time you find yourself complaining about granny's festive brussel sprouts, spare a thought for the poor tykes in **Greenland**.

Each Christmas, they have to tuck into mattak – raw whale skin with a little blubber – and kiviak, which is made by wrapping an auk (a small arctic bird) in seal skin, burying it for several months and eating its decomposed flesh.

How clean is your house?

In **Guatemala**, cleanliness really is next to Godliness. Locals believe that the devil and other evil spirits live in the dark, dirty corners of your home.

Therefore, they spend the week before Christmas sweeping up, collecting rubbish and then piling everything in a huge heap outside. Finally, an effigy of the devil is placed on top and the whole thing is set on fire.

It's called La Quema del Diablo, the 'Burning of the Devil'. The idea for Guatemalans is to burn all the bad from the previous year and start a new year from out of the ashes.

Deck the halls with... spider's webs?

In addition to the standard tinsel, fairy lights and baubles, Ukrainians like to throw an artificial spider and web on the tree as well.

The tradition has its origins in an old tale of a poor woman who couldn't afford to decorate her tree and woke on Christmas morning to discover a spider had covered it in a glorious, sparkling web.

It's for good luck. It's not about poor housekeeping.

I feed dead people

During consoda, the traditional Christmas feast in **Portugal**, families sometimes set extra places at the dining table for deceased relatives.

It's thought that the practice will ensure good fortunes for the household. In some areas crumbs are left on the hearth as well. And you thought feeding all your living relatives was hard enough.

Santa's little helper is an old witch

Unable to conclusively prove the existence of Santa, the Vatican decided to throw its weight behind something they'd had countless dealings with: an old witch called La Befana who delivers presents to kids in **Italy**.

The story goes that the three wise men invited the witch to accompany them to see the baby Jesus. She said she was too busy and the legend was born.

What's On

Coffee Morning Chatton Village Hall

To be held on
Sunday 11th December 2022
at 10:30am

COME AND ENJOY GOOD COFFEE WITH
GREAT CAKE AND PLENTY OF CHAT

Entrance £2.00
(inclusive of coffee/tea & a slice of cake)

Bacon Butties £2.00

Cake Stall / Tombola / Raffle

Proceeds to
Alnwick Food Bank

We will also be collecting food
donations on the day
for the Food Bank

Church Services

4th December 9:30 – Holy Cross, Chatton

24th December 6:30 - Holy Cross Chatton
(Carol Service)

25th December 9:30 – St Peter, Chillingham
Rev'd Tracey Usher

New Year's Party

Saturday 31st December

Chatton Village Hall has been booked for this year's New Year's Eve party. Watch out for details on how to purchase tickets, to be released soon.

Quiz Night

Thursday 19th January 2023 7:00pm

Teams of up six
£2 per person entry

Bring your drinks and refreshments

Remembrance Sunday

As always, there was a good turnout for the Service of Remembrance at the church and around the war memorial in Chatton on 13th November. Wreaths were laid to the fallen of Chillingham by Sir Humphrey Wakefield and those from Chatton by Ian Fiddes on behalf of Tillside PC with the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph recited by Andrew Pigg.



As has become our tradition, the names of the fallen were called out and a cross planted by other attendees, young and old, to commemorate those who died in the conflicts.

Carols Around the Village

Thursday 22nd December

As usual we will be carol singing in and around the village. We shall be starting at the village green at 6pm and there should be some pit stops along the way. All will be very welcome.

Funds will be raised for local charities. If you don't want us to call, please get in touch. Otherwise - our collection cans will be jangling. If you would like to join us on our tour, please do. We will end up in the Percy Arms at the end of the night for some hearty carols around the fireplace.

Jim Railton

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

Front page banner picture of another brilliant crocheted postbox topper by Cecilia in Wooler High Street to commemorate Remembrance Day

Chatton Welcomes....

The 2022/2023 season of speaker nights will continue in the new year at Chatton Village Hall. All talks are free of charge and refreshments will be available from 7pm with the talks beginning at 7.30 pm. The current plans are as follows.

November 24th 2022

Philip Hanmer: Barn owls in North Northumberland

The year's talks were rounded off by Phil who is a British Trust for Ornithology bird ringer and trainer and part of the Natural History Society of Northumbria.

January 26th 2023

Ross Thompson: Life as an RAF pilot

Ross flew RAF transport aircraft for 13 years worldwide, including operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Mali. He has now retired from the RAF and taken up a more sedate career in British Airways but has many tales to tell.

February 23rd 2023

Martyn Lucas: Blood-sucking beasts and creepy cousins - all you ever wanted to know about lampreys but were afraid to ask! Followed by a Q&A on all matters fishing

Martyn is a professor with the Department of Biosciences at Durham University and is also Group Leader for Aquatic Animal Ecology Research

March 30th 2023

Living sustainably in North Northumberland

April 27th 2023

The Tweed Salmon Centre: An exciting prospect for Berwick

Please contact Helen Brewin or Gill Rollings if you have any suggestions or ideas for speakers or subjects for future talks. Or indeed you would like to give a talk on a topic dear to you. They would love to hear from you.

Gill Rollings

Stamps

It's Christmas!

Please remember to save the stamps from your Christmas cards.

I am still collecting on behalf of RNIB, please pop them through my letter box, at the Old Manse.

Season's Greetings.

Mary Catchpole

Harvest Supper

The Chatton and Chillingham Harvest Supper took place at the Village Hall on Saturday 24th September.

Over 50 people enjoyed a heartwarming meal of shepherd's pie and apple crumble, cooked and served by our fantastic band of volunteers at a beautifully decorated harvest table. An excellent harvest-themed quiz was organised by Nicki Bone. Either side of a Charity Auction, further entertainment was provided by Bob Bolam, who rattled off an almost endless stream of jokes and amusing monologues in the Northumbrian vernacular.

It was wonderful to be gathered together again in such a spirit of fellowship for the first Harvest Supper since the onset of the pandemic.

Many thanks indeed to Lucinda Blackett, Ann Murray and their wonderful team for the flawless catering operation. Thanks are also due to Alan and Katherine Hardy for running the bar so professionally, to all those who donated auction prizes, to Jim Railton who auctioned them, and to those who helped in many other ways.

£2,146 was raised for Church funds on what was a most enjoyable evening.

Alistair Cochrane

Friends Remembered

Jennifer Jeffreys

With sadness, last issue we reported the passing of Johnny Jeffreys on 12th September 2022. To add to the family's grief at that time Jennifer, his wife, subsequently passed away on 26th September.

Johnny and Jennifer had been married since 1968 and are still together now. Our deepest condolences to son, Peter and grandchildren George & Nicholas.

Live Music at Chatton



Chatton was once again treated to live music in the village hall on Saturday 18th November when Dialogic returned for another gig and supported a trio rock band called The Longship.

Dialogic last played here during the summer and both gigs were well supported.

Picture courtesy Graeme Bone

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.

Performance starts at 6pm

Tickets available from Chatton Village Shop

Adult £10 Child £5

Northumberland Theatre Company

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



On Wednesday 14th December well-loved local TV news cameraman and filmmaker Jimmy France will be in Belford to show his brand new film MADELEINE'S ISLAND, which combines new and archive footage to look at four seasons on Holy Island. It discovers the memories of those who live there and those who've passed through, as well as the ups and downs of this small outcrop of land off the North Northumberland coast, that is held dear by so many.

Jimmy France has been making films for over 30 years, with much of his work gracing our TV screens as he covered many of the key news events of the North East for ITV Tyne Tees and BBCTV North. He is also well known to Northumberland audiences for his wonderful documentary about his home village of Seahouses, which was made to see-in the Millennium, and which is still remembered fondly locally.

Tickets are £4 on the door. All welcome. Screenings start at 7pm, with doors open from 6.30pm.

Corny Corner

What did the snowman say to the other snowman?
Can you smell carrots?

How do Christmas Trees get ready for a party?
They spruce up!

What does Santa call the reindeer with no eyes?
No eyed deer.

How many presents can Santa fit in an empty sack?
Just one. After that, it's not empty any more.

It's getting harder to buy Advent calendars?
Their days are numbered.

If you would like to include something in the February / March newsletter please get in touch with us by email to **news@chatton.uk** or contact any of the editorial team by **Monday 23rd January 2023 please**