



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas
Issue 65 February / March 2023



Chatton Past and Present - Nothing Changes

The village of Chatton is first mentioned in records in 1178. It is referred to as Chetton, a name derived from Old English Ceatta-tun meaning Caetta's Farm. However, there is also evidence of occupation dating back to pre-historic times. Chatton Park Hill has impressive examples of prehistoric cup and ring rock art and the Kettley Stone is an unusual boulder dating back to Neolithic and Bronze age times.



In 1825, Chatton is described as being about five miles east of Wooler on the banks of the river Till. It contained upwards of 70 families. In 1888, W. W. Tomlinson described Chatton as: "a pretty agricultural village of some antiquity situated near the Till and consisting of a number of cosy looking cottages with gardens in front, a plain modern church, school-house, reading room and library and a comfortable inn, The Percy Arms."

Holy Cross Church has existed in records since 1184, although the present Church was re-built around 1763, when it was valued in the King's books at £12. 10s 0d. In March 1814, a stone coffin was unearthed, containing a thigh bone measuring 18 inches. In the surrounding ground, a silver penny from the time of Robert the Bruce was discovered, as well as a steel

spur and horse bit.

Chatton suffered much in the 14th century from the ravages of the Black Death, much like our present century's Coronavirus pandemic. In 1351-2, out of 27 bondage holdings 11 lay waste and uncultivated and out of 13 cottages, 8 were tenantless and derelict.

The Bailiff of Chatton received one hen from each of the tenants every year called a wood hen, in return for which the tenants took the wood they needed from the Lord's wood and at Christmas time, an oak tree for a yule log. This was condemned in 1616 as causing destruction of the woods. The beginnings of modern conservation perhaps?

The floods of today are not unusual. In 1566, the mediaeval bridge was described as being in great decay, as it was apt to be damaged by floods. The Till still floods frequently to the present day.



To commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887, a great celebration was organised in the village. A public tea was provided and games organised for the children. Present day villagers celebrated Queen Elizabeth's Silver Golden, Diamond and Platinum Jubilees in much the same way.

In the latter half of the 19th



Century, Chatton was a self-sufficient and active community. The villagers were recorded as having varied occupations, such as: shepherds, cowkeepers, tailors, dressmaker, joiner, cartwright, blacksmith, farmers and an undertaker. There was also a coal mine and Chatton Brick and Tiles Works. Children attended Chatton National school, with an average attendance of 65. There were 5 shops in the village including a tailor, post office and sweet shop. Villagers had use of a reading room and there was a brewery operating. In 2023, The Percy Arms remains as a "comfortable inn" providing refreshments and there is a thriving village shop. The School however closed in 2008 but is now the Village Hall.

Today, after surviving, floods, plague and the unprecedented forces of nature in Storm Arwen, Chatton remains a peaceful, rural village, whose way of life has remained essentially unchanged since pre-historic times.

Christine Lawson



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

Another Brilliant Show



In the lead up to Christmas, Chatton was once again entertained by the Northumberland Theatre Company's interpretation of *Wind in the Willows* on 9th December 2022.

To contrast the all female cast from the previous excellent production of *Macbeth* in September, this was an all male cast of Dean Logan (Otter and others), Sean Kenney (Ratty), Adam Perrott (Toad), Jake Wilson Craw (Moley) and Philip Harrison (Badger).

Unscripted interjections from the younger members of the audience, sitting cross legged on the edge of the stage added to the amusement for all.

It was reassuring to note that Sean Kenney's closing remarks hinted that NTC are looking forward to their next production to be performed at Chatton next year – keep an eye out for tickets as they sell out quickly.

Carols Around the Village

Thank you to all who contributed to the Carol Singing around the village on December 22nd. As usual we had an excellent turnout; in fact there will come a point when we will have more carol singers, than people in houses to sing to! With the village getting larger every year, the 2023 route will perhaps have to be changed, but we are most grateful to those homes that lay on a few pit-stops on the way. Notably the Catchpoles, the Spours, the Hunter's / Moss's / Stephenson's joint knees-up, Atay & Stefan (on his birthday), the Percy Arms, etc.

Someone suggested that over the years we must have raised over £20,000 for various charities, which must be true! This Christmas the total was £420, which was equally divided between the Air Ambulance and the local hospice.

Jim Railton

Countryside Alliance Awards



Congratulations to our very own **Chatton Village Store & Post Office** for becoming a Regional Finalist in the Countryside Alliance Awards. From 18,000 nominations last year they are one of only five finalists in the North of England category of Village / Post Office.

The Countryside Alliance Awards celebrate rural businesses that go the extra mile, support their local economy and are the unsung heroes in every community. It's down to the general public to nominate their favourite rural businesses and put them forward to be considered for a prestigious Countryside Alliance Award. The applicants are judged on a range of criteria including their passion and commitment, sense of community, championing local food and the energy and diversity of their business.

The Perfect Shot in Wooler has also made it into the Rural Enterprise regional finals. Good luck to both our local businesses in the next round. Voting opens in February so keep your eyes open for your opportunity to vote.

Coffee Mornings



Coffee Mornings in Chatton Village Hall will be back to full strength in 2023 with dates through out the year as follows:

Saturday 11th February
Saturday 1st April
Sunday 11th June
Saturday 28th October
Saturday 9th December

All will start at 10.30am. The two coffee mornings held in 2022 raised a total of £380 for the Alnwick Food Bank for which many thanks to those who contributed. We will be supporting a range of local charities in 2023 beginning with the Great North Air Ambulance Service. We will also be making collections for the Food Bank and feminine hygiene products for local schools throughout the year.

So please come along for coffee, cake, bacon butties, raffle and great conversation.....

Speaker Nights

Speaker nights continue at Chatton Village Hall with talks beginning at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm with refreshments.

Thursday 23rd February - **Martin Lucas** will talk about blood-sucking beasts and creepy cousins. All you ever wanted to know about lampreys and were afraid to ask!

Thursday 30th March - **Kezz Stone** and friends talking about life off the grid, art and drawing, working in the community and hunting. All in the local area.

Thursday 27th April - **Joe Kaines-Lang**, who will speak about the Berwick Barracks and the Living Barracks Project.

Quiz Night

The next Quiz Night will be held in Chatton Village Hall on

Thursday 16th March 2023

7:00pm

Tables of six. Bring your own refreshments

Belford Community Cinema

**The North East Film Archive presents
The Tv Time Machine.**

Tuesday February 21st

Two made for TV film portraits of two very different, but equally fascinating, women from the North East: musician Kathryn Tickell, and club comedienne Pauline Petty aka 'Scarlet O'Hara'.

***From Pastel to Pixel - An Evening with
Teacher, Artist and Animator
Sheila Graber.***

Wednesday 15th March

Raised in South Shields award winning filmmaker Sheila Graber has a lifetime of creativity to share, as well as canny sense of humour!

All our events are held upstairs at Bell View, Belford with doors at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets on the door for £4.

Clare Wilford

Copper's Corner

Hello everyone welcome to the first of my blogs for 2023. I know we are already in the midst of winter and driving conditions can be bad especially in the rural area but here are some tips to keep you safe –



1/ Before setting off make sure your windscreen and lights are properly clear of ice and snow and you're not looking through a postage stamp size section of clear window (you can be prosecuted if caught driving like this)

2/ Allow extra time for your journeys as you're never going to get there in normal time when the conditions are bad!

3/ Wear appropriate clothing when going out in the car. It might be nice and warm inside with the heating on but if anything happens you need to be prepared.

4/ Pack a torch/first aid kit/snow shovel/luminous sign in the boot. These things might and will come in handy should you have an accident or get stuck.

5/ Download the what3words app. More and more emergency services organisations rely on this to pin point where people are and at night realising exactly where you are can be difficult. W3W can pin point you to about a 3 metre radius anywhere on the planet!

6/ Make sure the people at the other end of your journey know you're travelling and that the conditions are poor.

7/ Finally make sure your phone is charged in case you need to get in touch with either friends/family or worse case scenario 999.

Thanks for reading and see you next time.

PC 8873 Curtis Ritchie

Chillingham Castle

Chillingham Castle is a unique example of a mediaeval castle. It is a popular tourist attraction, well known for being haunted and for the excellent teas provided by The Minstrel's Tea rooms. Seasonal guides and tea room staff are required for the coming season, which starts in April. If you are interested in working in this fascinating Castle please contact enquiries@chillingham-castle.com for more information.

Tillside PC

Storm Arwen Benches

Three of these benches using the wood resultant from Storm Arwen have been completed and are in-situ. Each bench reflects the location where it is sited. Once all of the benches are completed and in-situ, they will all be branded.

Parish Councillor vacancy

Tony Hume has taken the decision to leave his role as a Parish Councillor for Lilburn Ward. Tony has been a great asset to Tillside Parish Council for a number of years and we all thank him for all the work he has personally done and organised during this time. As a result, there is now a vacancy on the Parish Council, you do not have to live in the Lilburn Ward, just within the Parish. If you are interested or wish to know more, please have a chat with any member of the Parish Council.

Education in the Berwick Partnership

A reminder that Phase 2 Consultation is currently underway on Education in the Berwick Partnership. We would encourage people to complete the consultation. Should anybody have any questions in relation to the consultation, please contact County Councillors Mark Mather and Colin Hardy direct.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 9th February 2023 at Chatton Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Helen Scrivens

Photo Competition

It has been suggested we should run another photo in the spring - excellent idea!

If you have any photos on the subject of Chatton in Springtime, or you see an opportunity to take a picture, please hang on to it for when the competition is launched in the next issue.



ELM BANK
COASTAL PARK
SPITAL - BERWICK UPON TWEE

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.

Chatton Chatters

We are a group of ladies who get together on the first Monday and third Thursday of every month to go for a reasonably local walk, which usually ends up in a cafe for coffee / lunch and continuation of the chats.

Please join us. For further information contact debbiekelso@yahoo.co.uk.



Church Services

Forthcoming church services to be held in the Chatton & Chillingham Parish are:-

February

5th 9:30 – Holy Cross, Chatton

19th 9:30 – St Peter, Chillingham

March

5th 9:30 – Holy Cross, Chatton

19th 9:30 – St Peter, Chillingham

Corny Corner

From 1st January I'll only watch videos in 1080p or higher on my TV.

It's my New Year's Resolution

This year I thought I'd have a brain transplant

Now I've changed my mind

I was fired from the calendar factory

All I did was take a day off

My three favourite things are eating my pets and not using commas.

What starts with E and ends with E but only has one letter?

Envelope

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 Thursday 23rd March 2023 please

Editorial Team: Ian Catchpole, Christine Lawson, Ruth Gibson