



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 66 April / May 2023



RMS Chatton 1923

Once again Chatton was blasted back into the past, this time 100 years ago to 1923, for the ever popular Murder Mystery evening in Chatton Village Hall on Saturday 18th February. Not only was it time shifted but physically relocated to a transatlantic liner, the RMS Chatton, midway on its crossing from New York to Southampton.

Things were not all plain sailing when an announcement was made that a wireless telegraph had been received from NYPD who suspected that the culprit of a gangland shooting, widely reported in the New York Times, was making good their escape onboard this very ship. It was up to the passengers, whilst enjoying a six course meal at Captain's Table, to interrogate six other passenger suspects, thereby revealing 'Who Dunnit'.

The suspects were expertly played by Jane Lockyer, Judith Grasse, Ruth Gibson, Andy Pigg, Nick Grasse and Peter Watson – but who had the motive, method and opportunity to do such a thing?

A superb meal was prepared below decks by galley girls Mary

Catchpole, Diane Watson and Vicki Pigg, with help from Helen Brewin before the ship sailed. The six courses, including a cocktail of the period (not for the faint hearted, but expertly concocted by barmen Atay & Stefan), gave opportunity for the suspects to circulate so their story with a backdrop of prohibition, bootlegging and corruption by the New York Mob, could be winkled out.

The award for best costume was presented to Nicki Bone. Proceedings were overseen by the captain of the ship Comm. Catchpole who is also commodore of the Percy Line fleet.

As has become customary at these events, charities were nominated by everyone and two drawn to receive a share of the profits. The evening made £845 profit which has been divided



between Wooler Arts, North Northumberland Hospice Care and Chatton Village Hall.

It was amazing that everyone entered into the spirit from the offset by dressing for the occasion and period. Photos of passengers and crew in all their finery can be viewed at murder.chatton.uk/photos.



Adjudication by our resident Judge later confirmed that this deed most foul was not murder but an act of self defence, so normality can once again return to our peaceful village – until the next time!

Ian & Mary Catchpole



Quiz Night

The next quiz night at Chatton Village Hall will be on Thursday 4th May.

Usual format - tables of six and bring your own refreshments.

May the fourth be with you!

Banner picture of a Lamb in Spring reproduced courtesy of Chatton In Pictures.
Search Facebook and LIKE 'Chatton In Pictures' to see many more local pictures



Chatton Angling Association

Its that time of year again for existing local and associate members to renew their tickets for the 2023 season. These should be ready from the printers within the next couple of weeks. The Jim Nesbit trophy competition will be held on **Saturday 8th July** this year - please let the Secretary know if you wish to enter.

For anyone new to the area interested in joining CAA, please contact chattonangling@gmail.com, or give me a call. Juniors are very welcome. We have several miles of fishing on the upper Till for wild brown trout, grayling, sea trout and the occasional salmon.

Richard Tebay
Chairman

Dorothy Douglas
Secretary/Hon Treasurer

Chatton Cricket Club

Chatton Cricket Club are looking forward to the new season, with a full list of 21 fixtures arranged.

Please come along to the home matches to support your local team. If you are at the ground between 4 and 5pm, you are guaranteed a good cup of tea and quite possibly cake and biscuits too!

If you would like to play, please contact our President, Max Renwick, on 07973 853562

Saturday 8th July is a date for your diary: do come and join us at our Village Day. This will be a real family event, involving a special mixed-teams tournament, so all boys, girls, mums, dads and grandparents are welcome. No prior skills needed (rather like the regular team!). There will be a tea, bar and barbecue later on.

In the meantime, volunteers are needed for our Maintenance Day on Sunday 16th April at 10.30 am. Any help with preparing the field and pavilion will be greatly appreciated.

Alistair Cochrane

Friends Remembered



James Kenneth Burt
12th August 1944 - 10th February 2023

Better known as Jim to everyone, he was born in Whitley Bay with his sister Barbara. His jobs varied from a red coat at Butlins in the 60s, then lived in Denmark for a year working on a dairy farm.

We moved to Wiltshire where he worked on a Dairy farm for a few years before moving back up north, with a change in career as a milk tanker driver, before moving on to driving buses. He worked for Goldleaf travel bus company based at Wooler, then worked for United Buses. He took many children to school at Kirkley Hall.

Jim studied Classical Music and loved to play the piano and organ, in particular Beethoven. He enjoyed wildlife photography and classic cars.

His father was headmaster of Monkseaton High School, and his mother was also a teacher there. I am his only Daughter and he had 3 Grandchildren - Dawn, Donna and Liam. He told terrible jokes even though he thought they were hilariously funny. Always talked to anyone and everyone.

He lived in Chatton for 8 - 9 years until he tragically died in a house fire at his home on West End on 10th February 2023.

Penny Black (Daughter)

Church Services

Services within the Chatton & Chillingham parish for April and May are as follows:-

April 2nd - 10am, Chatton

April 9th - 10am, Chatton (Easter)

April 16th - 9.30am, Chillingham

April 30th - 10am, Chillingham

May 6th - 10am, Chatton

May 21st - 9.30am, Chillingham

Chatton Village Hall

CHATTON VILLAGE HALL Chatton Village Hall was originally used as the local school, which closed in 2008. It is now used as a centre for the community. There are a variety of regular activities, as well as one off events:

Speaker Nights
Yoga
Pilates
Indoor Bowls
Creative Writing
Quiz Nights
Coffee mornings.



There are also annual events such as a Murder Mystery Night, Theatre Nights, Music events and Harvest Festival Suppers. New Year's Eve is celebrated with a big party.

In addition, there have been special events, such as celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and raising funds for Ukraine.

You can also hire the hall for your own personal social events and meetings.

For those who want to keep fit, there is a well equipped gym, with very reasonable membership rates.

All of these activities provide good opportunities to socialise and also

raise funds to maintain and improve facilities at the hall.

The Village Hall Committee has made good progress in improving the facilities, for example refurbishing the Meeting Room and major roof repairs.

There is now a fantastic BBQ area and improved gym equipment. Plans are well advanced to establish a Children's

Play Area.

There are further plans to refurbish the kitchen, toilets and provide a Warm Hub for locals in emergency situations.

Village Hall Heritage Project

The Heritage Project will preserve, record and share the history of Chatton Village Hall for the benefit

of the wider Tillside Community which it serves. Residents will be encouraged to share their memories of the Village Hall and

going back further to when the building was the local school. All of the information will be stored at the County Archives, including

photographs, artefacts and oral memories.

We are planning a launch event on 20th April at the Village Hall. There will be an introduction from Tracey Morgan from Community Action Northumberland, who are organising the project and presentation of exhibition materials from other village halls. Please come along and find out how you can share memories of Chatton Village Hall. Bar will be open at six o'clock and presentation will begin at six thirty.

We hope you come along to socialise and participate in the many events and facilities provided by Chatton Village Hall.

Village Hall Trustees

Ian Fiddes (Chair)

Sebastian Moss (Secretary)

Alan Hardy (Treasurer)

Richard Tebay

Ally Pryterch

Shi-Shi Ord

Andy Pigg

You will find further information on: Chatton Village Hall web site villagehall.chatton.uk, Facebook, and Chatton News letter.

Gill Rollings -Trustee Volunteer

Funds for RNLI

Following the programme on TV about the Longstone Lighthouse, Farne Islands, Grace Darling and the role of the RNLI, I offered to raffle a deer, butchered and labelled to raise funds for the RNLI.

I was able to sell 110 tickets very quickly plus a kind donation to make £112 so decided to add a 2nd prize.

The draw was made by Dean Smith, so first prize of a venison freezer pack went to the Hunger Buster Snack Bar on Alnwick Trading Estate, and second prize of a sausage, burger and steak package to Jane at Chillingham.

Fletch

Photo Competition

Do you have a photo that expresses Spring, or could you take one? Please send your entries to news@chatton.uk.

Closing date Sunday 23rd April

All entries will be shown on the Chatton News Web Site and a winner chosen.



Previous winning picture by Christine Lawson

Tillside Parish Council

Storm Arwen Benches

The final benches are close to completion and all shall then be branded. We should be able to share photographs with you in the next issue of Chatton News, along with 'What3Words' to help you all find them all.

Chillingham Signs

The Design Team at County have now completed their proposals for the Chillingham signage, which has been agreed by the Parish Council. When installed, the existing SLOW markings shall also be refreshed, along with an additional SLOW wording to be added on the approaches. This should help in making this stretch of road safer for both residents and visitors alike.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 13th April 2023 at Chatton Village Hall (7pm start). All are welcome to attend.

Helen Scrivens

Corny Corner

When I was young I was poor.

But, after years of struggle, I'm no longer young.

A friend asked what 'IDK' means in texts

I said "I don't know"

He said "Shame, no-one does"

A man was admitted to hospital for swallowing six plastic horses

His condition is described as stable.

In the past the poor had horses and only the rich had cars. Now everyone has a car and only the rich have horses. How the stables have turned.

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.

Coronation Weekend

To celebrate King Charles III coronation on 6th May 2023, it has been suggested that communities organise a programme of events over the Bank Holiday Weekend, themed around 'Coronations of the Past'. A committee hastily convened from local representatives of the Chatton community has devised an outline of activities taking inspiration from the coronation of the previous King Charles, that of Charles II on 23rd April 1661.

Throughout the weekend, everyone will be required to dress the part with men wearing a linen shirt, waistcoat, breeches, stockings and shoes. They should be close shaven unless of peasant class in which case a rough (untrimmed) beard is permissible. Residents considered as Gentry may wear a frockcoat and wig. Ladies should wear a linen shift with long dresses over them. A wig and black 'beauty marks' are permitted for the better classes. The B6348 road through the village will be closed to all traffic except horse and oxen, and only if wearing the appropriate attire.

Saturday, the day of the coronation, instead of watching on a modern day TV, a proclamation will be given on the village green. This will be followed by a feast of hog, turnips and ale and much merriment.

A Ducking Stool will be erected on the banks of the Till. Gentlemen are invited to bring their wives and mother-in-laws, particularly if they have a tendency to scold. This will be followed by games on the playing field, such as cup and ball.

Sunday will be dedicated to Church. Three services will be held and everyone required to attend all three. There will no sewing or drinking of ale at any time – miscreants will be put in the stocks for public humiliation.

Although Monday is a Bank Holiday in modern times, this will not be observed and peasant classes must return to their squalor. The gentry will be allowed further merriment and may call upon any peasant to act as a serf. Applications to be considered as 'Gentry' will be available on **1st April**.

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