



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas
Issue 77 February / March 2025



National Autistic Society Award Winners

The North Northumberland Branch of the National Autistic Society has had quite the journey over the last twelve months. From meetings with royalty to fighting our way through brambles and mud we've had a blast!

2024 saw our fabulous DofE group complete their Silver Award after a great expedition experience up at Mount Hooley Bunkhouse in the College Valley.

This group of young ladies have been the world's first pioneers for the design of an autism friendly approach to the Duke of Edinburgh awards. We have worked together with the DofE team and the National Autistic Society to create several reasonable adjustments into the DofE programme making it, not just accessible to those with autism but also for any individual with neurodiversity.

The girls are now working on their Gold awards and we couldn't be prouder of them.

In July three of our committee completed the training to become DofE expedition Supervisor / Assessor so that our DofE groups will always have autism trained leaders who fully understand their strengths and needs.

The DofE group were invited by Lord Lieutenant Caroline Prior to take part at an event in Cramlington where along with other DofE groups they were

able to meet with the Duke of Edinburgh, HRH Prince Edward, and talk about the changes they had made to the DofE programme.



In November the branch was awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service, which is the highest recognition that a voluntary group can receive and is the equivalent to an MBE.

Our very own local GP, Sebastian Moss, kindly nominated us and the nomination was backed up with support from Dr Jeremy de Bono,

Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist in Northumberland CYPS and Sam Barron head of SEND strategy at NCC, as well as endorsements from our members. The application was submitted by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Caroline Prior and Lord Joicey.

On the 15th December the committee were officially awarded their fabulous crystal Kings Award at the Bosk where we met the Glendale Gateway Trust committee who were also awarded the honour.



Presentation at The Bosk

The branch held a party at Chatton Village Hall to celebrate with its

members and various guests. A great night was had by all.

In January we invited the new MP, David Smith to attend a talk at Chatton Village Hall. The topic was Autism: A Rollercoaster Spectrum where the brilliant Julie Wilson and Chatton's very own Grace Wilce spoke about the need for understanding that each Autistic person has their own unique profile. The event was incredibly well attended. David took some SEND related questions and lunch was provided after the event.

The branch volunteer committee are continuously working to improve the lives of autistic people and their families across North

Northumberland and the wider area. Everything that we offer is free to members because of the money we raise through fundraising events. We have monthly meetings at Chatton Village Hall and Berwick Family Hub as well as workshops, OT sessions, forest school sessions, Zoom meetings and so much more. We also have our wonderful sensory Garden at Howick Hall Gardens.

If you would like any information about what we do or would like to join our mailing list please email the branch

northnorthumberland.branch@nas.org.uk



Fred Murray 1941 - 2025

Fred, a stalwart of the farming community, died peacefully at Wansbeck Hospital in the early hours of Sunday 19th January at the age of 83 years.

Fred was born at East Horton Farmhouse, the sixth of seven children. Fred recalled his first farm job at 8 years of age, leading a horse and hay cart: he reckoned the horse knew its own way home!

Later, Fred was one of the first pupils at the new Glendale County Secondary School when it opened in 1953. He left school at 14 to study engineering at Thame College, before returning home to join the family partnership. The family farmed East Horton and later Kentstone Farm near Lowick, as well as renting land at Wrangham, Harbottle Grange and elsewhere.

Fred met his future wife, Ann Morton, through his sister Marjorie - both were nurses at the Western Infirmary, Edinburgh. They married and set up home at East Horton, with Pamela arriving in the heatwave summer of 1976 followed by Ian in 1978.

Apart from his family, Fred's great love was cattle. As well as having great commercial acumen, Fred was passionate about breeding good quality livestock. He imported Simmental, Charolais and Blonde d'Aquitaine animals from Europe, bred from these and exported the progeny to Canada. He received countless accolades for the quality of his stock and won numerous prizes including winning First Prize at Smithfield. His interest in cattle took him to many parts of the world. It was a rare family holiday that did not have a bovine twist.

Fred sold East Horton in 1992 - the family moved out of the farmhouse and into their new bungalow at the farm.



Fred had an all-or-nothing approach to life, as shown by his attitude to gardening. He could be rather eager with the chainsaw and liberal with the weedkiller. Never one to do

anything by halves, he later built a 60 foot greenhouse at Redsteads, producing tomatoes on an industrial scale, all of which were given away!

Fred gave up the last of his cattle just over four years ago. His final consignment of cattle to Hexham Mart in October 2020 included the championship beast of that year's show. However, he had already ensured that he would retain one special animal, by commissioning Tom Fiddes to carve his famous wooden bull sculpture which commemorates the Charolais Cordeman Ebenezer which he purchased in 1971 at the Royal Show.

In 2023, Fred and Ann celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and were thrilled when Ian and Katie brought their first grandchild, Elsie, into the world. Just days before he passed away in hospital, Fred was delighted to learn that Elsie had been joined by a second granddaughter, Mabel, who was born on January 6th.

Fred was a true countryman. Many will remember him in his pick-up with its personal number plate and trademark dents. He followed the hounds and went beating until he was almost 80. He was also a great lover of Country and Western music. Fred is survived by three sisters, Margaret, Jean and Marjorie, as well as by Ann, Pamela, Ian, Katie, Elsie and Mabel. He will be greatly missed.

Fred's funeral service will be held at Holy Cross Chatton on Tuesday, February 4th at 2:00pm.

Chatton Village Hall

Coffee Morning

Sunday 2nd February 10:30am



Entrance £2.50

(inclusive of coffee/tea & a slice of cake)

Bacon Butties £2.50

Proceeds to

Chatton Village Hall

Quiz night

The next Quiz Night will be at Chatton Village Hall on **Thursday 6th March 2025** at 7:30pm.

Teams of six - either pick your team beforehand or just turn up on the evening and join in with someone else.

Bring your own refreshments.

Speaker Nights

The season of Speaker Nights continues on

Thursday 27th February -

Helen Sutherland

Understanding autism.

Thursday 27th March - Ian Catchpole

Restoring Classic Cars - How Hard Can it Be?.

For the full list of future talks see the Village Hall web site.

Our Sponsor

Galbraith

The Galbraith Group are delighted to sponsor the printing of this edition of Chatton News.

Galbraiths specialise in Sales & Lettings, Rural Management, Commercial Property, Renewables & Utilities, Forestry & Carbon and Building Consultancy.

We are particularly grateful to Alistair Cochrane for making this connexion
galbraithgroup.com

Chat n Play

Chat n Play has resumed after the Christmas holidays.

Last term was so much fun!

We did a messy play morning, where the little ones enjoyed playing with shaving foam, yogurt, paint, Playdoh and coloured spaghetti.

The favourite thing though was a pile of Cheerios. They played with their toy diggers in it, scooped it and sat in it. There was lots of laughter and giggles that morning. There will definitely be another one soon!

Sadly Deborah is having to step aside due to Nana commitments, but I have been so touched by offers of help.

Alexis from Amerside is going to be joining me and Sarah has offered to step in too when she can.

Along with Barry helping to set up, and others offering occasional help it's becoming a real community affair.

We have been awarded some money from the Chatton Village Hall committee which has gone toward some better storage boxes and also a very popular push along tractor and other toys.

We are so thankful for their generosity.

It's lovely welcoming our gorgeous little ones, and it is so nice seeing the adults chatting and making new friends over a cup of tea.

If you want to join us, we meet in Chatton Village Hall, at 10am-11.30 each Friday during term time.

£3 for the first child and £1.50 for each additional child.

Rachel Shambrook



Carols Around the Village

Thursday 19th December 2024

The village of Chatton raised a wonderful £340 through carol singing in aid of The Compassionate Friends, and we want to say thank you.



The
Compassionate
Friends

Supporting bereaved parents and their families

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is a national charity which offers peer support to grieving parents, siblings and grandparents whose child, sibling or grandchild, aged 1 month or older, has died from any cause.

TCF offers various layers of peer support; from leaflets and articles, informal walks, in-person and online group sessions, a postal library, social media pages and groups, support days, weekend retreats, a national helpline, and so much more. All our support and resources are created and facilitated by bereaved individuals, who know exactly how devastating it is to experience the death of a child. We have over 300 dedicated volunteers (all bereaved parents and siblings themselves) who work tirelessly to support families who are experiencing the worst pain imaginable.

One of these volunteers is Maggie Pinsent, who lives in Hazelrigg and is our local contact for families in North Northumberland. Maggie's son, Dylan, died in 2017 aged 33. Dylan's memory has inspired Maggie to support local bereaved parents, to raise funds for and awareness of TCF, and to volunteer at our support days.

As you might imagine, the festive season can be heartbreakingly difficult for bereaved parents and families who have an empty seat at the table – the opposite of what we hope Christmas will bring. All of us at TCF want to give huge thanks to Ian and Jim for organising the carol singing, to everyone in Chatton who sang and donated to support our work, and of course to Maggie for spreading awareness of TCF.

For more information about our services, please visit tcf.org.uk or contact info@tcf.org.uk.

Murder Mystery

The Clerk of the Course has made an inspection of the ground and deemed it will not be fit for racing on 15th February. Therefore **Ladies Day** at the **Chatton Gold Cup** has had to be postponed for one month. It will now go ahead on **Saturday 15th March 2025** at Chatton Village Hall.

Tickets purchased for 15th February will still be valid for 15th March. If you can not make the new date a full refund will be given.

Tickets are still on sale from Chatton Village Store for the new date of **15th March** so, if you haven't bought your ticket yet, now is the time.

Ian & Mary Catchpole

Parish Church Council

December already seems some time ago, but Chatton and Chillingham PCC would like to thank all those who decorated our churches so beautifully and made them look so lovely and festive over Christmas.

The Christmas Day service at St Peter's Chillingham was well attended by worshippers from as far afield as Italy, and Holy Cross Chatton was packed with over 120 people for our annual Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December. We are so grateful to those who provided food to enjoy after the service, and to Alan and Katharine Hardy for laying on the excellent mulled wine.

We would also like to convey our huge appreciation to vocal group Tribe and the Glendale Community Ceilidh Band for the wonderful music which did so much to get us all into the spirit of Christmas. Many thanks indeed!

Chatton and Chillingham PCC

Church Services

Sunday 2nd February 10:00 – Holy Cross, Chatton

Sunday 16th February 9:30 – St Peter, Chillingham

Sunday 2nd March 10:00 – Holy Cross, Chatton

Sunday 16th March 9:30 – St Peter, Chillingham

Tillside Parish Council

Chatton Bridge

A private contractor will be looking at the drainage issue on the north side of the bridge.

The legal agreement between Northumberland County Council & Northumberland Estates Legal Departments for access have been agreed.

Northumberland County Council are now working on an early entry agreement with Northumberland Estates.

Northumberland County Council will be attending a site meeting in the next 1-2 weeks to check that that proposed design is still fit for purpose, which is required ahead of the commencement of any works.

Chatton Village Hall

The launch of the new kitchen will be at the Coffee Morning to be held on 2nd February 2025

2025/26 Precept

Tillside Parish Councillors have agreed to increase the precept to £5,445 in 2025/26 which is a 10% increase, however, there should be either no increase or a minimal increase to the households in Tillside Parish due to 2nd homes etc paying double Council Tax.

Thanks to our band of 'paper boys & girls' who deliver our paper copies: Ian Nixon and Andy Pigg in Chatton; Ed Ginns in Chillingham; Ruth Gibson at Hepburn & Maggie Pinsent in Hazelrigg.

Welcome

We give a warm welcome new to residents in the village.

Ian and Debbie Wilson with **Flynn** the dog have moved into Chatton Mill Hill

Tony Sanders has moved into West End

Looking forward to seeing you all at some of the many events coming up this year.

Stamps

Thank you for all the stamps I have received over the Christmas period and the past year.

I am continuing to collect both English and foreign stamps for RNIB.

Ideally, leave at least 1cm of envelope around the stamp. Please pop any more stamps through my door at The Old Manse.

Many thanks.



Mary Catchpole

Village Approaches

On the lead up to the festive season, the approaches to Chatton have been looking resplendent and inviting thanks to the efforts of some of our locals.

During November, a sea of crocheted poppies welcomed visitors and residents as they entered from the east and west approaches.

Bulbs have been planted along the verges by the Blooming Chatton team which are now starting to come through.

Move into the festive period and two christmas tree themed light displays lit up the evening at both ends of the village. Thanks Mick for making those.

Let's hope that this can be repeated and, possibly, expanded upon this year.

Corny Corner

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?

The Lactose

Procrastination is a dish best served eventually

Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism. It's a light sentence but gives them time to reflect.

Eshott Zoo has a large stotty in a cage.

It was bread in captivity.

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 Sunday 23rd March 2025 please