



# Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 81 October / November 2025



## News and an Invitation from Eglingham WI



The Women's Institute conjures up all sorts of amusing anecdotes we heard growing up... and now many of us are members! The Eglingham group welcomes members from surrounding areas, including Chatton, as you'll see in the photo, taken at a group outing this summer to The Beamish Outdoor Museum. It was a fantastic day. Friends enjoying ourselves in a unique place.

Recently we enjoyed a guided walk of Alnwick (photo) with Nick Lewis, and in September have our Alnmouth Heritage Walk with a local historian. We also did a half-day workshop at the Ginger House Garden in Horncliffe, making pretty garden foliage & flower posies

followed by lunch at the community pub in Horncliffe.

The WI isn't just about baking and making jam, though both are enjoyed by many of our members. Bake and Jam sales this year have gone towards supporting the work of 'Woolpackers' – Wooler Parents and Kids, and will continue in the coming year. So, there is a worthwhile purpose too!

The invitation is to come along, find out for yourselves about what we're doing for the next year, and meet new people. Each month we have a guest speaker followed by a shared supper where we can catch up with each other. Who knows, you might make new friends!

We get together at Eglingham

Village Hall (there is parking but lifts from Chatton can be arranged) on the second Thursday of the month, 6.30 for 7pm start. If you'd like more information please get in touch with Trish Lowson or Maggie Pinsent, or just come along to the next meeting where you'd be made to feel very welcome.

Eglingham WI Committee

## Mighty Thank You

It was lovely to see so many of you at our 'Thank you' tea and cake event on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. For those of you who were unable to come along we have some figures:

**£13,000,000**: Amount raised in total by Macmillan Mighty Hikes nationally in 2025 - to date!

**£1,163,235**: Amount raised by the Giant's Causeway Mighty Hike

**£8,160**: Raised by the 8 Northern Belles

**£3,478**: Raised by Vicki and Trish through Chatton fundraisers and sponsorship from friends and family.

We really appreciate everything you have done to support us.

*Thank you! You are amazing*

Trish and Vicki

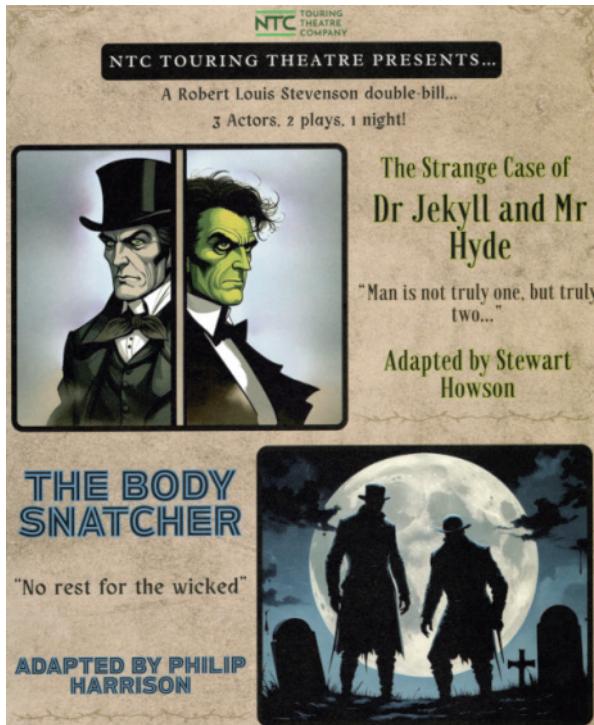
Chatton Northern Belles Mighty Hikers



The mother and toddler playgroup has restarted after the summer holidays on Fridays at the Village Hall from 10am to 11:30.

Banner picture of 'Good Morning sunshine' by Nikki Smith

## Theatre Night



**It's that time of year again. Three actors, 2 plays, 1 night!**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30 The Northumberland Theatre Company will be back to perform a Robert Louis Stevenson double bill.

Prepare to be captivated by the mesmerising world of "Jekyll and Hyde". Adapted by Stewart Howson and directed by Alice Byrne this spine-chilling masterpiece promises to enthrall you with its gothic and atmospheric allure as the tale of duality and inner darkness unfolds on stage and grips you with its intensity and leaves you on the edge of your seat.

Likely inspired by the real-life exploits of the infamous grave robbers Burke and Hare, "The Body Snatcher", adapted by Philip Harrison, is a parable about the horrors of scientific experimentation as it becomes a dark art. As alarming as Crime and Punishment, as compelling as Paradise Lost and as chilling as Frankenstein.

**Doors open at 7pm with a bar for refreshments. Tickets available now from Chatton village store or by contacting Rebecca Moss. Book now to secure your seat.**

## Church Services

### October

Sunday 5th - 10.00am Holy Cross, Chatton (Harvest Festival)

Sunday 19th - 9.30am St Peter, Chillingham

### November

Sunday 2nd - 10.00am Holy Cross, Chatton

Sunday 9th - 9.45am Holy Cross, Chatton (Service of Remembrance followed by Act of Remembrance)

Sunday 16th - 9.30am St Peter, Chillingham

## Act of Remembrance

Following the church service at Holy Cross Church, 9:30am on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, we will be holding our usual Act of Remembrance for the fallen of Chatton & Chillingham parishes at the War Memorial on the village green in Chatton.

The ceremony will start at 11:00am and everyone is welcome. As well as wreaths laid by the Parish Council, as has become a tradition at this time, a poppy cross will be planted for each of those remembered by anyone in attendance. Poppy crosses for those of the parish will be supplied but anyone is welcome to bring their own if they have a special person to remember.

## Calling all poppy makers!

Thank you to everyone who helped make and tie poppies on to the nets for our Remembrance Day service last year. Many locals attended the event and there were many positive comments about your work. We need approximately 100 more poppies for the hedge at the west end of the village. If you are able to make a few more it would be much appreciated. We plan to get the nets out of storage, check them and tie on the additional poppies on

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 10.00 - 11.00 at Chatton Village Hall

If you're free, please come along to help! We'd love to see you again.

Trish Lowson

## Congratulations

**Maggie and Bob Ruthven** celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with family and friends on a beautiful sunny summer's day tea party on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. It was also Bob's birthday so a double celebration all-round (I did not see much tea being drunk).



## Sponsorship

We are once again very grateful to Barry Shambrook and **TCL Data** for sponsoring the printing of this issue of **Chatton News**.

We also apologise for the late delivery of printed copy which was due to unforeseen problems.

## Chatton Village Hall

### Toilets Refurbishment Project

Following the successful refurbishment of the kitchen at the Village Hall in 2023 and 2024, the Trustees are delighted to be able to announce the completion of their most recent project, namely the total demolition and replacement of the toilets. The new facilities are now operational and have received excellent feedback to date.

Fundraising for the project was achieved primarily through a combination of grants, together with contributions from locally run events – two highly successful coffee mornings and one of the quiz nights. The project cost £34,800, including an access study and some legal fees. The Trustees were delighted to be awarded a very generous grant of nearly £30,000 by Middlemoor Wind Farm, through Grantscape, and were also extremely pleased to receive a grant from our local County Councillor Mark Mather, which went towards this and our Heating and Energy Efficiency project.

The remainder of the funding came from our own resources, from the small operational surplus generated by rentals and gym memberships, and through the generous support of those who are donating through our Friends of Chatton Village Hall Scheme. (The latter is of course extremely tax advantageous to the Hall as we can claim back Gift Aid on all donations). In many cases, bodies awarding grants will only consider projects where local volunteers have already got together a starter fund, and so these early events and donations were critical to securing our third party funding.

The project was completed to time and cost, over five weeks in May and June, by three local teams. George Carr & Son carried out the demolition of the internal walls which needed moving, and also the plastering. The construction, including all civil works, such as floor screeding, new walls and ceilings, lagging and all of the plumbing (including the conversion of the old office into a temporary toilet) was completed for us by Alan Dewar (AD Home Improvements)

from Wooler. Finally, the electrics were installed by Rob Lawton and his team at Barton Ecogen.

### Annual General Meeting

With the kitchen and now the toilet facilities complete, the Trustees hope that many more people will make use of these wonderful facilities.

Further updates will follow on the remaining two projects currently in progress, covering heating and energy management, and roof repairs to rectify damp issues and water leaks.

The annual general meeting for Chatton Village Hall will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at the hall. All are welcome to attend to hear a summary of what has happened over the year, and the trustees will be there to answer any questions. If you are interested in helping out in any way at the hall as a volunteer, or by becoming a trustee, please come along and find out what we do. All welcome. We would expect the meeting to be finished by 8.30pm, after which the trustees meet as usual.

### Quiz Nights

September Quiz had a 60s/70s theme including time appropriate games and a fantastic display of memorabilia from that era. Big thanks to Jane, Debbie and Ian for all their hard work which made for a fantastic night.

Dates for the rest of the year are as follows:-

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Usual format - teams of six (make up a team on the night if not already in one) plus bring your own refreshments. Starts 7:30pm in Chatton Village Hall. £2 per person entry.



### Tillside Parish Council

Members of the Parish council would like to thank Richard Tebay for his contribution to the council over the last 10 years.

After a long process the Parish Council have been told that work to the drains on the Chatton side of the stone bridge are due to start at the end of September.

The Parish Council would like to thank Parish Councillor D Spours for cleaning the bus shelter.

Parish Councillor T Faa-Thompson is the Parish Council representative on the Barmoor Wind Farm grant panel.

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints about dog fouling and urge all dog owners to pick up after their dog.

Finally, The Parish Council would also like to remind people to stick to the identified Right of Way and not just wander over private land.

*Isabel Hunter  
Tillside Parish Council Clerk*

## Speaker Nights



The short talks at the village hall recommended on Thursday 25th September

with a very interesting presentation by John Renner of Amerside Hill, which is a Demonstration Farm for LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), John explained how he is combining environmental care with sound, practical techniques that improve the welfare of his Aberdeen Angus herd and reduces the cost of production. For more information on LEAF see their web site at [www.leaf.eco](http://www.leaf.eco).

Further short talks will take place at the Village Hall on the last Thursday of each month and the full programme to the next summer break is:

### **30/10/2025 - David Openshaw -**

Living on the edge – Nepal's wildlife, culture and restless land

### **27/11/2025 - Rachel Abbott -**

Fascinating fungi

### **29/01/2026 - Miles Hamilton**

Special Sergeant Northumbria Police

### **26/02/2026 - Rachel Shambrook -**

The Royal Mews, a small village in a Palace

### **26/03/2026 - Peter Gambles -**

Chatton Hazelrigg, the School in the Middle of Nowhere

### **30/04/2026 - Elizabeth Devon -**

Cheviot Volcanoes

## Chatton Angling



The July Jim Nesbit Trophy competition was postponed due to exceptionally prolonged dry weather and rearranged for the 23 August. Once again we had very low water, and this together with the rearranged Bank Holiday date meant many of our regular anglers did not enter. So only a few of us were on the banks, and I was lucky enough to land the largest trout on the day. Hardys of Alnwick generously donated a superb Featherweight reel as a prize, but in view of the small number fishing, the prize will be rolled over until next year.

As always, please contact me or Dorothy if you would like to join CAA. We are keen to encourage younger anglers, and anyone new to the area.

*Richard Tebay Chairman  
Dorothy Douglas Secretary  
chattonangling@gmail.com*

**Coffee Morning**  
**Chatton Village Hall**

*To be held on*  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025**  
**at 10:30 am**



**Entrance £2.50**  
(inclusive of coffee/tea & a slice of cake)

**Bacon Butties £3**

**Proceeds to**  
Hospice Care Northumberland

**The Benefice of Breamish And Till**  
**Chatton with Chillingham Harvest Festival!**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**  
**10am Holy Cross, Chatton**



Come and join us as we give thanks for the bounteous gifts God has given us!

All items donated will be shared between Alnwick District Food Bank and Wooler Food Bank.

For more information or any other enquiries please contact:  
Revd. Tracey Mallhouse  
Eglingham Vicarage, Eglingham, Alnwick, NE66 2TX  
Tel: 01665 578619 Mob: 07376 914757

## Corny Corner

Why do seagulls fly over the sea?

If they flew over the bay, they would be bagels.

**Why do people say "break a leg" when you go on stage?**

**Answer: Because every play has a cast.**

*My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo.*

*I had to put my foot down*

**Light travels faster than sound, which is the reason that some people appear bright before you hear them speak.**

Are people born with photographic memories, or does it take time to develop?

If you would like to include something in the December / January newsletter please get in touch with us by email to [news@chatton.uk](mailto:news@chatton.uk) or contact any of the editorial team by Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 please

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