



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 82 December / January 2026



Stained Glass Window Returns to Old School



This beautiful stained glass window was created to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Chatton CofE Aided First School. The designer was Helen Whittaker (MA AMGP) who worked with the children to create their designs for the window. The theme of the window is life, celebrating visible aspects of life and the spirit of community.

When the school closed in 2008, there was some uncertainty regarding the future of the building, so the window was placed in Holy Cross Church for safe keeping. Following the Village Hall Heritage project it was felt appropriate that the window should be re-installed in its original position, where it will be seen by a wider audience.



Richard Molineux, a well respected stained glass conservation expert was appointed to re-install the window. He has worked on several prestigious projects, including the Welsh Eisteddfod Crown and St Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle.

"With over thirty years working with stained glass, it has been a pleasure to work on fitting the Chatton School stained glass window into its original location, now Chatton Village Hall.

Many thanks to the Village Hall Committee for supporting this restoration and Richard Tebay for accessing the funding that made the restoration happen.

Christine Lawson



My new book 'Christmas at the Second Chance Supper Club' is now out! The fictional village of Tilldale in the Supper Club books is very much inspired by our wonderful village of Chatton, and the beautiful local area.

The story follows Cath and Will, plus a host of fun characters, as they work together to create a community Christmas lunch event, and end up tackling a snowballing DIY project on the rather ramshackle rural village hall. There's a sprinkling of romance in the mix, supper ideas abound, and you'll even find some festive recipes in the back of the book, too.

Signed copies are available in Chatton Village Store and Wooler PO. An ideal Christmas gift. Thanks,

Caroline.

Carols Around the Village

Monday 22nd December

As usual we will be carol singing in and around the village. Starting at the village green at 6pm with some pit stops along the way. All will be very welcome.

Funds will be collected 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

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.

galbraithgroup.com

Banner picture of 'Frosty Morning at Chatton Monument'

Traffic Survey



Traffic speed transiting through the village has been a hot topic of discussion for some time. A few years ago a Community Speedwatch Group was set up, in conjunction with the Police, to monitor traffic speed and report speeders who would receive admonishment from the Police. The group was disbanded after a couple of years as so few vehicles were being reported exceeding the speed limit, it was deemed speeding was not a problem.

The perception of vehicles speeding through the village has not gone away and during 20th - 26th June this year Northumberland County Council (NCC) commenced a traffic survey in Chatton by an Automatic Traffic Counter – you will have noticed the two pneumatic tubes pinned across the road at the western entrance of the village.

Unfortunately Tillside Parish Council were not at liberty to share the results of this survey but a direct approach to NCC and a Freedom of Information Request by **Chatton News** was successful in obtaining a summary with full data of the survey. The results make interesting

	Eastbound	Westbound	Combined Total
Vehicles recorded	3960	4291	8251
Travelling below 30 mph	3539 (89.4%)	4101 (95.6%)	7640 (96.6%)
Travelling below 35mph	3905 (89.6%)	4268 (99.5%)	8173 (99.0%)
Travelling above 35mph	55 (1.4%)	23 (0.5%)	78 (0.94%)
Travelling above 40mph	1 (0.02%)	3 (0.07%)	4 (0.05%)
Top speed recorded	45.2mph	45.8mph	
Average daily vehicles	566	613	
Average speed of vehicles	26.6mph	23.2mph	
85 th percentile of vehicles	30.2mph	28.2mph	

reading.

The 85th percentile is that speed at which 85% of vehicles are travelling or less, the remaining 15% of vehicles will be travelling above that speed. In order for enforcement of a 30mph speed limit to be considered the 85th percentile is required to be a minimum of 35mph. In our case, 99% of traffic travelling through Chatton was below 35mph. Based on the data obtained no further action is planned as there is no evidence of a speeding problem.

Chatton Cricket Club

Chatton Cricket Club held a successful Awards Night Dinner at The Percy Arms on Saturday 24th October.

President **Max Renwick** reported on another successful season. Although Chatton had not remained unbeaten as in 2024, many more games were won than lost and, in all cases, matches were played in the very best spirit. Visiting teams invariably comment on the beautiful surroundings and wonderful welcome and teas that they receive at Chatton.

The superb weather over most of the season had been a real bonus, and a very enjoyable family 6-a-side day, The Ord's Half Dozens, had been held in July.

The season had finished with a memorable tour of Suffolk.

Max presented the following awards for the 2025 Season:

Bowler of The Year : **Laurie Blackburn**

Batsman of The Year: **Henry Harvey**

Player of The Year: **Laurie Blackburn**

Young Player of the Year: **Ben Harvey**

Clubman of the Year: **Alistair Cochrane**

President's Award: **Andy McDaid**

Many thanks to **Mick Douglas** for looking after the pitch, to **Ian and Mary Catchpole** for their barbecue skills, and to the Percy Arms for a great night.

Check out the next edition of Chatton News for our special spring fund-raising event!

If you would like to play, help or find out any more about Chatton Cricket Club, please email us on chattoncc@outlook.com

Congratulations

Lauren Rathbone and **Michael Fairnington** celebrated their wedding at Holy Cross Church on 9th October.

Christmas Church Services

Carol Service at Holy Cross, Chatton

Tuesday 23rd December: 5.00 pm

With special musical guests, award-winning local vocal group **Tribe!** Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards. Please do join us for what should be a lovely start to Christmas

Christmas Day Eucharist 9.30 am

St Peter's, Chillingham

Blooming Chatton

Blooming Chatton is now in its third year and has grown steadily over this period. It is supported by a band of close on 20 willing volunteers who regularly give up their time, working together to transform the village's visual impact during the spring and summer months with thoughtfully designed and sited shrubs, climbers and floral displays.

But what is blooming Chatton really about?

Having lived in Perth, Scotland for a number of years I was fortunate to have witnessed beautiful landscaping and floral displays in Perth city and in the surrounding villages which were part of the Britain in Bloom initiative. Subsequently, on moving to Chatton and, as a keen gardener, having already worked hard to bring my own garden into shape and looking beautiful, I realised that more could be done with the visual impact of the village as a whole.

I noted that, although there were a number of barrel planters sited around the village, the coordinated effort to maintain these had waned slightly. They had become largely neglected and were looking rather sad as a result.

So, the idea of Blooming Chatton was born! Deliberately named so as not to be confused with the 'in Bloom' projects elsewhere and intended as a recreational initiative rather than a competition winning stress generator, I needed just two things to make it happen - willing volunteers and cash!

The first year saw very welcome funding from the Parish Council and the owners of The Percy Arms together with donations from many local residents and, although I was initially employing help from close friends, our numbers grew quickly and many hands combined to make lighter work. Some of the more tired planters were replaced with new and all were set with fresh soil

and compost ready for the first round of floral magic. Towards the end of year one, we also initiated the removal of a significant amount of ivy from the north wall at the west end of the village and replanted with wisteria, including the installation of a wire support framework on the wall.

With advancing time our ambitions have grown and, during 2023/24, over 500 daffodil bulbs have been planted- 300 to extend Sally Barker's existing display bordering the road to the east of Bridge House and 200 more bordering the wall on the green to the west of the village.

Fundraising is ongoing. The coffee morning gang have been very supportive in sponsoring our activities and we have a collection box sited in the village store. All donations are very gratefully received and will allow future projects to become a reality. We require to purchase plants, compost and fertiliser on an ongoing basis and planters will need to be replaced as they deteriorate. Next year we hope to be able to increase the longevity of our displays by replanting in early spring.

Paying homage to our farming community, I am on the lookout for an old piece of farming machinery, a plough or similar, which might work as a focal point when integrated with a suitable floral enhancement. If you can help or know someone who can, please get in touch.

And lastly, we are by no means an exclusive group! There is much to do and all are welcome to lend a hand. Please get in touch with me via the shop if you think you might like to get your hands dirty whilst having a laugh with a few locals and catching up with the gossip!

Thank you.

Sarah Brown

Cuddy's Guidepost

Those readers who have lived here for some time may recall the statue of St Cuthbert that stood outside the Old School at Hazelrigg like some belated helicopter grandparent. Having suffered one road traffic accident too many, the saint has now retired to the safer environ of Glendale Business Park. To assuage the distress of pilgrims who have toiled up the (unexpectedly) steep climb from Hetton Burn only to find the statue AWOL, a new carving has recently been installed. This guidepost (or totem pole as some would have it) carries a pictorial representation of St Cuthbert's Way.

The 62 mile route starts from **Melrose Abbey**, meanders along the upper Tweed, where you might see an **Otter** (associated by Bede with St Cuthbert), passing below the **Waterloo Monument**, before climbing into the hills to cross the **Border** into Northumberland above Kirk Yetholm. The way then snakes through the foothills of the **Cheviots**, passes through Wooler to arrive at the guidepost with the ghost of **St Cuthbert**. Onwards and upwards to **St Cuthbert's Cave**, then mercifully down to the coast, carefully timing your crossing of the sands to arrive at **Lindisfarne**.

The ultra-fit do the walk in 2 days; Northern Cross, amongst others, take 7 days, but they are carrying a large cross! By a quirk of nature, it is apparently always possible to cross the sands safely on Good Friday morning.

Peter the carver



Speaker Nights

Further short talks continue at the Village Hall on the last Thursday of each month. The full programme to the next summer break is on the web site

29/01/2026 - Miles

Hamilton

Special Sergeant
Northumbria Police

26/02/2026 - Rachel

Shambrook - The Royal
Mews, a small village in a
Palace

Coffee Morning Chatton Village Hall

To be held on
Saturday 6th December 2025
at 10:30 a.m.



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

Bacon Butties £3

Proceeds to
Wooler Food Bank

CANCELLED



Quiz Nights

Next Quiz Night is

**Thursday 11th
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.

Bring your own cheese & wine

Chatton Village Hall

Friday 5th December

Doors 7pm - Start 7:30pm

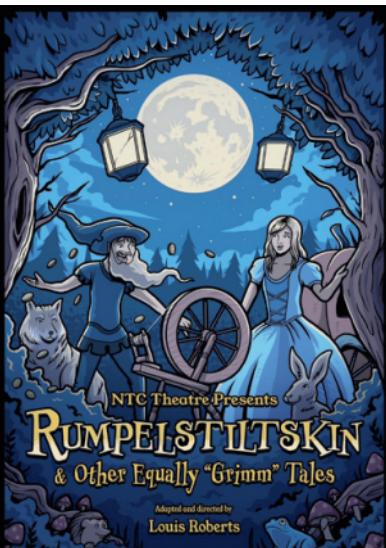
**Entry £5 person - Tickets from
Chatton Village Store**

or contact Jane 07769 335797 or
Debbie 07534 032135

NTC Christmas Play

Friday 19th December

It wouldn't be Christmas without the NTC's Performance of Rumpelstiltskin & Other Equally "Grimm" Tales. Three actors will bring Wilhelm, Jacob and their spirited sister, Charlotte, to life as they race against time to complete their collection of bizarre and bewitching stories before Christmas. Prepare yourself for an evening filled with hilarity and a touch of magic.



Join us as we delve into the captivating world of "Rumpelstiltskin" and other fantastical tales. With a delightful blend of silliness, songs, and storytelling, this theatrical adventure promises a celebration of the strange and spectacular. Perfect for audiences of all ages, come and experience the wonder of these timeless tales as they spring to life on stage.

Don't miss out on this merry medley of mischief and marvel—it's a festive treat you won't want to miss!

*Tickets on sale now at Chatton Village Shop £12 adults
£6 Children. Doors open at 5:30pm for refreshments
and raffle.*

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.

Village Hall Trustees

With this issue of Chatton News, you will have received a short questionnaire. Your Village Hall Trustees would be extremely grateful if you could take a little time to complete this survey in order that we are able to prioritise various initiatives which have been proposed in way of upgrading and as improving facilities overall.

Please return completed sheets to the Post Box at the Hall or alternatively hand into Chatton Village Store.

The AGM was held on the 6th October and saw a modest turnout together with some changes to the make-up of trustee group. **Sarah Brown** has been elected and will continue as Chairperson after stepping in earlier in the year on an ad-hoc basis. In addition, Barry Shambrook has joined us as the bowls group representative replacing **Richard Tebay** following Richard's decision to step down. As one of the trustee group founding members, Richard has been a contributing member for many years and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his significant contribution to the cause.

Keep your eyes peeled for the next update to scheduled activities at your village hall.

Corny Corner

I was nearly knocked off my bike by a council lorry

"**Idiot!**" I shouted through gritted teeth

If you would like to include something in the January / February newsletter please get in touch with us by email to news@chatton.uk or contact any of the editorial team by Friday 23rd January 2026 please