



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas
Issue 83 February / March 2026



The Percy Arms - An Exciting New Chapter



The Percy Arms, Chatton, Northumberland, is delighted to announce a significant new chapter in its history, following a recent change of ownership. The transition brings fresh investment, renewed energy, and a clear long-term vision for the popular pub, while honouring the character and warmth that locals and visitors have come to cherish.

The new owners have been highly impressed by the existing, dedicated team and are pleased to confirm that the current staff will remain at the heart of the business.

However, looking ahead, the new ownership plans to significantly enhance the food and drink offering, placing a strong emphasis on the outstanding quality of Northumberland's local suppliers and seasonal produce.

David Sharp, the new owner of the Percy Arms said: "We are incredibly fortunate to be inheriting such a committed and welcoming team. Their knowledge, pride, and connection with the local community are what make The Percy Arms what it is today, and we are excited to build on that

together."

Guests can look forward to a dining experience rooted in the region, including, increased use of local farmers, fishermen, and producers, as well as a broader and more confident seafood offering, celebrating the coast, alongside classic pub favourites.

David added: "Menus that evolve with the seasons while remaining approachable and welcoming are our top priority. Ultimately, we want The Percy Arms to reflect the very best of the area, from land and sea, without losing its warmth or accessibility."

A key aspect of the new ownership is the opportunity to work closely with nearby Fowberry Tower and Fowberry Cottage, both located within a five-minute drive of The Percy Arms.

This collaboration creates a distinctive, joined-up hospitality experience, combining great food, relaxed pub dining, and high-quality accommodation. With Fowberry Tower now open for residential stays alongside Fowberry Cottage, guests can enjoy luxury accommodation paired with a welcoming local pub, strengthening the area's appeal for short breaks, celebrations, and special occasions.

At the same time, this close relationship will create new opportunities for visitors staying locally to enjoy The Percy Arms as their pub of choice, private dining, event hospitality, and enhanced guest experiences and

strengthening the area's appeal as a destination for celebrations and special occasions.

With its characterful interiors and enviable setting, The Percy Arms already holds a special place in the community, and the new owners see significant potential for further development.

Throughout 2026, guests can look forward to an exciting calendar of events, including a schedule of special events and themed evenings, seasonal food and drink showcases and community-focused gatherings and celebrations.

"The Percy Arms is a fantastic pub with enormous potential. Our aim is simple: to look after what works, invest carefully where it adds value, and create a place that locals are proud of and visitors seek out."

The Percy Arms, which is also a dog friendly establishment, will remain open and welcoming as these exciting plans take shape and will be open throughout the festive period.

Further announcements about forthcoming events and developments will be made in due course.



Mary Carr 1944 - 2026

Mary was one of the oldest residents of Chatton being born at No.2 West End on 4th March 1944. Her parents moved to North Humbleton but returned to Chatton when Mary was at the age of 14, where she lived until her death on 9th January 2026.

She worked as a nanny to the Joicey family, helping to raise James, the current 5th Baron Joicey. She also worked for a time as a nanny in London but returned to her roots at Chatton. Latterly she was a cleaner for the Vicars and Ministers of the village as well as at the Tankerville Arms.

At time of print, funeral arrangements were yet to be made.

Carols Around the Village

Monday 22nd December 2025

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our choral efforts. We raised a total of £300, which was equally split between North Hospice and the Air Ambulance. It wasn't the busiest night compared to previous years, and as usual we sung to a few closed doors. No matter, fun was had by all, and thank you to the Percy Arms for laying on "a spread" for us. Also those village "pit-stops" where subsistence is kindly distributed.

Next Christmas we are going to start at the other end of the village! Watch this space, and we might even supply an itinerary in advance, allowing those who have a tendency to turn the lights off, and pretend to be out - to actually plan their absence!

Jim Railton

Christmas Tree

Wasn't it marvellous having a Christmas Tree on the Village Green during the lead up until Christmas?

We are very grateful to the Chillingham Wild Cattle Assoc. for donating the tree and to those who were involved in erecting it on the green (and taking it down afterwards). Thanks also to local residents who added decoration for the tree.

Our Sponsor



We are very grateful to
TCL Data and their
principal,

Barry Shambrook, who are once again delighted
to sponsor the printing of this edition of
Chatton News.

www.tcldata.net

Newly Weds

We were unable to print a photo of *Lauren and Richard Fairnington* in our last edition after they were married on 9th October 2025. So, here they are.



Chatton Village Hall

Coffee Morning

**Saturday 14th February
at 10:30am**



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

Bacon Butties £3

Proceeds to
Chatton Village Hall

Quiz night

The next Quiz Night will be at Chatton Village Hall on
Friday 27th February 2026 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 26th February - Rachel Shambrook

The Royal Mews, a small village in a Palace

Thursday 26th March - Peter Gambles

Chatton Hazelrigg, the School in the Middle of Nowhere

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

Surprised to see me?

Sometimes, folk are surprised when I turn up on their door step as, after calling 999 for an ambulance, are expecting a big green & yellow vehicle with a crew all dressed in green. Instead, I'm standing there in whatever clothes I'm wearing that day and a hi-viz jacket. They're even more surprised when they learn I am not a full-time paramedic but a volunteer who lives in the area. I am a **COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER (CFR)**.

So, who are CFRs? We are part of a national scheme, operated by local ambulance services – in my case North of England Ambulance Service (NEAS). We come from all walks of life and trained to various levels of patient care but, essentially, emergency first aid and beyond. I had a long experience of emergency care prior to moving here but most CFRs join up with none.

We are equipped with a first aid kit but also a defibrillator, resuscitation aids, medical oxygen, and diagnostic equipment for monitoring patient condition. We are dispatched by the ambulance service and respond on their behalf, usually as a back-up to the normal ambulance dispatch but often as the initial response.

I live in Chatton but regularly get called out to Wooler, Belford and Eglingham - even as far as Berwick but that is rare. The majority of CFR schemes work as a team so individuals operate on a rota basis and take charge of the kit for that shift. As a rural CFR, it is just me so I am logged on from home whenever I'm available – often 24/7.

We are issued with a smart phone that links into the NEAS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). It tracks the GPS position of the user, forwards dispatch messages, and

responds with status updates. As soon as the system recognises I am the closest resource to a Category 1 (life threatening e.g. non-breather) or Category 2 (emergency, e.g. stroke / heart attack) call, I am dispatched **at the same time** as a normal ambulance. Additionally the dispatcher at EOC may call us directly if they think we may be

of assistance.

The device incorporates a very good sat-nav so the destination of the call is already programmed in – I just have to follow it and it takes me to the door. Being the closest resource I should arrive first but, as we do **NOT** run on blue lights (sticking to speed limits and highway code in my own car) this is not always the case – quite often a close run thing but sometimes the ambulance is way behind coming a longer distance.

It's not all about life-threatening conditions. One of the best services is being part of the **Falls Team**. Someone may have a fall and require the ambulance service to get them up. As not seriously ill or injured, they would be classified with a Cat 4 response so they may be on the floor a long time before an ambulance arrives, by which time their condition may have deteriorated requiring a trip to A&E at Cramlington and all that entails. I have the training and equipment to get them mobile without requiring an ambulance.

Living in rural Northumberland can have it's challenges when requiring emergency medical care - local CFRs fill that gap. Being a CFR is very rewarding - I had 25 call outs last year – not onerous but very worthwhile. If you would like further information about CFRs or becoming one, please contact me.

Ian Catchpole



Satire Strikes Chatton

"This show is probably unsuitable for anyone under 20; definitely suitable for anyone over 40; and absolutely essential for anyone over 50"

As part of its current nationwide tour, the quick-fire satirical sketch show, **From Here to Absurdity**, is returning to Northumberland and will performed at Chatton Village Hall on **Friday 20th February**.

Written and performed by Richard Kelly (erstwhile contributor to Private Eye) and Ashley Hern (resident historian-broadcaster on Talk-Radio), **From Here to Absurdity** comprises 90 minutes of original comedy sketches, performed in a style recalling the hey-day of Peter Cook, Stephen Fry and Alas Smith and Jones. As such, it is very different to stand-up comedy and therefore very different to the sort of live entertainment encountered in most comedy clubs.

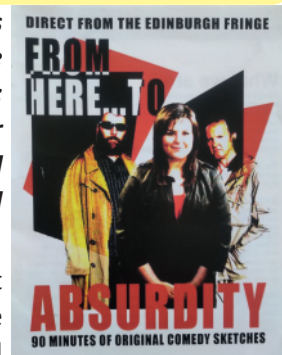
The show has already performed at innumerable venues across the country and has also appeared at both the Edinburgh Fringe and Chicago Sketch Festivals. But it is no stranger to our local village halls either, having performed at Horncliffe, Kirknewton and Lesbury during the past decade.

Kelly and Hern will be joined on stage by Lucy Simons, a stand-up comedienne from Chester who has performed at numerous comedy clubs in the north-west. In the course of their set, the Absurdity trio will skewer numerous features of everyday life, including (to quote the cast) "death, divorce and decay, Starmer, Sturgeon and Trump". Those with a suspicion of political correctness, senior managers, sponging adult-children and assisted dying will also find something moderately amusing.

Doors open at 6.45pm. Show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 or £80 for table of 8. The room will be laid out in cabaret style with tables rather than rows of chairs.

You are welcome to bring any snacks that you like, but we ask that you do not bring any drinks as the bar (cash and card) will be open.

Tickets available now from Chatton Village Store, or by contacting Alan Hardy. Book now to secure your seat.



Parish Church Council

Holy Cross was almost bursting once again with well over 100 people attending Chatton's Carol Service on the 23rd December. Enormous thanks must go to local vocal group Tribe, who provided such exquisite Christmas music to supplement the excellent community carols.

The Christmas Day service at St Peter's Chillingham was also well attended, so it was a busy time for our vicar Tracey Malthouse who also had to fit in services in her other parishes, South Charlton, Ingram and Eglingham.

Sadly, we have recently had to say goodbye to Tracey, whose last service as Priest in Charge of the Till and Breamish Benefice took place on Sunday 25th January at Eglingham. We are immensely grateful to Tracey, who joined us 4 years ago at a very difficult time. Covid was scarcely behind us, when our churches had been closed altogether, and Storm Arwen had just caused a great deal of damage to St Peter's, Chillingham. Since then Tracey has worked tirelessly running the 4 parishes and 6 churches in our sprawling benefice.

Newcastle Diocese have started the process for recruiting Tracey's successor. Meanwhile, Holy Communion services will continue on the first and third Sunday of each month at Chatton (10 am) and Chillingham (9.30) respectively, led by non-stipendiary clergy.

Fortunately, Tracey and her husband Andy are not going far. They are moving from Eglingham Vicarage to Ilderton, and we wish them every success in their new home, as well as with Andy's new motor repair business at The Glendale Business Park, Haugh Head.

Church Services

Sunday 1st February 10:00 – Holy Cross, Chatton

Sunday 15th February 9:30 – St Peter, Chillingham

Sunday 1st March 10:00 – Holy Cross, Chatton

Sunday 15th March 9:30 – St Peter, Chillingham

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

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.

Tillside Parish Council

Smart Meters - County Councillor M Mather & Tillside Parish Council are writing to David Smith MP raising concerns that smart meters are unable to be installed and used within the parish, residents can also write directly to David Smith MP raising their concerns on this issue.

Emergencies – OneCall service is a single point of contact for all adult social care, children's services, and community health inquiries in Northumberland. You can contact OneCall at 01670 536 400 or email onecall@northumberland.gov.uk. This service aims to help vulnerable individuals and families by providing support and advice 24/7. If you have concerns about an adult's welfare, you can also reach out to OneCall for assistance.

Dog fouling-Due to the ongoing issue of dog fouling within Chatton village Parish Councillors are investigating the option of installing CCTV.

Precept- Parish Councillors have agreed not to increase the parish precept in 2026/27 it will remain at £5445

Christmas tree - Parish Councillors would thank for Kezz Stone for organising & Chillingham Wild Cattle for donating the Christmas tree for Chatton Village.

Corny Corner

A wagon loaded with Vicks Vaporub overturned on the A1.

Amazingly, there was no congestion for 8 hours.

Chillingham Castle has an original Shakespeare pencil on show.

It's so chewed you can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B

*The Percy had a Mary Poppins themed evening.
We had...*

Soup-of-cauliflower-tips-but-the-lobster's-quite-atrocious

**When does a joke become a Dad Joke?
When it becomes apparent.**

Police say a petite psychic escaped custody.
There's a Small Medium at Large

*I went to buy a goldfish. The shopkeeper asked if
I wanted an aquarium*

I said I wasn't bothered about its star sign.

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 Monday 23rd March 2026 please