



Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas

Issue 87 October / November 2026



The Class of '86 Reunion

To the Chatton Village Community,

We want to extend our massive, heartfelt thanks to everyone who let us use the village BBQ for our recent Chatton School Class of 1981–1986 Reunion.



Back in the day, our entire year group was a tiny class of just five pupils—and I was the only girl in the bunch keeping the boys in check! Getting the old crew back together was an absolute joy, though sadly Robert Winter couldn't attend, leaving myself, Mark Cowens, Graham Temple, and David Hunter to hold down the fort.

We had grand plans to treat the village to an impromptu musical performance on the old stage, but unfortunately, a thorough raid underneath it yielded absolutely no sign of our vintage triangles, tambourines, or glockenspiels.

Instead, we took to the school field, which is frankly far too state-of-the-art compared to the muddy tundra we remember. We quickly

discovered that while our school spirits remain frozen in 1986, our physical bodies are firmly anchored in the present day. Against all anatomical odds, we managed to race around without a single pulled hamstring, broken bone, or local ASBO.

On a final, proud note, it was incredibly special for us to walk those halls again, especially since history repeated itself in the family—my own daughter, Georgia Foulis, was not only the very last pupil on the register, but she was also the final one to physically leave the school before Chatton officially closed its doors for good in 2008.

Thank you all for letting us walk down memory lane, fire up the grill, and prove that we can still survive a school day!

With warmest regards and deep gratitude,

The Class of '86

Michelle Foulis



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

Tillside Parish Council

Tillside Parish Council currently have vacancies for 3 Parish Councillors:

1 each for Chatton, Chillingham & Hetton wards

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please email Isabel Hunter, Parish Clerk, for more details

Email: Clerk@tillsideparishcouncil.gov.uk

Banner picture of 'Rainbow' by Dean Smith

Friends Remembered

Jeff Smith

1949 - 2026



Jeff Smith passed away on 2nd August aged 77 with his beloved family by his side.

Jeff was known to many in the village from his time at the Percy Arms helping Pam and Kenny on the bar every weekend and then running the village shop and post office for 16 years.

He loved playing golf, salmon fishing and Newcastle United.

His greatest love was his family and he adored his four granddaughters.

He will be missed by many.

Act of Remembrance

Following the church service at Holy Cross Church, 9:30am on Sunday 8th 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.



Congratulations



Joyce and John Scott

celebrated their
Platinum Wedding Anniversary

to mark 70 years of marriage - they were married at Springwell Methodist Church, County Durham, on 4th August 1956.

Great North Runners

Well done to **Michael Cairns** and **Julien Abrahart** for completing the Great North Run on 13th September.

Michael was running for The Teenage Cancer Trust, a cause very close to the family's hearts as his son, Harry's, best friend is currently battling leukaemia.

Julien completed the course with his daughter, Grace, who were raising funds and awareness for Prostate Cancer UK.



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

Thursday 15th October

(note original date reinstated)

Thursday 19th November

Thursday 10th 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.

CVH Short Talks

The new season of Village talks had a good start on 24th September with an interesting and informative insight Autumnal Foraging by Rachel Abbott. As the seasons change so do the offerings available in the hedgerows - now being a fully sustainable bountiful time for nuts and autumn fruits.

29/10/2026 **Geology and Industrial Archaeology – Along the coast of North Northumberland**
Elizabeth Devon

26/11/2026 **Responding in the Community** *Ian Catchpole*

25/02/2027 **The Chatton Blacksmith** *Peter Gambles*

25/03/2027 **From Little Seeds to a Micro Food Business** *Karen Park*

29/04/2027 **Medieval Medicines and Monastery Hospitals** *Sandra Gann*

27/05/2027 **Quick Fire Short Talks**

We are already actively looking for presenters for the 2027-28 winter short talks and have already got some suggestions and expressions of interest, but we are always looking for further ideas.

Many thanks for your ongoing support – Chatton Village Hall Short Talk organisers Maggie Pinsent, Rachel and Barry Shambrook.

Editor's Note

A reminder that, after seven years, this is the penultimate issue of Chatton News that I shall be editing - the December 2026 Christmas issue will be my last.

This newsletter has been an integral part of our village life since it was started in 2005 and I hope that it will continue for many years to come. That will not happen unless someone, or group of people, are prepared to take over the editorial reins into 2027.

I shall still be on hand to manage the web site and email distribution side of things (if desired) but whosoever takes over will have a free hand to steer it in whatever direction they see fit.

I look forward to reporting in the next issue who I shall be handing over to.

Ian Catchpole (Ed)

A Good Life



Jo Hume is well known to Chatton folk and her decorated cakes have been a masterpiece at many a special event. Now, she has spread her wings and has become the proud owner of The Good Life Shop in Wooler, taking over from David who had run the shop for many years.

The shop will continue to sell a wide variety of local produce, cheeses, charcuterie, bakery and a whole variety of delicatessen items. Pop in to say hello.

Coffee Morning Chatton Village Hall

To be held on

Saturday 24th October 2026

at 10:30 am



Entrance £2.50

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

Bacon Butties £3

Proceeds to

Hospice Care Northumberland

Church Matters

Church Services

October 4th - 10am, Chatton
October 18th - 9.30am, Chillingham
November 1st - 10am, Chatton
November 8th - 9:30am, Chatton
(Remembrance Sunday)
November 15th - 9.30am, Chillingham



Harvest Supper-Saturday 3rd October

This year's Harvest Supper will be held in Chatton Village Hall on the evening of Saturday 3rd October (note change of date as previously advertised).

The event will comprise a fine seasonal dinner, a Charity Auction, and much more!

All proceeds will go to Chatton and Chillingham Churches.

Do hold the date free for what should be a great evening once again: more details will follow.

If you are able to offer a gift or promise for the auction, or would like to help in any other way, please contact Sue Thompson on thomsue70@gmail.com or Alistair Cochrane on alistair.cochrane@galbraithgroup.com

Call for Sponsors

We are very grateful to our two main sponsors, **TCL Data** and **Galbraiths**, who between them have covered the cost of printing each edition of Chatton News this year.

If you have a business that could contribute in either printing or covering the cost in 2027 we would like to hear from you.

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.

Chillingham AED

The Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD) in Chillingham was generously provided by Roddy Hamilton. It is situated in a locked cabinet outside the Old Post Office on Bank Top by the road to Eglington.



Access is via a key code which will be provided by the Ambulance Service in response to a 999 call.

Roddy has now moved to Yorkshire so will not be able to continue maintaining the equipment nor fund the replacement pads that have a limited shelf life. We are, therefore, looking for a pool of volunteers who would be willing to be on a rota to complete the monthly checks on this vital piece of equipment - it only takes a few minutes of time, once a month, shared by the members of the group.

A similar system of volunteers currently operates in Chatton to maintain the CPAD there - see aed.chatton.uk and click on the 'Service Checks' link for further details.

Also, we would be grateful if any fund raising events, now or in the future, that would consider donating to the cost of replacement consumables (pads and battery) in the longer term.

Please contact us with your expression of interest to
aed@chatton.uk.

Corny Corner

What does a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common?

They're both Paris sites!

What do you call a factory that makes okay products?

A satisfactory!

The back of my car fell off and you'll never guess what you can't buy at a car boot sale.

As I taped a piranha to my boomerang, I thought 'This could come back to bite me'.

If you would like to include something in the December / January newsletter please get in touch by email to **news@chatton.uk** or contact any of the editorial team by Monday 23rd November 2026 please