



## Weighty Argument Over Chillingham Bridge

Residents will have noticed that new signs have been put in place restricting the total weight of vehicles on the Chillingham Bridge to 18 tons. The limit was set at 26 tons in April 1970 but a further Traffic Regulation Order made in November 1990 limited vehicles to 17 tons. This was rounded up to 18 tons under the Traffic Signs Regulations of 2002.



The problem seems to be that Northumberland County Council did not put up a sign to show that the weight limit was only 17 tons from 1990. The old 26 tons sign was still on display until recently and people have built up businesses locally on the understanding that this was indeed the limit. Vehicles are having to make long detours along narrow roads to avoid the bridge.

The Parish Council will be making representations about the situation. One solution would be to strengthen the bridge. Under the County Council's classification, the Chillingham Bridge is a group 5 bridge on a scale of one to six. A group 6 bridge (of which there are 72 in the County), is in need of urgent repair or replacement.

## Quiz Night – Friday 30 November

The next quiz organized in support of the football club will be held on Friday 30 November at The Percy Arms. Teams should consist of three to five people with each member paying £2. There are prizes for the top teams and the first question will be asked at 8pm.

## A Thank You

Mrs Janice Clark and family would like to thank everyone who so kindly sent cards and letters of condolence on the death of the late Roger Clark. They have been a great comfort at this sad time of loss. Contributions totaling £200 have been sent to Macmillan Cancer Relief. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

## Correction

In the last issue of Chatton News we incorrectly reported that £325 had been raised at the MacMillan Coffee Morning. The final total was, in fact, £367. Apologies for the error.

## Traffic Checks in Chatton

The police will look at concerns about speeding in Chatton and they have agreed that they will bring a speed gun to the village over the coming weeks. In the interests of safety, the police will also act on general traffic issues that arise such as the use of seat belts and mobile phones.

## Chatton School Meeting

Representatives of the Parish Council have met with School Governors, the County Council and Newcastle Diocese following the announcement that the Governors of Chatton School have formally asked Northumberland CC to consider closing the school. Meanwhile, remaining parents have agreed that they will be taking their children to other schools from January.

The Parish Council was surprised to be told that the figures used by the Governors in meetings last April were incomplete. These figures were used when they informed everyone that the only viable alternative seemed to be closure. A senior County Council officer confirmed that the actual numbers of children who will be of school age in the catchment area are significantly higher according to his sources. Many children have left the school since April on the understanding that it had no future and could no longer meet the needs of children, based on the figures presented by Governors.

However, Governors remain convinced that the only option now is to close the school – a view disputed by Parish Council Representatives. The County Council will begin a twelve-week process of consultation on 3 December. The views of the community will be sought and it is important that everyone makes a contribution to the debate. No-one involved has expressed the view that they would like Chatton to be without a school, but some believe that it is inevitable.

A public meeting has been organised by the Parish Council on Tuesday 11 December in the school hall. The whole community is invited to attend. Full information about the proposed consultation process and alternatives to closure will be given at the meeting.

## Police Seek Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

At the recent Parish Council meeting PC Ian Millar gave a presentation on the setting up of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Chatton. His greatest concern was that in an area of low crime there is always a danger that we become complacent. Councillors asked that he made the necessary arrangements and he has now discussed details with colleagues and is ready to set the scheme up.

Initially he will be looking for someone to be the co-ordinator for the scheme. Whoever takes on this responsibility will need to be security checked and will be given some training in issues such as the administration involved. It is a very rewarding role and anyone interested should contact Ian on the number below.

## Police Contact Details

It is not possible to staff Wooler Police station throughout the day. If you need to contact PC Ian Millar, other than in an emergency when a 999 call is necessary, you can dial 08456 043043, Ext. 69191. You can also dial the number on key rings issued three years ago – 01665 861313 and leave a voicemail message. You can also email [ian.millar.4@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ian.millar.4@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)



## Christmas Market at Chatton School

(A Chatton with Chillingham PCC event in aid of Church Funds)

Saturday December 8th from 2pm

Come and join us for a 'Feast of Christmas'

- Local speciality foods to sample
  - Homemade cakes and preserves
  - Homemade Christmas cakes
  - Handmade candles and soaps
  - Christmas table decorations, crafts
  - Christmas plants, greetings cards
  - Mulled wine and refreshments
- .....and much more

### Carpet Bowls Back In Chatton?

Could a carpet bowls club return to Chatton after an absence of many years? Parish Councilors certainly think so and have applied for a grant for equipment in the village. The grant is available under the Northumberland care trust project, 'FISHNETS' (Fit, Involved, Safe and Healthy), encouraging communities to stay active and socially involved.

Interested? Contact Bob Scott on 215376.

### Parish Precept Held

The Parish Council have decided not to increase the parish precept next year. The total collected will again be £1750.

### Tillside Website

The Tillside website is now up and running and provides information to residents and visitors alike. You will also find minutes of Parish meetings and back copies of Chatton News. The address of the site is [www.tillside.org.uk/](http://www.tillside.org.uk/).

### Church Services

With all the preparations in place for the Christmas Market on December 8<sup>th</sup>, all we need now is for everyone to turn up. Church services for December are as follows.

2 Dec	9:30am	Chatton URC Service
	11:30am	Chillingham Holy Communion
9Dec	9:30am	Chatton Holy Communion
16 Dec	9:30am	Chatton United Family Service
19 Dec	6:30pm	Carols at Chillingham Castle
23 Dec	9:30am	Chatton Holy Communion
24 Dec	7:00pm	Chatton Carol Service
25 Dec	11:15am	Chillingham Holy Communion
30 Dec	9:30am	Chatton Holy Communion

Do try to attend one of the services over the Christmas period.

Brian Lockett

### Chatton's Take Grand Street to The Cleaners Chatton 5-0 Grand Street

Chatton dominated the game from start to finish and thoroughly deserved to take all three points to lift them from the bottom of the table. Chatton were determined to keep a clean sheet and were well organized at the back with Barry Rochester calling the shots and making a significant contribution to the best defensive display since the team entered league competition. Jack Strangeways, playing in goal, set the victory up when he saved an early penalty.

Chris Stanwix opened the scoring with style and scored a second from the tightest of angles after finding himself in possession close to the corner flag. John Steele scored a goal through sheer persistence and man-of-the-match, Shaun Rochester added a fourth. Luke Strangeways came on from the bench to score a well-taken goal in the second half.

### Chatton Lose Out in Vital Six-Pointer Amble Dock 4 -3 Chatton

Chatton took a deserved lead in this bottom of the table clash with Kevin Gresham firing home an early goal. Chatton were by far the best team in the first half but after failing to capitalise on their chances, allowed Amble Dock to score twice to take a half-time lead against the run of play.

Early in the second half, Chris Stanwix drilled home a well-taken goal to give Chatton another opportunity to go on and seal the game. But Amble was the more determined team and started to use possession better. They responded with two quick goals. It wasn't until the last five minutes that Chatton made any further response. Luke Strangeways came on to score from the bench for the second week running. Chatton pressed forward for a vital equaliser in the final minutes of the game but, like England, had left it all too late.

### Chatton FC Fixture

25/11/07      Ashington Excelsior      League      Home  
Spectators are always welcome at matches. Unless otherwise stated kick off is 10:30am.

### Weather Report

This issue is too early in the month to give the usual report. November's report will be included in next month's Chatton News.



### Black and Blue Bin Weeks December

Blue bins emptied on:      5 Dec, 19 Dec, 3 Jan  
Black bins emptied on:      28 Nov, 12 Dec, 27 Dec

(Berwick Borough Council have advised us that collections will be one day late during Christmas and New Year weeks).

### Chatton News

If anyone is willing to produce the March and April 2008 editions of Chatton News please get in touch.

With thanks to all contributors to this issue. The next issue to be published will be on December 21. Items to Bob Perris by December 17 please. (Tel: 215564 or email at [robert.perris@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.perris@btinternet.com))