



# Chatton News

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Issue: 53

A Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Area

27 March 2008

## Top National Award for The Old Manse

Christine Brown & Tony Lummis are in pole position for either a Gold or Silver Award in the Bed & Breakfast / Guest Accommodation category at the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence. The awards ceremony will be held in Liverpool on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Christine and Tony won the regional final last September and competed with 8 other regional winners to be selected for this national award. Judges from Enjoy England (formerly the English Tourist Board) also made secret visits to the Old Manse before making their award decision.

Christine is pictured here receiving the regional award from BBC's Wendy Gibson last September.

Congratulations to Christine & Tony on this tremendous achievement and the best of luck at the awards ceremony in April.



## A Big Thank You

Hannah Lee, Amie Roberts, Lucy Davis and Amy McWilliams would like to thank everyone who came along and supported them at their coffee morning in aid of the Duchess's High School Hockey Trip to South Africa and the Goedgedacht Trust on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

The Goedgedacht Trust was established 10 years ago to help farm workers and their families to break out of generations of poverty. Young people in the area have painfully little and the Trust is convinced that sport holds the key to regeneration in poor rural communities.

We are very grateful to those who kindly donated cakes and prizes and also those who gave cash donations. We would also like to thank Percy Wood at Swarland for their generous sponsorship.

The total raised was £566.76. Thank you.

*Hannah Lee and Amie Roberts*

## Children's Group Launch

The re-launch of the Children's Group has been a great success, with over 10 children and their parents attending each week! Sessions are held in the Chatton Parish Hut (behind the First School), Weds 4 - 5pm, term time. £1 per family, includes drink and biscuit. This half-term's programme is as follows:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 23 April | Gardening Fun - In the School Garden  |
| 30 April | Gardening Fun - Continued   |
| 7 May    | Computers - All About Me - Photography  |
| 14 May   | Sports - Rounders/Kwik Cricket  |
| 21 May   | Visit to Chatton Fishery (Meet sharp at hut to walk up. Please bring a snack picnic.) |

Just call in and take a look, or for further information call me on 215445.

*Caroline Roberts*

## Carpet Bowls Returns to Chatton

The first evening of Carpet Bowls began on Tuesday 26 February in the school hall and will continue each Tuesday until further notice. Pictured are Heather Jones and Ronnie Bolam playing on a single carpet lane obtained via a grant from Northumberland Care Trust. A second carpet and set of equipment is also available to allow more players to take part. Last Tuesday, nine players enjoyed a close match between men & women teams. Interested in joining the group? Then come along on Tuesday at 7pm, or contact Bob Scott on 215376 if you have any questions.



## Auction of Promises Raises £3,400

Many, many thanks to all who contributed, in whichever way, to the Auction of Promises, held recently by the PCC in aid of Chatton with Chillingham church funds. A lot of hard work was put in by a lot of people in the event organisation, and of course, on the night. Jim Railton our auctioneer, pictured here in action, did us proud by selling 93 lots.



Huge thanks to the donors; the lots were varied and imaginative, with people giving of their time and skills as well as cash donations, and really getting into the spirit of the event. It was an absolutely fantastic response. Finally, special thanks go to all who came along and made it a great evening.

The total raised was an amazing £3,401.70

*PCC Secretary*

## Chatton with Chillingham PCC

There will be a coffee morning in Wooler on 5th April at 10 am in the Glendale Hall. Home baking, preserves, tombola and books for sale. Contact Dorothy Bolam -215311 or Sally Douglas- 215256

Chatton with Chillingham PCC are holding a Charity shop in Wooler, in aid of church funds, at the end of May. If anyone has any items they are clearing out this spring (non electrical) which we may be able to sell, we would be very grateful to receive these for the sale. These might include china, bric a brac, jumble, clothing and items of furniture.

*Please contact PCC secretary on 01668 215376*

## Chatton First School

Chatton First School moved a step closer to closure, when on March 10<sup>th</sup>, Northumberland County Council agreed to publish statutory notices on the closure of Chatton First School. The decision comes following a request from school governors to close the school.

According to NCC, the results of the six week consultation found that of those who responded to the consultation, parents, school governors, and school staff supported the proposal to close. The majority of those who responded to the consultation who were not a parent, governor or member of staff did not support the proposal.

The NCC executive report says that only 29 response forms were received out of the 522 circulated. However, when questioned, Helen Griffiths the author of the report, accepted that less than 5% of the forms were circulated in Chatton and its catchment area. The vast majority of forms were sent to parents, staff and governors in Berwick and Alnwick partnership schools such as Wooler, Belford and Eglington, which in the current climate of uncertainty on the future of our schools, is rather similar to asking turkeys to vote for Christmas. To add insult to injury, those members of the community who sent letters and emails to the consultation were not counted as respondents. When questioned, NCC was unable to say how many letters or emails were sent to the consultation.

NCC will publish a Statutory Notice on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, following which the public will have six weeks to make representations, which may be in the form of comments or objections. The County Council Executive will then make a final decision on whether or not to close Chatton First School after the end of the statutory period.

## Holy Cross Walk

There will be a Holy Cross Day Walk again this year: the date for your diary is Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to start at Holy Island in the morning (time dependent on tide times) and walk via St. Cuthbert's Cave (where we stop for lunch) to Holy Cross Church, Chatton. Here, for those who wish, we will be met with light refreshments and a brief address to welcome us back.

The distance is approximately 16 miles and apart from the length is an easy to moderate walk. Those who wish to take part but do not feel able to do the full distance can join the walk at a number of points on the route. (All taking part should be responsible for their own capacity to walk, and for suitable clothing.)

This year the walk is held in conjunction with the Golden Age of Northumbria initiative, a programme of events in North Northumberland up until the end of 2008, which celebrates the Northern Saints.

Contact PCC Secretary for details on 01668 215376

## Now for Something Completely Different....

A Tai Chi introductory course is planned to start on May 13<sup>th</sup> in the School Hall and will run for 6 weeks. Jane Virginia, an instructor from Wooler will lead the sessions. Tai Chi is a form of moving meditation, increasingly popular as an effective way to reduce stress. The course is supported by FISHNETS and Northumberland Care Trust. More news to follow in April. Interested in Tai Chi?...call Bob Scott 215 376.

## Chatton Miss Out in Close Match

Chatton 3 - 4 Morpeth Black Swan

On 16<sup>th</sup> March, Chatton narrowly missed out on a point in this tight game and could have taken all three but for a couple of costly individual errors in defence. Chatton fielded a weakened team due to holidays and illness and then gave away an early goal, which didn't do confidence any good. The game was close after this lapse however, and a late third goal for Chatton set up a tense finale, but there was to be no breakthrough.

## Chatton Store Deals

Siesta Kitchen Rolls- twin pack	99 p
L/S Softest Toilet Tissues -pack of 4	£1.55
Household Gloves	85 p

## Black and Blue Bin Weeks March 2008



Blue bins emptied on:	9 Apr, 23 Apr, 7 May
Black bins emptied on:	2 Apr, 16 Apr, 30 Apr

## February Weather Report

David and Meg Thompson of Chillingham Barns provide weather information for the area to the Met Office. February was very dry with only 0.59 ins. rainfall reported, all of which fell on the first 5 days. Ground frost was recorded on 20 nights with a low of -8.5 °C on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Max. Air Temperature:	13.4°C on Feb 9
Min. Air Temperature:	-6.0°C on Feb 17
Min Ground temp	-8.5°C on Feb 13

Total Rainfall February 2008:	0.59"
Average for February:	1.77"

## Church Services

Church services for April are as follows. Everyone is welcome to come to the services.

6 April	9:30am	Chatton URC Service
6 April	11:30am	Chillingham Holy Communion
13 April	9:30am	Chatton Holy Communion
20 April	9:30am	Chatton United Service
27 April	9:30am	Chatton Holy Communion

## Chatton News - Editor Needed

There is still a vacancy for someone or a group of people to take over the production of Chatton News. It will normally take a couple of evenings to produce the newsletter each month. If anyone is interested and would like to discuss what is involved please get in touch. Help will be given to anyone who wants the job but is unsure of their computer skills. Anyone who takes over can decide if they want to change the format or style of the newsletter to suit themselves. We need someone to be responsible for the newsletter, producing their first issue in May this year. During March and April Bob Scott has offered to temporarily edit Chatton News.

With thanks to all contributors to this issue. The next issue will be published on April 24.

Items to Bob Scott by April 21 please.

(Tel:215376 or email bob316scott@yahoo.co.uk)