

HEDDON GOSSIP

THE INDEPENDENT FREE PAPER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL

DECEMBER • JANUARY 21/22

A year of Celebrating 100 years of growing is almost at its end and a New Year and a new Centenary for Halls of Heddon is about to begin. It was in 1921 that our grandfather, William Nicholson Hall, first sowed the seeds of what has now become one of the most respected Dahlia specialists in the country and even worldwide. We are not just about Dahlias though. As many of you know, we grow and supply a wide range of garden plants at both of our nurseries at West Heddon Nursery Ovington.

100
NOT OUT!

Halls of Heddon- Our Centenary Year.

bloom. To many, it was an eyeopener, never realising that such a spectacular sight was right on their doorstep. We ourselves often take it for granted but seeing the joy and smiles on people's faces as they took in the kaleidoscope of colour for the first time was something I won't forget.

Our efforts this year entailed planting more. 400 plants were added to a mixed border I'd started a few years ago. Perimeters were levelled, reseeded, and mowed, whilst old pallets were made into seating which we dotted around the fields for people to relax and enjoy.

There is something special about Harrogate Autumn Flower Show and it was good to be back with the organisers very eager to help and support us in putting on an additional celebratory display. Their press release focussed very much on our long-standing involvement and our Centenary year, which resulted in us getting coverage on Tyne Tees news- the aerial footage was superb! We were obviously pleased as punch to be awarded a Premier Gold Medal for our main traditional stand, but the additional Premier Gold and the President of the North of England Horticultural Society's Award for our Centenary Display was the icing on the cake. More importantly though were the comments of appreciation from so many people at the show and back at the Nursery. The unquantifiable amount of pleasure that our Flowers and plants have given to so many is celebration enough of 100 Years of Growing.

DAVID HALL



Grandparents William N. and Barbara A. Hall with 'Diana No. II in 1935.

The last 18 months has proved very challenging for many. The thought of lockdown and having to close the doors in our 99th year was always on my mind. Little did we know how gardening would suddenly create a whole new crop of budding horticulturists eager to connect with nature and look towards more food security. People turned to the hobby as a way of getting through the periods of lockdown and came to appreciate the benefits to health and mental wellbeing that working with plants and being outdoors gives. Thanks to every one's support over those months we went on to have one of our most successful years as people looked to shop with and support local businesses. It meant that we could look forward to this year, our Centenary year, with a lot more positivity. But how to celebrate 100 years in Covid?

That became the difficult one. In danger of the year flying by without doing anything, we focussed our efforts on making our Display fields somewhere special to visit. We knew from last year how much people enjoyed the spectacle of seeing over 15000 Dahlias and Chrysanthemums in full

Premier Gold Award for our traditional Dahlia Display at Harrogate Flower Show



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EDITORIAL

With Coronavirus still prevalent and a kind of normality having returned to Heddon-on-the-Wall, it has been decided that Heddon Gossip would be published again after 18 months in hibernation.

For many years Anne Lockey has edited, arranged advertising, designed and organised the printing and delivery of this publication. However she feels it's time to hand over the baton. We thank Anne for her years of hard work.

When Heddon Gossip was first published, the aim was to have a newspaper that brought all the groups and organisations in Heddon together to inform residents of their existence, dates, meetings and any additional information. Village history and present day news items would also be included. Without taking sides, being outspoken or politically motivated, we aim to keep the same ethos to the best of our ability.

For your club, articles or to advertise in Heddon Gossip see back page for contact details.

Ian Scott



Heddon Gossip -
First edition May/June 1991

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EVOLUTION AT ST ANDREW'S

A lot has happened at St Andrew's church over the pandemic and its restrictions. In August 2020 we said farewell to The Reverend Audrey McCartan who after 14 years' Ministry with us has moved to Longhorsley. Despite the restrictions we managed an excellent turn out for her last Service with us and made a presentation to show our gratitude for the huge amount she did for us which was well in excess of what a House for Duty Priest is expected to contribute.

During Audrey's time with us Lay Led involvement in worship developed. We took this to the next stage during the Vacancy. Four members of the congregation received some training, advice and trust from the Area Dean to lead Worship when no visiting Priest could be assigned to us. Three of these people then undertook a fuller course and are now Authorized Lay Ministers.

On Easter Sunday it was announced that The Reverend Rachel Scheffer, the Priest in Charge at Stamfordham and Matfen with Ryal, would additionally be the Priest in Charge at Heddon St Andrew. The Reverend Tom Birch, Vicar of Wylam and Ovingham, would additionally be the Associate Priest at Heddon St Andrew.

Although not licensed until September we started to act as if these appointments had been formally made. This was a brilliant way of getting to know each other and the worshipping community in all the other parishes with whom we now share 2 priests.

This is not about doing the same thing with less, but doing things differently. For example, our rhythm of Sunday worship at 10am follows this pattern:



Dusting of snow covers St Andrew's Church

1st Sunday of the month: Lay Led Worship. This is not Holy Communion but familiar prayers, Bible readings and hymns. The service usually lasts for about half an hour.

2nd Sunday of the month: Holy Communion led by either Fr. Tom or retired Priest.

3rd Sunday of the month: Holy Communion led by a Fr. Tom or retired Priest.

4th Sunday of the month: Holy Communion led by Reverend Rachel Scheffer.

In a month that has a 5th Sunday all 5 parishes gather at one location for collective worship. This will usually include the option of a walk or lunch together.

Upcoming Events and Services Include:

Sat 18 December: Community Carols by Candlelight Service in St. Andrew's Church 4.30pm

Christmas Eve: An Family Ecumenical Service 'A Christmas Journey' starting at St Andrew's at 4pm travelling on to the Methodist Church.

Christmas Day: Christmas Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's Church

Useful Points of Contact: Reverend Rachel Scheffer.

Tel: 01661 886853

email: r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org

Rev'd Tom Birch: Tel: 01661 853254,

email: revdtombirch@gmail.com

Church Warden - Ann Hotchkiss: Tel: 01661 831324

Church Warden - Lynda Henderson: Tel: 07907 574575

VILLAGE DIARY

Please note the Village Diary is now held in The Swan

The diary is for the whole village to use in order to avoid, wherever possible, two events happening on the same day.

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Mobile: 07920148380

HEDDON METHODIST CHURCH

Dates for your diary for December:

Saturday 18 December: Three Tuns, 10.00am - Carol singing around the Christmas Tree

Sunday 19 December: Methodist Church, 3.00pm - Carol service with Reverend Colin Barrick

Christmas Day: Methodist Church, 9.30am - Short Christmas service with Reverend Colin Barrick

Sunday Services in December:

Sunday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th December - 10-30am with Reverend Colin Barrick

FOOD BANK

There is a box outside the main door of the Methodist Church to put in all food donations.

Donations can also be left: Reverend Colin Barrick, 20 Aquila Drive



TRUST FUND To all pupils and former pupils of St. Andrew's school, Heddton-on-the-Wall, and any resident of the Parish of Heddton intending to take further education or training HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST was set up nineteen years ago to award grants for the education and training of people resident in the Parish.

To provide items and services and facilities for the Heddton-on-the-Wall Church of England School as may from time to time be agreed by the trustees and the governors of the school. To promote the education (including social and physical training) of pupils and former pupils of the said school.

If you feel this applies to you and you wish to apply please contact Freda Phillipson on 01661 852287

HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL EDUCATION & TRAINING TRUST

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Under the power given in the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 Order that from today, the 15th. May 2000 the following SCHEME

will govern the property of the former charities previously known as Proceeds of Sale of The Old School and The Old School House and now known as

HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST AT

Heddton-on-the Wall, Northumberland

The object of the charity is -

- (1) to award grants for the education and training of people resident in the area of benefit.
- (2) to provide items and services and facilities for the Heddton on the Wall Church of England School as may from time to time be agreed between the trustees and the governors of the school
- (3) to promote the education (including social and physical training) of pupils and former pupils of the said school

Application forms available from Miss Freda Phillipson, 01661 852287



Fri 17th Dec
XMAS JUMPER PARTY 8pm

Sat 18th Dec
CAROLS AROUND THE XMAS TREE 10am

Mon 20th Dec
AD MURUM SINGERS 7pm

Tues 21st Dec
XMAS QUIZ 8pm

Fri 24th Dec
KIDS XMAS EVE BUFFET 3-5pm

Monday 27th Dec
A NIGHT OF MAGIC 7pm

Wed 31st Dec
LOYALTY CARD PRIZE DRAW FAMILY NIGHT 9pm - 1am

We would like to thank you all for your support during the pandemic and your continued custom, without you we wouldn't be here. A very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to our wonderful village.

Phil Doyle, Three Tuns, 1 Military Road
Heddton on the Wall, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE15 0BQ
T: 01661852172 M: 07894562964
E: threetunsheddon@gmail.com

HEDDON LIBRARY UP-DATE

November – December 2021

Most people living within or around the village, will be aware that the Community Library has recently re-opened and, for a trial period, has increased the days it is open to 4 per week.

Because the library is run entirely by volunteers on behalf of the Parish Council, we are limited to the hours we can open, so we are trying the following pattern:

Tuesday 13.00 pm -16.00 pm
Wednesday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon
Friday 13.00 pm - 16.00 pm
Saturday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

We hope that this range of days will help people to access the library and its facilities, which includes books for loan, local information and computers for public use. We can also obtain books from other libraries around the county on request.

The use of the library will determine how often and when we open, therefore popular days and times will be reviewed early in 2022 in order to change hours if possible.

Supporting your library is very important as we need to keep the county informed of our activity and to convince them of our continued support.

During the Christmas/New Year period the library will be closed on 24th, 25th, 28th, 31st December and 1st January.

Please support your local library!

Any people wishing to join the volunteer team, please let us know by calling in when you can, you will be welcome.

John Gillott - Heddon Library

HEXHAM COURANT CORRESPONDENT

John Stewart is the contact for NEWS to be included in the Hexham Courant.

News must be to him by 5pm on a SATURDAY

email: heddonnews@yahoo.co.uk mobile: 07713 646623

twitter account @heddononthewall

HEDDON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council are extremely grateful to Ian for taking on the Heddon Gossip, we know how important this is to our residents to keep them informed, and although we use our website and Facebook pages, we appreciate that not everyone has access to these.

We will have a regular feature in the Heddon Gossip so that we can keep the village updated on the activity that we do and the opportunities to get involved in whatever way that works for you. It's an amazing village, and the Parish Council is only a small part of that, it will be great to see information and updates about all of the activities in the village, I think it's something we are all used to and it's a great way to bring our communities together.

We have provided a lot of updates in our survey special edition, but we wanted to share details of our next event and welcome you all to join us for our open day and AGM.

Heddon-on-the-Wall PARISH COUNCIL OPEN DAY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday December 18th 2021

at the
Knott Hall

Refreshments will be served at 11am

Meet with your Parish Councillors, share your feedback on the plans our village have shared and join us for our AGM.

BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

Contact Mike Wall on 07734 807733

who is still collecting bicycles to recycle for under-privileged children



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Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

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Re-opening of the Hall

It was great to welcome hall users back following the easing of restrictions in July and the refurbishment of the kitchen was completed about this time. An open coffee morning to celebrate re-opening held jointly by the Hall Trustees and the Women's Institute in August was a great success and a similar event will be held in December.

Unfortunately, we suffered a major setback in the preceding week with the failure of the boiler; consequently, there has been inadequate heating in the Hall for three months. The necessary procedures have now been completed for procuring a replacement and work has started preparing for the new installation.

Knott Hall Heritage Project

Knott Hall Heritage Project, as part of a Northumberland Village Hall project, we are researching the history of the hall and we need your HELP, the aim is to produce an oral and documentary history of our village Hall. Knott Hall has stood at the heart of our community for almost a century, there is an old adage 'if bricks could talk, what stories they would tell'. Unfortunately they don't, but the people who contributed to those stories do. If you have memories of events in the Hall or photos and any thing else, please help us with the research. There will be events to support this activity in the new year please come along and discover what we are doing and your Hall's history. for further information please contact D Blackett: 01661 852801 dblackett@aol.com

Secretary of the Knott Hall Charity

Sally Hulse is stepping down as the Secretary of the Knott Hall Charity after the AGM, which will be held towards the end of March next year. This is an opportunity for someone interested in contributing to the running of this vital village resource to join a group of active Trustees. If anyone is interested in becoming secretary please contact the Chairman, Mike Laker: mikelaker@btinternet.com



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Forthcoming Events in the Hall Friday 26th November, 5.45 – 9.00pm Christmas Market

Plans for this exciting event are still developing although confirmed activities and stalls are a hog roast, hot chocolate, gulwein, festive and unusual foods, crafts and gifts. There will be music to open and close the market. If you are interested in participating please contact. D Blackett: 01661 852801 dblackett@aol.com

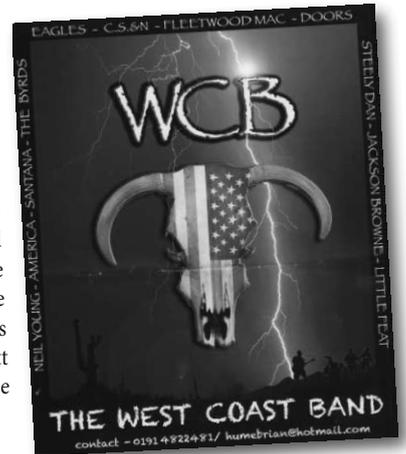
Saturday 18th December 2021 at 11.00 am Coffee Morning

Following the success of the event in August a further coffee morning will take place on 18th December. As previously, refreshments will be provided free of charge by the Hall Trustees and the Women's Institute.

Saturday 22nd January 2022 at 7.30 pm Concert by The West Coast Band

Brian Hume of 'Prelude' will be returning to the Hall with his West Coast Band in January. Don't miss the opportunity to listen and dance to Brian's other band. Tickets can be purchased from Knott Hall Trustees. A bar will be available.

Mike Laker Chairman



HEDDON STITCHERS

Due to falling membership Heddon Stitchers sadly has had to be dissolved.

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Chin	£6.00
Lip & chin	£9.00
Underarm	£8.50
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Full leg (thigh to ankle)	£20.00
Half leg (knee to ankle)	£15.00

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Facial inc head massage	£27.50
Facial inc hand massage	£27.50
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Heddon's Coal & Bricks

Many locals on their walks around Heddon will of seen light coloured bricks with the word Heddon stamped on them. Here Andy Curtis gives us a fascinating insight into the history of Heddon Colliery & Brick Works

The last deep coal-mine to be worked in Heddon was the Margaret Pit. It was situated about one kilometre to the south-east of the village in the valley bottom, along Station Road. This was originally owned by the family of Northumberland historian, Cadwallader J Bates who lived at Heddon Hall. It supplied coal to the village and also coal and clay to the 'Heddon Colliery and Fire Brick Works' which had offices on Newcastle's Quayside. The Margaret Pit was both a deep mine and a drift mine, with drift workings going back into the hillside. In 1855, Barras & Co. were firebrick manufacturers at Heddon Brick Works, managed by John Brown. In 1886, Fenwick Charlton was the Pit Engineer, and a man called Heddon Robert was brick maker at the associated brick works.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1897 shows two parallel tramways which used rope-haulage to move coal from the colliery to depots high up on Station Road where it could be distributed for local use. The two lines are still reflected by the boundary fences of the fields. The later coal-depot, situated nearer to the village, is today occupied by a bungalow but the site of the earlier depot is still clearly visible further down Station Road nearer the Hall.

The completion of the Scotswood - Heddon - Wylam railway line gave access to outside markets. A link line connected the Colliery and the Brick Works with the main railway line. In 1902, the pit was sold to the Throckley Coal Company. Access allowed them improved control over water ingress in the Throckley pits. In 1906, Throckley merged with the brickmakers, William Stephenson & Sons and sank a third mine at Throckley, the Maria. They continued to work Heddon Colliery until the early 1930's, when it closed, and the remaining coal reserves accessed from the Throckley Isabella pit.

A book published in New York in 1906 (*From Pit to Palace: A Romantic Autobiography* by James J Lawler) apparently tells the story of someone called James Raymond but facts and fiction are hard to unentangle. His first job was described as a trapper boy in Wylam pit in 1863 (possibly aged 7). An underground explosion of a steam boiler killed three miners and ended his brief coal mining career. This was certainly a real event and took place on 27th October 1865.

Leaving employment at the Wylam pit after the explosion, James Raymond goes to work at Bates' Fire Brick and Terra-cotta Works, near Heddon. Coal for the works is mined from a drift situated close to the factory which was supervised by a Mr Baxter. Sally Baxter, his daughter, is the love interest in the story and was said to have many admirers among the young men of the neighbourhood.

In the book, James Raymond rises to become a factor at the Works, then assistant superintendent, eventually getting his father a job at the factory and moving to Heddon on the Wall.

We can find the Baxter family in the 1871 Census in Heddon on the Wall. Head of the household, Thomas Baxter (born 1823, Hartley) is described as Colliery Overman. His daughter, Sarah Baxter was born in 1855 and may have been the 'Sally Baxter' of the book. Thomas' eldest son, William Blakett Baxter (born 1851), described as a coal miner in 1871, is said in the book to have been put in charge of the coal works as superintendent.

St Andrew's churchyard has a gravestone for Thomas Baxter inscribed:

Erected by Thomas Bates esqr., Heddon Banks in memory of his agent Thomas Baxter who died May 26th 1879 aged 56 years manager of Heddon Colliery for 17 years. Also Margaret wife of the above who died June 8th 1894 aged 67 years. Thomas son of the above Thomas Baxter died April 18th 1899 aged 42 years.

In the book, Robert Maxwell, studying to be a minister of the church, could be Michael Heron Maxwell who was vicar of St Andrews Church 1850-1873. James Raymond wins over and marries Sally Baxter in 'Hedden' village church with Squire Bates as his best man and wedding celebration in the elaborately decorated (but inaccurately illustrated) surroundings of 'Hedden Hall'.



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Despite all these clues, I can find no records of either James Lawler or James Raymond in either Wylam or Heddon at that time. Sarah Baxter disappears from the record after the 1871 census where she is 16, and I can find no record of any subsequent marriage.

The 1900 US Census shows that the book's author, James J Lawler, born in England in 1854, was living in Mt. Vernon City near New York. His parents were Irish. The immigration year is given as 1863 and shows that in 1900 he had been married to Fannie I Lawler (born in New York, 1870) for eight years, and had one child. In the States, James Lawler wrote several books on plumbing and took out patents on inventions for heating equipment.

During the period of the second World War the old workshops at Heddon Colliery yard were taken over by Kemsleys as an emergency printing works for the Newcastle Journal and Evening Chronicle. Until 1949 the site was used for light engineering and for the storage of paper.

A tiliary, making concrete roof tiles, was opened on the site of the pit by a Major Johnson. The plant was sabotaged by a disgruntled employee, who lived at Blayne Row - he was sent to prison for it. The tiliary had hardly opened before he ruined the plant which closed down shortly after.

Since then, there was a series of planning applications made for use of the site. All were refused until 1976 when an application by the Northumberland County Small-bore Rifle Association for the development of an outdoor small-bore rifle range was approved on appeal.

The shooting range, then operated by the Tyne Valley Gun Club, closed some years ago and now woodland and undergrowth largely hides the remains of the old colliery and brick works buildings, disused railway lines and the old pit heap.

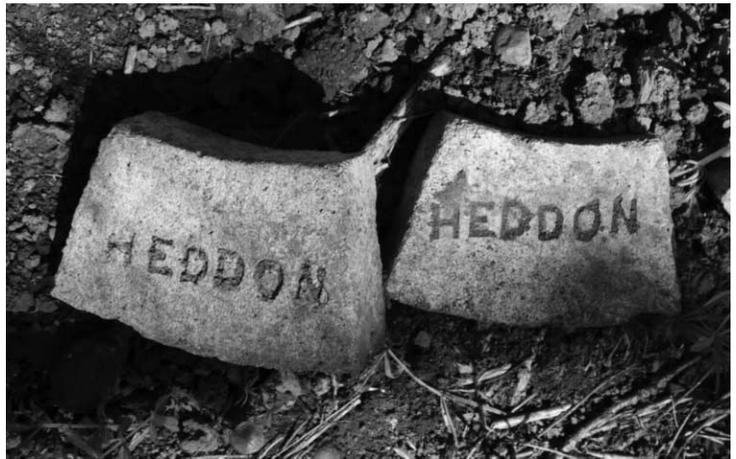
Photographs from a recent visit (with permission) can be seen here: <http://heddonhistory.weebly.com/blog/heddon-colliery-brick-works>

Andy Curtis



Heddon Colliery & Brick Works c.1908. Note: Heddon Hall top right centre.

Curved Heddon bricks from the old brick-works



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The Swan

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Upcoming Festive Events

29th November - 30th December –
Festive Fayre menu 2/3 courses from
£20.95



3rd December
PJ & Christmas Movie night
£3 per child



10th December
The Big Christmassy Quiz plus
Christmas Jumper Day



18th December
Breakfast with Santa plus Christmas
crafts ran by "USACTIVE" charity
£10 per child



Don't miss out, drop into
book/purchase your tickets over
the bar.



THE SWAN
Heddon-on-the-Wall
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland NE15 0DR
swannewcastleupontyne@vintageinn.co.uk

VINTAGE INNS



Ad Murum Singers.

It's good to report that Ad Murum Singers
have recommenced practices!

At 7-30 pm on October 5th those members of the choir who were comfortable with the arrangements, met in the Methodist Chapel. Chairs were spaced apart at recommended distances, fresh air circulated as some doors and windows were left ajar. After some physical and vocal exercises to get everyone "loosened up," singing began in earnest. The choir will continue to meet on Tuesday evenings and it's pleasing that numbers are gradually increasing. Members of the choir who have not yet returned are encouraged to do so. Anyone interested in joining a choir should not be shy, but give it a try!! It really felt good to be back as a group, meeting friends and loosening up neglected vocal chords. For more information about Ad Murum Singers go to our web site.

On Monday evening 20th December it is hoped that a number of the choir will sing carols in the Three Tuns. As the choir have only recently re-started practicing, it is felt that there is not enough time to produce a Christmas concert for this December.

Provisional date for your new diary -
Ad Murum Spring/Summer Concert May 21st 2022

Stay safe, *Chris Rand*

Dear Parents

Thank you for your interest in Messy Church. Diane Darwin is standing down in her leadership role which she has done for the past 10 years. We want to thank Diane for all her hard work and dedication in making Messy Church possible in Heddon.



Due to the virus still infecting our community and the close proximity of working with the children we feel that it is best to hold fire on Messy Church as we know it. Instead we have a number of Messy Church activities in the community which I hope you will enjoy.

The first is our "Christmas Journey". This is to be held on Christmas Eve at 4pm. Beginning at St Andrews Church where we will bless the crib and walk along to the "stable" at Heddon Methodist Church to place baby Jesus in the manger. There will be puppets to help you on your way and you are welcome to dress up in nativity costumes. Please bring along safe lights to guide our way. We hope this will be fun and also it will begin our family celebrations with the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus.

We have some ideas for future events which we develop over time. If you have any ideas please feed back to us or if you would like to be involved in any way please let us know through this email address.

Blessings
Sue Perry, Messy Church co-ordinator

Heddon-on-the-Wall Art Group

Exhibition: 9th October 2021

On Saturday 9th October the village art group held a small but special exhibition to mark its reopening after lockdown

The exhibition had 50 pieces submitted by 12 artists working in different ranges of medium

The exhibition was well received and 8 pieces were sold to members of the public

Helen Chester

Anyone wishing to join please contact:
David Chambers:
01661 852740
we meet fortnightly
Tuesday afternoons
1.30 - 3.30pm*
and alternative Wednesday's
7.00 - 9.00pm*

*We do not meet during the months of December/January

HEDDON Residents Association

"There has not been a meeting since the pandemic started and we do not plan to do so until perhaps the new year. However, we can still be contacted via e-mail at - hotwall1@yahoo.com We are guardedly hopeful that training for Community Speed Watch may soon be re-started by Northumbria Police. We have a few volunteers awaiting training but there's always room for more! If anyone is interested in receiving training, please contact us via e-mail. With the wintery weather on the horizon, we have had a few additional snow wardens "trained up" by the county council. Their main role is more to do with spreading salt on the village footpaths whenever ice is threatened. We are aware that some residents have suffered injury from slipping on the ice, so hopefully the efforts of the wardens will help to reduce this risk. Of course, we cannot cover the whole village, so if anyone is interested in joining the group, more paths could be treated. Training and equipment is proved free by the county council. The HRA have supported the Parish Council in their efforts to resolve the large damaged road sign on the Military Road and that the County Council are dealing with it".

Again, if interested in helping please contact us via e-mail: hotwall1@yahoo.com

Peter Chapman - Chair HRA
Hedley Rogers - Secretary HRA

POSTAGE STAMPS

Please take the used postage stamps you have collected to the Post Office (in Heddon Garage). Patricia will collect them and send off to a charity making good use of them.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

We were all so delighted to get back together for our September meeting and had almost a full complement of members. A lot of chatting and catching up took place. We had a quiz and an elimination game accompanied by tea, coffee and cakes made from some of the recipes which were distributed to members during lockdown. In October our speaker for the evening was a lady called Pauline Fraser. She gave us an illustrated talk on the history of buttons then we were all given some polymer clay to work with to create our own buttons, these had to be baked in the oven when we got home. At our November meeting we

did hope to have a speaker from the Alzheimer's Society to talk about dementia, but because of the Covid19 restrictions they have postponed all their face to face speakers and could only offer us a zoom session, we agreed we'd had enough zoom during lockdown so have postponed this talk until next year. We will again have another social evening with quizzes and games. In December we will have or Christmas meal at the Swan and hope that January 2022 promises to be the start of a much better year for everyone.

On behalf of WI we wish everyone a safe, happy, healthy New Year.

Pauline.

PLEASE REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS OF RED OR GREY SQUIRRELS

We rely on residents and visitors to be our eyes.

Red squirrels are still thriving in and around Heddon-on-the Wall, mainly next to the Waggonway on the banks of the Tyne at Close House but are surrounded by grey squirrels.

For the red squirrels to survive and prosper is essential for us all to report any sightings of grey squirrels so they can be removed as soon as possible as they carry squirrel pox which is deadly to red squirrels.

Ponteland Red Squirrels and Wylam & District Red Squirrels are public groups which you can contact on Facebook to report sightings.



Photo: courtesy of Drew Alexander

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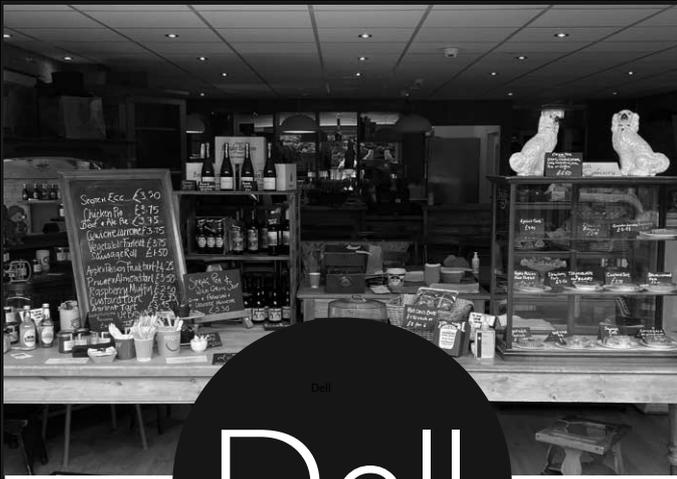
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Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – Update

Heddon residents were clearly given some respite during the height of the Covid-19 lockdown period, when flights from Newcastle International Airport (NIA) were drastically curtailed. However, as aircraft flights over Heddon are slowly beginning to resume their pre-Covid frequency, the intrusive noise of jet and turboprop engines has now awoken ANAG from its slumber!

From ANAG's longstanding engagement with the Airport's management, we have realised that it has little interest in addressing the aircraft noise problem that Heddon suffers. This is exacerbated by the strictly designated Satnav flightpath which directs aircraft directly over the village, instead of having a spread of routes distributed over a wider area. Despite this, ANAG will continue to challenge this matter with NIA and the National authorities who control aircraft flightpaths.

With the recent COP26 conference decisions still fresh in our minds and the world's justifiable focus on the Climate Emergency, the major contribution to CO2 emissions that aircraft make is also of much concern to ANAG. Accordingly, ANAG has decided to affiliate itself with the campaign group 'Stay Grounded'. This group is rooted in fostering sustainable transport and also campaigns against controversial climate strategies.

Once again, can I stress that ANAG in no way downplays Newcastle Airport's contribution to the infrastructure and economy of the NE area, but it believes that it should respect its local community and also act responsibly towards the planet.

If you want to keep abreast of what ANAG is doing and receive updates, residents can register their interest on the group's website. You will find it at: www.aircraftnoiseaction.com or type, "aircraft noise action group newcastle" in a search engine (Chrome/Google etc.)

Robin Brooks - Heddon Banks

VILLAGE DIARY

Please note the Village Diary is now held in The Swan

The diary is for the whole village to use in order to avoid, wherever possible, two events happening on the same day.



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HEDDON UNITED F.C.- A Football family!

The history of our football club is that, here at Heddon United Football Club, we are a not for profit, all-inclusive club where the only thing more important than football is family!

Family is at the heart of everything we strive towards. Our football family has grown massively in the last four years, we feel we are a positive part of the local community and the surrounding areas.

Founded by, club chairman, Liam Duffy in 2017, his passion began with two U11 teams, we are now proud to go in to season 2021-2022 with 44 coaches, 34 squads including our seniors' category, approximately 381 players starting at age 4-40+, a huge parent support base, firm bonds with local schools and businesses.

Our player range reaches beyond a 5 mile radius of our sports ground, offering footballing opportunities to the surrounding local areas.

We are proud to have continually been able to support the village primary school and our local foodbanks with the incredible generosity of our members.

We are fiercely passionate about all aspects of mental health and have a dedicated team on hand to offer support were required. We have set up 'The Boot Room' where we offer the opportunity for all players to access pre-loved football boots, even beyond the immediate club.

We have raised enough money to bring our club access to a defibrillator, making football and visiting our facility safer.

These are just a few of the things we've achieved this season. We are always striving to bring better support, better opportunities and better engagement, we welcome new ideas.

We have a huge volunteer base that make football possible. To find out more or get involved, please reach out to:

HeddonUnitedFC@gmail.com

Heddon Carpet Bowls

Now that things are returning to normal I would like to tell everyone that the Bowls club is once again up and running. We resumed in September and are lucky enough to have eight new members. We are a friendly and sociable club which welcomes all ages and abilities. So if you are looking for something different or perhaps you are new to the village come and have some fun. We meet every Thursday at 7pm in the Knott Memorial Hall. Only £2 per session and 20 pence extra for refreshments. You will be BOWLED over by the welcome you receive. For information please phone. **Lil on 07810 473460**



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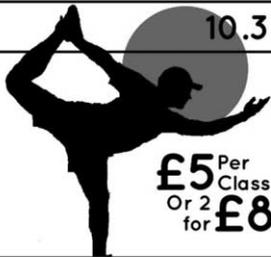
KNOTT MEMORIAL HALL
Heddon on the Wall

TUESDAY	TIME
LEGS, BUMS & TUMS	9.30 - 10.15
STRETCH	10.30 - 11.15

CLASSES START
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keep an eye on Village Notice Boards and follow us on Facebook: [@heddonphotographygroup](https://www.facebook.com/heddonphotographygroup)



HANDBELL GROUP

Our handbells started ringing again in September and tunes are being practised for the festive season. If you have any questions about the bells or how they are rung.

We are always happy to try to answer them.

Contact: **Jennifer King. Tel: 01661 852926**



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Heddon pays respect to the fallen of the parish

Remembrance Sunday was marked by a short service conducted by The Reverend Rachel Scheffer Priest in Charge at Heddon St Andrew's and Reverend Colin Barrick of the Methodist Church. A two minute silence was observed on the eleventh hour commemorating the signing of the Armistice which brought an end to the First World War.

Personnel from the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, stationed at Albemarle Barracks, joined veterans, local residents, the Rainbows and Brownies in paying their respect to the fallen, who made the sacrifice on our behalf in past and present conflicts.

There were wreaths laid from different local groups, the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery as well as a special wreath to commemorate the animals that served and lost their lives.

Resident David White also gave a moving address to a would be uncle and those that fought and lost their lives at Kohima, Northern India during World War II.

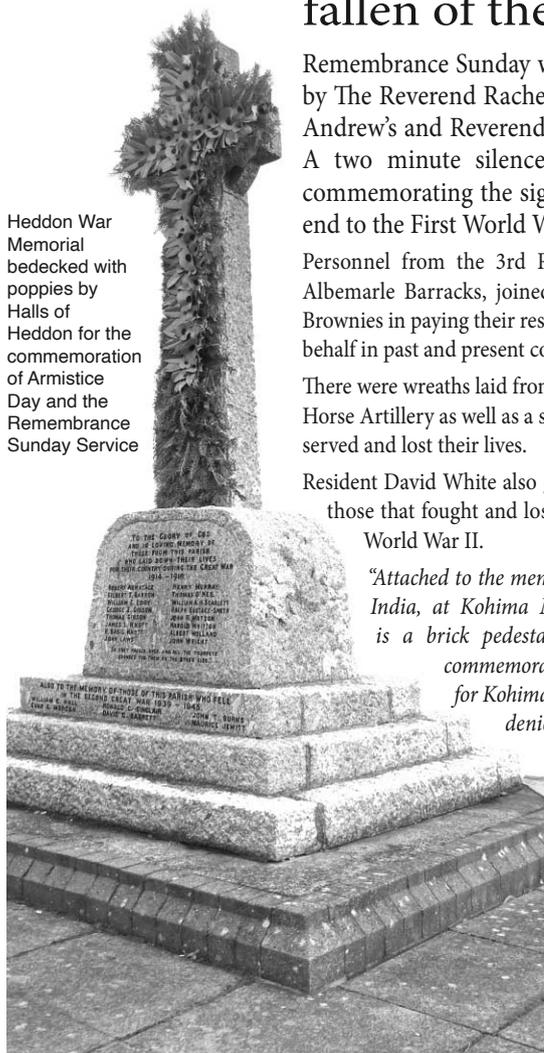
"Attached to the memorial to the 2nd Division of the British Army in India, at Kohima Military Cemetery is a plaque. The memorial is a brick pedestal topped by a rough-hewn stone pillar and commemorates the 1,400 men who lost their lives in the battle for Kohima and the Imphal Road. This was the battle which denied the Japanese Army any further advance into India.

125 of those men were from the 2nd Battalion of The Durham Light Infantry, among them was 24 year old private Albert Sergison who, had he lived, would have been my Uncle.

The words engraved on the plaque are an entreaty to all readers to take home a message; Lest we forget.

When you go home tell them of us and say for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

Heddon War Memorial bedecked with poppies by Halls of Heddon for the commemoration of Armistice Day and the Remembrance Sunday Service



YEARS OF THE POPPY!

Canadian John McCrae poem *In Flanders Fields* inspired the use of the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

This year marked the 100th anniversary since the collective Remembrance traditions, the formation of the Royal British Legion and the symbol of the poppy. More information and the history of the RBL and the poppy can be found at www.britishlegion.org.uk



Dahlia display!

We have all enjoyed the wonderful display of dahlias at the corner of the Memorial Park, and we, the garden volunteers, would like to thank David Hall most heartily for his continued support, advice, and above all for the generous gift of those dahlias. The park suffered last summer from drought, and we are most grateful to the Parish Council who have had a water tap installed in the nearest wall of the Memorial Hall. This will make it much easier next year to look after the plants including annuals. We would also like to thank all those people who pick up litter, so the Park always looks cared for.

Alisoun Gardner-Medwin, on behalf of the Garden Volunteers.

HEDDON GOSSIP

THE INDEPENDENT FREE PAPER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

February/March 2022
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