

# HEDDON GOSSIP

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

AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2022

## SET TO STAY!



The Fence, the public bench and the 'view'

It looks as though the 2-metre fence, which takes away the stunning valley view in Centurion Way is set to stay.

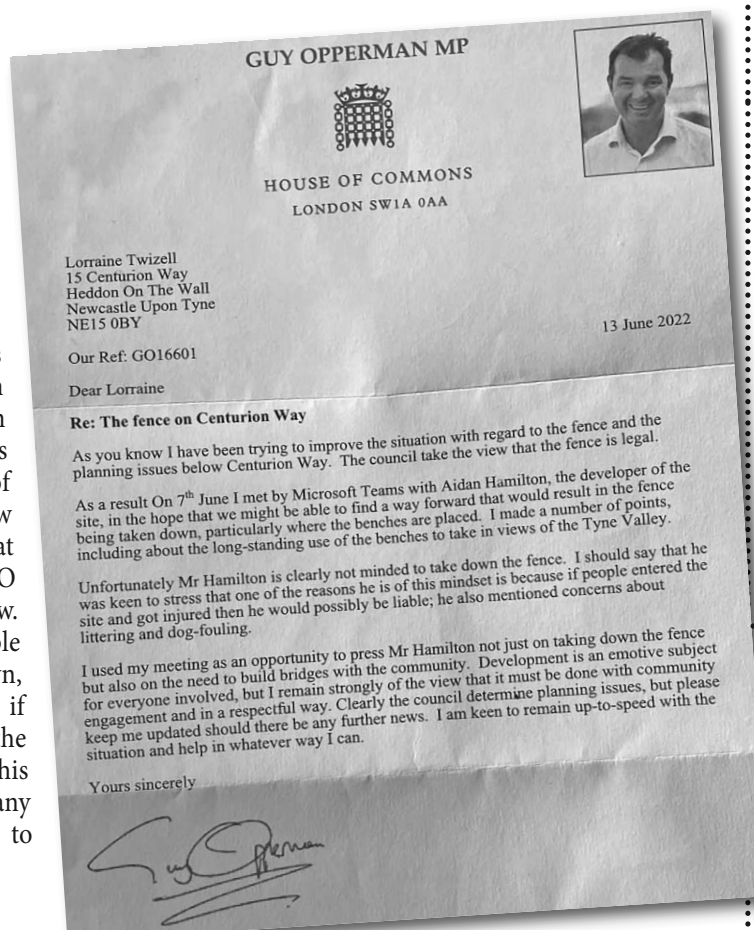
The fence, which blocks the view from the public benches, was erected by land developers Hamilton Willis after planning permission was refused for their proposed 2 storey houses on the

site. Despite the best efforts of our MP Guy Opperman, who tried to broker a resolution to the problem with Hamilton Willis, we appear to be stuck with it.

Northumberland planning office, who investigated the complaints of a planning breach, failed to keep their promise of contacting anyone who had complained and instead chose to release their findings via a press brief. It seems, that they decided that the fence did not need any planning permission, despite being over 2 metres high and in many objectors' opinions, adjacent to a highway.

I have one last remaining avenue to explore in this campaign, which I'm hoping residents may be able to help me with. I have been told that there is a Parish By-law, which the late Brian Selman mentioned around 15 years ago during a public meeting about the houses which had been built on Heath Hill. I have been informed that he used this by-law to get the height of them reduced. The by-law reportedly states that residents of the village DO have a right to the view. I am having trouble tracking this by-law down, and was wondering if anyone who attended the meeting can remember this happening or can add any additional information to substantiate this?

Lorraine Twizell:  
07735246381



The Letter Lorraine received with the news from our MP - Guy Opperman



### Save the Date

**Life on the Wall – Hadrian 1900 Festival: Saturday 3rd September 2022**

A day of community events, workshops, activities and fun in the village to celebrate all things Hadrian's Wall!

Date of next planning meeting to be circulated on Heddon Matters Facebook Group soon. Please come along if you'd like to volunteer get involved!

Please 'like' the Facebook page for the festival to be kept up to date with all the details and find out how you can be involved. You don't need to have a Facebook profile to visit:

[https:// www.facebook.com/Heddon1900](https://www.facebook.com/Heddon1900)

### Avian Bird Flu

Avian bird flu has hit the wild bird population in Northumberland especially along the coastline.

If you come across a distressed or dead wild bird:

Please do not touch it or pick it up.

Keep dogs away from them.

Report it to DEFRA on 03459 335577 (select option 7)

If DEFRA indicate they do not tend to collect the birds, contact the council's customer services on 0345 600 6400 who will dispose of them properly.



### Date for the Diary

Jean and friends are hosting the Macmillan Coffee Morning in the WI Hall. Friday 30th September 10.00 - 12.00 noon

Cake Stall and Raffle



St Andrews Church from the South

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL

As we mentioned in the last edition of Heddon Gossip, St. Andrew's Church is now open for visitors on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 10 am until approx. 4 pm.

We have been delighted to welcome many tourists from this country and abroad as well as walkers who have happened on the 'Church Open' sign and have popped in.

We hope that everyone will continue to feel free to spend some time in this historic building to admire its features, spend some time in prayer or simply enjoy the quiet atmosphere.

We were most grateful for the support we received for our Summer Sale. A tremendous amount of hard work goes into organizing an event like this and we are sure many local people were grateful to David for collecting bric a brac, books, DVDs and CDs for several weeks prior to the event.

The fantastic amount of £755 was raised and we would like to express our sincere thanks to David and all those who helped with setting up, managing the event and clearing up afterwards

It has been lovely to welcome lots of families to St. Andrew's for Baptisms. The services are always child friendly and very relaxed.

### Forthcoming events in HEDDON ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

By the time this edition of Heddon Gossip goes to print, St. Andrew's Church will be adorned with pompoms tastefully arranged within the building. Originally, this was to celebrate the Everyone Project, where one pompom was created to represent everyone in the parish, (1700), however, to include celebrations for the Hadrian 1900 Festival, 1900 pompoms have been made.

The pompoms are all made from leftover balls of wool and after all the celebrations are finished, will be used to create a variety of items such as wall hangings, rugs, wreaths and decorations which, once sold, will raise funds for Charity and St Andrew's Church.

**Tue 9th August** - Noon until 2 pm: We are holding another of our social gatherings over lunch. This time the theme is families and children's activities will be provided. We will be providing everyone with a picnic lunch and weather permitting we hope to be able to hold activities and eat our picnic both inside and out. Donations on the day gratefully received.

**Sat 3rd September** - Hadrian's Wall Festival at Heddon led by a village group, more information is available from various sources including social media: [www.facebook.com/heddon1900](http://www.facebook.com/heddon1900)

**Sun 25th September** - Harvest Festival at 10 am in St. Andrew's Church. All welcome.

#### Useful Points of Contact :

Revd. Rachel Scheffer	01661 886853	<a href="mailto:r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org">r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org</a>
Revd. Tom Birch	01661 853254	<a href="mailto:revdtombirch@gmail.com">revdtombirch@gmail.com</a>
Church Warden: Jane Tiffen	07305594059	<a href="mailto:m.tiffen@btinternet.com">m.tiffen@btinternet.com</a>
Church Warden: Lynda Henderson	07907574575	<a href="mailto:lhndrsn56@gmail.com">lhndrsn56@gmail.com</a>

## Sunday worship every week at 10am follows this pattern:

### 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 forty minutes.

### 2nd Sunday of the month:

Holy Communion.

### 3rd Sunday of the month:

Holy Communion.

### 4th Sunday of the month:

Holy Communion.

### \*When there is a 5th Sunday in the month

We all gather in one of the 5 parishes sharing 2 priests.

Details will be shown on the various notice boards and via social media.

### EDITORIAL

After the success of the Queens Platinum Jubilee, June 2nd-4th celebrations in the village, we look forward to another celebration - Hadrian's Wall 1900 Festival on 3rd September.

Due to illness, the last 1900 Festival meeting was cancelled. Please check social media posts and notice boards for more events to be announced.

A big thank you to all contributors, without your news and events, to the advertisers, as without your adverts and payments this publication would cease to exist.

Thank you  
*Ian Scott*



## MESSY CHURCH

Saturday 24th September

10.30-12.00

Meet at St Andrews Church

Beginning with Story Telling with Puppets

Followed by a short Nature Walk in the village - collecting items to bring back to make a 'Natures Cocktail' with some added surprises

Refreshments will be served afterwards at St Andrews Church

Hope to see you there . . .

We are looking to recruit volunteers/helpers.

Enthusiasm is all that's needed!

Contact Lynn on email: [lynnwoodward@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnwoodward@hotmail.com) or Tel: 07809 683213 if you'd like to help!

We will be returning to Messy Church 'as you know it' at Christmas at the beginning of December.

Keep a look out in Heddon Gossip, posters around the village and on Social Media.



# Heddon Celebrations 2022!

## Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Party in the Park



Afternoon Tea in the Knott Hall



Three Tuns regulars v Heddon United F.C.



Main image and below:  
Lighting the Beacon, Three Tuns



Traditional cakes and sandwiches

Vintage Vehicle Show



Jubilee Celebration Art Show



# Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Heddon-on-the-Wall did the Queen proud in celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee by holding events at various locations over the Bank Holiday weekend. Here are a few images from taken over the weekend apologies for events not featured.

Thank you to all who's images we have used - Heddon Photography Group, Lynn Carr-Woodward, Three Tuns for use of the images reproduced.

## Introducing a new Parish Clerk

A new parish clerk has taken the reins at Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council. We would like to introduce and welcome Keith Murray-Hetherington took over during the summer following Louise's decision to retire after 7 years in the role. Chair, Paul Edwards, wished Louise all the very best and thanked her for her professionalism and support in her role as Parish Clerk. Keith has been a Parish Clerk since 2011 and has a broad knowledge of local council matters. He said that he is "looking forward to serving the Parish Council and its parishioners to the best of his ability".

The contact details for the Parish Clerk remain the same.

## Improving the village for all.

It has been some time since the Parish Council completed the village survey, but the impact of the Covid pandemic has slowed things down not just for us but for some of the organisations we work with in the village improvements. As things are starting to get back on track, we have been looking at some initial planning and costs to give serious consideration to the improvements we could make in the village following the feedback on the survey. Despite the financial impact of the pandemic and Storm Arwen, we have managed to build some capacity in our reserve funds and there is also options to apply for community grants. Investing in these areas would reduce the level of our funds but for our village that there wouldn't be any immediate impact on the amount of your council tax that comes to the Parish Council, also known as the precept.

The key areas we are looking at investing in are;

- **Lighting in the Memorial Park**
- **Christmas Lights**
- **Outdoor gym equipment in the Welfare Field**
- **Accessible equipment in the Welfare Field**
- **Additional play equipment in the Welfare Field**

The Welfare Field is the area which includes the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) also known as the park.

If you have any comments or feedback around the areas that we are looking to invest in, then please contact our Parish Clerk on [heddonpc@gmail.com](mailto:heddonpc@gmail.com).

## Maintaining the village for all

After a number of years our local trade person has decided to retire. Dave has worked with us for a number of years and helped to keep our shared spaces maintained and safe. We are pleased that we have two new people that will be supporting our work. Neil McGreevy and Paul Tiffen both live in the village and their businesses will be supporting our work going forward. Paul and Neil will work on some of the outstanding jobs such as additional bins and minor repairs and the welfare field climbing frame once the replacement parts are received.

Using local suppliers is one of the key considerations we make at the Parish Council for the work that we complete. If there's anyone you would recommend for any of the services we provide, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

## Glass recycling

We have been working closely with Northumberland County Council to understand more about our options for resighting glass recycling in the village. We have looked at many options across the village and followed up on suggestions that have been made. In looking at where we could put the recycling, we have considered

# HEDDON ON-THE-WALL PARISH COUNCIL

August/September

Our Mission Statement:

To maintain and improve our village for all.

accessibility, safety, noise, and the visual aesthetics of the recycling bins within the village. We have also explored kerbside collections with the council, which at the current time isn't a viable option. Also this was previously offered and is still available in some areas, they don't set up any new locations. Their reasons for this include health and safety, resource (not enough vehicles or operatives) the environmental costs vs environmental gains. There is a national strategy being developed and the kerbside recycling maybe reconsidered as part of this, and we will keep

exploring this as a potential option.

## Roman Garden Butterfly

The Roman Garden Community project is well underway with the local children from St Andrew's School showing us their skills and green fingers in planting and looking after the Roman Garden.

As part of this project we would like to work with other community volunteers to help us reinstate the Butterfly to its former glory and help to maintain this area going forward. The butterfly is in a number of sections, so you could volunteer to look after a section, or a community group could run this as a project which could maintain the plants that attract our wildlife, or to grow other edible flowers, herbs or vegetables. Get in touch if you want to find out more or get involved.

## Celebrating in Heddon

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations seem like a lifetime ago, but we couldn't let it pass without the Parish Council saying a huge thank you to everyone who organised, got involved, celebrated and supported the events in the village during that weekend. It was phenomenal to see so many of our village come together to experience a diverse range of activities. The young talent of Ben Swann-Tanton who played a modern version of the National Anthem, is due to make his debut at The Three Tuns as we go to print. We wish you luck Ben, you were awesome! We're also looking at how we can keep some of the activities running if there's enough interest. If you would like to find out more, get involved and would like to see us celebrating an annual event? Get in touch and bring your ideas...



Next up we have the Hadrian 1900 Festival which is taking place on 3 September 2022. You may have already seen the posters around the village for the Writings on the Wall and photography group competitions, but there is so much more to come. Unfortunately we

had to cancel our last meeting due to illness, so for further updates and details of the next meeting, please check out the notice boards and social media posts.

## Contact us

We want to keep communication with the Parish Council accessible and open so there are multiple ways in which to get in contact should that be social media, telephone, email, or keeping up to date with what we are doing via the village notice boards or the Heddon Gossip!

Council Clerk: Louise Pringle t: 01661 854583 (until August)

e: [heddonpc@gmail.com](mailto:heddonpc@gmail.com)

w: <https://heddon.parish-council.com/>

Asset Officer: Lorraine Twizell t: 01661 854583

e: [heddonasestsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:heddonasestsofficer@gmail.com)

## Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No 1012011



### Vacancies

As mentioned in the last edition of the Gossip, there are two vacancies for Officers on the Knott Hall management Committee.

#### Treasurer

To manage the financial activities of the Hall.

This is an important role within the committee which helps to maintain the running of the hall, reporting on the financial well being and advising on expenditure.

#### Secretary

To undertake the general administration of the Hall

The Secretary handles the day to day activities of the Hall reporting to the Chairman.

If you are interested in either of these vacancies please contact:

**D. Blackett: Tel: 07770 666744**

What a wonderful celebration, thank you to all who attended and those who arranged and made The Queens Jubilee Afternoon Tea such a success. It shows what can be achieved and what enjoyment can be had when the village comes together.

Special thank you to Heddon WI for cakes and service and Janet at the Swan for preparing a fine selection of sandwiches. The parish council for village decoration and Knott Hall trustees for organisation.

There was such a feeling of warmth, fun and enjoyment, it poses a question, although there won't be a Jubilee next year, perhaps we should have a Heddon Village annual afternoon tea?

### Future Events for your diary

(Further details will be in 'the Gossip', noticeboards, village diary and Heddon Matters

#### Hadrian 1900 - weekend of September 3rd

Knott Hall will be involved in hosting some of the activities for this festival weekend, watch noticeboards for updates

#### Stairwall – things we find - 7th & 8th October 2022

An Interactive, dance music and art workshop supporting the Hadrian's 1900 theme

#### Beat the Drum -Foolsgold 9th October 2022 - 19.30-21.30pm

Michael Heaviside was a Geordie Miner, but that was just at first, then he became a soldier, and for an extraordinary adventure, was awarded the Victoria Cross. The show follows Michael's story and the tale of the War to End all Wars is woven within his. With Songs and visuals, a not to be missed event.

#### Heddon Christmas Market 25th November 2022 – 18.00-21.00pm

The annual event which just seems to get better, watch for more details

#### Wind in the Willows 17th November 2022 – 19.30 – 21.30

The classic adventure performed by Northumberland Theatre Company, fast and lively with lots of music. What a treat for Christmas.

Whilst the Trustees will continue to facilitate events to support the running of the Hall, there is always opportunity for residents to come forward with ideas and support.

Contact Detail:

[www.northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/heddon-villageknott-memorialhall](http://www.northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/heddon-villageknott-memorialhall)

General Info: D Blackett: Tel: 07770666744 Email:dblackett@aol.com

Bookings: Hazel Thompson: Tel: 01661 853684

## Village Hall Heritage - Northumberland Village Halls Heritage Project

This project aims to preserve, record and share the heritage of Northumberland's village halls for the benefit of the communities which they serve and for the general public. The project is being organised jointly by staff from Community Action Northumberland (CAN) and Northumberland Archives (in Woodhorn) with funding from the Heritage Lottery. It is estimated that there are more than 200 village halls in Northumberland, most of which have been the main venue for communal and social activities for the villages and hamlets that they serve for many years, in some cases more than a century. As such they are central to the shared memories of generations of local people. Many halls are historically significant buildings having had previous lives as village schools, reading rooms, chapels, mechanics institutes, industrial buildings, miners' institutes, WWI barracks and, in the case of our Village Hall, an army base during WWII and then used by Northumberland County Council for cooking and distributing meals to local schools.

This year we are one of just 15 halls involved in this project; a further 15 halls will take part in a second phase beginning in 2023. Part of the project will involve collecting oral histories about the role our Village Hall has played in the life of this village and two volunteers have now received training in conducting interviews. We have already held coffee mornings to help identify some areas of our history to be researched and have contacted individual residents whose help will be needed in this research. Interviews will soon follow including memories of Heddon Village show, Ad Murum singers performances, Dances held throughout the sixties and all the other various events held at the Hall. The project is not just about collecting oral memories it also aims to conserve and archive documents, photographs and artefacts.

We intend to hold further events to gather support and information for inclusion in our final project. Please come and chat, listen and enjoy the stories and memories that were made in our village Hall.

Further information will be provided as the project progresses, but this project is not just for members of the board of trustees. Anyone in the village who feels they can help in any way should contact: D Blackett by phone: 01661 852801 or email: dblackett@aol.com.

A brief history of is now available on a 'Village Halls Domesday Book' website set up by Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE). See: <https://coda.io/@acre/village-halls-doomsday-book-2021> There are 851 halls (out of approximately 10,000 halls in England) on the site so search by County – there over 60 entries for Northumberland.

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let's colour

**HADRIAN'S WALL**  
**1900**  
**FESTIVAL**  
 24 JANUARY - 23 DECEMBER 2022



# Hadrian's Head



As most of the village are aware but there may be some who aren't, this year is a celebration of 1900 years of Hadrian's wall.

There have been meetings, ideas, discussions and even some decisions on what to do to celebrate this momentous event.

It was decided that whatever we did it had to encompass Fun, Education and Legacy.

The main festival will be during the weekend commencing September 2nd 2023, with numerous activities. However there will still be ongoing events following the festival until the end of the year, which brings me neatly to Hadrian's Head.

Hadrian's lads marched through Heddon, built a bit of a wall, stay for a while and left an enduring monument.

It would be somewhat fitting if during the 1900th year, the descendants of those lads, the current occupants of Heddon did something similar.

One of the ideas raised and supported as a legacy proposal for Hadrian 1900 was a pebble mosaic relief of Hadrian to be positioned on Chare bank.

Good idea- not so easy

Draw a picture, handful of pebbles job done!!

Pebble mosaic artists are not easy to find but not impossible after numerous fruitless attempts, success one was found emailed, she was interested, looking good. Lives in Toronto, not so good! But provided some recommendations in the UK and a source was found Maggie Howarth, lady in her 80's a marvelous artist and interested. We are off and running, a conceptual design organised, with the artwork looking good with the mosaic provisionally completed in time for festival

High fives, fist bumps flashing lights arrange the open top bus.

However, we need to apply to dig up a bit of an UNESCO World Heritage Site, lots of forms

Just a pebble in our shoe not a stumbling block

Regional office sympathetic and supportive, can't see a major problem

Form needs owner, parish council, well no, county council ..\*\*\*\*", one person responsible for county paths and bridleways, the chase is on.....

The final plan, when all the bits are sorted it is envisaged that the mosaic will be placed in Chare bank, there will be some blocks around the mosaic but also possibly the option to place engraved blocks also.

Keep watching for updates

*David Blackett*

LOOK on Social Media and on notice boards for more events to be announced.

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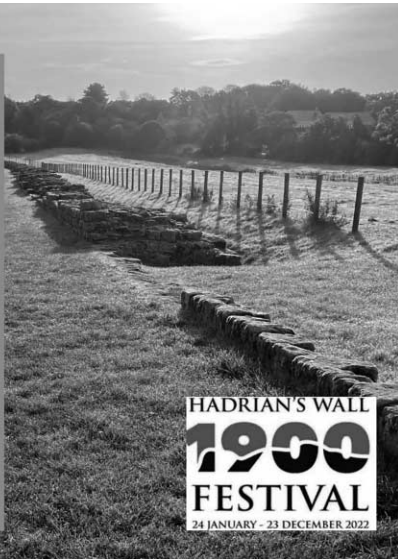
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# HADRIAN'S WALL FESTIVAL IN HEDDON 3RD SEPTEMBER

1900 years of life along the wall

Facebook @Heddon1900 for all the information



HADRIAN'S WALL  
**1900**  
FESTIVAL  
24 JANUARY - 23 DECEMBER 2022

## Village Atlas - Thank you to the Test-Pitters

Thanks to everyone who got involved with the test pitting exercise in late June. We have now completed all our test pitting activities for the other 5 villages/ locations along Hadrian's Wall so can start on the write ups. I will be in touch again with a date for the launch of the final Village Atlas publication for Heddon. It is likely to be in early/mid September with an exhibition and a guided walk around the village. A number of printed copies will then be available for free around the village! Unfortunately, there won't be one for every household but I will make sure anyone who dug a test pit receives one, along with several copies into the library etc. A digital copy is likely to be made available too.

Kerry Shaw

Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project (WallCAP). Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and hosted by University of Newcastle



## The Wall at Heddon

A talk for the Hadrian 1900 Festival by Andy Curtis on behalf of Heddon Local History Society and the Northumberland & Durham Classical Association.

Saturday 3rd September, St Andrew's Church, Heddon on the Wall, Starting at 4pm.

Open to all. Free, but donations to the church are welcome.

## Heddon Photography Group



CALLING ALL LEGIONNAIRES!



As part of the HW1900 celebrations in September, Heddon Photography Group will be hosting an exhibition featuring all aspects of the Roman Wall.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Do you have photos of the Wall? Would you like them displayed at the Exhibition?

Then please contact us:

**admin@heddonphotographygroup.co.uk or 07809 683213**

(Digital or hard copies both gratefully received. Please ensure contact details are submitted alongside photos so we can return them to you. Digital copies will be printed and returned to you at no cost.

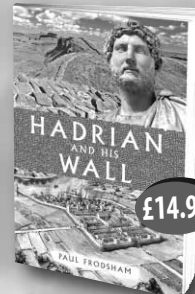
Your name will be referenced on the Exhibition copy.)

**Deadline for submissions: 31.07.22**

*"Making memories today for the history of tomorrow"*

## Northern Heritage Gift Ideas

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### Hadrian and his Wall

Paul Frodsham

Who was Hadrian? What exactly is the Wall and why was it built, this book should be of interest to anyone seeking a better understanding of the wall

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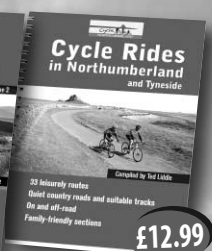
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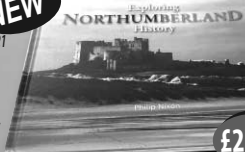
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# Heddon Quarries

## Andy Curtis

It is not known when stone quarrying started at Heddon but outcrops of sandstone here were almost certainly used by the Romans for Hadrian's Wall and Roman forts in the surrounding area and then came to be reused elsewhere. The main quarries in the village were opened in Victorian and Georgian times.

A large quarry and two smaller ones were worked on the north side of the Common, by Messrs. Hunters, stone masons of Hill Head, Houghton. Stone from these quarries was used in the construction of Wylam Institute and St Mary's Church, Throckley and many other local buildings.

By 1857 a small quarry had been opened on the edge of Slack's Plantation near Close Lea on land owned by John Clayton. Between 1870 and 1888 it was greatly extended and a railway was built to serve it. The quarry was worked by John Waddell and had a reputation throughout the north-east for its fine quality building stone from which many buildings in Newcastle and elsewhere were built.

It is said that the stone from Heddon's quarries was used for the portico of the Theatre Royal, St Nicholas Cathedral and the pillar of Grey's Monument in Newcastle, as well as buildings in Edinburgh and further afield for railway works and the Woolwich Arsenal.

The Architect, Engineer, and Operative Builder's Constructive Manual by Christopher Davy (1841)

A plan of 1888 indicates engine and boiler sheds on the west edge of the quarry associated with a Stephenson stationery donkey engine which operated the double tracked incline using a continuous rope. The lane to Close House just east of Close Lea still passes over the well-built masonry bridge with an arched span of 30 feet that was constructed at the entrance to the quarry face.

On the north side, a huge pipe can also be seen, a reminder that the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's aqueduct which carried water from Whittle Dean to the Throckley Filters had to be altered when the quarry was opened.

The stone was carried in wagons, down the incline from the quarry, to the corner of the Close House cricket ground and then eastwards below the Low Wood operated by an engine at Heddon Colliery (owned by C J Bates) through the pit yard and then by the old Wylam Waggonway line to Lemington for transporting down the river in wherries to the

The sandstone from the Heddon (Heddon-on-the-Wall) quarries, Northumberland, must not, however, be omitted in our Register. This stone is a hard, light-coloured quartzose sandstone, with rather a coarse grain, but admirably adapted for engineering works. Some of the earliest edifices in the county, constructed with this stone, yet remain to attest its durability.

The quarries recently opened at Heddon communicate with the Tyne river by a railway. The basalt, graywacke, new and old red sandstone, &c., are chiefly worked and employed for local purposes. The other materials will be described in the account of those counties where such formations assume a greater importance.

coal staithes in Newcastle.

From 1881, there would also have been an opportunity for onward transport using a direct connection with the newly built Scotswood, Newburn and Wylam Railway. The incline is shown as "Mineral Railway (disused)" in 1895 and was probably only in use for some 20 to 25 years.

The engine foundations that operated the quarry incline still exist but the 100 foot chimney was pulled down in 1973. The chimney

used to bear a stone with the inscribed date of 1878, when operations commenced.

All quarrying in the village ended about 1930. The two large quarries on the Common were used by the local authority as landfill sites between 1965 and were completed in about 1980.

Also shown on the OS map are the narrow gauge lines or tramways that ran upwards from Heddon Quarry to serve local coal depots on Station Road just below the village. These were probably worked by means of a continuous rope from an engine at the colliery.

Two parallel lines are shown but it is unlikely that they were both in operation at the same time. It is thought that the eastern line was moved further west to cope with a new carriageway being planned as access to Heddon Hall. This would have ascended the steep slope by doubling across the fields to the west and then northwards to meet the Throckley Road just west of Frenchman's Row and the existing drive. However, the carriageway was never built following the death of Cadwallader Bates in 1895.



View of Heddon Common from the north. Quarry House right of centre just above the track to Hill Head with the quarry behind. Two other cottages can be seen in the distance just above the road.



The 100 foot chimney on Heddon Common was pulled down in 1973. Photos © Copyright Andrew Curtis and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence



25 inch Ordnance Survey (1895) showing railway connection from quarry incline to Close Lea





## Tom Martin

(Wylam Nurseries) 1963-2022

Sad to report the sudden death on 18th June 2022 of Tom Martin, aged 59 years. Tom was the adored husband of Lois, and will be very sadly missed by all his family and friends. Many of you will know Wylam Nurseries at the end of Stephenson's Terrace and their slogan, *Tom & Joe's - Plants that Grow*. Tom played a key role in the creation and development of Wylam Community Orchard from 2010. I first met Tom when he was Chairman of the Parish Council during the organisation of the festival marking the 200th anniversary of development of Puffing Billy in June 2013. He was determined that this should be more than just a festival for Wylam as the steam locomotive in its day traversed Heddon and Newburn on its way to the coal staithes in Lemington. I remember well his infectious enthusiasm and welcome to the many insiders he had invited to participate. It was a memorable event and embraced the whole Wylam Community.

Andy Curtis

## HEDDON METHODIST CHURCH -

**Sunday Worship: 10.30am - All are welcome**

**Tuesday:** 7.00pm. - Bible Studies

**Thursday:** 10.00am - 12 noon - Coffee and Chat  
Everyone warmly welcome

### Special Service - August 7th

August 7th will be Colin Barrick's last service with us as he is retiring.

He will be greatly missed.

In September we welcome Deacon Maggie Patchett to Heddon Methodist Church.

### REMEMBRANCE GARDEN

The Remembrance Garden at the back of the Methodist Church is open for quite contemplation.



Chapel Remembrance Garden

### Pick your own

Behind the Methodist Church Remembrance Garden there is a small herb garden which members of the public are free to help themselves to pick a few leaves from the herbs. Don't be greedy and leave plenty for others.



Heddon Methodist Church are collecting for Newcastle West End Foodbank

Any surplus or unwanted food items (see right for list of items needed) pop them in to the box outside the door of the Methodist Church. Thank you and bless you in advance . . .

We also need many other food items - see right for list of items needed



### England call-up for Isaac

Following a successful England U18's training camp earlier this year, local rugby player Isaac Keller has had a call up to join the team on their summer tour of South Africa this August. Isaac who plays for Gosforth Academy and Falcons Academy is looking forward to the new rugby season and starting it with the opportunity to get his first England cap. He's been playing rugby since he went to Ponteland Middle School and his success is testament to the hard work and determination he has given to his rugby career.

### Angus Lunn awarded MBE

Long standing Heddon-on-the-Wall resident, Dr Angus Lunn has been awarded an MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list.

He has been appointed as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Education and to Peatland Conservation.

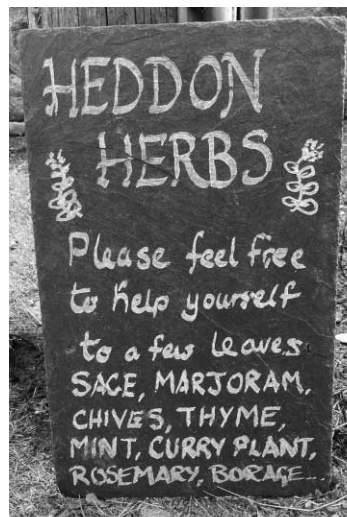
He also represented the parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall on the old Ward of Castle Morpeth Borough Council for many years.



### BIG thank you!

A very BIG thank you to all who supported the coffee morning on Saturday in aid of the GNAA we made the grand total of £955 thank you lovely people of Heddon-on-the-wall .

Jenny Smith





## Gardening tips & advice for - August/September

August tends to be one of the hottest months of the year, but after the July we've just endured it is hard to know what to expect. Needless to say, keeping on top of watering is a must, especially to help maximise crop yields and to help keep hanging baskets and containers looking good through to the end of the season. Where possible, use grey water, as recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society, and continue liquid feeding where possible. Continued removal of spent flowers helps ensure a longer display by encouraging more blooms. Lawns have suffered terribly over the last month with the weather being so dry, but they are resilient and will come back. It is advisable to raise the level of the cut during the summer months as this will help reduce drought stress.

Mow lightly and frequently so that short grass clippings can remain on the lawn during hot summers to act as a moisture-retentive mulch. Excess thatch can be scarified out during autumn maintenance next month and an Autumn Lawn Feed applied. The higher phosphate level will help with root growth rather than encouraging lush top growth that could suffer in the colder weather and weaken the grass.



Harvest vegetables as they become ready and, if you have bare soil, why not think of growing a green manure crop. Not only will this help with soil fertility, but it will also help reduce weed cover over the winter. As the summer months pass then it's time to think of planting tubs and baskets with plants for autumn and winter interest. This could be as simple as filling them with Pansies, Violas, Wallflowers and Polyanthas or could be done more adventurously by using these alongside winter interest shrubs such as Viburnum tinus, Skimmias, Heathers etc. As it is Spring Bulb planting time then why not underplant these with dwarf Daffodils, Hyacinths or Tulips or even have a go at Lasagne planting a pot with a range of bulbs in layers.

September is one of the best months for planting, especially for trees and shrubs. As with warm soil and usually a more reliable amount of rain, plants soon put out new root growth and establish themselves before the onset of winter.

Our Dahlia and Chrysanthemum fields will be in full flower by early September, so they'll be well worth a visit with row upon row of breathtakingly beautiful blooms. We'll be exhibiting at Harrogate Show again which this year will again be held at the stunning Newby Hall and Gardens on the 16th-18th September! We just have to hope that there are plenty of blooms to take as we travel down with almost 1000 stems of Dahlias!

For more gardening advice and tips why not have a walk up and see us- especially in the flowering season as the view over the garden wall still even takes my breath away when the Dahlias are all in flower!

Happy Gardening

David Hall

Halls of Heddon



Dahlia & Chrysanthemum Flower Fields open from  
27th August.





Buffish mining bee, The Spetchells.

## Nature Notes

### Becoming Bee-aware - Ruth Oatway

In the past few years there have been a lot of news stories about the threats to British bees and their importance as pollinators, but what I hadn't realised is just how much diversity there is in bee species and their lifestyles.



I used to think of bees as either honeybees or bumblebees and I think that's true for most people, but for the last few years the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) have been running the North East Bee Hunt to increase recording of bees and they've produced lots of useful information on bee identification. As I've found out more about these fascinating insects I've come to realize that our native honeybees are just one species whereas there are 26 species of bumblebee. These are the social bees which live and work together as a community with a queen, female workers and males whose main purpose is mating. Honeybees are known for living in hives with thousands of individuals. Bumblebees live in smaller colonies of usually a few hundred, either nesting in holes below ground or making nests on the surface from grass or moss.

However, by far the largest group of bees are also the least familiar. There are over 200 British species of solitary bee which do not live socially and have no queen, though they often nest close together in suitable habitat. These are some of the most effective and important pollinators. They are

## Nature Notes - Did you know!

Did you know that a rare weevil (*Procas granulicollis*) that is in the The British Red Data Books -Insects (contains the complete list of threatened species) lives in Heddon Common.

It was first found in the woods in 1992 by a Professor who worked at the time at Newcastle University and lived in the village. Here is more information about it. <https://yrefail.net/Coleoptera/procas.htm> - it is only found in 26 places in the UK. It is only 5mm long and quite elusive.

The weevil has again been spotted on Heddon Common, 30 years after the Professor's original record. Quite exciting!



*Procas granulicollis*

divided into broad groups based on how they construct their nests. Mining bees excavate burrows in the ground, mason bees use mud, and leaf-cutter bees cut small sections of leaves to make nests in existing holes, so these are the species most likely to benefit from 'bee boxes' with pre-drilled holes. The female lays a single egg in each chamber of her nest burrow, stocked with pollen as a food supply. Eggs to produce males are laid in the outermost chambers so they will emerge first and wait around the burrow entrance to mate with the emerging females. Another fascinating group of solitary bees are the cuckoo bees which mimic bumblebees in order to parasitize their nests.

So which species might we see around Heddon? I've noticed mining bees burrowing in the bare earth of the path through Heddon Common, and in our garden we have tawny mining bees using patches of bare earth in our lawn or flower beds. The females have beautiful foxy-red fur. Male solitary bees have no sting and while the females can sting, without a hive to defend they are more docile than the social bees and rarely use it, so solitary bees should not be seen as a threat. They are a special feature of The Spetchells chalk hills close to Wylam which is a great place to see and learn more about them.

A range of bee species can be encouraged in the garden by:

- Growing a succession of plants to flower all year round
- Avoiding pesticides
- Leaving some patches of longer grass
- Leaving small areas of bare undisturbed soil
- Putting up 'bee boxes' to provide habitat



To find out more about the North East Bee Hunt see <https://www.nhsn.org.uk/north-east-bee-hunt/> and see which species you can find this summer.



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## Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – Update

As many of you may know, ANAG has been campaigning since 2017 to get Newcastle Airport to address the issue of aircraft noise which affects Heddon Village and the local area. ANAG has seen a large increase in the number of noise complaints going to Newcastle Airport via its website since the pandemic restrictions were lifted. A lot of these complaints are coming from people who were previously not bothered, so it looks as though it's getting worse. ANAG is also beginning to see a few more night flights after 11pm, some in the early hours – not many, but they are noticeable. The aviation industry is pressing for increases in night flights and ANAG is hoping that these flights are not the thin end of the wedge.

A further issue is that there are no planning or other restrictions on flights into and out of Newcastle Airport. This means that the Airport can, in theory, fly planes in and out at any time of day or night, if it so chooses.

It's long been scientifically established that noise can be bad for your health. Traffic and industrial noise have received a lot of attention, but aircraft noise is increasingly regarded as a risk. Studies are showing that noise can lead to an increased risk of heart disease and other health problems. So aircraft noise is not just a nuisance, but it may also be bad for you – even if you don't think you are bothered by it!

It is really important to complain and keep complaining so that the Airport can't claim that it is running an operation that everybody is happy with. Aircraft noise is a major issue and it's important to keep making the Airport aware of our concerns.

If you are bothered by aircraft noise, you can quickly and easily complain via ANAG's website, at: <https://www.aircraftnoiseaction.com> Also don't forget that ANAG is active in confronting the detrimental effects to the planet of aircraft CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. A whole wealth of useful information on this and other relevant issues can be found on the ANAG website, as well the facility to sign up for regular updates.

*Robin Brooks*

*Heddon Banks*

## TRUST FUND

To all pupils and former pupils of St. Andrew's school, Heddon-on-the-Wall, and any resident of the Parish of Heddon 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 Heddon-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

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## Heddon Carpet Bowls

NEW TO THE VILLAGE! For anyone new to the village did you know there has been a Carpet Bowling Club in Heddon for over 30 years. So why don't you come and join us and have a try? Like all local clubs we need new members to keep the club going so, come and join us at the Knott Memorial Hall any Thursday night from 7pm. Have fun and make new friends.

For more Information contact:  
John Curtis, Tel: 07951 131904



## Heddon Art Group



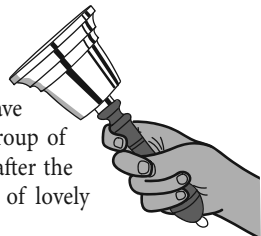
A busy year for Heddon Art Group continues. Following the successful Queen's Jubilee Exhibition in early June we are preparing for the Hadrian's Wall 1900 Celebration exhibition on 3 September, and then our Annual Exhibition on 8 October.

In the meantime we have our regular meetings on alternate Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday evenings at the W.I. with a programme of themed nights, free-style sessions and guest professional artists throughout the year. So far we have had tutored sessions on Watercolour and Pastels, and Acrylics to follow soon.

If you are interested in joining the Group, come along to any of the exhibitions to meet us or contact David Chambers on: [chambers497@btinternet.com](mailto:chambers497@btinternet.com) for more details.

## HANDBELL GROUP

Some of the handbells and belleplates have been out and about in recent weeks. They have been played enthusiastically by a small group of seniors (so pleased to be back to ringing after the long gap!) and by a rather larger group of lovely responsive young folk ready to have fun.



We are always glad to hear from folk who want to have-a-go or who are interested in being part of a team to progress further.

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

## HEDDON LIBRARY - OPENING HOURS

We have reviewed the opening hours and due to a lack of visits we are removing the Wednesday morning, 10-12, session. All the other sessions remain unchanged; i.e :

**Tuesday pm 1.00 - 4.00**

**Friday pm 1.00 - 4.00**

**Saturday am 10.00 - 12.00**

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.

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

There is still a Fines amnesty for anyone who still has pre-lockdown books that they have not yet returned.

*Ted Burt* - (joint Library co-ordinator with Pauline Buckley)

**USE IT! OR LOSE!**

## Heddon Photography Group

(every 2nd Thursday of each Month)

7.00-9.00pm at Knott Hall

- Share an interest in photography
- Be inspired by others
- Learn what your lens is capable of
- Get involved in photo opportunities

There is no cost for attending the sessions

Email: [admin@heddonphotographygroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@heddonphotographygroup.co.uk)



## POSTAGE STAMPS

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

## 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.

## 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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VINTAGE INNS

**LIVE music - Sat 20th Aug- Acoustic night with Paul Reed**

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**Tony / Bob on 07831 568114**

**DRIVES CLEANED**



It's hard to believe that we are half way through another calendar year and have been enjoying some pleasant warm sunny weather.

Our June meeting led by Julie Rancom was a tour through her career which eventually led to working full time with glass. It was not always easy and she included her failures as well as her successes. Members were able to purchase some of her work at the end of the evening.

Mary Eleanor Bowes a distant relative of Queen Elizabeth 2 was the lady under discussion in a talk given by Anthony Atkinson at our July gathering. We were shown a fascinating insight into her very eventful life. There were a few gasps as we learned more about some of the tragic events that she had endured and survived.

August brings about our annual outing, this year we are staying local and visiting "The Beacon" in Stocksfield having a garden tour and afternoon tea. Fingers crossed for a good day.

In September one of our members is going to demonstrate how to make paper flowers and then we are going to attempt to make some of our own, we always enjoy these evenings!

On the first Saturday in July we held a coffee morning, the first for over 2 years!! There was coffee, cake and scones available in abundance which along with some good weather made for a very relaxed atmosphere. Hopefully these will become regular events once again.

Please look at the village notice boards for posters listing our upcoming meetings. Do come and join us if you see anything that takes your interest.

Lesley



15th-22nd May, 2022

## Hunger into Hope!

A message from Christian Aid, 'Thank you for joining us this year to help turn hunger into hope.'

Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2022

Thank you to everyone in the village who helped to make this year's Christian Aid week successful. Together we raised a fantastic £1,250, which is now on its way to help families in the most disadvantaged communities of the world.

As always, we were really appreciative of all the support received. More than 20 collectors joined in to distribute this year's red envelopes. Once again, thanks also go to the staff at the Post Office (Shell Garage) which proved a very effective central collection point. Without so many supporters giving of their time, and so many of you being willing to contribute, the week would not have been the success it proved to be. Thank you for your continuing support.

Thank you.  
Diane and Trevor Darwin



ALL WELCOME - ALL LEVELS - ALL CLASSES  
*The Phoenix*

## Yoga classes anyone!

I'm hoping to start 2 new yoga classes at the Knott Hall this September. Both would be suitable for anyone - no experience necessary.

MONDAY - AM would be 9.30 - 10.45 (ish) and would be a gentle flow class, focusing on becoming more aware of our body and using a combination of breathwork, asanas (yoga postures) and meditation.

THURSDAYS would be 9.30 - 10.45 (ish) and I would love to create a community class. Come with your bumps and babes, and also please come if you are older or maybe have less mobility/ tend to use mobility aids or wheelchairs. Chair yoga brings all the benefits of more traditional yoga. Getting several generations to practice together would be wonderful.

Both classes will end with a relaxing meditation and would cost £7.50.

If you would like there is also the option of a coffee together in the Three Tuns afterwards.

Please contact me if you would like to attend either:

[emmareay44@icloud.com](mailto:emmareay44@icloud.com)

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## TEST your knowledge of the Parish with the ANAGRAM PUZZLE

Find the places in the Parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall hidden in the anagrams below

1. STUN THERE .....
2. WASH TEN .....
3. HANDRAIL LAWS .....
4. PRAY FAB MEALS .....
5. HOLD FLASH NODE .....
6. CRUSTED HER .....
7. SCHOOL GLUE FOBS CLUE .....
8. RANK BEACH .....
9. GET OWN TEA .....
10. STEM NEW TUITIONS .....
11. PIPS REVIEW .....
12. TOADS RATION .....
13. DO LIMIT ARRAY .....
14. HIDE MOTHS CRUTCH .....
15. FARMING IRONS .....
16. HANDED KNOBS .....
17. CHEW CHURNS DARTS .....
18. ME FROWNS RANCH .....

Answers in October/November Issue.

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## AD MURUM Singers

Members of the Ad Murum choir are currently enjoying a break from singing. On Tuesday August 30th at 7-30pm in the Methodist Church, there is a rehearsal for those members of the choir who are taking part in the Roman Wall 1900 Festival at 2pm, on Saturday September 3rd members of the choir will be singing a selection of songs in St Andrews Church as part of the 1900 Festival's celebratory concert.

On September 6th choir practice begins in earnest, in preparation for our Christmas Concert. This popular concert will take place in the Knott Hall on: Friday December 9th and Saturday December 10th

Chris Rand

### Enjoy Singing?

So do we!  
Ad Murum Singers  
(the Heddon village choir)  
Welcomes newcomers  
We don't audition— we just  
sing  
Join us on  
Tuesday evenings  
7-30pm - 9-00pm  
At Heddon Methodist  
Church  
Rehearsals recommence  
September 6th 2022  
A warm welcome is assured  
Contact Christine:  
Tel: 0191 2740217

### 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



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## Heddon Residents Association

“The Residents’ Association committee have decided that, for the foreseeable future, meetings will only be held on an ad-hoc basis rather than every 2 months as previously. In addition, posts in the Gossip will follow a similar pattern. We will only post when we have something to report. We will still run the winter Snow Wardens scheme and pass things on to the Parish Council from time to time and receive responses as appropriate and hopefully this will continue when the new Clerk takes office in the next few weeks; and report things to the County Council as individuals when necessary but on-line reporting generally elicits no response, as residents found out on the Centurion fencing matter! I am still hopeful that a new large road sign will miraculously appear next to the Military Road, having read that this has been confirmed by MP - Guy Opperman’s office! Also, a newly-refurbished seat should appear on Gorse Hill soon, hopefully facing South and in a better spot!



New sign coming for Military Road?

As ever, the email if you have any issues for us to look into is [hotwall1@yahoo.com](mailto:hotwall1@yahoo.com)

Did you know that stands for Heddon-on-the-Wall 1? It’s true!

Finally, much appreciation and good luck for her future to retiring Parish Clerk Louise, who has been a delight to work with over a number of years, from all of us at the Heddon Residents’ Association!”

Peter Chapman - Chair HRA

Hedley Rogers - Secretary HRA

## HEDDON GOSSIP DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

October/November 2022  
September 18th 2022 for articles and advertising

Contact: Ian Scott

● Email: [ianscottdesign@btinternet.com](mailto:ianscottdesign@btinternet.com)

● Mobile: 07743 285502

### Wanted/Looking for

Most weeks residents are posting on Heddon Matters for recommendations or names of businesses or tradesmen who can carry out various jobs. Not all residents are on Heddon Matters but with Heddon Gossip you can reach every household in Heddon. From plumbing, to dog walking, making cakes, advertise your business in Heddon Gossip with a small sixteenth page advert with the small outlay of £9.00 per issue.



**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 24TH**

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(Prize for best costume)

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