

HEDDON GOSSIP

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

DECEMBER • JANUARY 2022/23

Remembrance Sunday well attended

Once again, this year's Remembrance Sunday at the Memorial Park was a successful event bringing together our community as we remembered the fallen, our serving soldiers and veterans and those who war has impacted.

An emotional and sombre occasion, it was fantastic to see the number of people sharing in the service. The Parish Council, St Andrew's and Methodist churches led the service at the Memorial Park with readings from Isla Beaumont, one of the members of our newly formed guides, Hazel Thompson on behalf of the Catholic Church and Fiona White from the Parish Council. The serving members from Albemarle Barracks were on exercise so were unable to join us this year, however, Owen Reay currently serving with 45 Commando and local to our village read the names from the memorial. The service was completed by the accompaniment of Pete Tanton for the Last Post and Reveille.

Thanks must also go to year 4 pupils of St Andrew's Primary School who tidied the Memorial Park and planted our memorial poppies and Maria Blake who made more poppies for this year which were planted on the day. The rainbows, brownies and guides were amongst those who laid wreaths and gifts of remembrance on the War Memorial, which was dressed beautifully by Halls of Heddon and finally to the Swan for their hospitality after the service providing teas and coffees.

A huge thank you to everyone for making this special occasion even more special by coming together in remembrance and support.

Di Keller



Well attended Remembrance Service in the Memorial Park.

Wreaths and crosses laid on the Memorial Cross remembering the fallen of past conflicts.



Tree Sponsorship project

This has been a huge success for the village in our aim to replace the trees damaged by Storm Arwen and rebuild and improve our green community spaces. The first trees were planted on 22nd October in the Memorial Park with further planting in the Memorial Park and the Welfare field on 26th November. Our final community memorial tree will be planted on 3rd December in memory of the late Lil (Lily) Cruickshank, long standing member of Parish Council and generous community sponsor.

Although they are already planted, there are a further two trees available for sponsorship plaques in the Memorial Park which are offered to the village on a first come first served basis by contacting the Parish Clerk.



Newly planted sponsorship trees in the Memorial Park

Barbara Joan COULSON

It was sad to hear that a former resident and active member of the community, Barbara passed away after a short illness on 1st November aged 68 years.

She was involved with Ian Armstrong in getting the village library up and running.

Barbara was an excellent Parish Clerk during the early 2010's serving with dedication where nothing was too much for her. She was also secretary on the village show committee for many years.

As well as becoming a library volunteer she was a member of Heddon Knitters & Natter group until recently.

A very strong and talented lady who sadly shall be missed by her family and friends.

A BIG thank you to all contributors - clubs, groups, organisations and the advertisers for supporting Heddon Gossip since coming out of hibernation a year ago. Without your input we would not have a FREE newspaper for all residents in the Parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Also a BIG thank you to the team of deliverers who go out in all weathers to distribute Heddon Gossip.

For the future we will still need your news, advertising and the deliverers for the continued success. A gently nudge to Heddon-on-the-Wall St Andrew's School - it would be good if you could contribute your news and events to Heddon Gossip and to the wider community.

To all - have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year in these troubling times.

Ian Scott - Heddon Gossip



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL - A Place for Everyone

During the past few weeks, the PCC have been thinking about how church life at St. Andrew's will develop in the coming years. The PCC continue to pray and be aware of where God is leading us and to listen to the thoughts and ideas of others on how to make St. Andrew's

'A Place for Everyone'.

We are developing three key areas:

Growing Church: Where we will identify opportunities for members of the community to feel able to use the church for events and meetings. The church will continue to remain open four days each week and we are currently planning the installation of WiFi into the building.

Bringing Hope: We will endeavour to always include in our prayers all those who suffer injustice in the world, those who know no peace, the lonely, the homeless, refugees and those who live in fear. We will pray for respect and tolerance for all God's people regardless of their circumstances and beliefs.

God's Creation: We will pledge to care for God's creation in any small way we can. Using fairly traded consumables in church and monitoring how we use our utilities.

Forthcoming Events

HEDDON ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS AND JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 4th December: at 4.30pm Messy Church. We will be having a Christmas Messy Church at the Methodist Church all families are welcome to enjoy the crafts, puppets, songs and tea of jacket potatoes, cheese and beans.

Saturday 17th December: at 4 p.m. Carols by Candlelight. This is our traditional Carol Service with Christmas decorations and lots of candles and it will include music and song from the Ad Murum Singers.

Saturday 24th December: at 3 p.m. Christingle Service. The service will begin in St. Andrew's Church then everyone will journey to the Methodist Church to reach the stable.

Saturday 24th December: at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the congregation at Matfen Parish Church for the Christmas Night Holy Communion.

Sunday 25th December: at 9.30 a.m. A Service of Holy Communion in St. Andrew's.

Sunday 1st January 2023. There will be no service at St. Andrew's but everyone is welcome to share the service of Holy Communion at Stamfordham Parish Church at 10.30 a.m.

Tuesday 24th January 6.30 p.m. Hadrian's Wall Festival Meeting. An opportunity to discuss various aspects of the event and what next???

Sunday 29th January at 10 a.m. As this is a fifth Sunday, there will be no service at St. Andrew's but instead all five parishes in our group are invited to attend the service of Holy Communion at Wylam.

A warm and friendly welcome awaits everyone who comes along to any of the events or services.

Rev. Rachel is always delighted to chat to anyone who would like to discuss special services such as weddings and baptisms and she and the church wardens can be contacted by anyone who would like to enquire about using the church for meetings, events or functions.

We would like to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and we pray that 2023 will be happy and healthy for you and your families and friends.

Useful Points of Contact :

Rev. Rachel Scheffer 01661 886853
r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org

Rev. Tom Birch 01661 853254
revdtombirch@gmail.com

Church Warden: Jane Tiffen 07305594059
m.tiffen@btinternet.com

Church Warden: Lynda Henderson 07907574575
lhndrsn56@gmail.com

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.

Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/upperpontchurches - this is a Facebook page so can be accessed like a website even if you don't normally use Facebook.

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DRIVES CLEANED



Heddon Methodist Church

Lay Minister: Maggie Patchett can be contacted on 01661 854073

Please get in touch if you would like a visit, or to arrange a baptism, marriage or funeral.

Facebook: Heddon Methodist Church

Church Sunday Services: 10.30-11.30am

Blue/Longest Night: Service(see separate feature) 15th December 3.00pm (an alternative style of Carol Service

providing a reflective quiet space, away from the commercialism and busyness of Christmas, acknowledging the pain that so many feel at this time)

Carol Service: 18th December 10.30-11.30am

Christmas Eve: Carols outside the Three Tuns @ 10.30am
Christingle Service at St Andrews @ 3.00pm then walking to the Methodist Church to Bless the Baby Jesus at the Stable.

Christmas Day Service: 9.30-10.30am

New Year's Day: No Service

Covenant Service: 15th January 2023

Bible Study: Tuesdays 7.00pm

Community Coffee Mornings: Thursdays 10-12.00am
Community Coffee, Scones and Chat

Men's Coffee Fellowship: First Saturday of the month 10-11.15am

Messy Church Christmas: Sunday 4th December at Heddon Methodist Church 4.00-5.30pm
This is a united activity with Heddon Methodist Church and St Andrew's Church.
All families welcome

Ad Murum Choir Practice: Tuesday evenings 7.00pm

Helping those in need: Donations for Foodbank can be placed in the large box at the front door of the Church, or inside whenever the Church door is open.

Heddon Methodist Church have Rooms to Hire.

Contact: Muriel 01661 854788



Following the session on 24th September we will be returning to Messy Church 'as you know it' for Christmas. **Messy Church Christmas** will be held on Sunday 4th December at Heddon Methodist Church 4.00-5.30pm.

This is a united activity with Heddon Methodist Church and St Andrew's Church.

Look out for posters around the village and on Social Media for more information

We are always looking to recruit volunteers/helpers.

Enthusiasm is all that's needed!

Contact Lynn on email: lynnwoodward@hotmail.com or Tel: 07809 683213 if you'd like to help



Collection Point in Heddon

Heddon residents have been supporters of the Food Bank ever since it started. The collection point in Heddon is at the Methodist Church - in the rectangular black box just outside the Church porch. It is emptied regularly and the contents taken to the Food Bank warehouse in Lemington.

Between April and September 2022, food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK-wide network distributed 1.3 million food parcels to people facing hardship - an increase of 52% compared to the same period in 2019, before the pandemic:

- half a million of these parcels were distributed to children.
- one in five people referred to food banks are in households where someone is working.

For the first time, need for emergency food is outstripping donations as the cost of living emergency leads to a drastic increase in the number of people turning to food banks for support.

By far the most important source of donations is individual members of the public through collection points such as the one outside the Church. Please donate, if you can. Currently, the most urgently needed items are:

- Curry sauce
- Rice pudding
- Instant custard powder
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tea bags
- Instant coffee
- Tinned soup
- Rice

But please also, no perishables and no clothing.

Heddon Methodist Church

Thursday 15th December at 3pm at Heddon Methodist Church 'Blue' Christmas / Longest Night Service

An alternative style of Carol Service

providing a reflective quiet space,
away from the commercialism and busyness of Christmas,
acknowledging the pain that so many feel at this time:

- a space for those who might find the Christmas season difficult;
- a space to remember those we would long to see but cannot, for whatever reason;
- a space offering the peace, healing and hope which the season also brings.



THERE IS ROOM

The Methodist Church

Join us – all are welcome

Contact deaconnmaggieep@gmail.com for more information

The Roman herb garden and the development of the stone butterfly

As part of the Hadrian's Wall 1900 birthday celebrations, the Roman herb garden on Heddon Common has been designed and developed as a sustainable project. The project is a collaboration with Heddon Parish Council and the children from Heddon St Andrew Primary School.

The project is aligned to the school curriculum with the children researching herbs introduced to us by the Romans. They'll learn about planting and general care of the herbs and study the geography, culinary, medicinal and artistic side of growing herbs. Two of the gardens are planted and thriving.

It's been a great success and good to see this space being utilised again with a positive response received from both children and villagers. Following the feedback from the village survey in 2021 and during the planting, the Parish Council want to work as a community to develop the existing stone butterfly structure as part of this project.

We'd love to continue to attract butterflies but to further develop the large stone butterfly into an edible flower garden.

We want an inclusive community approach where we bring together the many generations in the village to develop this area into a calm and beautiful space for our community to come together and everyone to enjoy.

You can get involved in the development of the stone butterfly by;



Planting the Herb Garden

- **inputting into the design,**
- **planting**
- **ongoing care and maintenance**
- **weeding**
- **digging**

No experience is needed! The volunteering will be flexible without you needing to make a huge or regular commitment or having to meet at a particular time. We'd like it to be a space where people are just happy to spend time that fits into their everyday life. You can bring a flask, or a bite to eat, just watch and learn, have a chat, make new friends or take some time for quiet contemplation.

Get involved!

We'll start planning over the winter months ready for planting out in the spring and would love for you and your ideas to be involved.

If you'd like to find out more or get involved, please contact our Parish Clerk who will put you in touch with Lesley who is leading this project for the Parish Council.

Provisional of burial space in Heddon-on-the-Wall

There was a residents meeting in The Knott Hall, 19th November, to discuss the future closure of St. Andrew's Churchyard and the possibility of creating a Community Cemetery.

It was also an opportunity for residents to raise any questions or suggestions they had.

Rev. Rachel opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and provided background information about St Andrew's Churchyard.

The position in St Andrews Lower Churchyard at the moment is there is 5 designated grave plots available, 1 of these is reserved by Faculty. However,

HEDDON ON-THE-WALL

PARISH COUNCIL

December/January

Our Mission Statement:

To maintain and improve our village for all.

because of ground conditions the 4 grave plots available should be treated as a guide only and when 2 of the 4 have been used it will be prudent to close the churchyard to ensure we don't end up with a situation where a family books a burial and then the day before it is found to not be possible.

For current graves which are double depth and only had one burial, it is confirmed a further burial will proceed when needed, even if it is after the Lower Churchyard has closed. It has been important to use the space carefully in the Lower Churchyard and in recent decades the majority of plots have been double in depth, maximising use of the limited land space for burials.

St Andrew's Church will continue with burials of cremated remains within the Upper Churchyard even after the Lower Churchyard is closed. When it becomes necessary, we will be able to do burials of cremated remains in the Lower Churchyard. (Please contact Rev. Rachel if you would like to arrange for a burial of cremated remains and she will be able to discuss it and also the payment of the requested appropriate parochial fees.)

It was mentioned in the meeting that there is a 'Book of Remembrance' in St. Andrew's Church and if we are unable to find an appropriate place and committee members for a Community Cemetery this 'Book of Remembrance' may become an even more important item in our community.

Looking forward - St Andrew's Church and the Parish Council will continue to explore a Number of options to establish if land by gift, sale or lease is available for a Community Cemetery.

Unfortunately, Parish Council land at the back of the Lower Churchyard is not suitable for consideration to extend the Cemetery for the following reasons:

- **Gradient of the land**
- **Tree Preservation Orders**
- **Industrial waste in the ground from previous businesses**

The Upper Churchyard is formally closed and therefore re-use of graves cannot be considered. Re-use of graves in the Lower Churchyard which opened in the 1950's cannot be considered as graves need to be in place for 100 years. There is also a requirement to satisfy that there are no living relatives.

St. Andrew's Church and the Parish Council will continue to look into various options and will keep the community informed of any updates.

If you have any queries with regards the request for land or to discuss this sensitive matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Rev Rachel r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org

Tel. 01661 886853) or Paul Edwards, Chair, Heddon Parish Council (heddonpc@gmail.com).

And finally...

As we head into the festive period, we would like to reflect on the year we've had in the village, recovering from the pandemic, followed by devastation of Storm Arwen. To the generosity of our village in the tree sponsorship project and their time and support for our community events for Hadrian's Wall Festival celebration and the Platinum Jubilee for the late Queen Elizabeth II. On behalf of the Parish Council, Chair Paul Edwards would like to thank our community for their support during this past year and to wish you all the very best wishes for the festive period and the New Year.

Contact us

Chair: Paul Edwards t: 01661 886853 e: heddonpc@gmail.com

Council Clerk : Mr K Murray-Hetherington t: 07788 111729

e: heddonpc@gmail.com. w: <https://heddon.parish-council.com/>

Asset Officer: Lorraine Twizell t: 01661 854583

e: heddonasestsofficer@gmail.com

HANDBELL GROUP

The bells have not been busy lately but the music goes on. During the Roman celebrations it was great to hear *Heddon-on-the-Wall* sung so enthusiastically and it occurred to me that Victrix's poem is asking to be sung. To that end, a group of ukelele players who meet between Turret 11A and Turret 11B were persuaded to strum and sing along to the first tune that came to mind - *Auld Lang Syne!* Is there anyone out there who could be challenged to provide Victrix with his very own music? - a march, or something contemplative, or a mixture of both? If it could then be arranged for performance accompanied by some of Heddon's amateur players of orchestral instruments that would be even better - a pipe dream? It would be interesting to have your ideas.

Meanwhile there is still time before New Year for one or two of you to learn how to play *Auld Lang Syne* on handbells. The bells can come to where you are.

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

Handbell Ringers of Great Britain |

Handbell tune ringing (and handchimes and Belleplates). Sources of handbells and other instruments, handbell music, ringing accessories. Location of handbell teams throughout the UK.. Everything you need to know about hand bells from HRGB (Handbell Ringers of Great Britain)
www.handbells.org.uk



Hadrian's Head



A really quick review

A big party because it is still here 1900 years later and to be honest, we won't be around for the 2000 party.

Big Festival in September, It was good!

However, there will still be ongoing events following the festival until the end of the year, which brings me neatly back to Hadrian's Head

If you can recall we had got to the bit where, the idea was to have a mosaic head, it would be a pebble mosaic and we could have it designed and made and put in Chare Bank.

Found Artist

Euphoria

Got permissions, everyone likes it, still don't know who owns land

Despair

Planning, need we say more.

Keep Calm and ignore them

The mosaic has arrived and is stored at the Knott Hall, we will set up a small display to enable those who wish to view during the events when Knott Hall is open.

Murphy's Law decides to play

To encompass the mosaic and final events we submitted a bid, looked good lots of activities, timescale a bit tight but hopeful. Not to be!

Despondent

Not a chance if Hadrian's lad can build a wall, we can certainly dig a hole and plant a mosaic.

Baldric's plan

The advantage of no lottery funding is, it belongs to us 'The Village', we don't have to conform to their timescales or stick lottery logos on. So, the cunning plan is we will go straight to offering engraved blocks, we have involved NCC to tidy up Chare Bank at same time as the installation

Watch for information on the blocks

David Blackett



We hope all our friends, regulars and our wonderful community have a fantastic Xmas and a prosperous new year.

Phil, Sophie & Team.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

FRI 16TH DECEMBER
LIAM TURNER'S XMAS
JUMPER PARTY 8PM

SAT 17TH DECEMBER
CAROLS AROUND XMAS
TREE WITH REV COLIN
10.30AM

MON 19TH DECEMBER
AD MURUM 7PM

TUES 20TH DECEMBER
XMAS QUIZ 8PM

SAT 24TH DECEMBER
KIDS XMAS BUFFET
3-5PM

WED 28TH DECEMBER
A NIGHT OF MAGIC
7PM (ADULTS ONLY)

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SPORTS

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



GARDENING TIPS FOR THE WINTER!

The winter months bring shorter, colder, and gloomier days and the memory of flowers at their peak in high summer become a distant memory. IT may seem like that there isn't much to do in the garden and a better idea might be just to stop inside, keep dry and stay warm. However, there is still much that can be done, from simple tasks such as looking after your garden tools, planting bulbs, trees and shrubs, to splitting perennials, cutting back and generally tidying up- but not too much of the latter as wildlife and insects can benefit from old stems, flower heads and pruning's left on the ground. Getting out into the garden in winter can be very rewarding giving you a chance to breathe in fresh air and keep connected with nature. Just remember to wrap up warm- oh - and maybe enjoy a hot drink after!

Here's just a few pointers for the next couple of months: -

Aim to prune summer flowering shrubs that need it before it gets too cold. Tie up any plants that might be vulnerable to heavy snow falls. This applies particularly to conifers that can tear apart with too much snow on their branches.

Try to keep off lawns as much as possible to avoid excessive compaction when the soil is wet.

Maybe there are a few bare patches that you would like to add some colour to for the winter. There are number of plants that can do this such as Viburnum Tunis, Hamamelis (Witch Hazel), Skimmia, Ilex (Hollies), Christmas and Lenten Roses (Hellebores) and many more. It's still not too late to plant up a tub or trough for winter interest using Pansies, Violas, Winter flowering Heathers or choose from a host of other plants. One of my favourites at this time of year is the Sweet Box, particularly Sarcococca hookeriana Winter Gem and Purple Stem. The small creamy white flowers are very sweetly scented and followed by purple/black berries which often persist until the following winter. A super plant for a pot by the front door!

If ground conditions allow then now is the perfect time for digging beds, particularly in the vegetable garden, as the frosts will help break up the soil and improve its structure. Of course, there is the option to turn your vegetable beds into "no-dig" beds" which could be the subject of a whole new article. Ask me about it next time you are in!

A this time of year we're all starting to think about Christmas and putting up the Christmas Tree. Some will opt for an artificial tree but there is nothing like the smell and feel of a real tree. When putting your tree up, try not to put it up too early ideally leaving it outside. A day or 2 before you plan to decorate it, cut about 2" off the trunk and put the tree into a bucket of water. This will help the tree look fresher in the house for longer, especially if you use a stand for it that can easily be topped up with water on a daily basis.

AS Christmas comes and goes, and we head into the New Year we can start planning on what to grow next season. Vegetable seeds can be ordered online, or of course you can pop along to your local plant nursery and purchase your seed there. By the end of January Seed potatoes, Onion Sets and Shallots will be available and we can start thinking of not just buying our seeds but also starting some off.

IT all goes to show there is never really a quiet month in gardening and I could have included so many more "to dos" here, so make the most of the winter months and plan ahead. In the meantime, may we at Halls of Heddon wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to everyone, **Keep gardening!**

David Hall
Halls of Heddon



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Winter visitor - The Redwing.

Nature Notes - Welcoming Winter Thrushes

Ruth Oatway

The clocks have changed and we are well into autumn/winter now. Our skies have emptied of the summer visitors like swifts, martins and swallows, and the black caps, white throats and chiff chaffs have also migrated to warmer wintering grounds. However, one of the wonderful things about nature is there's always something to look forward to with the changing seasons and a changing cast of characters. The colours of autumn have been particularly beautiful this year, and as the summer visitors leave, the winter migrants are arriving. I particularly enjoy the arrival of the redwings and fieldfares each year.

Both these species are members of the thrush family which includes familiar garden birds such as the blackbird and song thrush, the mistle thrush, and the less common ring ouzel which is a bird of the uplands. Whilst those other UK thrush species are resident all year round, the redwings and fieldfares mostly migrate to the UK in autumn, from Scandinavia and Iceland where they breed.

The redwing is similar in size and appearance to a song thrush but has a distinctive pale stripe above the eye and orangey-red patches on the flanks just below the wing which give them their name. They feed on fruit and berries so often gather in flocks in hedgerows. As this food source becomes used up they move into more open areas in search of earthworms.

Fieldfares are larger, close to the size of a mistle thrush. They have a blue-grey head, yellow beak, brown-grey wings and a speckled breast. They feed on a large selection of insects and grubs so are often seen feeding in large flocks in open areas such as fields, but they also eat fruit and berries, particularly hawthorn. I think both are very attractive birds and with this overlap in diet they can be seen in mixed flocks containing both species.

The first redwing I saw this year was in our garden foraging berries from our whitebeam tree. I've never seen one in the garden before so that was a real treat for me. Our resident blackbird was less impressed by this competition for autumn's bounty and quickly chased it off! I've often seen redwings in small flocks in the hedgerows around Heddon. The holly trees bordering the lane from Heddon Banks down towards Ashbank Wood are a good place to see them, as is the hawthorn hedge along the Hadrian's wall path heading towards Rudchester, where I've sometimes seen fieldfares too. I've also seen large flocks of fieldfares in the open fields near Rudchester on the other side of the Military Road.

In spring, both species will migrate back to their northern breeding grounds so do look out for them this season – a sight to brighten the gloomiest winter day!

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.

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☎:07450315860

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Historic England Listed Status for Heddon Village Military Road Milepost

Andy Curtis

Historic England are in the process of awarding listed building status to another small part of Heddon's village heritage. The milepost is located on the south side of the old road adjacent to the outside garden wall of what is now one of the new houses of Tulip Mews. We were very lucky not to have lost it during the development of Town Farm (later Tulip's Yard).

For those who keep their eyes open the milepost bearing the figure 8 also survives a mile west within the hedgerow alongside the road on the way to Rudchester. There are probably others further west but I think ours is the first to be listed. There are a few Grade II Listed mileposts attributed to the Military Road in Cumbria but they have metal plates attached to the chamfered faces of a low stone post indicating distances to both Newcastle and Carlisle and likely date to the later 1811 turnpike.

Name: Milestone 7

Location: Milestone 7, Military Road, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland, NE15 0DR

Milestone 7 marks the distance in miles from the west gate of Newcastle upon Tyne along the military road that was constructed between Newcastle and Carlisle between 1751 and 1757.

Known as the Military Road, currently partly reused by the B6318 and the B6528, the need for this road was identified by Field Marshall George Wade (1673-1748), following his failure to intercept the Jacobite army of Charles Edward Stewart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) in November 1745. Wade was at Newcastle when the Jacobites marched from Edinburgh, taking Carlisle on the 15th and moving onwards to reach Manchester by the 23rd. Meanwhile, Wade left Newcastle for Carlisle on the 16th but had been forced to halt at Hexham by poor roads and snow, returning to Newcastle by the 22nd, without ever having made contact with the Jacobites. Although the road is now often associated with him, Wade was not involved in its construction as he died in 1748.

The route of the Military Road was surveyed in 1749 and was estimated to cost in the region of £22,450. Following an Act of Parliament in 1751, construction work was contracted out to two civilian companies, who completed the road in 1757. The first 48km follows the alignment of Hadrian's Wall, with much of the stone used for hardcore being quarried from the historic structure itself, which caused considerable disquiet among antiquarians at the time. The total cost of the road was £22,680, shared by the Cumberland and Northumberland commissioners; this figure included the purchase of land, dry stone boundary walling, stone bridges, the construction of 14 tollhouses, and erection of mileposts along the length of the road, in accordance with the Act of Parliament. The original mileposts were all slender stone posts and as the principal garrison

was housed at Newcastle, the distances marked on them were only given from Newcastle's west gate.

Milestone 7 is sited in its original position on the southern verge of a minor road that was once part of the B6318 (previously A69 before the by-pass) before it was realigned in the late C20. It is situated within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and lies within one of the scheduled areas for Hadrian's Wall. It is labelled as 'Old Milestone' on the 1897 25-inch Ordnance Survey map because it was superseded

by a metal milestone sited on the turnpiked road about 380m to the east on Great Hill, which shows seven miles measured from Newcastle town centre.

Details

Milestone (Military), erected between mid-1751 and 1758, as part of the military road linking Newcastle to Carlisle, which was built in response to the second Jacobite Rebellion of 1745.

MATERIALS: sandstone.

DESCRIPTION: situated on the southern verge of the Military Road, formerly the B6318, the stone pillar stands about one metre high and has a narrow rectangular section approximately 30 x 15cm, with a chamfered rounded upper surface. The face has a roughly punched-tooled surface and is inscribed: 7, which represents the distance in miles from the west gate of Newcastle upon

Tyne in the mid-C18. The rear of the pillar is hidden from view against a garden wall.

Selected Sources

Books and journals

Lawson, W, 'The Origin of the Military Road from Newcastle to Carlisle' in *Archaeologica Aeliana*, Vol 44, (1966), 185-207

Lawson, W, 'The Construction of the Military Road in Northumberland 1751-1757' in *Archaeologica Aeliana*, Vol 1, (1973), 177-193

Websites

Heddon-on-the-Wall Local History Society - Military Road, accessed 15 August 2022 from

<http://heddonhistory.weebly.com/blog/military-road>

Per Lineam Valli - What is the Military Road, Mike Bishop, 2015 accessed 18 August 2022 from

<https://perlineamvalli.wordpress.com/2015/06/07/69-what-is-the-military-road/>

Andy Curtis

Milestone 7





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🐾 Ears Cleaned 🐾 Bath & Brush up



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Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No 1012011



Storming into Autumn, as the leaves began to fall, it seemed that the Knott Hall shrugged it's, shoulders and went for fun fashion and drama.

Fashion @the Knott

Now a regular event had the ladies of the village enjoying a glass of fizz before hitting the fashion trail, ending with some fun games of bingo, which supported the Knott Hall defibrillator.

Big Science @the Knott



A collaboration between Heddon library, the Parish Council and the Knott Hall provide some half term fun and education for children of the village. Smoke rings, flying bottle tops and lots of oohs and ahhs, a really fun time for everyone, looking forward to next half term.

Beat the Drum

Although the attendance was low the people who attended this performance had an amazing experience, Foolsgold provided a evening of song, story and pictures. There was laughter, tears and a good sing along. A wonderful night.

The Gibson Photographic Exhibition

What an coup for the Hall, the lottery funded exhibition was programmed for viewing at Hexham Abbey, Morpeth Town Hall and Haltwhistle Town Hall and we got it too. For three weeks we have been open for viewing and have had more than 300 visitors. It is hoped that this may be the precursor to further similar events.

Gibson 'the man behind the lens'

In support of the photographic exhibition and the Heddon History Society, Knott Hall arranged a talk by Kate St Clair Gibson, om the man who took the photographs. A well-attended event appreciated the insight provided by the speaker and also indicated the audience for these talks. Knott Hall's links with Northumberland Archives should pave the way for further events.

Hadrian 1900 Poetry Workshop

Does it rhyme does it have to rhyme, Dorothy Whittaker led a enjoyable and informative workshop on the poetry of Wilfrid Gibson, a war poet contemporary of Owens who also wrote about Hadrian's Wall.

StairWall

Where do we begin, the Hall engaged this performance to challenge and entertain, the format fitted nicely with Hadrian 1900, but it was a risk, contemporary dance, music and art are not necessarily seat fillers. What a success, the Wednesday workshop for school children and Adults was well received and the Friday performances for school children and adults was simply amazing. The hall was full of an interested and appreciative audience, many who had travelled to view the event.

Unfortunately despite the fun and successes, there is still an ongoing issue, in the last issue of the Gossip. I explained the problems faced by the Knott Hall and it's users and guest with nuisance activity.

I had hoped by highlighting the issue it would through conversation inform the persons involved that their actions were harming the life of their village and persuade then to stop.

This appeared to have had no effect as the nuisance activities escalated with green laser lights being shone through the Hall windows and at pedestrians passing by. This forced me to take a step which I had wished to avoid but due to potential for eye injury and the proximity of the airport and flight paths, I was left with no option than to inform the police.

Let's be clear I did not escalate the issue, by their actions the person undertaking the nuisance activities did.

I had hoped that this would possibly bring some respite to the issue, but unfortunately whether by design or accident some of those involved how now moved to on to a different level that of criminal damage. During the StairWall performance someone entered the Hall and caused significant damage in the Gents Toilets, if not detected this would have caused a serious flooding problem.

As a Charity we are required to ensure the protection of the building and this incident had to be reported to the police.

Please if you were involved in this in anyway, understand the gravity of the situation, up until now it was nuisance and a chat, a promise to behave responsibly and it would have all disappeared but now criminal damage. Please understand 'CRIMINAL', if it continues and you get caught and you will! your very future will be in jeopardy. Don't let what may have started as high spirits end in a criminal record.

As I indicated in the previous Gossip my role as Chairman, is to maintain the Hall to provide a safe and welcoming space for all the residents of Heddon to enjoy which ever activities or events they prescribe to.

Surely, we are a village which cannot tolerate or accept behaviour which damages the village or village life, We have shown emphatically we can have fun together, let's show just as emphatically we will not accept unwarranted disruption.

Future Events for your diary

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

Hadrian 1900 Performance 13/12/2022- 16.30-19.30pm

Wind in the Willows 17/12/2022 – 19.00 – 21.30pm

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

West Coast Band 28/1/2023 -19.30 22.00pm

Our annual music event, good music brilliant company and even dancing. 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 Details:

www.northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/
heddon-villageknott-memorialhall

General Info: D Blackett 07770666744 dblackett@aol.com

Bookings: Hazel Thompson - 01661 853684

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



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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

Saturnalia Tour

Saturnalia is a travelling installation made up of music, creative lighting, fire, interactive projection and an entertaining troupe of mischief and merrymakers. It will visit the communities along Hadrian's Wall, drawing a close to the Hadrian's Wall 1900 Festival.

The event is free to attend, and no booking is required. You can visit any time within the stated opening hours of 4:30pm until 7pm.

This event is being specially delivered for your local area. We encourage walking to the event from your house as no car, parking will be available.

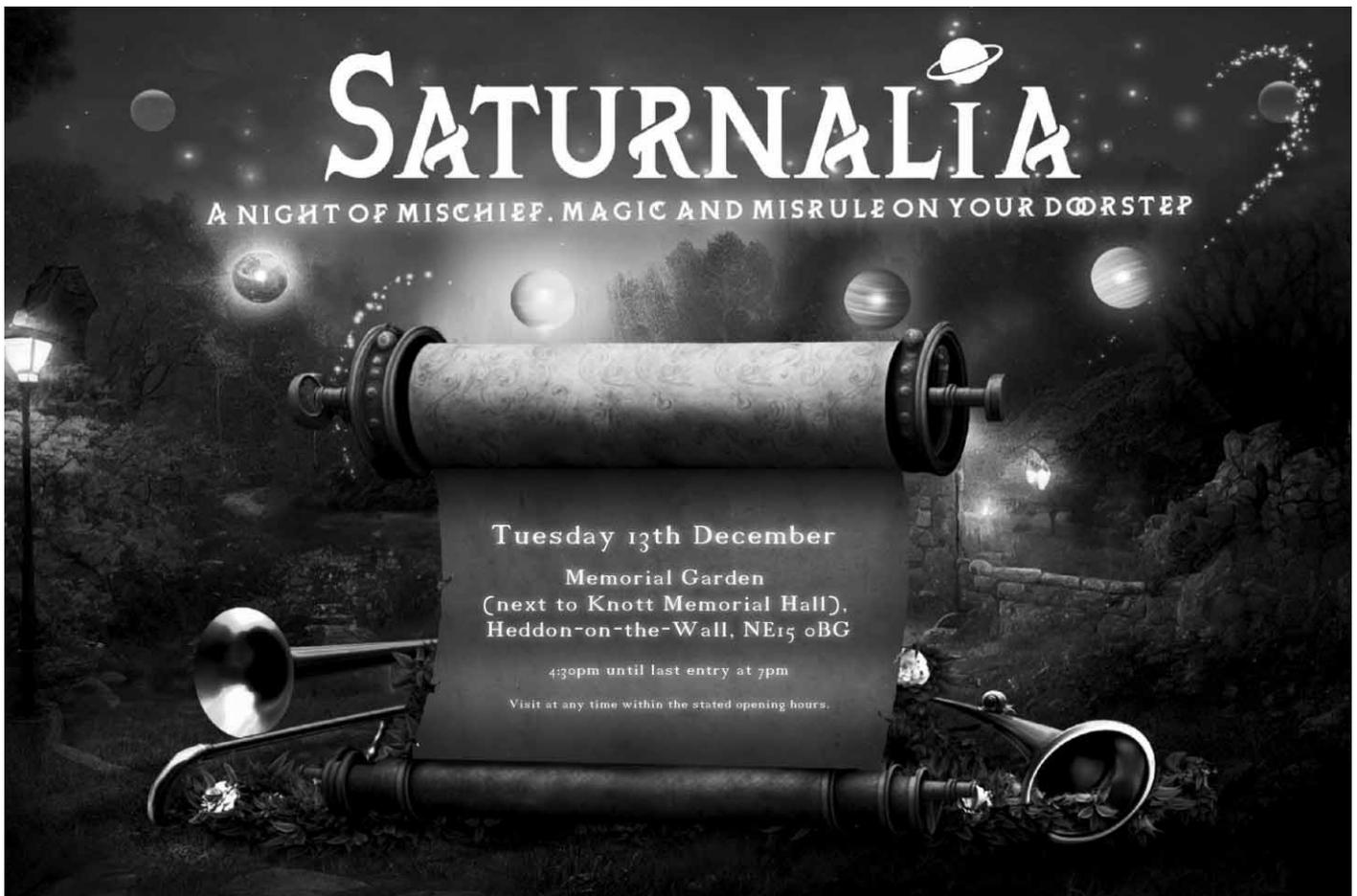
The event takes place outdoors after dark. Please check the forecast and make sure you dress for the weather.

Memorial Gardens, Heddon-on-the-Wall

Tuesday 13th December 4.30pm - 7pm

We are looking for 6 volunteers to support the event on the night. If you are interested please get in touch with us at:

info@hadrianswall1900.co.uk



SATURNALIA

A NIGHT OF MISCHIEF, MAGIC AND MISRULE ON YOUR DØRSTEP

Tuesday 13th December

Memorial Garden
(next to Knott Memorial Hall),
Heddon-on-the-Wall, NE15 0BG

4:30pm until last entry at 7pm

Visit at any time within the stated opening hours.

Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – December 2022 update

ANAG continues to be active in challenging Newcastle Airport about the problem of aircraft continually flying directly over Heddon village, and its reluctance to spread westward departing flights over a fairer (wider) dispersal area.

Matters of this nature are discussed at the Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee, Noise Sub-Group where local councils and other interested parties are represented. The first resumed meeting following the Covid-19 pandemic was held on 17th October when the ANAG chair attended and once again presented the group's concerns.

It was acknowledged by the Airport that overall noise complaints had increased – albeit that many were from the same complainants. Nevertheless, over the June/September 2022 period, 131 complainants had registered 1268 complaints – an indication of the strength of feeling about this matter. Of all the complaints received from January to September 2022, from all the areas around the Airport, 87% were from Heddon and Clara Vale alone!

A further matter which was discussed was the apparent discrepancy between the Airport's tracked aircraft routes and the lived experience of residents under the flight paths. It was agreed that this apparent inconsistency would be investigated.

Since the end of the lull in flying caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, people signing up to receive updates from ANAG has increased, so if you also want to be informed of what's happening, please visit ANAG's website at: <https://www.aircraftnoiseaction.com> and leave your contact details. There is no charge for this and if you continue to be bothered by a particularly noisy aircraft, you can quickly and easily register your complaint on the website.

Heddon residents can rest assured that ANAG will continue to vigorously fight their corner in this David and Goliath struggle; not forgetting that in the end, David was the victor!

As well as noise issues, don't forget that ANAG is active in confronting the detrimental effects to the planet of aircraft CO2 emissions. A whole wealth of useful information on this and other relevant issues will also be found on the ANAG website.

Robin Brooks
Heddon Banks

Heddon Photography Group

(every 2nd Thursday of each Month)

7.00-9.00pm at Knott Hall

Just a reminder that the next Photography Group meeting is on **December 8th** - we'll be looking at Shutter priority, ISO and Exposure compensation, finishing off the Exposure Triangle - and having a bit of a Christmas get-together at the same time!

- 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



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.

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.

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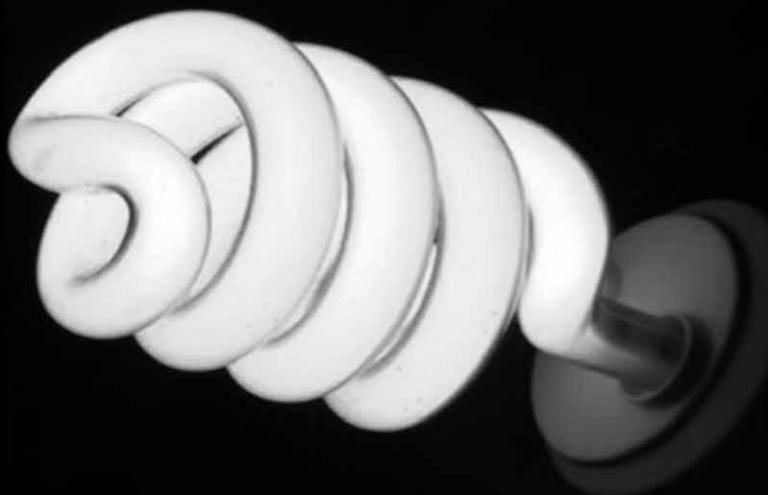
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YOGA in the Knott Hall

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MONDAY AM
9.30 - 10.45 (ish) a gentle flow class, focusing on becoming more aware of our body and using a combination of breathwork, asanas (yoga postures) and meditation to help us relax and feel nourished for the week ahead

THURSDAYS AM
will be 9.30 - 10.45 (ish) is chair based yoga. Chair based yoga brings all the benefits of more traditional yoga, and so we will still be using breathwork, yoga postures and meditation to help us relax. It is particularly suitable if you are less mobile, as the chair can support you as you sit and gently move and stretch.

EXTRA CLASS
MONDAY EVENING
7.00 - 8.15 (ish)
 Same as above

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

There is also the option of a coffee together in the Three Tuns afterwards (not included in the price).

No need to book. Simply turn up at the Knott Hall at 9.15am with a yoga mat (only needed for a Monday class) and a yoga block (available for around £3.00 from Amazon).

Any queries then please do email me:
emmareay44@icloud.com
Looking forward to seeing you

AD MURUM Singers

Posters advertising the Ad Murum concert "Sing we now of Christmas" have now appeared around the village, and tickets are available to purchase from choir members.

The dates of the concert are:- **Friday 9th December, at 7pm, in the Knott Hall** and **Saturday 10th December, at 2pm, in the Knott Hall.**

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

Contact Christine:
 Tel: 0191 2740217

The concerts will follow the usual format of complimentary drink, table snacks, pantomime and a raffle.

The choir have also been asked to sing at:- "The Swan" Heddon on 16th December at 7pm

St Andrews Church on 17th December at 4pm at "Carols by Candlelight" The "Three Tuns" 19th December at 7pm

The choir are looking forward to singing in public again after the enforced lay-off.

Chris Rand

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Ian Jackson

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 Ian Jackson

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John Stobbart winning the Annual Exhibition Rose Bowl for his painting of Swimming Tiger.
 Photo: Averil White

Heddon Art Group



What a Year - Three Exhibitions Boot

It has been a busy year for Heddon Art Group with three major exhibitions and a number of new members. Many thanks to all the people who came to see our artwork in June, September and October, and helped raise over £200 for the Alzheimer's Society. Congratulations to John Stobbart on winning the Annual Exhibition Rose Bowl at the beginning of October.

We have a Winter break from the end of November and resume in late February.

We are already looking forward to another year with regular meetings in the W.I. Hall with a programme of themed nights, free-style sessions and guest professional artists throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining the Group please contact: David Chambers on **chambers497@btinternet.com** for more details.

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FUNDRAISER

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are hosting a fundraiser in the WI on 6th December from 6pm - 7pm serving teas and coffees. These groups are self-funded and work to provide experiences and opportunities for their members please support them if you can!

STEPPING DOWN!

As Alison Dodd steps down from her role of Heddon Brownie leader after 12 years I am sure I speak on behalf of all the Brownies and their parents that she has helped when I say a massive Thank You Ali for being there every Tuesday night, for the panto trips, sleepovers, ice cream making at Vallum Farm, Jamborees, camping weekends, Halloween and Christmas parties as well as sessions on first aid, cooking, wildlife, internet safety, Indian cuisine and many more subjects!

Alison also actively encouraged former Brownies to return to volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards etc.

I hope you enjoy having your Tuesday evenings to yourself Alison, Happy Retirement!



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 Scan Me

Residents' Association - Snow Warden!

The Residents' Association, despite not meeting officially since the pandemic started, are preparing for winter again by putting all of our Snow Wardens on alert! New members are always welcome to help grit the village footpaths, full kit and training provided by the County Council. If interested in joining, please contact us at hotwall1@yahoo.com

I have written to Northumbria Police just recently in an attempt to have the Speedwatch campaign resurrected. This fell by the wayside some time prior to the pandemic unfortunately due to limited resources but we feel that everyone in the village would benefit from a general reduction in speeding, especially on Hexham Road. Fingers crossed that the Police respond - watch this space!

I would like to offer congratulations to the churches, the Parish Council, the Knott Hall, the WI and the groups which use these facilities on the village events held during and planned for the second half of this year. The Hadrian 1900 festival was a well-supported, brilliant event - and there is more to come on this one!

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I would like to wish everyone who lives here - you are all automatically members - a very happy Christmas and, dare I say, a prosperous New Year!

Peter Chapman Chair

HETT - Heddon Education & Training Trust

The Heddon on the Wall Education & Training Trust (HETT) was set up by St. Andrew's Church in Heddon more than twenty years ago for the benefit of the people of the parish. Each year the Trust awards grants for the education and training of people in the village. One of the main beneficiaries is St. Andrews C of E Primary School, which benefits from contributions from the Trust in a variety of different ways. Two examples include:

- funding the cost of a Bible for every child in Year 3, which children are allowed to keep as their own once they leave the school;
- purchases such as a garden shed for use by the school's Gardening Club, Read Write online literacy support resources, as well as musical equipment.

In addition, awards are also granted to former pupils of the school, as well as current residents. One example is Amy Anderson, a former pupil of the school who also grew up in the village. She successfully applied for a grant to cover the cost of the software, materials and trips that form a mandatory component of her degree course at university. This support enabled Amy to continue her education while defraying the cost of her course fees.

Anyone can submit a request to the Trust, as long as the request is directly related to current or imminent education and training needs, and as long as you meet one of the following criteria:

- you are a current pupil at St. Andrews C of E Primary School;
- you are a former pupil of St. Andrews C of E Primary School;
- you are a current resident of Heddon.

In order to submit a request, please contact

Freda Phillipson: fredaphillipson04@gmail.com



HEDDON PATCHERS

My name is Ann Allsopp. I run the Heddon Patchers quilting group in the W.I. on alternate Wednesdays.

In light of recent events we find ourselves with 2 openings for anyone who may be interested in joining us.

I can be contacted on 01661 820568 or on the above e-mail address: allsopprayann@btinternet.com

Thank you. *Ann Allsopp*



Coffee Morning success

Thanks to everyone who helped to reach the magnificent sum of £805.00 at the Macmillan Coffee Morning on 30th September

Jean Amos

BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

Contact Mike Wall on 07734 807733 who is still collecting bicycles to recycle for under-privileged children



Our local bike shop, and proud 1% for the Planet member, Twelfth City Cyclery are celebrating the announcement that they have been shortlisted for a BikeBiz (renowned industry organisation) Award, in addition to again being finalists for a Great British Entrepreneurial Award.

Owner, born and bred village resident, Thomas Hardy explains that more tangibly than both of those points, Twelfth City are strengthening their partnership with Cycling Minds of Hexham - a community cycling hub active in supporting those of less advantaged mental health - by installing three public bicycle repair stations in key areas of the region for all to use.

Providing bike fitting, mechanical services and product sales, Twelfth City has a goal of supporting local cyclists of all abilities and disciplines, demonstrated through their active support of events like the recent Wylam on Wheels Sportive.



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TEST your knowledge with the Christmas ANAGRAM PUZZLE

Find the Christmas carols, which are based on Christian lyrics and relate to the Nativity, as well as Christmas Songs hidden in the anagrams below.

1. RING THE WEEKS (Carol)

.....

2. SNOWY MAST FOR THEN (Christmas Song)

.....

3. CAST ME SHIRT POINTS (Christmas Song)

.....

4. LENT IN SIGHT (Carol)

.....

5. SELL GLIB JEN (Christmas Song)

.....

6. WATCH THIS MISER (Christmas Song)

.....

7. NETT ROLE FISH (Carol)

.....

8. I RANG A MEAN WAY (Carol)

.....

9. STRIVED TO SHAME CHEWY FLATS (Christmas Song)

.....

10. SAY BAT BAN (Christmas Song)

.....

11. BLEW THEM IN A KIND TIER (Carol)

.....

12. ONE WAY FOR FRY TALKIE (Christmas Song)

.....

13. OLLEY KNITTED (Christmas Song)

.....

14. NO WASH HELD IN CRIB (Christmas Song)

.....

Answers in February/March Issue.



The Swan

01661 853 161

Upcoming Festive Events

1st December - 30th December –
Festive Fayre menu 2/3 courses from
£23.95

3rd December
Irish Music Night

16th December
PJ and Christmas Movie Night

17th December
Breakfast with Santa plus Christmas
crafts ran by “USACTIVE” charity

28th December
The Big Christmassy Quiz

31st December
See the New Year in with us! Join our
party with a Live DJ

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

Season's Greetings

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

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HEDDON LIBRARY - OPENING HOURS

Heddon library will close at 4.00pm on Fri 23rd Dec and reopen on Tue 3rd Jan at 1.00pm.

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.

Do you like reading books or listening on your Tablet or Laptop?

You can now borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks online for free using your Library card via 'BorrowBox'. Further details can be found at the Library.

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

HEDDON GOSSIP

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

February/ March 2023

January 18th for articles and advertising

Contact: Ian Scott

● Email: ianscottedesign@btinternet.com

● Mobile: 07743 285502

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

In October we welcomed David Hall, from Halls of Heddon, to our monthly meeting. He demonstrated how to plant bulbs in a large pot ready for a burst of spring colour. Whilst doing this he answered a variety of queries from members. He also gifted a number of flowers for our raffle..... a very enjoyable evening.

Kath and Harry Gilbert took us on a tour of New Zealand in November. Fabulous scenery captured in photographs and a wonderful descriptive narrative with atmospheric background music complimented the journey to the other side of the world.

On Saturday November 12th we held a Soup and Bun morning. The weather was kind and those who attended enjoyed a bowl of soup followed by tea/coffee and cake. There was a lovely atmosphere throughout the morning.

December sees us celebrating Christmas at The Swan where we always enjoy a lovely evening getting to know each other a little better in relaxed surroundings.

To begin 2023 Pauline Wright is doing some Line Dancing with us.....for the less mobile there will be a seated option. It will be a fun evening for sure!!

We will welcome Liesbeth Langford in February. She will tell us about life in Holland during WW II and her life after the war. The talk is entitled "Thank you for having me"

March is our 106th birthday. It's true what they say, birthdays do come round faster the older you get. There will be a light supper including cake of course!! and some in house entertainment.

Please keep looking at the village notice boards for information about future meetings, and maybe join us on the first Monday of the month and see what we're all about!

Best wishes for 2023.

Lesley xx

Heddon Carpet Bowls

The Bowls knockout Sheild competition started on 17th November and will conclude by the 15th Dec. 17 players taking part for the 2022 Carpet Bowls Champion.

Mostly new members this year.

Remember new members 1st night free. 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



SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS
PRESENT

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO HEDDON

Have a jolly holly evening as Santa visits our wonderful village, let's see our community and Christmas spirit!

This year, we are delighted to support
Friends of Heddon School.

Any donation will be hugely appreciated.

FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2022

We would love to see your houses decorated and your children, everyone, young and less young waving from your drives and windows as Santa passes through.
Please see Facebook for updates.

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