

# HEDDON GOSSIP

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

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER 2022

## Premier award for Halls of Heddon

Now held at the fabulous Newby Hall and Gardens, Harrogate Flower Show is the only one we attend. A lot of effort goes into preparation, staging and manning so it was good news to be awarded a Premier Award once again for our efforts. During September we welcome visitors from all over the country to see the Dahlia fields, even some from Holland and Ireland this year. They never cease to be amazed by the spectacle of colour that greets them. This year we planted over 7000 Dahlias and 7000 Chrysanthemums. In total they could yield over 100,000 stems of flowers. If all the beds were put end to end they would stretch from the Nursery to the Knott Memorial Hall- 1750m just over a mile!!



Maxine Hall, William Hall's Granddaughter, with the Premier Award cards and cup.  
Premier Award cards and cup for best cut flower display



HM Queen Elizabeth II  
1926-2022

At approximately 6.30pm 8th September it was announced to our nation and the world that HM Queen Elizabeth II had sadly died at Balmoral. We have now just lived through 11 days of national mourning and it has been an extraordinary experience.

As we have probably all now heard there has been a plan for "Operation London Bridge" in place for many years, and this not only included all

the plans we saw played out on our TV screens, but also Parish Churches and Parish Councils. Everyone who has been involved from Heddon has found it a privilege and an honour to play our small part in the National Mourning.

As soon as the announcement was made David Potts made his way to St. Andrew's Church and tolled the Parish Church bell 96 times in recognition of the HM Queen Elizabeth's 96 years of life well-lived. Over the coming days the church bell was tolled many more times and the doors of the church were open every day for people to light candles, have a moment of quiet and to write in Heddon's book of condolence. The bell was also tolled slowly the day after her death for one whole hour at noon in mourning for the nations loss, it was then rang briefly in celebration following the Proclamation of King Charles III from St. James' Palace balcony.

The night before the State funeral approximately 50 Heddon folk gathered in St. Andrew's Church for a service of prayer and reflection. This was a particularly wonderful moment as people from all walks of life gathered together. There were representatives from the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches and the Parish Council. The service was for everyone who wanted to be there and all ages were gathered together.

We ended our formal part of the national morning with 9 people gathering at St. Andrew's Church to once again toll the bell in mourning for the full hour before HM Queen Elizabeth's funeral began.

The world changed, and Heddon played its part.

Revd Rachel Scheffer

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

The last few weeks have been exciting times for St. Andrew's Church, demonstrating our future plan to make this church accessible for everyone both in the local community and the wider community. Making it welcoming and accommodating for use at all times of the day and evening and not just Sundays at 10 a.m.

The Church was one of the main venues for the recent Hadrian's Wall Festival in Heddon, where we provided refreshments for visitors and space for those who exhibited their art from Tyne Valley Artists and those who came to entertain and be entertained. We found that it was absolutely viable to provide suitable areas for everyone including a 'stage' for performers. It was wonderful to welcome so many people on the festival day as we celebrated 1900 years of life along the Wall.

We have also been proud to be able to open the church for a prolonged period to provide a quiet, reflective space for anyone wishing to pay their respects by lighting candles or writing in the book of condolence to remember the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

We are still receiving many requests for weddings and baptisms. The services are always lovely occasions with a relaxed atmosphere.

## 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.*

## Forthcoming events in HEDDON ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

**Sunday 30th October:** Joint Service for all five parishes. Details will be posted on social media.

**Saturday 12th November: 5.30-6.45pm Faith Under Fire.** We are delighted that Lt Gen Robin Brims, who will be known to many in Heddon-on-the-Wall, will give a personal reflection of faith in modern warfare. This is a talk he gave in the summer at Durham University as this year's Vann Fellowship Lecture.

Although you can just turn up on the evening it would be useful to have an idea of numbers for catering – please email: [r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org)

No charge but donations welcome at the event.



One of the Commonwealth War Graves in St Andrew's Churchyard.

### Remembrance Sunday:

Remembrance Sunday is **13th November** this year and there will be a Service at St. Andrew's Church 9.30am followed by an Act of Remembrance at 10.50am at the War Memorial in Memorial Park. All are welcome to join together for this important occasion.



**Saturday 26th November: 10-12 noon. Treasures in Church.** Another opportunity for anyone to come along and hear all about the history of the treasures in St. Andrew's Church while enjoying some tasty refreshments.

### Wednesday 30th November: 12 noon - 2pm. Treasures in Church.

A similar event to the one held the previous week on 26th November but the refreshments served on this occasion will be homemade soup.

Though there is no charge for these events, a contribution to the refreshments is always gratefully received.

Details of our Christmas Services will be in the next edition of Heddon Gossip but if you require dates and times prior to its publication, please do not hesitate to contact us on one of the numbers listed below.

### Useful Points of Contact :

Revd. Rachel Scheffer ..... 01661 886853  
[r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org)

Revd. Tom Birch ..... 01661 853254  
[revdtombirch@gmail.com](mailto:revdtombirch@gmail.com)

Church Warden: Jane Tiffen ..... 07305594059  
[m.tiffen@btinternet.com](mailto:m.tiffen@btinternet.com)

Church Warden: Lynda Henderson ..... 07907574575  
[lhndrsn56@gmail.com](mailto:lhndrsn56@gmail.com)

**FAITH UNDER FIRE**  
**12TH NOVEMBER 5.30-6.45PM**  
**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**  
**HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL**

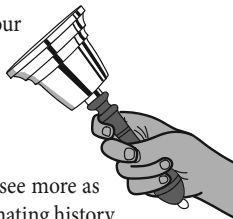
TALK FOLLOWED BY Q&A  
OVER CHEESE AND WINE  
LT GEN ROBIN BRIMS WILL GIVE A  
PERSONAL REFLECTION  
OF FAITH IN MODERN WARFARE.  
THIS IS A TALK HE GAVE IN THE SUMMER  
AT DURHAM UNIVERSITY AS THIS YEAR'S  
VANN FELLOWSHIP LECTURE.

### Answers to August/September Anagram puzzle.

1. Three Tuns, 2. The Swan, 3. Hadrian's Wall, 4. Bays Leap Farm,
5. Halls of Heddon, 6. Rudchester, 7. Close House Golf Club, 8. Chare Bank,
9. Towne Gate, 10. St Andrew's Church, 11. Pipers View, 12. Station Road,
13. Military Road, 14. Methodist Church, 15. Ironsign Farm,
16. Heddon Banks, 17. Centurion Way, 18. Frenchman's Row

## HANDBELL GROUP

A big thank-you to those who rang the bell at St Andrews Church in respect when our Queen died, and for the accession of our new King, so continuing an impressive old tradition. Sue, who has been playing handbells in Heddon for over 8 years, rang the bell at her local church in Stamfordham. She says "..... the biggest bell rally I have been involved in!"



So many old traditions have been displayed in recent national events and we will see more as time goes on. English handbell tune ringing is another living tradition with a fascinating history since its birth in the mid 1500's and it is alive and well worldwide. There is a set of bells in Heddon and there is no better time than now for them to be rung. Fancy a ring? We'll give you a bell! and you can help to keep this tradition alive in this area. We play for our own fun and well-being and are also keen that many other people can hear and enjoy the sweet sound of handbells.

No previous experience required, and don't be put off by marvellous performances you may find on the internet. But do have a look at [www.hrgb.org.uk](http://www.hrgb.org.uk) or [www.handbells.org.uk](http://www.handbells.org.uk)  
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](http://www.handbells.org.uk)

## 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:

- a) 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;
- b) 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:

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

In order to submit a request, please contact

Freda Phillipson: [fredaphillipson04@gmail.com](mailto:fredaphillipson04@gmail.com)

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HEDDON ON THE WALL  
AND FLOOR TILING



# Writings on the Wall Story Writing Competition



We were delighted by the response to this competition which celebrated the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian's Wall. The four judges read well over 150 stories across the adult and youngsters' categories. Stories had to include a wall - which could be real, imaginary, physical or emotional - and were restricted in length - a maximum of 1900 words for adults, 190 words for youngsters.

The winners were announced in a crowded St Andrew's Church on 3rd September as part of the day's celebrations. The winning story in the adult category was read by its author, Annabel Douglas, seated in the special Story Chair designed and built by Ian Graham.

We're very grateful to the Parish Council and Heddon's Under the Rowan Trees stationery, company who generously provided prizes for our budding writers, and to Forum Books of Corbridge which hosted a visit from our young prize winners, helping them to choose their book prizes. The enthusiastic staff at Heddon Primary School also deserve a mention for encouraging and supporting the children as they practised their story-telling abilities.

Well done to everyone who entered. The four judges were well entertained by all the stories and impressed by the creativity of so many of our writers. We had some difficult decisions to make and congratulations go especially to the winners in each category.



Year 6 Winner - Leah Rutherford



Year 1 to 5 winners at Forum Books with the books they've chosen to spend their winnings on.

Left to right: Betsy Bridgeman Dowse, Jackson Smith, Emma Burnham, Sam Vincent and Emmie Seward.

Their parents have given permission for their photos to be published in *The Gossip*.

## The Hidden Garden

Princess Poppy was playing and found a hidden garden with a beautiful garden wall. It had a little pond and a bench. When the king and queen found out they were jealous. They searched for the guards to help but still no luck. Poppy loves feeding the ducks in the pond. When she went for her tea her parents caught and locked her up in her bedroom. They forced her to tell them but she didn't. They were furious. She ran to the wall and stayed. She slept in the garden.

*Emma Burnham*

*Year 1 category winners story.*

## The Great Wall Mystery!

It was a lovely kind of day for a mystery in China. Detective Brennus and his helper Jaxon were walking beside the Great Wall of China. They were talking about Fortnite because they were 18. They were talking about the guns when the wall disappeared. Brennus and Jaxon were speechless! Then they remembered there were bad animals on the other side and were scared. Then Brennus said, "It's time for a mystery!" Jaxon said, "OK," with a big expression of embarrassment. "It's all very well but next time try not to embarrass me." Five minutes later they found a man called Jon. They asked him a lot of questions but he said, "No." Next he asked a man called Cal. Brennus said, "Have you taken the wall?" He said, "Yes," and ran off! Then a police car drove in front and caught him! Then Jaxon snatched the wall and pulled it back into place. The end. Or is it?

*Sam Vincent*

*Year 2 category winners story.*

## Legion

My name is Brendan. It's hard to be a husband and a secret agent too.

It was my wife's birthday until agent 1900 called, the Queen had a mission for me. I had to rescue agents captured while spying on enemy prototype army robots called legions. They were in a prison behind a great wall bigger than Hadrian's.

In darkness I entered and found my way to the agents. Enemy guards were everywhere, stealth was needed.

We made it to the court yard and saw the wall in the distance. We would need to get over it to get away.

We darted forward reaching its shadow, but an alarm bellowed. We had been spotted! Guards came from all directions.

Would we survive?

It looked bad but the noise of blades whooshing in the air got louder, I looked up, there was her Majesty's helicopter. A rope ladder descended, the agents scrambled up, I held off a guard. Then clambered up after them. We were pulled over the wall to safety.

A successful mission and I got the legion plans too!

Now it is time to get home to my wife.

*Jackson Smith*

*Year 3 category winners story.*

## Travelling To Roman Britain

As the sun was rising over Heddon Village, Grace was walking her sausage dog Milo along Hadrian's Wall. While Grace was walking him, she spotted something that made her heart leap, it was... a Roman coin! She attempted to dust it but there was a flash of brilliant blue light and a pulling sensation all over her body. When Grace looked up, she saw the colossal structure of Hadrian's Wall towering above her, bigger than her house, losing every interest in the world around her.

Grace found an olive opal and slipped it into her pocket. As Grace looked up, she saw a ferocious looking Roman staring at her. She was made a slave by the Romans. While Grace was working, she made a plan. It was:

1. at bed time sneak out to the wall.
  2. rub opal and teleport back.
- Grace did it that evening...

Grace was home, Milo by her side, coin and opal in her hand, she burst through the door and climbed the stairs 3 at a time. She put on her PJs and hopped into bed.

*Emmie Seward*

*Year 4 category winners story.*

## The Love of Hadrian's Wall

In the Roman times people loved building amazing things! So one day when everyone was helping around the village, Emperor Hadrian thought of an idea. He thought his men could build a wall. He didn't just want a wall, he wanted every brick to represent the famous rulers and loving Romans so people would remember the citizens. He didn't want the bricks to be just grey coloured, he wanted every brick coloured so everyone could notice it. He didn't just want it to be built and painted, he wanted everyone to design and place their brick. Hadrian thought this was a great idea; he set every Roman to work.

Building the wall was fun, one by one people placed their unique bricks onto the wall until it was HUGE! When it was done, Hadrian walked the whole wall admiring the effort. He was so thrilled with it that he threw a party!

After lots of years the wall became famous and people travelled the world to see it. Unfortunately, no one knew there was colour on the wall because it washed away over time. But, if you are reading this story, you know the truth about The Wall!

*Betsy Bridgeman Dowse*

*Year 5 category winners story.*

## Invisible Garden

Exhausted, Appololia picked her way through the overgrown fields until she saw it: the entrance to the forbidden forest.

Glancing over her shoulder, Appololia ducked into the shade and took a sharp left. Suddenly, she noticed a wall which she had never seen before.

She went closer. Shivers danced up her neck. She noticed a portal.

Without warning, it sucked her in. As soon as the world stopped spinning, she noticed she was in a secret garden! She looked back at the wall; the portal had vanished and ivy covered the bricks, creeping into every crack.

Wispy willow trees hung down mysteriously and a river sparkled in the sun, meandering through the many vibrant, tropical plants and heavily perfumed flowers.

Appololia felt like she was being watched.

Buzzzzzz....

All of a sudden, a swarm of monstrous dragonflies swooped towards her, wings whirring, jaws jittering. Their compound eyes swivelled and the swarm manoeuvred in her direction...

Appololia ran. Ran for her life. Ran for the wall...

Hot on her trail, the dragonflies were about to seize their prey when a disembodied hand emerged from the portal.

Without thinking, Appololia grabbed it.

*Leah Rutherford*

*Year 6 category winners story.*



*Annabel Douglas  
with prize*

## The Secret

Unloved, long forgotten, frozen in time I have lain hidden from view, powerless to tell my story to the many who would cherish and glorify it. The sun is setting in this place as it has for 1000 years and more and whilst there is the briefest glimpse of metal, nobody is here to witness it and all too soon the shadows envelope me and the chance of discovery has faded once again.

My dark and cold sepulchre offers no clue to my status. The mice that share my resting place are not in awe of my beauty and opulence. For them I am merely an inconvenience, an obstruction preventing their intricate nest of bark and twigs to expand to accommodate their ever-expanding family.

Occasionally the solitude is broken by the sound of laughter and the excited buzz of ramblers following this well-worn route. So tantalizingly close but on they trudge, blissfully unaware that history is but a few inches away. What a chance they have missed - too engrossed in surveying the vast beauty around them to notice something much closer at hand.

The crumbling vallum looms ahead eroded by the passage of time yet I have remained constant, testament to the determination of my master to conceal me from hordes of adversaries and their thieving intent.

Long have I waited patiently for my liege to return and claim me but to no avail. Fate had other plans for my master. A legionary of great power and courage recognized by his emperor and rewarded with riches most can only dream of. His goal of a triumphant return to Rome was shattered by one act of violent savagery. Unexpected, swift and cruel, a rare victory for a rebellious tribe.

Alas my destiny seems fixed for eternity. The unremarkable days stretch cruelly ahead. Maybe I must endure another millennium of seclusion and yet something, somehow seems different.

From my lair I hear fresh voices, plans and celebrations. A small hand is reaching down feeling the smooth stone give way just enough to reveal a tiny cavity and briefly touching just enough to grab and pull while crowds of others gather around excitedly.

Fate has decreed that it is this moment when I will be unveiled. This place will forever be immortalized in the history books for its remarkable discovery. Thousands will from now on gaze at the tiny crack in the wall and wonder about the treasure unearthed and the secret revealed.....

*Annabel Douglas*

*Adult category winners story.*

## Looking back at the

# HADRIAN'S WALL 1900 FESTIVAL

24 JANUARY - 23 DECEMBER 2022

## weekend 2nd - 4th September with images

Wearing their creations made at the Children's Mask Making Workshop.



Heddon Art Group Exhibition celebrating Hadrian's Wall and the 1900 Festival in the WI.



Jan and Wendy with their wreaths made at the The Little Window Box Company workshop held in The Swan.



Local artist Sue Malkin - Hadrian 1900 'Makers Market' held in the Knott Memorial Hall.



Ad Murum singers performing to the 'congregation' in St Andrews Church.



Heddon Photography Group's display of Hadrian's Wall images in the Methodist Church for Hadrian's Wall Festival 1900.



Fiona Thompson trying Roman cheese and crackers.



Dog Show in the Welfare Field.



Gossip 'deliverer' Jen King getting her hands dirty de-mossing Hadrian's Wall.

The Hadrian's Wall Festival in Heddon was organised by a group of local people to celebrate 1900 years of life along the Wall. Didn't we have a wonderful day on the 3rd September!

I was interviewed by a reporter for the Hexham Courant during the afternoon and apparently this is what I said, nothing quite like an immediate reaction quote and I still stick by it now,

"I'll be honest, at quarter to nine it was pouring down with rain, and I was a little bit stressed. But once the rain cleared, suddenly people just started to come out and come into the village. Already interest groups such as the Heddon Photography Group and the Heddon Art Group have seen new members come in, which is one of the purposes of the day. Everything had a Roman or a Hadrian's Wall theme running through it, so we have genuinely celebrated this once-in-a-lifetime anniversary. It's been really good. It was a fun, diverse, family day and genuinely all ages, from a few weeks old to people in their 90's, have been out having a good time."

The festival involved "Give It A Go" session lead by English Heritage at Hadrian's Wall. Those at the festival were given the opportunity to try being maintenance volunteers and they de-mossed our section of Hadrian's Wall. There was an Art Exhibition by Heddon Art Group in the WI Hall, Photography exhibition in the Methodist Chapel by Heddon Photography Group, craft workshops in The Swan, a Makers Market with excellent stalls in The Knott Hall, Dog Show on the Welfare Field and St. Andrew's Church hosted an art exhibition by Tyne Valley Artists for over two weeks.

St. Andrew's Church also had a programme of events all day including a children's mask making workshop, singing by Ad Murum Choir and St. Andrew's Singers, organ playing by Freda Phillipson and a talk by Andy Curtis called "The Wall at Heddon". There were refreshments available all day and Bays Leap were there with their delicious ice-cream and tasters of their milk.

We also had Roving Reporters from the Heddon Photography Group who documented the day for future knowledge and posterity. There was a Hadrian's Chair made, which was used by the winner of the Writings on the Wall competition, to read her story and will now find a home in St. Andrew's Primary School.

Watch out for more details of what we are doing as a village to mark the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian's Wall starting to be built, including details of Hadrian's Stone Mosaic. You can also find many more photos of the festival at

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

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the festival, it was a wonderful day!

*Revd. Rachel Scheffer*

Thank you to *Averil White - Heddon Photography Group* and *Revd. Rachel Scheffer* for supplying many of the images. Apologises for any workshops, events not shown.



# Hadrian's Head



## A quick review

Hadrian' lads built a wall 1900 years ago with some help from the locals.

Everyone along the Wall is having a party because it has been there 1900 years and to be honest, we won't be around for the 2000 party.

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 was during the weekend commencing September 2nd, 2023, with numerous activities. 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.

After worldwide search found the artist had a design and commissioned the mosaic.

## Euphoria

UNESCO World Heritage site, need permission to excavate, filled in the form had a chat and the letter arrived. Permission granted! We can dig a hole and put the mosaic in.

Northumberland Bridleway and paths man, had a look and likes the idea and wants to help.

However, still don't know who owns the land, not Parish Council, not Northumberland County Council. I might have to write to Hadrian's descendants.

## Despair

The top bureaucrats at County Hall have got wind of the project, Highways Department, Strategic Estates and Regeneration, Commercial and Economy want to play. Maybe looking to the 2000 party would give them time to sort their comments out.

## 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.

The Final plan, when all the bits are sorted, The mosaic will be placed in Chare bank, there will be some blocks placed around the mosaic. These will be engraved blocks with the opportunity for in the first instance residents to purchase a block with the funds providing for the upkeep of the installation.

*David Blackett*

owner website  
Tom@TwelfthCityCyclery.com  
social media  
email



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.



**FRIDAY 28TH  
OCTOBER 8.30PM**

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# Lest We Forget

As we celebrate Armistice Day in November we are reminded of the horrors of war with a moving poem from 99 year old Hexham Road resident Fred T. Jewett

Fred, was a young sailor aboard HMS Ashanti one of the ships protecting the infamous Arctic Convoys that sailed from Reykjavik to Murmansk battling sub-zero temperatures and constant German attacks to supply arms to our allies in Russia.

He became a Range Taker seeing action on 22 missions to and from Murmansk in horrible weather conditions and harried by the Luftwaffe and U-boats who waited for us in packs.

Many vessels did not survive with one convoy losing 35 ships out of the 40 that set sail from Iceland.

Fred was awarded the Arctic Star for his part in protecting the convoys.

Fred also served on HMS Vigilant but his favourite ship was HMS Ashanti.

## HMS ASHANTI

HMS Ashanti (F51) a Tribal Class destroyer was launched in 1937 and she made a special journey to her namesakes, the country of Ghana in Africa and specifically an area known as the Gold Coast.

Fred told the story when the ship was open for visitors in Ghana, the local witchdoctors presented emblems of good fortunes to HMS Ashanti placing symbols of valour and survival upon the destroyer. One of these symbols was the little 'Ju Ju' doll the which stood on the gun deck protecting the ship and crew throughout its campaign.

The crew were convinced that she brought luck after HMS Ashanti, running low on fuel, changed positions with HMS Somali waiting for a favourable opportunity to refuel. HMS Somali took up HMS Ashanti's position and was immediately hit amidships by a torpedo from the German submarine U-703.

Fred saw action during the Invasion of North Africa, Atlantic Convoys, Malta (Operation Pedestal) convoys and protection for D-Day landings.

### HMS ASHANTI - Battle Honours

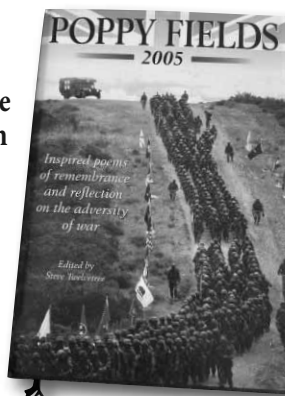
NORWAY 1940 - ATLANTIC 1940 - MALTA CONVOYS 1942 - NORTH AFRICA 1942-44 - ARCTIC 1942-43 - ENGLISH CHANNEL 1942-43 - NORMANDY 1944 - BISCAY 1944



Emblem of good fortune. The 'Ju Ju' sitting on the gun deck of HMS Ashanti.



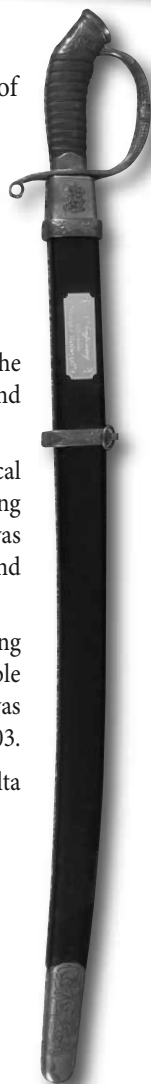
By Claude Henry Parnall - This is photograph A 7512 from the collections of the Imperial War Museums (collection no. 4700-01), Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2379374>



The poem 'Russian Convoy' appeared in 'Poppy Fields 2005'

## Russian Convoy

I remember the Barents, grey and bare,  
Tinged with the blood of each sailor there.  
Escorting destroyers, sleek and proud,  
Their harrying twin four-inch guns spoke aloud  
Betraying their ally, the silent night  
Often shattered, alas, by the doomed plight  
Of a Texan, Tartar, or our flotilla,  
Or a ship of the sons of the Sons of Atilla



Victory Sword of Honour presented to Fred by the Russians, 17th March 2013 in Moscow.

As each new dawn broke, we kept vigil upsun  
For a Junker, or Heinkel One-One-One,  
Or ubiquitous shadowers covering our wake,  
To these we were prey if we made a mistake.  
But, one Hurricane plane in defiance flew,  
Catapulted aloft by a pilot that knew  
When his task was complete and he'd smashed an attack,  
There was nowhere to land and no way to get back.

Soon the stench of burnt cordite baptised every gun  
That killed a few more of the blasted Hun,  
Whose acoustic torpedoes repeatedly scored,  
Ripping open its heart as they suddenly bored  
Deep into the hull of a merchant ship –  
Thirty-odd at the start, few finished the trip.  
And, those of the depths were hammered as well –  
Sad-sweet was the music that blew them to Hell.

Away on our on beam lay the pack-ice reef,  
By now, half the convoy had come to grief.  
Far ahead lay our target, Archangel port,  
But we were too busy to give that much thought.  
Brilliant firework displays at evening time  
Supplied by His Majesty's ships of the line.  
Intensified, now, concentrated attack  
Meant fighting for life with each bullet fired back.

Each hour was a year, each day a decade,  
Some seconds eternal as history made  
Immortal the dead of each battle-torn ship  
That took up the gauntlet and tasted a sip  
Of potent war from above and below,  
By each lethal device employed by our foe.  
Now, time has revealed the extent of the toll  
And how bitter the fight, by the length of the scroll.

I remember forgotten the Barents, grey and bare,  
I've forgotten the names of some ships there.  
Yet the cold of the night makes me sometimes feel  
A 'hard-over' helm meet a shuddering keel  
And ghastly explosions from ghostly ships  
With the shriek of men's horror when plunged to the depths  
And as each man fought with the Barents, his killer  
He cursed all the sons of the Sons of Atilla.

*Fred T Jewett*

HMS 'Ashanti' & HMS 'Vigilant' 1941-1944

## Help

Can anyone help with photos, uniforms -  
Homeguard, Civil Defence, stories etc from  
Heddon in WWII please contact: Neil McGreevy.  
Tel: 07909 857082



# Heddon in Song

## Andy Curtis

Many of you may have been lucky to hear the children of St Andrew's Primary School choir singing our local song, *Heddon on the Wall*, in St Andrew's Church during the Hadrian's Wall 1900 Festival on Saturday 3rd September. The words are given below but you will have to look elsewhere for the tune so you can sing it in the shower.

### HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL

There's lovely vales and villages  
Upon the banks of Tyne,  
There's flowery denes and pleasant scenes,  
Where grandeur seems to shine;  
But still, 'mid all their beauty,  
There's one excels them all,  
And need I name, of rural fame,  
Old Heddon-on-the-Wall.

*Heddon-on-the-Wall,  
Heddon-on-the-Wall,  
Bold, proud, and prominent  
Stands Heddon-on-the-Wall.*

Old Heddon overlooks the Tyne,  
The pride of all the North,  
Whose sons of toil can truly boast  
Of genius and of worth;  
Her Hawthorns and her Stephensons,  
Whose fame shall never fall,  
Were reared amid the pleasant vales  
Of Heddon-on-the-Wall.

#### Chorus

Few villages can boast of such  
Historical record,  
Where ancient Britons met their foes  
With scabbard, shield, and sword;  
Proud Romans left their footprints there,  
Quite visible to all,  
In famous walls and ditches near,  
Of Heddon-on-the-Wall.

#### Chorus

Old Heddon banks with hearts are bless'd,  
Congenial and kind,  
Who sympathise with the distress'd,  
When fortune is unkind,  
I need not mention in those ranks  
The hearts in Heddon Hall,  
A mansion that adorns thy banks,  
Sweet Heddon-on-the-Wall.

#### Chorus

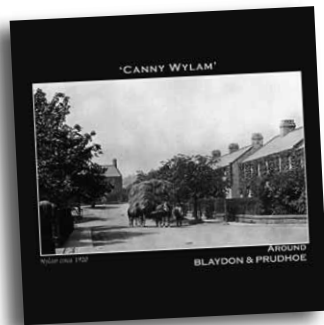
The song was written by James Anderson and published in his book, *Blyth and Tyneside Poems & Songs*, in 1898 by J Fraser, Blyth.

James Anderson was born in the village of Earsdon in 1825. Following his father into the pits, Anderson held the position of lamp man at Elswick Colliery in Newcastle for over 20 years. His early songs gained merit in the Weekly Chronicle song competitions and the composer went on to have material published in '*Chater's Tyneside Comic Annuals*' and other publications. The author was apparently as well known in his day as famous Tyneside composer Joe Wilson, although his popularity has not endured and he is not well known today.

His song, *Aw wish pay Friday wad cum*, was awarded first prize in the Weekly Chronicle song competition of 1870, beating some 176 competitors including Joe Wilson. The song records the distress caused by gambling wages away at the '*pitch and toss hoying skyeul*'. After the publication of the song the author became known as '*Pay Friday Jim*'.

If you want a copy of Heddon's anthem, it features in the album, '*Canny Wylam: Around Blaydon & Prudhoe*' by The Northumbria Anthology, released in 2002, and is available on mp3 from Amazon. Heddon on the Wall is sung by Bill Robinson.

Andy Curtis



## YOGA in the Knott Hall

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**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.

**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

Why not treat your beloved pooches to a nice relaxing groom at

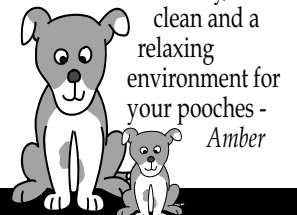
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## HEDDON GOSSIP

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

December 2022/  
January 2023

November 18th 2022  
for articles and advertising

Contact: Ian Scott

● Email:  
ianscottdesign@btinternet.com

● Mobile:  
07743 285502



## Things to do in the garden - October November.

Although the warmer summer days of September behind us there is certainly a feeling of the autumn chill setting in. Despite this it can still be a beautiful time of year in the garden as leaves change colour, autumn fruits glow in the morning sun and late flowering plants put on a late display.

Leaves falling to the ground and kicked up as you walk across the lawn can be collected up to produce a lovely leaf-mould, perfect for helping improve the soil.

Now is the time to be planting Spring flowering bulbs for a colourful display next year remembering that November is the best time to plant Tulips.

In frost-prone areas a conservatory is the ideal place for overwintering tender perennials and marginally hardy plants from the garden. Cold-sensitive plants in need of good light levels and dry, frost-free conditions will also benefit. Plants in pots that are susceptible could also be wrapped with bubblewrap, particularly if the temperatures are expected to be sub-zero,

Perennials are not demanding plants, but trimming them after flowering finishes in autumn helps improve their appearance and flowering for the following season. However, you can leave some stems over winter to provide homes and food for wildlife, and then trim back

in spring. Rather than clearing the cut stems up consider leaving them lying over the plants or piles in the garden as this again will help provide shelter for wildlife,

This time of year is a good time to consider dividing perennials as doing this regularly will ensure healthy, vigorous plants that will continue to perform year after year. It also offers the opportunity to multiply your plants.

The Autumn months are also the perfect time for planting out trees, shrubs, Roses and fruit bushes as with the soil still being warm and moist, plants will put out new root growth giving them a head start for the new season ahead. Why not give us a visit and we can help and advise on the best varieties for your garden.

### Other jobs to consider are :-

- Prune climbing roses
- Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year.
- Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf.
- Ponds are a lovely addition to any garden and can provide a rich habitat for a range of wildlife. Occasional cleaning and regular maintenance are required to ensure water is healthy for fish and other wildlife.
- In wet weather, raise pots up off the ground on 'feet' or similar to keep the bottom of the pot out of the water and prevent compost freezing.
- Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
- Plant out winter bedding
- Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
- Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well
- Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
- Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
- Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting.

Remember we are always here for help and advice.

Happy gardening from the team at Halls of Heddon

David Hall

Halls of Heddon



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## Nature Notes - Pondlife - Ruth Oatway

I wrote this article in early September with a strong sense of the changing season, and found myself reflecting on the summer just gone. One of the highlights has been watching the succession of creatures that have colonized our newly created garden pond. A wildlife pond has long been on my garden wish-list and we finally got round to making it happen, starting work in May and finishing in June.



Common Darter dragonfly. Photo: Ruth Oatway

To my astonishment a frog visited the very first day we filled the pond with water, even before we'd put in any plants, and we now have two resident frogs that we see most days. The next to colonise were the diving beetles. They seemed to appear out of nowhere within just a couple of weeks and are usually quite active and visible. We bought a variety of waterplants, mainly native British wetland species, to sit at different depths in the pond and these have attracted yet more wildlife. We soon had abundant water-snails – both the pointy-shelled pond snails and flat spiral ramshorn snails. In August I was excited to see our first dragonfly perched on a plant support at the edge of the pond. I took a photo and identified it as a female common darter. She was back laying eggs in the pond a few weeks later and I recently found dragonfly nymphs for the first time.

Other visitors have included a type of mayfly called a Pond Olive, and a Broad Centurion Soldier Fly which looks quite exotic with green eyes, golden-green thorax and metallic blue body. The birds loved the pond during the hot dry days of summer, with sparrows queuing up to bathe and a territorial blackbird hogging the best spots! I even saw a black cap take a dip a couple of times and a greater-spotted woodpecker came for a drink.

We dug our pond in spring and it can be done at any time of year, but if you feel inspired to have a go autumn is a good time as it's easier to dig when the soil's not too wet or dry and your pond will be ready for all the new life of spring. Our pond is roughly 2x2m but even a small container pond will benefit wildlife. There are several good websites including The Wildlife Trusts webpage: [www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond). The Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT) is also a good source of information. Some tips for maximizing the wildlife potential of a pond are:

- Try to create shelves and levels for a variety of plants that like different water depths. An area of at least 60cm depth will keep a more constant temperature and allows amphibians to hibernate safely as it won't freeze down to the bottom. A gently sloping shelf is great for bathing birds and allows any animals that fall in to get out safely.
- We used large flat rocks around the edges to cover the pond liner and the frogs love to hide under these and birds use them to get in and out.

- If you want amphibians to breed successfully, don't introduce fish as they eat frogspawn.
- Use rainwater, not tap water to fill your pond and keep it topped up.
- Consider using native British wetland plants. Tyne Valley Garden Centre has a good selection of pond plants and clearly marks which are native species.
- Lush vegetation around the edge of the pond will give amphibians somewhere to hide.

Throughout the summer our pond has been a constant source of interest and discovery, as well as bringing a sense of calm and relaxation. It should provide a good refuge for the frogs and other inhabitants through the winter and I'm looking forward to frogspawn in spring.



## 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)



## 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.

## 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](mailto:heddonnews@yahoo.co.uk)

mobile: 07713 646623

twitter account @heddononthewall

## 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.

## Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

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As summer drew a close, what a high point to finish on, the Hadrian 1900 festival on the 3rd of September was another example of the village at its best.

On a more serious note, there has been a continuing issue with young adults causing a nuisance at the Hall. This has been mainly in the evening on Mondays and Tuesdays and has had an impact on the enjoyment of activities held on those nights. Whilst those attending these activities have tried to ignore the disruption it is an issue which can not be ignored in the long term. Unfortunately, this issue came to a head recently with confrontation between Hall users and the young adults. As has recently been said 'recollections of events may differ,' however with the use of social media as an outlet, temperatures were raised, and partisan positions taken without a balanced view of the incident.

Let me be clear, unless open for public events Knott Hall is not open to anyone but the persons who have hired it. It is unreasonable to have anyone accessing the hall without good reason both from a security and safety issue and for the comfort and well-being of those using the hall. If for whatever reason someone needs to use the hall, common courtesy suggest they would approach the people using the Hall and gain permission. This has happened without causing any problems on a number of occasions with walkers.

I appreciate that young adults have limited opportunities to gather socially in the village and one of the comments was about a youth club or similar, the venue is there, but someone has to make it happen.

Whilst disruption of activities at the Hall can never be completely stopped, they need to be curtailed or the viability of the Hall will be called into question. It is our responsibility as residents of Heddon on the Wall ensure that our village and its facilities are used and supported properly, or they will disappear.

The event which occurred was unacceptable but was the result of ongoing repetitive nuisance behaviour and it has had a significant impact on the Hall and some of the people who use it.

As a result of the incident, the group who used the Hall have disbanded, this has resulted in a loss of revenue for the Hall which may become a problem in maintaining the Hall, but worse still for some of people who attended the group, this was their only opportunity to pursue something they enjoyed and could meet with others with the same interest.

Let us be clear about this, they did not give up their activity, it was taken from them!

As Chairman, I view my role as maintaining the Hall to provide a safe and welcoming space for the residents of Heddon to enjoy which ever activities or events they prescribe to. It has never been my intent to turn the Hall into fortress and whilst it is feasible to install CCTV and to pursue antisocial behaviour within the remit of the law, this is not an option I wish to take.

But, as is frequently expressed, we are a village surely it is not beyond our powers to behave as such?

## Future Events for your diary

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

**Big Science @ the Knott 26th October 2022 - 11.30am – 14.00pm**

Half Term fun for the kids

**Hadrian 1900 Poetry Workshop - 2nd November 2022 14.00pm – 16.00pm**

**Stairwall – things we find workshop - 9th November 2022 17.00pm - 18.30pm**

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

**Stairwall – things we find Performance - 11th November 2022 19.00pm – 22.00pm**

**Beat the Drum - Foolsgold 29th October 2022 - 19.30pm – 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 – 18.00pm – 21.00pm**

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

**Wind in the Willows 17th November 2022 19.00pm – 21.30pm**

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-memorial-hall](http://www.northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/heddon-villageknott-memorial-hall)

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

Bookings: **Hazel Thompson: Tel: 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**



## Stairwall – the things we find

The Knott Memorial Hall in Heddon, will play host to a performance of music, movement and visual art on Friday 11th November at 7pm. Esther Huss, a dance artist with over 20 years experience, having performed at venues including the Royal Opera House London, Barbican, Lilian Baylis Sadler's Wells, Somerset House, MAO Gallery and Tate Britain, will present her new piece 'Stairwall the things we find' at the Knott Memorial Hall. Alongside Esther will be Jeremy Bradfield, composer and sound artist and Claudia Sacher, visual artist.

The performance is inspired by the notion of 'Almost too serious'. It is a playful exchange between dance, visual arts and music to highlight some of our too serious and not serious enough moments in life. It is coming to Heddon following a tour of three other locations in the region, each place will see a slightly different story in the performance, reflecting the place it is being performed in.

Prior to the performance date will be the opportunity to take part in a one-hour workshop led by the three artists and exploring dance, music making and drawing. This workshop takes place at the Knott Memorial Hall at 5pm on Wednesday 9th November. Participants

will be asked to bring something along, no bigger than the palm of their hand that symbolises the place where they live. The workshops will start with a movement warm-up, and then lead into creative tasks, involving making sounds with digital and acoustic instruments, playing with contemporary style movements and engaging in large scale drawing with charcoal. This is a unique opportunity to experience how these art forms can come together and collectively create a new language for dance, music and drawing and will be lots of fun! All ages are welcome, however anyone under 16 years will have to be accompanied by an adult.

To book a place on the free workshop or a ticket for the performance, please visit [www.esther-moves.com](http://www.esther-moves.com) Tickets for the performance will be on a 'pay what you can' basis. It promises to be a fabulous evening, and following the performance you will have the opportunity to speak with all artists. If you have any questions regarding the workshop or performance please email:

Sarah Hudson - Producer on [sarah@culture-management.co.uk](mailto:sarah@culture-management.co.uk)



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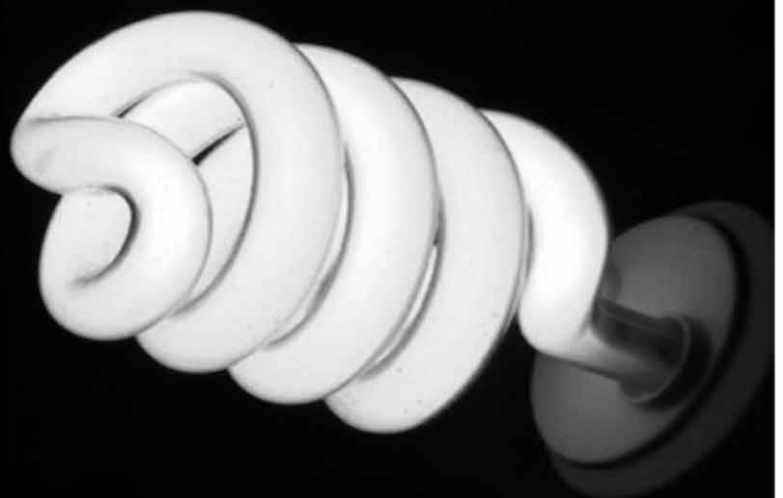
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# AD MURUM Singers

After a Summer break Ad Murum choir is back in full practice mode again on Tuesday evenings from 7-30 pm to 9-00pm at the Heddon Methodist Church. Practices started on September 6th and plans are being made for the Christmas Concert to be held in the Knott Hall on Friday December 9th and Saturday December 10th. The choir welcomes newcomers, and any enthusiastic tenors out there would be particularly encouraged to join.

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  
Contact Christine:  
Tel: 0191 2740217

## 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



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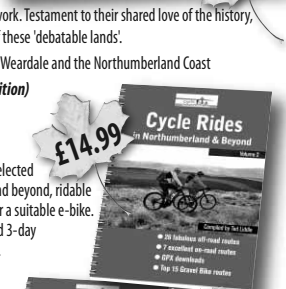
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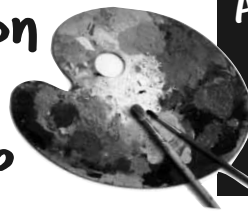
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**Heddon Art Group**  
**Annual Exhibition**  
8th - 9th October  
Sat: 11.00am - 4.00pm  
Sun: 11.00am - 4.00pm



The busy year for Heddon Art Group continues. Following the successful Queen's Jubilee Exhibition in June and the Hadrian's Wall 1900 exhibition in September, we have our Annual Exhibition on 8th and 9th October in the Women's Institute.

And this is a special year for the Group. It is our 50th year since the group first started. So we have yet another anniversary to celebrate in 2022.

We continue to 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.

If you are interested in joining the Group please contact David Chambers on [chambers497@btinternet.com](mailto:chambers497@btinternet.com) for more details.

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## BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

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





## Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – 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. The problem of the noise these frequent flights make, was due to be raised (again!) at a meeting of the Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee, Noise Sub-Group, due to be held on 9th September. This was to be the first meeting after its adjournment during the Covid pandemic period. However, the meeting was postponed due to the concern, at that time, about the Queen's health and its possible outcome; as I write, a reconvened meeting is yet to take place. ANAG has a seat on this Sub-Group and has proposed several agenda items to be included for discussion. Hopefully some informed discussion will take place with a view to a resolution.

A further matter which has caused correspondence between ANAG and the Airport management, is the apparent discrepancy between their tracked aircraft routes and the lived experience of residents under the flight paths. This apparent inconsistency is also yet to be resolved.

People signing up to receive updates from ANAG has increased recently, so if you 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. If you continue to be bothered by aircraft noise, you can quickly and easily complain on ANAG's website.

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 can also be found on the ANAG website.

*Robin Brooks  
Heddon Banks*



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- Journaling
- Watercolour
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- School Supplies
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# 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

Colin Barrick being presented with a painting of Heddon Methodist Church after his final service on 7th August.

At the beginning of September Deacon Maggie Patchett was welcomed to Heddon Methodist Church.



## MESSY CHURCH

Following the session on 24th September (see previous details)

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

Keep a look out in the next Heddon Gossip, 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](mailto:lynnwoodward@hotmail.com)  
or Tel: 07809 683213 if you'd like to help

## 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.

## USE IT! OR LOSE!

We welcome visitors to come in and keep warm during opening hours and are tentatively looking at extending the hours, but will need more volunteers if this is to happen. Please get in contact (via the library) if you would like to be part of this 'warm places'.

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



Girls on Tour! Heddon WI relaxing on their visit to 'The Beacon' Stocksfield



HM Queen Elizabeth II  
1926-2022

## theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon out visiting 'The Beacon' at Stocksfield, the garden of Patricia and Derek Hodgson, on 1st August. We were blessed with fabulous weather which was an added bonus. After our admiration for this challenging garden, all on a very steep slope, we were treated to afternoon tea, cake and scones and were able to purchase plants to bring home. Everyone had a great time.

Our September meeting was a 'hands-on' session with one of our very own members demonstrating how to make rice paper roses which could then be attached to cards or gift bags etc. The centre was a small sweet which meant one could eat the whole thing! Children particularly would be delighted to receive one I'm sure. In October Sue Molloy, from the Northumberland Federation, will be demonstrating 'Cooking for One,' which we hope members will find useful as it is increasingly hard to find recipes for one

person. If you live alone you sometimes end up having the same meal several days running to use up your surplus! November is a travelogue with Kath and Harry Gilbert. We haven't seen Kath and Harry for quite some time and look forward to this interesting film show, they often visit places no-one else would think of. This takes us through to December when we hope to enjoy food and friendship together at our local hostelry. Notices will continue to appear on the notice boards with upcoming meetings. If you see anything you fancy please join us, you will be made most welcome.

Pauline.

## St Oswald's Hospice Christmas Market!



**Saturday 26th November, 11am - 3pm**

St Oswald's Hospice, Regent Ave, Gosforth, NE3 1EE

**Entry: £2 | Under 16's go free**

Book your tickets now at

[www.stoswaldsuk.org/christmas-market-2022](http://www.stoswaldsuk.org/christmas-market-2022)

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