

HEDDON GOSSIP



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

APRIL • MAY 2023

1000 miles walked... nearly!

Rose Furlonger was hoping to complete the 1000 mile walk before her 80th birthday to raise money for MNDA, after her husband Mike died of Motor Neurone Disease in 2018.

Alas Rose's 80th birthday came and went leaving her 68 miles short, which she is hoping to tick off by the end of March.



Rose Furlonger rear right, friends and the Mouthful Voices choir passing Close Lea, Heddon Banks clocking up the miles on 1000 miles walk for Motor Neurone Disease.

Accompanied by many of her friends on the various walks Rose was joined recently on a special walk with members of the Mouthful Voices choir, who came to Heddon-on-the-Wall to support her clocking up a few more miles towards her goal of 1,000 miles for MNDA. In her words *'we met and sang a few songs at the Wall, then walked - singing - up Hexham Road, and sang in the park beside the tree dedicated to Mike. Then on through the Common, singing at various points, including the Butterfly Garden, and back up Heddon Banks. Just*

wonderful; I'm so grateful for their support! Only 76 miles to go...'

Six people are diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND) every day in the UK.

She would be so grateful for your support, anything you can donate really will help to make a difference in the fight against MND. *'It will help to keep me motivated as I take on this epic challenge too!'*

If you would like to donate go to **JustGiving** and type in 'Rose Furlonger' in the 'Search for a friend or charity' drop down which should bring up 'Rose's Page' and follow instructions to donate.



Rose Furlonger surrounded by friends and the Mouthful Voices taking a breather in the Welfare Field.

Rose taking a welcome break.



Celebrating the Kings Coronation in Heddon

As we go to print plans are still being drawn up for events taking place in Heddon to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on the 6th of May.

A Coronation afternoon tea is to be held at the Knott Hall, in a similar fashion to the Jubilee tea. To fall into line with the voluntary element of the Coronation, we would be undertaking two things.

1. Those unable to attend through age or infirmity would get a boxed tea, this would be delivered by a volunteer prior to the event.
2. At the event there will be provision for food bank collection.

Plans are also being made for something for children after the afternoon tea.

Singer Josh Hodgson will be singing live at the Swan 8-30pm start.

The Three Tuns will be holding events, see their Facebook page for more details as they appear.

There will also be postings on *Heddon Matters*, Facebook pages and on notice boards on upcoming events celebrating the Coronation.

King Charles III's Coronation will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey in London. During the ceremony, the King will be crowned alongside Camilla, the Queen Consort.

The Coronation is both the symbolic religious ceremony during which a sovereign is crowned and the physical act of placing a crown on a monarch's head.

It formalises the monarch's role as the head of the Church of England and marks the transfer of their title and powers.

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

A Place for Everyone

Despite the cold spell in March, there are now definitely signs that Spring is here, the lambs in the fields, the flowers peeping through the damp earth and signs of new life all around.

St. Andrew's Church continues to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays to welcome any one who would like to visit and spend some time to admire the building or simply to enjoy some peace and quiet.

We are delighted that the Church is now being used by regular groups such as the History Society and the Group organising the Culture Festival which is scheduled to take place in September. There has also been a weekly Lent group meeting and Heddon St. Andrew's Primary School are regular visitors either when they are studying particular topics or to celebrate special events such as Mothering Sunday.

Reception Class spent a lovely morning with Revd. Rachel, exploring the church and learning all about Baptism.

This year we are celebrating the Festival of Pentecost with a Festival of Fire. This will be a joint occasion with the school, the Three Tuns and the churches of Heddon.

The date for the Festival is Friday 19th May beginning at school at 1.30p.m.

The event will begin with an assembly at school followed by all classes creating crafts with a Pentecost theme.

After school, the children are invited to the Knott Memorial Hall where the school choir will sing for us and refreshments will be provided by the Three Tuns.

The event will continue with a service of prayers and singing in St. Andrew's Church then lighting the candles on a large birthday cake which will depict the fire of Pentecost.

The event will conclude at 5.30 p.m.

Please put the date in your diary as there will definitely be something for everyone.

In addition to our usual services, please see below for other events:

Sunday 2nd April – (Palm Sunday) Messy Church at the Methodist Church. 4-6p.m.

Our theme this time will be Holy Week and Easter.

Thursday 18th May at 9.30a.m. – Service of Holy Communion for Ascension Day

In April, the important season of Easter will be celebrated. Please see the list below of the special services which are arranged for the week between Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday which will follow Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through the sorrow of his crucifixion on Good Friday and culminating in the His Glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We would love to welcome you to any or all of our Easter Services.



EASTER SERVICES:

Thursday 6th April at 4.00 p.m. - Service of Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday including washing of feet and stripping of the altar.

Friday 7th April at 10.00 a.m. - Service for Good Friday.

Saturday 8th April: at 7.00 p.m. Joint Service at Matfen Church for Easter Saturday. This is one of the most different but also special services of the year. We will begin in the village hall for the Story of Salvation and then have a fire outside church to bring the Christ Light into church, where we will have the Stations of the Resurrection.

Sunday 9th April at 10.00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion for Easter Sunday.

Sunday 30th April at 10.00 a.m. – Christian Aid Sunday Service:
Joint Service with Heddon Methodist of Holy Communion at St. Andrew's Church

Messy Church: Sunday 2 April 4-6pm

Theme: Palm Sunday

A united activity with Heddon Methodist Church and St Andrew's Church

Being held at the Methodist Church - All families welcome

Useful Points of Contact :

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

Revd. 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.

HEDDON GOSSIP

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

June/ July 2023 May 20th for articles and advertising

Contact: Ian Scott

● Email: ianscottdesign@btinternet.com

● Mobile: 07743 285502



Heddon Methodist Church

Minister: Deacon Maggie Patchett - Tel: 01661 854073

Email: deaconmaggiep@gmail.com

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

***Easter Services:**

Maunday Thursday - 6 April at 7pm

Good Friday - 7 April at 3pm

Easter Sunday - 9 April at 10.30am

***Christian Aid Sunday Service:**

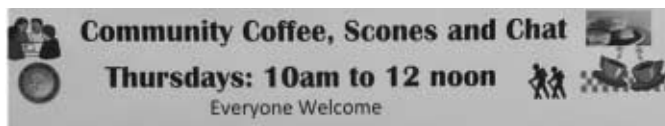
A united service with Heddon Methodist and St Andrew's Church

Taking place at St Andrew's Church - Sunday 30 April 10.00am

Bible Study: Tuesdays 7.00pm

Men's Coffee Fellowship: First Saturday of the month 10.00-11.15am

Warm Space Community Coffee Mornings: Thursdays 10.00-12.00am - Coffee, Scones and Chat



Messy Church: Sunday 2 April 4-6pm - Theme: Palm Sunday

A united activity with Heddon Methodist Church and St Andrew's Church Being held at the Methodist Church - All families welcome

Lent Course Jointly with Heddon Methodist and St Andrew's Churches

There is a choice of two:

One in the daytime, and one in the evening for 5 weeks

The Theme is: **'Journeying through the desert'** Worship in the Wilderness'

Starting on Monday 27th Feb at 10 am at St Andrew's Church – with refreshments

Starting on Tuesday 28th Feb 7pm at Heddon Methodist Church – with refreshments

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



This is just to remind Heddon residents that a box for donations to the Newcastle West End Foodbank is located outside the side door at the Methodist Church. The contents of the box are taken regularly to the Foodbank warehouse at Lemington.

The level of donations has dropped off a bit, especially after exceptional giving over the Christmas period. So please donate, if you can. As before, the most urgently needed items are:

- Tinned fruit
- Instant mash
- Baby milk and formula
- Nappies (size 4 and larger).

But please also, no perishables and no clothing.

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

Your Council

We are pleased to introduce our new members to Heddon on the Wall Parish Council. Michael Wilson re-joined the council at our most recent meeting to continue the work he is spearheading, and we are joined by Kim Ince who will bring her own expertise and experience to the council. This new membership brings us close to full strength in terms of the councillors with Paul as Chair and Richard as Vice-Chair. You can find details about our councillors on the Parish Council website. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, then please contact us to find out more or register your interest.

A huge thank you to Fiona White and Adam Lillico for their support and commitment during their tenure as Parish Councillors.

We are still advertising for the position of Parish Council Clerk and applications for this role are open.

Our strategic plan

We have successfully delivered a number of projects throughout the Parish which include the ongoing maintenance of the areas that we have responsibility for. Amidst the global pandemic and Storm Arwen, we haven't progressed some areas as quickly as we would have like to, but we've added these to our Strategic Plan so that you can see what we have underway. We often ask for volunteers to support the Parish Council, and we're hoping that our Strategic Plan gives you an idea of what we're working on and plan to deliver, so if you can bring your skills to a certain project or area of specialism e.g. project management, communications, policies, supporting events, working with residents to consult on opportunities that we have. We've listed a few here, but to be honest, the list is endless, if you have something to offer, then we can definitely utilise that support. Please do get in touch for an informal chat or with any ideas you would like support in taking forward.

The development of Heddon Guides came from one of these discussions, and it's great to see the project evolve and bring new activity to the village.

HEDDON ON-THE-WALL PARISH COUNCIL

April/May

Our Mission Statement:

To maintain and improve our village for all.

A copy of the full Strategic Plan is on the website.

Aircraft Noise Action Group

The Parish Council would like to thank Graham Pyle for his support as a volunteer and being our representative on the Aircraft Noise Action Group. One of the recently appointed councillors, Alan Turnbull will take the reins and be our representative going forward.

Dates for the diary

Parish Council Meetings - Held at the Library meeting at 7pm.

- 12th April 2023
- 10th May 2023
- 14th June 2023
- 12th July 2023
- 13th September 2023
- 11th October 2023
- 8th November 2023
- 13th December 2023

Organised Litter Pick

Meet at the Memorial Park at 10.30am.

- 29th April, 2023
- 21st October 2023

Butterfly and Roman Herb Garden Meet Ups

Meetings at the gardens will start in May.

- every Sunday except for Bank Holiday weekends

Celebrations

King Charles III Coronation celebrations - 6th May 2023

Remembrance Sunday - 12th November 2023

Job adverts - Parish Council Clerk

Paid opportunity - 6-8 hours per week

This role has a good level of flexibility with the clerk supporting the Council in

- effective management of its resources
- statutory duties and governance for the council
- responsible for the financial records
- administration including minutes, agendas, correspondence and communications.

The role is part time with hours that can be flexible to suit, pay scale will depend on the applicant's experience. Please contact us to find out more.

Councillor vacancy

Supporting the Parish Council and community to deliver the Strategic Plan. Working together to make collective agreements to support the maintenance and improvements within the Heddon on the Wall Parish.

You will need to be a resident within the Parish and there is a simple form to confirm your eligibility. Please contact us to register your interest.

Contact us

Chair: Paul Edwards t: 01661 886853 e: heddonpc@gmail.com
e: heddonpc@gmail.com. w: <https://heddon.parish-council.com/>
Asset Officer: Lorraine Twizell t: 01661 854583
e: heddonassessofticer@gmail.com

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Heddon on the Wall Parish Council - Strategic Plan

Our Mission Statement: Here to maintain and improve our village for all

Maintaining the village for all

Ongoing activity that supports community cohesion, maintenance of our assets and responding to critical events such as storms, flooding etc.

- Enhancing Parish Council governance, roles, responsibilities and accountabilities
- Defining the role of the full Parish Council and engaging with our community including; Residents, Businesses, Churches, School, Volunteers, Knott Hall, WI, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Heddon United FC Juniors
- Maintain allotments ensuring facilities are in a good state of repair
- Maintain business centre and library premises
- Grounds maintenance contract delivery ensuring Parish Council land is maintained
- Village maintenance contract delivery ensuring the Parish Council assets are maintained
- Communication and transparency of activity through the Parish Council website and relevant Facebook pages and bi-monthly contributions for Heddon Gossip
- Liaison with Northumberland County Council - Highways Recommendations, Glass Recycling, Bus Routes
- Supporting key events such as Remembrance Sunday, religious dates of note, Christmas festivities and local groups
- Review of planning applications
- Supporting volunteer led activities such litter picking and planter maintenance
- Monitoring and signposting residents to Newcastle Airport Noise Complaint Line/ Aircraft Noise Action Group

Improving the village for all Current projects

- Working on feedback provided by residents in response to the Heddon Village Survey
- Sponsor a Tree being planted in the Memorial Park and Welfare Field
- Library - boiler replacement project
- Exploring 'Warm Hub' arrangements, working with local Churches, Knott Hall, WI and businesses
- Drafting new proposal and tendering document for grounds maintenance contract
- Memorial Park Refurbishment
- Proposals over the future use of Selman Park
- Hadrian's MOSAIC - ongoing maintenance once in place on the Bridleway
- Roman Herb garden - procurement and sourcing of plants and herbs for garden beds
- Welfare field/ MUGA enhancement and improvement
- Christmas Lights project future proofing for 2023 onwards
- Village Character Assessment
- Working collaboratively with St Andrew's Church to explore options for a Community Cemetery once graveyard is full
- Change Environment



HEDDON LIBRARY - OPENING HOURS

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*)

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info.heddontiling@gmail.com

**HEDDON ON THE WALL
AND FLOOR TILING**

Nature Notes - Appreciating Ancient Trees

Ruth Oatway

One of the things that first attracted me to Heddon-on-the-Wall was the beautiful woodland around the village. Heddon Common and Slack's Plantation are great for walks all year round to enjoy the changing seasons. We also have some lovely mature trees on the Village Green, and patches of woodland around Close House Golf Course and in the surrounding countryside. These woodlands provide habitat for a lot of the other wildlife we enjoy too. The older trees are particularly valuable as they tend to have more holes, nooks and crannies that can be used by other plants and animals.

It was sad to see so many trees damaged during the storms of winter 2021/22 but dead and decaying wood (both standing and fallen) is a very valuable habitat in its own right. It supports fungi, some of which soften the wood making it more suitable for insects (including some rare ones) which in turn support birds like woodpeckers, tree creepers, nuthatches and goldcrests, and many species of bats.

Veteran and ancient trees are more abundant in Britain than elsewhere in Northern Europe. This is largely due to our cultural heritage of wood-pasture and parkland landscapes, but there are no reliable statistics on the extent, nor on rates of loss of these habitats. My husband recently came across the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory which aims to map the location and features of Britain's oldest and most characterful trees so they can be better understood and conserved in the future. The Woodland Trust points out that:

'Ancient trees are as much a part of our heritage as stately homes, cathedrals and works of art. But they don't get the same protection'

Anyone can contribute by submitting a record to be added to the map. We noticed that there were no records in the area immediately around Heddon but we'd seen trees on our local walks that would meet the criteria for recording as notable, veteran or ancient.

Notable trees are usually mature trees which may stand out in the local environment because they are large in comparison with other trees around them.

A **veteran** tree will have some of the features found on an ancient tree but won't have the great age.

A tree is defined as **ancient** if it is:

- In the third or final stage of its life (this stage can go on for decades or centuries).
- Old relative to others of the same species.
- Interesting biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its great age.

We downloaded the recording form and information from the website and started recording a few of the trees that can be surveyed from public rights of way. The surveys were fairly easy and didn't take much time but made us look more closely at our local trees and notice how many other species they support. Trees can be recorded at any time of year but spring/early summer is good as it's easier to

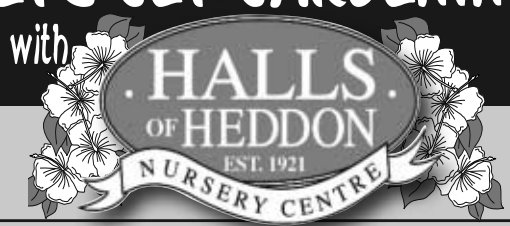
identify the species once some leaves have opened but to view the whole tree before the canopy becomes too dense.

Next time you're out on a walk around Heddon or further afield, take a closer look at some of the most characterful trees and consider adding them to the Ancient Tree Inventory: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>



Weather beaten beech tree, Slacks Plantation. Photo: © Ruth Oatway

LET'S GET GARDENING


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Gold Award for Local Business

WPG Lettings of Heddon-on-the-Wall have just won The British Property Lettings Award - Gold Winner for Newcastle upon Tyne (NE12-16) 2022-2023

They said of WPG Lettings *'Their team performed outstandingly throughout the extensive judging period, which focused on customer service levels.'*

With winning this award WPG Lettings have now been shortlisted for a number of national awards.

The British Property Awards provides agents throughout the UK with an invaluable opportunity to compare the service that they provide against the service provided by their, local regional and national competition.

Agents who go the extra mile are rewarded with The British Property Lettings accolade, which acts as a beacon to highlight these attributes to their local marketplace.

THE BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS are one of the most inclusive estate agency awards providers as they do not charge to enter.

The team personally mystery shops every estate agent against a set of 25 criteria to obtain a balanced overview of their customer service levels.

Robert McLean from The British Property Awards said *'Winning agents should be proud that their customer service levels provide a benchmark for their local regional and national competition.'*

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look out for full details
In the near future!*

*A warm welcome awaits at
the Soul of Heddon!*



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

Memories of life in Heddon by Elizabeth 'Betty' Cockburn

Andy Curtis & Beryl Amos

Part 2

Continued from last edition

My Mother's Mother lived at Crawcrook. We often walked from Hill Head to Crawcrook to see her. How weary our Mother must have been many a time before we got back home.

My Father's Mother lived at Whickham. Her name was Patterson having been married twice. She was blind. My Mother used to go and see her. She always took me and my smallest sister. We had to walk from Scotswood Bridge. I got the job of carrying the young one when we got to Whickham Bank, piggy-back. We used to sit down halfway for a rest. My heart used to ache for the horses that pulled loads up that hill.

There was a steep hill going to our house at Hill Head and the roadway got very bad for the horses and carts so it was decided to pen it with stones from the quarry. John Hunter and Jack Dunn did the job. I and George Laws pulled the barrow with the stones on.

We used to look forward to tattie picking time. That was the chance to earn a shilling if you were lucky to get set on. One farmer I knew was kind and gave you a few potatoes as well as your shilling. At another farm you got your shilling or a pail of potatoes. Those tatties were very welcome in our house and you forgot about your aching back next day.

When our Father worked at Heddon Pit there were two shifts, fore shift and back shift. Fore shift started at 12.30am and we used to creep about the house in case we made a noise and woke him. We must have been a real trial to our Mam as she tried to keep us quiet. The seams of coal were only eighteen inches high and he often came home with skin scraped from his back and legs.

With working at the pit Father got a load of coal every month. It was just duff and small stuff but it kept us warm. You could get three bucketfuls onto the back of our fire. We picked sticks out of the wood for kindling the fire. The fireplace was built of brick with a round oven and a set-pot to heat the water but we could never use that because it was cracked. Our Mother used to blacklead the whole fireplace till it shone.

Father continued working as a miner till Heddon pit closed. They used candles down the pit for light. He had a candle box in which he put five candles and he had a squib box. These were like yellow straws filled with powder and were used to fire the shots down the pit to loosen the coal. Our chimney at home often needed cleaning of soot and Father used to light one of these squibs and it used to shoot up the chimney and bring the soot down.

We had all the water to carry for the household. The well was down the field at the back of our cottage about three hundred yards. You had to lie on your stomach and reach down into the well with the bucket. After rain you had no trouble getting water because it used to run over, but in the Summer water got very scarce.

In the Winter there was always a proggy mat in the frames. All us children progged when we were big enough. Our prodders were

made from clothes pegs and your finger ends did get sore pulling the clippings through the canvas. It was quite an occasion when the mat was finished and we cut it out of the frames.

Our cottage consisted of one big room and a pantry. My Father and Mother slept in a big double bed in the far corner of the living room. My sisters and I slept in a dess bed, which had to be folded up every morning. It had legs that folded back and these legs had to be straight when the bed was unfolded each night or else you landed on the floor, many a laugh we had when this happened.

Across the yard from our door was the midden. Everything went into it from three cottages. There was one dry closet for three families and this all ran into the midden. When the midden was full the men folk got the loan of a cart and horse from the farm at Houghton and cleaned it all away. It was awful in the Summer when we had to hang fly-catchers in our house because we lived nearest to the midden and there was swarms of flies.

Another treat we got once a year was a trip to Ryton Willows. Mother used to make tatty pies the night before and the next morning we all walked down Heddon Bank, past Heddon Station to Moor Court, to the river side and got the boat over the river to the Willows. It cost a halfpenny each. There was a horse brake waiting and we all piled in and got a ride over to the shuggy boats that cost another halfpenny. We had very many happy days on the Willows.

I can remember the Peace Tea at the end of the Great War 1914-18. It was held in the Killiebrigs field belonging to Mr. Shield of Heddon Banks. All the children got a bag of buns and a new penny. We also ran races and I won a shilling in the potato race. The field is now a big housing estate.

There was a big quarry not far from where we live. We called it Hunter's Quarry. It was owned by George Hunter who lived at Hill Head in the big house. He had workmen who carved gravestones in the Quarry. There was also a joiners shop. They blasted the rock down in big chunks then split it and trimmed it for house building. There was also a big crane but I never saw that working. A man called Chambers fell off the crane and was killed and a small cross was chiselled in the rock face where he fell. This quarry was filled up (1979) with refuse.

There was a smaller quarry nearer Heddon and we called that one the Paddock Pond because we went there for frogs eggs and we called frogs Paddocks. This pond used to freeze in the Winter and we used to slide on it, unknown to our Mother, of course. I lost one of my clogs in there one day. That quarry is also filled with refuse now.

I left school at fourteen. I still had three sisters still at school, Sarah, Winnie and Alice who was the baby. Our Mother was a semi invalid then and my older sister, Margaret, looked after the house. Our oldest sister, Barbara, was working as a servant on a farm. As the strike was on at that time I had to look for a job. I got a job at March's farm at Houghton looking after cattle. It was Winter time and the cattle were fastened up in the byres. It was very hard work. The wages were one shilling a day. I had to muck them out and feed them. I was just a little lass about five stone and that muck had to be filled into a barrow and wheeled out to a big heap and shoved onto the top. The barrow sometimes got the better of me and it tipped and I had it all to do again.

I also cut the turnips into ships and carried them in a basket to each beast. I also fed them hay. This feeding had to be done twice a day and I got a shilling a day for that.

The boss sometimes sent me with corn on my back in a sack to

feed sheep as well. I was the only one in our house to take any money home that Winter. My footwear was a pair of my Father's old pit boots full of hob nails and very heavy. I also had to give the cattle a pail of water each day, which had to be hand pumped in an outhouse and carried across the yard to the byre.

Another job on the farm was a back breaking job. I had an apron made from a sack fastened around my waist and I filled this with small stones from the field, then tipped them in the hedge. The wickens were generally burned. Pulling yellows was another job, often you did this on your own and got very lonely for nine pence a day.

Our Darling Mother was only forty eight when she died. She is buried behind Church House in the old cemetery at Heddon. I had to come back home and as I had been away nearly a year I was longing to see my sisters. It was November and a cold frosty moonlight night when I got back to Newcastle. My sister Margaret had promised to meet me off the bus but somehow she missed me and I had to get home myself. When I got home all my younger sisters were sitting round the fireplace, but there was no Mother and we all had a good cry and they were all pleased to see me and hear about my year away.

Andy Curtis

Gone but not forgotten

Charles Edward Bell

On approximately 29th January, sadly Eddie passed away at home. He had recently been in hospital, was aware that he was slowing down, but was still doing his weekly shop, being fiercely independent, and seemed to be on the mend.

Charles Edward Bell, known as Eddie was born on 18th Feb 1942 in Northern Ireland. His father, also Charles Edward, died when he was very young so he became a father figure to his younger sister. Initially he trained as an electrician, but didn't like it, and so went to work on a farm, driving tractors, for about year before, at the age of 17, he joined the army - the Royal Signals, where he served for 26 years.

When he left the army he worked in the prison service then in security at Fenwick's apartment stores in Newcastle.

He retired about 16 years ago and made Heddon-on-the-Wall, a place he loved, his home.

He was a good son and brother and uncle. His mum idolised him - as I think did his nephew, Charlie, Charles Edward, who was named after him, and loved him dearly. Charlie's 21 week old son, Eddie is also Charles Edward. Charlie said Eddie never forgot his nephew's birthday, and added that Eddie was one of those people who would have done anything for anyone - he was truly a good person.

Eddie will be sadly missed by all the Bailie family and his friends who knew him. RIP uncle.

Eddie was cremated during February at the West Road Crematorium which featured a number of soldiers, some travelling from York, including 4 flag-bearers, a piper and a bugler, who all provided a very moving spectacle. This was very low-key in other respects, following Eddie's wishes. The music chosen for Eddie's village service, led by Deacon Maggie Patchett at the Methodist Church on Wednesday 8th March, was purposely upbeat including *When Irish Eyes are Smiling* and *Danny Boy*. Poems were read by Mr T. Smith and myself and a few words spoken. With permission of course, Marilyn Chapman, as she did at the cremation, took video clips throughout the service, in order that Eddie's family from Belfast who could not attend would at least share some of the moments. Eddie's ashes were placed in the ground by Mr T. Smith and covered by a number of those present. RIP C. E. Bell.

E. Bell, C. E. Bell (nephew) and Peter Chapman



Joyce Laws

The Laws family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and condolences following the death of Joyce.

The Dementia society received £420 from the collection which was most appreciated.

Joyce passed away peacefully at home with her loving family by her side. On Wednesday 8th February 2023 aged 94.





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Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

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It may be chronological spring but there has been a definite chill about, not that you would have noticed when the West Coast Band were back in the Hall. This has become an annual event and heralds the start of the years entertainment. Brian Hume and the rest of the band were in fine form and a heady mix of tracks from the seventies and eighties were enough to get some of the audience on their feet. A really good night and fine start to the year.

As you read this edition of the 'Gossip' The Knott Hall AGM will have passed, in an attempt to encourage more participation the event was made less structured with coffee and biscuits, this is normally guaranteed to get people in. Hopefully this more inclusive approach has enabled those of you interested in becoming more involved with the Hall to make the leap.

Future Events for your diary

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

Dark Skies: 21st April 2023

Dark Light is based on the true events of 1900 regarding the mysterious disappearance of three Lighthouse keepers from a remote island. The mystery is still unsolved until this day.

Or is it..? The show features all the classic FG elements, a great story, fascinating visuals and of course live music to tell the tale. At the end you will be able to decide what happened based on the facts - and fictions - presented: turn Time Detective while you are entertained!

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

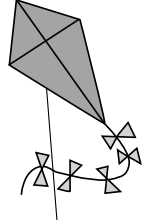
Pie and Peas Coronation Tea - 8th May 2023

The Coronation Afternoon tea, a celebration for the Coronation. The event will provide the usual sumptuous afternoon tea with a glass of sparkles to toast King Charles. Once again for those unable to attend through illness or infirmity a boxed tea will be arranged.

Heddon Culture (The Festival) - 1st-3rd September 2023

Following last years successful Hadrian 1900 event it was felt that all the enthusiasm, enjoyment and community should not be simply let pass. The 3 day event will have:-

The Village Show
Music Concerts
Workshops/Talks – Music, History, Literature
Food
And KITES



Stop Press:

2nd September 19.30 Knott Hall PRELUDE confirmed as highlight music event for the festival.



Knott Memorial Hall - Contact Details

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

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

Bookings: Hazel Thompson: 01661 85368

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

VILLAGE DIARY

Please note the Village Diary is now held in The Swan The diary is for the whole village to use in order to avoid, wherever possible, two events happening on the same day.

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Hadrian's Head

A racing synopsis review

Really old wall, has birthday.

A big party, lots of candles for cake (1900)

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.

Got permissions, everyone likes it, still don't know who owns land Mosaic on display at Knott Hall.

We are almost there.....

So, the 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, this means they have to spend some money. The quotes are in and looking forward to finalising a date for installation.

Do you want a block

It has been measured in Pes (Roman feet), Feet (English feet) had to use Scottish feet when measured on North Side and the fiddly metric stuff. The first bit will take 240 blocks, each can be engraved with two lines of text.

It is anticipated blocks will be available to purchase 1st April 2023. The first options will be to residents of Heddon, followed by those living near the Wall then the World.

David Blackett



Heddon-on-the-Wall

What's on at the Swan



LIVE MUSIC

Acoustic duo

Two for the Road

Sat 15th April start 7:30pm



LIVE MUSIC

Josh Hodgson

Sat 6th May start 8:30pm
(kings coronation day)

New Spring Dishes

coming to our Menu on 28th March

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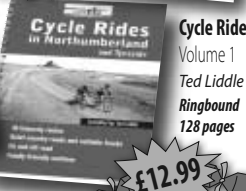
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Ringbound 160 pages



Northumberland Calendar 2023

Featuring the images of locally based photographer
Anita Nicholson
Size 30cms x 30cms



Cycle Rides Volume 1
Ted Liddle
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On Sunday, April 30th at 10am in St Andrew's Church, there will be a joint service for the churches in the village celebrating the work of Christian Aid. This is an invitation to everyone in the community who would like to come along, share in the service, find out more about the work of this charity with a speaker from Christian Aid and enjoy some delicious refreshments afterwards.



Christian Aid has been responding to humanitarian emergencies and disasters around the world since 1945, providing urgently needed immediate relief and long-term support. Christian Aid Week was founded more than 60 years ago to fight for justice. Today the aftermath of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, the continuing war in Ukraine and the impact of climate change are just three of the many reasons why the work of Christian Aid for the families it supports, regardless of their faith, is needed now more than ever.

Christian Aid Week 14th-20th May, 2023

For more than 35 years Christian Aid week has been marked in Heddon with the red envelope scheme, which in 2022, despite the challenges of COVID, raised in excess of £1,600. If the envelope scheme is to continue this year, then we are seeking someone, or a group, who would be willing to undertake the organisation involved. If you think you might be able to do so, please get in touch and we would be happy to give our support to helping this to happen.

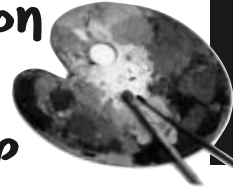
Increasingly people are making donations to charities on line and it may be that this year Christian Aid week in Heddon will depend on online giving. Although the challenges faced by the charity are enormous, every penny is a step closer to a fairer world. If you are able to give a contribution in whatever way in May, you will be helping to ensure this essential work continues. Thank you.

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/A002958>

Diane and Trevor Darwin

dianedarwin1@gmail.com

Heddon Art Group



**NEW year
NEW members
welcome**

Heddon Art Group has welcomed several new members and started its programme of meetings and events for 2023. We meet fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons (1:30 to 3:30) and fortnightly Wednesday evening meetings (7:00 to 9:00), leading up to the ever-popular Annual Exhibition.

We meet in the W.I. Hall, with a programme of themed and free-style sessions and guest visiting artists throughout the year. A social and inclusive group, we welcome all media (watercolour, acrylic, oil, pastel, pen, pencil etc), all Styles and all levels of interest, from new-starters to leisurely amateurs and serious artists.

If you would like to bring your paint, brushes and paper etc to one of our sessions, perhaps on a Tuesday afternoon, you will most welcome. There is a £3 cover charge and you don't have to become a full member.

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

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*

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INSPIRING WOMEN

Welcome to the latest W.I. update.

In February Liesbeth Langford gave us a wonderful talk on how she fell in love with England and her life here, which was so very different from here early childhood in German occupied Holland during the second world war.

Saturday 25th February, we had our annual Pancake Day. This event was well attended and much appreciated by all. Pancakes and tray bake's a plenty – Thank you to all who contributed in anyway.

March saw us celebrating our 106th Birthday with a party, we had a Pie and Pea Supper followed by a Birthday cake and petit fours – delicious! To tax our brains, we had a quiz and then were entertained by members with poems and stories. Lots of laughter and chat throughout a very enjoyable evening.

April will see us welcoming a speaker from AGE UK who will update us on the current scams and frauds and hopefully how to avoid falling victim to them. This should be a very interesting and informative meeting with lots of tips and hints.

Our annual meeting is in May where we will have a short business meeting, a talk from one of our Federation member and the election of the committee for 2023/2024.

As our meeting falls on the Coronation Bank Holiday we will celebrate with wine and cheese and dress in red, white and blue.

We will soon be putting together our programme for the coming year. There will be a wide variety of speakers and hands on meetings to choose from as well as outings and of course our Christmas meal, hopefully something for everyone to enjoy!

Join us if you see something you fancy learning about or trying out, we would love to see you.

Lesley

Heddon Residents' Association

Regular readers of this item will be aware that we have not got involved in very much for a considerable time, although we have continued to do some work on certain things in the background. But that changed recently when a chance meeting between one of our executive members and our local MP Guy Opperman took place in the village.

Inevitably the issue of speeding in the village cropped up - it has long been one of our bug-bears as we became aware whilst walking through and around the village that it is not a minority but the vast majority of motorists who are speeding and sometimes quite dangerously so. We take the view that it makes sense to try to avoid accidents rather than wait until there is one. And, after all, there are fairly clear speed limit signs dotted around. But the Police, despite advertising for speed-watch volunteers some years ago, have been reluctant to invest their time and money in this issue. We are aware of course that funding and staffing shortages are at the root of this. However, Mr. Opperman took the matter very seriously and immediately got his office into action, contacting the Police and the Heddon Parish Council regarding the speeding problem.

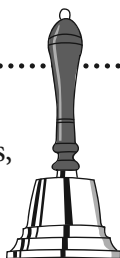
We await the next steps with interest and there may be an action plan by the time you read this.

Peter Chapman Chairman

HANDBELL GROUP

For more information on handbells, meetings contact:

Jennifer King. Tel: 01661 852926



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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The.mower.man19>

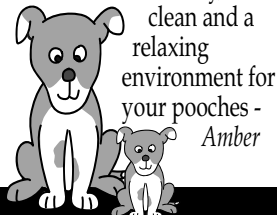
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ADMURUM Singers

The lighter nights are here, and new leaves and blossom show that Spring is round the corner.

Ad Murum choir practices are now in full flow at Heddon Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings, from 7-30pm to 9-00pm. The choir is working towards presenting a varied programme of music for the Summer Concert, augmented by the Felling Brass Ensemble. The concert is to be held in the Knott Hall on Friday June 2nd Further publicity about the concert will be posted around the village, nearer the date.

Some new members have recently been welcomed into the choir. Ladies still outnumber the men, meaning that the choir needs more male singers, (particularly tenors!)

Visit the choir web site: www.admurumsingers.org.uk to help you keep in touch.

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

Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – April 2023 update

ANAG continues to monitor complaints about particularly noisy aircraft flying over Heddon and urges Heddon residents to carry on reporting these as well. This can be done quickly and easily on the ANAG website at: [https:// www.aircraftnoiseaction.com](https://www.aircraftnoiseaction.com).

There has been little direct contact with Newcastle Airport since the Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee, Noise Sub-Group meeting in October 2022. However, the matters discussed then are not forgotten, and we still await some response to the issues raised.

The number of Heddon residences on ANAG's contact list remains high and if you too want to receive updates on what's happening, please visit the website and sign up. Additionally, the website has links to other relevant environmental groups related to aircraft issues. We never pass your email address to any other parties.

Robin Brooks. Heddon Banks

POSTAGE STAMPS - NO MORE!!

Sadly the Post Office (in Heddon Garage) will no longer take your used stamps.

If anyone/business would like to take in used stamps please contact Heddon Gossip.



MOG & DOG

1 hour walk

30 minute walk

30 minute home visit
(cats and dogs)

Max 3 dogs per walk

Victoria Batey
07854046941
moganddog@hotmail.com

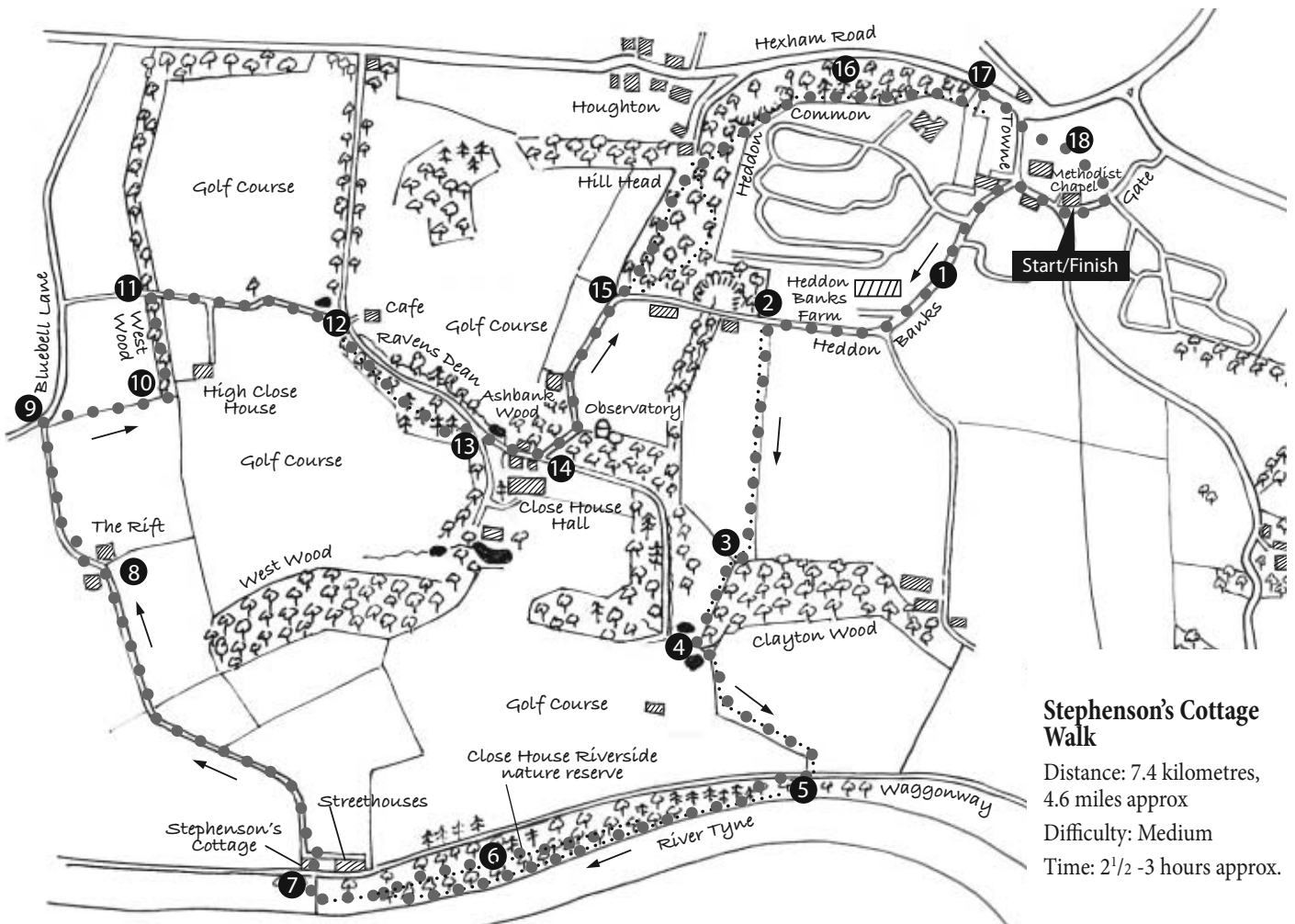


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Stephenson's Cottage Walk

Distance: 7.4 kilometres,
4.6 miles approx
Difficulty: Medium
Time: 2½ - 3 hours approx.

Stephenson's Cottage Walk

We start this walk outside the Methodist Church, (can be started and finish anywhere in the village) head west passed the Swan before turning left down Heddon Banks. ①

Head down and along Heddon Banks until the tarmac road runs out. Go through the gate ② and follow the signposted path downhill along the hedge until you reach Clayton Wood. ③ Turn right, following the path along the side of the wood, down through the gap in the hedge keeping the wood on the left and the golf course on the right crossing the stream to join the other path. ④ Turn left along the metalled path into the field and follow Hadrian's Wall Path and signs along the side of the field until you reach the waggonway. ⑤

Once on the waggonway turn right walking for 100 metres before going through the gate on the left and onto the Riverside Country Park. ⑥ If you are quite and observant you might get a brief glimpse of a Red Squirrel. Keep walking along the path which takes a fork at the end of the pine trees - the bottom path takes you along the river bank.

Taking the top path you will find a great variety of rare plants Alpine Penny-cress and other plants influenced by heavy metal contamination. Dune helleborine can be found on the edge of the grassland under some young beech trees and can be found further into the woodland.

Go through the gate at the end of the Riverside Country Park, turn right onto the waggonway and Stephenson's Cottage (National Trust - check website for details: if open summer months for tea). ⑦

Once through the gate at the right of Stephenson's Cottage turn left and follow the road up to and through The Rift ⑧ until you reach Bluebell Lane. Walk up Bluebell Lane taking care as it can be quite busy with vehicles, until the sharp bend in the road. On the right you will see a stile and finger post, ⑨ climb the stile and follow the field path along side the hedge, enter the small West Wood ⑩ following the path until you come to the Close House Driveway ⑪ where you turn right along

the driveway and follow it to the driving range and cafe. (You are welcome to pop in for a cuppa) ⑫

Cross the road and follow the path through the pine trees until you come to a steep tarmac path. ⑬ Head down the path crossing the road, passing the pond aiming for the gate straight ahead. Go through the gate and yard until you come to the finger post that points you up the steep 'cobbled road' ⑭ which can be very slippery when wet. As the road levels out and bends left on the right along a path is the domes housing former Newcastle University observatory telescopes. Head through the gap at the side of the gate and pass the house on the left heading upwards to Heddon Banks.

As you reach the Slacks Plantation (Bottom Common to us locals) ⑮ take the left steep path uphill crossing the path from Hill Head passing the Butterfly Garden onto the Top Common ⑯ taking the path along the edge of the gardens until you come to the Welfare field.

Turn left through the gates on the path on Hexham Road, ⑰ cross Towne Gate through the Memorial Park, up Chare Bank ⑱ till you reach Towne Gate again, bare right past the Women's Institute to the Methodist Church and the start of your walk.



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Pick up and delivery service

Contact Jane on 07914 001 336



Hadrian's Wall Culture Festival

We are back and we have evolved! Following the huge success of the Hadrian's Wall Festival in Heddon in 2022, we are starting to plan Hadrian's Wall CULTURE Festival in Heddon for 2023. The dates for your diary are 1st-3rd September. The plan so far is to celebrate many different kinds of culture that are either related to Heddon, Northumberland or Hadrian's Wall. There will be music, workshops, art, Heddon Show and much more...



HEDDON SHOW

Back for 2023

Set a reminder your diary or mark on the calendar: **Saturday 2nd September is SHOW DAY!**


We are also holding our STRAWBERRY TEA return on **Saturday 8th July.**

Next Village Show meeting is on 30th March, 7.30pm at the Swan if you would like to come along to either join the committee or just help out on show day



Linda

E6 per class / package discounts available
Contact: sjmm2412@gmail.com



Scott Miller Fitness

TUESDAY
Heddon - Knott Memorial Hall
09.30-10.15 - LBT
10.30-11.15 - Stretch

North Shields - John Spence Community School
17.45-18.30 - Step Conditioning
18.35-19.20 - Stretch

THURSDAY
Fenham - St James and St Basils
09.30-10.15 - Conditioning
10.30-11.15 - Stretch

North Shields - John Spence Community School
17.45-18.30 - Step
18.35-19.20 - Aerobics

SATURDAY
08.30-09.15 - Spin (Zoom)
09.30-10.15 - Stretch (Zoom)

Heddon Carpet Bowls



The annual knockout winner for 2022 was Howard Ellison narrowly beating his wife Linda in a very close competition.

The bowls club had their annual night out at our local restaurant Bell e Buon with 22 in attendance and a great night was had by all with lovely food. Thanks to the staff for excellent service.

A friendly match has been arranged for Thursday 30th March against Riding Mill carpet bowls. Anyone interested in spectating please come along to the Knott Hall from 7pm- 9pm.

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



KINGS CORONATION VILLAGE SPORTS DAY



The Three Tuns and Heddon Juniors have got together to host a Village Sports Day on the day of Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May.

Look out for further details on Facebook soon!

BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

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



CLOSE HOUSE TO HOST PING JUNIOR MASTERS IN 2023

Close House PING

The PING Junior Masters is returning to Close House in 2023, with nine qualifying events spanning across eight counties in the UK.

Qualifying events will be run off nett scores, which gives junior golfers a better range of opportunities to reach the grand final at Close House.

From each of the qualifying locations, there are three age categories: 12 and under, 15 and under, and 18 and under.

One girl and two boys from each age group will qualify for the Close House final on 24 October 2023 – to be played on the Championship Colt Course.

PING Europe continue their support for the 2023 event, providing all the prizes at the grand final with the aim of giving the next generation of golfers a special and unique experience.

In addition to hosting a qualifying event and the final, Close House is also offering free school coaching to local schools to further develop the younger generation of golfers.

Qualifying round 11th April - Close House Filly Course

Final Tuesday 24th October - Close House Colt Course

ALL CLEAN

Window Cleaning Services

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ALL CLEAN cleans gutters up to 15 metres or around 50ft high. We clean gutters valleys and downpipes on jobs where the gutters are more than 2 floors high from the ground using our Guttervac System

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