

HEDDON GLOSSIP

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

FEBRUARY • MARCH 2023

Heddon resident receives his MBE at Alnwick Castle

Heddon resident and former councillor Angus Lunn was awarded his MBE in May of last year in the late queens birthday honours list for Services to Conservation & Wildlife Conservation.

He was asked to attend a service at Windsor Castle in November of 2022 to receive his MBE but declined for various reasons, therefore he was invited to Alnwick Castle to meet and be presented with his MBE by Her Grace The Duchess of Northumberland in her capacity as Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland. The presentation took place on the evening of 11th January with family and invited guests.

Helen Lynch

ANGUS LUNN citation before he was awarded his MBE...

“Angus is a man of immense academic rigour and knowledge having been Head of Adult Education at Newcastle University. Additionally, his life-long voluntary service and passion to peatlands is exceptional.

Angus has single-handedly produced the first vegetation map of Northumberland, which identifies and maps the sphagnum bogs in the West of the County, leading a campaign to ensure that their ecological significance was recognised. The bogs became known as the Border Mires, most of which are nationally and internationally designated and collectively recognised in their importance.

The bogs, the rare plants and animals they support are protected, valued and are being restored for future generations, securing significant LIFE funding to support their restoration, significantly improving their condition.

One of Angus’ many achievements was overseeing the transformation of the Hancock Museum in Newcastle into a nationally important centre of public education and engagement in the natural world.

Angus has been involved with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust from its origin – he was awarded the 2009 Cadbury Medal for services to nature conservation by them and is now Trustee and Vice-President.

Angus has spent his working life educating people in the ecological sciences and geology, giving countless talks to a range of audiences and this has continued into his retirement – he is a vital force for nature, inspiring many through his teachings and still asking awkward questions when needed.

Angus Lunn is awarded the MBE for services to Education and to Peatland Conservation”.



Angus Lunn being presented with his MBE by Her Grace The Duchess of Northumberland.

Extract from correspondence between Angus and the organisers

Thank you very much for sending your list through - I will pass this on to the Castle. No need to advise what each guest's connection is - it would be nice to introduce everyone on the evening. I can confirm you can park by Baillifgate on an evening - there is parking around about at this time of the year and at that time on an evening, so you should be fine - there should be plenty of parking right outside the Barbican entrance to the Castle and if not, people can park just a little bit further down on 'the Peth' which is the bank down past the Castle - is this okay?

You can either wear a lounge suit or smart casual - whatever you feel most comfortable in - I must admit the majority of the gentleman have mostly opted for lounge suits but there have also been some dressed in smart trousers/shirt.

List of Guests submitted

Ian Lunn (son)
Lottie Lunn (his daughter, my granddaughter)
Jenny Lunn (daughter)
Graham Reader (her husband)
Izzy Reader (their daughter, my granddaughter)
Katie Reader (their daughter, my granddaughter)
Helen Lynch (my neighbour and helper out)
Mike Pratt (Chief Executive Northumberland Wildlife Trust)
Bill Burlton (ex-Forestry Commission and long-time conservation associate)



Angus Lunn being presented with his MBE by Her Grace The Duchess of Northumberland photographed with invited family and guests.

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

A Place for Everyone

Happy New Year.

In this article on the life and events at St. Andrew's Church we can talk about both the successful activities at Christmas and tell you all the details of the services for the next important celebration - Easter.

It was really lovely to be able to celebrate Christmas fully this year. There was a wide range of services and we were delighted that the school came to St. Andrew's to perform their Christmas events this year too.

We had two Treasures in Church social events in November and were invited to attend Ryal Church for a service of carols and readings for Advent.

We had a return of the very popular wreath making workshop and our friends at the Methodist Church hosted Christmas Messy Church which was well supported and enjoyed by everyone.

As the Christmas season came upon us we enjoyed Carols by Candlelight, a Christingle Service which culminated in a walk to the stable at the Methodist Church and both Christmas morning Holy Communion at St Andrew's and Christmas Night Mass (think Midnight Mass at an accessible hour) at Matfen Church on Christmas Eve.

We would like to thank everyone who made Christmas so special. Especially to our ministers, Rachel, Maggie and Tom and the talented flower arrangers who made the church look beautiful, all those who carried out a multitude of tasks behind the scenes and those who took active parts in the services. There truly was something for everyone.

Now we look forward to Easter. If you mislay your copy of Heddon Gossip, details of all services are always displayed on both the notice board at the bottom of the church path and on the mesh door. Events are also widely publicised 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.

Thank you to all advertisers and correspondents for making Heddon Gossip a FREE publication for the residents of the parish. Without your help and contributions the Gossip would struggle to exist.

To try and keep the 'Gossip' fresh we are still looking for news from clubs, organisations and events you are holding plus any new features that could be introduced to the paper, for example a feature on local tradition recipes.

Ian Scott - Heddon Gossip
ianscottedesign@btinternet.com
mobile:07743 285502



In addition to our normal weekly services, there are some more dates for your diary including Easter Services:



Sunday 12th February - 4.00 - 6.00 p.m. - Messy Church,
St. Andrew's Church.

Our theme this time is Love and there will be lots of fun crafts, song and activities. This will be our nearest Messy Church to Shrove Tuesday so we will also be ending with a Pancake Party of savoury and sweet pancakes.

Wednesday 22nd February (Ash Wednesday) at 10.00 a.m. -

Service of Holy Communion with Ashing. (The celebrant will invite members of the congregation to have a cross marked on their forehead in ash if they so wish).

Sunday 26th March at 11.15 a.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Sunday 2nd April - 4.00 - 6.00 p.m. (Palm Sunday) Messy Church at the Methodist Church. Our theme this time will be Holy Week and Easter.

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 11.00 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. -
Joint Service of Holy Communion at St. Andrew's Church

Useful Points of Contact :

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

Rev. Tom Birch 01661 853254 revdtombirch@gmail.com

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

Church Warden: Lynda Henderson ... 07907574575 lhndrsn56@gmail.com

Sunday worship every week at 10am follows this pattern:

1st Sunday of the month:

Lay Led Worship. This is not Holy Communion but familiar prayers, Bible readings and hymns. The service usually lasts for about forty minutes.

2nd Sunday of the month: Holy Communion.

3rd Sunday of the month: Holy Communion.

4th Sunday of the month: Holy Communion.

***When there is a 5th Sunday in the month:** We all gather in one of the 5 parishes sharing 2 priests.

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

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

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

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 12 February 2023

4.00-6.00pm Theme: Love

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

Held at St Andrew's 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

Community Coffee, Scones and Chat
Thursdays: 10am to 12 noon
Everyone Welcome

Heddon Messy Church and Pancake Party
12th Feb
4-6pm
St. Andrew's Church

We will be having lots of fun with crafts, story, song around the theme of love and a sweet and savoury pancake tea.
For more information or to let us know you are coming: lynn@heddonmethodists.org.uk

Collection Point in Heddon

Heddon residents should be proud of the contributions they have made to the Newcastle West End Foodbank this winter. Over the past month or so, the contents of the box outside the Methodist Church have been taken weekly to the Foodbank warehouse in Lemington. Every week, the box has been full.

The volunteers at the warehouse know that the food donations are coming from Heddon and are genuinely appreciative.

Let's hope that this level of giving continues. Donations tend to drop off in January, but the need doesn't..... Please donate, if you can. Currently, 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.

Heddon Methodist Church

With over 50 years experience, we are specialists in all aspects of tiling, including both commercial and residential properties and projects.

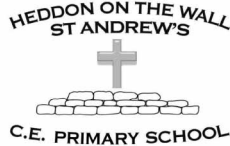
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AND FLOOR TILING**



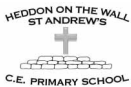
Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme - Items Needed

We are in the process of making our playtimes more exciting, in partnership with OPAL (www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk) and need some equipment to help us to do this. We would be really grateful for any of the following donations:

- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Cable drums
- Tarpaulins
- Road signs and cones
- Buckets
- Old keyboards/mobile phones/torches/cameras
- Anything made from foam (not polystyrene) - foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats/swimming 'noodles'
- Guttering

If you have any of these items, please bring them to the school, or call and let us know where we can collect them from. If you have anything else you think might be useful, get in touch to let us know. Thank you in advance!

The staff and children of Heddon St Andrew's CE Primary School



Heddon-on-the-Wall St. Andrew's CE Primary School,
Trajan Walk, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland. NE15 0BJ
Tel: 01661853350
email: admin@heddon-school.co.uk



Stagecoach takes over Service 685 Carlisle to Newcastle service

Stagecoach are now operating Service 685 which runs between Carlisle and Newcastle. They will still be offering the hourly service with a few changes in the morning and evening.

As well as the route change, the Tyne & Wear Mega Rider boundary will now extend to Hexham - meaning that regular travellers can take advantage of new lower day and weekly fares for travel to and from Newcastle.

Until further notice Stagecoach are still offering their £2 single tickets, this means people who live along the A69 route will still be able to take advantage of travel as far as either Carlisle or Newcastle for the £2.00 bargain price..

Day and week tickets are available on the bus by paying contactless or with cash, and also on our app, you can buy 28 day tickets on their website.

You can check the times at each of the bus stops in Heddon or go online at stagecoachbus.com and type in the bus number 685 in the 'Download bus time PDF' and click on the magnifying glass.

You can either read it online or download the PDF.

Northern Heritage Gift Ideas

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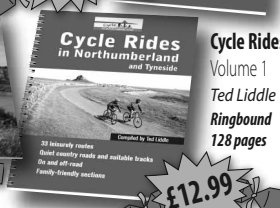
Northumberland Rocks
Ian Jackson
50 extraordinary rocky places that tell the story of the Northumberland landscape.
A Northern Heritage / Northumberland Wildlife Trust co-production
Paperback 112 pages



Cycle Rides Volume 2
Ted Liddle
This second volume of carefully selected cycle rides in Northumberland and beyond, rideable on a gravel bike, mountain bike or a suitable e-bike. Also includes delightful 2-day and 3-day Northumberland adventure rides.
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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Mail order from Northern Heritage add £2.95 P&P for any combined order

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Northern Heritage Gifts,
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Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Northumberland <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northernherland> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.'



With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

HEDDON ON-THE-WALL PARISH COUNCIL

February/March

Our Mission Statement:

To maintain and improve our village for all.

Opportunities to Volunteer

We have a number of opportunities to volunteer as part of the Parish Council.

Parish Councillor vacancy - using your skills to support your community. The council meets once a month and supports the delivery of the community projects which they are most interested in. If you want to speak to one of the current councillors, to find out more about what's involved, or if you would like to be considered for the vacancy, then please get in touch with Keith our Parish Clerk (heddonpc@gmail.com)

Volunteers wanted for the Roman herb garden

Butterfly and Roman Herb Garden - have you green fingers, like to be in the outdoors, or just like to spend time with other people? We are looking for volunteers to support this area of the village. There isn't a huge time commitment needed, it's just offering what you can, when you can. If you want to find out more, get in touch with Keith our Parish Clerk and he'll put you in touch with Lesley who leads this project for us.

Project Welfare Field

We have started working with the pupils at St Andrews School to look at the welfare field (also known as the MUGA) and how we can improve this area. This will be a long term project, but if you would like to get involved in helping us to design, develop and look for funding bids, then please get in touch.



New Logo

We have a new logo that you will start to see on our website, facebook page and our documents. Let us know what you think...

Contact us

Chair: Paul Edwards t: 01661 886853 e: heddonpc@gmail.com
Council Clerk : Mr K Murray-Hetherington t: 07788 111729
e: heddonpc@gmail.com. w: <https://heddon.parish-council.com/>
Asset Officer: Lorraine Twizell t: 01661 854583
e: heddonassetsofficer@gmail.com

DOG WASTE ISN'T JUST UNPLEASANT, IT CAN ALSO CAUSE ILLNESS IN FARM ANIMALS

BAG IT, TAKE IT, BIN IT





**“YOUR
PARISH
NEEDS
YOU”**

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council is looking for new co-opted members.

If you can work as a part of a team, if you are able to take part in meetings, form sound judgements based on what is best for the community, and you are willing to abide by majority decisions, you have the qualities of a parish councillor.

If you are interested but would like to understand a bit more, please contact the Parish Clerk at:

email: heddonpc@gmail.com

or telephone: 07771 224860.

There is a simple form to complete to **confirm eligibility.**

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 28th February 2023.

HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL PARISH COUNCIL VACANT OFFICE SPACE

Available to rent within the Business Centre,

Towne Gate, Heddon-on-the-Wall,
Northumberland,

Rent £300.00 per month includes the use of WiFi, heating, lighting and water. Allocated parking space. Permitted hours between 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Contact: Lorraine Twizell, Asset Officer,
Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council, Towne Gate,
NE15 0EJ;

email: heddonassetsofficer@gmail.com

or telephone: 07735246381.



Tawny Owl photographed from a Alan McFadyen hide (Scottish Photography Hides), Dumfries and Galloway.
Photo: © David Mull



Close up of a Tawny Owl.
Photo: © George Sudlow courtesy of Northumberland Wildlife (FACEBOOK)

Nature Notes - What a Hoot! Tawny Owls in Heddon

Ruth Oatway

It's not the cold and bad weather of winter I mind so much as the short hours of daylight. We are now well past the winter solstice and it's nice to think there's a little more daylight every day. I'm also seeing plenty of signs of spring with bulbs shooting up and catkins dangling from trees.

However, there are some advantages to the dark mornings and evenings and one of these is the increased chance of hearing or even seeing tawny owls. Tawny owls are resident in the UK and remain on their breeding territories all year round, defending them with territorial calls. They are early breeders with the first eggs laid in February, though most pairs will breed from mid-March onwards. Territorial activity increases in early autumn when young birds are establishing their own territories and continues through winter into February and March. This is one reason that you have a better chance of hearing them at this time of year. The other reason is that they are a mainly nocturnal species, often active around dawn and dusk, and it's easier to be outside listening for them at those times during the winter months!

There are five resident owl species in the UK, of which tawny owl, barn owl, long-eared owl and short-eared owl are native. Little owl was introduced in the 1800s. The 'Twit twoo' hoot of an owl is one of our most familiar bird calls but tawny owls are actually the only species to make this call. They are also our most common owl. In fact, the famous 'twit twoo' is made up of not one call but two. The 'twoo' part of the call is a territorial hoot by the male. Females rarely hoot but both sexes use the 'twit' part of the call (officially referred to as the 'keewik') as a contact call. During the breeding season, a resident pair will 'duet' with the male hooting and the female responding with the 'keewik' call in between his hoots. You can listen to both calls and the tawny owl duet on the BTO website www.bto.org

Tawny owls favour woodland habitats but may also breed in large suburban gardens and I've been lucky enough to hear a male hooting and even a pair duetting around Heddon on a few occasions. Occasionally when running or walking in the half-dark of a winter morning I've also seen the unmistakable round silhouette of a tawny owl in a tree in the village and once perched on a rooftop TV aerial! I've yet to get a photo but I live in hope.

Tawny owls feed mostly on small mammals such as mice and voles but may also take small birds, amphibians, large insects and earthworms. They need suitable tree cavities or nest boxes to breed in, so may be limited in their distribution by the availability of these nest sites. They are currently on the amber list of conservation concern as they may be undergoing a long-term population decline, but despite the familiarity of the species there's a lack of knowledge and information about what's happening to their populations and why.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has used volunteer surveys to record tawny owls calling. The surveys have been repeated in 1989, 2005 and 2018 to look at change over time. Initial results of the 2018 survey suggest that the percentage of sites (tetrads) occupied by tawny owls has declined from 62% in 1989 to 53% in 2018 and that most of the declines have been in sites dominated by conifer woodland with occupancy remaining stable in broad-leafed woodland. Research is ongoing to further understand these trends, but let's hope these beautiful birds continue to make a successful home around Heddon.

Avian Bird Flu

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

If you come across a distressed or dead wild bird: Please do not touch it or pick it up.

Keep dogs away from them.

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

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

BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

Contact Mike Wall on 07734 807733

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



Heddon Carpet Bowls

New members welcome!!

Remember new members 1st night free. So why don't you come and join us and have a try? Like all local clubs we need new members to keep the club going so, come and join us at the Knott Memorial Hall any Thursday night from 7pm. Have fun and make new friends.

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





Time for a garden RETHINK!!

If your garden looks dull and unwelcoming in the depths of winter, then maybe it's time for a rethink.

Even through the light covering of snow on the ground there are signs that spring is just around the corner. Our first snowdrops opened in the first week of January. Witch hazels, with their spidery yellow, orange, or red spicily fragrant flowers are at the peak and the impressive upright yellow racemes of Mahonia's stand proudly above the spiny leaves of this tough evergreen. Fruits still hang on Mountain Ash, Hawthorn and many other shrubs and trees, though each day sees less and less as birds feast on this valuable source of winter nourishment.

So many other plants can provide us with some much-needed winter interest, too many indeed to list as even the naked stems of some of our more common plants show off their silhouetted branches against brilliant blue winter skies, especially when glistening white with an early morning hoar frost. The brilliant red, orange, yellow or even black stems of Dogwoods (*Cornus alba*) glow in the winter light with *Cornus* Midwinter Fire looking exactly as its name would suggest. Ornamental grasses can sparkle on such mornings and prove themselves worthy of a place in the year-round garden.

Of course, I am sure we all have a list of favourite plants, and if I were to be asked what mine were at this time of year then it would be Hellebores and the wonderfully fragrant Winter or Sweet Box.

Hellebores, with their elegant blooms of white, green, purple, pink, sometimes yellow and some even spotted with red, have a long flowering period lasting well into spring. The most commonly known varieties are the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*) and the Lantern Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*), though recently there have been a large number of very attractive hybrids introduced, some with larger two-tone flowers, others with marbled foliage. Mainly evergreen, they will thrive in shady spots, and many will seed themselves naturally. The flowers are an invaluable source of nectar for those pollinators brave enough to venture out!

A less well known and underrated evergreen shrub is the difficult to pronounce, let alone spell, *Sarcococca*, the Sweet, or Winter box. With its small, glossy and box like evergreen leaves, its appearance in summer will not steal the show but in the short days of winter, the small, almost inconspicuous creamy white flowers open to give off a delicious sweetly scented fragrance with even a small sprig of blooms filling a room. The flowers are followed by black, purple or red berries, depending on variety. The plants themselves are easy to grow, doing better in shade than full sun and will even tolerate dry conditions once established. One of my favourite varieties is *Sarcococca hookeriana* Winter Gem, with larger than average leaves held on upright reddish stems. The white flowers emerge from reddish buds and are followed by spherical, glossy red berries that ripen to black. Being a member of the box family, the upright forms can even be used as a lightly clipped, informal hedge.

To see these and many more garden plants showing off their winter colours, then why not have a gentle winter's day stroll up to the nursery and see us where we will be happy to point them out.

Happy Gardening!

David Hall Halls of Heddon

Get ready for SPRING

with



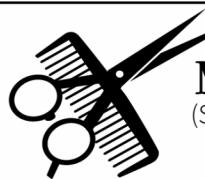
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DRIVES CLEANED



Memories of life in Heddon by Elizabeth 'Betty' Cockburn

Andy Curtis & Beryl Amos

Part 1

Elizabeth Cockburn was born to Alice & William Ridley on 6th June 1912 and died 28th April 1995. I believe these memories were collected by Ann Lockley in the early 1990s and first published by Pat Farnaby on the earlier precursor of this Heddon website. Many of the things Betty tells us about the village in the 1920s and 30s would now be lost without their important initiative. The following is only part of a more extensive story that can be found here:
<http://heddonhistory.weebly.com/memories.html>

This article was triggered by Ian Scott recently showing me a little metal plaque attached to a tree which overlooks the old quarry above Hill Head where she had been brought up. I had never noticed it.

My earliest recollection of my childhood is being rocked in a wooden cradle by my Mother in the middle of the night. I had toothache. I must have been only about three years old. I can remember my mother sighing with weariness. I remember the firelight flickering and the shadows dancing off the walls of the cottage where we lived at Hill Head, Heddon-on-the-Wall.

I was born at Wood Houses, Wylam, on 6th June, 1912. I was the sixth child born to my mother. She had nine children. Three boys and six girls. The boys all died in infancy at Wood Houses. When we moved to Hill Head, there was Father and Mother and four girls. Our Mother was to have two more children, both girls after we moved to Hill Head. My Mother's maiden name was Alice Knowles. She lived with her mother (a widow) and her brother John in George Stephenson's cottage on the river side below Wylam. She was a bond worker on the Rift Farm. They lived in the cottage and she had to work in the fields in order to get a roof over their heads. They must have come from South Moor because I have in my possession a small New Testament presented to my Mother for good attendance at South Moor Sunday School in 1890 Holmside Parish [Co. Durham]. She was married to my Father at Wylam Church.

My Father was born at Mickley, William Henry Ridley. I don't know much about his youth, but I do know that as a young man he was a soldier in the 'Northumberland Greys' as he called them. My eldest sister has a picture of him in uniform with my Mother and his Mother seated beside him. When he left the army he worked in the mines, coal hewing at Heddon Colliery. He also served in the 1914-18 war as an army cook. My father's mother lived at Whickham. She had a most unusual maiden name which was Miss Bread.

Our life at Hill Head as a child was as happy as we could make it. I was a

country child. I loved the woods and roamed for miles often on my own. The birds, flowers and animals were my life. Spring time was bird nesting time, and the birds used to nest under the pantiles of our little cottage and woe-betide any of the neighbours children I caught on our wall trying to get at the bird's eggs. I've shed many a tear over a small dead bird. The man next door to us used to trap the birds and cage them and keep them in a shed in his garden. I sat one day and watched them fluttering around in this shed till I couldn't bare it any longer so I went in and freed them all. I spent a few anxious weeks in case he found me out but he never did. I still cannot bear to see wild creatures caged.

Times were very hard for us between 1924 and 1930. The General Strike of 1926 left most miners families worse off. The men had to go back for less pay than they had had before. I well remember going to the soup kitchen at Heddon chapel, along with my sisters during the strike. We got a bowl full of corn beef hash twice a week. One day a girl behind me pushed me and broke my bowl, by the time the helpers found me a plate there was no hash left. I was so hungry I cried all the way home from school. We were also given six loaves of bread at the weekend to take home to our parents. What our parents lived on God only knows. They must have starved. Many of the men trapped the rabbits in the Common. One man had a double barrellled gun and his family never went short of meat but our father just would not go in for that sort of thing. So we just lived on bread and (pheasant) margarine and the few shillings we were allowed from the Guardians.

I remember going with my father to pick coals at Heddon pit heap. He took me because he said I could carry the most. He used to say I should have been a lad because while my sisters played with their Clouty Bettys (dolls) I played football and marbles and ran races with the best of the boys. He showed me how to use my fists as well so that when any of my younger sisters were in trouble with the other children at school they always ran to me for protection. I got many a good hiding on their behalf. I think my father was bitterly disappointed he never had a son that lived.

Our religion was not neglected. When we were children we went to the Methodist Chapel at Heddon twice every Sunday, afternoon for Sunday school and evening service, sometimes with our Mother. We had special clothes for Sunday and only wore them on that day. We always wore boots. Our Mother bought these boots on Scotswood Road at 5/11d. a pair. We didn't have shoes until we left school and went to work.

We had three special days during the year, Christmas Day, Anniversary Day and Trip Day.

Christmas filled me with happy feelings weeks beforehand, wondering what present I would get. We only got one gift each and an apple and orange. I could always play a mouth organ so my present was nearly always a new Band Master. Many a time I've played tunes for my sisters to dance to till my head was nearly bursting with blowing.

Continued next edition



Near to where 'Betty's' ashes were spread is the memorial plaque on a tree next to Hill Head Quarry - Elizabeth lived and spent her happiest days at Hill Head.



Sisters Act! From left to right. Back Row:- Barbara, Elizabeth 'Betty' my mam.
Front Row: Margaret, Alice and Sarah. Missing sister Winifred was living in Denmark

Taken from a handwritten letter that Beryl gave me last week with her memoirs and a photo of her mother Elizabeth 'Betty' Cockburn.

'Mam was the 6th of nine children born to my grandparents George and Alice Ridley. she was born at Wylam. Unfortunately the first three were boys who all died in infancy, before the six girls were born. My mam was raised as a boy, doing all the hard jobs like fetching water from the well halfway down the field and cobbling shoes. They were extremely poor.

My grandfather was a very poorly paid miner and his pay had to feed 8 of them. My mam and her mother would walk to Throckley every Saturday then catch the tram to Scotswood Road to buy cheap meat and veg for the coming week. Mam was taken along because she was strong enough to carry the bags!!! a large pan of broth would be made over the open coal fire and added to every day so that it probably lasted for a few days. Mam said she was ALWAYS hungry. She always spoke of the time living at Hill Head with love and affection. Mam loved nature and being outdoors and would climb a tree in the wood and spent hours in the tree just watching the birds and squirrels and absorbing all the nature around her. She knew the names of all the trees just by looking at he leaves. Once one of the neighbours had a canary in a cage, which hung on a outside wall, and mam, hating to see anything caged, let the canary out to fly free. She was delighted and was never found out.

Because mam loved Hill Head so much we scattered her ashes in the wood beside Hill Head as she always talked about her childhood there as being happy, so my brother and I thought it fitting for her to there forever. My brother made a plaque which he fixed to one of the trees as a lasting reminder.

I cried the first time I read mams memoirs, and sometimes since even to think of the extremely hard and harsh upbringing mam had and yet she still turned out to be a beautiful person inside and out, with no malice, good advice, kindness and a willingness to listen to anyone who needed to be listened to or helped.

I learned SO much good stuff from my mam, about life and people for which I will always be grateful. She was a wonderful role model and I hope she passed some of that goodness and knowledge on to others

I would like to think that I have and that mam lives on'.

Beryl Amos

WI HALL - SATURDAY, 18 MARCH 2023
WI Hall 10.00am - 3.30pm

Menopause as a sacred transition

Ancient wisdom respects all phases of life in a way that embraces change as inevitable, necessary and beautiful.

Our society has a very skewed and oppressed perspective on the change we know as menopause that women go through in later life. Although it is improving, there is still a lot of bypassing, medicating, shaming and ignoring of menopause.

We would love for you to join us in fully embracing, preparing and navigating positively through this time together, and rediscovering our wisdom within

ITINERARY

A morning talk from Dr Charlotte Gooding, a GP with a specialist interest in both menopause and long covid and menopause.

Break for lunch. Soup and a roll provided.

The afternoon will focus on holistic care for menopause (to complement prescribed medication).

We will explore the ancient wisdom of Ayurvedic practices, aromatherapy, and yoga.

This will be an uplifting session that will also focus on all the positive outcomes that this life stage brings.

We would love you to join us in the first of these sessions working together. Please message to reserve your place, and receive bank and venue details. Tickets are £55 for the day event. A non-refundable deposit of £35 is due by Sunday 5th February. The balance (non-refundable) of £20 is due by Sunday March 5th.

Please message if you would like to attend and have financial circumstances that make this challenging. We are passionate that this advice should be accessible to all.

For more information or to book a place contact:

emmareay44@cloud.com



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Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No 1012011



The Knott Hall Trustees wish a Happy New Year to all residents of Heddon on the Wall and all those frequent and occasional users of Knott Hall.

As we look forward and plan for the new year, it is also a time to reflect on the previous one. How did we do

2022 started with the recovery from catastrophic boiler failure and the installation of a new and efficient boiler, the renowned Knott Hall warm welcome was now a reality.

As usual the year got under way with the annual West Coast Band Concert, there was some concern as this was the first big event since Covid, once again Heddon came out to support the Hall and enjoyed the sublime skills and music of the band

A good start

March -: The AGM which was held in March provides the opportunity to receive the annual report from the Hall and pose questions. This year both the Chairman, Mike Laker and the Secretary, Sally Hulse tendered their resignation. Unfortunately, one our long standing supporters and constant at the AGM's was no longer with us. Lil Cruikshank had died on 23rd March 2022, she was an formidable force of nature, her commitment to the Hall was exemplary and whilst she did at times put the management of the hall on the spot with her questions and comments, they were always well intentioned and invariably accurate.

April -: Fashion @the Knott, had the ladies of the village enjoying a glass of fizz before hitting the fashion trail and raising some funds for Ukraine.

June -: Queens Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea, over 100 of the village residents enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea, the event was supported by the James Knott Foundation, Heddon WI, The Swan and Knott Hall.

September -: Hadrian 1900, The Hall hosted a Makers Market as part of the Hadrian 1900 festival in Heddon, The wide selection of handicrafts and art was well received by visitors. It is amazing how many of these skilled and artistic people live in the village.

Fashion @the Knott, had the ladies of the village enjoying a glass of fizz before hitting the fashion trail and raising some funds for the Defibrillator.



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

Tel: 01661 853 161

Temporary Opening Hours

Monday - Wednesday 4pm - 10pm
Thursday - Friday 4pm - 11pm
Saturday 12noon - 11pm
Sunday 12noon - 10pm

Food Served still
served
EVERY NIGHT
and **ALL DAY**
Saturday & Sunday

VINTAGE INNS



October-: Big Science @ the Knott, A Collaboration between Heddon library, the Parish Council and the Knott Hall provided some half term fun and education for children of the village.

Beat the Drum, Foolsgold provided an evening of song, story and pictures. There was laughter, tears and a good sing along. A wonderful night. Hopefully Foolsgold will return with a new performance

The Gibson Photographic Exhibition, For three weeks we had access to the Photographs from the County archives, lots of views and visitors.

Gibson 'the man behind the lens', In support of the photographic exhibition and the Heddon History Society, Knott Hall arranged a talk by Kate St Clair Gibson. Knott Hall's links with Northumberland Archives should pave the way for further events.

Hadrian 1900 Poetry Workshop, does it rhyme does it have to rhyme, Dorothy Whittaker led an enjoyable and informative workshop on the poetry of Wilfrid Gibson, a war poet contemporary of Owens who also wrote about Hadrian's Wall.

November -: StairWall, The Hall engaged this performance to challenge and entertain, the format fitted nicely with Hadrian 1900, but it was a risk, contemporary dance, music and art are not necessarily seat fillers. What a success, the Wednesday workshop for school children and adults was well received and the Friday performances for school children and adults was simply amazing.

Heddon Christmas Market, Yet again full to bursting as the village turned out to support the Hall and Market, St Andrews School Choir once again stole the show.

December -: Ad Murum, A welcome back for the Ad Murum singers and worth the wait

Wind in the Willows, the classic adventure performed by Northumberland Theatre Company, fast and lively with lots of music and wonderful show.

A full programme and hopefully something for everyone, unfortunately **Beat the Drum** and **Wind in the Willows** did not get the support that both shows deserved and unless we can rely on support some shows may not be possible.

Unfortunately despite the fun and successes, there was the issue of nuisance and damage, hopefully this has calmed and we can look forward to normal activities without unwanted or unwarranted interruptions.

I am grateful for the support received following these incidents, whether moral or action, it confirms my view that we as a village can support one another and the facilities which make Heddon on the Wall a wonderful place to live.

I will be contacting those who wished to assist in the near future.

David Blackett

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Future Events in the Knott Hall

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

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

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

Knott Hall AGM 27/3/2023 - 19.00pm

The AGM for the running of your Hall, a chance to see how the Hall is run, a chance become involved, as a Trustee, Officer or Volunteer. Coffee and questions.

Dark Skies - April 2023

Dark Skies a musical mystery, Three Lighthouse Keepers vanish, how? Where?

Coronation Tea - 07/05/2023

Fashion @ the Knott - May 2023

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

Contact Details:

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

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

Bookings: Hazel Thompson - 01661 853684

Vacancies

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

Treasurer

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

Secretary

To undertake the general administration of the Hall. The Secretary handles the day to day activities of the Hall reporting to the Chairman.

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

D. Blackett: Tel: 07770 666744



HEDDON VILLAGE SHOW

Needs your HELP!

The Village Show is looking to return this September, but we need NEW members to help arrange the Show Program and assist on show day. If you would like to join the committee we are holding a meeting on the 23rd February at 7-30pm in the Womens Institute.

We look forward to seeing you there with any new ideas you may have for the show.

Thank you in advance

Linda



REGULAR EVENTS

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

3 Little Words

What3words could literally be a life-saver. It could get you out of a jam and it could keep the kids happily occupied exploring the world with it. What is it? It's a geolocation app on your phone or tablet, or you can access it online on any device. It's used across the world by companies such as the AA, Network Rail, Openreach, Balfour Beatty, Domino Pizza, DPD, DHL and Evri, the Red Cross and Red Crescent in some countries, Land Rover, Jaguar and Mercedes Benz (in their GPS systems) - a list which just keeps on growing.

How does it work? Well, it's a simple and elegant solution to one man's frustration which could become the most used location system in the world. When Chris Sheldrick repeatedly found that drivers for his event organising business were wasting time trying to find the precise drop off point for their often extremely large deliveries, he thought there had to be a better way of giving directions. Later, chatting to a pal in the pub who was something of a maths buff, the challenge was set and before very long the simple solution was hit upon. The entire globe was to be divided into 3-metre squares and each square given a unique address made up of just 3 words randomly assigned by a computer.

So, for example, the entrance to the Knott Hall was assigned **///reviewed.shipped.responses**, The 3 Tuns **///backed.perplexed.spending** and The Swan **///secure.nutty.grape**. We're told it's pure coincidence that the front door of 10 Downing Street has the address **///slurs.this.shark** !!!

So what? Well, in Europe almost everywhere has an address, even if it's only a postcode. But there are innumerable places throughout the world where formal addresses don't exist at all and now, thanks to What3words, people living in those very diverse places can at last - and for the first time - order something online or otherwise and give a precise address for it's delivery.

Emergency and rescue services can identify very precise locations when attending disasters, no matter how remote the incident - anywhere in the world.

But in Britain? OK, we all have addresses and the need isn't as great, but in more remote areas finding a house or, say, a Youth Hostel, when all you have is a name and a postcode, being able to access a precise location is more than just handy. Or, perhaps, you're at a festival and want your mates to join you amid a mass of other people, or you want a way to remind you exactly where you park your car, or, heaven forbid, your car's broken down or a friend's had an accident in the middle of nowhere and you need to let someone know exactly where you are - What 3words is the ideal solution if you have your phone with you and can get a signal.

And keeping the kids happy? Well, they could each choose 3 words randomly and look to see whose 3-word address is the closest, or, furthest away, or nearest to, say, the Eiffel Tower (or anywhere they choose), or closest to, say, 1000 miles away. OR having chosen 3 words between them, they can each choose a different order for the words and then see whose is the nearest to home (or anywhere else!). They could search for the place with the most (or least!) appropriate 3-word address. And, being kids, it won't take them long to devise their own games and competitions while learning a lot about the world they live in.

... and all with just 3 little words!

Trevor Darwin

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.



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Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – February 2023 update

It is sad to report that there is little to update Heddon residents on this month regarding the campaign about aircraft noise. As yet there has been no feedback from the Airport on the issues raised at the October 2022 Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee, Noise Sub-Group, but ANAG will continue to pursue the matters discussed there which are of interest to Heddon.

Some good news is that new members are steadily signing up on the ANAG website and showing an interest in the ANAG campaign for a fairer sharing of aircraft noise over our part of the Tyne valley.

It is important that if Heddon residents suffer from a particularly loud aircraft flying overhead, they continue to report this to the Airport. Complaints can be done quickly and easily on the ANAG website at: <https://www.aircraftnoiseaction.com>. This is also the place to go if you want to sign up to be updated on what ANAG is doing. Additionally, the website has links to other relevant environmental groups related to aircraft issues, and it's all free!

Robin Brooks
Heddon Banks

Hadrian's Head

An even quicker review

Really old wall, has birthday

A big party because it is still here, too many 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

Happy

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

Sad

Planning, need we say more.

Keep Calm and ignore them

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

Lottery Ticket wrong numbers

No joy with Lottery, can't give money to real things in the North, when they can fund esoteric dance in the South

Despondent, Never

Not a chance if Hadrian's lads can build a wall, we can certainly dig a hole and plant a mosaic, of course we will need a digging a hole course, Health and Safety review, Big Boots, Shiny Jackets.

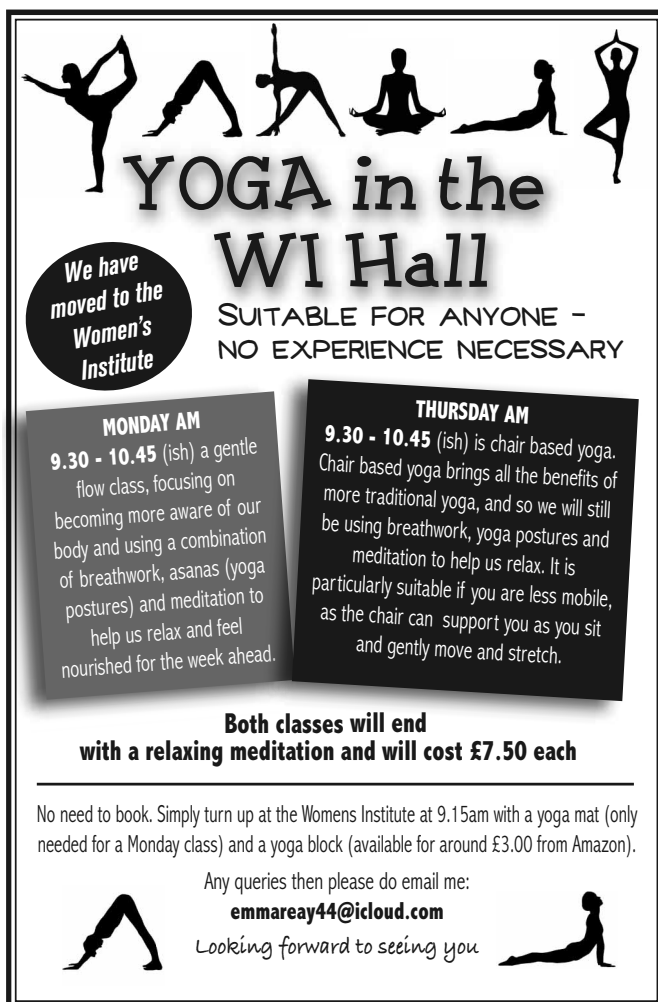
Baldric's cunning plan

So, the cunning plan is we will go straight to offering engraved blocks, we have involved NCC to tidy up Chare Bank at same time as the installation, this means they have to spend some money, so there is a bit of a delay whilst they decide which piggy bank to raid.

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. Check out the Knott Hall for the full details.

David Blackett



YOGA in the WI Hall

SUITABLE FOR ANYONE – NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

We have moved to the Women's Institute

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

THURSDAY AM
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

No need to book. Simply turn up at the Womens Institute 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



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AD MURUM Singers

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

After a successful Christmas Concert and convivial chorusing in The Swan and Three Tuns, the Ad Murum Singers have enjoyed a few weeks rest before re-commencing practices on Tuesday January 17th

The choir always welcomes new members and if you would like to join a local choir, do come along to the Methodist Church at 7-30 pm on a Tuesday evening.

The choir is beginning to learn songs for the next concert which will be in May 2023.

Chris Rand



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

BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

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



HETT - Heddon Education & Training Trust

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

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

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

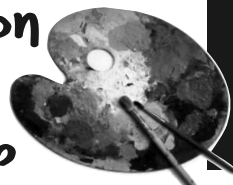
Anyone can submit a request to the Trust, as long as the request is directly related to current or imminent education and training needs, and as long as you meet one of the following criteria:

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

In order to submit a request, please contact

Freda Phillipson: fredaphillipson04@gmail.com

Heddon Art Group



NEW year
NEW members
welcome

After a busy 2022 and with a number of new Members, Heddon Art Group is keenly looking forward to 2023. Starting with our regular fortnightly Tuesday afternoon meetings (1:30 to 3:30) and our AGM in later February. Then we will start our regular fortnightly Wednesday evening meetings (7:00 to 9:00), leading up to the ever-popular Annual Exhibition in October.

We meet regularly 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 or interest, from new-starters to leisurely amateurs and serious artists.

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

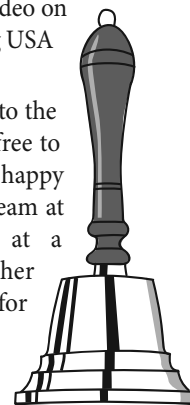
HANDBELL GROUP

We thank the Editor for the picture he has been providing for us but should let you know that the way we ring is somewhat different. With a relaxed hold and with the weight of the bell above the hand, a tiny flick of the wrist causes the clapper to touch the lip of the bell and rebound instantly and the beautiful sound reaches the hearers from the side of the bell. A short video on You Tube by Brenda Austin at Hope Publishing USA is helpful.

We are still waiting for folk hereabouts to rise to the bait of this cheerful activity which is offered free to the community but are encouraged that the happy rumour of handbells will spread as the new team at Northumbria University has entertained at a Christmas event at the Lit. and Phil. and other places. Like dogs, handbells are not just for Christmas and, fear not, they do not bite.

Contact:- Jennifer King Tel. 852926

Contact:- Jennifer King. Tel: 01661 852926



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f



Santa doing his rounds

Santas little helpers... pictured: Victoria Batey, Maria Blake, Michelle Robson, Amie Jude



A BIG THANK YOU from Santa & his Little Helpers

Following another wonderful evening in our fabulous community with village Santa, we'd like to give you a little update.

Your village Santa team are all residents of Heddon on the Wall, made up of: Victoria Batey - Maria Blake - Michelle Robson - Mick Robson - Amie Jude

Our mini elvettes - Grace R. and Sophia R.

And of course our closely guarded secret of Santa!

We'd like to thank each and every one of you that came out in the very wet and cold conditions, the weather wasn't on our side but you came with your smiles, warm hearts, festive spirit and as always your generosity. You all made it on to the Nice List!!

Your kindness raised an amazing amount of £810.00!!

We are so blown away by your generosity, both online and in person.

The money will be donated directly to Friends of Heddon School to support in the purchase of outdoor play and learning (OPAL) equipment to bring outstanding outdoor play to the children of our wonderful school.

We'd like to thank the Swan and the Tuns for their hospitality. Phil Doyle, those drinks did just the trick!

We'd also like to thank Heddon United Football Club who made it possible for us to buy sweets for the children.

The sweets that were left were gifted to Phil at the Tuns for the Kids Xmas Party and to our wonderful North East Ambulance Service.

Ongoing thanks to Helen Crowe for continuing to store the Sleigh and special thanks to Tracey Sanderson and her late husband for the amazing craftsmanship building it way back when, the wonderful Sleigh with its heart and all its memories, are what make it all possible. Hearing wonderful memories and seeing pictures of the sleigh some 22 years earlier truly warms all our hearts. We are all very proud to be part of this special team and to live in such an amazing community ~ we will absolutely see you again this year!!! Until then we hope you all had, a very wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

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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)

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a good festive season and that the awful bugs going around have now disappeared.

We enjoyed a lovely evening at the Swan in December sharing good food, good wine and good

company. There were 29 of us, which is a record number, but we all managed to fit comfortably into the Amos Room and were very capably looked after by Janet and Megan. Lesley provided us with lovely raffle prizes and we came away feeling very festive.

Our first meeting of 2023 went off well with almost everyone taking part in the line dancing. We managed to learn four line dances and finished with an Arabian dance in a circle. There was a lot of laughter as the feet got in a tangle but this all added to the fun.

We are looking forward to greeting Leisbeth Langford to our February meeting who will talk to us about her experience living in Holland during World War 2. March sees Heddon WI reaching the grand old age of 106. We will share a meal, including birthday cake and have some in-house entertainment.

Our speaker advertised for April is unable to come for her cookery demonstration but we hope to have someone come from Age UK to talk to us about frauds and scams, this has yet to be confirmed.

Notices will be displayed on the village noticeboards and if anything takes your fancy do come along and join us. You are able to visit three times as a visitor and you will be made most welcome.

Pauline

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.

HEDDON GOSSIP

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

April/ May 2023

March 20th for articles and advertising

Contact: Ian Scott

● Email: ianscottdesign@btinternet.com

● Mobile: 07743 285502

Answers to Anagram Puzzle in last issue.

1. WE THREE KINGS, 2. FROSTY THE SNOWMAN, 3. STEP INTO CHRISTMAS,
4. SILENT NIGHT, 5. JINGLE BELLS, 6. WHITE CHRISTMAS, 7. THE FIRST NOEL,
8. AWAY IN A MANGER, 9. TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS, 10. SANTA BABY,
11. IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER, 12 FAIRY TALE OF NEW YORK, 13. LITTLE DONKEY,
14. WHEN A CHILD IS BORN.

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