

# HEDDON G\*SSIP

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

JUNE • JULY 2023

## 1000 miles - completed!

I finished the walk on the first of May, the fifth anniversary of Mike's passing away. I had planned to walk the final stretch with my daughter and grandson in Cumbria, and we decided to meet halfway between our houses, in Carlisle, where we walked through the town centre, through the park and along the river, along the city walls and ended up at the cathedral, all in brilliant sunshine.



The beginning of the last mile of my walk, with daughter Pippa and grandson Jack, beside the river Eden, Bitts Park in Carlisle.

I'd like to thank everyone who has walked with me and/or sponsored me, or who simply encouraged me in my walking! I originally started off with the aim of walking six miles, to replace the annual 6 mile Walk to d'feet MND organised by the Motor Neurone Disease Association, and ended up walking 1,000 miles! That enabled me to raise quite a lot of money to help both sufferers from MND and also research into MND, a subject dear to Mike's heart. I'm not sure what the grand total was, but I know that people donated well over £500 pounds in the last few weeks of the walk.

Thanks very much to all in helping to promote awareness of this cruel disease, and for keeping the memory of Mike alive.

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.

Well done Rose



## Changes to Waste Disposal Sites opening times

From mid May the opening times of local waste disposal sites open to Heddon residents have changed.

**Prudhoe:** Broomhouse Road

(Closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

**Kirkley West Thorn:** Turn off A696 at Tomahawk Steakhouse

(Closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

## HEDDON SHOW Reminder

**Could all winners of cups please hand them in at the library by the end of July**

Date for 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.**

Linda



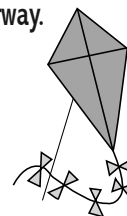
## Hadrian's Wall Culture Festival

How do you follow the success of the Hadrian's Wall Festival in Heddon in 2022, You make it better! The plans for Hadrian's Wall CULTURE Festival in Heddon 2023 are well underway.

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-on-the-Wall, Northumberland or Hadrian's Wall.

### 3rd September 2023

- Hymns and Pymms @ St Andrews Church
- History of Heddon talk ● Ad Murum Concert
- Followed by Hog Roast/ Ice Cream and KITES



The festival will have music, literature, workshops, crafts, food and KITES

### The programme will commence on 1st September 2023

Unveiling and inauguration of Hadrian's Head mosaic followed by Music @ the Swan and Three Tuns

### 2nd September 2023

- Ukulele Workshop ● Hand Bell Ringing Workshop ● Makers Market
- Liddor Archaeology demonstration
- Childrens Author interactive Reading
- Life in the Fifties/Sixties Presentation. ● Artefact Road Show
- Kite Making workshop ● Poetry Corner ● Concert – Prelude

The Heddon Village Show **Saturday 2nd September** is being held over the same weekend as the festival and the intention is to provide a symbiotic relationship where both events enhance each other.

Whilst the planning is underway there are still opportunities for suggestions and getting involved in what we hope will become an annual event for Heddon on the Wall.

### Open Festival Meeting 13th June 18.30 St Andrews Church

Come and hear what is planned, give your opinions and ideas, volunteer, become involved.

D Blackett

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

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



We had good attendance at our lovely Easter Services and have had some beautiful weddings and baptisms during the springtime.

If you would like to enquire about weddings or baptisms, please contact Revd. Rachel. [r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org)

In May we celebrated the Festival of Pentecost with a Festival of Fire. This was a joint occasion with the school, the Three Tuns and the churches of Heddon. (*Please see separate article*).

At the time of writing, we are excited to say, that after several 'false starts', we finally have a date to have the internet installed in church. Hopefully this will enable livestreaming to take place, will enhance worship and be a useful asset for All Age Worship, school visits and Messy Church as well as being of benefit for community usage of the building.

We are currently awaiting the outcome of an application we have made for funding to enable us to purchase all the extra equipment required.

Some of you may have noticed that part of the wall bordering the lower churchyard has fallen down. We have this matter in hand and are hoping to have the repair completed while NCC have the path closed for resurfacing the Hadrian's Wall Trail which runs alongside the wall.

### **Date for Your Diary:**

**Sunday 11th June Messy Church at St. Andrew's Church 4-6pm**

**Our theme this time will be Celebrating God's Creation**

### **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.

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

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

### **Useful Points of Contact :**

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

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

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

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

## **Festival of Fire**

*I've had an idea* said Diane one Saturday morning at Stamfordham Village Hall, *let's have a Festival of Fire to celebrate Pentecost!*

Her enthusiasm soon spread to what became a planning group consisting of representatives from the Churches of Heddon-on-the-Wall and Mr Wheatley, Headteacher at Heddon-on-the-Wall St. Andrew's CE Primary School.

Pentecost is a celebratory time of year in the life of the Christian Church. It is fifty days since the Resurrection on Easter Sunday and is often referred to as the Birthday of the Church. It is the momentous occasion when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples of Jesus heralding reassurance to all Christians that though Jesus had died his spirit would live amongst us for ever.

The Festival of Fire depicted all these aspects of Pentecost.

The event began at school, where Mr Wheatley held an assembly and explained Pentecost to the children. They then dispersed to their classrooms to begin an afternoon on making Pentecost themed crafts.

At the end of the school day, parents were invited to collect their children and their craft work and go to the Knott Hall where Phil and Sophie from the Three Tuns were providing a BBQ.

Tickets for the BBQ had been sold for 50p each. The entire proceeds of these ticket sales was given to the very worthwhile charity, Christian Aid.

A huge thank you at this point to Phil and Sophie for their amazing generosity and delicious BBQ. While everyone enjoyed their BBQ and cups of tea and coffee, the children were able to talk about their craft work.

Deacon Maggie was unable to attend due to ill health, so Revd. Rachel took up her position in the Storyteller's Chair, which had been beautifully decorated by Mrs Bilclough and the children of Year 4, to tell the story of Pentecost and to explain the amazing work done by the charity Christian Aid.

St. Andrew's Singers delighted us with their singing ably led by Mrs Graham and Mrs Milner and Revd. Tom thanked everyone for their involvement.

When it was time to leave the hall and process to St. Andrew's Church, the children were given a flag to wave. The flags represented many different countries throughout the world and on arrival at Church, were placed around the foot of the wooden cross which was standing outside the church door.

Once inside church, the theme of a birthday party was evident. Cakes, candles (50 to be precise) and more joyful singing filled the Church with happiness and joy.

The event concluded with Revd. Rachel saying a few words and giving a special blessing to us all.

Everyone left the church clutching a piece of birthday cake.

A wonderful idea had turned into a truly happy occasion with many people involved. To begin to name everyone who helped this event reach fruition would be impossible, suffice to say:

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way and an enormous thank you to everyone who came along.

*The Festival of Fire Planning Group*

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## Heddon Methodist Church

**Ministers:** Methodist Ministers for Heddon Methodist Church:  
Deacon Maggie Patchett, living in the village:  
Tel: 01661 854073 email: deaconmaggiep@gmail.com

and Revd Lynda Coulthard, based in Westerhope:  
Tel: 0191 271 1587 email: lynda.coulthard@methodist.org.uk

In the first instance, contact Maggie if you would like a visit, or to arrange a baptism, wedding 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



### Church Anniversary Tea 1877-2023

Come and help us celebrate with Tea in the Garden  
Saturday 4th June 2023 - Anytime between 3.00-4.30pm  
All Welcome!



**Messy Church:** Sunday 11 June 2023 4.00-6.00pm

Theme: **Taking Care of God's Creation**

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

Being held at St Andrew's Church

**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

## Newcastle West End foodbank Collection Point in Heddon

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 total number of foodbank parcels given out has risen by nearly 40% over the last year, so the need is increasing. And people cannot just turn up at the Foodbank to receive a parcel. They have to be referred, for example, by the City Council, Citizens Advice, DWP, Refugee Services or Housing Charities, who signpost those in need to the Foodbank's food and welfare support services.

So please donate, if you can. The most urgently needed items are:

- Tinned fruit
- Instant mash/tinned potatoes
- Baby milk and formula
- Nappies (size 4 and larger)
- Tea/coffee
- Soup – tinned and packet
- Custard
- Rice pudding
- Cereal.

But please also, no perishables and no clothing.

Heddon Methodist Church



## About Christian Aid

This week (14th – 20th May) is Christian Aid Week – a fundraising week which has taken place each year since 1957. During Christian Aid Week Christians, churches, and supporters of Christian Aid work with their local community to raise awareness about the effects of extreme poverty and injustice, wherever it is found in the world, and to enjoy taking part in fundraising activities together. The money raised helps support community projects all over the world.

Christian Aid Week provides an opportunity to think about the world in which we live, to celebrate all the good things, but also to talk about some of the things that are unfair in the world. It's an opportunity to share ideas about how the world could become a fantastic place for everyone to live.

Christian Aid believes that it is unfair for so many people on the earth to live everyday with the challenges and consequences of extreme poverty. However, Christian Aid believes that, working together, it is possible to find ways to share the earth's resources more fairly and to find ways to live peacefully and in cooperation with one another

Christian Aid's ground-breaking work began in 1945 with a focus on helping and welcoming refugees following the second world war. For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has continued to work with local communities worldwide to help bring an end to poverty and injustice - to help create a world where everyone can flourish and to live safely. Today the work of Christian Aid continues and is underpinned by the values of dignity, equality, justice motivated by love for our neighbour.

This year during Christian Aid Week we have been invited to learn from families, communities and farmers living in Malawi – to develop our understanding of how climate change effects their lives and communities. With the help of Christian Aid and their partners, they have set up farming co-operatives and grow peas which are drought resistant, and from which they make flour for bread. This enables women (and men) to be more independent and to make a living to support sending their children to school.

The work of organisations such as Christian Aid and partners, have supported people like Esther Saizi in Malawi. Esther describes her small, but significant, agricultural work as 'a tree'. The pigeon peas she grows are the trunk, and the branches are the many ways in which she is supporting her children and grandchildren.

Esther has grown from a place of grief and loss, when her husband died, being able to move from exploitation to financial security. She has built up a herd of goats, started her own tailoring business, and supported her daughter Ziwone's dreams of being a carpenter by purchasing tools. Esther bakes and sells pigeon pea bread and feeds her beloved grandchildren Nespo and Emmanuel food that is delicious and nutritious – and she often has enough to share with the rest of her community. All branches of effort and hope that, from a tiny plant, have dramatically improved the lives of those around her.



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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

## David steps up this year for Marie Curie



David all dressed up  
and ready to go



Heddon resident David Hodgson has been a regular and consistent volunteer supported Marie Curie since 2015. David stepped up this year during our flagship appeal - The Great Daffodil Appeal collecting over £400.00 in Morrisons West Denton and Newcastle City Centre. This is equivalent to over 20 hours of specialist Marie Curie nursing care. This money is vital funds we need to support our patients and families.

We are very grateful to David for his continued support.

*Laura Robinson*

Senior Community Fundraiser for the  
North of England Marie Curie

If any one would like to contribute or help contact  
email: [laura.c.robinson@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:laura.c.robinson@mariecurie.org.uk)

## theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

### Welcome to the latest W.I. update.

In April we had a very useful, informative and illustrated talk given by Rob Foggett from Age UK on frauds and scams, of which there seem to be so many going around these days. Rob was delighted with the feedback from his

audience and his parting words were 'don't feel afraid to say NO.'

What a splendid affair the Coronation Tea turned out to be. So well organised by David and Margaret Blackett. WI contributed to the baking and a big thank you must go to our members who baked and lent a helping hand keeping tea pots filled and everyone happy. Immediately after that we held our Annual Meeting where committee and new President is voted in. We had a very small number attending (more cheese and wine for those that were there), possibly because it was Bank Holiday and some had been out all afternoon at the 'tea,' however, the meeting went off well and I am delighted to say that we welcome Lesley back as President and all the committee members are willing to stand again.

Our latest programme is just about to go into print but I do know we can look forward to a good variety of speakers and events. In June we will host Hop, Skiffle and Jump. This will be an evening of music, clog dancing and no doubt audience participation.

Information on our upcoming meetings will be on the village noticeboards as soon as the programme is confirmed and if you see anything that takes your fancy please come along and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

*Pauline*

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## Celebrating the Kings Coronation in Heddon

Some of the images taken on the Coronation weekend celebrating King Charles III's Coronation which took place Saturday 6th May 2023 in Westminster Abbey.

Coronation display.  
Photo: Margaret Nichol



You promised us a treat for dressing up!  
Photo: Katy Doyle



Coronation tea in the Memorial Hall.  
Photo: David Blackett

Three Tuns ready for the Coronation weekend  
Photo: Three Tuns



Anthony getting into the Coronation mood  
Photo: Katy Doyle



Raising a glass for King Charles III  
Photo: Margaret Nichol

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### HEDDON ON THE WALL AND FLOOR TILING



## Parish Council Updates

We're pleased to welcome Lucy Barton as our new clerk. Lucy will be answering your emails and calls and supporting the council meetings. We've a full complement of Parish Councillors with Rob Oatway being co-opted in March. Rob is keen on progressing our approach with environmental sustainability and climate change and we'll be hosting our first discussion group on Wednesday 28th June, 7pm at the library. So if you've an interest in environment and climate change, please join Rob.

Chair (Paul Edwards) and Vice-chair Richard Adams both stepped down in May. Paul has taken us through covid and storm Arwen and made some positive changes within the council. And Richard has been vice-chair for around 13 years and has supported many projects. Both are remaining on the council as we welcome Di Keller as Chair and Karen Dryden as Vice-Chair. We like to share a huge thanks to Paul and Richard for all they have done and we'll share more of our successes in June at our annual meeting. [Richard and Paul – do you want to say anything?]

### Grass and green spaces

After a successful ground's maintenance tender process – we're pleased to welcome Batson Groundcare as our supplier for the next 3 years. The robust process ensures that we're maintaining value for money. The Parish Council are responsible for the Memorial Garden, Taberna Close, Butterfly Garden. Other areas in the village are maintained by either Northumberland County Council or Karbon Homes. Similarly to us, environmental sustainability plays a huge role in any ground's maintenance contract, so many spaces won't be cut as regularly, or appear to be 'bowling green' standard. This overall provides great habitats for our small animals and helps to offset the carbon footprint of the growing number of vehicles on our roads.

### Welfare field/MUGA/Playground

We've been working with some of the children at St Andrews with some ideas for our play area. We want to make sure that we have the views of people across the village, so here's an opportunity for you to input into our plans. Once we have some ideas, we'll share them with the village and look at how we can bring them to life.

Fill out a survey here:

<https://forms.gle/FVobq9svGvRP2cGz7>

Use QR code to go straight to the form



### Roads and pathways

We've been working with the highways department of Northumberland County Council with the feedback from our community about parking, roads, pathways and the speed of vehicles. We had a work-around the village with Peter Jackson our local councillor to look at the issues that had been raised and what improvements we could look to make. You may have already seen some improvements

- The bus stops on Hexham road, one has been reinstated and a new one has been installed to prevent people parking there and enabling the bus to stop safely to let passengers on and off.

- Flashing speed signs – have been fixed so are now working throughout the village.
- School crossing signs have been put up on the roads leading to the school at Trajan Walk and at the edge of the Welfare field.
- Buffer zones (with red painted lines) have been introduced at the A69 entrance and Wylam entrance to the village.

### Medium term;

- Chare Bank will be resurfaced and the entrance to the memorial park levelled to prevent flooding and silt.
- We'll also install the Hadrian Mosaic which is our legacy from the birthday celebrations last year.

### Longer term plans include;

- A school safety zone at the rear entrance of the school and welfare field.
  - Speed reduction within the village
  - Parking options for consultation near the school
  - Cutback of trees and grass on the A69 entrance/exit to the village.
- We'll keep you updated with dates and progress as we can.

### Dates for the diary

**Parish Council Meetings** - Held at the Library the second Wednesday of every month meeting at 7pm.

- 14th June 2023 – This meeting will start at 6.45pm for our Annual Meeting
- 12th July 2023
- 13th September 2023
- 11th October 2023
- 8th November 2023
- 13th December 2023  
Environment And Climate Change Discussion Group
- Wednesday 28th June – 7pm – at the Library.

### Organised Litter Pick

Meet at the Memorial Park at 10.30am.

- Saturday 5th August 2023
- Saturday 21st October 2023

### Butterfly and Roman Herb Garden Meet Ups

- Every Sunday except for Bank Holiday weekends 12-2pm

### Events

**Remembrance Sunday** - 12th November 2023

### Contact us

Parish Clerk: Lucy Barton t: 01661 886853  
e: [heddonpc@gmail.com](mailto:heddonpc@gmail.com)

Asset Officer: Lorraine Twizell t: 01661 854583  
e: [heddonasestsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:heddonasestsofficer@gmail.com)

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





## Dennis & June Neale

The funeral of Dennis and June Neale took place on 9th May at St Andrew's Church.

They were born within a 3 months of each other in 1931, and married in September 1980, moving to the village in the August 1981.

Prior to their marriage they both served their country with Dennis undertaking his National Service in the Royal Army

Medical Corp. He was an active member of the National Service Veterans Alliance and Royal Army Medical Corp Association. Upon leaving the Army he qualified as an Estate Agent and worked for the National Grid as a Land Agent until his retirement.

June, at the age of 16 met and chatted to a Police Woman and from that meeting decided she wished to be a police woman too, but upon learning that she needed to be 22 to join the Metropolitan Police, joined the Royal Airforce serving for 4 years as a Radar Operator and rising to the rank of Corporal. She then went on to serve in the Metropolitan Police for 25 years and was awarded the long service and good conduct medal.

Upon their arrival in the village they immersed themselves in village life. Dennis served on the Parish Council, he and June were both very active in the Neighbourhood watch scheme that operated in the village. They were both very keen gardeners. In 1994 they won Best Kept Front Garden award from the Heddon in Bloom committee. June also served as a member of the Heddon in Bloom committee in 1998 and along with her fellow committee members received the Queen Mother's Birthday Award for Environmental Improvement. June also served on the Knott Memorial Hall Management Committee. She

was also was a very keen supporter of creating sporting facilities in the village.

Sadly, June's health and mobility deteriorated, and she was unable to get out and about as much, although every Saturday morning Dennis would be backing out their car from the garage and they would both go off to Hexham for the day. You could set your watch by it they were 8am on the dot off to Hexham.

Dennis unfortunately had to give up his car but when June was transferred to Hexham Hospital last August Dennis would take the bus journey every day without fail to visit June, often standing for ages at the village bus stop, although a lot of villagers would see him and take him to Hexham, whether they were going there or not. He was clearly devoted to June and sadly when Dennis suffered a series of falls and was admitted to the same ward as June he was in very good spirits as he was able to just wander down the ward to see her and take meals together. Maureen from Posh Paws kindly fulfilled her promise to June and has adopted their dog Pippa and even managed to take her to visit Dennis and June in hospital. Sadly their health rapidly deteriorated and they passed away within a few weeks of each other.

We all miss seeing Pippa and Dennis on their daily walks around the village, Dennis was always such a gentleman, doffing his cap to any ladies he would meet. June's family spent a few days in the village leading up to the funeral and were deeply touched by all the lovely comments made to them about Dennis and June.

*Sam Dewar*

## In Memorium

### Carol Lynch

On the 15th of March Carol peacefully passed away at her home in Heddon aged 77.

Carol was a wonderful wife to Tim.

Following a stroke in 2016 Tim cared endlessly for Carol as she continued to live a happy life at home with her family around her.

Carol was a loving, kind and caring Mam to Julie who adored her and was an amazing loving Nana to Lily, Joseph and Sam.

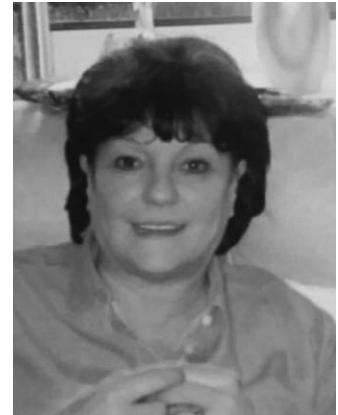
Her funeral took place on Monday 3rd April at St Mary's Church in Throckley followed by a burial at the West Road Crematorium.

All donations at the funeral were passed to the Stroke Association.

The family would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming kindness and support we are received at this difficult time.

Carol's beautiful smile will never be forgotten.

*Julie Cunningham*



### Keith Clegg

Keith Clegg, age 74, passed away suddenly on Sunday 7th May at the RVI hospital surrounded by his loving wife Linda of 54 years and 3 adult children, Katherine, Denise and Michael and also leaves behind 4 grandchildren and 4 soon to be 5 great grandchildren.

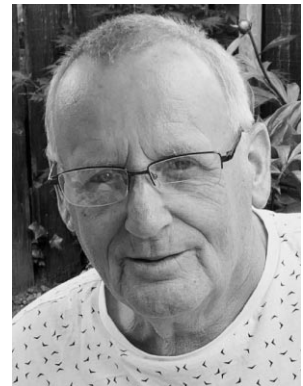
Keith, the younger of 2 children, was born in Bensham in 1949 and spent his early years living in Northumberland before meeting Linda and finally settling into family life in Heddon-on-the-Wall some 53 years ago.

A well known character in the local village, a mechanic by trade and fondly known as 'Elvis' by many older members of the village. Keith always had a friendly word and time for a chat and most likely a dog biscuit in his pocket just in case.

His funeral service was held at the West Road Crematorium on Wednesday 24th May with remembrance drinks afterwards at the Swan Inn Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Keith's family would like to thank everyone for the kind words and thoughts that have been shared at this sad time.

*Michael Clegg*



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## Nature Notes - Sounds of Summer - Warblers

Ruth Oatway

I've written about migratory birds as a sign of changing seasons in this column before, but this time I want to focus on some of the warblers that arrive in the UK in spring and change the whole summer soundscape of our countryside. The warblers are a large group of birds so I won't try to cover them all in one go. Most feed on insects, often plucking them from leaves. Many are quite elusive and hard to tell apart visually, but they often have rich, complex and melodious songs distinctive to each species which can be the best way to locate and identify them.

The chiffchaff is one of our more common warblers and also one of the first migrants to return after winter. It has a simple and easily-identified two-note call which sounds like its name. For me that call is a real herald of spring. I usually hear them first in March or April, and then seem to hear them everywhere I go throughout the summer until about September. They are small olive-brown warblers which actively flit through trees and shrubs, picking insects from foliage but also snapping them out of the air in flight. They often sit on a prominent branch to sing, which usually gives the best chance to see them. They are numerous in the woods of Heddon Common and all around our area. This is one species that is currently doing well and expanding its range further north into Scotland.

A very similar-looking bird is the willow-warbler. Again they return to the UK in spring, usually slightly after the chiffchaffs. They have



Chiffchaff

Willow-Warbler

a grey-green back and pale underparts with a yellow-tinged chest and throat. Their legs are pale and pinkish whereas the chiffchaff's legs are dark grey, and willow warblers tend to have a longer stripe above the eye, but their song is the clearest way to tell them apart. The willow warbler's beautiful song is a series of melodious descending notes. I've heard them in Heddon Common, by Throckley ponds and along the River Tyne. It's another widespread species but is declining across England and Wales and increasing in Scotland and Northern Ireland, so it currently has amber conservation status.

The final species I want to introduce is the grasshopper warbler. This is a much less common bird which suffered steep population declines between the 1960s and 1980s and is now a UK red-listed species of conservation concern. I was therefore excited to hear one in early May at the top end of Station road just as the fields begin, and to hear and eventually see one singing in a dense hedge just beyond the end of Throckley ponds. They have a very unusual call; a high-pitched, continuous gentle whirring which sounds similar to a cricket or grasshopper, hence the bird's name. This is quite a challenging one to hear and even harder to see as they are small brown birds which tend to stay hidden in thick scrub or foliage and creep around in a mouse-like way. The best time to hear these birds is early morning or dusk.

RSPB and BTO both have useful websites where you can find out more about all the warbler species and listen to recordings of their songs. I recommend getting familiar with some then listening for them when out and about. Learning bird songs gives you a much better chance of seeing the more elusive species and identifying them with confidence, plus it's rewarding just to tune in to these lovely little songsters and become more aware of them. Happy warbling!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/warbler-family/>

<https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/bird-orders-and-families-world/sylviidae-warblers>



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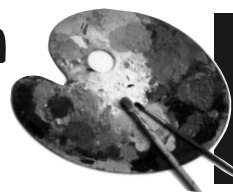
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The.mower.man19>



# Heddon Art Group



**NEW members welcome**



1<sup>st</sup> winner 1975 *Sheila Brownell* receives the Rose Bowl from *Reg Hewling*.  
 Photo shows: Jean Harrison, Min Dickinson, Wynne Luff, Reg Hewling, Joan Newton, Vera Payne, Sheila Brownell, Muri Wilson, Tony Kim

Memories: First winner of the Reg Hewling Rose Bowl - Sheila Brownell

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](mailto:chambers497@btinternet.com) for more details.

## HEDDON PATCHERS

Heddon Patchers quilting group meet 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.

For more information contact Ann Allsopp on 01661 820568 or on the e-mail address: [allsopprayann@btinternet.com](mailto:allsopprayann@btinternet.com)

Thank you. *Ann Allsopp*



### 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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 East Heddon, Northumberland, NE15 0HB



# THE PROBABLE LOCATION OF MILECASTLE 12

Andy Curtis

The following is taken from the discussion section of the article below (published in 2021) following the finding of remains of Hadrian's Wall, but not the Milecastle, during the building of houses at Tulip Mews (previously part of Town Farm & later Tulip's Haulage Yard). Comments in square brackets have been added by me.

An archaeological watching brief at Heddon-on-the-Wall and the probable location of Milecastle 12 by Matthew S. Hobson. *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 5th series, vol. 50 (2021), pp. 115–132.

The measured location of Milecastle 12 falls within the development area [the new houses of Tulip Mews], more or less precisely at the north-west corner of the former farm buildings. The identification of preserved remains of Hadrian's Wall at this location, in an area which had previously been assumed to have suffered complete truncation, warrants a reassessment of the probable location of this milecastle. The 2019 investigations have confirmed that the line of the Broad Wall was positioned rather too far south to have been disturbed by the widening of the old Carlisle to Newcastle road in 1926. If the pivot stone discovered during the 1926 roadworks [exact location of which was not recorded] was indeed part of the in situ northern gate of Milecastle 12, the clear implication is that its location is likely to have been farther west, close to where the projected line of the curtain wall meets the remains of the old road. In our estimation the discovery of the pivot stone in 1926 is most likely to have been some 90m farther to the west [closer to the garage] than the measured location of the milecastle, as indicated on fig. 2.

Supporting the idea that the discovery in 1926 was made farther to the west, is the fact that in 1856 the development area and the neighbouring plot of land to the west were both in possession of Messrs. Ord, Collingwood and Dutton. Stobbs (2020) has correctly observed that if these two plots of land could both be referred to as Town Farm, it would make sense of the fact that the pivot stone was described as having been found 'close to the western end of an outbuilding of Town Farm'.

The distance between milecastles varied depending upon the terrain and the need to communicate with forts on the Stanegate [a discrepancy of 90m from the measured distance between adjacent milecastles is not unknown].

It is still possible that the pivot stone was found during work linking up the east-west road [between Tulip Mews and Tank House] with the north-south lane which separates these two plots of land. If any remains of the milecastle lay within the western half of the development area they are very likely to have been destroyed. The remaining uncertainty means that in future the location of the milecastle should be sought somewhere between the western boundary of the current development site and the Shell garage to the west that faces onto Hexham Road. Use of Ground Penetrating Radar could perhaps be used successfully to solve this long-standing question.

Andy Curtis

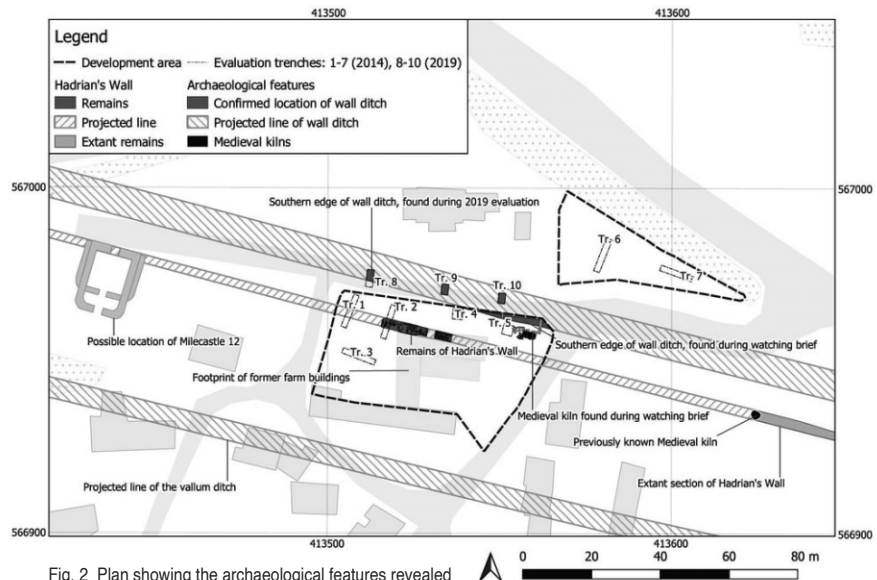


Fig. 2 Plan showing the archaeological features revealed during the evaluation trenches and watching brief.

Looking east over the probable location of Milecastle 12



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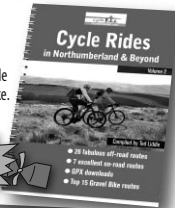
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**Heddon-on-the-Wall Local History Society**

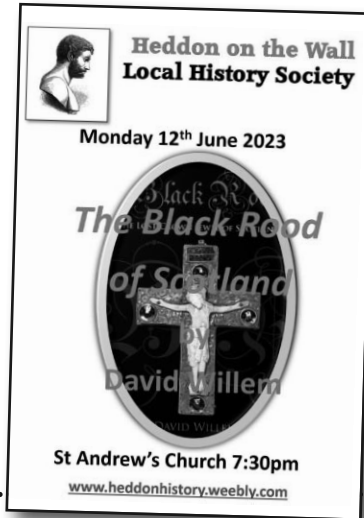
**Black Rood talk in**

You are welcome to attend a talk by author, David Willem, on his new book, *Black Rood*, to be held in St Andrew's Church, Heddon-on-the-Wall on Monday 12th June at 7:30pm. A charge of £3.00 will be made to cover expenses.

*Black Rood tells the fascinating story of one of Scotland's oldest and most significant crown jewels. Once as famous as the Stone of Scone, the Black Rood was a gold and jewel-studded reliquary for a piece of the True Cross.*

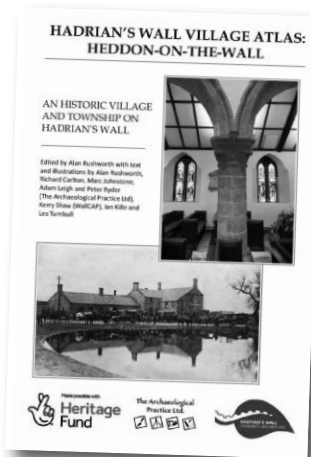
*This profound and holy treasure was smuggled into Scotland after the Norman invasion by the sister of the last Anglo-Saxon king of England. On her marriage to King Malcolm III, the Black Rood passed into the Scottish royal family, and so became a symbol of the authority and legitimacy of Scotland's kingship.*

*Giving its name to the abbey and then the palace and now the parliament of Holyrood, the Black Rood was to help define Scotland as a kingdom which was at least the equal of England in the eyes of God, and in some ways superior to it.*



**Heddon Village Atlas is ready!**

You may remember last year, the Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project (WallCAP) commissioned research, fieldwork and the printing of a series of historical Village Atlases across the Hadrian's Wall corridor, including Heddon. Well, after much editing, the Heddon edition has now been printed! Everyone who was involved in digging a test pit in their garden should hopefully have received their copy by now, if not, please drop me an email and I'll get one to you. A number of hard copies are now available across the village (library, churches, school) and a digital copy will be made available on the Heddon Local History Society website too!



In the meantime, happy reading and thanks again to those who got involved!

*Kerry Shaw*  
 kerry.shaw@newcastle.ac.uk  
 Hadrian's Wall - World Heritage Site Programmes Co-ordinator

**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.



English Heritage volunteers working on Hadrian's Wall, Heddon-on-the-Wall

**Fancy Volunteering?**

As English Heritage volunteers we meet regularly at Heddon and spend the time scraping the vegetation off the wall. While this sounds like a very simple task it is invaluable in maintaining the wall and preventing decay.

I would like to encourage people to come and join us in our efforts. No skill needed, just the ability to use a scraper and chat for a couple of hours.

As a volunteer you will receive a uniform, the equipment needed for the task and after 4 months free membership of English Heritage.

If anyone is interested, please contact Sophie Hearn at English Heritage.

SophieHearn@english-heritage.org.uk

## Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No 1012011



When we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee, the enjoyment and pleasure from being with friends and neighbours, possibly an annual Afternoon Tea. No one expected there to be another royal event so soon.

The Kings Coronation, began with less fanfare and possibly not the enthusiasm of the Jubilee BUT what an event!

Nearly 100 people turned out for the Afternoon Tea, old friends and new friends it was a pleasure to see the village coming together to simply have a good time.

### Thank you to:-

Heddon WI ladies who excelled themselves managing the catering aspects of the event.

The Knott Hall Trustees and Volunteers decorated everywhere, if it didn't move it was 'bunting-ed'.

Janet and the Swan for providing the delicious sandwiches.

Maria who organised the Childrens Party which followed

And to everyone who attended.

It was a really fun afternoon with everyone having a good time, including our resident nuisances who brought the evening to a close by kicking and banging on the Knott Hall fire exit as clearing operations were underway.

### AGM:-

A quick mention of the AGM, I had hoped the offer of free coffee and cake, would tempt some residents to engage with the activities and running of the Hall, well at least we got one.

The trustees will continue to maintain and manage the Hall as specified in the trust Deed, but it would be refreshing to receive some input into how residents perceive the role of the Hall.

Baldy Holly, this lively music event was arranged by Heddon Football to raise funds for the teams, by all accounts it was a successful and enjoyable event.

Dark Lights, A musical and visual mystery drama, this was another enjoyable production by FoolsGold, the twist and turns of the story and music kept the audience entertained, with the pie and peas supper rounding off the evening nicely.

### Future Events for your diary:

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

### Coffee & cake @the Knott - 17th June 2023 11-00-13.00

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Free Coffee and Cakes with a chance to talk about heritage, what's happening and future plans or just sit and enjoy the coffee.

### 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:-

Music – Concerts and gigs, Workshops/Talks – Music, History, Literature, Kite making, Makers Market, Food and KITES

### Heddon Village Show - 2nd September 2023

The welcome return of the village show.

### Fashion Event - TBA September 2023

Our biannual fashion event for the ladies of the village, clothes, Prosecco and bingo a fun night out.

### Make do and Mend Drama Production - 13th October 2023

Music, song and visuals looking at life in the 1950's

### Big Science @ the Knott - Half term Activity TBA October 2023

### Beat the Drum - 10th November 2023

### Christmas market - 24th November 2023

### Knott Memorial Hall - Contact Details

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

**General Info:** D Blackett: 07770666744 [dblackett@aol.com](mailto:dblackett@aol.com)

**Bookings:** Hazel Thompson: 01661 85368

# Spring into SUMMER with

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10am-4pm.

## 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**

# Hadrian's Head



## Where we are!

old wall, birthday, 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 really close to being 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. This has meant the original plan to tidy up Chare bank has been moved forward, the really observant will have noticed that the restrictions are already in place to start the work, this has been adjusted due to the need to repair the crumbling churchyard wall at the same time.

## 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 June 2023. The first options will be to residents of Heddon, followed by those living near the Wall then the World.

- The blocks will retail at £40.00
- The sale of the blocks will commence on the 1/6/2023 and will proceed in six weekly slots.
- **Slot 1**  
Heddon residents will have priority and will receive a discount of £10.00
- **Slot 2**  
Residents along the Wall, will receive a discount of £5.00
- **Slot 3**  
All other purchasers.

Contact: David Blackett: [dblackett@aol.com](mailto:dblackett@aol.com) Tel: 07770666744

David Blackett



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# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

## Welcome to the latest W.I. update.

In April we had a very useful, informative and illustrated talk given by Rob Foggett from Age UK on frauds and scams, of which there seem to be so many going around these days. Rob

was delighted with the feedback from his audience and his parting words were 'don't feel afraid to say NO.'

What a splendid affair the Coronation Tea turned out to be. So well organised by David and Margaret Blackett. WI contributed to the baking and a big thank you must go to our members who baked and lent a helping hand keeping tea pots filled and everyone happy. Immediately after that we held out Annual Meeting where committee and new President is voted in. We had a very small number attending (more cheese and wine for those that were there), possibly because it was Bank Holiday and some had been out all afternoon at the 'tea,' however, the meeting went off well and I am delighted to say that we welcome Lesley back as President and all the committee members are willing to stand again.

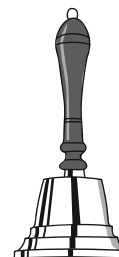
Our latest programme is just about to go into print but I do know we can look forward to a good variety of speakers and events. In June we will host Hop, Skiffle and Jump. This will be an evening of music, clog dancing and no doubt audience participation.

Information on our upcoming meetings will be on the village noticeboards as soon as the programme is confirmed and if you see anything that takes your fancy please come along and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Pauline

## HANDBELL GROUP

Tower bell ringers treated us to a feast of ringing on Coronation Day - such a wonderfully festive noise. We put it on record that some of the handbells enjoyed adding their own little private tribute, getting onto a dining room table to join in the spirit of the occasion. Some easy peals were remembered (and improved with practice) and Pomp and Circumstance and God Save The King also had an airing.



Exciting news - Gateshead has won the bid to host the bi-annual International Handbell Symposium in 2026. Ringers from Korea, Japan, Australia, USA and other places where ringing of English handbells has caught on more than hereabouts will bring fantastic entertainment and there will be opportunities for participation and learning for all levels of skill. The last time it was UK's turn to host was 2012. It was held in Liverpool and a ringer from Heddon-on-the-Wall was there. or more information on handbells, meetings contact:

Jennifer King. Tel: 01661 852926

## BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

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





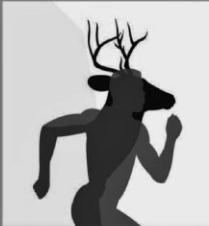
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**Scott Miller Fitness**

**TUESDAY**  
Heddon - Knott Memorial Hall  
09.30-10.15 - L&T  
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

**SUNDAY**  
09.00 - 09.30 - Spin (Zoom)  
09.45-10.30 - Stretch (Zoom)

# ADMURUM Singers

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](http://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

## Heddon Carpet Bowls

Anyone interested in joining Heddon Carpet Bowls contact: John Curtis, Tel: 07951 131904 for more information on the club and meetings.



## Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – June 2023 update

Have you been aware of the increase in aircraft activity over Heddon Village now the summer holiday flight schedules are taking off (no pun intended!) While ANAG in no way denies the benefits of Newcastle having its local airport, it does campaign that its management should attempt to have a better relationship with its close neighbours – i.e. you and me!

ANAG continues to monitor complaints about particularly noisy aircraft flying over the village 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>

The number of Heddon residences on ANAG's contact list continues to remain high, so if you also want to receive updates on what's happening, please visit the website and sign up. Other useful links can also be found on the website to further environmental groups also concerned with aircraft issues. If you do sign up, your email address is never passed on to other parties.

Robin Brooks. Heddon Banks

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# FIX MY STREET

Report it. Sort it.



Northumberland County Council have set up a hot line 'Fix My Street'

This new online service is for people to report problems on the county's streets has gone live.

Issues can be reported straight from a mobile phone, computer or tablet

If you consider the problem to be dangerous or an emergency, please call us on: 0345 600 6400. Otherwise, by submitting the report online we will deal with it in line with our agreed timescales.

### How to report a problem

All you have to do is go on line or on the phone and click on the link:

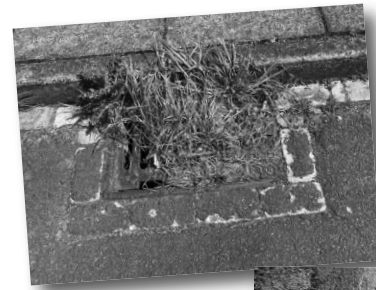
Enter a Northumberland postcode, or street name and area

Locate the problem on a map of the area

Enter details of the problem

Confirm the report and Northumberland County Council will investigate

Pictured are a few of the road drains in Heddon-on-the-Wall that could pose a danger of flooding to households, if we have a lot of run-off from flash floods, which with Global Warming could be a regular occurrence.



Report potholes to the hot line 'Fix My Street'

Which way Newcastle? Still waiting for a new sign since the old battered sign was taken down last summer.



The Belta Reivers onstage.

## A BELTA NIGHT FOR THE FOOD BANK

Local folk group The Belta Reivers ([www.beltareivers.com](http://www.beltareivers.com)) were the sell-out attraction at Ponteland Social Club on April 1st. The talented trio had their audience singing along to Geordie and Irish folk favourites from *Blaydon Races* to *Fields of Athenry*. There were energetic jigs, sentimental ballads and some jazzy flute improvisations. Organised by a resurgent local Labour Party, the evening raised £628 for the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank. There was a tangible sense of community in the air. People went home with smiles on their faces, - and perhaps a tinge of hope for a time when food banks become redundant.

The event was organised by the Heddon and Ponteland Labour Party branch, (and the refreshments were prepared in Heddon!),

Bob Turner

## 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.

John Gillott has taken over as joint co-ordinator with replacing Pauline Buckley.

Kind regards, Ted Burt - (joint Library co-ordinator with John Gillot)

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# ALL SEASONS

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[www.allseasonsindependentfuneraldirectors.co.uk](http://www.allseasonsindependentfuneraldirectors.co.uk)

## HETT - Heddon Education & Training Trust

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

- 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](mailto:fredaphillipson04@gmail.com)

## HEXHAM COURANT CORRESPONDENT

John Stewart is the contact for NEWS to be included in the Hexham Courant.

News must be to him by 5pm on a SATURDAY  
email: [heddonnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heddonnews@yahoo.co.uk) mobile: 07713 646623  
twitter account: @heddononthewall



## MOG & DOG

1 hour walk  
30 minute walk  
30 minute home visit  
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Max 3 dogs per walk

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Tel: 01661 853 161

VINTAGE INNS

## HEDDON GOSSIP

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

August/September 2023

July 20th for articles and advertising

Contact: Ian Scott

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