

HEDDON G♥SSIP

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

FEBRUARY • MARCH 2024



Selman Park is reopening!

We've been working closely with the landowner of Selman Park to look at how we can bring the facility back into the community. Taking into consideration historic issues and concerns with regards access, parking and over usage of the sports field, the Parish Council have agreed with the landowner to trial an approach for 12 months in October to bring back usage to try and protect the longevity of the Selman Park facility. Depending on usage, the Parish Council will make a decision in October 2024 on whether to extend the length of the Lease Agreement.

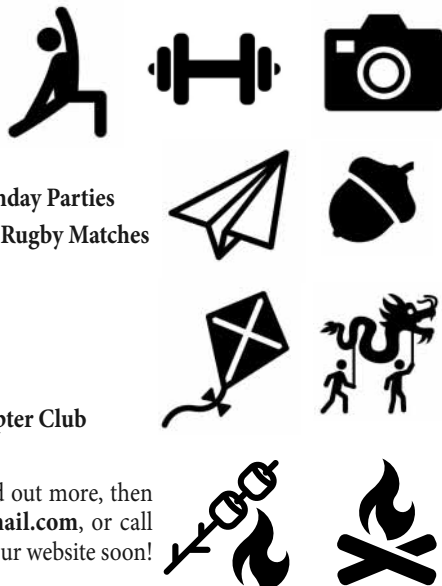
The size of Selman Park being leased has been reduced, however, still includes the changing room facilities which we know bring value to the groups using it.



We've already experimented with some local groups and have seen the newly formed Heddon Guides using the facility to prepare for their camping trip, kites were flown at the Heddon Culture Show and we're having ongoing discussions with St Andrews School to support their sport curriculum. It's all very exciting.

To get things up and running and encouraging people to use the facility for the next 9 months, the Parish Council will subsidise the hire costs with the initial hires being free. We're open to exploring ideas that you might want to use the facility for and how we can accommodate usage by smaller Heddon groups and activities. In addition to the groups we're working with, here's some ideas of the types of activities we're looking to encourage;

- Heddon Brownies
- Heddon Scouts
- Heddon Cubs
- Heddon Running Club (Harriers)
- Heddon Fitness Groups
- Use by residents for Children's Birthday Parties
- Heddon Village Football / Cricket / Rugby Matches
- Heddon Archery Club
- Heddon Photography Club
- Heddon Art Group
- Heddon Festival Events
- Heddon Electric Airplanes / Helicopter Club
- Heddon Outdoor Crafts



If you have any questions or want to find out more, then please get in touch with heddonpc@gmail.com, or call 01661 854583. We'll have full details on our website soon!



Former editor passes away peacefully

Ann Locky 18/94/1938 - 15/12/2023 Ann and her family moved to Hexham Road in 1980. Mam was an avid crafter and also wanted to take part in village life so she joined many different groups in the village. She started Heddon stitchers and Tuesday teas, all so people could join in and be part of the village. She then became clerk to the parish council, when Brian Selman was chair. She took over the production of Heddon Gossip, which she wanted to make as interesting and as informative as possible. Always believing that keeping the residence informed was an important part of keeping a village thriving. She created an amazing network of contributors and people who would deliver it for her. She also helped out at the library as a volunteer. Mam had two bouts of Covid, which was blamed for her not feeling quite her usual self. Mam was diagnosed with colon and liver cancer on 11th December and passed away peacefully with her family on 15th December. She was resourceful, resilient, and said "thank you" every morning for the day she'd been blessed with. As her wallpaper in her hallways says "when you see rain look for rainbows" She will be sadly missed.

Val Locky

STAY & PLAY - All Welcome!

Heddon-on-the-Wall,
St Andrew's CE Primary School
Every Wednesday during term time
9.00am - 10.30am

Make new friends, socialise with other parents and carers, enjoy a range of toys, crafts and songs, suitable for babies and toddlers from birth to 3 years, refreshments included, baby change facilities available.

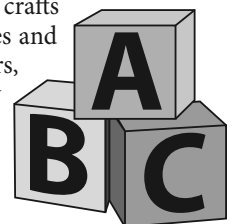
£1.00 donation per child

For more information visit:

www.heddon-school.co.uk.

email: stayandplay@heddonschool.co.uk

Tel: 01661 853350



Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – UPDATE

NOISE: The usual reminder to carry on sending in the complaints and get your neighbours to do it too! <https://www.aircraftnoiseaction.com/complaints-form-2> Newcastle Airport now has its own complaints form on line – we recommend that you DON'T USE IT. Why? Because you can't choose a part of the day, you have to specify the precise time for each complaint. It is also confusing about the questions it asks and you might struggle to answer them. It also doesn't collect enough data. We think that, overall, it will effectively suppress the number of complaints. Don't let that happen.

PRIVATE JETS: The use of private jets is privilege of the rich and of senior executives of big companies and corporations – and it's growing rapidly. Why is this a problem? Well, private planes are up to 14 times more polluting per passenger mile than commercial planes and 50 times more polluting than trains. They carry far fewer passengers and about 40% of flights are empty, simply getting the aircraft to the right location. Newcastle Airport is not a major problem in this area BUT other UK airports are and when you add them all up it's a serious contribution to climate change. This must stop, what price climate change?

HOW THE GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTING AVIATION EXPANSION: No VAT on jet fuel, no environmental impact taxation and planning for flights from UK Airports to increase by 33% by the year 2050 or earlier. The government claims that aviation is central to our economic development – an outright untruth. In practice (as we reported last time) the data says it is primarily a leisure industry that helps the export of vast amounts of money from the UK while bringing in a whole lot less. Expansion also runs entirely counter to the Government's stated objective of aviation being carbon zero by 2050. The government claims (without evidence) that future efficiency gains will deliver aviation's emission targets. However, the increased number of flights will entirely wipe out any gain. Truth is, we all need to fly a whole lot less.

NEXT TIME: Greenwashing and Suppression of free speech

<https://www.aircraftnoiseaction.com>



Wylam
Painting & Decorating

Interior & Exterior
Domestic & Commercial
Free Estimates
Fully Insured

tel: 01661 853905 | m:07981 895 835
wylampaintdecs@aol.com



let's colour

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

A Place for Everyone

Well the weather may be wintry as I write this article and Christmas already a month ago but I'm sure we all still have warm and happy memories of the wonderful range of services on offer at both the churches in our partnership and with our friends at Heddon Methodist Church during the Christmas period.

We enjoyed Carol Services, a Christingle and Crib Service as well as Christmas Holy Communion. There was something for everyone and we have heard some very positive comments about the services.

We were incredibly grateful for the generosity of the 'Santa's Sleigh Ride Around Heddon' organisers who kindly divided the proceeds of the event between the two churches in Heddon. We intend to put this donation towards funding the installation of a projector and screen in church. This will enhance our services with music and videos. These facilities will also greatly benefit the school when they hold services in church and when they bring classes for educational visits as they will be able to put hymn words on the large screen which all parents and friends will be able to see and read clearly and to help to support their topics with pictures and videos.

Though we are in the season of Epiphany, our thoughts now begin to focus on Lent and Easter. Details of our Easter services will follow later in this article.

There are however, two changes to our usual schedules:

Our morning service on a Sunday is now 10.30 a.m. This means that Revd. Rachel can lead more Sunday services at St. Andrew's each month which is a great blessing.

The other change is that we are going to hold more joint services with the Methodist Church throughout this year alternating between St. Andrew's and the Methodist Church.

The Reception Class from Heddon St. Andrew's CE Primary School, had a wonderful visit to Church in January to learn about the Church, focusing on Baptisms. I am sure Heddon residents heard the church bells being rung with gusto indicating that some very exuberant children were pulling the bell rope!

The school continue to bring the children to St. Andrew's for special services. In the Spring they will hold both their Mothering Sunday Services and their Easter Service.

In previous editions of Heddon Gossip, we explained the financial situation we face in order to keep St. Andrew's Church open for services, baptisms, weddings and funerals and we would like to sincerely thank all those who have, as a consequence of reading the article, generously donated to our funds.

Please do not hesitate to contact our treasurer,

Jane Tiffen (07305594059 m.tiffen@btinternet.com) if you require any information on how you can financially support the future of this village church.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 14th February – Holy Communion with Ashing for Ash Wednesday **11.30 a.m.**

Friday 8th March – School Mothering Sunday Services in Church at **9.30 a.m. and 10.15 a.m.**

Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday Service at **10.30 a.m.**

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday Service at **10.30 a.m.**

Sunday 24th March – Annual Parochial Church Meeting about **11.30 a.m.** although it will roll straight on from the Sunday Service so may start as early as **11.15 a.m.** **All welcome to attend.**

Thursday 28th March – School Easter Service at **9.30 a.m.**

Thursday 28th March – Holy Communion, Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar for Maundy Thursday at **4.00 p.m.**

Friday 29th March – Joint Service with the Methodist Church for Good Friday at **10.00 a.m.** at **St. Andrew's Church.**

Saturday 30th March – Joint Service with Stamfordham, Matfen and Ryal at Matfen Village Hall and Matfen Church for a Service for Easter Eve at **7.00 p.m.** The service begins in the Village Hall.

Sunday 31st March – Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at **10.30 a.m.**

Sunday worship every week at 10.00am follows this pattern:

1st Sunday of the month: Lay Led Worship. This is not Holy Communion but familiar prayers, Bible readings and hymns.

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 - this is a Facebook page so can be accessed like a website even if you don't normally use Facebook.

Your village Church continues to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays throughout the remainder of winter and the spring months from 10am - 3.00pm. It offers a welcome to anyone who would like to visit, admire the building or simply enjoy some time for prayer in peace and quiet.

The Church is a beautiful setting for weddings and baptisms, if you would like to enquire about either please contact Revd. Rachel.

r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org

Lynda Henderson

Useful Points of Contact :

Revd. Rachel Scheffer ... 01661 886853

r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org

Revd. Tom Birch ... 01661 853254

revdtombirch@gmail.com

Church Warden: **Jane Tiffen** ... 07305594059

m.tiffen@btinternet.com

Church Warden: **Lynda Henderson** ... 07907574575

lhndrsn56@gmail.com



ALL SEASONS

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We are an independently run family business with in excess of 40 years' experience.
We cover all areas and are available 24 hours a day. We provide traditional and bespoke funerals at affordable prices. We can take away the worry and stress at a distressing time by organising every funeral aspect.

• All areas • 24 hours • Chapels of rest

80 Front Street, Prudhoe NE42 5PU 01661 598288	5 Broomy Hill Road, Throckley NE15 9NS 0191 2861340
---	--



www.allseasonsindependentfuneraldirectors.co.uk

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

First of all Happy New Year to everyone, may it be peaceful, happy and healthy. For our last meeting of the year we enjoyed a lovely sociable evening dining at the Swan, we were well looked after by Janet and her team. On 7th December several of our members

attended the annual Christmas service at St.Nicholas Cathedral and enjoyed a lovely service with a beautiful choir. These two events were a lovely start to the festive season.

Our January meeting got the year going trying to learn the Salsa. We had a fun time and ended the session with a Salsa Line Dance. February we welcome Irene Britton who is going to demonstrate economic meals for us to try. I'm sure there will be delightful aromas in the hall which will wet our appetites to give the recipes a go. A good way to brighten up a wintry month. Also in February we will have our Pancake Day. This will be held from 11am-1pm on Saturday 17th February. Pop the date in your diary. In March we celebrate our 107th birthday, wow, we are ageing well! We will celebrate sharing a meal, provided by the committee which will include birthday cake I'm sure. For our entertainment we welcome back Hop, Skiffle Jump, who entertained us last summer and we look forward to another fun evening of music and audience participation.

Notices of forthcoming meetings will be on village notice boards and if you see anything you fancy do come along, you will be made most welcome.

Pauline.

AD MURUM *Singers*

Ad Murum -a newbies viewpoint

As I performed in Ad Murum's Christmas concerts, I found myself reflecting on my first term with the choir.

We had been to the summer concert and thoroughly enjoyed it. We were particularly struck by the relaxed atmosphere and how much everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. Chatting to choir members after the concert we were told we would be made most welcome if we joined. For someone who doesn't read music and who hadn't sung in a choir before (but always wanted to), this seemed like a perfect opportunity. But would it be like that in reality? The answer was a resounding yes!

Thanks to the enthusiasm and encouragement of our choir leader, accompanist and the other choir members I grew in confidence week by week. I always looked forward to rehearsals because singing old Christmas favourites and learning new pieces was a lot of fun.

Performing at Christmas to family and friends in three locations in the village, the Knott Hall, The Swan and The Three Tuns, made sense of why Ad Murum calls itself a community choir. I'm now looking forward to learning the music for our summer concert. We have a lovely repertoire including some spirituals and show songs.

The choir gives me the opportunity to experience the buzz of singing with other people. We're always happy to welcome new members. You'll find us in the Methodist Church on a Tuesday evening at 7:30. I can tell you from experience that, if you come along, you'll be made very welcome and have a lot of fun!

For further information about Ad Murum Singers view our web site at: www.admurumsingers.org.uk

Richard Hyder

HEDDON PATCHERS

Heddon Patchers quilting group meet in the W.I. on alternate Wednesdays.

In light of recent events we find ourselves with 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

Thank you. *Ann Allsopp*



Heddon Methodist Church

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

Email: deaconmaggie@gmail.com

Facebook: @Heddon Methodist Church

Church Sunday Services: 10.30-11.30am

March Dates to Remember: 10th Mothering Sunday
24th Palm Sunday
28th Maundy Thursday
29th Good Friday
31st Easter Day

Tuesday Group: Tuesday's 7.00pm- 8.00pm

This is an informal gathering for discussion and sharing.

This will also be our time for lent reflections from Tuesday 20th Feb to 26th March.

Do come along and join us, even if you can't make every week.

ALL are welcome!

Men's Coffee Fellowship: First Saturday of the month

Warm Space Community Coffee Mornings:

Thursdays 10.00 - 12.00am - Coffee, Scones and Chat



Sat 16th March 10am at St Andrew's: Coffee morning with craft making – for all the family (**an alternative Messy Church**)

General Notice - Sat 17th Feb 7.00pm

Meet Labour's candidate for the Hexham constituency

Joe Morris (Labour's candidate for the Hexham constituency), will be taking questions from Heddon residents in a room at Heddon Methodist Church.

Peace Garden & Poustinia:

Why not pop into the Garden at the back of the Church? The **Garden** offers plenty of seating amongst the flowers and trees, and the **Poustinia**: a small sparsely furnished cabin or room. Come and find out its origins. Come in on your own, with friends and family. Shelter from the rain . . .

You are welcome **anytime** all year round to experience peace and creation. Enter through the Church or the side garden gate . . .

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



A word from Rev Lynda Coulthard

As I'm writing this there are more winds forecast, hopefully by the time you read this they will have past over & that you have come through unscathed or at least with not too much damage. Compared with some parts of the country we have been lucky. As Christmas was a month ago it is probably a distant memory but I hope that any hopes & dreams that you have for 2024 are still alive.

With the snow, the heavy rain leading to flooding, & now the strong winds along with news reports of stabbings, killings, the wars between Russia & Ukraine & between Hamas & Israel & the rising cost of living it can be difficult to find something positive happening in the news at the moment, just at a time when we need a lift to help us look forward to Spring.

I received a pleasant surprise on Sunday when I returned home from leading worship. We often receive post for a nearby address which happened with a parcel last week so when I returned home after leading worship I was surprised to find a parcel had been pushed through the letter box. My immediate reaction was that it had been delivered to the wrong address as I hadn't ordered anything but the name & address on the parcel was correct. When I opened it I was astonished to find that someone had been thinking of me & had sent me a surprise gift which certainly gave me a boost. To receive a letter, a phone call or even a present out of the blue is such a boost to our wellbeing.

There has been a lot of focus on people's wellbeing recently as I think January is often a difficult time for people after the Christmas & New Year celebrations. Last week Radio 2 highlighted 5 ways people could boost their well-being which included exercise, mindfulness, the part music can play in our wellbeing, cold water baths & sleep. In recent years cold water swimming has become popular but I'm not sure it is something that would be in my list of things to improve my wellbeing.

Last year with the rising fuel prices many places registered as warm spaces. Whilst some of those were new, a lot of the warm spaces were spaces that were already open but we were encouraged to increase their publicity & what they offered. Those warm spaces are still needed. We may not all be able to take an active part in those spaces but we can still help by writing a letter, card or email to show that we are thinking of someone, by ringing someone & letting them know that they haven't been forgotten about, it's passing the time of day with people in the street, in the shop, complimenting someone rather than complaining. Throughout his ministry Jesus so often went to those whom society had cast aside & showed that God cared. Knowing that we have made a difference to someone also encourages us & improves our own wellbeing.

So whatever 2024 has in store for us, whether there are dark clouds in the sky or not, may the hope that we have in Jesus help us to spread a little bit of happiness as we go by.

Lynda

ALL CLEAN

Window Cleaning Services

ALL CLEAN provides a friendly professional domestic and commercial window cleaning service in your area. We can also clean your UPVC Fascias Soffits and Conservatory Roofs

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

If you require a reliable service then give us a call
Tony / Bob on 07831 568114



DRIVES CLEANED

Newcastle Foodbank

Collection Point in Heddon

A box for donations to the Newcastle Foodbank is located outside the side door of the Methodist Chapel. The contents of the box are taken regularly to the Foodbank warehouse at Lemington. They are gratefully received.

To provide the most appropriate help for the circumstances of any situation the Foodbank works with local agencies. These include Citizens Advice, DWP, Newcastle City Council, GPs, Mental Health providers, children's centres and health visitors. If they feel that someone is struggling to put food on the table, they will issue a Foodbank voucher.

In the majority of cases the Foodbank is able to support people in overcoming their food crisis after three visits. For those in need of further support, and recognising the unsustainability of handing out food parcels on a regular basis, support and guidance is offered using the local agencies. The Foodbank works with them to help people overcome the often complex underlying problems that have led to the need for support, including household debt, worklessness, risk of homelessness, addiction and not claiming full benefit entitlements.

Currently, the most urgently needed items are:

- Tinned fruit
- Instant mash/tinned potatoes
- Baby milk and formula
- Nappies (size 4 and larger)
- Toiletries (sanitary towels)
- Tea/coffee
- Soup – tinned and packet
- Custard and rice pudding
- Cereal
- Tinned meat
- Curry Sauce and rice.

But please also, no perishables and no clothing.
Heddon Methodist Church

Labour Meet Labour's candidate for the Hexham constituency

Joe Morris, Labour's candidate for the Hexham constituency, will be taking questions from Heddon residents on the 17th February at 7.00pm in a room at Heddon Methodist Church.

This follows Joe's launch of a community survey asking for the concerns of residents across the entire constituency, from the national and the international to the regional and local.

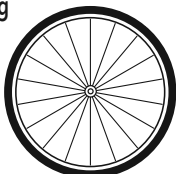
Having grown up in the Tyne Valley, attending Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham, and worked his first jobs in the area, Joe wants to hear about changes that a local MP could fight for to make daily life in Heddon and the surrounding area easier.

Whether improvements to our public transport system, better opportunities for training and employment locally or renewing our health, care & education systems, Joe will be happy to hear your concerns.

Promoted by Kate O'Brien on behalf of Joe Morris both at Labour North, Labour Central, Kings Manor, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6PA

BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

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



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.



Friday 15th March
**CHELTENHAM
GOLD CUP
BUFFET 1PM**

REGULAR EVENTS

**TRADITIONAL ROAST
SERVED EVERY
SUNDAY 12-4PM**

(delivery & collection slots available)

**QUIZ NIGHT EVERY
TUESDAY 9PM**

**BEER DRAW
EVERY FRIDAY**



(Available)

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

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

Your Council

We are pleased to introduce our new member to Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council.

Dan Matthews will bring his expertise in property from residential and commercial to rural sectors.

This new membership brings us back to full strength in terms of the councillors with Di Keller as Chair and Karen Dryden as Vice-Chair.

Details about our councillors can be found on our website.

The Poppy Project

Just a reminder, if you are interested in getting involved in the Poppy Project, when we'll be working with the guides to create a sea of poppies in readiness for our Festival of Remembrance in November, then please drop us a line at heddonpoppyproject@gmail.com We'll share more updates by social media and in future editions of the Gossip.

Find out what's new in our policies.

We want to be open and transparent and make sure that we're well governed. It's important that we're consistent in our approach. As part of this we review our policies and introduce new ones where needed.

Last year, we had a professional survey completed of the trees that we own in the village. This was to check that the trees are safe and free from disease. We've completed the work that needed doing on the trees and we'll make sure that we do the survey every three years alongside the ad hoc work that takes place. As part of this review, we've introduced our new Trees, Hedges and Green Spaces Policy which lays out the guidelines as to how these will be managed going forward.

Additionally, we've reviewed and updated our Grants and Donations Policy to support projects within our community by awarding grants up

HEDDON ON-THE-WALL PARISH COUNCIL

Our Mission Statement: February
March 2024



to the value of £250. The projects need to meet certain criteria including the money being spent on projects which will bring direct benefit to the area or members of the community and be appropriate with the expenditure incurred. For example, spending a large amount for the benefit of only one or two people would not be granted. However, the Parish Council has recently given grants to the Heddon Village Show, Heddon Culture Festival and Heddon Guides project which have been recently funded. For anyone in the community who may be interested, there is a simple application form to complete.

Full details of the policies are on the Parish Council Website <https://heddon.parish-council.com> searching under 'Your Council' and 'Policies'.

We have office space available

We have vacant office space is available to rent within the Business Centre on Towne Gate.

We want to support businesses to thrive and offer value for money with rent only £300 per month which includes WiFi, heating, lighting and water. You also have an allocated parking space at the business centre to use between 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

To find out more or have a look at the space, contact our asset officer Lorraine Twizell either by email: heddonassetofficer@gmail.com or tel: 07735246381.

Dates for the diary:

Parish Council Meetings – Held at the Library, meeting 7pm

15th February 2024	No meeting in August
13th March 2024	11th September 2024
10th April 2024	9th October 2024
8th May 2024	13th November 2024
12th June 2024	11th December 2024
10th July 2024	

Organised Litter Pick

Meet at the Memorial Park at 10.30am

Saturday 27th April 2024

Saturday 3rd August 2024

Saturday 26th October 2024

Events

Festival of Remembrance 10th November 2024

Contact us:

Parish Clerk: Lucy Barton t: 01661 854583 e: heddonpc@gmail.com

Asset Officer: Lorraine Twizell t: 07735 246381

e: heddonassetofficer@gmail.com

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



Pampered Pooches

— DOG GROOMING —

🐾 Clipping 🐾 Hand Stripping 🐾 Nails Trimmed
🐾 Ears Cleaned 🐾 Bath & Brush up

🚚 Pick up and delivery service 📞 Contact Jane on 07914 001 336



Home Foot Clinic

Lorraine Hodgson FHCP DIP SAC

foot health care practitioner

📞 07850 429064

📧 lorraine_hodgson@yahoo.co.uk

Contact me for an appointment

Lorraine Hodgson RFHP DIP SAC Registered Foot Health Practitioner (RHFP) 07850 429064

A mobile business based in Heddon-on-the-Wall and covering the surrounding areas.

I am a qualified foot health care practitioner able to carry out routine foot care treatments in the comfort of your home.

My services include:

- Cutting & filing nails
- Ingrowing toenails
- Corns & callus removal
- Verucca treatment
- Treating & preventing fungal nails
- Athletes foot
- Fully insured

Cricket at Close House

Cricket was played at Close House during the late 1800s into the 1900s but it was not until the early months of 1904 that discussions took place regarding the possibility of forming a cricket league in the West Tyne area. A committee was established in this year, arranging friendly games between interested clubs, with a view to forming a league in 1905.

Due to the generosity and sponsorship of Captain David Cuthbert who presented the Challenge Trophy for the competition the following year, the League commenced in 1905.

The original league was made up of eight teams: Close House, Corbridge, Haltwhistle, Haydon Bridge, Humshaugh, Newburn, Ryton and Tynedale with each team playing each team home and away. Making fourteen games in all.

Each game would have a playing time of four hours, with a tea interval of 30 minutes, and a commencement start of 2.30 p.m.

The winning team would be awarded two points and one point for a game drawn or postponed.

In the early years average scores being in the region of sixty against forty, due to the quality of wicket preparation and out-fields.

Matches turned out to be very popular with spectators, particularly involving the top sides and in one game between Close House and Newburn over 1000 spectators watched the fixture and were helped by the hay harvesters in looking for a ball when hit into an adjoining field.

The first winners of the League were Close House with Newburn being runners up.

Before the Second World War, cricket weeks at Close House attracted famous touring sides. There is a legend that W.G. Grace once played here and undoubtedly took tea in the pavilion. Matches were played regularly when Close House was owned by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne from 1960 to 2004.



Cricket Pavilion - has been turned into a luxury golfer's lodge Photo A Curtis (2009)

The Cricket Pavilion

In the late 1800s a brick-built pavilion and a score hut were constructed along with two cricket pitches.

When golf superseded cricket, the pavilion became the main golf club house, later being converted into a luxury golf lodge after the new custom-designed club house opened. The new clubhouse, built on a different site as part of the post-University development of Close House Mansion and its two golf courses.

"Close House, a Georgian mansion in the countryside west of Newcastle, had its own cricket pitch and indeed - between the wars - its own cricket team. The 1894 pavilion and scoreboard - both little changed externally - were designed by Newcastle architectural practice Septimus Oswald & Son, best known for their work with Newcastle Breweries. The former cricket pitch is now a golf course, and the pavilion is currently serving as the golf clubhouse."

The Architecture of Cricket: Pavilions Home and Away by Lynn Pearson (2011)

Thank you to Andy Curtis, Heddon History and Colin Walker, West Tyne Cricket League for information for this article

The score hut was situated at the east side of the eastern cricket pitch. Photo A Curtis (2009)



Cricket match at Close House, 4th June 1978, being played on the West pitch (photo from Sarah Harris)



‘Enrich the Earth’ Leave your garden clean-up!!!

Deadline day again, and poor Mr Scott must be past himself waiting for a few helpful and thoughtful words to fill the gap I promised I'd fill, and inspire you all that this year will be a better year for the garden! Inspiration is proving rather difficult though, as I can't remember the surrounding fields looking so wet for so long, while the rain keeps coming and the wind roars outside. Despite all this, we surprisingly had Snowdrops flowering in the garden before New Year. As we approach Spring, which inevitably will come, we will start to see other signs of new life in the garden and all around- the lawn might be growing, albeit slowly, buds are appearing on the ends of branches, and some particularly hardy plants might be showing leaf growth.

Aside from new growth however, there's a good chance your garden is looking worse for wear, with dead leaves, soggy moss, fallen twigs and branches and rotting stems. Give us a nice weekend weatherwise, and it will be very tempting to grab the shovel, the rake, the secateurs, hunt out the gardening boots and gloves, and start on the annual garden spring clean. There are, however, benefits to holding your nerve and leaving the clean-up for a few weeks longer.

Despite the cold temperatures, the dead plant matter that's making your garden look wild has been slowly rotting over the last few months.

As plant matter rots, it is slowly broken down into simple components like nitrogen, phosphates and magnesium. These nutrients are released back into the soil and will help feed your plants throughout the year. Leaving garden detritus to decay is a natural and cost-effective way to improve the quality of your borders and flowerbeds. Feeding the soil and increasing its biodiversity will result in far better and healthier plants than by just feeding the plants with fertiliser over the long term.

Dead matter is absolute gold for insects and other wildlife in your garden. Decomposition of plant matter is conducted mainly by organisms known as detritivores that also feed off it. Detritivores (also known as detritivores) include bacteria, plus insects like beetles, flies, woodlice, slugs, snails, millipedes, and earthworms.

While we might think of fungi and slime moulds as plants, they are also detritivores and help the decomposition process.

But, in short, allowing decomposition to occur in your garden supports a vast and complex ecosystem, feeding the organisms that improve the quality of our garden's soil, that grows this year's plants that decay and get broken down... the cycle of life.

Worryingly, more than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered, and many other once-common animal and bird species are declining, so your garden needs your help!

So our suggestion is to leave the garden clean-up for as long as you can, until there is a risk of debris interfering with new growth. Depending on the weather, your clean-up could be in March or even April. Cleaning up in February is risky because the weather could take an unexpected U-turn back into frost and even snow. Some of the coldest winter spells have hit us in February!

If the patio is a mess and you can't bear it any longer, you could move leaf and other plant litter onto the flower beds, or even onto the compost heap. Bear in mind that some insects might have laid their eggs on the underside of leaves, so go gently.

When you do start the big clear up, try and leave a few areas untouched to create thriving habitats for invertebrates and other beneficial organisms. Even start your own compost heap so that you can incorporate this nutrient rich gold to improve your soil's fertility and health. We are working with a project called "Enrich the Earth", which exists to transform unavoidable green and food waste into nutrient rich compost. It's a simple solution that will help tackle the climate crisis, reuse our waste, either on a big or small scale, and put nutrients right back into the soil. Some of the simple ideas show us that we can all make a difference. More information about the aims of this project, with lots of useful tips, can be found at www.enrichtheearth.co.uk

In the meantime, Happy Gardening- and remember, we are always here for help and advice.

David Hall

Get ready for SPRING

with



your LOCAL Nursery with a National Reputation

- Wide range of home grown plants all year round
- Seed Potatoes, Onion Sets and Shallots NOW IN!
- Stockists of Kings Vegetable and Flower Seeds
- Full range of composts including Melcourt Peat Free Multipurpose
- Always here for help and advice



FREE Delivery on Wednesdays to Heddon on orders over £20.00

West Heddon Nursery, Heddon-on-the-Wall,
Northumberland, NE15 0JS
Tel 01661 852445
email: enquiry@hallsofheddon.co.uk
www.hallsofheddon.co.uk
Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Open
Mon-Sat 9am-
4.30pm & Sun
10am-4pm.

Stephen Fielder BRICKLAYER

Specialist in all types of brickwork

- Over 30 years experience
- Insurance work undertaken
- NO JOB TOO SMALL

Ornate
Brickwork

Conservatory
Bases

TEL: 07577 068450

Shed
Bases

Renovations

Self-build
Projects

Extensions

Repointing

Garden
Walls

Garden
Patios



Brown hare

Nature Notes - Mad as a March hare?

Ruth Oatway

Early spring is the best time of year to get a good view of a brown hare. This shy mammal with an air of mystique is active all year round and doesn't hibernate, but they are particularly active now as they start to pair up for the breeding season. It's also easier to spot them while the fields are bare or crops are in their early stages. Brown hare feed on the shoots of grass and other vegetation so are usually found in grasslands or arable fields.

I recently discovered brown hare are not native to the UK. Their exact origin is a mystery but they have certainly been present since Roman times and some sources claim earlier evidence from the iron-age. Certainly they have become firmly established and naturalised in the British countryside and have inspired mythology and folklore due to their elusive nature. In medieval times hares were associated with witchcraft. The myth of the moon-gazing hare has become a popular artistic motif, but they are also regarded as a pagan symbol of springtime and fertility and this is thought to be the origin of the 'Easter Bunny'.

Brown hare are sometimes confused with rabbits which look similar. However, hare are significantly larger with longer legs and ears. Hares' ears have distinctive black tips which are often the best feature for identification. They also have amber eyes whereas rabbits' eyes are dark brown, and their coat is golden-brown rather than grey-brown. They also move and live quite differently. Rabbits tend to hop whereas hare will walk or run and leap at great speed. Brown hare are Britain's fastest land mammal and can reach speeds up to 70kph/45mph. Rabbits live communally in burrows underground where they retreat to evade predators, whereas hare live entirely above ground so rely on speed and agility to avoid their main predator the fox. Hare also make a shallow depressions in long grass called 'forms' where they can hide and shelter. In contrast to rabbits, brown hare are generally solitary though will often feed in loose groups.

Brown hare breed between February and September and can have up to four litters of young, called leverets, per year. During the breeding seasons males chase the females and these chases can become very athletic with leaping and 'boxing' from the females to repel unwanted attention. This behaviour is the origin of the phrase 'mad as a March hare'.

I've had some delightful close encounters with brown hare near Heddon, mostly around Rudchester and High Seat. They are most active at night and in low light so dawn and dusk are the best times to see them. Field margins, tramlines between crops, and footpaths or road verges are good places to look as hare often seem to follow these features. If I'm lucky enough to come across one when downwind I've been able to get quite close before being noticed, but I've yet to witness their boxing behaviour for myself. That is still on my wildlife wishlist but maybe this will be the year?

Sustainable Heddon

The planet is facing an environment crisis and a climate crisis. We are a newly formed residents' group welcoming new members and ideas. Our goal is to achieve net zero carbon emissions for the village and measurable improvements to the local environment.

Rob Oatway

 **Recycle more in 2024!**
Find your nearest recycling point for just about anything:
<https://www.recyclenow.com/>

For more tips, see our posters in the Library and the Three Tuns bus shelter, and join the conversation on our Facebook page.




 **Home Energy Advice**

You can get free energy advice from Community Action Northumberland.

Their advisers will visit your home and explain the best options to help you save energy and money, with no pressure. Find out more:
<http://www.ca-north.org.uk/>





 **Seed Swap**



Collect free seeds at our seed swap. At Heddon Library 10-12 on Saturday 30th March.

- Please bring along clean, dry, labelled seeds, with growing instructions, in the original packet if possible.
- There will be a box in the Library to make donations the week before the event.
- Most seed packets have use by dates, however many seeds will still germinate beyond those dates, depending on the variety.

Next Meeting: 7pm Wednesday 28/024 @ The Swan

 [sustainable.heddon](https://www.facebook.com/sustainable.heddon)

 sustainableheddon@gmail.com

  **Northumberland County Council**

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

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



A more elaborate look in 1936 with the Hall just finished and ready for use.

Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No 10120

2024 and Knott Hall is ninety-eight as we normally do when reflecting on the past let us look at the hall in the early days.

Knott Hall has quite a history, which has been researched as part of Northumberland Villages Halls Heritage Project, the results of which will be displayed this year at a special heritage event.

As we begin to look forward into 2024, it is worthwhile having a quick peek at what happened last year.

Apart from the regular use of the Hall for exercise (Dancercise and Scott Fitness), Dancing Classes (Jenian Ballroom Dancing), Carpet Bowls and a Childrens Choir (Home Educators), There has been a number of Childrens' parties, Drama (Make do and Mend) Ladies Fashion Nights, Musical Performances, a Coronation Tea, a Village Show, a Village Festival, Half Term Science, Remembrance Sunday, the Ad Murum Christmas Concerts and a Christmas Fair.

Following a really busy year for everyone, we thought a welcome relief would be the chance of coffee and cake or soup and a bun, whilst there wasn't a stampede, those who attended welcomed the chance to sit relax listen to some music and get their breath back, thank you for coming.

As Chair I am extremely proud and grateful to the Trustees who give their time and efforts to make these events happen and to our Caretaker Dennis McMillan for keeping our Hall in such good condition. And of course, to everyone who has attended and helped make these occasions worthwhile.

Well now to look forward: -

As you receive this copy of the Gossip, many of you will have enjoyed an evening of sublime musical entertainment with a bit of dancing, (mine was definitely 'dad dancing') at what has become the annual start of the year. The West Coast Band continue to entertain and bring to life some of the best music written.

Also, in a different vein there may have been laughter a few gasps at subjects mentioned but all told a good night at Ponteland repertory DisREPutables performance.

Future Events for your diary:

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

Heritage Project Presentation TBA

Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall AGM 19.00 25th March 2024

Old King Coal 26th April 2024

Mid-Summer Afternoon Tea June 2024

Heddon Culture Festival 30th August - 1st September 2024

Ceilidh (St Andrews)

28th September 2024

This year it is the centenary of The Sir James Knott Trust which built and donated the Hall to the Village, whilst details have yet to be finalised as one of the few buildings provided by the Trust it would be a welcomed gesture to arrange an event to acknowledge the value of the trust to the village. Information will be available once details have been confirmed.

Knott Memorial Hall - Contact Details

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

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

Bookings: Hazel Thompson: 01661 85368

D Blackett

Vacancy

There is one vacancy for an Officer on the Knott Hall Management Committee.

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

PLUMBING • HEATING • GAS

- BOILER INSTALLATION, REPAIR & SERVICING
- BATHROOMS & WET ROOMS
- LEAKS & BURSTS / TOILETS & TAPS
- LANDLORD SAFETY CERTIFICATES



Mobile: 0794 670 9714

Email: ktaylor.plumbing@sky.com

K.TAYLOR
PLUMBING & HEATING LTD



Gas Safe Reg. No. 197253



Northumberland - discover your county with Northern Heritage

Mail order from Northern Heritage add £2.95 P&P for any combined order
Also available from independent retailers and visitor attractions
Visit our website: www.northern-heritage.co.uk



Northern Heritage Gifts.

Unit 7, New Kennels, Blagdon Estate,
Seaton Burn, Northumberland, NE13 6DB
Tel: 01670 789 940

Follow us on:



[northernheritageld](https://www.facebook.com/northernheritageld)



[N_Heritage](https://twitter.com/N_Heritage)



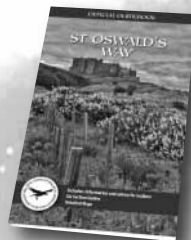
[@n_heritage](https://www.instagram.com/@n_heritage)

UPDATED & Revised 2024

St. Oswald's Way - Official Guidebook

St. Oswald's Way is a 96-mile long-distance walking route, exploring some of the finest landscapes and the fascinating history of Northumberland. The route links some of the places associated with St. Oswald, the King of Northumbria in the early 7th Century, who played a major part in bringing Christianity to his people. From Holy Island to Heavenfield on Hadrian's Wall.

Paperback 120 pages. £12.99



UPDATED & Revised 2024

Northumberland Coast Path - Official Guidebook

The Northumberland Coast Path follows this stunningly beautiful coastline for 112 kilometres (70 miles) from Cresswell in the South to Berwick-upon-Tweed in the north. Along sandy beaches, over rocky headlands, past dramatic castles and through attractive coastal villages, the Northumberland Coast Path offers a constantly changing landscape, which is a pleasure to explore.

Paperback 64 pages. £9.95



Heddon Culture Festival 2024

Ready, Steady Go.....

We are off and running, the first planning meeting for the 2024 Festival was held on the 20th of November 2023.

The dates for your diary are:
30th August -1st September 2024.

Once again this will be a celebration of many different kinds of culture that are either related to Heddon, Northumberland or Hadrian's Wall. However, following the success of this year's Festival, the hope is to widen the scope of activities and encourage more participation.

The programme will commence on 30th August 2024 and will include: -

Ukulele Workshop, Hand Bell Ringing Workshop, Archaeology Roadshow, Book Reading by Author.

Life in the Fifties/Sixties Presentation, Parachute Making, Poetry/Buskers Corner, Makers Market, Hymns and Pysms @ St Andrews Church, Ad Murum Concert

And much, much more!!

It is hoped to provide the opportunity for everyone to become involved in the creation of Art productions and installations to celebrate Heddon history and that of Hadrian's Wall in particular Sycamore Gap.

It's rumoured that there may even be teddy bears floating down from the sky

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

Come and be part of the planning, give your opinions and ideas, volunteer, become involved.

D Blackett

HEDDON LIBRARY - OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 1.00pm—4.00pm

Friday 1.00pm—4.00pm

Saturday 10.00am—12.00 midday

Free access to Ancestry, Find my past, British Newspaper archive and other sites.

Coming soon—Heddon seed bank (see notices in the Bus shelter next to 3 Tuns)

Volunteers needed for the Library—could you spare time once or twice a month to help us keep the Library functioning.

Pop in and speak to the current Volunteers.

WE NEED YOU!

Ted Burt (joint library co-ordinator with John Gillott)

Hadrian's Head The Big Review



As we start 2024, it is pleasing to walk past and even over the mosaic now firmly placed on Chare Bank, whilst it took a more patience than effort to arrive at this point I am grateful for all the assistance given to achieve it.

To assist the overall look blank blocks have been installed ready for replacement with engraved blocks as they come on stream.

Now that the installation is complete we will be able to proceed with publicity to showcase our mosaic.

As mentioned in previous updates, to enhance the project and ensure a local element, it has been decided to provide an opportunity for the purchase of engraved paving blocks, which will be installed running parallel to the boundary wall alongside the mosaic.

Do you want a block?

The Sale of the blocks to support the mosaic has already commenced, with a number of residents already reserving one, additionally expressions of interest have been received from outside the village and it anticipated this will increase as we move into walking season.

The blocks will retail at £40.00.

To register interest, please contact

D. Blackett 07770666744

dblackett@aol.com or

Hadrian's Head Facebook page

D Blackett

HANDBELL GROUP winter break

"Not just for Christmas" was the title for the visit of some of the bells to a happy evening meeting in Fenham in January, with songs for spring. We are having a winter break in February and March but look forward to April.

Contact:- **Jennifer**. Tel. **852926** or more information on handbells, meetings.

Jennifer King.



Ballroom Dancing

Ballroom dancing classes at Knott Hall Tuesday evening, two classes 7.00pm - 8.00pm & 8.15 pm - 9.15 pm.

Beginners welcome.

Heddon Fluito

Schools and parks where kids have fun
The roman wall will engross in
historical fact

As you go to the Tuns with your friends,
You may get covered with bright smiles.

Stop to look at the great Victrix,
While you smell the fresh nature in
the common.

Heddon on the Wall

Author a year 5 Student

Heddon on the Wall St Andrews School

Sit and watch the view

When you tie your shoe, relax

On Heddon's big hill

A Haiku Poem

Author a year 3 Student

Heddon on the Wall St Andrews School

Answers to the Christmas film quiz.

1. DIE HARD. 2. IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE.
3. HOME ALONE. 4. THE POLAR EXPRESS.
5. BAD SANTA. 6. HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS. 7. A CHRISTMAS CAROL.
8. THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS.
9. SCROOGE. 10. MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET.
11. THE SANTA CLAUS. 12. ARTHUR CHRISTMAS.
13. THE SNOWMAN. 14. JINGLE ALL THE WAY.
15. WHITE CHRISTMAS

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

POSH PAWS
DOG GROOMING

By Amber

- FULL GROOMS
- PUPPY PACKAGES
- BATH+BRUSH-OUTS
- NAIL CLIPPING

City & Guilds trained - experienced in animal care
Our Parlour is friendly,

clean and a relaxing environment for your pooches -
Amber



POSH PAWS
Dog Grooming

4 Taberna Close,

Heddon-on-the-Wall, NE15 0BW

Tel: **01661 853000**

Mobile: **07920148380**



Hi Ian, our knockout winner Gill Houllis been presented with the trophy by Biaggio owner and chef of Bell e Buon.

Heddon Carpet Bowls

The annual dinner and presentation night was held at Bell e Buon and the Christmas knockout winner was Gill Houllis with Richard Hyder runner up.

A great night was had by all and lovely food as always.

We have a friendly match at Riding Mill on 13th March.

John Curtis, Tel: 07951 131904 for more information on the club and meetings.

John Curtis



HEDDON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

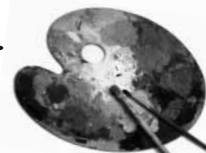
The winter has not been too harsh as I write. Very windy right now but hopefully this will soon pass without damage. The HRA will again be doing what we can to keep some of the footpaths clear of snow and ice should this return. One of the difficulties is that this voluntary role appeals mainly to retirees. After a few winters distributing NCC-supplied grit to some of the central paths in the village, some of us are feeling our age a little! We could do with one or two additional helpers. NCC will also supply free of charge thin hi-viz jackets, hats, torches and shovels once you register, a very straightforward process. If you're interested in this or any other village matters please contact us by email on hotwall1@yahoo.com

There is also a very short training session - in the village - also provided by the County Council. The good news is that twice in the last three winters, mid-February has seen the beginnings of Spring so it's not too arduous! Fingers-crossed, lol.

We also plan to reprise our village sign-cleaning duties in the near future. We will be naturally trying to stay safe during these activities and hope that you do too!

Peter Chapman
Chair

Heddon Art Group



AGM - Wednesday 21st February 7.00pm
Womens Institute **Everyone Welcome!**

Heddon Art Group is holding its AGM in February and is looking forward to resuming its range of popular activities during spring, summer and autumn. These include a series of guest tutors in a range of media and styles, themed subject evenings and free choice sessions. We cover landscapes, portraits, pets, favourite holiday scenes, abstract, still life and everything in between.

Arrangement will also be made for the Annual Exhibition in early October with its fascinating range of original local art (ideal gifts and Christmas presents) and very popular home-made savouries, scones and cakes etc.!

Members from in and around Heddon cover a wide range of experience, skills, ages and media with a shared interest in painting and drawing etc. Meetings are held in the Heddon W.I. Hall on alternate Tuesday afternoons and alternate Wednesday evenings until late November, with the occasional Saturday thrown in for good measure.

New Members are always welcome. If you are into pastels, pen, ink, pencil, watercolour, acrylic, oil or mixed media, whether you are just beginning, experienced, or revisiting and earlier love of drawing and painting and would like to find out more about Heddon Art Group, please contact David Chambers by email at chambers497@btinternet.com

HEDDON GOSSIP

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

April/May 2024

March 20th for articles and advertising

Contact: Ian Scott ● Email: ianscottdesign@btinternet.com

● Mobile: 07743 285502

Swan Quiz

End of year quiz where we hit max capacity and added to the pot and we raised with the help of our guests £794.05. To **us active** - improving young people's mental health through sport and exercise.



**We've got everything you need
from a country pub near you.**

THE SWAN

Heddon-on-the-Wall

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland NE15 0DR
swannewcastleupontyne@vintageinn.co.uk

Tel: 01661 853 161



Scott Miller
Fitness

Knott Memorial Hall
Heddon on the Wall

Tuesdays
09:30-10:00 - Legs Bums and Tums
10:00-10:30 - Stretch

£8 for 1hr class (2 sessions combined)
£6 for 45 min class
£4 for 30 min class
Discounted packages available
www.scottmillerfitness.co.uk