

HEDDON GOSSIP

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

APRIL • MAY 2025

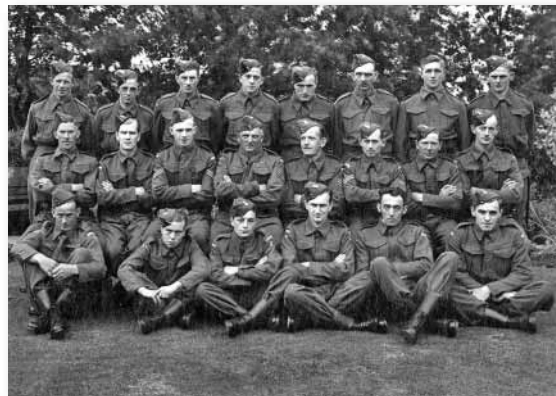
VE DAY 2025

VE day celebrations at the Knott Hall

This year we will commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, a milestone that marks the conclusion of World War II in Europe. It is probably the last time we will be able to celebrate the occasion with those who were there at the time.

To help celebrate the occasion the Knott Hall will host an Afternoon Tea 2.00p.m. -4.00p.m. on the 8th of May 2025.

Whilst the traditional afternoon tea will be served there will be an opportunity to raise a glass in toast to all those who fought for freedom. St Andrews School students, who have been studying this period, will give an insight with display and stories.



This is an opportunity to come and meet friends, recollect and reflect on the passage of time.

To ensure that we can cater for everyone who wishes to attend, this will be a ticketed event. However those unable to attend due to illness or infirmity can receive a boxed tea delivered to their home.

More information will be displayed on the village noticeboards.



First Aid Patrol & Air Raid
Precautions group.
Photo taken outside Swan
Inn, Heddon.
Photo courtesy M Tulip.



Heddon Home Guard 1939 - 1945 (NRO 07701/1)

Top row: Eddie Allen, Bob Armitage, George Laws, Ken Percivil, Reuben Willie, Joe Beilby, Jackie Hymers, Ken Ord
Middle row: Tom Donaldson, George Graham, George Philipson, Bob (Tanky) Thompson, Billy Archibald, Billy Stuart, Hubert Laws, John Sanderson

Bottom row: Tom Shield, Mansel Beilby, John Wall, Vaughan, Billy Moore, Tony Thompson.

(names courtesy of Philip Sanderson & the late Hazel Thompson)

Anti-social behaviour

It's disappointing that the anti social behaviour (ASB) has reared its ugly head in the village again. Please can I ask everyone to be vigilant and report as appropriate.

It is good to make everyone aware through Facebook channels, however, it's important that we alert the correct authorities too.

Please report: Fires to the Fire Service they may appear small, but in many areas in the village, could be disastrous if they take hold.

Vandalism and ASB to the Police via their online form unless you are in direct threat then via 999.

Vandalism should also be reported to Northumberland County Council on **FixMyStreet** and to the parish clerk: **heddonpc@gmail.com**

We have contacted our neighbourhood police officer for their additional support and to increase their patrols.

We're also working to get the graffiti removed as soon as possible. To help collate all of the vandalism please post your photos and info regarding its location on **Heddon Matters** or contact the **Parish Council**.



Be responsible!

Lambing season is now in full swing, birds are nesting, species are emerging from hibernation. The NFU along with the RSPB and Wildlife Trusts, are urging owners to keep their dogs on short leads when walking in the countryside, to protect grazing livestock and wildlife.

Experts say loose dogs are one of the biggest causes of wildlife disturbance – this is particularly problematic when many species are breeding and vulnerable either on or near the ground.

PLEASE observe the Countryside Code.



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

A Place for Everyone

As I begin to write this article, I am glancing out of the window at the most amazing sunset. We have been encouraged, during the season of Lent, to notice examples of God's creativity and to make a note of our observations. Easy one today!

Spring brings joyful signs of new life – lambs and daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses and of course the season of Easter.

Details of our Easter Services are later in this article.

In February we were pleased to offer overnight accommodation in church to two army veterans who were '*walking the wall*' dressed in authentic Roman costumes to raise funds for army charities. They were very interesting to chat to and were more than happy with the modest comforts we were able to offer them.

We have now been able to appoint a contractor to carry out the essential repair work on the church roof, porch, bell cote and boiler house chimney. We are also busy filling in application forms for grants from larger organisations. Whilst we have had some success with our first application, we still have a considerable way to go to meet our target.

We would like to sincerely thank those who have supported our fund-raising events and those who have generously given a donation to assist our efforts.

If you would like to donate to our Roof Appeal, please contact our Treasurer, **Jane Tiffen** - m.tiffen@btinternet.com or any church member about ways to do this.

We would be grateful for any donations no matter how small. Thank you.

Our **Garden of Remembrance** in St Andrew's Church is a very special place where ashes of our loved ones are interred and where we can go to spend time remembering them. The churchyard is however, like most places, governed by rules and regulations. In order to comply with the current rules, we are consulting with Michael Amos of Rusty Restorations on the construction of a wrought iron stand on which to place fresh flowers (without plastic) in memory of loved ones whose ashes are interred in the Garden.

This is in the very early stages of planning – more information will be available when we have decided on a design and site for the structure. We believe this will be a good way of us being able to have fresh flowers in memory of our loved ones without items being left on the ground.

Recently there have been a lot of flowers in plastic, artificial flowers, flowers in pots/vases and also memorials placed in the Garden of Remembrance without faculty permission, these will be removed during Lent and apologies for any upset this causes. **Rev. Rachel** would be more than happy to chat with anyone who would like to know more – Tel. 07916681128.

May 8th is the 80th Anniversary of the end of the War in Europe (VE Day). Churches throughout the country are invited to ring the bells at 6.30 p.m.

If you would like to take part in this bell ringing, please contact: **Lynda Henderson** - lhndrsn56@gmail.com and we will draw up a rota.

This year's **Christian Aid Week** is 11th-17th May and marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of Christian Aid which began at the end of WWII to support those in desperate need.

Easter Services in Heddon

Thursday 17th April - Maundy Thursday Holy Communion with stripping of the altar and washing of feet in St Andrew's Church at 4 p.m. and there will also be a Passover Supper at St Mary's Church Stamfordham at 6pm (a donation towards the cost of food would be very welcome)...to book places for the supper please email: r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org

Friday 18th April – Good Friday Service at the Methodist Church at 10.30a.m.

Saturday 19th April – Easter Vigil at Matfen. Everyone is welcome to attend this very special service when, after a series of readings and hymns in Matfen village hall, everyone walks the short distance to Matfen Church where the new Paschal Candle is lit outside from an open fire followed by readings and hymns by candlelight inside the Church to celebrate Easter.

Sunday 20th April – Easter Sunday Service of Holy Communion at St. Andrew's Church at 10.30a.m.

We continue to enjoy shared services with our friends from the Methodist on **Sunday 27th April** at 10.30a.m. at the Methodist Church.

Thursday 29th May Ascension Day Holy Communion at St. Andrew's Church at 9.30a.m.

St Andrew's Church is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays throughout the year from 10a.m. - 3.30p.m. 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: **Rev. Rachel** - r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org

Sunday worship every week at 10.30a.m. 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.

The Church is a beautiful setting for weddings and baptisms, if you would like to enquire about either please contact: **Rev. Rachel**: r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org

Lynda Henderson

Useful Points of Contact :

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

Rev. Tom Birch: 01661 853254 revtombirch@gmail.com

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

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

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The PEOPLES KITCHEN need **BAKED BEANS** and for meals and food parcels.

Also needed: sleeping bags or back packs you could donate to help our friends. If you could help, drop them off at the Peoples Kitchen on Bath Lane.



Heddon Methodist Church

Methodist Minister for Heddon Methodist Church:

Rev. Lynda Coulthard, based in Westerhope:

Tel: 0191 271 1587

email: lynda.coulthard@methodist.org.uk



Church Sunday Services: 10.30 - 11.30a.m. (unless otherwise stated)

Other Church Notices:

Joint service with St. Andrews, at St. Andrews, on Sunday 27th April 10.30 - 11.30a.m. This could be added in 'other church notices.'

We continue to enjoy joint worship with our friends from the St Andrew's Church and look out for dates in the calendar for 2025.

Tuesday Group: Every Tuesday 7.00p.m.- 8.00p.m.

This is an informal gathering for discussion and sharing.

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

ALL are welcome!

Men's Fellowship: First Saturday of the month from 10.00a.m.

Warm Space Coffee Mornings: continue on Thursday's for coffee, scones and chat **10.00a.m. - 12 noon.**

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 or to shelter from the rain. You are welcome anytime, all year round to experience peace and creation. Enter through the church or through the side garden gate.

Ad Murum Choir Practise: Tuesday evenings 7.00p.m.

Helping those in need: Donations for the foodbank can be placed in the large box at the front door of the church or inside whenever the church is open - thank you for your kindness.

Rooms to Hire: contact: Muriel 01661 854788.

It's Thursday and I've been reminded that the deadline for Heddon Gossip is tomorrow. Although I am in my third year of being a Methodist minister at Heddon Methodist Church, I shared it with Deacon Maggie who lived in Heddon and she tended to lead on the community and outreach of the church. It's only since September after Maggie sat down, as we call retirement in the Methodist Church as you never really retire as a minister. I am trying to get to the Coffee Morning that is held on a Thursday morning (10.00am - midday) at the church and last week I mentioned to someone that I thought the deadline for pieces for the Gossip was imminent. Even though it was in the back of my mind it was receiving the reminder that prompted me to think of something to say.

I wonder whether you are a words person or a numbers person. If you are a words person it can be easier today as typing what we want to say on a computer any words that are mis-spelt are often highlighted rather than having to get a dictionary to check it. I've always been more comfortable with numbers than words which led me to working in accounts when I dropped out of teacher training college. I don't find being in a job that requires a lot of words comfortable which probably explains why I find it easy to be distracted when I have to write pieces for community newsletters such as Heddon Gossip or the monthly church newsletters. However my love of numbers has led me to being on the Methodist District finance committee & people know that I will check that the figures are correct in the grant application.

It doesn't matter what stage of life that you are at or whether you are still in employment or not there is probably something that you procrastinate about doing - it might be filing the documents on the computer, getting rid of the emails that you have kept just in case you need to refer to them. It might be sorting out the photographs you've taken whilst on holiday or whilst out with friends and family that are still on the phone. It might be sorting the garden out ready for the summer or sorting the garage out. If you have done that then have you disposed of the rubbish. We remodelled our garden and the stones and rubble that we dug out has been in the garage since we did it. We just need to arrange to take it to the tip.

In the church calendar we are in the season of Lent when we traditionally fasted from (gave up) something like chocolate, alcohol etc. but we all know that it is difficult to change our habits. Just as I leave it to almost the last minute to write the newsletters articles I do meet the deadline. On Good Friday Christians remember Christ's crucifixion alongside two other criminals. One mocked Jesus but the other one rebuked him. Jesus told the one that rebuked him that he would be with him in Paradise (Luke 23 v39-43).

Procrastination may lead us to miss the deadlines set for things that we have to do in this life but with God it's never too late take your place in his kingdom. Procrastination often leaves us stressed so I urge you, if you haven't already, stop procrastinating & know the peace and love that God offers everyone through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter.

God bless Lynda

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 facility in Benwell. There are also collection points in all the main supermarkets, including Sainsbury's in Throckley (it's also possible to donate cash at the facility outside St James Park before every home match).

The donation of food items is extremely important but it's worthwhile noting that the Foodbank also provides welfare guidance. And it has recently developed a network of Community Pantries, aimed at providing an affordable shopping experience within areas of deprivation. This works through a membership-based model, allowing customers from low-income households to shop with dignity for affordable food.

So please continue to donate if you can. Items currently required are:

- Milk (Long Life)
- Tinned meat and fish
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Cereals
- Rice/Pasta
- Pasta/Curry Sauces
- Soup
- Rice Pudding
- Custard
- Tea Bags/Instant Coffee
- Jam
- Biscuits/ Snack Bars
- Toiletries
- Sanitary Towels
- Nappies

Please. Non-perishable food items only. No clothing, bedding etc.

Heddon Methodist Church



ALL SEASONS

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We're excited to bring you the latest news about the many activities and updates happening in our community. There's plenty of positive news to share, along with some important reminders, so let's dive in!

Get Active at the Local Sports Field!

Did you know that Selman Park isn't just for football? It's a versatile space open to all kinds of activities—whether it's yoga, frisbee, running, or boot camp. The field is a fantastic resource for everyone in the community to enjoy. Why not rally your friends for a game, try a new sport, or use it as your go-to outdoor fitness spot? Let's work together to make it a hub of activity, friendship and healthy competition. If you'd like to organise an activity, feel free to drop us a line – we'd be thrilled to help spread the word! Northumberland County Council.

Funding Win for Sustainable Heddon!

We're ecstatic to share the amazing news that our environment group Sustainable Heddon has been successful in securing funding for eco-friendly projects in our community. A huge thank you to the group for their hard work, and to everyone who supported the project! Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Together

We want our neighbourhood to continue being a safe and welcoming place for everyone. Recently, there have been some reports of anti-social behaviour and we encourage everyone to be proactive. If you witness concerning incidents, please report them promptly. For non-emergencies, you can contact the police via their online report or if you feel at risk then please call 999. We are working with our local community police officer and we've already seen an increase in patrols in the village. A huge thank you to councillor Rich Adams for spending his time removing the graffiti

HEDDON ON-THE-WALL PARISH COUNCIL

Our Mission
Statement:



April/May
2025

Welfare Field. Please check out the do's and don'ts and use the Welfare Field to make it a safe space for everyone.

Let's keep our community clean and beautiful!
Join us for a community litter pick on **26th April**.
Meet at the Memorial Park at 10.30a.m. It's a great opportunity to connect with neighbours while making a tangible impact. We hope to see as many of you there as possible!



Get Involved – Elections

With the forthcoming elections just around the corner, now is the perfect time to get more involved in shaping the future of our village by lending your time to the Parish Council. If you're passionate about making a difference and representing the voices of our community, consider joining the council. It's a fantastic opportunity to contribute to local decision-making and help drive positive change. For more information on how to get involved, please reach out to Lucy our Parish Clerk: heddonpc@gmail.com

Let's work together to make our village even better!

Let's keep this momentum going, celebrate our wins and continue working together to build a thriving community. Whether you're on the pitch, planting a tree, or simply looking out for your neighbours, your involvement makes all the difference.

Our Parish Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month – except for August.

P.S. Have an idea, feedback, or event you'd like us to feature? Drop us a message – we'd love to hear from you!

Di Keller -

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/>

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECOVERY CENTRES

Check on the Northumberland County Council website for your nearest local Household Waste Recovery Centres for opening times and the NEW RULES on what you can dispose of and if you need a permit.

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

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Fire Safety Awareness – Let's Stay Safe!

There have been several small fires spotted in our local area. This is a friendly reminder to stay vigilant about fire safety, whether at home or in the community. Please report any signs of fire to the fire service and if you think this is linked to anti-social behaviour, please report to the police.

Heddon-on-the-Wall village Bin days - April/May



8 Black - Rubbish bin - generally collects on a Tuesday

1 Blue - Recycling bin - generally collects on a Tuesday

1 Garden waste bin Collection Dates

April 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Garden waste bin Collection Dates

April 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Heddon W.I. celebrate their 108th Birthday in March.

the W.I. INSPIRING WOMEN

Spring is here at last, and the daffodils and tulips certainly add a welcome splash of colour after the long winter days.

Our February meeting led by Peter Brennan was very well received by our members. He talked at length about his time at the City Hall and the variety of people and artists he met and worked with during his time there.

In March at our 108th Birthday event Julia Pendleton and friend, who were both exquisitely attired, entertained us with songs from the shows. We had a short business meeting, a light supper and a raffle. It was a lovely, relaxed evening culminating with a photograph being taken of our members and guests.

Our village Bistro Chef is coming along to our April meeting and will demonstrateand maybe even allow us to sample a couple of Italian dishes! Cookery demonstrations are always eagerly anticipated by the group as we go away with ideas to enhance our culinary repertoire.

May is the last meeting in our year, we have reports from the Treasurer, Secretary and the outgoing President. At this meeting our new President is elected. We also ask if any members would like to join our committee. The evening is kept as relaxed as possible with cheese and wine (or soft drink) offered to all who attend.

The first meeting of our new programme in June has not yet been confirmed, but along with the rest of our year we hope members and visitors enjoy the variety of topics covered, learning new skills and expanding their knowledge along the way.

Look on the village noticeboards to see what's coming each month and do come along to one of our meetings. A warm welcome awaits.

Lesley.

AD MURUM *Singers*

Rehearsals for the two forthcoming concerts are proceeding well. The first concert was on the 27th March when St Andrew's School choir sang with the Ad Murum Singers. This fund raising event was to swell the money needed for the "Roof Fund" of St Andrew's Church.

The second concert by the Ad Murum Singers is on Friday 6th June in the Knott Hall. The programme for the concert will include some new songs, some old favourites and a performance by the Fellside Brass Ensemble.

At the interval, the usual raffle will be held with a number of valuable prizes. Proceeds from the sale of tickets and the raffle will be sent to the choir's two chosen charities which are Tyndale Hospice at Home and the St Andrew's Church Roof Fund. Details of where to purchase tickets will appear on publicity nearer the date of the concert. If you enjoy singing and would like to join our choir, practices are at 7-30pm in the Methodist Chapel where you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Chris Rand

Heddon Art Group

HEDDON ART CLUB MEETINGS:

April/May 2025

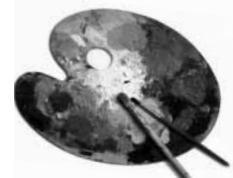
Tuesday afternoons: 8th April, 22nd April

1.30 - 3.30p.m. 6th May, 20th May

Wednesday evenings: 2nd April - Gordon Lamb - Watercolour (seascape)

7.00 - 9.00p.m. 16th April, 30th April

14th May, 28th May - Christine Cave - Pastel (landscape)



Heddon Art Group AGM was held on the 19th February at which it was agreed that the Annual Exhibition would be put back a week to the second weekend in October. The Exhibition will be held on the weekend of 11th and 12th October with the same arrangements as usual.

Throughout spring, summer and autumn on selected Wednesday evenings guest tutors take classes in a range of media and styles. Also the group occasionally have tutor sessions on Saturdays.

When there is not a tutor, members have free-choice sessions where they cover a wide variety of subjects in various mediums.

Heddon Art Group meet in the Heddon W.I. Hall on alternate Tuesday afternoons between 1.30p.m. and 3.00p.m. And every other Wednesday evening between 7.00p.m. and 8.00p.m. when there is no Tuesday meet.

Ian Scott

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 an earlier love of drawing or painting and would like to find out more about Heddon Art Group, please contact Ian Scott by email: ianscottsdesign@btinternet.com

HEXHAM COURANT CORRESPONDENT

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

News must be to him by 5p.m. on a SATURDAY

email: heddonnews@yahoo.co.uk mobile: 07713 646623

twitter account: @heddononthewall

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TREES in the Garden

Now it may not be the most obvious time to think of planting a tree in the garden and anyone who knows me will know I always recommend autumn planting, when the soil is moist and warm and the newly planted tree will soon put out new roots whilst not having to worry about the stress of growing new leaves and shoots. But what if you didn't get round to planting one last autumn because it was too wet, or too cold? Well, my answer to that would be why wait, get planting now.

We need trees, We need more trees. Every garden should have a tree. Even in a small garden there is room for a tree. Trees can even be grown successfully in pots! It is just a matter of making the right selection. But why should I plant a tree I hear you ask.

Well here are just a few good reasons. I am sure you could come up with more! They add height to your garden and, in a small garden, planting a suitable tree will make use of the vertical space from a design perspective. As well as adding height, incorporating garden trees makes sense of its scale and provides structure that makes sense of the rest of your planting.

Trees can provide you with year-round interest. Imagine the spring spectacle of a mature cherry tree in full flower, and then, after choosing the right variety, the wonderful show of autumn colour as leaves begin to shed. Other trees with year round interest include crab apples and members of the mountain ash family. Many Acers are known for their colourful bark and exceptional autumn colour and range in size from some of the more compact Japanese Maples to the stunning but too big for many gardens Norway Maples.

An established tree supports a phenomenal amount of wildlife. A single sycamore can provide as much pollen and nectar for insects as six acres of meadow. Of course not everyone has room for a sycamore, but even small to medium-sized garden trees can provide habitat for insects, those all-important flowers for insects, and somewhere for birds to roost or nest.

Trees are brilliant for screening eyesores, giving privacy and creating shelter for the rest of the garden. They can help distract the eye and disguise boundaries visually, helping a small garden to become part of a bigger landscape. Not all views need to be blocked and trees can also be used to help frame a view and enhance it.

Choosing the right spot for a tree will help create shelter and shade, giving a cool area in the summer months and also allowing for a more diverse range of planting. There is something very charming about creating a woodland planting in dappled shade where primroses, hellebores, wood anemones and early spring flowering bulbs all thrive creating picturesque beauty before the leafy canopy above fills out.

When planting a tree, you can always consider an edible fruiting tree rather than something purely ornamental, whether it be apples, pears, plums, or even nuts! Just check to make sure there are good pollination partners in the vicinity first!

Plant enough garden trees and you can feel much better about your carbon footprint – like all plants, trees capture carbon dioxide and turn it into oxygen, but unlike other, faster-growing or herbaceous plants, trees are by far the best at locking it up in their long-lasting woody mass. As well as benefiting biodiversity, trees also do an excellent job at muffling noise, and cleaning the air. Certain trees are known for their ability to filter air-borne pollutants

Plant a tree and many more people will benefit from it in the future. In the meantime, you can enjoy watching it grow. More and more research is showing that trees – and spending time around them – can help combat depression, stress and anxiety, reason enough to get planting.

Remember we are always here for help and advice, whether it be choosing the right tree, or any other gardening related topic.

David and team
Halls of Heddon

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Nature Notes

Ornate Orchids

Ruth Oatway

Many people consider orchids with their wide variety of colours and patterns to be among the most beautiful flowers. Some exotic species are popular houseplants but did you know we have over 50 native species in Britain? Some are extremely rare and can only be seen on a few nature reserves, but some are much more widespread and we do have orchids growing wild in Heddon and the surrounding countryside. Late spring/early summer is the best time of year to see them locally.

Orchids form a large and highly evolved family of flowering plants, the *Orchidaceae*, with several thousand species worldwide. UK species share a similar flower structure, despite the great variety in their appearance. There are 3 sepals (outer protective petal-like parts) and 3 main petals, with one that usually forms a lower lip known as the labellum. This lip is often the largest and most distinctive 'petal' structure of the flower and is helpful in telling species apart.

Many orchids have interesting and complex life cycles. They are usually highly specialised to a specific habitat and have equally specialised relationships with their pollinators, and with fungi which live in the soil. Their seeds are very small and need ideal conditions of light, moisture and warmth to germinate. However, they can remain dormant in the soil for a long time until suitable conditions occur. Orchids also need to be infected with a fungus from the soil to survive. The fungus helps the orchid to obtain nutrients. Some orchids are famous for their sophisticated mimicry to attract specific pollinators. The bee orchid flower's velvety lip looks like a female bee. Males fly in to try to mate with it and end up pollinating the flower. Unfortunately, the orchid's target bee species doesn't live in the UK but



luckily it can also self-pollinate. It's always good to have a back-up plan!

As the name suggests, the common spotted orchid is one of the species you are most likely to see. It has beautiful spikes of flowers in shades of pink and purple with streaked and patterned petals and spotted leaves. These flower spikes can be quite tall and impressive (*see photo*). Look out for this species in the damp grassland/marshy area at the top of Heddon Common during June and July.

Another good local site for orchids is the chalk hills of the Spetchells at Prudhoe. In addition to the common spotted orchid, northern marsh orchid and pyramidal orchid have been recorded there.

The dune helleborine is another species of orchid which can be seen growing alongside the River Tyne between Wylam and Newburn. Its flowers are more subtle and less showy, with greenish sepals and white lips. However it's a nationally rare species and is endemic to Britain meaning it grows nowhere else in the world, so it's a special plant. Some experts argue 'Tyne helleborine' should be classed as a separate variant of dune helleborine. It's certainly a plant worth looking out for.

See if you can spot any orchids over the summer. Sites that are good for orchids are often good for other wildflowers and wildlife too.



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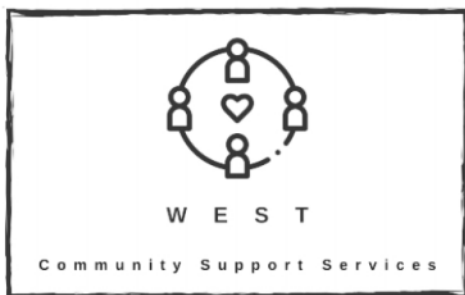
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Passing of John Gillott

John Gillott 1946 - 2025

John Gillott a proud and well-respected member of the Heddon village community, sadly passed away on the 6th of February 2025. John is survived by his wife of 54 years Sandra, his two boys Iain and Stephen, his daughters in-law Lesa and Laura and his Grandchildren Rose, Joseph and Anna.



John was born in Sheffield, City General Hospital, on the 12th January 1946 to his parents Vera and Bob Gillott. John arrived early weighing only 2lbs 8oz, left hospital with his Mum and spent the first few days of his life being looked after by his Nan and Aunts, whilst being kept warm above a range cooker in a shoe box! Always determined, he fought to survive and flourished. He eventually passed his 11+ and went on to study at Grammar School at High Storrs in Sheffield, where he took his A levels early. After deciding against joining the RAF, John applied for and got a place on the NHS In Service Training Scheme. He subsequently progressed to the National Management Training Scheme with the NHS and spent the rest of his career working as a manager in both the NHS and the private sectors.

John met Sandra his future wife at Butlins Skegness, in 1964, whilst on holiday. Following this they corresponded over a number of years, before reuniting and becoming the best of friends for life.

John had many passions, music - fronting his own beat band for a period in the 60s 'The Inspectre's'. He also loved sport, in particular football and his beloved Sheffield Utd. He also loved racquet sports and golf as well as the outdoors and family holidays spent in Cornwall, Scotland and latterly alongside Sandra worldwide! John also had a passion for Steam trains and many of his friends were, like John, proud train spotters and he loved travelling by rail.

John will be greatly missed by his family, friends, his pet cat Annabelle and the village in general, especially the library service who John volunteered for over a number years and his Three Tuns pub quiz team.

R.I.P John

Stephen Gillott (son)

'The family would like to thank all who came to the crematorium and later to the Knott Hall to celebrate John's life with family and friends.

Many thanks for the cards of condolence and flowers so thoughtfully sent, kindest regards from Sandra, Iain and Stephen Gillott'



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Sustainable Heddon

The nature and climate crisis facing our planet can seem overwhelming, but we believe local actions make a difference. We are a residents' group welcoming new members and ideas to reduce carbon emissions and improve the environment in our village. **We are planning our actions for 2025 and welcome your suggestions via email or our Facebook page**

Rob Otway

Switch your internet search engine!

Did you know you could fund tree planting just by browsing the internet!



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Other advantages include better data privacy and solar-powered data centres so your searches are carbon-free.

It's free to use and is getting good reviews. Find out more at www.Ecosia.org



Bat Walk

Why not join us on Wednesday 7th May at dusk for a bat walk around Heddon Common! Meet at Heddon Library at 8:30p.m. for hot drinks and bat cookies! With an introductory talk all about our amazing bats from Nik Faulks from Northumberland Bat Group & the Bat Conservation Trust.

We will start the walk at 9pm, going via the Chare, into the Common - in both the open areas and the wooded areas, so a torch might be a good idea. Bat detectors will be available to borrow.

No need to book, but please email us if you plan to come so we can plan the drinks and cookies.

Single bus fares are now capped at £2.50 to any destination until the end of 2025.

Next Meeting: 2nd April at 7.00p.m. at Heddon Library



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



sustainableheddon@gmail.com

HEDDON LIBRARY - OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 1.00p.m.—4.00p.m.

Friday 1.00p.m.—4.00p.m.

Saturday 10.00a.m.—12.00 midday

Heddon library will be **CLOSED** Good Friday 18th April & Easter Saturday 19th April.

Library news;

Sadly joint library co-ordinator and John Gillott passed away in February our condolences to John's family.

On World book day, Thursday 6th March, we had a special session and welcomed four classes from Heddon Primary School to the Library. We had also welcomed two classes on the Tuesday afternoon and one on the Friday afternoon. This would represent over 200 pupils and adults visiting our library.

BFI (British Film Industry) replay, and Press Reader have been added to sites accessible for free from Northumberland library computers.

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

We are now filling drawers for the seed exchange scheme situated in the Library.

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



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Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No 10120

As we move into spring, Knott Hall activities will start to increase. We look forward to our annual Ad Murum concert in June and this year of course VE Day celebrations, which will be take place at the Hall in the form of an afternoon tea but with some interesting contributions from some students from St Andrews School. It would be quite marvellous if those attending could get in to the swing and see if we can get a forties look and atmosphere.

Working with Community Action Northumberland Knott Hall is in the process of becoming a 'Warm Hub'. Once we have achieved this, the aim is to have regular openings to enable residents to come in and have a warm drink or possibly a bite to eat, simply relax or take part in whatever activity may be happening. To enable this to happen of course we will need volunteers, not for every occasion but to ensure we can staff the events we plan. If you are interested please contact: **D. Blackett 07770666744**

Fortunately we have been able to entice/acquire a new bookings person. Fiona Thompson has agreed to take over the role so ably occupied by Hazel Thompson. We have made some slight changes to the booking process and would advise all prospective users to either go to:

Northumberlandvillagehalls.org/Heddon-village-knott-memorial-hall
or email: **knotthallheddon@gmail.com**

Future Events for your diary:

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

Future Events for your diary

(Further details will be posted on: - noticeboards, village diary and Heddon Matters (Facebook Page))

West Coast Band - 7.00p.m. 26th April 2025

VE Afternoon Tea - 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m. 8th/May/2025

Heddon Culture Festival - 29th - 31st August 2025

Knott Memorial Hall - Contact Details

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

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

Bookings: Fiona Thompson: knotthallheddon@gmail.com

D. Blackett

Vacancy

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

Secretary

To undertake the general administration of the Memorial 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

Art in the Village

Inspire and enable Legacy artwork

Our Village Mural

The project is starting to accelerate. We have commissioned an artist who is currently photographing, sketching and researching the village and the ideas which been provided from your comments. It may be that the mural will be bigger than expected to encompass all that has and is Heddon-on-the-Wall.

There is still much to do but we are fast approaching the exciting part when we can paint 'Our Mural'.

Once the painting is completed a programme of painting days will be arranged, watch for further details.

Sycamore Thoughts (sculpture)

This part of the project is also well on way to realisation. The commissioned artist has taken your ideas and thoughts and is currently preparing a model, which will lead to the full scale sculpture.

If you would like any more information about 'Art in the Village'.

Contact: **D Blackett: 07770 666744 dblackett@aol.com**

Heddon Culture Festival 2025

Planning for the festival is gathering pace. The theme this year will be health, well being and nature. This will help provide a focus for some of the additional activities which we always incorporate to give the festival a fresh feel each year.

As in previous years there will be a makers market at St Andrews Church. The Knott Hall will host various demonstrations and 'have a go' classes of lifestyle choices. Workshops will take place at Heddon WI, Heddon Methodist Church and Heddon Library.

Some workshops will run classes prior to the festival to enable work to be displayed.

Once again the Children of St Andrews will be providing a selection of work to support the theme of the festival.

AND Selman Park, music, burgers and bottle rockets.

BUT -We need help

The festival has become quite a large event and to continue, expand and improve, we need more participation in planning, ideas and especially from the younger residents. For more information or just a chat contact: **D Blackett: 07770 666744 dblackett@aol.com**

Heddon Carpet Bowls

Knock-out trophy goes to Linda Ellison



Linda Ellison won the annual knock-out trophy, also we had our annual dinner great night out at Bell e Buon. Residents old and young can come and try carpet bowls. Basic tuition will be given, carpet bowls can be skillful, non competitive and played in a friendly atmosphere.

New players welcome and we play through the summer every Thursday 7.00p.m. in the Knott Memorial Hall.

1st NIGHT IS FREE, no membership fees, only £3.00 per session.

Anyone interested in joining Heddon Carpet Bowls contact:

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

Ballroom Dancing

Ballroom dancing classes at Knott Memorial Hall

One class: Tuesday evening - 7.00p.m. - 8.00p.m.

For more information: **Tel: 07936542226.**

Beginners welcome.



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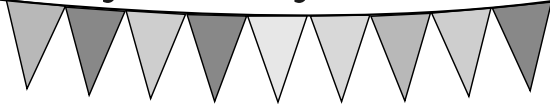
Extensions

Repointing

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Family Fun Day at the Swan



We are running a Family Funday on Saturday 24th May outside the Swan at Heddon, which will include stalls for anything from crafts to candles. If you're interested in joining us and becoming a stall holder please call **Janet on: 01661 853161**



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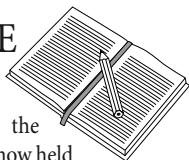
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swannewcastleupontyne@vintageinn.co.uk

Tel: 01661 853 161

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.

BICYCLES FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN



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

Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) - UPDATE April/May 2025

As always: noise: If you can, complain whenever the noise affects you (<https://www.aircraftnoiseaction.com/complaints-form-2>).

... and climate change? Fly less, not more. Best of all, don't fly at all: see Flight Free UK (<https://flightfree.co.uk>)

So: based on a recent report from **The Royal Institute of International Affairs**, commonly known as **Chatham House**, a British think tank, entitled: "Net zero and the role of the aviation industry" ...

At the risk of boring you (!): Climate change is accelerating and aviation is hell bent on massive expansion and, in the process, aiding and abetting climate change (yes we've said this many times before - sorry!). In the UK, successive governments have seen no problem with this expansion - the current government is no different, it has swallowed the propaganda peddled by aviation that it is key to economic growth. It isn't, all it does is export a whole lot more money from the UK via leisure flights - holidays and visits to family and friends. - than it brings in. Clearly, however, the industry isn't going to be easily stopped from its insane expansion. **So what to do?**

If you fly, how about this for a strategy that you can control: If you are in that group of UK citizens that flies on holiday or to see family/friends 5 or more times a year, cutting it down by one or more flights could help to significantly reduce aviation's impact. The less this group flies, the better. If you fly less often, still try to cut it down by one flight or more. If you are in the 77% of the UK population who take no more than 1 return flight a year, don't worry too much though it would be great if you could stop altogether. It's the frequent fliers that are the problem right now, they need to cut down! Is that you? Could you help? **It's about managing demand.**

Why is demand management so important? Because climate time is running out and because options for **supply side management** of aviation's climate change impact depend on zero-emissions aircraft (electric or hydrogen) and so-called sustainable aviation fuels. None of these are yet in a fit state to be scaled up any time soon (and may never be) or they are still in the protracted R&D phase.

HEDDON



Any Suggestions?

We are currently in the progress of pulling together the schedule for this years Village Show. If you are a keen photographer, crafter, or have any other ideas for any categories we could put into this years show please feel free to email: villageshow@gmail.com with any suggestions. We will look to incorporate them into this show.

Thank you Linda



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DRIVES CLEANED



Running the Paris marathon for Brain Research UK

Amber is raising money for Brain Research UK who helped to save her dad pictured left.

I'm Amber, though you may know me better as Bertie's owner! I am running the Paris Marathon on April 13th to raise money for Brain Research UK, a charity close to my heart. This will be my 3rd marathon and my 1st international race. 2025 is extra special as I'm getting married in May (at St Andrew's Church, Heddon), and thanks to Brain Research UK, my dad is here to walk me down the aisle.

A few years ago, my dad took part in a medical trial and was diagnosed with a rare brain condition called Dural Arteriovenous Fistulas. After a successful operation, he faced complications but made a full recovery, thanks to early diagnosis and treatment through research.

You can read more about my story by scanning the QR code. My workplace is very kindly matching any donations I receive - £5.00 becomes £10.00. Any support is greatly appreciated!



Who knew Station Bank would be such good hill training! If you see me running around the village, give me a wave, high five, or a smile - it goes a long way!

STAY & PLAY - All Welcome!

Heddon-on-the-Wall, St Andrew's CE Primary School

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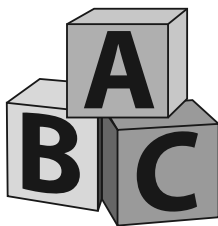
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For more information visit:

www.heddon-school.co.uk

email: stayandplay@heddonschool.co.uk

Tel: 01661 853350



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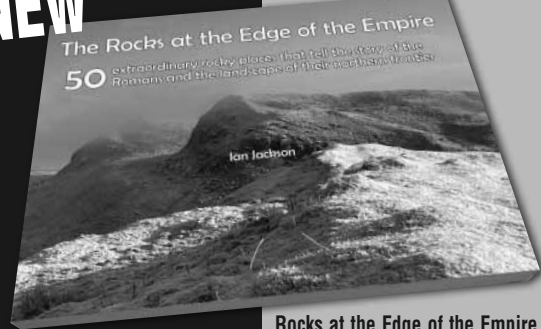
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All you have to do is go on line or on the phone and click on the link: Enter a Northumberland postcode, or street name and area.

Locate the problem on a map of the area. Enter details of the problem.

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