

HEDDON G♥SSIP

THE INDEPENDENT FREE PAPER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL
FEBRUARY • MARCH 2025

AD MURUM *Singers*

The Ad Murum choir enjoyed presenting their Christmas Concert in December and it was well received by the audience. Proceeds from the concert are to be sent to the Tynedale Hospice at Home and the St Andrew's Church Roof Fund. At the choir party in early January, Chris Clark, who has retired as Musical Director, was presented with a gift, and thanked for her many years of service to the choir.

Katie Gosling, the new Musical Director, commenced practices with youthful enthusiasm at our first 2025 meeting on January 7th. Choir members received copies of songs to be learnt or perfected before our next public performance.

The first event on the choir calendar for 2025, is a joint concert. A choir of children from **St Andrew's School** are joining with the Ad Murum Singers to present this concert; to be held in the Knott Hall on **Thursday 27th March**. This event will hopefully raise funds specifically for the St Andrew's Church Roof Fund. A village event for a village cause! Later in the year, on **Friday June 6th** the Spring/Summer concert will again be held in the Knott Hall, with proceeds going to support local charities. Please put these dates in your diary.

If you enjoy singing, please don't hesitate to join the Ad Murum Singers. Come to our practices on Tuesdays (at 7-30pm in the Heddon Methodist Chapel.) You will be assured of a warm welcome.

Chris Rand

The Proms comes to Heddon
Choir favourites, WW2 hits, and Proms classics from:
Ad Murum & St. Andrew's Singers & School Choir
Knott Memorial Hall
Thursday, March 27th
Doors: 5pm Starts: 5:30pm
Adults £6 Children £2
affle • bottle bar • red, white, and blue dress code (if you can!)
Tickets from 'The Swan, The Three Tuns, St. Andrew's School, or Ad Murum.
All ticket and raffle proceeds go to roof repairs at St. Andrew's Church.

Lets Raise the Roof at the Proms

Many of you will be aware of our Raise the Roof campaign to raise £120,000 (circa) to repair St Andrew's church roof. Indeed, you may well have attended the garden party, the ceilidh, the curry night or have contributed in other ways. All of the above mentioned were fantastic and this Heddon Proms will be no different. A joint venture of Ad Murum and St Andrew's Singers, each choir singing their current repertoire and then, culminating in a joint venture, we celebrate with the songs of WW2 and the Prom's classics. Your church still needs you so please show your support on 27th March.

Doors open 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm start at Knott Hall. **Tickets can be obtained from St Andrew's School and Ad Murum choir members.**

Justine Graham St Andrew's CE School

Passing of a Heddon Stalwart

HAZEL THOMPSON 1938 - 2024

Hazel was a lifetime resident of Heddon having moved here as a child with her brothers Billy and John when her father Jack Glendinning came to work on Heddon Banks Farm, and her mother Mrs Glenn became the village postwoman. During the WW2 years she spent time with Italian prisoners of war who were billeted and put to work on the farm. She used to show her own children the etchings made by the prisoners on the wall at the bottom of Heddon Banks. As a child she won a prize at the village show for her handwriting, and as a teenager took part in the Festival of Britain celebrations in 1951 in the village.

After marrying and with 2 young children she moved to the house on Centurion Way and went on to have 4 more children and making many happy memories over the next 63 years, welcoming grandchildren and great grandchildren into the family home.

As an adult she soon became embedded in Heddon village life and was soon a well known figure. She participated and helped out at practically every village event, whether that be the W.I Strawberry Teas and jumble sales, or winning many prizes over the years for her baking in the village show. In the street Hazel was well known for hosting Tupperware parties, and with the biggest garden having all the kids in the street playing there with her own children, as well as supplying



them with her delicious home made cakes and sweets.

Hazel served on the parish Council for a number of years, and when the library was under threat of closure became part of the team of volunteer librarians to ensure its continued operation. She was a member of the Knott Hall Committee coordinating bookings and a keyholder. She was the village Avon lady for many years, as well as distributing and collecting Poppy tins each year around local businesses.

Many people may remember Hazel playing football in a fancy dress charity event on the Welfare field, where she was dressed as a casualty and broke her ankle, being carried off to be a real casualty in hospital.

She became the village heroine after trying to stop a robbery in the Post office, losing her own purse and gaining a black eye in the process. The post office rewarded her with a bravery award and a new purse (with money) in recognition of her actions that day.

Hazel became the go to woman for local history, having lived here most of her life she witnessed the evolution of Heddon over the years and there was very little she did not know about the village and a lot of the families who have lived here for decades.

She was the heart and soul of her family, Centurion Way and Heddon-on-the-Wall and will be greatly missed by all.

R.I.P HAZEL
Teresa Reilly (daughter)

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

A Place for Everyone

Happy New Year!

Though our conversations recently have focused on the incredible cold snap we have had to endure, we have not forgotten how special the Christmas season was in the village of Heddon.

We had Christmas Markets, Concerts and Shows, Carol Services, Christingle Services, School Services and Advent Journeys – something for everyone in fact.

The events were well attended, warm and friendly and gave everyone a feeling of festive spirituality and demonstrated the true meaning of Christmas.

Our Roof Appeal is still going strong. 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 to fund the expensive but essential roof repair. We intend to apply to grant giving bodies in January and commence work hopefully late spring.

Meanwhile we have more exciting fund raising ideas for 2025.

The first of which will be a Music Event:

The **Ad Murum Singers** and **St. Andrew's School Choir** are to perform a joint concert on **Thursday 27th March at 5.30 p.m.** in the Knott Hall.

The concert is entitled '**The Proms Comes to Heddon**' and will be a fantastic event for the whole village. Tickets are £6 for adults and £2 for children. There will also be a Raffle and a Bar. (*Optional red, white and blue dress code*).

The proceeds will be donated to St. Andrew's Church for the Roof Repairs.

Everyone is welcome.

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.

We continue to enjoy joint worship with our friends from the Methodist Church and have several dates in the calendar for 2025.

'*Christmas is Over.... What Comes Next?*' is our first event of the new year for children and parents/carers. It will be held at **St Andrew's Church on Saturday, 1st February from 10 a.m.-12noon.**

This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in a design project. We've had some great ideas already and this is another chance to take part, share your creative skills at whatever level and find out about what came next. There will be stories, refreshments, singing and perhaps even some magic! This is a shared activity between the two churches in Heddon and everyone is welcome.

In 2025, the Churches in our group will be working on a theme of Health and Wellbeing. At **St. Mary's Church, Stamfordham on 11th February 4.30.p.m.** we will be learning about the effects of Dementia and how to help those who suffer from this illness. Everyone is very welcome and coffee will be available from 4-0 p.m.

Lent begins in March this year and we have a service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes on **Wednesday 5th March at 10.30 a.m.** at **St. Andrew's Church.**

On **Sunday 30th March**, we will be holding a joint **Service for Mothering Sunday** with all five parishes in our group. The Service will be held at **10 a.m. at Ovingham Parish Church.**

If you are a 'crafty' person, you may be interested to hear that the group who made the Progy Mat for the Culture Festival will continue to meet not just to make progy mats but any crafts.

The group meets in the Knott Memorial Hall on the first and third Thursday each month from 1.00 -3.00 p.m.

If anyone would like to hear more about the group, please contact: **Eileen Hyder (ehyderm@gmail.com)**

St Andrew's Church is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays throughout the year from 10 a.m. - 3.00 p.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 Revd. Rachel. **r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org**

Sunday worship every week at 10.30 a.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 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
revtombirch@gmail.com

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

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

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Heddon Methodist Church

Methodist Minister for Heddon Methodist Church:

Revd. Lynda Coulthard, based in Westerhope:

Tel: 0191 271 1587

email: lynda.coulthard@methodist.org.uk

Church Sunday Services: 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

(unless otherwise stated)

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 7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.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 10.00 a.m.

Warm Space Coffee Mornings: continue on Thursday's for coffee, scones and chat **10.00 a.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 7.00 p.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.



Happy New Year! I hope that you had a good Christmas & despite the weather last weekend that the year has started well for you.

I'm preparing this piece a few days before the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th - 25th January) when Christians are encouraged to come together & celebrate the things that unite them rather than the things that divide them.

Few people I speak to today make New Year's resolutions. I think most, if not all of us, have tried previously & after a few days we've slipped back & given up. I heard Paul McKenna speaking on Radio 2 saying that New Year's resolutions are often wishes & because they are merely wishes we fail to set targets or goals. He suggested that people should envisage what the outcome would be in 12 months time if people kept their resolutions, then what they would need to be like in 9 months time to achieve their goal & to break it down into more achievable targets. One new year's resolution might be to lose weight so set a target say 2 stone by next Christmas. That may seem a lot at the start of the year but if you lost 2-3lbs a month then you would achieve your goal.

In the Methodist church either in January or September which is the start of the Methodist year we have a 'Covenant service' in which we renew the promises when we were made members/confirmed. It encourages to accept that there may be things to do but equally (& certainly as we get older) we might not be able to do the things we used to do. We may have times of peace & we may have times of trouble. What we think, say or do may be valued but at other times we may be disregarded. At the end of the Covenant prayer we say 'I willingly offer all I have & am to serve you as & where you choose'.

During this coming year I hope that there are many times of joy. However there will inevitably be times of sadness, we might face difficulties in our own lives or as a nation. Some things will be because of our choices & others by the choices of others that we have no control over. Whatever this year holds we have the choice to face it with courage or we have the choice to let it overwhelm us. We have the choice to be kind to others & make the world, or at least Heddon a better place or you can choose to wallow in misery.

We can make resolutions at any time - it doesn't have to only be on New Year's Day. Let's resolve to make the day ahead as best as it can be for ourselves & our community & then we might all enjoy, whether you have a faith or not, life in all it's fullness.

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 Foodbank warehouse at

Lemington. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, Heddon residents were extremely generous. Over 110 kg of tins and other dried food items were left in the box. So far this year, 35 kg has been donated. This is all gratefully received by the Foodbank managers and is much appreciated.

There are also collection points in all the main supermarkets, including Sainsbury's in Throckley.

Please continue to donate if you can. Items currently required 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.

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

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.



ALL SEASONS

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Prudhoe NE42 5PU
01661 598288

5 Broomy Hill Road,
Throckley NE15 9NS
0191 2861340

www.allseasonsindependentfuneraldirectors.co.uk

Elections 2025 – it's your chance to be involved

I know from the comments on our social channels and discussions that many of you have with our current councillors that many of you have some great ideas to improve our village including the work and contracts that are managed through the Parish Council.

The next ordinary elections for Town, Parish and Community Councils across the county will be combined with the County Council elections on Thursday 1st May 2025.

During the elections all the current Parish Councillors must step down from their post. This is a great opportunity for people across the Parish to put their names forward if they would like to be part of the Parish Council following the elections in May. Our council is currently made up of 9 councillors, supported by two paid members of staff.



To help us understand how many people that we could have standing for election, if you're interested, please register your interest using this QR code to access the link or contact our clerk.

Northumberland County Council update

At our meeting in January, we were joined by Councillor Peter Jackson. He provided us with the following updates in relation to Northumberland County Council. The Council is currently preparing budgets and future planning. The demand for social care is increasing and costs associated with that and education are also increasing. They are working to prevent any impact on the services residents receive and frontline services. Although not directly supporting Heddon, the new Northumberland rail line has now opened and is serving south east Northumberland. Also on travel, the project to make the A1 a dual carriageway north of Heddon on the Wall is no longer continuing, which is disappointing. The government has introduced new housing targets which could affect the Tyne Valley as they are looking for regions to review green spaces and brownfield sites. We will share updates as we're made aware.

In better news, schools in the county continue to improve and Northumberland is in the top 25% of the country in terms of the quality of education offered. The local schools are doing particularly well.

As an update from the Parish Council linked into the overall budget setting, after 3 years of maintaining our precept (the amount of money per household the Parish Council receives from your council tax) we have taken the difficult decision to make a small increase this year of 3%. This decision wasn't taken lightly but is due to the increased costs for services we pay for, and reduced services provided by

HEDDON ON-THE-WALL

PARISH COUNCIL

Our Mission Statement:

February/March
2025



Northumberland County Council.

Welfare Field Enhancement Project

Our plans are continuing to go well, we have received feedback from the school and held an open consultation at the library. We've had a further open consultation online which closed at the end of January. This feedback will help us to define our final plans which we will look to deliver in phases as we secure funds. Councillor Peter Jackson has already agreed to some financial support for this project.

Dates for your diaries

Our Parish Council will continue to meet every month (except for August) on the second Tuesday. The meetings take place in the library at 7 p.m. Residents are welcome to come to the meeting, and if there's something that you would like to bring to the council, you can arrange this with our Parish Clerk so that you have an opportunity to speak at the beginning of our meeting.

Our planned litter picks for this year are on:

- Saturday 26th April,
- Saturday 2nd August and
- Saturday 25th October.

*Di Keller -
Parish Council Chair*



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/>

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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.

FIX MY STREET

Report it:

- Litter
- Potholes
- Fly tipping
- Dog fouling

Sort it.

Northumberland
nland.cc/fix

Heddon-on-the-Wall village Bin days - February/March

- 11** Black - Rubbish bin - generally collects on a Tuesday
- 4** Blue - Recycling bin - generally collects on a Tuesday
- 4** Garden waste bin Collection Dates (resumes March 4)

You may qualify for assisted bin collections if you are elderly, disabled or suffering a long-term illness.

Apply here
<https://nland.cc/Assist>

To qualify, there must be no other able bodied person over 16 living in the household.



February 2025						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	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		

March 2025						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
24	25	26	27	28	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

March 2025						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
24	25	26	27	28	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						

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.

The Past, Present and Future of the Heddon on the Wall Education and Training Trust (HETT)

The Old School and the Old School House (opposite 'The Swan') in Heddon-on-the-Wall were built in 1851. They were later conveyed in a deed to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Andrews Church, Heddon-on-the-Wall, for a school for the parish of Heddon on the Wall, and the adjacent villages, and for a schoolmaster's house.

Heddon on the Wall School was then transferred to its present site in 1963. The Vicar and Churchwardens ('the trustees') sold the old schoolhouse during 1989 and the old school in 1993, paying Northumberland County Council an amount to cover the cost of building a new school - Heddon-on-the-Wall St Andrew's First School. With the remaining funds, Heddon-on-the-Wall Education and Training Trust (HETT) was established!

The aim of the Trust is to support the education and training needs of residents of the parish, pupils of Heddon-on-the-Wall St. Andrew's CE Primary School and its past pupils. Over the years the Trust has supported many, many applications including a teaching assistant course, learning materials (for school), sports equipment to pursue elite training programmes, a refereeing course and even Heavy Goods Vehicle training!

It has been most successful for many years. However, as financial times become so unsettled, two things have occurred; It is no longer possible to invest capital and earn enough interest to meet the application demand and concurrently, the number of applications have increased each year as more and more people require financial support with their education and training costs.

At the last AGM, the HETT Trustees made the exciting decision to develop and grow the Trust. To do this, the Trust needs to protect current assets whilst generating new income. As such, for the next

year, HETT will only be able to award grants from the monies earned on interest through investments. This is to protect the longevity of the Trust.

Since we sent the flyer with the last *Heddon Gossip*, we have been heartened by all the kind donations received and would like to take this opportunity to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to those of you who have already donated. Your generosity and willingness to support the work we do is incredibly appreciated.

If you would like to support the work of HETT and consider either a one-off donation or a regular contribution, then the Trust would love to hear from you! Please contact Michael, our Treasurer, at: **The Treasurer, 18 Remus Avenue, Heddon-on-the-Wall, NE15 0BT.** or at **mtwilson18@hotmail.com**. Alternatively, you could contact our Chair, Revd Rachel Scheffer, at **r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org** or Secretary, Freda Phillipson, at **fredaphillipson04@gmail.com**, even just for a chat to find out more about HETT.

STAY & PLAY - All Welcome!

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

Every Wednesday during term time 9.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

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.

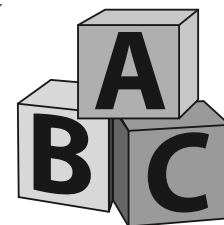
£1.00 donation per child

For more information visit:

www.heddon-school.co.uk

email: **stayandplay@heddonschool.co.uk**

Tel: **01661 853350**



Heddon-on-the-Wall, St Andrew's CE Primary School are looking for dolls and prams/pushchairs for OPAL.

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www.tynevalleyauctions.com



Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG) – UPDATE February/March 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>)

Aviation's free ride:

We've reported about this before but we think it's worth a second look. If you drive a diesel or petrol car you currently pay 30p per litre VAT plus 52p per litre fuel duty every time you fill your tank. What does aviation pay? Zero VAT and zero fuel duty. Which means that taxpayers and car drivers in particular are effectively helping aviation's profits. Air passenger duty is the only tax levied on air travel and it's typically around £13 per passenger on, say, an economy flight to somewhere in Europe. Who pays this? Not the airlines, it's the passenger who pays it's you. We think it's high time taxpayers stopped subsidising airlines' executive pay and profits.

Noise Action Plan (NAP):

Newcastle Airport regularly updates its plan for limiting the effect of noise. It's currently updating the latest version and, as in previous years, we are highly critical of a lot of it. We particularly think that the absence of

measurable targets for improvement means that the Airport can't be properly held to account.

We also think that the Airport's consultation process for the latest plan was, well, rubbish - just like the flawed consultation process in 2014 which led to the noisy flight paths we have now.

For the new NAP, virtually no residents were told about the consultation, there was no preparation, no public meetings and it took place over Christmas and the New Year. **And** the printed plan wasn't available to view in Heddon Library until after the original deadline of the 6th January (it was available on line but you probably weren't told)! And, when it was delivered, it was propped up against the Library door while it was closed. It wasn't until we pressed the Airport that they extended the deadline - **they really haven't learned how to communicate with people.**

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



Primroses

Dahlia tubers

Stocking up for Spring Dahlias

Halls of Heddon now have over 100 varieties of Dahlia pot tubers all packed and ready to go in their shop. Remember, pot tubers are smaller than field tubers and primarily intended for propagation purposes. Ask a member of staff for cultural info when you pop in and, if you're lucky, very lucky, you might just get a chance to have a peek in one of their greenhouses at Heddon and see what we're they are to (Sunday's only).

We still have reasonable availability of most varieties through our catalogue as well, and we'll be posting out throughout the rest of January and February.

Primroses

For those just starting out on their gardening journey, these brightly coloured plants flower right through spring, looking great on Valentines Day, Mothers Day, Easter and into the May Bank Holidays.

You can buy them, and pot them into containers with other gorgeous spring shrubs (we have loads) and display them by your front door.

Planting pots is a great activity to enjoy with children.

Planted pots make really personal and thoughtful gifts.

Potatoes

Our stock of seed potatoes are in and ready for chitting. We have over 20 varieties including first early, early crop and main crop potatoes.

So why not pay Halls of Heddon a visit and see their selection of plants, seeds, composts and garden equipment or just seek advice if you need it.

David and team
Halls of Heddon



Seed potatoes

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

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ALL CLEAN provides a friendly professional domestic and commercial window cleaning service in your area.

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ALL CLEAN cleans gutters up to 15 metres or around 50ft high.

We clean gutters valleys and downpipes on jobs where the gutters are more than 2 floors high from the ground using our Guttervac System

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

DRIVES CLEANED



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2025 to everyone. We started off the New Year with some exercises using a chair, both sitting and standing behind. I was delighted to see everyone take part and even managing to smile! In February we welcome Mr. Peter

Brennan who spent many years as manager at Newcastle City Hall. This venue has played host to many different genres of entertainment and we look forward to hearing about his memories. There will also be our yearly **Pancake Day** held in February so keep a look out for notices around the village for further details.

March we celebrate our 108th birthday party, no doubt there will be cake - it needs to be a big one to hold all those candles! After enjoying a light meal we will be entertained by **Julia Pendleton**, known as the 'Geordie Diva' with songs from the shows.

April we are hoping to have a cookery demonstration by the village's award winning pasta chef.

We are busy planning our programme for the approaching WI year and hope to have another diverse selection of topics.

If you see anything that takes your fancy please come along, you are able to attend as a visitor and are assured of a warm welcome.

Pauline.

HANDBELLS

A happy, healthy, social activity for all ages and abilities, especially accessible to those who do not play any other instrument and who may be fearful of the mysteries of music-making. You are welcome to try a bit of ringing. The bells are here in Heddon. There is no obligation to join a team - and help is at hand.



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Heddon's new small planter

NEW planter donated

Newman Homes & Gardens of Tynedale built the small planter as you come into the village for Heddon-on-the-Wall parish council in mid December. They were partnered with their main suppliers **Jewson Hexham** to donate this planter to Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Newman Homes said "We have done a lot of landscaping work in Heddon over the past few years and met some really lovely people. This is our small thank you to the community, Heddon has a great community and we hope to do more work here in the future".

HEDDON LIBRARY - OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 1.00pm—4.00pm
 Friday 1.00pm—4.00pm
 Saturday 10.00am—12.00 midday
Library news;

John Gillott has retired as joint library co-ordinator and David White has agreed to take over as new joint library co-ordinator with me.

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!

Welcome to **Change NHS:** Help build a health service fit for the future

The NHS has been there for us for over 76 years. But to make sure it's here for the next 76 years, doing all it can to support the health of everyone, we need your help.

We've launched **Change NHS** to hear your views, experiences, and ideas which will shape a new 10 Year Health Plan for England. **This will run until spring 2025.**

Thank you to everyone who has got involved so far. If you're new to **Change NHS**, you can still take part in all the activities so far to have your say.

Make sure to register to keep up to date with what's happening next.

It's your NHS. Click the link and tell us what you think. change.nhs.uk

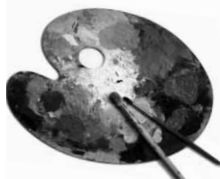


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Heddon Art Group AGM 19th February 2025

Heddon Art Group is looking forward to resuming its range of popular activities in 2025, starting with its AGM on 19th February.

Throughout spring, summer and autumn there will be a series of guest tutors in a range of media and styles in addition to regular free-choice sessions. The Group covers 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 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.

David Chambers.



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foot health care practitioner

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YES we are doing it again... NORTHUMBERLAND MIGHTY HIKE

Full Marathon 13th September 2025 - Half Marathon 14th September 2025

Two years ago Team Tuns completed the Northumberland Mighty Hike. Most of us swore it was the hardest thing we had done and swore never to do it again....

But here we are, two years older but definitely not wiser! As we attempt to complete the hike once again. Some of the old team and some new faces to help us along the way.

This time we will be walking in the memory of a much loved, treasured friend, and regular, Heather, who we sadly lost in February 2024.

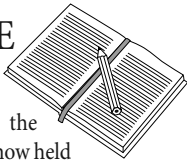
Macmillan were there for her in her last week, supporting her at home, where she wanted to be with her precious family and friends.

Please give as much as you can to help us achieve our target.

Thank you, Team Tuns

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/tthreetunsheddon...>

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.



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Friday 7th Feb 8.30pm

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GOLD CUP BUFFET

Friday 14th March from 1.30pm

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



Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No 10120

As many in the village will know, over the Christmas period one of our trustees sadly died - Hazel Thompson, who was a pillar of the Knott Hall committee. Her common sense, engaging views and sheer enthusiasm made it a joy to work with. Many will know her, making bookings to being met at the door for their childrens parties. We will all miss her. Hazel's chosen charities will be supported by a coffee morning in her name during March.

As mentioned in the previous Gossip, the Annual General Meeting of Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall Charity will take place on **31st March 2025 at 7.00pm**. This is your opportunity to find out about the activities of the Hall over the previous year and to become involved, maybe become a trustee or have a coffee and put forward things you would like to happen at the Hall.

As part of maintaining the Hall we endeavour to provide an appealing exterior outlook, with flowers and planters and unrestricted access to the car park when not in use, this of course implies a degree of reciprocal care by users. Unfortunately one user damaged a planter beyond repair and failed to notify anyone, replacement will be another burden on the already tight finances of the hall and call into question whether the car park should be secured when not in use.

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)

**Heddon Culture Festival Forum 7.00pm
24th/February/2025**

Hazel's Coffee Charity TBS March

VE Afternoon Tea 2.00pm-4.00pm 8th/May/2025

Knott Memorial Hall - Contact Details

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

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

Bookings: D. Blackett

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Heddon Festival Plans...

2025 is well and truly here and the planning for the Festival now begins in earnest. It is quite a task to follow three successful festivals and maintain innovation and interest but life without a challenge...

As in previous years there will be workshops, classes markets, music and authors. 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

Why not come along to the **Knott Hall 7.00pm 29th February 2025**.

Listen to the ideas, throw some in or just have a coffee - please come along.

Art in the Village

Inspire and enable Legacy artwork. 2025 has arrived, having received comments on what should be placed on the mural, we are now in a position to commission an artist to produce the painting from which the mural will be copied.

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

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

Contact: **D Blackett: 07770666744 dblackett@aol.com**

Heddon Carpet Bowls



Residents old and young 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 7.00pm 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 - 7.00pm - 8.00pm

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

Beginners welcome.



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Our Big Quiz was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without this wonderful community and the many people and businesses that donated prizes. We raised £472.04! So along with the coffee mornings, wreath making and breakfast with Santa, that's a total of £2610.19 going to US active charity. *Thank you*

Nature Notes

Nature's drummers

Ruth Oatway

Now is the perfect time of year to listen out for one of the most distinctive sounds of spring - the drumming of woodpeckers. There are three UK species; the great spotted woodpecker is the most common and the one I regularly see in the woods of Heddon and in our garden. It's also the best drummer. The green woodpecker is our largest species but drums rarely with a series of soft taps. It prefers to display with a loud laughing call known as a yaffle. It often forages on the ground probing for ants in grassland areas like parks. I've occasionally heard or seen them around Heddon. As the name suggests, the lesser spotted woodpecker is similar-looking but much smaller and also much rarer than the great spotted. Sadly it has disappeared from much of the UK and I've never seen one. Its drumming is slightly slower and not as loud as the great spotted.



Greater Spotted Woodpecker

January to April is the peak time to hear great spotted woodpeckers drumming and calling (a sharp 'yap'). Both sexes drum to defend their territories and attract a mate. They are also easier to spot when the trees are bare. They beat their beaks against hollow branches or tree trunks at a stunning 40 strikes per second! Their drumming can carry for half a mile and they are picky peckers, often moving from one dead branch to another trying out the sound quality. If they find a good 'drum' they may come back

to it repeatedly. On one walk In Derwent Valley I kept hearing a loud, metallic ringing sound. Eventually I traced it to a male great spotted woodpecker drumming on a metal pylon! He had found a good way to get himself heard above all his rivals.

Great spotted woodpeckers are also some of our most striking-looking birds with smart black and white plumage and a bright scarlet patch under the tail. The males have a band of red on the back of the neck which the females don't have, and youngsters have red on their foreheads. They are similar in size to a blackbird but different in shape. They often dominate bird feeders, scaring smaller birds away.

Their amazing dagger-like beaks are not just used for drumming but also for finding food and chiselling out nesting holes. Their main food source is insects hidden under the bark in dead wood, but they also eat tree seeds and will take the eggs and young of other birds. Great spotted woodpeckers breed around May to June and lay 4-6 eggs which hatch after a couple of weeks. As the chicks get larger and more confident they will come to the nest-hole entrance to beg loudly for food. I've been lucky enough to see a young woodpecker being fed at the nest-hole by a parent after being alerted by the sound. We also find a parent will bring a recently fledged juvenile to our peanut feeder to show it this easy source of food!

The good news is that the great spotted woodpecker is currently thriving in the UK with numbers and range increasing in the past few decades. Tree diseases have many negative impacts but may also benefit woodpeckers which rely on deadwood for food and nest sites. Increased understanding of the value of deadwood for nature means this is more likely to be left in place where safe to do so. Reduced competition for nest sites due to the decline in starlings, and increased food availability from garden feeders may also be factors.

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 Oatway

Hexham Road Speeding Petition

This is reminder to sign our petition calling for traffic calming measures to reduce speeding on Hexham Road between the 30mph signs. We've had a great response so far but the final deadline is **1st March** and every signature helps to strengthen the case for action.



Seed Swap Refresh!

Last spring we ran a successful seed swap at Heddon Library and our cabinet of seeds has been available in the library since.

We'll be holding another seed swap during usual library opening hours of 10-12 on **Sat 22nd March** to bring seed -swappers together and refresh the seed collection. Start saving your seeds now and look out for our posters.

Free tickets:

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

Next Meeting: 5th February at 7pm at Heddon Library

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

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BAG IT! TAKE IT! BIN IT!

Over the last few weeks there has been an increase of dog mess especially around Towne Gate near to Carters Cottages, The Swan and The Old Library. Could dog owners please pick up the dog mess and take it home or bin it. The path in this part of Heddon is narrow, gets a lot of footfall and inevitably the dog mess gets stood on.

PLEASE: BAG IT! TAKE IT! BIN IT!



HEDDON UNITED REACH CUP FINAL

It's been long awaited, but we have the arrangements confirmed for the Cup Final against North Shields Athletic FC Reserves.

Thursday 27th March 2025

Kick OFF 19:30

East Palmersville Sports Ground, NE12 9HW

Save the date and get along to support the lads!

#WeAreHeddon #UpTheWall



BAYS PLASTIC
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HEDDON UNITED VS NORTH SHIELDS

27 March 2025 19:30pm East Palmersville, NE12 9HW

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Answers to Northumberland TOWNS and VILLAGES anagram puzzles

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