CHOPWELL REGENERATION

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025

Chopwell Lockout Celebrations



The events to celebrate the centenary of the Chopwell Lockout of 1925 have now all taken place and the red flags have been put away. We had an exciting few weeks, with a wide range of events for all ages and interests. It was great to see how many different groups in our community came together to make it such a success.

A big thank you to all the organisers and to all who participated!

Here is the link to the Chopwell Podcast created by Digital Voice: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_MoywWhhMY&t=44s

Brightening Up Chopwell

It's been a busy time since our last update. We've now installed 3 of the 8 planters made by the Men's Shed earlier this year: 2 in the Methodist Church garden and another at the bus turning at the end of the river streets. These only contain edible plants: why not help yourself to a few herb leaves to jazz up your next meal?!



Thanks to the many volunteers who tend, water and weed the various planters around the village – these, together with several benches were given a fresh lick of paint at the start of the summer.



This autumn we'll be ready to tackle fallen leaves, overhanging branches, more new planters, litter, and of course, stop for a natter.

We'd love to welcome new volunteers to the group.

Contact Bob for more info Bobdonaldson64@hotmail.com

For dates, times and meeting places of our next tidy up sessions, please see the calendar*

Breaking News from the Chopwell Pop up Team!



We are delighted to announce a welcome visit from **Jeff Brown** who for many years presented BBC Look North and worked as a sports reporter for The Journal and TV. He has also written his first play 'The Bench' which has toured the area.

Come and join him for an evening of chat following one of our

famous 3 course meals plus Bar on Saturday 5th October 7.30pm.

Tickets on sale soon, email popupteam@nesolutions.co.uk to go on the guest list.

CHOPWELL Village Show



A **FREE** event

Saturday 6th September
Community Centre

Entries accepted: 11.15—12.15

Judging: 12.15 Prompt

Public viewing: 1—3pm

Vegetables & Fruit

V1 Runner Beans x3 pods
V2 Beetroot x2
V3 Carrots x2
V4 Wonkiest Vegetable!
V5 Cabbage (any variety)
V6 Onions x2 (any variety)
V7 Leeks x2
V8 Potatoes x3 (any variety)
V9 Courgettes x2
V10 Heaviest Marrow
V11 Longest Runner Bean
V12 Largest Pumpkin (by circumference)
V13 Tomatoes x2
V14 Any other vegetable
V15 Most unusual vegetable
V16 Eating apples x2
V17 Cooking apples x2
V18 Pears x2
V19 Any other fruit
V20 Pot grown herb
V21 Any 'back yard' produce

Flowers and house plants

F1 Single variety flowers vase
F2 Mixed flowers vase
F3 Dried Flowers vase
F4 Cactus/succulent potted plant
F5 Foliage/ flowering potted plant

Bakes and Preserves

B1 Full size cake
B2 Cupcakes 3
B3 Cookies/biscuits
B4 Traybakes
B5 Jams & Jellies
B6 Chutneys & Pickles
B7 Bread (loaf or buns)
B8 'Freefrom' cake (no eggs, gluten or dairy)
B9 Cordial



Come and show off your wares! Have fun! Win prizes!!

Arts & Crafts

A1 Crafted Fruit (Any type of crafting including knitting, crochet, paper, wood etc)
A2 Crafted Vegetable (any type of crafting)
A3 Crafter Flower/s (any type of crafting)
A4 Garden/allotment/backyard photo
A5 Poem/song related to growing
A6 Scarecrow (any size)

Children's Categories:

The following can be made at home or on the day:

C1 Drawing or painting of fruit/veg/flower
C2 Fruit/veg character 3D model
C3 Garden design
C4 Poem or a song related to growing

chopwell COMMUNITY FOOD GROWERS

Volunteering opportunities at the Bank and Regeneration Shop

Volunteering is a great way to learn and share skills and improve your wellbeing.

The Regeneration Shop, who were recently nominated for the Tackling Climate Change Award, are always looking for volunteers in the shop or to help with repairs of electrical goods, household items and clothes. To find out more contact Hal on 07501 822382. Or call in to the Regen Shop, **opening hours are: Thursday & Friday: 9am—4pm, Saturday: 9am—3pm**

The Bank can provide volunteers with work experience to help boost your confidence, get a job, gain qualifications, or to help you get out of the house. For more information call 01207 261119 or pop in to the Bank to meet Fraser the Café manager. You will get a warm welcome :)

MHA's new "Start the Week" group



Anyone over 55 is welcome to join us at the Methodist church on South Road between 2pm and 4pm every Monday afternoon. At this session in July, we enjoyed an informative talk on Chopwell's rich mining heritage (including the 1925 Lock Out) delivered by our own member Jim Third.

We will be at the Village Show at the Community Centre, with all sorts of goodies, on 6th September & hope to see you there too.

For more information on our work please email ronnie.stuart@mha.org.uk or call her on 07749 571916, or the office on 01207 563825

Chopwell Community Food Growers' Food Preservation Project

We received funding from Gateshead Food Partnership and will be running **10 free sessions in Chopwell** through the autumn and winter.

Food preservation has been practised for centuries and you can come along to the sessions to find out how . . . Methods include canning, freezing, pickling, jamming, dehydrating, fermenting, and making balms and tinctures from herbs.



Our first session will be at the **Community Centre on Thursday 11th September, 6.30—8.30pm** and will be a **basic introduction** to food preparation & hygiene as well as preservation techniques and exploring what people would most like to try.

For more details please enquire to chopwellcfg@gmail.com & look out for our posts with dates and venues on FB and BlueSky.

Regulars at . . . the bank CHOPWELL

Craft Club every Wednesday evening, 7—8.30pm. Bring your own crafts to do while you chat with others or get inspired by others to try something new. Contact Stacey at staceysforster@gmail.com to find out more or just turn up. All welcome :)



Men's Pie Club every Saturday, 2—4pm. Meet new friends, chat and make pies!

Want advice on starting your own business? Call in to meet Sam, every Friday 9am—3pm

Pop in to the Bank for a meal or coffee and cake . . .

Opening hours are . . .
Wednesday to Friday: 9am to 3pm
Saturday: 10am to 3pm



Enjoy a **BIG BANK BREAKFAST**, only £7.50 or £5.50 for veggie. Served Wednesday—Saturday until 11.30, Sit in or take away.



We re-start our Cinema Season after the summer break on Friday 26th September when we'll be showing 'Purely Belter', a humorous film shot in the North East.

October's film is on Friday 24th and we're featuring a comedy, 'Because I Said So' featuring Diane Keaton.

In November we'll be showing the first 'Men in Black' movie – a classic action comedy film starring Will Smith on Friday 21st November.

All films will start at 7.30pm in Chopwell Community Centre with the Café/Bar open from 5.30pm for drinks/ film food/ and ice creams. Note we can now take card payments for food & drink.

There will be no film in December.

WHAT'S ON

MUSIC—LIVE AT THE OFFICIALS

We have live entertainment every Saturday night . See Calendar below for details.

We will also have Live Entertainment on Boxing Night, New Years Eve and Our Own Fantastic Local Lad Kev Mac is here on New Years Day with his Brilliant Solo Set and Karaoke Gig.

More Details will be posted nearer event times.

Club opens at 7pm for evening events unless otherwise requested.

September

Wednesday 3rd – **Tidy up session*** meet outside the Bank at 9.30am. End at the Bank for coffee!

Saturday 6th - 4– 6pm CRG Public meeting at the Bank. Everyone welcome.



Saturday 6th - Chopwell Village Show @ The Community Centre

Thursday 11th - 6.30pm Food Preservation @ The Community Centre

Saturday 20th - Fabulous Comedy Duo - Take This @ The Officials

Thursday 25th - Horse Fans Bit Fitting Talk @ The Officials

Friday 26th - Bibliotheca Clubland Night @ The Officials

Friday 26th - Chopwell Cinema is showing 'Purely Belter' @ The Community Centre

October

Sunday 5th – **Tidy up session*** ending at The Gaffers. Meet outside the Hotel at 10am.

Sunday 5th - Pop up Restaurant with talk from Jeff Brown @ The Community Centre

Friday 24th - Chopwell Cinema is showing 'Because I said so" @ The Community Centre

Friday 31st - Bibliotheca Halloween Party @ The Officials 7.30pm

November

Saturday 1st - Kiddies Halloween Party @ The Officials

Saturday 8th – Meet at St John's churchyard at 10am for a **pre-Remembrance Day tidy up***

Thursday 20th- Acropolis – Greek Streetfood will be back at The Red House, 5—8pm

Friday 21st - Chopwell Cinema is showing 'Men in Black" @ The Community Centre

Saturday 22nd - Chopwell Regeneration Group AGM at the Bank, 4—6pm. Everyone welcome.

Friday 28th - Horse Fans Tack Sale @ The Officials

Saturday 29th - S***e Shag Biker Group Live Band Spooky Santa Charity Night @ The Officials

Published and distributed by Chopwell Regeneration CIO. Registered charity number 1183436
This edition of the newsletter is funded by The National Lottery.

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY™