



THE HAYDON NEWS

December 2014

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On line: www.haydon-news.co.uk
Editor: Steve Ford



HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM CHURCHES TOGETHER AT HAYDON BRIDGE

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See page 17 for Christmas Services



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The editorial policy of the Haydon News is the responsibility of the Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge, although day to day responsibility is delegated to the editors. Our intention is always to ensure that the content of the Haydon News is as fair and factually correct as possible. Any complaints concerning editorial policy should be addressed in writing to the Chairman of the Friends of Haydon Bridge, and will be considered by and receive a formal response from the Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge. Complaints other than those made above will not be entertained. The Editors reserve the right to decide which letters/articles are to be published, and to alter or shorten letters/articles when necessary.

Anonymous letters/articles will NOT be published. A *nom-de-plume* may be used if the Editors know the writer's name and address.

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EDITORIAL

Letters to the editor are very welcome. Informative and/or constructive letters about topics of local concern or interest are especially welcome. So Thank You to John Irving - see bottom right.

John is, of course, perfectly correct. My source for the item was The Courant, an organ of ineffable veracity and renown. Shortly to become a tabloid perhaps, at least according to the scuttlebutt that has come my way.

If you wish to air a grievance or draw attention to a problem then please err on the side of politeness and always try to offer your own preferred solution. It is not enough to complain and leave the problem for others to solve.

I have never understood the point of writing to any publication but insisting on anonymity but, as mentioned on page 2, providing the identity of the author is known to the editor then we may occasionally publish anonymous letters or those bearing a *nom de plume*. Having the courage of your convictions has much to commend it.

Wouldn't it be good if we could have proper to and fro debates about a variety of things. Let's have some more letters please!

Deadlines for 2015 are the same as the dates of The Parish Council meetings:

Jan 22 no Haydon News in January
Feb 26
Mar 26
Apr 23
May 28
Jun 25
Jul 23
Aug - no meeting
Sep 24 no Haydon News in September
Oct 22
Nov 26
Dec 17

Contributors of articles might like to pin this list to their desktop/notice-board/calendar/forehead/other useful location.

When out and about in the parish I have begun to notice people leaping for cover, when I hove into view, in case I extract promises of articles for The Haydon News from them. There's a lot happening in our community and it would be good to promote activities before they occur and report on them afterwards—ideally with photographs.

Good News! Superfast broadband has arrived in Haydon Bridge. See page 29.

Thank you to all of those who replied to my enquiry about the adequacy of deliveries. Unless I receive any late information to the contrary it would appear that the situation is under control save for one lady whose ferocious dogs deter the would be deliverer.

In case you did not know - the Allenbanks Wobbly Bridge is back in use. It has been raised by 300mm, I hope that that is enough.

While we are on the subject of weather, have you seen what is going on in the USA? I am hoping that John Harrison will have words of comfort for us all about the prospects of a similar events here in next year's first edition - which appears in February.

Dualling the A69 is the topic of the moment. Politicians of all parties are falling over themselves to promise good things for the North East in time to catch your vote in 2015 - are we fooled? Egad Caruthers! There goes another flying pig...

Just supposing a few billion pounds were diverted to the North East for infrastructure projects (road and rail especially) how long would it be before construction started or finished? Mid century? I'll be dead by then.

However, let's be forward looking. I think that dualing the A69 and A1 would be a good idea - on balance. Petitions in support of this will shortly appear all over the parish. Have a think about it.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Steve Ford

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

A sentence in your November 2014 editorial caused me to raise an eyebrow, the sentence being: "The promise of better trains but higher ticket prices on our railway is a mixed message." By "our railway" I take it you are referring to the Newcastle to Carlisle line.

As far as I know there has been no promise of better trains, nor can there have been because the process of creating a new franchise to replace Northern Rail has yet to begin. Increased fares are possible but if you are referring to the limitation placed on off-peak fares in the afternoon which started on 8 September then this does not apply to Haydon Bridge.

A representative from Northern Rail gave a briefing on the state of the franchise and fare alterations to a meeting of Northumberland County Council Area Committee - West on 9 September at Allendale. On 12 September the Hexham Courant published an irresponsible front-page article and leader on the subject. Unfortunately our county councillors and journalists have little understanding of the situation so it would be a help to Haydon Bridge residents if you used part of your next editorial to explain the source of your claim that there has been a "...promise of better trains..."

Yours

John Irving NE46 6ED

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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A meeting of The Haydon Parish Council was held on 27th November at 7.30pm in The Community Centre.

Proceedings were opened with an address by two representatives of Dementia Friends — Claire and Amy, who are from The Alzheimer's Society. Claire's area of responsibility includes the entire north east from Berwick to Redcar.

They began by explaining how the project had been initiated by the Prime Minister, was being propelled by an advertising campaign and workers such as themselves and had the intention of recruiting one million Dementia Friends before spring. The central purpose of the project is to increase understanding of the condition.

Current estimates show that at present there are 850,000 sufferers in the UK, by 2121 there will be a million and by 2050 there will be two million. All of these figures are suspected to be underestimates.

Dementia is a progressive condition and therefore the aim is to assist those affected to lead as full and interesting life as possible, rather than being house-bound as too many are.

Courses are being provided to enable volunteers, businesses, communities and other concerns to become 'champions'. These courses raise awareness of the condition and promote the many things that can be done to assist patients with dementia to continue to be out and about and lead as near normal lives as possible.

Corbridge is the nearest community to be aiming to become dementia friendly at present.

Amy is a development officer for Northumberland

and is working mainly with parish councils, businesses and schools. Numbers of students have become involved already. The project is currently advancing very favourably. Walks and other outings have been arranged and run by volunteers. There are agreed criteria towards which communities can work, each in their own way, in order to become champions.

When people are more aware of the condition they can, with little effort, make life easier for dementia sufferers and reduce the stigmatisation that many experience.

Public Participation

An uncommonly large number of members of the public were present at the meeting, though, it transpired that most were there to observe.

It was reported that damage had been done to the railings and coping stones in front of the old Post Office. Possibly a lorry had clipped them. Repairs are required.

A very sad mangled plaque was presented to the Council, having been retrieved from the base of the equally spavined Millenium Tree in the Church Yard. It was felt that this sorry situation should be remedied with a new plaque — at the very least.

Apologies

Were accepted

Declarations of Interest

Were sought.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted with one single word amendment.

NCC

Cllr. Sharp reported that superfast fibre broadband was now available in the parish. He pointed out that those who live outby may not yet have access to the service. (*How right he is! Ed*) This deficiency will be pursued as soon as possible and rectified.

Three complaints had been received about the undue delay in the process of planning applications. The causes of the delays are to be investigated and dealt with.

The works for the East Land Ends road have been requisitioned but a date for their being undertaken has yet to be decided.

Following enquiry, it has been discovered that even

when a road has not been adopted, the utility companies may undertake works. This relates to an earlier question about Park Stile.

Works on highways around the parish continue apace but there remains much to do.

The three year project to modernise the street lighting in Northumberland seems to have prioritised all parts other than the west which is currently last in the queue. We have two years to wait. Kielder, the place intended to gain the most in support of its Dark Skies ambitions is, apparently, the last to be dealt with. That this was a ridiculous situation was noted with a measure of weary resignation. That Kielder would benefit from the measure above all other areas was noted too.

Precept setting time is with us again as is the latest round of budget reductions.

Highways.

The aforementioned railings outside the old Post Office were mentioned again for completeness.

Parking problems in the Park Stile area were remarked. The problem being particularly acute for delivery vehicles with large turning circles. The presence of a caravan was mentioned. The possibility of arranging white lines or raised kerbs to constrain parking was discussed. It was hoped that concerned parties might provide drawings showing their proposed solutions.

Lighting

Nothing to report.

Planning

Only two applications had been received and there had been no objections to either:

- Hedge removal at Altonside
- Flat roof replacement at 27 Church Street.

Accounts

Were agreed.

Mandates for HSBC are being arranged.

Some candidates for funding from the current £15,000 contingency fund were aired. The creation of a wild flower meadow and woodland burial site at the cemetery were met with general approval.

That the Spa Well needs further improvement was agreed and it was proposed that the project might provide an opportunity for creative artistic endeavour - even a competition and /or exhibition of works submitted.

Correspondence

The Northumberland Archaeological Report and Highway Winter Policy were received.

Parish Projects

The Development Trust, in concert with others, is working toward the establishment of a Luncheon Club somewhat after the fashion of the one that is so successful in Haltwhistle. Transport to and from such an event and a social element in the proceedings are also envisioned. Several venues are under consideration.

Mary Milford, who runs Meals on Wheels, has the ability to cater for up to 8 but currently has only three customers. More would be welcome.

On Shaftoe Green children's play area a further consignment of wood chippings will be emplaced and this will become an annual replenishment process. The steps seem now to be in order and the bin has been ordered.

AOB

The flashing speed warning sign pole has yet to be installed and appears to be delayed by the want of an assessment by others.

The many drain gullies around the village remain to be cleared - for example in the pavement in Church Street.

The prominent flagstone and manhole cover on Ratcliffe Road have yet to be fixed.

Petitions in favour of the dualling of the A69 are being spread around all the main points of congregation in the parish. The petition is being heavily promoted by the Haltwhistle community and its representatives. That it would be good for businesses throughout Tynedale cannot be gainsaid.

Parking problems in Shaftoe street remain as intractable as ever. Over the years a host of proposals has been advanced and each rejected by turn. The bottom line appears to be that whilst the number of households on the street has remained static, the number of vehicles per household has increased and everyone is fiercely defensive of their 'right' to park immediately outside their own house. If anyone wishes to advance further proposals to help the situation, they will be studied closely.

The football field bin has yet to appear.

The next meeting of The Parish Council will be on 17th December 2014.

I continue my reports of activity on 'The Home Front', at Haydon Bridge, during the Great War. Previous recollections are recorded in the July, August, October and November, 2014, issues of The Haydon News.

Benched: The Haydon Bridge Leek Society held their 21st Annual Leek Show in the Town Hall on Saturday, October 9th 1915.

The show was principally for trench leeks and the 'Best Leek in the Show' was won by John Dargue with 54.6 cu ins. William Smith of Willow Gap benched the largest leek at 71 cu ins.

Memorabilia: In December 1915, a German rifle shattered by a grenade, brought back from The Front by a local Hussar, was exhibited in the window of Mr Young's grocer's shop in Church Street.

Bullocks: Robert Ridley of Peel Well and Lipwood sent ninety three prime heifers and bullocks to the December 1915 auction. The consignment attracted much attention and averaged between £33 and £34 each.

Snookered: At the 1915 AGM and sale of old newspapers in the Haydon Bridge Reading Room, G.T. Brown was introduced as secretary and caretaker, and F.G. Wood as treasurer. It was reported that sixty members had joined the Colours with a consequent drop in revenue, particularly billiard receipts. In the circumstances it was agreed to discontinue a few of the newspapers which, it was thought, 'would not be missed'.

R.H. Cowing was noted in the Hexham Courant's 1915 'list of fallen heroes'. Second Lieut. Cowing, of the 1st York and Lancs, was grandson of the late Ralph Cowing of Low Morralee.

In January 1916, Haydon Bridge Choral Society opened its seventeenth season with a very successful concert in the Town Hall. Proceeds of £7-13s-2d, including a donation of £1 from Mrs Benson, was sent to the Service Relief Fund.

Shaftoe Trust Schools: At the quarterly meeting of the managers, Miss A.L. Dickinson resigned her appointment to get married; Enid Wright was appointed as a Domestic Science teacher at £80 p.a., Miss L.M. Kirton of 'Lyndhurst', Haydon Bridge was appointed to the teaching staff and, in a new initiative, local joiner Ed. Henderson was appointed to give instruction in woodwork. School managers were: .H. Mandell (Chairman) N. Beattie, Irving Reay, R. Davison and J. Henderson. The average attendance at the schools in 1915 was 254 pupils.

Haydon Bridge Golf Club: The AGM heard that 25 members of the Club were serving in France and the Mediterranean; including four of the 6 member committee.

Emily Gertrude Mandell: A beautiful font was erected in St Cuthbert's Church, Haydon Bridge in February 1916 to the memory of Miss Mandell, the youngest daughter of the Reverend John Heanage Mandell. Emily died aged 31 years in September 1914 and was interred at Haydon Old church. Composed of red Devonshire marble and alabaster, of ornate design the marble bases are 4'6" and 3'6" in diameter, the column is of moulded alabaster and the bowl rests on short pillars of marble.



The inscription reads:

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN LOVING
REMEMBRANCE OF
E.G.M.
DIED . SEPT . 17 . 1914**

**Why not call in to
St Cuthbert's Church
to see this
beautiful Font
in memory of
Emily Mandell**

Kept in the dark: At the same time as rumours of a German Zeppelin being on the east coast, and in advance of an official lighting order, it was decided by the Haydon Parish Council to ask shopkeepers to subdue their lighting, to warn householders to obscure their lights, to ask the Railway Authorities to keep the platform lights low, and to extinguish the village street lights at once. It was reported that the novelty of the village streets in almost total darkness for the first time, caused much interest (*to courting couples perhaps?*) but no alarm!

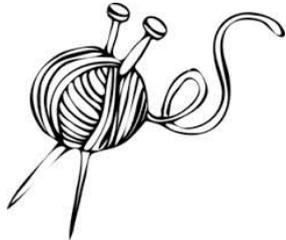
Own Goal for a fiver?: In February 1916, George Anderson the Haydon Bridge born footballer who plays in goal for Aberdeen, was the central figure in an attempted plot. Two days before Aberdeen were due to play Queens Park in Glasgow, an offer of £5 was received by post by Anderson to 'sell the match'. Needless to say, George was both surprised and indignant at receiving such an impudent offer and promptly acquainted his directors and the Scottish F.A. about it. The offer served to make the Aberdeen players put forward their most strenuous efforts to prevent Queens Park from scoring, and they were successful.

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The early days of a long association: In February 1916, it was announced that Lough Green Farm, Langley was let to Robert Davison of Staward Villa.

C.W Fairweather died at his 'Belmont' residence on Tuesday, March 14th 1916. Mr Fairweather was one of the joint founders of the Northern Counties Electricity Supply Company.

His son, Capt C. Fairweather, was serving with 5th Northumberland Fusiliers in France.

Interments: The Parish Council, Burial Committee pointed out that since the purchase of a hearse, 7½ years earlier, it had been used 195 times. Or one death a fortnight on average in the parish over that period.

Piscatorial: Local anglers were reported as having splendid sport on the Tyne in April 1916, and large baskets of trout were being obtained.

The water wasn't so good down Temple Houses, however, where the residents complained to the Parish Council that their water supply 'was not fit to drink'!

The Reverend J.H. Mandell of St Cuthbert's Church, in announcing his retirement, said that he had been with his Haydon congregation thirty seven years and was becoming too old to get round the 4,000 acres of the parish.

300 people paid admission to a jumble sale in Haydon Bridge Town Hall. Together with a house to house collection, £68-7s-1d was raised for the Haydon Bridge Nursing Association, the Newcastle Infirmary and the Cavell Memorial Fund.

Two Haydon Bridge deaths on Monday, May 8th, made headlines in 1916.

R.W. Thompson died at his home on Church Street, he was a native of the village and had succeeded his father in his joinery and cabinet making business, He was a prominent figure in local cricket circles having played for Haydon Bridge, and more recently he had devoted his time to Haydon Bridge Golf Club.

Edward Gibson of Grindon Hill, one of the best known farmers on Tyneside, died aged 69 years. He had lived in the Haydon Bridge for almost all his life. A member of the Parish Council he was also on the Hexham Board of Guardians, the Hexham Rural District Council and the committee of the Tyneside Agricultural Society. Edward was an overseer of the parish and a manager of Grindon school.

William Rutherford of east Mill Hills replaced Edward Gibson as overseer of Haydon Parish.

To be continued next month

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A list of names from yesteryear may appear, on the face of it, boring. Don't you believe it!

It's remarkable how often the names I have recalled over the years have elicited a response from our readers or those who have found us on the internet: **haydon-news.co.uk** and that is why I will continue to provide lists of names that are relevant to my Historical Notes.

A recent response relates to my list of farmers in the locality in 1886, in the April 2014 issue of The Haydon News, and specifically **Isabel Awburn**. Isabel and her husband John had twelve children and farmed Lipwood Well, and her 2014 descendents were alerted to my article by Haydon Bridge resident Ray Lott. The consequence of this recent connection was to provide me with further information for my own family tree, as the Awburn family and the Telford family were brought together through the marriage of John Telford of Peel Well (1863-1923) and Josephine Rebecca Awburn of Lipwood Well (1865-1942) The couple moved to Australia in 1886 where they had seven children and became well respected members of a small community near Melbourne. It is from this Australian connection that information provided by my extended Awburn family - many times removed - in the Tyne Valley has come to my attention, and from which I have selected a few extracts in relation to my great grandfather, and Australian John's father - William Telford - some of which are news to me and may be of general interest to social historians in the parish.

William Telford was born at Chesterwood in 1830, but, the family moved to Cubstocks when he was three years old; it was from there that he attended Mr Cranston's school at Grindon. In those days most of the scholars rode to and from the Grindon school on donkeys and William delighted in telling stories of the exciting sport they had in racing home. William could also recall, as a small boy, the opening of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway in 1838.

William was apprenticed as a cartwright and joiner in 1847, with Thomas Charlton of Newbrough, and his indenture papers make interesting reading.

For example:

He had not to haunt taverns or play-houses, nor to play at cards or dice.

He had to serve his master faithfully to the end of the apprenticeship term.

He had to keep his master's secrets and do him no damage.

William was working at Newbrough when a water-spout burst which flooded the village and, after he had completed his apprenticeship, he went east to Tyneside and was in employment in Newcastle in

1854 when a devastating explosion and fire broke out on the Quayside and spread to the south side of the river. Reports suggest that William never tired of recounting his experiences of that notable and disastrous occurrence.

William Telford returned to Haydon Bridge from Tyneside in 1859 where he served on the committee of the Haydon Bridge Floral and Horticultural Soc., (see photograph) and ran a successful business as a cartwright and joiner for sixty years, retiring aged 89 years in 1919. After his retirement, the business continued to flourish in the ownership of his son, William Ridley Telford, his grandson, James Cecil, and his great grandson. This business still trades in Haydon Bridge today, having been in its various forms owned by Basil Young, and more recently, Jimmy Carruthers and Graham Murphy.

My great grandfather, William, died on Christmas Day 1920 in his ninety first year.

The elements of this story that are new to me have all been made available as the result of a single name being read from a long list in the April 2014 Haydon News.

A willingness to share details of your family tree, if it contains references to those who have lived in our parish in the past, would be most welcome as we continue to compile our social history archive. And; it may be that one of our readers can unlock an historical memory for your family in the same way that the Awburn descendents have for me.



Haydon Bridge Floral and Horticultural Soc. Committee 1885

Top Row L to R: John Potts, George Weir, Andrew Dawson, John Urwin, William Telford.

Mid Row: Robert Brogdon, John Johnson, J.H. Thompson, (Secretary) Thomas Heslop, (Treasurer) Robert Walker.

Front row: John Davidson, W.S. Walton.

Best Wishes to you all for a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. And, to all our readers, thank you for your support; especially to those who ensure that The Haydon News continues to prosper and is delivered throughout the parish.

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Part 10

**For parts 1 to 9 see Haydon News'
February to November 2014**

In 1928, William Dickinson was presented with a walking stick, and a set of tobacco pipes and a pouch in recognition of his forty nine years service as a Co-op Society committee member, and staff changes saw Miss White leave the Co-op's employment after five years as a check girl and Miss Mitchinson take over her position in the drapery department.

A check girl was advertised for and Miss Pearson was appointed from six applicants.

In 1929, tenders for a motor van were received to work along with the remaining horse and cart delivering the butchering department's orders.

Quotations were received from the CWS, £205 . 10s; C.W. McKay, £195; and Henry Watson & Co., £191. Mr Watson's tender was accepted and two of the Society's wooden carts were sold to Alan Scudamore for £1.

Another dispute with Haltwhistle Co-op arose in 1929, when our neighbouring Store offered drapery and confectionery for sale to residents in the Haydon Bridge district. The Haltwhistle committee was informed that while the Haydon Bridge Society was willing to consider closer union, they would not entertain any scheme that involved amalgamation.

The Haydon Bridge Store had survived a difficult period during the years of depression from 1926, due to the general stoppage of industry and the local unemployment. Nevertheless, the committee were happy to go it alone, as the financial position of the Society had stabilised, thanks to the endeavours of the managers of the departments; Mr Melvin, Mr Armour, Miss Lee; and their staff.

On September 20th 1929, it was recorded that four applicants had been interviewed for the position of apprentice to the butchery department. The voting was unanimous and Master Ridley Telford was appointed to serve a five year apprenticeship. This was a significant appointment as Ridley Telford continued to serve the Society as the Store butcher for many years, before opening his own butcher's shop in the village with another former Co-op employee, Edmund Charlton.

In May 1930, a letter of condolence was sent to Mrs Wardle on the death of her husband, John Wardle, who had served on committee as vice chairman and who had 'rendered valued and consistent service to the Co-op'. J.W. Hamilton was appointed to fill the vacant position of vice chairman.

Also, in 1930, plans were being formulated to make considerable extensions to the ground floor grocery and hardware shop.

The June 1930 half year general meeting was informed that the Haydon Bridge Co-operative's share capital was £14,940-2s-3d, an increase of £581-13s-4d on the previous year, and it was agreed that, 'in spite of the great cost likely to be incurred', the whole of the premises should be lit by electricity. Those who had served on the committee in 1929/30 were: Thomas Hare, G.J. Brown, Wm. Dickinson, John W. Hamilton, Frank Johnson, Charles Kirton, James Moffat, John Philipson, James Ridley, John Wardle, Thomas Wilson, J. Cresswell, George Briggs, and William Carne. Along with G. Graham (Secretary and treasurer) and W. Melvin (Manager).

On July 18th 1930, the sudden death of Alan Brown, an employee of the Co-op, was reported. (See block on adjacent column.)

Eighteen applicants were interviewed on August 15th 1930, for the vacant position of apprentice to the grocery department and fifteen year old Oswald Moore was appointed. Like Ridley Telford, this was another significant appointment, as Ossie served the Society throughout his working life, going on to manage the Ratcliffe Road Store in later years.

In May 1931, the Society agreed to purchase a new motor lorry with the existing lorry in part-exchange. Three alternatives were considered: A Morris 2 ton costing £330; an Albion 2 ton, £517 and a 30cwt Ford. Mr Alan Scudamore's tender of £210 for the Ford was accepted, with a part exchange allowance of £17-10shillings.

As a result of the purchase of the lorry, a new garage would have to be built and the arched entrance to the rear of the Co-op widened; for the Society's own lorry and for ever larger delivery vehicles. Until the work was completed, it was agreed that the new lorry would be garaged at Scudamore's until an old joiner's shop belonging to LNER became available for which an agreement of £12 per annum rent was reached.

In October 1931, an advertisement was placed for an apprentice to the grocer, and seventeen individuals applied for the position. Once again, it seems that the committee made a very good choice, in fifteen year old Charles Cowing. Charlie became another long standing employee of the Society, along with previous young appointees, Ridley Telford and Ossie Moore, until his sudden death in November 1968 aged fifty two years.

In 1932, Mr Joe Longstaff was appointed assistant manager of the Haydon Bridge Co-operative Store and **I will continue the Co-op's history from 1932 in our next issue. (February 2015)**

ALAN BROWN

Thirty two year old Alan Brown was born at New Alston, the fifth and youngest son of Jacob and Bessie. Alan worked at Haydon Bridge Co-op and lived at New Alston with his brother Stan (known locally as 'Stigum') and his parents. Alan was engaged to be married to Laura Telford of 'Tyne View', John Martin Street, Haydon Bridge.

Alan Brown had, for some time, been under the care of Doctor Richard Bell, of Ratcliffe Road, for chronic gastritis and an x-ray was arranged for him at Newcastle's RVI on Thursday July 17th 1930;

before which he was required to take a **Barium Sulphate** meal. Alan picked up the prescription from Dr Bell on the Wednesday evening and took the Barium meal on the Thursday morning at 7.30 as instructed. He was immediately sure that something was wrong! He said his mouth was burning and as he swallowed the liquid the pain intensified. Alan turned to his brother Stan and said: "I'm dying! I've been poisoned!" Alan rushed outside to the toilet where his brother found him collapsed there.

Doctor Bell was called for immediately but, arriving at New Alston at 8.30am, he was unable to help and Alan was declared dead. Due to the nature of Alan Brown's death, the Coroner was informed and a post mortem carried out. The Coroner's report stated that death was due to one sixteenth part of an ounce of **Barium Sulphide**.

Meanwhile, the pharmacist in the chemist shop at 10 Ratcliffe Road - a Mr Bell, unrelated to Dr Richard Bell - made a horrifying discovery.

As neither Doctor Bell nor the chemist had Barium Sulphate in stock, an order was made from another source and, checking his order book, Mr Bell the pharmacist realised that he had made a dreadful error and had written the poisonous **Barium Sulphide** on his order, instead of **Barium Sulphate**.

The package arrived at the chemist's unmarked and, unaware of his earlier mistake, Bell the pharmacist labelled it 'Barium Sulphate', before its delivery to Doctor Bell. When Alan picked up the package from the Doctor on the Wednesday night, little did he know that his fate was sealed due to, according to the coroner, a tragic error and an unfortunate set of circumstances.

Alan Brown was laid to rest on Sunday, July 20th 1930 and among the mourners was his heartbroken fiancée, Laura Telford. Laura never married and continued to live in Haydon Bridge for the rest of her life, until her own death in 1997 aged 95 years.

As far as I am aware, neither family pursued those who were responsible for this sad affair; although I do wonder whether later generations would have been quite so forgiving in similar circumstances.



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MAURICE ARMSTRONG

As another year comes to a close, each of us will mourn our loved ones and friends who have passed away. As someone who seeks to record the detail of our social history, the sadness this past year has been two-fold. The loss of a great friend who shared my interests, humour, and lifelong support for Newcastle United; but also, one who retained an encyclopaedic knowledge of individuals and their families who have lived in our district during his lifetime. Those readers who have taken an interest in my 'Notes' in the Haydon News for over fifteen years, will be aware of how often I have called on my friend's anecdotes and unfailing memory of village folk and events.

What will I do now that Maurice is no longer with us?

Maurice Armstrong died on June 2nd and was laid to rest in the village where he was born and lived throughout his eighty eight years. A true Haydonian.

Born on November 6th 1925, Maurice never tired of explaining that: "It was the fireworks that set me mother Elsie off that Friday."

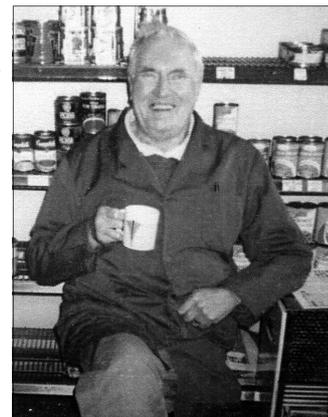
Forever the businessman, whether working full time at the Haydon Bridge Co-op, or on his own behalf as a grocer and fruiterer at 13, Church Street, Maurice's early memories at Haydon Bridge were of collecting firewood after school in Geeswood, to bundle up as kindling to sell 'round the doors' or in his father's shop at 25 John Martin Street; and collecting empty pop bottles to claim a penny or tuppence back off them so he could afford to go to the pictures in the Haydon Bridge Town Hall. It's an indication of Maurice's memory for detail, that almost seventy two years later, he could clearly recall the night in 1937 he went to the first talkie film at the Town Hall. "The picture was called 'Oil For The Lights Of China' and it broke down the first night." Maurice told me. To seek confirmation before publishing this story in The Haydon News of May 2009, I checked the 'Town Hall Cinema' advert of the day. I needn't have bothered, of course, the film first released in 1935 was indeed the early 'talkie' at Haydon Bridge.

In his early years, Maurice was very much a 'South Side' boy, living with his parents Joe and Elsie and his sister June, at 25, John Martin Street. Apart from going to St Cuthbert's Church, where he was a choir boy, he often told me that he never had any need to go across the bridge to the north side. School and all he ever wanted as a playground could be found south of the river. Maurice was, probably, one of the last Haydonians who lived in one or other of the age old village postal districts of 'Haydon Bridge South Side' or 'Haydon Bridge North Side', and was proud of it. Certainly, a generation later, it never occurred

to me that my Haydon Bridge village was anything other than a single community, on both sides of the water. (Except for November 5th of course, when parochial rivalry took over, we became separatists and huge bonfires were built and jealously guarded on the sacred ground alongside the river, by those who lived on each bank of the Tyne.)

Maurice's father did, eventually, move his grocer's shop, from the Armstrongs' front room at 25, John Martin Street to 13, Church Street, and it was from there that Maurice continued the business when Joe retired, and from where he will be remembered by our residents of all ages. (*It would surprise no one, if we were to hear that Roy Clarke had fashioned his famous grocer in the BBC series 'Open All Hours' on our very own, 'Arkwright'. Maurice even had a till that severed your fingers if you didn't have the knack!*)

When our earthly days are done, we will be judged through the memories of those whose lives we have touched along the way. In this regard, there's no doubt that Maurice Armstrong will be remembered by those who knew him, with a big smile and huge affection. When the sorrow has diminished, we will continue to laugh out loud at the memories Maurice has left us - but my social life will never be quite the same again and, sadly, my Haydon News 'Notes' will be lacking the authenticity that my friend's special recollections of our parish's history provided.



Maurice Armstrong.
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HAYDON BRIDGE WAR MEMORIAL by Pam and Ken Linge

We continue our series of articles on those individuals who died in the Great War. The biographies are published chronologically and the forty fourth casualty, in 1918, was **John William Johnstone (MM)**

(44) John William Johnstone (MM)

John served as Second Corporal, 463191 (1940), 50th Division Signal Company, Corps of Royal Engineers. He died on 12th April 1918, aged 24.

Born in Haltwhistle one of four children of William Pearson Johnstone and Alice Johnstone (nee Dixon). William was a bootmaker and dealer.

Initially he enlisted at Hexham on 10th September 1914 as Private 1991, Northumberland Fusiliers. He transferred to the Royal Engineers on 12th January 1915 as a Sapper and went to France on 18th April 1915.

The award of the Military Medal was gazetted on 27th October 1916.

As well as having his name on the War Memorial John is also commemorated on the Reredos in St. Cuthbert's and the Shaftoe School Memorial.



Photograph from Hexham Courant



John has no known grave and is therefore commemorated on one of the panels on the Pozieres Memorial, France.

If you have any information relating to John William Johnstone, or any of those individuals on the Haydon Bridge Memorial, then please contact Pam & Ken Linge at: Drystones, Heugh House Lane, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6HJ, phone (01434) 684050 or email: pam_ken.linge@btinternet.com.



Photo: ARON MAZEL



CHAMPIONS AGAIN

BACK ROW

IAN WATSON, CHRIS WELTON, JAMIE TAYLOR, JOE BARBER, THOMAS WAUGH, GAVIN BOYD

FRONT ROW

DANIEL WATSON, ROBERT STEPHENSON, LIAM SCUDAMORE, GRAEME PIGG(CAPT), MARK ELLIOTT, ROBERT GIBSON

PHOTO TAKEN BY DEREK BOYD

On Saturday 9th September Haydon Bridge cricket club were crowned champions of the West Tyne League (Senior League) for the 2nd year running. Hopefully we can make it a hat trick next year.

My congratulations go to all the players who were used during the season as every one had a part to play in us winning the league. Our biggest thanks go to our main sponsor Steve and Lindsay from the **Anchor Hotel** for their continuing support and especially their after match catering which is the envy of everyone in the league.

I would also like to thank the following for their match sponsorship:

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A VIEW FROM UP THERE

John Harrison

Now I am not a prudish person and I do believe that notices should force home the point they wish to make, but the other day I was saddened to come across some roadside anti-litter notices near Haltwhistle which said “Don’t be a Tosser.....” – which were a little too coarse for my taste. But around the next bend I was greatly cheered to encounter a lorry across the front of which it proclaimed “Brampton Skips” – what a cheery place Brampton must be.

And perhaps there’s much to smile about when it comes to autumn weather. Although we’ve had a few ground frosts (forecasters refer to these as ‘grass frosts’ nowadays) the air has been remarkably mild. I am still taking a steady crop of outdoor lettuces and I hear of late season tomato crops in many gardens.

October was generally very mild but extremely variable. The weather was unsettled for most of the month with some exceptional temperature swings. On consecutive mornings temperatures had fallen to only 12.5 degC on the 1st, but 1.3 degC on the 2nd, and similarly 14.0 degC on the 28th and 1.0 degC on the 29th. This is quite typical of autumn weather, the UK lying directly under the battle zone between cold polar and warm tropical air. Extensive cyclonic systems (low pressure) occasionally brought air sweeping in from the Azores which was both warm and damp. On the last day of the month the daytime temperature reached a remarkable 19.4 deg C, which was the warmest Halloween on record across many parts of the UK. Overnight minimum temperatures were more like the long-term October average for maximum (daytime) on 5 occasions.

Unsettled weather also brought moderately strong winds from a broadly westerly direction, which reached gale force at times. We were fortunate in Haydon Bridge to escape the worst of former hurricane Gonzalo which brought storm-force winds and heavy rain to the UK on the 20th and 21st.

There were 18 rainy days over the month but rainfall was prolonged and heavy on only two occasions, the 3rd and the 28th. Although water courses ran high briefly, the ground is still relatively dry, and the streams near Plunderheath are now back to a mere trickle.

A particular characteristic of the weather in recent years has been a marked increase in easterly winds. These generally bring us dull and rather damp weather with low cloud shrouding the hills. What seems to be rare at present is the traditional blustery westerly wind which freshens things up and blows the cobwebs away. Talking of which, the spiders at Plunderheath have taken a great liking to my automatic weather station and in no time at all they festoon the thing with web. This has relatively little effect on the temperature records but on several nights, when the winds have fallen light, the anemometer (wind meter) has ground to a halt in a strangling web.

Monthly Weather Summary (Haydon Bridge : Height 162m asl)

Month	Average Maximum Temperature (Daytime) Deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Average Minimum Temperature (Night-time) Deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Rainfall mm	Percentage of long-term average
October 2014	14.5	+1.8	7.6	+1.6	72.1	83

And finally Gladys tells me of three clergyman friends of hers who have worked together in a university chaplaincy for many years – a Catholic priest, a Baptist minister and a Jewish rabbi. Great friends, they have often set each other small challenges – nothing serious but just for fun. One day, a colleague suggested that they take on a more serious challenge – “I bet you couldn’t convert a grizzly bear to the Christian faith”. They readily agreed and two weeks later their colleague went to visit all three of them in the university medical centre. The Catholic priest had several broken bones and many scratches. “Well how did you go about the challenge” he was asked. “Well I preached the word to the bear but he didn’t want to listen and he attacked. In desperation I sprayed the bear with holy water and he became as calm as a lamb and I’m sure he became a Christian”. The Baptist minister was also very much in the wars and was also asked how he tackled the challenge. “Well that bear just wouldn’t listen to the word of the Lord so I wrestled with him. While we were wrestling we rolled down a hill and fell into the creek, where I baptised him in the water and he became as mild as a lamb. I also am sure that he became a Christian. The Rabbi was in a terrible state. He was swathed from head to toe in bandages and was in traction. When asked how he tackled the challenge, his one-line reply was “With hindsight, perhaps starting with circumcision wasn’t such a good idea”.

CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

CLERGY MESSAGE FROM:

From Father Leo Pyle

Clergy Message

Mission!

World mission, foreign mission, home mission? What is this mission all about? Mission is sending. Mission is being sent. Mission is task or goal assigned, vocation, expedition to evangelise, our life's work and our crusade. We are sent to announce God's love, mercy and forgiveness. We are commissioned to tell our world the good news which is Jesus; his life, his death, his resurrection. We are sent to tell the world that God loves each and every one of us, forgives us and asks us to forgive others, even the greatest offence.

This is the fundamental content of Mission Sunday and every Sunday. Even of every weekday! It must be registered in every fibre of our being. It is our only hope. It is the only hope of our world. Only God's love and forgiveness can make us truly brothers and sisters of each other and of people of all races and cultures, names, creeds and colours.

Only God's love and forgiveness can heal the painful divisions in our communities at home and abroad, in church and state. Only God's love can heal ideological conflict, economic imbalance and the violence which oppresses humanity.

There is a longing for God and his mercy. This longing may not be recognised for what it really is. It is for us to spell it out for folk by a myriad gestures of love, care and concern. This way the glorious face of the risen Christ reveals God's longing to share with us all, his life, his love and his holiness. Our mission is to invite folk to this fullness.

The way is the way of the cross. Jesus' way. Not a negative but a positive, learning to live with humility and forgiveness, in peace and in communion. And total forgiveness is the beginning of the new justice of the Kingdom of God for everyone.

WHO AND WHERE

The names and phone numbers of the Clergy who minister in Haydon Bridge:

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Carter
with St. Cuthberts Anglican Church
The Vicarage, Station Yard
Tel. 01434 688196

Deacon Anne Taylor
with the Methodist Congregation
Woodville, Redesmouth Road, Bellingham
Tel: 01434 220283

Father Leo Pyle
with St John's Catholic Church
St John's Presbytery, North Bank
Tel. 01434 684265

Our proclamation then is peace. Through our Good News we help people to realise that we are indeed, all brothers and sisters. As pilgrims, albeit on different paths we are all on our way to our common homeland with our God through ways known only to him.

The main road of mission is sincere dialogue. Dialogue that speaks to others with respect and understanding, stating the principles in which we believe and proclaiming with love, the most profound truths of the faith which are our joy, our hope and the meaning of life.

That is our mission. That is Mission Sunday and every Sunday and every weekday. Your mission, my mission, **OUR** mission.

A very Happy Christmas to you all!

Father Leo Pyle

Messy Church At Methodist Church

3.30 pm — 5.45 pm
Weds. 10th December
Weds. 14th January

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METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

December 7

10.00am Family Service
Envoy Eunice Blakey
incl. toy coll'tn for S/Army
6.00pm Rev. J. Harrison

December 14

10.00am Family Service
Matthew Barrick
2.30 pm Carol Singing
At Haydon View

December 21

10.00am Valerie Anthony
6.00pm **United Village**
Carol Service at St. John's

December 29

10.00am **Communion**
Worship Supt Tom Quenet
No 6pm Service

January 4

10.00am Deacon A Taylor
Covenant Service
3.00 pm United Epiphany
At Haydon Old Church

January 11

10.00 am M. Burgess
6.00 pm Father Leo Pyle

January 18

10.00 am Local Arrangemts
6.00 pm **Communion**
Worship Rev. T. Buglass
6.00 pm

25th January

10.00am Tom Dodds
6.00pm Kevin Williams

BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW CHURCH SERVICES

December 7

Beltingham
9.30 Parish Eucharist BCP

December 14

Beltingham
9.30 Parish Eucharist

December 21

Henshaw
10.30 am Village C/Service

December 24

Henshaw
6.00 Crib Service

December 25

Henshaw
9.30 Parish Eucharist

December 28

Henshaw
10.00am Joint Eucharist

January 4

Henshaw
9.30 Parish Eucharist BCP

January 11

Beltingham
9.30 am Parish Eucharist

January 18

Beltingham
9.30 am Parish Eucharist

January 25

Haydon Bridge
10.00am Joint Eucharist

ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY CHURCH SERVICES

Mass each Sunday at
9.30am

Mass each Sunday at
11am at Haltwhistle

Mass on weekdays (except
Mondays) at 10am
either St John's or
Haltwhistle

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH SERVICES

December 7

11.00 Parish Eucharist BCP

December 14

11.00 Parish Eucharist

December 21

11.00 Parish Eucharist

December 28

10.00 Joint Eucharist
At All Hallows Henshaw

January 4

11.00 Parish Eucharist BCP
3.00 **Haydon Old Church**

January 11

11.00 Parish Eucharist

January 18

11.00 Parish Eucharist

January 25

10.00 Joint Eucharist

THE MEETING PLACE

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Come and Bring your friends for
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10am – 12 noon
A Warm welcome to All

COFFEE MORNINGS

On Saturday 13th December the
The Church will be giving an
extra push to the Coffee Morn-
ing both for the run into Christ-
mas and to coincide with the
Village Nativity. There will be
a Cake Stall and a Raffle all
beginning at 10am in the Com-
munity Centre.

On Saturday 10th January we
are going to use the Church
Coffee Morning - again at 10am
- as a chance to ask the commu-
nity how they would like to see
the life of the Church develop
over the coming years. If any-
one has any ideas they would
like to share they are very wel-
come on the 10th, or to pass
them on to me by email or
phone.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2014

Sun. 21st 6.00pm United Village Carol Service, St. John's

Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

4.00pm United Crib Service, *St. Cuthberts*
9.30pm Christmas Carols, *St John's R.C. Church*
10.00pm Nativity Vigil Mass, *St John's R.C.Church*
11.30 pm Midnight Mass *St. Cuthberts*

Christmas Day (Thursday)

9.30am Mass of the Nativity of the Lord *St. John's R.C. Church*
10am Christmas Family Service *Methodist Church*
11.00 am Parish Eucharist *St. Cuthberts*

United Service for Epiphany: Sun 4th Jan. Haydon Old Church 3pm

NOTICES & WHAT'S ON?

HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

HBUAFC hold their monthly meeting on the first **Monday** of every month at **7.30pm** in the Lounge of the **Anchor Hotel** where representatives of every football team in the village are invited to attend.

This meeting is also open to members of the public.

WEST TYNEDALE JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

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HAYDON ART CLUB

Open to all, first session free. Meets fortnightly at
HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE
DECEMBER 10th & JANUARY 7th and 21st

All Wednesdays, 6.30pm-9.15pm

For details/enquiries

please contact Barbara on 01434 688 886

HAYDON BRIDGE JUDO CLUB

Keep Fit, Have Fun! Young or Old.
Tuesdays at HB High School

Juniors: 6pm - 7pm Seniors: 7pm - 9pm
BJA Qualified Coaches

Contact Michael on: 01 434 684 783

WHIST DRIVES Langley Village Hall

Fortnightly on
Saturdays
at 7.00pm.

£1.00 entrance
(Everyone welcome)

THE BRIDGE LIBRARY & TOURIST INFORMATION POINT

Telephone 01434 688658

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY: 9.00am-12 noon

TUESDAY: 1.00pm-4.00pm

WEDNESDAY: 1.00pm-4.00pm

FRIDAY: 4.00pm-6.30pm

SATURDAY: 9.30am-12.30am

Coffee and tea available

Haydon Bridge & Allendale Medical Practice

Monday to Friday: The Health Centre is open continuously
from 8.00am until 6.00pm

(except for the afternoon of the **fourth** Wednesday of every month)

Doctors consult between: 8.00am and 11.00am
3.00pm and 5.30pm

All phone calls for appointments and visits,
including 'out of hours': 01434 684 216

All phone calls for dispensing or prescriptions: 01434 688351

E-mail address: Admin@GP-A84045.NHS.UK

Website www.haydonbridgesurgery.co.uk

NATURE CLUB WINTER PROGRAMME

Meetings held at the Methodist Hall at 7.15pm.

December 4th

Sheila Morris The Peripatetic Pensioner

December 18th

Stephen Westerberg RSPB at Geltsdale

January 8th

John O'Reilly Numbers in Nature

January 22nd

Lizzie Ross Otters & the Otter Project

February 5th

A.G.M.

A Summer walks programme will be arranged to cover April - September
2015. Copies will be available at the 19th March meeting.

All enquiries to: The Hon. Secretary Robert Ford
28 Strother Close, Haydon Bridge. Tel No 684486

HEAR TO HELP

Anne Shilton, Action on Hearing Loss (previously RNID)
01670 513606 heartohelp.northoftyne@hearingloss.org.uk.

Thursday 8th January 12 noon - 1.00 pm

Thursday 12th March 12 noon - 1.00 pm

Thursday 14th May 12 noon - 1.00 pm

Following dates to be confirmed, depending upon
continued project funding:

Thursday 9th July 12 noon - 1.00 pm

Thursday 10th September 12 noon - 1.00 pm

Thursday 12th November 12 noon - 1.00 pm

All sessions at the Haydon Bridge Health Centre.

RIVER WATCH GROUP

LITTER PICK

SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 1pm
AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD

contact Barbara on 01434 688 886

Christmas tree lights switch on event

7th December 2014 at 4.15
(meeting at the Anchor end of the bridge)

What's happening -- lights
will be switched on from the
middle of the bridge.

*Then on to the War Memorial
for carols - from Shaftoe
School children
& "Positive Vibes"
Refreshments and Father
Christmas on Church Street.*

GENERAL HAVELOCK

Booking essential for free OAP lunch 16th Dec. 12-2.30 followed by sing along with Dennis Telford & Sheffield Exham coffee & tea for everyone.

Mon 22nd	lunch & dinner
Tues 23rd	lunch & dinner
Wed 24th	lunch & dinner
Thursday 25th	lunchtime only
Friday 26th	lunch & dinner
Saturday 27th	lunch & dinner
Sunday 28th	lunch & (pm bar only)
Monday 29th	(pm bar only)
Tuesday 30th	lunch & dinner
Wednesday 31st	7-1 fizz, quiz, fireworks on bridge
New years day	(pm bar only)
2nd January	lunch & dinner

Home made xmas puddings for sale
10% off all local bookings

We thank all our customers for support this year

POPPY COLLECTION

Total collected in Haydon Bridge and
Langley was £1656 so a
Big Thank You to All!

Camilla Royds

Community Centre Regular Activities

Lots of different activities. Try something new.
Make new friends. Have fun.

MONDAY

Zumba 6.15pm Shelley Murray,
07824449731
shelley.m@josiesdragonfly.org
Dance Club, 7.30-10pm Audrey Philips,
684452
george@vallum.plus.com

TUESDAY

Pilates - 9.15am Lorna,
07747 842364
Karate - 6.15pm David Beales,
07561153485
david.beales2@btinternet.com

WEDNESDAY

Yoga 10am Alicia Lester,
aliciafearon@btinternet.com
Pilates - 6.30pm Lorna,
07747 842364
Art classes (bi monthly) Barbara Wardle,
688886
bbarawardle2011@btinternet.com

THURSDAY

Chairobics 11.30am Lorna,
07747 842364
Irish Dance 4.15pm Kathleen Hannon,
0191 2648240
kmhannon@btinternet.com
Youth Club 6-8.30pm Amey Henry
01434 603582
Amey.Henry@nothumberland.gov.uk
Bowls Club 7.30pm (Sept-April)
Joseph Tulip,
688817
joseph.tulip@cnmedia.co.uk
Parish Council 7.30pm (monthly)

FRIDAY

Karate - 6.15pm David Beales,
07561153485
david.beales2@btinternet.com

SATURDAY

Coffee morning, 10am
Various groups and organisations.

SUNDAY

Hornby Model Railways Association 10am
Grant Robinson, 01661 844843
grant.robinson@tiscali.co.uk

NEW ACTIVITIES ALWAYS WELCOME.

Contact: Valerie Bell 01434 684705
valerie@hexhammorris.com

The £10 Crossword

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

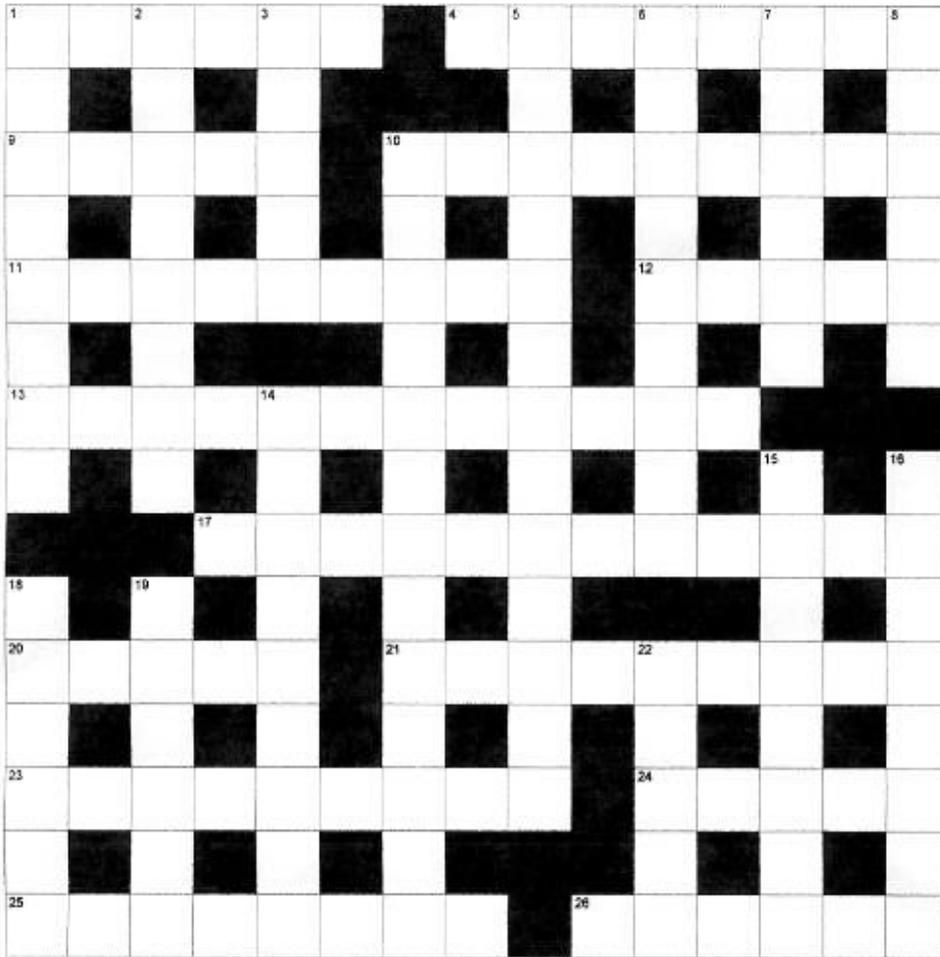
**November
2014**

*Entries in before 20th January
Please hand in your entry to
Claire's Newsagent or post to the
editors — see page 2.*

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

5

**LAST MONTH'S WINNER:
Anne Plastow - from Leyland!**



Across

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Stagger about collecting rags (6)</p> <p>4. Southern measure brought to spots of colour (8)</p> <p>9. Not soft to wet your feet but go rotten (5)</p> <p>10. Coach with tea on the judge's bench (9)</p> <p>11. Petrified group? (3,6)</p> <p>12. Wagon not fashionable in the east is on a long journey (5)</p> <p>13. Repairs teeth and makes sure the host don't riot (12)</p> | <p>17. Footwear that can share the sole (7,5)</p> <p>20. Egyptian pharaoh or teacher (5)</p> <p>21. Comes from ignoring 13 (9)</p> <p>23. Will deter a good attempt (4,5)</p> <p>24. A prig in a turban (5)</p> <p>25. Ode study performs correctly (4,4)</p> <p>26. Accommodation on the moor? (6)</p> |
|---|---|

Down

1. Pamphlet on a particle gives grip (8)
2. Political band leader (3,5)
3. Late in the day the National Trust has a party (5)
5.and pass the ammunition (6,3,4)
6. Seems map makers wanted 'Power to the People' (9)
7. Field study is heavy going (6)
8. Have a drink out and clean the engine (6)
10. An entertainer 'gets knotted' (13)
14. Claims too much for the speed of play (9)
15. Groups of students pass support points (8)
16. Descended like a wolf (8)
18. Distributed round junction then put away (6)
19. Stone tablets show the way the Spanish are not right (6)
22. Latin father turns to point (5)

**LAST MONTH'S
ANSWERS ON
PAGE 23.**

HAYDON BRIDGE PLAYGROUP

From 2 years

**Playgroup runs on Monday and Friday mornings
from 9.15 to 11.15 (term time only)
at Haydon Bridge Fire Station**

The sessions give children a chance to learn through play and to experience lots of different activities. Playgroup is lead by a fully qualified Playgroup Leader & assistant(s). **Cost per session is £6.00**
HB Playgroup is a member of Pre-School Learning Alliance.

For more information on the above sessions or an informal chat please contact Kelly Richardson 07732260415

HAYDON BRIDGE TINY TOTS

TINY TOTS - from birth to three years

Tiny Tots runs on Tuesday mornings from 9.15 'til 11.00 (term time only) at Haydon Bridge Fire Station.

The sessions offer a chance for babies/toddlers, parents and carers to meet, play and try crafts. Followed by a snack and a drink, music or story time.
Cost per session is £1.50.

**For more information on the above sessions or an informal chat please contact:
Kelly Richardson 07732260415
or Nicola Grint on 07879999289**

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Hexham Beacon Club

Program-

26th Nov.	Herring Girls and Hirings.
3 rd Dec.	The History of The Longbow
10 th Dec.	Railways of Tynedale
17 th Dec.	Christmas Entertainment
7 th Jan.	Allendale tar bar'Is
14 th Jan.	The Arctic
21 st Jan.	The Dambusters
28 th Jan.	Royal Yacht 'Britannia'

On Wednesdays 10-30 to 12-00 at
Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Hexham.

Village Carol Singing

Friday 12th December 8pm

Some of the members and friends from the Methodist Church are meeting to carol sing around the village—anyone who would like to join in, please meet at the Chapel 7.45pm (do come warmly dressed and with a torch!)

Village Street Nativity

Saturday 13th December 10.00am

As in previous years, members from all three Churches in our village are meeting to act out a Street Nativity. We will begin at 10.00am at the Community Centre and culminate at the War Memorial where a Christmas Tableau scene will be created with carols and readings.

(Proceeds from both these events will be given to charity)

DEAF-INITELY MAYBE

I realised I was deaf - properly deaf - one day in late Spring fourteen years ago when the ENT Consultant in the Freeman Hospital confirmed it. And as a respected medical professional that announcement made it finally 'official'.

Prior to this I had remained in a state of denial despite the fact I had the volume control on my TV turned so high the people in the next street could hear it.

Our neighbour a few doors down asked me once if I'd enjoyed University Challenge the previous evening. I put his resentful tone down to the fact that he's a bit thick whereas I knew most of the answers. There again so did the panellists who were at least ten (ok then twenty) years my junior.

Many people who can't hear are also in denial - as was I. Probably because it creeps up on you in getting older. Or because being deaf can often be misinterpreted as being none too bright. Or because it is so very gradual. It's also a fact that being deaf in only one ear means the 'good' ear has to compensate and do the work of both. This is fine until the good ear - through overwork - becomes ineffective too.

I thought - as do others - that maybe a few drops would cure it. Or perhaps I had a cold. Yes, that's it! A very long cold. Or because people speak very quietly nowadays don't they? But then as the Consultant spoke I realised all the drops in the world were never going to restore my hearing. I was completely deaf and without help I would never hear again.

With this bad diagnosis also came good news - although I was initially too dejected to take it in. He said my hearing loss was such that I could possibly benefit from a BAHA.

BAHA is an acronym for Bone Affixed Hearing Appliance. A long name for a very tiny yet powerful object. He explained that it's a small box - no longer than an inch - which fits on to a screw. The screw is surgically placed into a bone behind the ear. This screw is permanent although the box (attachment) can be removed ie whenever you have a shower or go to sleep.

Fitting the screw would require an overnight stay in hospital and general anaesthetic. I had no problem with that and was grateful for anything which could bring me out of my silent world.

Like many people I had tried hearing aids - the ones which fit inside the actual ear. Thousands of pounds later I still could not hear and apparently my type of deafness meant they were never going to work. Foolishly I expected the salesmen in the shop to point this out but their loyalties lay with the sizeable commission rather than my welfare. In fairness these type of aids may benefit many people.

I was not one of them and I felt the advice was not impartial. I remained deaf but also poorer. Perhaps I had just chosen the wrong shop and others are more honest. In sharp contrast my Freeman Hospital procedure was free.

Now I urge anyone to please PLEASE see a medically-qualified hearing specialist before visiting such shops, going online or replying to a newspaper ad. Your hearing is far too important to leave in amateur hands.

So with this in mind I have mentioned BAHAs versus shop-bought aids to fellow hearing-impaired people ever since. Some are receptive and want to know more. Others recoil in horror and say "Whaaaat??? Hospital??? Operation??? Screws in my head??? Are you mad - I'd rather be deaf!"

I'm always amazed by this reaction as such a short painless procedure can have incredible and permanent life changing consequences. The Consultant told me some people are also self-conscious about the little box being visible. I told him if I could hear again properly I wouldn't care if the box was two foot wide, bright yellow and did the Hokey-cokey. As it is this thing is so tiny (and flesh coloured) I barely know it's there. Others are amazed and impressed when I show them. As I do often! If it can help just one more person to hear then I'll gladly show anyone.

The day of the operation loomed. I was actually looking forward to a bit of a rest and receiving visitors bearing armfuls of grapes and chocolates! The Consultant came by my bed earlier that morning and said as my hearing was so poor I could benefit from having both sides done and he was happy to do it. "Bring it on!" I cried, grateful at last that someone was taking so much care. I could have done with a nip, tuck and a bit of liposuction too but I didn't like to ask. So I carried on eating the chocolates instead.

No hospital procedure is to be undertaken lightly but I had weighed up the pros and cons and all the options carefully and discussed it with my family at length. An overnight stay and permanent minuscule screws in my skull in return for full hearing? I did not need to think too long or hard. It was already getting to the stage where my young son was no longer talking directly to me. He was fed up with Mum saying "pardon?" every time he spoke and I didn't want to distance him further.

So for that reason alone I knew I needed to hear.

As I lay in my hospital bed with a slight throbbing pain I kept that thought and motive. The next day - after checking me over - the Consultant deemed me well enough to go home. I still couldn't hear but I now owned a pair of minute titanium screws and a trendy patch of shaved hair.

The wounds needed to heal before any more action could be taken. So it was some weeks later that I returned to the Freeman to check that these were progressing. I was excited knowing the years of deafness would soon be over yet I still couldn't imagine it. By now my hearing was so poor that I heard only through vibration and by looking at someone's face whenever they spoke. Telephones were for other people - not me. I knew a train was roaring past as it made the ground a little shaky and a thunderous jet taking off left a vapour trail. Neither made any noise at all in my world.

The day came for the BAHAs to be fitted. I was ushered into a small room and shown a box of different coloured attachments. All the size of a Lego brick (and funnily enough also made in Scandinavia!). I was invited to choose a shade which could either match my hair or skin. I pointed out that as a woman my hair colour can change. A lot!

By now other medical staff had joined the Consultant and myself. Between us we decided a soft shade of pale sand would do the trick. Using a mirror to show me, the Consultant took a small attachment and placed it carefully on the screw. I would later learn to do this in seconds and even in the dark.

Everyone looked at me as the Consultant slowly turned up the volume button. A gentle woo-oosh became increasingly louder (it was still only at volume one!) and suddenly sound filled the room.

Wonderful wonderful sound! Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined this. I stared unblinking in astonishment and incredulity at the Consultant before bursting into tears. Obviously he'd witnessed this reaction many times but his gentle confident smile showed he was as thrilled for me as I was.

I danced out of the Freeman on air. I could hear people chattering, birds singing, traffic moving, leaves rustling. Heck I swear I could even hear the grass growing! All this magnificent sound through a tiny box.

But best of all was when I arrived home and my little boy asked if it had all gone ok. This time I heard his every word.

And in that glorious moment I knew life would never be the same again. *Euphemia Whaletrouser*

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ACROSS		DOWN	
1	EXPLANATORY	2	XENON
10	ANNOY	3	LEYLAND
11	TERMINATE	4	NETTLE
12	TENTACLES	5	THRUSHES
13	INDIA	6	RAINIER
14	ESCUDO	7	WATTLE AND DAUB
16	REPROACH		DAUB
18	NITRITES	8	HANDMAID
20	GLADYS	9	METAPHYSICIAN
23	DROOP	15	CATHOLIC
24	ACROBATIC	17	GET A GRIP
26	UNINSURED	19	IMPASSE
27	LIANA	21	LOBELIA
28	PERPETUATED	22	CREDIT
		25	TRACE



The Bridge and Visitor Information Point

We've had such a wonderful autumn, this year, and although the trees still display beautiful and varied shades in their remaining leaves, winter approaches and the Produce Stall is now at an end until next year. As always, we send our grateful thanks to the Allotment Association for their kind efforts for us, and to our supportive village inhabitants, who buy the fruit, vegetables and flowers. The Stall raised a welcome £206 to help with heating/lighting bills!

Archives:

All of the football and cricket photographs of Haydon Bridge teams are now online at the Haydon Bridge website. Once there, click on Community, then click on Archives and the pictures are there. You can merely browse but there are still many players' names that need to be added. Can you help?

During Remembrance weekend, at the Methodist Chapel, Ken and Pam Linge gave an updated talk on WW1 with particular reference to Haydon Bridge men and women. Most appropriately, they also included recent research concerning WW2. They have very generously given copies of much of their material to the Archives in the Bridge, including recently, a signed copy of Ian Johnson's "Newcastle Battalions of WW1", which is now on display.

Not so long ago, you will remember, a copy of a letter was found near the Community Centre. The contents, gave the news that a Sergeant AF Johnson (wireless operator) was missing. Sadly, no-one has claimed the letter as yet. It would be good to find it a home. Maybe it was dropped by someone visiting?

Library

When Jim Smith had the antique shop in Haydon Bridge, a lady who was visiting the village, bought two books that it was claimed, had belonged to Philip Larkin's amour, Monica Jones and had been part of her house clearance. Now, the lady has sent the books to the Bridge to be placed in our reference library. There may be more to learn about Monica ...

For those avid readers, there are now one or two ways to avoid running out of reading matter. Above the adult fiction shelves, there are suggestions for books by similar authors to those who are your favourites; on the top shelf of the "Returns" bookcase are a selection of books, which are most popular reads for the month. There are also suggestions in the Children's Corner and, in addition, a featured author. Last month was Francesca Simon, this month Michael Morpurgo.

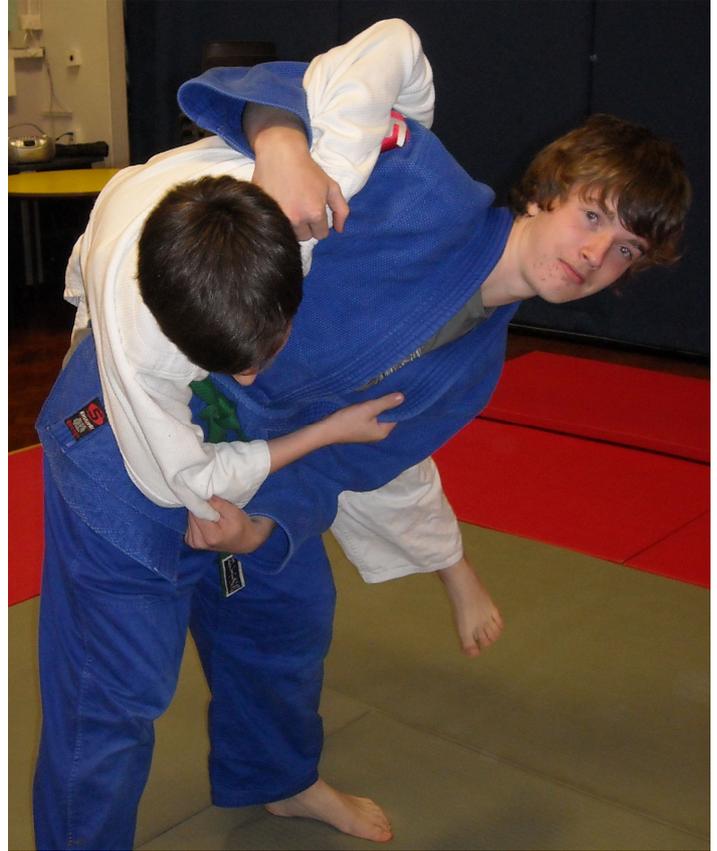
Children's Corner

The Summer Reading Challenge ended on a really high note with over 90% of the children completing their task. Tom Taylor won the red cap for best performance and his name went into a draw for the county prize: an i-pad mini. The successful readers were presented with their medals and certificates by Councillor Alan Sharp, who commended the children for their efforts.

Happy reading ...

Robert Ford
is holding an exhibition of
original water colours
in the "THE BRIDGE"
for all of December & January

Haydon Bridge Judo Club



The Haydon Bridge Judo Club is celebrating it's 40th year. It started in the village in 1974 and is still being coached by Michael Bolton. It has produced international competitors and it still has a current Great British and Commonwealth Judo Tournament Gold medallist, as well as all the up and coming juniors.

Our players range from seven to 67 and we are looking for more to join. We are offering four free lessons for any one who wishes to join.

Haydon Bridge Judo Club is whatever you want it to be from basic judo to competitive judo.

Contact Michael on: 01 434 684 783



The Children's Society

Many thanks to all the box holders who live in and around Haydon Bridge and who have filled their boxes during 2014. The total amount donated is £503.39 and I am grateful to all who have supported The Children's Society. In 2013 the amount donated was £518.30

This charity began in 1881 to help destitute and orphaned children and still works with disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

Today the SCARPA programme in Newcastle works with young runaways. Another programme helps to identify and meet the needs of young carers and their families.

A new campaign - The Debt Trap - has started. This is to help children in families struggling with debt and preventing families from falling into poverty because of debt.

If you would like to become a box holder please contact me on 01434 684094.

Thank you Joyce Armstrong

Burnlaw Outdoor Day

The West Tyne Federation enjoyed a fun day in the outdoors at Burnlaw, Whitfield just before half term. 140 children from Greenhead, Henshaw, Herdley Bank and Whitfield took part in a range of activities for the day.

The Reception and KS1 children enjoyed a farm walk, looking at the different things around the organic farm and also did a treasure hunt, looking for birds in the woods. They also took part in a storytelling activity and singing in the big barn.

KS2 worked with School Explorers on a survival day. They went into the woods to find materials to build dens. There were some excellent ideas. They made bread and cooked it in the fire pit.

Here are some of the children's thoughts of the day...

Mmm...it's hard to choose the best thing, but I enjoyed the den building and toasting marshmallows. [Luke]

I enjoyed making the dens. We used plastic sheets and we had to find a place in the woods to build a den. We found a place between four trees so that we could tie the rope to each of the trees. We used a fallen tree for one side of the den. [Emma]

Today we went to Burnlaw. My favourite part was den building and I think most people would agree. We made bread outside. I really enjoyed getting my hands all messy with the dough. Izzy and David were really good at explaining what we were doing and had some cool camouflage equipment. [Archie]

We've had a great fun day at Burnlaw. I enjoyed the bird hunt activity. We had clipboards and had to find lots of different birds in the trees - tawny owls, woodpeckers and tree creepers. I enjoyed the storytelling because it was really imaginative. The story was about a man cutting down a very big tree. [Inigo]

I enjoyed having my lunch in the big barn. We sat on hay bales and had a big picnic. [Sam]

We sang some songs about animals with Mrs Aldred in the big barn. [Imogen]

Den building was the best. We used lots of things we found in the woods to build our dens. [Lane]

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'Boxing Day Hunt 9am'

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'New Year's Day'

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Anchor Quiz nights

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18th December 7.45pm

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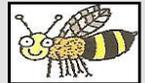
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QUOTABLE QUOTES

There are three kinds of intelligence: one kind understands things for itself, the other appreciates what others can understand, the third understands neither for itself nor through others. This first kind is excellent, the second good, and the third kind useless.
Niccolo Machiavelli

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NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

The New Years Eve fireworks display is all sorted, so all we need now is a nice clear night –John Harrison is under strict instructions to organise it!! There'll be hot chocolate and mulled wine to keep you warm!

The best viewing point will be on the new bridge and from the Anchor so gather there from 11.30pm.

Please remember that the old bridge will be closed to pedestrians from 3pm to allow the fireworks company to set up. This is totally out of our hands, and is at the insistence of Northumbria Police. Disruption will be minimal, and it's only a couple of minutes extra walk. The new bridge [A686] will be closed to traffic from 11.30pm-12.30am, so as not to cause any danger to spectators. It's unlikely that there'll be much traffic at that time but alternative routes are available and there'll be marshals to advise on this. We'd be very grateful to anyone who can spare some time to marshal; the more people we have the less time each person needs to spend doing it.

Please don't bring sparklers to the event – we know kids love them, they look lovely but they can be dangerous when used in a crowd. Thank you.

After the fireworks, all our lovely local hostelries will be open to carry on celebrating with your friends and neighbours, so **we hope to see lots of you there.**

ART COMPETITION

There's an Art Competition for children aged up to 11 and the winner will have the opportunity to press the button that starts the fireworks display! [There will be other prizes]. Just create an A4 picture of Haydon Bridge's New Year Fireworks and take your artwork to the library or to Shaftoe Trust Primary School **before midday on Friday December 12th**. Make sure your name, age and address /phone number is on the back.

AGM

Our AGM is at 8pm on Monday December 1st, followed by the monthly meeting, in the Havelock. All welcome.

Pauline Wallis
Get It Together Society

Poetry Corner

You know you're getting old
When you always feel cold
Even in the middle of June.
Your bones they will ache
And may easily break
But really you shouldn't moan.

At least you're alive
And able to thrive
The alternative isn't so great!
I.e buried and dead
So that's enough said
I'd rather be living than 'late'.
Still, I'm not old yet
And I'd sooner forget
That one day all my functions may fail
I'll know the day's come
When my time on earth's done
Cos it'll be the end of the DFS sale!

Wilhelmina Wordsworth

To further burnish The Haydon News' formidable reputation for cultural accomplishment and fearless exploration of the creative avante garde I feel the time has come to renew our monthly limerick competition—anything couth and refined that mentions some person, place or event in the parish is eligible. The editor's judgement about what is fit to print will be final—unless money changes hands... Ed.

Haydon Bridge Writers' Group:

Our October meeting focused on all aspects of publishing and getting published. We discussed the difference between self-publishing and vanity publishing as well as new, exciting opportunities in e-publishing. Then we shared our stories and poems on technology and its impact on people and communication. Although the topic sounds quite boring, the results were interesting, ranging from poetry to fiction.

As we have our next meeting a week after the deadline for HBN, I shall report on the eagerly expected presentation about script writing, given by my husband and an experienced script writer Chris Dunn, in the next issue in February.

In the meantime, we will be happy to welcome any new members and friends. Our pre-Christmas meeting is going to take place on Thursday, December 18, at 7:30 pm, and the first one of the year 2015 on January 8, at 7:30 pm at my house. From next year we will be meeting every second Thursday of the month for an evening session. There is no fee at the moment and anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

Should you wish to come and join the group, please contact me at:
natalienera@yahoo.com

RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID

This pub has gone upmarket, Raydon, we now serve three kinds of wine. Would you like to try our new rose?

I can do better than that, Dusty, if it helps you out I'll try all three. The rose A, the rose B and the rose C.





We are delighted to announce that superfast fibre broadband has arrived in Haydon Bridge! The first cabinet at Old Foundry Court went live at the end of September, and the second cabinet on North Bank has just gone live in November. This means that those throughout Haydon Bridge can now upgrade their service to receive speeds of up to 80 Mbps – but please note that this will not automatically happen and requires action from you.

There are many reasons to upgrade your service to fibre. If you use your broadband at home then you will see a huge difference in how fast you download files or movies, how little buffering you get on BBC iPlayer or YouTube, how easy it is to upload photos online or how much faster it is when multiple users are online at the same time for example. For business users or home-workers, you can expect to significantly improve your productivity by not waiting for large files to upload or gaining access to shared workspaces.

As mentioned, unlike previous speed upgrades this does not happen automatically. To upgrade, you must contact your chosen Internet Service Provider (ISP) and upgrade your package. Several ISPs will offer fibre broadband and it is well worth your while shopping around to find the best deal on the market. To make this easy for you, we have a functionality on our website (www.inorthumberland.org.uk) that will allow you to input your postcode and see what deals are available to you.

The technology in Haydon Bridge is called Fibre-to-the-Cabinet (FTTC). This means that fibre will run directly from the exchange in to the cabinet. The existing copper is then used to provide fibre broadband in your home. However, this does mean that your speed will be dependent upon the distance of the wiring from the cabinet to your home. Unfortunately this does mean that there will be some properties outside of Haydon Bridge itself that will not be able to benefit from a fibre connection. There are other options such as satellite available, which we are happy to provide more information about.

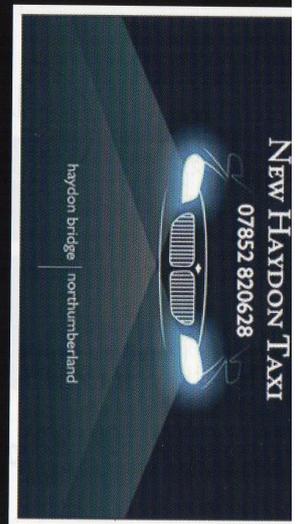
There are many more reasons why you should upgrade and further information available at our website (www.inorthumberland.org.uk). Also, please feel free to contact us at info@inorthumberland.org.uk if you have any queries.

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Haydon Bridge and Allendale Medical Practice

Winter Newsletter

GP Timetable

		Allendale	Haydon Bridge
Monday	Morning	Dr Hadaway Dr Aitken	Dr George
Monday	Afternoon	Dr Hadaway	Dr George Dr Aitken
Tuesday	Morning	Dr Hadaway	Dr Henderson Dr Wyatt
Tuesday	Afternoon	Dr Hadaway Dr Aitken	Dr Henderson
Wednesday	Morning	Dr Henderson	Dr George Dr Wyatt
Wednesday	Afternoon		Dr George Dr Wyatt
Thursday	Morning	Dr Aitken	Dr Henderson Dr Wyatt
Thursday	Afternoon	Dr Aitken	Dr Henderson Dr Wyatt
Friday	Morning	Dr Aitken Dr Wyatt	Dr Henderson
Friday	Afternoon	Dr Aitken	Dr Henderson Dr Wyatt

NB: Please note that this timetable is subject to change during periods of cover for annual leave.

Please check with Reception for start and end times of specific clinics.

Appointments

You can book routine appointments by telephoning either surgery on 683280 or 684216, or book GP appointments on line at www.patient.co.uk

If you require an urgent appointment and there are no available appointments on the day, a GP will call you back to discuss your symptoms. They will then either make you an appointment or if appropriate give you advice over the phone.

Home visits

It is preferable to be seen in the health centres, where staff and equipment are readily available. However for those unable to attend through illness, a home visit can be requested by telephoning the surgery, where possible before 10am.

Repeat prescriptions

From Monday 3rd November you will be able to order your repeat prescriptions in one of 3 ways:

- Telephone 688351 (24 hour line) and leave a message
- Go to www.patient.co.uk to order on line
- Tick the box on the right side of your prescription and hand it into the surgery

Appointment DNA's

There continues to be a number of patients who do not attend their booked appointments. If you no longer need or cannot get to your appointment please let the surgery know as the appointment can be offered to another patient.

GP Registrars

Dr Victoria Oliphant will be working in the Practice from August 2014 – February 2015.

Dr Rebecca Downie will be working in the Practice from February – August 2015.

Patient Participation Group

Meetings are held regularly at both sites to discuss general and local health issues and practice specific issues. If you would like to join the group, suggest a topic or just want more information please contact the Practice Manager.

Friends and Family Test

- Is being introduced for GP Practices from 1st December 2014
- All NHS patients have the opportunity to give feedback through FFT
- We are hoping feedback will highlight good experiences as well as pointing us in the right direction on where we can make improvements
- You can fill in one of the cards located in reception at both surgeries or on line

Out of Hours service Telephone NHS 111

Brendan Healy

Because now, it seems, we can't get rid of him.

A journalist once asked me if my school days had been 'The best days of my life?' to which I replied "I don't know, I wasn't there often enough to form an opinion."

I am not condoning playing the wag, (that's 'being absent without permission' for the younger reader) and there is nothing worse than being caught by the hookey man.

I simply didn't like school.

Later I found great love for things they tried to teach me, things I now find fascinating were often put to me in the dullest manner. Was it me or was it the teaching?

Nobody told me that Mozart was a drunken belligerent who wouldn't do a stroke of work unless he was paid up front. All I heard was ... boy genius, played for Kings and Queens, blah, blah, blah.

Nobody told me that Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes was a drug addled chain smoker. I might have read the books.

It was never mentioned at my catholic school that Van Gogh had presented his severed ear to a prostitute. What was going on there?

(Although there is a new school of thought that he didn't cut off his own ear but his artistic rival Gauguin cut it off in a fight. That's dead interesting as well!)

I like Shakespeare now, I like art, cooking, classical music, woodwork, gardening - all stuff I have learnt about since school. By the way, I really like sculpture, especially the Angel of the North. When driving home it heartens me in the same way the Tyne's bridges do when returning by train.

I don't think education has moved with the times. Subjects and exams seem to be dumbed down. I reckon I would have 27 G.C.S.E's and 12 A levels at A***** if I was sitting them today. Nah! I wouldn't have turned up.

It may seem as if I am having a go at teachers. I'm not. I feel terribly sorry for those teachers that care about their jobs. Their lives are all about government statistics now. How many kids? How many passes? How many A stars? Blah, blah, blah.

I think we should get a bit more fun back into schools. For a start everyone should start the day with half an hour's strenuous exercise followed by a thorough cold shower. I'm sure we learn better when we are fully awake and buzzing. It would also help to combat obesity, laziness and teenage hygiene problems. After showers it's off to a hearty breakfast of salted porridge. Too many kids don't eat in the morning. Everyone should then have to speak a foreign language for the next hour. French'll do but one of the Chinese languages might be better as they are undoubtedly the emerging business market, and wouldn't it be nice to order your take away without using the numbers?

There should be more school trips and holidays. I really liked them, especially the sponsored walks where the local convent girls came along. Does anyone ever dare do any of these things any more? What about health and safety and police checks and first aid training *et patati et patata*. (I looked that up. It's French. It means blah, blah, blah.)

I went to college. I was accepted on my ability to play the piano and trombone. There were minimal exam requirements for entry as it was a performance-based music course. And I must tell you, I loved it. I was taught by proper, seasoned professional musicians.

The head of the college, Paul Abbott, was a fully trained counter tenor who had perfect pitch. A fantastic musician and man who I'm sure was fully aware that we all called him Mr Rabbit. The head of light music was Brian Whittle; an awesome sax and alto flute player who was once with the Ted Heath orchestra, and there were no mugs in that band. He used to take big-band rehearsals and one day fired me and the bass player Dave Blackwell 'cos we were late. We were late because we had had to take the front seat out of Dave's mini to get his bass cabinet in but it made no never mind to the Band Leader. We hung around outside the rehearsal rooms not knowing what to do until Brian came and told us that if this was the real world we would stay fired and our wives and children would not eat. These were invaluable lessons from proper pros.

Later on in life I hired Brian to work for me in an orchestra pit. I was wary of asking him but, as he said, 'What the heck do you think I was training you to do?' He was A***** in my book.

Anyway enough of my rantings, but if you would like to vote for me as the next education minister, don't bother. I wouldn't turn up.

Alistair Burrowes writes

In 1962, Philip Larkin wrote to his muse, Monica Jones, at 1A Ratcliffe Road Haydon Bridge:

"I thought your little house seemed ... distinguished and exciting and beautiful: clever of you to have found it ... it looks splendid, and it can never be ordinary with the Tyne going by outside. Others may have ... 'Theatre in the Round' around the corner, or a Picasso, or a Stereo Hi-fi, or a split-level Dining area – you have a great English river drifting under your window ... "

In 2012, Alistair Burrowes wrote to his daughter, Claire Richardson, at 1A Ratcliffe Road Haydon Bridge:

"I thought your little house seemed canny enough, central, yet hidden and handy for the co-op of course. At the least, you are back in Haydon Bridge... it'll do for now, although the parking with a busy road outside can be a nuisance. Other places in the village might have fewer cars about, or not have to listen to delivery cages being rattled furiously at 6.00am, or have drunks falling past their window at night – but you can nip over the road almost anytime for reduced stuff at the co-op..."

The Green Man

The wood from the trees!

A Bit of a Blow

The recent high winds across the UK bring back reminders of the 1987 hurricane. In those days I lived in Sussex and had started my tree surgery business just three years before – so when those winds whipped across the south of England on the night of 16/17 October, I woke up “in the thick of it.” It was the night when Sevenoaks became One Oak; when whole woodlands were flattened; when mighty trees toppled onto cars and buildings alike as nature roared across the south eastern corner of our country.

The clear-up took over a year, but one of the most worrying things was that suddenly everyone who owned a chainsaw became a “specialist”, often charging outrageous prices for tree work – often on trees that did not need any work. To a lesser extent we face a similar issue these days – despite the introduction of chainsaw certification, and certification for tree climbing and tree surgery – trees do not always get appropriate care, from appropriately experienced professionals.

Preservation or Management?

In 1969 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) were created as a system for local Authorities to help protect “significant” trees on their districts. TPOs placed on trees means that the Council have to give permission for any work carried out on the tree (mini version of planning permission).

Over the years I have seen much evidence of trees with “TPOs on them” falling into poor health and dying, because often people do not want to touch them, for fear of doing anything “wrong”. I actually believe a better way of ensuring a tree maintains good health would be to change TPOs to “tree management orders” – whereby protected trees would need inspecting on a regular basis – and work carried out to keep them healthy. If you have trees with TPOs on – you can always ask for advice – and tree surgery can be carried out on them – it is just that permission must be sought first.

“Tree Harvests”?

Living in the Tyne Valley we will all have noticed the huge number of timber trucks moving “logs” into our local chipboard factory and also to other mills. I spotted an advert on the back of one of the trucks full of woodchip – a campaign to “stop burning our trees!!” I thought for a moment that we were in the Amazon, but when I checked the website listed, it was a campaign to prevent power stations burning wood, to ensure enough wood to process into wood products.

Interesting indeed! It would appear with the current drive towards alternative energy (which I am all in favour of) that the demand for wood is out-stripping supply. Bio-mass for energy production is growing – but do we really have enough wood available. I heard recently that a new bio-mass power station in Scotland will annually require more than the total annual output from Scotland’s forests! Sounds a bit crazy to me – we look to be heading into a woodchip war!! We are becoming more and more reliant on imported wood – from the Baltic states (and apparently Canada soon as well) – someone even told me they could sell me slow grown high quality Ash logs, from the Baltics cheaper than UK grown logs! But the biggest worry is that most tree related diseases and pests have come here on imported timber!!

Forestry is about growing trees to be harvested for our use – but no one anticipated the rise in demand for bio-mass etc, and forestry must be one of the slowest forms of farming – waiting at least 40 years from planting to harvest!

A final note

Want to know what is the best firewood – there is a great poem “Logs to Burn” that you can find at <http://pond1.gladstonefamily.net/logs-to-burn.html>

Mark Shipperlee

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Reflections

*They stood in line along the pier,
Their shoulders stooped with battle gear,
No cheering crowds, no marching bands,
No outstretched arms to shake their hands.
Young men, one time with rosy cheeks,
Who scumped for apples and swam in creeks,
Stood forlorn in dawn's grey light,
While seagulls swooped in early flight.
What were their thoughts on that June day,
While boarding ships to sail away?
Across a sea with rising swell,
Leaving a land they knew so well,
Heading for shores where unknown foes,
More battle-hardened than any of those,
We asked to stem the tide of war,
Were watching on that fateful shore.
They stood in line across the pier,
Their shoulders stooped from passing year.
No cheering crowds, no marching bands,
No outstretched arms to shake their hands.
Old men, one time with rosy cheeks,
Who scumped for apples and swam in creeks,
Stood, just three, neath summer skies,
While seagulls shrieked their strident cries.
What were their thoughts on that June day,
Now seventy years had rolled away?
One wiped a tear from rheumy eye,
Another coughed and gave a sigh.
Their thoughts perhaps would have in mind
The many pals they left behind.
The horrors seen, the scars they bear,
Too grim to want to even share.
With final glance across the bay,
They turned as one and walked away,
Perhaps recalling rising swell,
While leaving a land they knew so well,
Heading for shores, where unknown foes,
More battle-hardened than any of those,
We asked to stem the tide of war,
Were dug in on that fateful shore.
But very soon there'll be no more,
Who witnessed carnage on that shore.
They've earned their time for rest and peace,
With other heroes long deceased.
For never shirking given task,
Remember Us, is all they asked.*

Anne P Stewart
June 2014.

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Haydonian Social Club

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CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2014

Saturday 13 th December 2014	XMAS FAMILY PRIZE BINGO - eyes down@7.30pm. Come along and have fun - you could be a winner!
Wednesday 17 th December 2014	BINGO + MEAT VOUCHERS EYES DOWN @ 8.30pm.
Saturday 20 st December 2014	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - Starting 1.30pm. (list for names behind bar –before 6 th Dec.2014) REMEMBER SANTA WILL BE CALLING!!! (He could be early)
Sunday 21 nd December 2014	BINGO +WINE & CHOCOLATES 8.00pm + KEY DRAW 9.45pm (Draw tickets on sale until 9.30pm only)
Wednesday(XMAS EVE) 24 th December 2014	BINGO + CASH ADDED Eyes down 8.30pm
Thursday(XMAS DAY) 25 th December 2014	OPEN AT NIGHT 8.pm TIL 11.00pm
Sunday 28 th December 2014	BINGO 8.00pm + KEY DRAW 10.00pm (Draw tickets on sale until 9.30pm only)
Wednesday(NEW YEAR'S EVE) 31 ST December 2013	BINGO 8.30pm Come and welcome the New Year In with fun at your club
Thursday 1 st January 2015 (NEW YEAR'S DAY)	HAPPY NEW YEAR! Open all afternoon and night til late. Welcome 2015 and Celebrate with us!

WEEKLY BINGO SESSIONS Everyone welcome! Come and enjoy a friendly social night.	Every Wednesday eyes down 8.30pm. Every Sunday eyes down 8pm. Final flyer is all monies paid out approx.£40 + Please get your friends to join and come along.
LOCAL GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS	Have a fund raising disco/party here and get 5% of the Concert Room takings towards your funds at the same time as enjoying yourselves.
MEMBERSHIP FEES now due for 2015 – only £2	Join our Social Club for only £3 and take advantage of our cheaper prices for alcohol and have free hire of the Concert Room for parties.

The Committee and members of Haydonian Social Club send everyone best wishes for

Christmas & the New Year