

# THE HAYDON NEWS



**AUGUST 2015**



Photo: Aron Mazel

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## **NEXT DEADLINE: 22ND SEPTEMBER 2015**

**The deadline is always 48 hours before the next Parish Council meeting.**

### The Haydon News Committee

**Steve Ford (Chairman and Editor) Pauline Wallis (vice chair) Peter Parker (treasurer and diarist) Pat Hirst, Sheila Adams. Marcus Byron, John Wallis**  
**EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE HAYDON NEWS.**

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*Anonymous letters/articles will NOT be published.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 author's name and address.*

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# ADOXOGRAPHY



Firstly - a public safety announcement!

Eileen Charlton has just passed her driving test - first time - having held a provisional license since 1976. The Haydon News is delighted to add its congratulations to the many others from within and beyond the community of Haydon Bridge. Pedestrians are advised to shin up the nearest lamp post as Eileen comes bowling cheerfully down the pavement...

Secondly - some words of explanation about the printing of The Haydon News. For some years a company called Contex provided the printing machines that produced the magazine. Local heroes, like Mike Parkin, Dennis Telford and others, engaged in Stakhanovite efforts over countless hours every month to get the magazine to you, year after year. The community owes them a great debt of gratitude for their unstinting contributions.

The point was reached where the trouble and expense of keeping the machines running was costing the company more money than they were making from the contract. At this point they offered to do the printing for us and, for some time, this system worked well and allowed the recent developments in colour and construction of the publication. The prices charged for this were quite low.

The three owners of Contex, having combined ages exceeding two hundred years, decided that retirement looked inviting and sold the good will and other assets of the company to Mastercopy of Teeside. The hope was that the previous arrangements would continue but problems arose that could not be sorted out in time for the last edition's printing - hence the older style presentation for most people last month.

Whilst the option to return to the DIY printing system exists, none of the existing committee members is in a position to devote whole weekends at a time on a regular basis to such a project. Even though it would be a great deal cheaper.

Accordingly, we have chosen to use a local printer and will attempt to continue the new style of publication. Because this is a good deal more expensive we are taking steps to keep costs down - such as reducing the point size, reducing the number of pages, assembling the publication to minimise the colour costs, in due course increasing the advertising costs and continuing to encourage increased membership subscriptions and seeking contributions from a wide variety of other sources.

The original reason for using 12 point printing was to overcome the problem that some older readers might experience with small sizes. Do let us know if the reduced size is a problem.

The Haydon Bridge Festival has been a roaring success. Many congratulations to all involved. The Haydon News is most grateful for the very generous donation that has been sent in following the event. Good luck with the 2016 event.

Tom and Belinda Speir's Open Garden event for The Red Cross attracted very substantial numbers of people too. Amongst the newly landscaped grounds and many attractive flower borders was this:



Which raised a smile.

On a further horticultural note - The Haydon News awaits with interest the results of the forthcoming Fruit & Veg show - See What's On page. Photographs of ever larger produce will be sure to be published.

The Haydon Bridge & Allendale Medical Practice is holding a Patient Participation Group Meeting in the Langley Village Hall - see What's On page - everyone is welcome. The views of the patients are truly important in shaping the services provided. Do go along and have your say.

Periodically I get asked if the oil co-operative is still going and I am delighted to say that it is. We now have about 200 households on the list and typically place an order for 80,000 litres per quarter. So far, there has always been a saving over DIY orders.

The way the system works is this: Every quarter (February, May, August and November) I email or phone everyone on the list to ask for their requirements. I total up the orders and forward them to HQ where they are further aggregated with orders from other parts of West Northumberland and the grand total is then offered to all willing providers. The lowest bid wins.

The winning dealer then phones the customers to sort out payment and delivery details - or sometimes just delivers and invoices later. New members are always welcome - just email ([fuel@haydon-bridge.co.uk](mailto:fuel@haydon-bridge.co.uk)) or phone (688922).

*Steve Ford*

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# PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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<b>County Councillor:</b>	Cllr. Alan Sharp
320167(home)	320363(work) 07759 665200(mob.)

A meeting of The Haydon Bridge Parish Council was held in the Community Centre on 23rd July 2015 at 7.30pm.

Mr. Gareth Davies of NCC was in attendance to discuss the forthcoming Tour of Britain event that will pass through the village on Thursday 10th September—see pages 24/25. He reported that a huge number of local and national organisations were involved. The intention for Northumberland is to showcase the itself to the world to promote awareness of what our county has to offer and to gain maximum benefit for as many as possible. The effect is expected to be felt far into the future.

Very large crowds are anticipated, especially in Haydon Bridge because the North Bank section will be a special stage in which it is expected that one or more of the most able riders may seize the opportunity to break from the pack and take the lead. In addition, before the main competitors arrive there will be an opportunity for amateurs to try the section.

The route will be closed to all traffic for the duration of the transit of the main competitors—perhaps an hour or so. Cars parked on the route will be towed away. A major effort will be made in the run up to the event to inform everyone close to the route to allow suitable alternative arrangements to be made. Alternative car parks will be arranged and NCC will co-operate closely with all affected. Arrangements for the school have been made months in advance.

120 cyclists are expected and a total convoy of 180 other vehicles — ahead of and trailing the field.

The colour themes for decorations and flags are the county colours—red and yellow. Painted bikes will be placed as decorations along the course. All decorations should be sensibly and securely placed.

Spectators are required to self organise and behave appropriately.

A pop-up cafe will be appearing in the Church Yard and loos will be available in The Methodist Hall.

**A village co-ordinating meeting is to be held at 6.00pm in The Bridge on Thursday 6th August. All interested parties should attend.**

## **Public Participation**

The alleyway between the last house and the Chapel on Church Road needs repair. Ownership is uncertain but steps will be taken to get repairs made.

Church Street trees have too many low growing branches and tend to drip bothersomely on pedestrians. Whilst pruning is already scheduled for later this year, enquiries will be made about the feasibility of interim trimming.

The Union flag, rather than the county flag, has been flying in the Church Yard for some time. Richard Snowden's advice will be sought on the matter.

The malodourous bins at The Anchor are now attracting rats. Cllr. Alan Sharp agreed to intercede with the owners to see how the problem might be overcome.

**Apologies** - were noted.

**Declarations of interest** - were invited.

**Previous minutes** - were agreed.

## NCC

A bus service review has been conducted and no changes affecting Haydon Bridge are planned. There will be a public meeting to discuss the future of Hexham Bus Station soon.

Most or all of the North Bank drains are blocked - this will be dealt with. Likewise on Ratcliffe Road.

Maintenance of verges etc. on the Tour of Britain Route will be apparent in the coming weeks.

The current application for four houses on Inner Haugh has been refused and an amended application made. The PC continues to object to any development on the site and an application will be made for an extension of time to consider the new application properly.

## Highways

The road surface at the Langley Saw Mill bends is in a bad state. Repairs are requested.

**Lighting** - no problems noted.

## Planning

Listed building consent for a conservatory extension and minor internal alterations at ground floor level at Threepwood Farm - No objections.

## Accounts

Save for a minor discrepancy over the bill for the wild flower seeding in the cemetery the accounts were agreed.

## Correspondence

The local transport plan has been informed about problems with the Langley/A69 slip road and the desirability of making more extensive and cycle worthy the Hexham to Haydon Bridge section.

Arriva responded to enquiries about the availability of local time tables. Getting any timetables for The Bridge seems impossible - an unidentified voice promised to "lift" quantities from elsewhere.

## Parish Projects

DT and The Bridge - nil of note.

Further repairs are required in the play area—especially to the perimeter boards around the zip wire.

## AOB

The spring fed water tank in the cemetery has been largely dug out by Cllr. Brown but the outgo pipe is still blocked and the level low - possibly reflecting the lack of recent rain.

The presence of dead rats on the weir was reported and the overgrown state of the river paths.

The vexed question of whether to allow the "purchase in advance of need" of specific plots in the cemetery was again discussed. Further decisions were postponed to a later time.

Anxiety was expressed about the possible presence of Giant Hog Weed on the banks of The Tyne in the village. A local botanist will be asked to advise the council.

Next council meeting 7.30pm 24th September.

**TOUR OF BRITAIN MEETING, THE BRIDGE  
6.00PM THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST**

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**Part 17**

**My Haydon Bridge 'Store' history from 1875 to 1948, can be found in the Haydon News' issues, February 2014 to July 2015. Last month I expressed the hope that there might be one or more of our readers with an interest in our local history or, perhaps, a specific interest in our village Co-operative, who would like to continue my story into the twenty first century.**

**This month, I am providing a brief outline of the Haydon Bridge Co-op's later history, from 1950 to 1973, to encourage any willing volunteer and to help get them started.**

Sales and membership at the Haydon Bridge Co-op, during the five years from 1945 to 1950, increased to £66,000 per annum and 990 members; helped by the **end of rationing** after the war including: July 1948 : flour. March 1949 : clothes. May 1950 : canned and dried fruit, chocolate biscuits, treacle, syrup and mincemeat. September 1950 : soap. October 1952 : tea. February 1953 : sweets and sugar. On July 4th 1954, all food rationing ended.

By the mid 1960s, in spite of a further increase in sales to £100,000, a membership of 1,000 and 20 members of staff, the dividend had fallen to 1/2d in the £, from 2/6d in 1948.

Further amalgamation talks took place at this time with the Fourstones and Newbrough Society but, as with the 1945 proposal to join with Allendale, to no avail. There was occasional movement of individual staff between societies, however, for example: Jack Clark went to Alston in 1936; the assistant manager and branch manager Joe Longstaff left Haydon Bridge to manage the Whitfield Society and he was followed there on his retirement by Eddie Moffatt, who moved again to manage the Co-operative at Widdrington.

When Joe Longstaff moved to Whitfield, Charlie Cowing was appointed branch manager at Ratcliffe Road and he continued in the post until his sudden and early death in 1968, aged fifty two years.

In the late 1950s and 1960s, the management of each of the Store's departments changed. Norman Ohlson was appointed Store manager and William Waugh (pronounced 'Willum' by everyone) managed the first floor drapery department. John Scaife was a new appointment as the Store butcher - by now on the ground floor of the Oddfellows' and, following Charlie Cowing's death, Ozzie Moore took over as manager of the Ratcliffe Road branch.

In 1968 another merger was proposed, this time by

the Haltwhistle Society. Again it was declined, by the Haydon Bridge members.

In April 1970, our neighbouring Fourstones and Newbrough Society amalgamated with West Wylam and Prudhoe Co-op and, as a result, Haydon Bridge received many more applications for membership of the Society.

When the South Tyne Co-operative Services - of which Norman Ohlson the Haydon Bridge Store manager was secretary - was wound up, a number of meetings for Haydon Bridge members took place to plan for the future of the Society. Following three such meetings in the Church Hall, it was eventually agreed to join the Throckley Society; who were themselves about to join the North East Co-operative Society, in 1973. (A Society our Haydon Bridge Co-op had considered joining in 1970, through its links with a newly formed Cumbrian Co-operative, but the proposal was turned down.)

**Following the Haydon Bridge merger with the Throckley Co-op, the premises on Shaftoe Street were sold to Jim and Jean Smith and the Haydon Bridge Co-operative concentrated its activities in John Spark's old shop on the north side of Ratcliffe Road, where it remains to this day one hundred and forty years since it first opened for business in the old Wesleyan Chapel on the South side of Ratcliffe Road.**

**SOURCES OF REFERENCE FOR MY HISTORY OF  
THE HAYDON BRIDGE  
CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY LTD.**

- The minute books of the Haydon Bridge Co-operative and Industrial Society 1875 - 1948. (With thanks to Jim and Jean Smith.)
- The Hexham Courant.
- Hexham Library.
- Newcastle City Library.
- The Co-operative Societies of the North Pennines, Pub. 2001 by the North Pennines Heritage Trust.
- And a special thanks to those individuals who have provided their own experiences/memories.

**I continue my reports of activity on 'The Home Front', at Haydon Bridge during the Great War. Previous accounts, from the day war broke out on August 4th 1914 to September/October 1917, are written in my Historical Notes in the July 2014 to July 2015, issues of The Haydon News.**

**Boy Racers:** In October 1917, a young man who lived at Willimoteswick Castle answered a summons for motor cycling on Ratcliffe Road to the danger of the public, at 5.45 in the evening, and without proper identification plates - 'he had just a piece of board tied on with string'. Haydon Bridge's PC Walton

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said he saw two motorcyclists travelling towards him between 30 and 35 mph and, although the constable put his hand up, he could not get Mr Spraggon to stop. As the motorcyclist turned into Church Street he lost sight of him, but, following further enquiries, a determined PC Walton found him in a house on the North Road. Spraggon said that the speed mentioned wasn't possible, as his machine had a loose silencer and couldn't go that fast; nevertheless, he was judged to have been racing a friend on the main street in Haydon Bridge and was fined 10/-.

**A Nuisance:** Having previously served notice on the six tenants of Armstrong's Buildings, Shaftoe Street for depositing their waste to the rear of the properties and into the River Tyne, the Hexham Rural Council Sanitary Inspector reported that 'the nuisance was abated', but agreed that he would need to visit this place on a regular basis. (*The six dwellings called Armstrong's Buildings were on the site occupied in 2015 by the detached house, No. 14, Shaftoe Street.*)

**Rush to Buy:** Mr T. White of Harsondale was the breeder of a colt foal which won both the Hexham and Chester-Le-Street shows in October 1917. The colt was sold to Mr Rush of Carlisle for 48 guineas.

**A junior football match** between Haydon Bridge and Hexham on Saturday, October 13th 1917 was won 4-1 by the home team. Haydon Bridge's goals were scored by Brown, Robinson (2), and Burrows.

**Henry French**, the foreman porter, was accidentally killed at Haydon Bridge railway station at 6.45pm on a dark and stormy night on Monday October 22nd 1917, when attending to his shunting duties. The engine of a stock train had backed into the station yard to pick up additional trucks when the guard, following on foot, found the body of Mr French across the rails, very badly injured. Dr Murray and Nurse Lowes were in immediate attendance but Mr French was already dead. Born in Allendale fifty nine years previously, Henry had thirty seven years continuous service on the railways, having started work for the North Eastern Railway Co. in 1880 as a platelayer.

Henry had lived in Haydon Bridge for twenty years, from when he was appointed foreman porter in 1897 on the death of Josh Elliot. During this time he had become a friend of everyone and the Co-operative Store, of which he was a member of the committee, was closed on the day of the funeral. Henry's cortege was reported in the *Hexham Courant* as being, 'probably the largest within living memory in the



**Henry French**  
Photograph  
Hexham Courant

village, with a mournful procession extending along the full length of Church Street'. The hymn, Rock of Ages had been sung at the deceased's house before a service in his beloved Wesleyan Chapel, and the interment at Haydon Bridge cemetery.

**Second Lt. Ryde Guild Rayner:** The son of Mr and Mrs Harry Rayner of 'Greenbank', Haydon Bridge, was reported missing on October 26th 1917.

Educated at Shaftoe Trust School, and with a fine treble voice, Ryde Guild Rayner gained a position at Durham Cathedral where he was a treble soloist for several years. Well known in sporting circles, Ryde played rugby for Tynedale R.F.C. before going to South Africa where he was working for the **British American Tobacco Company**. It was from here that he joined the colonial forces at the outbreak of war.

**October 26th 1917** was a sad day in the history of our parish. In addition to Ryde Guild Rayner, three other young men from Haydon lost their lives in the Third Battle of Ypres - an offensive mounted by forces of the Commonwealth. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was successful, but the main assault to the north east, at the end of July, was a tough operation in deteriorating weather. The campaign ended in November with the capture of Passchendaele, but not before there were many casualties including Ryde Raynor, John William Reed, John Edward Taylor and Joseph Nixon Turnbull from our parish; each recorded as having been killed on the same day in October 1917.

Twenty year old **John William Reed** was one of six children of Joseph and Margaret Reed of Sillywrea farm; they having been, previously, at Woodhall Mill. John worked on the farm at Sillywrea and, also, the Langley Barony fireclay and brick works, before he joined the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Twenty two year old Corporal **John Edward Taylor** MM was born at Brampton, the son of Elizabeth Taylor, and had worked for five years at Johnson's farm, Beacon Rigg, Langley.

**Joseph Nixon Turnbull** was twenty years old and the only son of John and Annie Turnbull, who had six children. Joseph worked in his father's shoe business before enlisting in October 1915.

**Harold Linton Heslop and Wallace Spark:** More bad news reached the parish when it was confirmed that thirty six year old Harold Linton Heslop died on October 30th 1917 - Harold had married Isabella Sinclair in 1913 and they had one child; and Wallace Spark, who was nineteen years old, had been killed in action on November 4th. Wallace was one of two children of William Walton and Hannah Spark and worked at Langley Barony. (Continued on page 9)

*Ryde Rayner, John Reed, John Taylor and Joseph Turnbull are each commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.*

#### TYNE COT

Tyne Cot is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world and it has a particular relevance to the north of England, the name having come from those young men of the Northumberland Fusiliers who saw a resemblance between the German pill boxes, which still stand in the cemetery, and typical workers' cottages back home.

The 'Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing', borders the cemetery and is an extension of the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial on which the names of six more of our young men, who were posted as missing in 1915, can be found. The memorial wall at Tyne Cot has the names of 33,783 officers and men of the UK forces and 1,176 New Zealanders inscribed; each one of whom was reported missing after August 15th 1917 and has no known grave.

*Tyne Cot and the Menin Gate are a 'must see' for anyone from our parish visiting sites and memorials of the Great War. I know from personal experience the satisfaction that comes from searching for, and finding, the names of the young men from Haydon Bridge and Langley who gave their lives.*



**The Tyne Cot Memorial includes the names of four of our parish's young men who were posted as missing on October 26th 1917**



**A small part of the Tyne Cot cemetery as seen from the terrace alongside the Memorial Wall**

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Wallace's half brother, Sergeant Wm. Glendinning, had been posted as missing on April 26th 1915 and is one of the six men from the parish recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres; the others being: L/Cpl Norman Davidson, L/Cpl Fred Lee, Pte. Fred Kirby and Pte. William Alexander Paxton, (Each recorded as killed, along with William Glendinning, on April 26th 1915.) and Pte. Mathew Stobbart. (June 16th 1915.)

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**The Power of the Press:** The ladies of our parish were filled with anxiety when the news spread on Saturday night November 17th 1917, that a fourteen year old girl had been attacked by a man on the Spa Well road and had sixpence stolen. This incident confirmed earlier reports that a strange man had been frequenting back lanes and quiet roads in the dark for the past month and had been accosting young and middle aged women with the intention of getting money. A young boy with an errand basket had also been accosted by the attacker who had held his hand over the boy's mouth, before taking one penny from his pocket. These incidents had all the village folk roused in their efforts to catch the perpetrator.

A report in the *Hexham Courant* that the residents of the village were determined to rid the locality of this 'dastardly fellow' and that the ladies of the village would, in future, be carrying the knives normally sheathed and part of the uniform of 'Mrs White's Haydon Bridge Wolf Cubs', seems to have scared off the man committing these cowardly crimes and, following the press report, no further incidents were reported.

**Light Munitions:** Robert Scott of Haydon Bridge answered a summons of failing to obscure the lights at his foundry on Church Street on November 15th 1917. PC Walton said he had passed the foundry about six o'clock in the evening when he saw a light shining across the road and through a sky light. The lights were electric and had just been installed a few weeks earlier, replacing the old gas lights. PC Walton told the bench there was no screening of the

light except for layers of dust on the windows. Mr Scott had told PC Walton that it was impossible to put blinds on the windows of the foundry as 'the metal flying about might set them alight', and the workers must have light as they were 'engaged on munitions work in the foundry which was of national importance'. The case against Scott was dismissed on the understanding that he paid the costs and made some arrangements to obscure the lights.

**Colonel John Henderson MM** of 'Sewingshields' was the last of our parish deaths at the Front in 1917. John had been awarded the Military Medal in 1916. Before joining the army, John was employed as a ploughman for Mr Blackburn of High Staples, Hexhamshire and before that, Mr Armstrong of Allerwash Buildings. John was drafted to France in November 1915 and was involved in much heavy fighting before he was wounded at the battle of the Somme on September 15th 1916. For his gallantry at that time he received the **Military Medal**. Sent back to France in May 1917, after recovering in a Liverpool hospital, Colonel John Henderson was to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Col W.R. Allen, writing to John's parents described how their 'brave son' met his death:

'On the morning of the 13th December, the enemy broke into our trenches and a party of picked men were told to bomb them out and retake the lost trench. Your son was a member of the party and through his gallantry and utter contempt of danger was the sole cause of the success of the enterprise. But unhappily, after the trench had been retaken he was struck by the fragment of a German bomb.... Had he lived I would have recommended him for another decoration in addition to his MM for if ever a man deserved some high military honour it was he ...'



**Col John Henderson MM**  
Photo Hexham Courant

**The Haydon Parish Soldiers' Welfare Association** was formed On Thursday, December 20th 1917, to look after the welfare of soldiers belonging to the parish, particularly to see that soldiers on leave were given a warm welcome home, to send parcels to the Front and to arrange for a supply of food for any prisoner of war.

The Rev W. Ainger was appointed chairman, W.W. Ridley and G. Natrass, secretaries and W.S. Walton Treasurer. A committee of over fifty volunteers was an indication of the importance of the association to parish residents.

**Churches Together:** An old time local custom was revived in Haydon Bridge on Christmas eve 1917 when choirs from each of our denominations were united to sing carols around the parish. The Hexham Courant of the day recorded the event: 'It was a beautiful night and the moon was shining, lighting up the whole village. Numerous followers joined in and proceeds will be given to funds for the Welcome Home of the Soldier lads.'

**War Woolens:** The ladies working at St Cuthbert's Vicarage on Friday afternoons, in connection with the Hexham War Depot, had made during 1917: 550 socks, 49 mufflers, 80 mitts, 160 bags, 12 shirts and 60 bed socks. A Flower Day and organ recital had raised £43-13-3d towards buying the wool used.

**I will return to the Great War 'Home Front' in Haydon Parish in the October issue of The Haydon News.**

### **THE HOME FRONT 1939 - 1945**

**My earlier notes of the Second World War 'Home Front' in Haydon Parish, to January 1940, were published in the July 2015 Haydon News.**

**Global Freezing:** 34° of frost was recorded in the district on January 7th 1940. The Tyne was frozen over and our folk had great fun skating on the river. This was the most severe frost in the parish since January 1912 when 36° was recorded. When my granddad (William Ridley Telford) was in pensive mood, in his later years, he would recall bonfires on the River Tyne above the bridge at Kidd's Hole in 1912, and in 1894 and 1895 when there were even harder frosts of 38° and 37° respectively.



**This icy scene is on the Tyne at Haydon Bridge in 1912**

**Town Hall Dance:** More than one hundred people attended the Annual Whist Drive and Dance that was organised by the Flower Show committee and held in the Town Hall on Friday January 12th 1940.

A children's dance had been held in the afternoon, as was the usual custom.

**William Rutherford:** On January 20th 1940, the residents of Haydon Parish mourned the death of seventy five year old William Rutherford. William

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## 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, par-  
ents 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**

had moved from Blanchland to East Mill Hills, and  
had played a full part in parish life for forty five  
years. He was an auctioneer at Tynedale Mart from  
1911 to 1926, a well known judge at local sports and  
sheep dog trials and, for over forty years, a Haydon  
Parish councillor; and chairman at the time of his  
death. The Rutherford family continue to farm East  
Mill Hills in 2015.

The Ford Anglia 8hp saloon, costing £126, was  
introduced in January 1940.  
Or, you could buy the deluxe  
version for £136. A sun roof  
was £5 extra.



**Bus Stop:** The 4.30 United bus skidded at Dilston  
Bridge and collided with a lorry owned by Mr Henry  
Watson of Shaftoe Street, Haydon Bridge. The lorry  
was driven by Mr Charlton Curry of Shaftoe Street.

**Meat rationing** commenced on March 11th 1940,  
on a value basis of 1s 10d worth per person per  
week.

**Warnings:** Following Hexham and District's third  
air raid warning of the war, on February 22nd 1940,  
Edward Kirsopp asked Haydon Parish Council for  
permission to hold whist drives, concerts and other  
events, to raise funds for the purchase of a proper air  
raid siren. Mr Kirsopp reported that every resident  
in the parish was now equipped with a gas mask.

**No Gas:** The response in Haydon Bridge was one of  
shock when Cliff Brooks, the manager of the Gas  
Works at Haydon Bridge, reported that because of a  
breakdown of part of the works' equipment due to  
the particularly bad weather; from Friday March 1st  
1940 the village would no longer be provided with  
gas. The directors of the Gas Company reported that  
'due to a scarcity of materials and because the length  
of time needed to carry out repairs was likely to be  
prohibitive', they had no alternative but to close the  
Gas Works and dissolve the company.  
Mr. Brooks moved to Haltwhistle, to manage the  
'Mill Lane' Gas Works there.

**Your Country Needs More of You:** Registration of  
those liable for Military Service, up to the age of  
twenty five years, took place throughout the country  
on March 9th 1940, under the National Services  
(Armed Forces Act).

**Parish Council:** Reference was made at the council  
meeting on March 14th 1940, to the danger of young  
children crossing the bridge. The PC recommended  
a footpath on the west side of the bridge carriageway  
and a Belisha Beacon at the north end of the bridge  
to make crossing into Church Street safer.

'On The Home Front' will be continued in October's issue.

## 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 fifty first casualty, in 1918, was **John Todd**

### (51) John Todd



Photograph courtesy of Haydon Bridge Community Centre

John served as Bombardier, 129366, 14th Division Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery. He died on 28th May 1918, aged 28.

Born in Haydon Bridge, he was the youngest of at least six children of Joseph and Harriet Todd (nee Ridley). Joseph was a railway signalman.

John was employed as a clerk for an advertising company and enlisted at Hexham.



John is buried in grave IX.E.7 in Lapugnoy Military Cemetery.

He is also commemorated on the family gravestone in the Haydon Bridge Churchyard Extension.

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

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

## HAYDON BRIDGE FESTIVAL 2015

Put on a good show and Haydon Bridge folk will support you ..... and so it was proved on Saturday, June 27th this year, at the inaugural Haydon Bridge Festival.

The Haydon Bridge Football Club organisers must have been delighted that all their hard work was so well received by those who packed the marquee for the entertainment; or enjoyed the Summer sun on the wonderfully manicured green turf of Low Hall Park where friends old and new enjoyed the crack.

A brilliant afternoon and evening of music. Was there anyone who wasn't punching the air to the beat of Bob and Emma, The Promise, and a recently shorn Wilf and his Pikey Beatz, as they turned up the volume to bring a day to remember to a raucous finale?

I cannot do better than repeat Emma's on stage observation that brought the house (marquee) down: "Who needs Glastonbury?"

Thanks to everyone: the football club organisers, sponsors, bar staff, and the talented local musicians and singers who entertained: the Positive Vibes Choir, Jill Wilkinson, The Tyne Valley Big Band, The Street Martins - maybe our longest established local band, still going strong after more than twenty five years - The Promise and The Pikey Beatz. We are all looking forward to June 2016. More of the same please!

And, on a personal note, the day ended with a visit to the ever welcoming General at the erstwhile 'Three Tuns', where a strategy born of around sixty years practice - never to go home on the same night as I go out - was duly accomplished.



Tony Jenkins, Pauline Collis, David Kirsopp, Avril Kirsopp and Brian Alderson whose efforts helped make the 2015 Haydon Bridge Festival such a success

**See also pages 20/21**

## The Last Few Hours

Despatches recorded a quiet night,  
As dawn's grey fingers promised light.  
Little movement in the enemy trench,  
Just the ever present reeking stench,  
From putrid mud and bloody gore,  
Which found its way into every pore.

Morale was low in every sense,  
As moving like robots men checked their defence.  
Still alert for an incoming shell,  
Which could herald the start of a day from hell.  
Nevertheless a watch must be kept,  
So they took it in turns, while others slept.

Nothing stirred outside on the pockmarked ground,  
Where thousands were wounded or died without sound.  
No guns pounding shells to plough up the earth,  
Which season by season had witnessed the birth,  
Of fresh grass and flowers and ripe golden grain.  
Nurtured by sunshine and soft summer rain.

With faces grey and nerves stretched tight,  
Their bodies poised for fight or flight,  
They fought their own demons as best they could,  
While longing for sleep and nourishing food.  
Then the sound of action and a cry that was new,  
From an eagle eyed sentry had them all standing to.

With trembling fingers and lump in his throat,  
The sergeant accepted the runner's note.  
And searched for his orders, then read them again,  
While turning, still trembling, to share with his men,  
The order which stated the Germans seek peace.  
They've agreed to surrender, all firing to cease.

In weeks which would follow as word spread worldwide,  
They would dance in the streets and thank God they'd survived.  
But there in that trench, where a vigil they'd kept,  
Grown men sank to their knees in the mud  
And just wept.

*Anna Stewart 2015*

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## CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

### CLERGY MESSAGE FROM:

*Deacon Anne Taylor*

**Be still and know that I am God** (Psalm 46 :10)

For many people the summer holidays means a break in what they normally do. Whether that's going to work or taking the kids to school. For others especially those involved in farming it might mean a day off going to one of the shows held over the summer months. Taking a day off or a week or so can be very beneficial to our overall welfare, to rest, reflect and respond to what's going on in our lives. Yet some of us never stop or never get the opportunity to rest.

The Bible also suggests a time of rest, in the creation story **Genesis 2:2-3** says

*'By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.'*

For some people the day of rest would naturally be a Sunday a day to go to church, to thank God for all he had done, to reflect on all that was going on in their lives and go out refreshed and renewed on their Christian journey.

Jesus' followers also had a busy life

**Mark 5:30-31** also tells us there is the need to rest.

*'The apostles (Jesus' followers) gathered round Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then because so many people were coming and going they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'*

We all seem to have busy lives these days but it is important to our own welfare that we take a rest.

For the Christian it is also important to take time out every day

**'To be still and know that I am God.'**

That might be a quiet time in the morning or a time of reflection at night before going to sleep. Whenever that is, it is an important part of our Christian life to rest, reflect and respond to Gods calling on our lives.

Perhaps there is someone you could help this Summer to take some time off, to have a rest or a change so that they too can rest, reflect and carry on with their life. I hope you get the time this summer to rest, reflect and respond to all that's going on in your life.

Happy Holiday!

*Deacon Anne Taylor*

### 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

### **News from the Parish Church**

It has been a very busy month in the life of the Parish Church and Old Church in Haydon Bridge. We have welcomed children from Shaftoe School on three occasions – once at the Old Church and again at St Cuthbert's for educational visits, and then the whole school, parents, and friends for the Leavers' Service. We hosted the annual GITS 'Songs from Stage and Screen Night'. In the life of the Church he celebrated Baptisms at the Old Church and Confirmations led by Bishop Frank White (Assistant Bishop of Newcastle) where eleven people were confirmed.

All of these different events, visits, and services are part of our hope to make your Churches a more active part in village life. As part of this we will be beginning a series of conversations and consultations with the whole community about how we might continue to develop the life the Church Parish and the St Cuthbert's and the Old Church buildings. Please look out for opportunities to engage with these conversations, but if you would like to be more involved please contact me directly.

Also in the autumn we will be writing to all the homes in the Parish as part of our annual Gift Day. This will culminate over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September with a series of events: there will be a Autumn Coffee Morning on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Community Centre; an auction of Harvest produce at the General Havelock that evening from 8.30pm. On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm we will bring this all together as we give thanks to God for all the gifts he gives us to work with a Harvest Festival at the Old Church.

The Vicar – Benjamin Carter

*Picture collage: Centre: Bishop Frank and those confirmed on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Surrounding this (from the top left): Laura Gilhespy saying 'goodbye' at the Shaftoe Leavers' Service; The Shaftoe Singers at the GITS "Songs from Stage and Screen"; Shaftoe Children at St Cuthberts; and Old Church; refreshments in the Church Yard at the GITS evening; Children arriving down the Yew Tunnel at the Old Church.*

**METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES****August 2**

10am Morning Worship  
Marie Hutchinson  
6pm Communion Worship  
Rev. Jenny Wilkes

**August 9**

10am Morning Worship  
Mark Knowles  
*No Evening Service today*

**August 16**

10am Morning Worship  
Rev. Gilbert Hall  
6pm Evening Worship  
Rev. Jane Cook

**August 23**

10am Communion Worship  
Rev. Mary Elliot  
6pm Evening Service  
Bob McAlpin

**August 30**

10am Morning Worship  
Margaret Weatherson  
6pm *Joint Worship at  
LANGLEY CHURCH*  
Rev. Jenny Wilkes

**September 6**

10am Morning Worship  
Deacon Anne Taylor  
6pm **UNITED SERVICE  
AT TRINITY CHURCH**

**September 13**

10am Morning Worship  
Valerie Anthony  
6pm Evening Worship  
John Carrick

**September 20**

10am Morning Worship  
Ian Warburton  
6pm Communion Worship  
Rev. Jane Cook

**September 27**

10am Morning Worship  
Norman Fullard  
6pm Evening Service  
Rev. Carla Quenet

**ANGLICAN SERVICES****August 2**

9.30am **Henshaw**  
Parish Eucharist BCP  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist BCP

**August 9**

9.30am **Henshaw**  
Parish Eucharist  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist

**August 16**

9.30am **Beltingham**  
Parish Eucharist  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist

**August 23**

9.30 am **Beltingham**  
Parish Eucharist  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist

**August 30**

**10.00am Henshaw**  
JOINT EUCHARIST  
**Haydon Old Church**  
Evening Worship

**September 6**

9.30am **Henshaw**  
Parish Eucharist BCP  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist BCP

**September 13**

9.30am **Henshaw**  
Parish Eucharist  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist

**September 20**

9.30am **Beltingham**  
Parish Eucharist  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist

**September 27**

10.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
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HARVEST FESTIVAL

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The business is based on family values and helping each other out within the community. Quoting Stephen and Charlotte they said “ This business is about enjoying our work, making enough to pay our bills and put food on the table, anything else is a bonus.”

One customer Clive Graham of Garden Angels Garden Services who has already been using Hexham Machinery Centre since their very first day had this to say regarding the service he has received while at Hexham Machinery Centre, “ Rover 22, serviced at Hexham Machinery Centre for under £100...Bargin, well chuffed!!!”

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It's been a busy month for the Get It Together Society. On the 11<sup>th</sup> July we had a fantastic night in St Cuthbert's Church, starting out with Buck's Fizz on arrival, on a not so balmy summers evening.



The Shaftoe Singers and Elliott Wallis accompanied by June Welch on piano and Louise Ainsley accompanied by her husband David on guitar, then entertained us with a wonderful selection of songs from stage shows and film – everything from the Sound of Music to The Unauthorised Biography of Samantha Brown!



Just before the interval we had a surprise guest – our vicar Benjamin gave us a beautiful rendition of A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square accompanied by Elliott on piano.

Thank you to everyone who made this evening very special. Leading up to the Picnic in the Walled Garden on the 18<sup>th</sup> July we had everything crossed for good weather. Well it nearly worked – the sun showed its face but it was a bit breezy. We didn't let it stop us having a great afternoon though. Michael Freeman with his Junk Music and Doris with her parachute and dance workshops kept everyone entertained whilst tucking into cake and ice cream. Many thanks to everyone who came and to those who helped.

The next event will be a quiz at the General Havelock on the **18<sup>th</sup> August** starting at 8.15pm. Please come along to support us and raise some money for the New Year Fireworks. £1.50 per person which includes Jo and Gary's lovely sandwiches and chips.

On the **19<sup>th</sup> September** there'll be a 70's Disco in the Haydonian with live music from Bob and Emma [or is it Emma and Bob?] and disco music from Steven Todd. Dressing up in 70's gear is optional but there will be prizes for the best costume. Start practising those John Travolta moves.

As always, we would love to welcome more members and ideas to the Get It Together Society. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month in the Havelock at 8pm.



Pauline Wallis  
Get It Together Society  
Tel: 01434 684061

## JOBSON'S ANIMAL HEALTH 6 Church Street.

### Prevention Is Better Than Cure



Summer months can add intense irritation for your pets - and therefore you - from fleas and ticks that can multiply during warmer weather. Understanding what you're up against and applying preventive measures can reduce that stress.

Fleas can jump from one pet to another but are more likely to come from untreated animals which leave flea eggs behind wherever they go. 2-5 days later they will hatch into larvae. They will move away from light, under furniture, between floorboards and in carpets and rugs. In 7-14 days the larvae change into pupae in a protective cocoon. The pupae can stay in the environment for up to a year waiting for the stimuli to hatch. Once they sense the warmth, carbon dioxide and vibration of an animal such as your pet creates it then jumps onto them. So the adult fleas take a blood meal from the host and then start laying eggs again. Flea infestation can cause intense scratching, allergy dermatitis, anaemia and tapeworm. One female can lay hundreds of eggs in a matter of days so very quickly creating problems for your pet and home.

Ticks are bloodsucking parasites that can transmit diseases to both you and your pet, and they are becoming an increasing problem in the UK. 1 in 3 ticks have been found to carry an infectious disease that may effect dogs. One such disease is Lyme disease which can effect people too. Ticks are not only found in rural areas but in urban parks and gardens as they aren't fussy about their host. They cannot jump or fly but when ready for a meal will climb a nearby piece of vegetation and wait for a passing animal or human to catch their hooked front legs. The tick will not necessarily bite straight away but will often spend time finding a suitable site on the skin. Once they start to feed, its body will become filled with blood and will swell in size. If left undisturbed it will feed for around 5-7 days before letting go and dropping off. The longer they are left the higher risk of infection. There are four stages to the ticks life cycle: egg, larvae, nymph and adult. Larvae, nymph and adults all only feed once in each stage. The whole life cycle lasts around 2 years.

You should routinely treat your pet with spot-on style products to protect them. They are small pipettes that you snap the end off, part the hair between the shoulder blades until the skin is visible and slowly release the contents onto the skin without excessive wetting of the coat. There are different sizes of pipettes for different sizes of dog so you need to know the weight of your dog. There is only one size for cats. As well as periodically washing your pets bed covers, vacuum frequently in your home, especially carpets where your pet tends to lounge and around skirting boards. There are also household sprays to kill fleas in the home.

Vanessa

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## Haydon Bridge Festival 2015

First thing on the morning of the festival you may have heard a small cheer echo across the village. That was the organisers of the festival on checking the weather! All week we'd checked and slowly the forecast had turned from rain to cloudy and finally sunny! (although a tad windy). Given the weather recently we couldn't believe our luck!



The setup for the festival had started a week earlier with the erection of the marquee. During the week, the various components of the festival were delivered and the event started to take shape. No major dramas during the week, just a lot of hard work and great support from our fantastic volunteers.

When the day of the festival arrived there was definitely a feeling of optimism amongst the team. Although given the fact that the whole event had been planned, organised and managed by a team of 3 people in 3 months, there was always a concern that it had all been put together too quickly.

Had we missed something and would anyone turn up? As it turns out we needn't have worried!!

As the festival opened our first visitors started to arrive. By 3pm the Festival's first act took to the stage; the Positive Vibes Choir, their first appearance at a festival. The choir performed fantastically and had the audience inside and outside the marquee singing along.

Following the Choir, the Streetmartins performed some classic rock songs, as our audience started to build.

The Tyne Valley Big Band were next to perform and as usual they were excellent, there's nothing quite like the TVBB at a Festival in Haydon Bridge!!

By now the event was starting to resemble the old Haydon Bridge Beer Festival, good beers, great music and a fantastic atmosphere.

Our first act of the evening was Jill Wilkinson, following on from her victory at the Allendale Fair karaoke competition. Jill performed some classic songs and got people up on the dance floor.



After a short break, it was the turn of the Promise (aka Bob n Emma!), in their usual style they had the marquee bouncing.

Our final act of the night the Pikey Beatz then took to the stage and brought the festival to a close.

The entire event a resounding success!!

We made a point when setting up the festival that we wanted the festival to be about the village and with that in mind all of the acts that performed on the day were either from the village or had significant ties to the village. A number of the acts actually performed for free to help us get this festival up and running and to assist with raising money for the charities. Huge thanks to them for their generosity. A quick mention as well of our sound engineer Ali Reay, all of the

acts that performed will pay testament to the amazing job that Ali does and how easy he makes it for the bands to perform at their best!

We have to pay tribute to the amazing team of people who made the festival possible. Especially the Haydon Bridge Football Club who graciously loaned the Festival committee the money to setup the festival and donated so much of their time to setup the marquee and all of the facilities that were put in place. Additionally all the people on the night who worked behind the bar and on the front of house, selling tickets and tokens.

We also had amazing support from our local sponsors and Claire's Newsagents, the Railway, General Havelock and The Anchor Hotel for selling tickets for us.

There's no doubt this festival wouldn't have taken place without all of their efforts.



Last but not least we have to thank the amazing people of Haydon Bridge and the surrounding areas who came along and supported this event and created an amazing atmosphere. Thanks to you the festival has proved to be a success, taking everything in to account we've managed to raise around £3,200 for our good causes this year.

We've decided therefore to donate the profits from the festival as follows:

- £900 Haydon Bridge Football Club Defibrillator Fund
- £900 The Cure Parkinson's Trust
- £900 Stay Strong Stu Campaign
- £200 Haydon Bridge Get It Together Society
- £200 Haydon Bridge Christmas Lights Fund
- £100 The Haydon News

**Thanks once again to everyone who worked on the festival and who attended and made it the amazing day it was. The Haydon Bridge Festival will be back next year!!!**

# HAYDON BRIDGE FESTIVAL 2015



Thanks to Lorna Woodward for these photos.



Thanks to Deborah Brown for this photo of a little girl watching her Dad play.

## Jo's poem Festival

The football club hosted a festival & yes the sun it shone  
"Steve" from the Anchor cooked the food  
& yes its all gone.

The choir, Jill & all the bands, were really good "crack"  
You can bet your bottom dollar we'll be back.

Community events are all the fashion.  
This one definitely had all the passion.  
So if you didn't go, just so you know,  
You missed a real treat, hard to beat  
& not on ration.

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Haydon Bridge Nature Club

## Haydon Bridge Nature Club

Opening doors to the great outdoors –  
An introduction to the Sill

**Thursday 10 September 2015**

**Haydon Bridge Methodist Hall at 7.15pm**

Stuart Evans, project director for the Sill at North-umberland National Park Authority, will lead an engaging and informative talk about the Sill - North-umberland's planned national landscape discovery centre.

Hear how the Sill will become a new gateway to nature for people of all ages, 365 days a year. Find out more about the flagship centre, YHA youth hostel and wide ranging activity and educational programme. Discover how you can get involved in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help people learn about and explore the nation's finest landscapes.

For more information about the Sill, visit <http://www.thesill.org.uk/>

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

6th July 2015

In response to an entry in the Parish council notes in the July edition regarding the fun fair, I feel saddened and angry that there were a couple of untruths told in that entry so I think it's time someone spoke up and gave the Slater family a fair crack of the whip.

I live very close to the field in which the fair was located and was as surprised and as wary as everyone else to see them arrive out of the blue. However, suddenly realising who they were, and after having a word with Jimmy Slater the owner of the fair, he assured us that they had permission to use the field. The police had paid them a visit earlier that day and had asked to be shown relevant paperwork which apparently all was found to be satisfactory.

He told us that instead of rent, an agreed donation of a few hundred pounds was to be made to the Greenwich hospital, and that they'd had approval to remove the fence as long as it was reinstalled just as they found it on their departure, which it was. The owner of the sheep showed up as they were busy working on fixing it back into position on departure so I presume he supervised and approved the job they did. I'd just like to add that in my opinion the fence is probably more secure now than it was before.

The sheep were removed by their owner before the fair actually started and I'm not sure where the information of the escaping livestock has come from because at no time before they were removed did myself or any of the neighbours living right next to field see any sheep escape or roam free around the estate or surrounding area.

I'm bamboozled about "three days of hell" too, where the hell has that come from? There was no trouble whatsoever from anyone connected to the fair at any time; they were all polite and friendly. The music and rides ceased at 8.30 at night then there was no noise at all. I got up with my dogs to let them out in the early hours of the morning and in all honesty you could have heard a pin drop all the time they were there.

There wasn't a scrap of litter etc. when they left, in fact the only evidence of them being here was a patch of flat grass, and everything was left as it should be.

It wasn't only the youngsters who enjoyed their visit, we "middle aged" teenagers did too, in fact I think most of us older people enjoyed it more than the young 'uns', I certainly did. I even looked forward to a hot dog or two.

There was a recent article in the "Hexham Courant" stating that Langley Gardens residents were up in arms about the fairs arrival, NOT ALL OF US ! I know of only one resident who was against the fair being in the village and that must have been who the reporter interviewed. Well I would like to clarify that ONE person does NOT speak for Langley Gardens as a whole and it seems unfair to me that this person seems to be the only one doing any complaining yet we're all tarred with the same brush. We're not all killjoys and it's sad to think that someone begrudges the kids of the village a bit of fun. For goodness sake it was only for three days!

No one from the "Courant" came knocking to ask occupiers their views on the fun fair being here before the article was published as I'm sure there would have been more for than against. Personally I would like to see the Slaters make their visits to our village an annual event again; I know a huge amount of villagers are with me on this. It's been forty years since the hoppings last paid us a visit and I'm certain it'll give the kids something to look forward to each year, surely that can only be a good thing. Can't it?

It just seems a shame that a letter of complaint is being sent to the agents on the word of one, or at most a handful of selfish people who are hell bent on complaining for the sake of it.

*Fran Mead*

*44 Langley Gardens, Haydon Bridge. Hexham. NE47 6EF*



Speaking up for the nation's wild plants

### **Bee Scene! Popular family-friendly survey of wild flowers re-launches this summer holiday thanks to Nature's Path.**

Plantlife's hugely successful 'Bee Scene' survey has been rescued by family-owned cereal maker Nature's Path, after its original funding had ended. Over 30,000 children have already taken part in the wild flower survey since its launch in 2010. Now thousands more will have the opportunity to explore the nature on their doorstep and learn about the wild flowers growing there.

Families can discover whether their local area is good for bumblebees by looking for bee-friendly wild flowers such as fox-gloves, dandelions and clovers in their local green spaces. The results are then uploaded onto a virtual meadow map of the UK.

The survey raises awareness and understanding in children of the importance of biodiversity in their local area, starting them on a path to enjoying wild flowers and realising their importance as part of our natural heritage. It also helps them understand the importance of wild plants for our declining pollinators. 90% of teachers who did the survey reported that 'Bee scene' had given them new learning about the natural environment and helped pupils understand that different wild plants are important for bees.

Nature's Path has a strong commitment to sustainability and the natural environment and has stepped in to enable the Bee Scene initiative to reach many thousands more children and families this year after its National Lottery funding ended. A spokesperson comments "As an organic, family owned company, with a strong commitment to the natural environment we recognise the importance of educating children early about the importance of our wild flowers and the pollinators that rely on them. We are thrilled to be able to support Plantlife to continue this fantastic survey, so that many more children and families can take part and 'Bee Scene'.

'Bee Scene' is a simple and effective way to encourage children and their families into their local parks or countryside - to enjoy them together away from the television screen, computer games and other pressures of modern life. By using a simple flower key, they are able to count different flower shapes and colours and look out for bumblebees, so helping children understand how valuable their local green spaces are for wildlife.

Full details and bee scene resources are available online at [www.plantlife.org.uk/beescene](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/beescene)

#### **Notes:**

*Nature's Path is a family-owned company that has been making organic and gluten-free breakfast cereals for both adults and children for the last 30 years. Founded in 1985 in British Columbia, Canada, it remains proud of, and committed to, an organic and sustainable approach to business. The Bee Scene project was originally developed with Natural England, The John Muir Trust and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.*

### **Road verges are one of the most important, best loved and frequently viewed habitats in the country...**

#### **So why are they still being destroyed?**

A new Plantlife study shows that Britain's road verges are home to 703 species of wild plants, more than in any other part of our landscape, and 87 of them are either threatened with extinction or heading that way. In addition, 88% of these wild plants provide nectar and pollen for bees and other insects, making road verges essential refuges for insect life; bird's-foot trefoil alone is a food plant for 132 species of insect.

In addition, 21 of the 25 Nation's Favourite Wildflowers grow on road verges. From cowslips and bluebells in spring to swathes of cow parsley and ox-eye daisies in early summer, our verges are home to most of the 25 favourite wild flowers as voted for by the public.

And with 30 million drivers in the UK, they're the most frequently viewed habitat too, providing many people with their only regular daily contact with nature. But in much of Britain road verges are still being needlessly cut down in full flower threatening the wildflowers and the wildlife that depend on them. Many councils have already started cutting verges - much too early in the year for flowers to be able set seed, and greatly reducing one of the most important food banks for our ailing bees and other pollinators.

Dr. Trevor Dines, Plantlife's Botanical Specialist, explains, "Over 97% of meadows have been destroyed in England since the 1930s. In many areas, rural road verges are the last remaining stretches of natural habitat for our wildlife. Road safety is the absolute priority, but we know that verges can be managed better for wildlife whilst remaining safe for motorists. This means adopting some simple changes to management - like a delay in cutting to allow seed to be set - so that wildflowers can thrive".

Plantlife has produced new management guidelines and is urging the public to sign a petition asking local councils to adopt them. Some councils are leading the way. Trials in Dorset, for example, are investigating how to combat the over-vigorous growth of grass on fertile verges (which is both detrimental to wildflowers and obscures driver sight-lines), by stripping turf, using semi-parasitic yellow rattle to stunt grass growth and even grazing verges with sheep. Plantlife is helping to showcase the work of councils like Dorset to show others that it can be done. Our guidelines are being currently being applied to 11,700 km of verge covering 2,300 hectares of verges - that's equivalent to 2.5 times the area of remaining upland hay meadow in the UK - and with the public's support we can do even more.

Dr. Dines adds, "If we just give them a chance, wildflowers can return. Meadow crane's-bill was once widespread in meadows - hence its name - but is now more commonly found on road verges. It spreads readily when cutting is delayed and it's allowed to set seed. Maybe it's time to change its name to "verge crane's-bill".

For more information and for stunning images, please contact: Katie Cameron T 01722 342759 / M 07584 995929 / E [katie.cameron@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:katie.cameron@plantlife.org.uk)

Trevor Dines Plantlife Botanical Specialist T 01248 670691 / M 07789 685635 E [trevor.dines@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:trevor.dines@plantlife.org.uk)

**Notes**

*Plantlife is the organisation speaking up for the nation's wild plants. We work hard to protect wild plants on the ground and to build understanding of the vital role they play in everyone's lives. Plantlife carries out practical conservation work across the UK, manages nature reserves, influences policy and legislation, runs events and activities that connect people with their local wild plants and works with others to promote the conservation of wild plants for the benefit of all.*

Visit [www.plantlife.org.uk/roadvergecampaign](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/roadvergecampaign) to sign the petition.

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## TOUR OF BRITAIN

Haydon Bridge is rapidly becoming a major centre for cycling and is in for a real treat later on this year. After the huge and increasing success of the Haydon 100 it has been confirmed that the Tour of Britain, the U.K.'s most prestigious cycle race, will be passing through the village on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Northumberland County Council has secured two race stages that will either start or finish in the county. Stage 4 on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September will finish in Blyth after setting off from Edinburgh but the real interest for us is Stage 5. This day will see the cyclists leave Prudhoe in the morning and pass through Stocksfield and Riding Mill before going right through the centre of Hexham, where there will be an "intermediate sprint". The originally proposed route seemed to indicate that cyclists would leave Hexham to the north, probably through Oakwood but when the final route was confirmed this had changed. The cyclists, who will include some of the biggest names on the professional circuit, will now exit Hexham up the Allendale Road, fork right at Branch End and then turn sharp right at Langley Dam. They will then follow the extremely fast twisting road past Langley Castle down into Haydon Bridge. They will travel along Shaftoe Street and John Martin Street, turn left over the old A69 Bridge, turn right again onto Church Street and exit the village up North bank. They will continue north until they reach the Military Road and will then cycle West along the

Military Road into Cumbria, carrying on South towards Penrith before heading back East up the A686 to finish at Hart-side top. This will represent the longest single climb and highest finish of any stage in the history of the Tour of Britain. The only real surprise is that this route has never been used before.

The latter part of the day's racing will be shown live on ITV and highlights later in the evening will include segments from the whole day's racing. It is quite likely that the village will be showcased on television. As one of the most accessible locations along the route it is expected that this will bring many visitors to the village either just for the day or to make a longer trip of it with all the associated benefits that these visitors will bring.

There will undoubtedly be some disruption on the day. There will be a total road closure affecting the road from the junction at Esp Hill down past the First School, Shaftoe Street, John Martin Street, the new bridge, Church Street and North Bank. Residents will be unable to park their cars on those roads during that day and it is likely that the road closures will last from approximately 10.30 a.m. till sometime after the race has passed through, which is likely to be around 12 noon. The scheduling is designed to ensure that the cyclists do not arrive in Haydon Bridge as the level crossing gates go down! Those residents that are affected will be contacted by the race organisers and given further details of timings etc. and it is hoped that alternative parking

### A few words from our man in the Languedoc

It's here! Summer, that is. We've had a cracking June, so different from last year when cool and damp weather persisted into July. Not a bit of it this time round. At the moment we are enjoying a spell where the temperatures for the next week are likely to stay in the mid-thirties. Already Madame Sieur d'Arques, who spent much of her childhood in the Far-East and who refuses to dip so much as a toe in the pool unless the water reaches 27 degrees, has been swimming daily!

Shortly after we came to live here we were befriended by an elderly Frenchman in the nearby village. He was a countryman (*un paysan*) to his roots, wise in nature's lore. He it was who confided to us - after swearing us to secrecy! - where to find the finest "*cepes*", in which season and in which weather conditions. "Guy the Hunter", as we affectionately called him, was the kindest of men. Following a successful day's "*chasse*" it was not unusual for us to find that he had left a hunk of wild boar meat in a plastic bag hanging from our doorknob. Superb when cooked as a "*civet de sanglier*".

It was Guy who told us that the "*vignerons*" are a superstitious lot. Just as in the UK we "cast not a clout 'til May is out" so the growers here in the Languedoc refuse to believe their precious vines are safe from inclement weather until three saints days in mid-May ("*les Saints de Glace*", the so-called "ice saints") have come and gone. At that time the tender buds on the vines are at their most vulnerable from hail and thunderstorms. Thereafter summer is allowed to begin!

Summertime throughout France is marked by an abun-

usage, a letter "s" has been dropped. Thus, in old French, the word fête would have been written "feste", itself derived from the Latin "festa". It's not too difficult, then, to see how our English word equivalent "feast" has come into being. Growing up as a young lad on the outskirts of Leeds I can remember being taken by my parents to Staningley Feast, Bramley Feast and Pudsey Feast. Formerly villages, these neighbourhoods all used to celebrate their identity annually. I hope these feasts still take place with the local exuberance I recall from my childhood.

In France, the fête phenomenon encompasses everything from the one on a national level, "*Le Quatorze Juillet*", the country's official day of celebration, down to the smallest village. Every hamlet will find a day on which to make whoopee. Even in tiny places the day might well kick off with a "*boules*" competition, "*doublettes*" or "*triplettes*", and a Mass after which the Council will organise a mid-day "*apéritif*" for everyone in the "*Salle des Fêtes*", as the village hall is called. An open air meal will follow, eaten at long tables under the shady trees, diners coping effortlessly with five or six courses washed down by local wines. To make things easier for the organisers, we are all required to bring our own "*couverts*" (cutlery, plates and glasses) so no washing up is called for. A simple enough idea but very effective. Then comes the entertainment, usually of a musical nature, when accordionists are much in demand and the old songs are sung with gusto. When the men cannot or will not get to their feet the ladies dance with each other, the generations mixing freely as the afternoon turns into evening. A short pause for the oldies to wend their way home then rock bands and discos take over to entertain the youngsters into the wee small hours.

may be available although this is not certain as yet. The restriction will be enforced – the pre-race convoy that passes through a couple of hours before the cyclists will include a tow-truck and any vehicles in the “red” area will simply be removed.

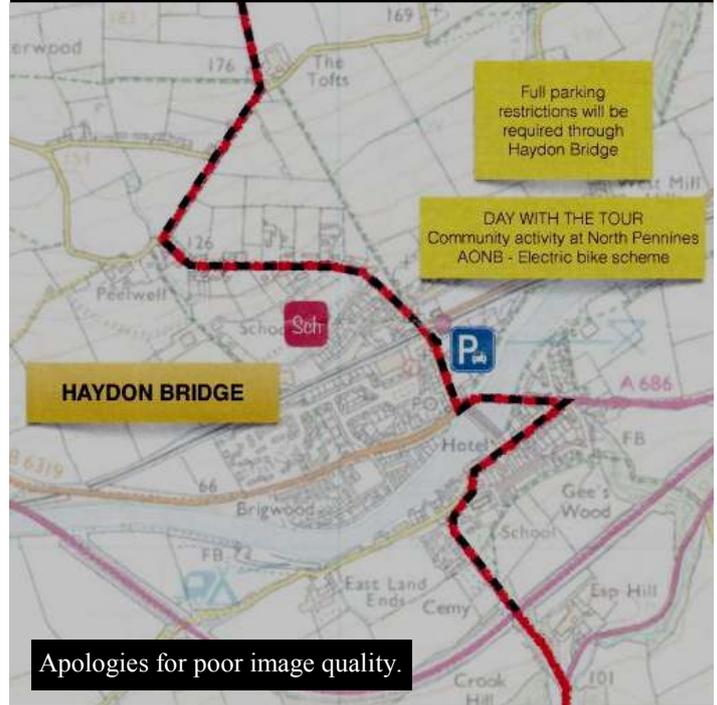
One advantage of the road closures is that local cyclists will have the opportunity to ride on the closed roads from Haydon Bridge and along the Military Road.

This is a great honour for the village and a real opportunity for anybody remotely interested in cycling to get a really close view of some of these super-humanly fit athletes in action. There will be numerous vantage points from which to watch the action as they pass by. To get an idea of just how fast these riders can actually travel, the bends between Langley and Esp Hill will offer an exhilarating spectacle but it will all be over in seconds. For a longer viewing experience with a more strung out peloton, the climb up North Bank will be one of the best places and this will host a “King of the Mountains” summit. We also have an almost unique opportunity to see the race pass through the village and then head off the short journey to the other side of Alston to watch the riders tackle the climb up the other side.

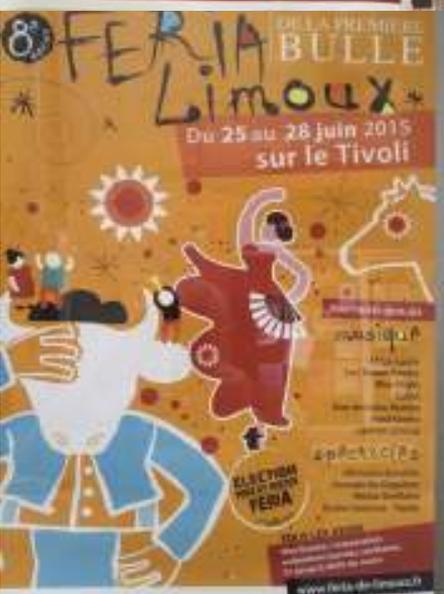
I would urge everyone to get out and cheer the riders through the village.

*Simon Walker*

**NOTE THE ROUTE!**  
**CARS PARKED ANYWHERE ON**  
**THE ROUTE WILL BE**  
**TOWED AWAY!**



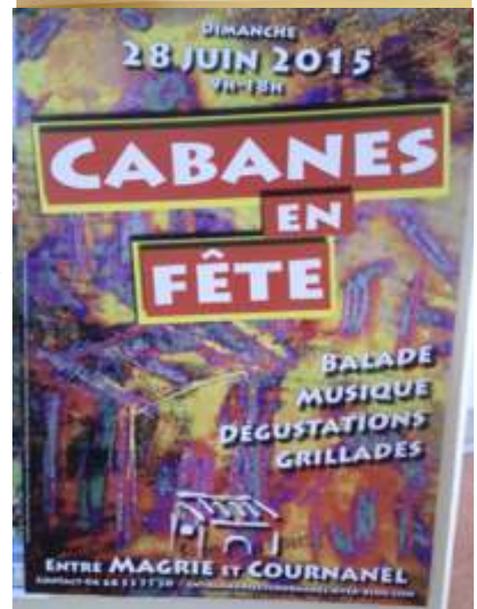
One of my favourite dates in the calendar is the 21st of June, midsummer’s day. The French, and some other European nations, have decreed this to be “*La Fête Nationale de Musique*”. It is an initiative which has grown in popularity in recent years. Free concerts featuring “*artistes*” representing all aspects of the musical spectrum, from symphony orchestras to rappers, take place indoors and out all over the country. Unsurprisingly these events reveal new talent and serve to highlight why music plays such an important rôle in the lives of so many people.



By the time you read this, schools will have broken up. Traditionally this happens quite early in our rural communities so that the children can help their parents bring in the different crops at harvest time. So no homework for you this time - the summer holidays are upon us after all! Talking of holidays, Madame and I are going to take a break. If you’re happy to have me, I’d like to write for you again in a couple of months. Enjoy the summer!

June 2015

*Laurent Sieur d’Arques*



# 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

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 5yrs-12yrs

TAG/CONTACT RUGBY

MEET AT HAYDON BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
ON SUNDAYS 10.30am- 12.00noon

Contact Dave on 07810 336 537

or [dave.thornhill@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dave.thornhill@tiscali.co.uk) or the website  
[www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtynedalejuniors](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtynedalejuniors).

ALL WELCOME.

## HAYDON BRIDGE DANCE CLUB

### SEQUENCE DANCING

EVERY MONDAY

7.30 to 10.00pm

Haydon Bridge

Community Centre



Only £1.50 inc. tea & biscuits

DANCING IS FOR FUN

Ask for details at:

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Call **Leanne** at:

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82, Front St. Prudhoe.

NE42 5PU

Or

0167082234 (Bedlington)

## 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](mailto:Admin@GP-A84045.NHS.UK)

Website [www.haydonbridgesurgery.co.uk](http://www.haydonbridgesurgery.co.uk)

## HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**a great venue for:**

**Club activities**

**Meetings**

**Celebrations**

**Parties**

**Concerts**

**Plays**

To make a booking contact Valerie on  
**01434 684705**

## Police Surgery at the Methodist Church

Every five weeks our local police hold a 'surgery' in the Methodist Church during Meeting Place

(as advertised elsewhere in the Haydon News).

*They are available to answer anyone's questions/queries from 10-11 am.*

The next slot is Thursday 27th August.

## SHAFTOE SINGERS

(used to be The Shaftoe Chorale)

**7.30pm Friday evenings**

- term times only

Very wide ranging repertoire.

All voices welcome — experienced or not.

**Methodist Church Hall**

## HEAR TO HELP

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

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

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 12 noon – 1.00 pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 12 noon – 1.00 pm

All sessions at the Haydon Bridge Health Centre.

## HAYDON BRIDGE LOCAL ARTISTS' GROUP

## HAYDON ART CLUB

Open to all, first session free. Meets fortnightly at HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
July and August anyone wishing to attend Wednesday night meetings should PHONE ANNE on 07908487589

(meetings will only take place when sufficient numbers will attend)

## 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  
**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP  
ANNUAL OPEN MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER  
6.30 PM  
LANGLEY VILLAGE HALL**

All the GPs will be in attendance. It will give patients a chance to chat to the GPs in an informal setting about anything to do with the practice. This will also be an opportunity for providing feedback on the service provided since the merger and to find out about the Patient Participation Group.

All patients are welcome.

## FRUIT & VEG SHOW

August 29th 2015  
at The General Havelock, Haydon Bridge

All entries by 12. Judging at 1pm  
Categories in next issue -- Preserves /cakes /veg/ etc.

**"Kevin Roberts" singing from 9pm**

All produce auctioned at 10pm  
Proceeds to charity.

Put this date in your diary all you great British bakers

## CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

Programme of Charity Fund-Raising Quizzes at the  
General Havelock, Haydon Bridge.

All Quizzes start at 8.15 pm £1.50 per person  
Refreshments, 'Beer Question' and Raffle

-----Summer Break-----  
*Assuming we get a summer*

Sept. 22nd Macmillan Cancer Support

**\*\*Queenie Quiz\*\***

Oct. 20th RNLI

**Quizmaster**

**John Harrison (johnandaveril@aol.com)**

## THE MEETING PLACE

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
Come and Bring your friends for  
Tea, Coffee and Biscuits

**Tuesdays & Thursdays  
10am – 12 noon**

**A Warm welcome to All**

## Haydon Bridge Nature Club Winter Programme 2015 / 16

Meetings held at the Methodist Hall,  
Haydon Bridge at 7.15pm. Talks are open to all.  
Members FOC Non-members £4  
(includes scrummy refreshments!)

Membership is £20 per year,  
which includes a Summer walks  
programme - a bargain so come and join us!



**For details contact Robert Ford on 01434 684486**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sept 10th  | THE SILL<br>Stuart Evans—Project Director        |
| Sept 24th  | RED SQUIRRELS<br>Katy Cook                       |
| Oct 8th    | WORK OF THE<br>WOODLAND TRUST<br>Mr. & Mrs. Dodd |
| Oct 22nd   | BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION<br>Jonathan Wallace       |
| Nov 5th    | NORTHUMBRIAN ROCK ART<br>Sara Rushton            |
| Nov 19th   | HEDGEHOGS PROTECTION<br>SOCIETY<br>John Parker   |
| Dec 3rd    | FLOWERS OF THE DESERT<br>Pat & Alan Porrett      |
| Dec 17th   | NORTHUMBERLAND<br>NATIONAL PARK<br>Mr. Forster   |
| Jan 7th    | GREAT CRESTED NEWTS<br>Lizzie Ross               |
| Jan 21st   | LOCAL HISTORY<br>& ARCHITECTURE<br>John Grundy   |
| Feb 4th    | AGM (Members only)<br>WIND<br>John Harrison      |
| Feb 18th   | BRYOPHYTES<br>John O'Reilly                      |
| March 3rd  | WONDERS OF BIRD<br>MIGRATION<br>Graham Bell      |
| March 17th | WALLINGTON WALLED<br>GARDEN<br>John Ellis        |

# THE HAYDONIAN CRUCIVERBALIST

August 2015

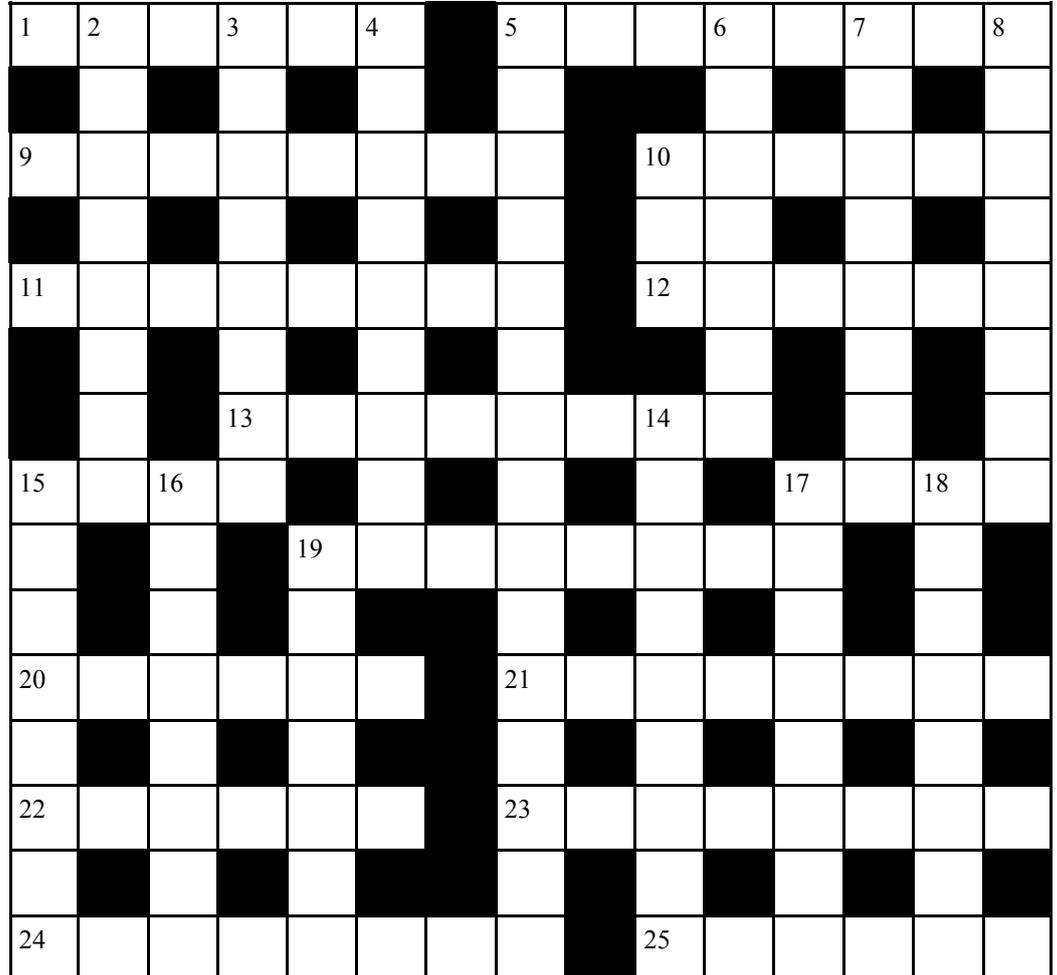
£10 PRIZE EVERY MONTH!

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

**ACROSS**

1. Adventuring sailor, one of seven deadlies, not good (6)
5. Small coal seam, for instance, from identical guy chasing saint (8)
9. Dismantles wicket to pay the bill? (6,2)
10. Came after in golden suede shoes (6)
11. One night flier with disturbance up at site of much death (8)
12. Prayer alternative one child makes (6)
13. Proceeded from source when journalist straddled tailless sea-mammal (8)
15. See one fruit, hear two (4)
17. Horse-shaped Scottish sprite that is away leaving wrack (4)
19. Odd eaters, American, are able to find old Italian (8)
20. Hesitation after money-drawer works the land (6)
21. Girl about to help state capital (8)
22. Having an indefinite number in debt (6)
23. Couple head revised side to get them listed (8)
24. A summary of sailor's pamphlet (8)
25. Grist 'e milled around fierce beasts (6)



**DOWN**

2. Insert tube modified tune a bit (8)
3. Met Rebus about worthless dud (3,5)
4. Discord when Sid backs his lad over worker (9)
5. The excellent Peter Scott, for instance, may not be of this world (15)
6. Took no heed of pressman following headless Italian gentleman (7)
7. Grisly sound of growth (8)
8. Old part of Yorkshire rising as horsemen approach (6,2)
14. Dropping old flame right in band of union (9)
15. In ship, let Horatio find more than needed (8)
16. Shellfish a graduate lends to audience (8)
17. Naked, gin turns to breadmaking (8)
18. Send Lear out to locate monarch painter? (8)
19. Henry's lady of Aquitaine (7)

**Please drop answers off at Claire's (or post them to the editor).**

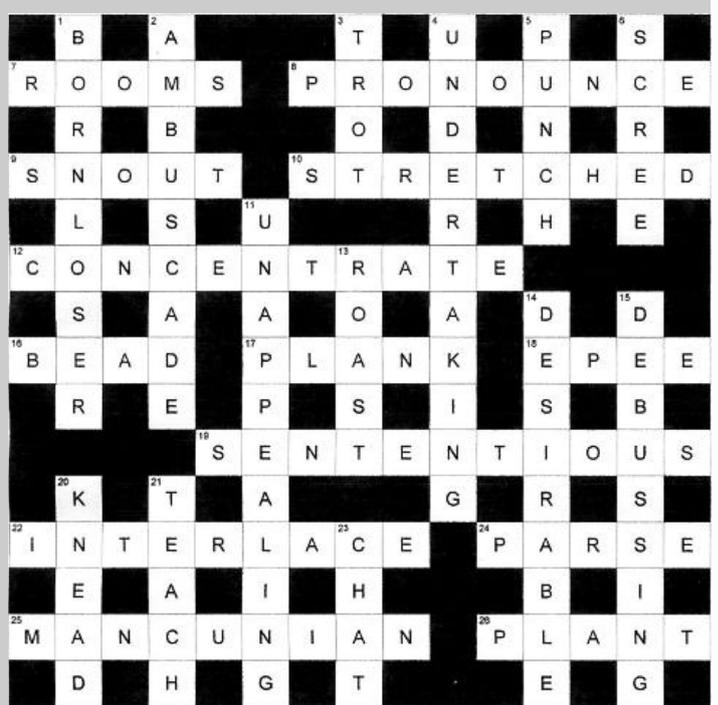
**JULY'S WINNER**

**Barbara Lee**

**NUMBER OF ENTRIES**

**4**

**JULY'S ANSWERS**



**Brendan Healy**  
Reviews the Reviewers

If you are going on holiday nowadays, you feel that it is a 'must' to read all the reviews on the 'puter in case you make a dreadful mistake. So you set off reading every single review of every single place you're thinking of going. The hotel, the restaurants, the beach, the nightlife, the average rainfall, the odds of being bitten by a raccoon with gingivitis. Of course, by the time you've done all this research, you have used up your annual holidays and you're back at work. It is one of the prices we pay for being able to shop from home. In the olden days you would head down to the travel agent and book you and your lass to go to Spain, (because the lads said they'd been there and it was brilliant) or France, (we're not going there, don't like them). Life was simple then, there wasn't the choice of exotic locations like Belgium. In my mind, the problem with reviews is simple. They don't work unless you know who's written them.

"Brilliant holiday, couldn't want for more, really close to the nightlife, great food." Billy and Sam Stewart.

"Awful holiday, didn't get a wink of sleep because of the noise. Breakfast was huge but inedible." George & Jo W.

Same place, same hotel, but if they'd known that Billy and Sam were 18 year old twin boys on a stag weekend from Sunderland perhaps George and Joanna, the retired librarians from Whitley Bay, might not have booked. Even when a restaurant has overwhelmingly good reviews you still can't be sure because Mr Right-Know-it-all Anorak has had to put his two penneth in. "Firstly, I think you will find that it was calamari and not deep fried onion rings that you found 'mega'. I pride myself on my palate and have, in fact, eaten at marvellous restaurants all over Europe, therefore, I can not bring myself to agree with your analysis that this particular eatery was 'minted'."

Everything is ultimately in the eye, ear or the taste buds of the beholder so even if reviewers had to give information about themselves it still wouldn't help.

Once upon a time you would meet people on holiday and that's where you would get your local info, especially if they were regulars or had been there for a while. You would then decide if you would trust their recommendations. Simple. (Grump warning! Simple not simples. People who speak like meerkats drive me nuts.)

The same problem applies when you are shopping from home on the computer. You want a pair of trainers. You like black, you've always worn Nikes and you always buy size 10, but by the time you've finished reading all the different reviews you buy a pair of red size 11 Pumas which don't fit and you don't like them. Then you really wish you hadn't burnt the packaging with the returns label on it and your son is thoroughly unimpressed with his Christmas present.

Solution. Go to the shops.

It may look like I'm advocating a return to the good old days when you never locked your front door (but, then again, who would want to steal a mangle) and everyone

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Haydon Bridge

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**YOUR  
ADVERT  
COULD  
GO  
HERE!**

had TB but I'm not.

I'm just saying that technology doesn't make everything better. I think it's an incredible world when we can pick up a tiny machine and, via the internet, find the answer to everything - providing we ask the right questions. It's a record player, a TV, a games console, a map, a sat nav, a phone, a photo album, a camera, an atlas, a notebook and listen here kids, it can be a book, in fact it can store both the books you own. I love reading and there isn't a better device than a back lit phone or tablet holding my whole library which will download the latest best seller cheaper and in seconds. Then you can change the size of the font. No need for a bed side light and no specs to leave a morning imprint on your face.

Fantastic!

## ALL THINGS BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL

But enough about me.

Since acquiring our allotment here in Haydon Bridge we've become quite the little Tom and Barbara from the Good Life. All we need now is a pig. If any farmers out there are offering, then a cute miniature Gloucester Old Spot will do nicely. And perhaps some Rhode Island Reds. There - that's breakfast sorted. If I could only tell the difference between a mushroom and a poisonous toadstool I'd have the full English.

Although my aspirations do rather lean instead towards those of Margot and Jerry. Really I much prefer a hamper from Fortnum & Masons to a bunch of gnarled tomatoes and perversely shaped cucumbers - which would never get past those bureaucrats in Brussels.

That said, the amount we've spent producing the pesky things we may as well have gone to Fortnum's; roughly £5 per individual vine-grown 'Pomodore' by my reckoning. You see Hubby has to have all the right equipment otherwise he loses interest. Add to this the cost of organic compost, designer weed killer, Starbucks Latte (me) Hunter Wellies (him) and you can begin to understand where all the money goes.

But I shouldn't grumble. Back in my mother's native Germany things are very different. Owning an allotment there is not to be undertaken lightly. Ho ho, Gott Im Himmel, no indeed!

First off they're called a 'Klein Garten'. Not to be confused with Kindergarten although both can inflict the same damage on your wallet. For those of you not immersed in the sub culture of the teutonic language like wot I am, Klein Garten literally translates into 'Small Garden'.

And, being German, ownership of said Klein Garten naturally comes with a book of regulations which is far from small.

Next, you are expected to pay handsomely for the privilege of obtaining an allotment - aside from the eye wateringly amount of annual rent.

Allotment Law decrees that you pay for whatever your predecessor leaves behind. Be it a shed, a shovel, a gooseberry bush or a decrepit lawnmower - bought when Schiller was still in short lederhosen. Crikey, try saying that after a few Jägermeister! Mind you, few things in Germany are allowed to become decrepit so the mower may be old but it will no doubt be in pristine and robust condition.

Thus an allotment could set you back anything between 2000 - 5000 euros. The sums climbing higher and faster than your Wisteria Floribunda. This before you've even picked up a garden rake.

And talking of rakes, for most Germans the allotment is less about growing potatoes and more about being couch potatoes. You are for instance entitled to build a semi-permanent structure of your choosing (regulations permitting natürlich). This can be anything from a humble hut to a little holiday home complete with kitchenette, shower room, TV lounge and BBQ area. You may also have a lawn with swings or sandpit (or both) for your children to play with. Oh and you must include a produce-growing plot of circa 100 sq metres. This is an allotment after all, not Butlins.

Back to those rules!

For some people (Germans and my Hubby included) the lengthy strict regulations are wholly welcomed and greatly appreciated. For others (the rest of the world) they represent a sinister Orwellian portent of things to come:

I kid you not when I say that in the German Klein Garten kingdom, Man With An Über Precise Ruler actually exists - and in fact deeply enjoys his job of measuring your fence/grass/tool shed/missus to make sure all meet the correct and statutory height. Or else.

The penalty for not conforming? We will never know. Because Germans DO conform and besides "Ve Vill be ze ones asking ze Questions!"

Other enforceable Klein Garten rules include:

1. Putting your family name on the perimeter fence. Pity then the 45 year-old tiler from Bavaria who's called Herr Ottovordemgentschenfelde. Honest guv - he

really does exist. If he ever fancies taking on an allotment he's gonna need a much bigger gate with that surname.

2. Keeping the site clinically neat and tidy.

3. No noise after 10pm.

4. Any rubbish to be removed within 24 hours.

5. All tomatoes grown an exact shade of crimson red - as decreed by the official November 1993 EU Colour Chart subsection (b) 1167.

I made this last one up but you get my point.

And so dear reader if you have an allotment here in Haydon Bridge - as do we - then I have only one thing to say:

May the (garden) forks be with you!

Sorry Mr Lucas.

Frau Marita Berndt



### **It's Summer's, the time's right for spotting in the street!**

Or in the garden, by the river or out in the fields.

In our March edition the Nature Club challenged you to find out how many of the birds from our 50-year old list could still be spotted within a 5 mile radius of the village, and perhaps add some new varieties to the list. Many thanks to all those who returned their "Spring" forms, so far 16 varieties have not yet been seen but a further 24 have been identified by spotters and added to the original list.

Full survey results are available from the Bridge. Newly noted are Blackcock, Bramlin, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Collared Dove, Common Gull, Cormorant, Cuckoo, Feral Pigeon, Fieldfare, Grey Lag Goose, Great Black Backed Gull, Heron, Hooded Crow, Kingfisher, Moor Hen, Nuthatch, Peregrine Falcon, Red Kite, Red legged Partridge, Red Poll, Redwing, Siskin and White fronted Goose. Yet to be seen are Common Tern, Corn Bunting, Corncrake, Garden Warbler, Golden Plover, Grasshopper Warbler, March Tit, Merlin, Quail, Reed Bunting, Ringed Plover, Sedge Warbler, Short eared Owl, Shoveller Duck, Whinchat and Wood Warbler.

The first sighting of Swallows was recorded as 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Now is the time for you to return your completed "Summer" form to the Bridge and pick up a blank one to record Autumn visitors. Take it with you next time you go for a walk or look outside and tick off each variety you spot. Add any new ones in the blank spaces.

Stuck for things to do in the hols? At the Bridge you can pick up free colourful illustrated checklists for children to use. Come and see the books and information cards we have to help the whole family identify our feathered friends. The RSPB website has loads of activities for kids and an interactive bird identifier too. It's free, out in the open air and great for all ages.

Each season the Nature Club will suggest which varieties will most likely be seen in different locations. Many birds live here all year long, others are visitors. In the garden there are likely to be House Sparrows and Swifts. By the river you might be able to spot a Warbler or Ducks.

*Continued on page 31 - opposite*

# Ochiltree

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/safeandsecure24.co.uk>

Twitter [@safe\\_secure24](https://twitter.com/safe_secure24)

Meanwhile up on the fells Partridge and Quail should be about, and Coots may be seen on the ponds.

Not sure where to walk and watch? The Bridge has free Family Quiz trail leaflets to guide you round the village, as well as free maps for the John Martin Heritage trail. 50p will get you a guide to other local walks and we have reference books that cover walking in the whole of Northumberland.

Haydon Bridge Nature Club

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