

# The Haydon News



**December 2015**

These pictures were created by the  
children attending Messy Church



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## **NEXT DEADLINE: 22nd January 2016.**

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Anonymous letters/articles will NOT be published.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



The spell checker in my PC nearly lost the will to live when it saw the contribution from Peter Arnold of the Northumbrian Language Society - see page 28. It is an absolute delight to have such a contribution and I urge others with an interest in or skills with local dialect to join in with their own articles.

Rumours about the closure of the Haydon Bridge Fire Station have been heard for years but this time it looks as though it is going to happen. So far, I have not met anyone who thinks it is a good idea. Everybody write to the NCC, Guy Opperman and anyone else they can think of with influence! Fires, floods, accidents - especially on farms or in the forests, rescues - firemen contribute in so many ways. Minutes matter in emergency situations and, in good weather, with a clear road, victims will now have to wait perhaps an additional quarter hour. In bad weather or through heavy traffic...

Interestingly, news about our fire station broke at the same time as news that average UK response time has just reached its highest level for 20 years. There is 'no doubt' that lives have been lost according to the secretary of the FBU.

Did you notice that the government has subsidized Kazakhstan to the tune of £3billion, part of which is going toward a new steel plant? But they cannot find a farthing for the steel industry in the north east.

The Haydon News has local competition. 'Read Me Haltwhistle' has just appeared and costs £2.50. I'd be willing to bet that there are fewer Editorial cock-ups in it!

You're right! After Christmas **IT** does look big - in anything. It's time to get **IT** into gear and do some musical exercise. Take a look at page 24 and Carole Price's invitation to sessions in The Community Centre. All ages, all abilities, all genders and any clothing (mankinis and lycra optional) that you feel comfortable in - give it a go!

I am hoping to have a Swedish contribution for The HN soon and, perhaps, a piece introducing Tai Chi. Historical re-enactment has been hinted at too. There is a great deal happening in the community - let's hear about it.

Supporting local business is a large part of the point of this publication and I'd encourage all readers to make an effort to check through the adverts and make use of what is on offer. Taking my own advice, I took four chain saw chains to Hexham Machinery Centre the other day for sharpening and now experience a degree of fear when approaching the chains - they bite! The sharpest they've ever been! Watch this space for a one legged editor...

A very warm appreciation is due to Mrs. Marion Craig for her excellent trumpet performance at the 2015 Remembrance Service at our War Memorial. Every bit the equal of a professional military player - authoritative and stirring. It's heart warming that so many people attended too.

**THE EDITOR & COMMITTEE OF THE  
HAYDON NEWS WISH OUR READERS  
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AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

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# PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

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A meeting of The Haydon Parish Council was held on 26th November at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

### Public Participation

Concern was expressed about the mooted closure of the Fire Station. It was felt that it's role had been misrepresented and that people at large may not be fully informed about the topic. A public meeting in Haydon Bridge was suggested before the West Region meeting occurs on 13th January. The closure is going to consultation until 11th February and the PC has objected already. The issue has been raised at the NCC West Area Committee and it is reported that support from other parish councils is apparent. Everyone is exhorted to write to all the influential people they can think of. A petition is underway too.

The siting of the proposed south side Ratcliffe Road bus shelter is proving awkward because of the land ownership, the uses to which such a shelter might be put and the proximity of house windows. Further assessment of the proposed site is advocated.

### Apologies

Received.

### Declarations of interest

Sought.

### Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed.

### NCC

Regarding the proposed parking restrictions in Shaftoe Street: NCC has produced a letter to residents to be circulated soon. Some administrative muddle apparent as officer responsible has left and the relevant file cannot be found. Double yellow lines ie. no parking at any time, in front of the railings at the bridge end and extending a little further east would appear to be the best compromise to bring relief from the traffic chaos apparent in the early evenings when the village suppers are cooked.

The drain outside the health centre has not been dug out effectively, contrary to earlier hopes. More intensive drains maintenance seems to be required.

The public toilets cause Cllr Sharp some concern but there is little more he can do. The disabled toilet will remain open. The clerk will send a letter to clarify the present situation.

Some road signs have been cleaned but the trees by the library have not yet been pruned/pollarded.

### Highways

The Old Bridge bin has been replaced but that outside the Social Club remains to be sorted out. Cllr. Sharp will chase this.

The Chairman recommended the establishment of a sub-committee to resolve the bus shelter dilemma.

An objection to the siting of a pedestrian crossing on Shaftoe Street has been received. Additional complications with parking are foreseen. The council are unwilling to fund a lollipop lady.

### Lighting

Nil.

### Planning

1 Alexandra Tce. and The Old Repeater station - no objections to either.

### Accounts

Agreed.

### Correspondence

A headstone has toppled in the cemetery and needs re-erecting.

### Parish Projects

No news from DT and The Bridge

Patient participation group - held over until Vera Fletcher present.

### Public toilets

Three options: Currently the toilets are closed for winter. Paying NCC £2,000 annually would ensure their remaining opened and maintained. NCC could give the PC £2,000 to run the toilets but this would probably result in a net loss to the PC.

The PC voted to pay NCC to get them open as soon as possible.

The pre-purchasing of cemetery plots was again discussed but it remains the view of the PC that this remains an insurmountably problematic idea.

Spa well: Debris has been cleared from the higher drain but the lower one needs attention. A set of steps has been washed down the river bank and the footpath remains in an unsatisfactory state. Cllr Charlton will be organising a meeting to discuss action.

### AOB

Queen's birthday preparations: Ideas for this event are sought.

Chippings around the base of the church flag pole are in hand.

Stones in the river - it was felt that undercutting of the banks was becoming hazardous. It was noted that Corbridge is trying to remove its island. The Environment Agency's views will be canvassed again.

Activity at Stublick mine has attracted attention but what this portends is unclear. There have been no mentions of planning to the PC.

Next Meeting: 17th December 2016, Community Centre.



# PUBLIC MEETING

## ABOUT OUR FIRE STATION

### TUESDAY 5TH OF JANUARY 2016

### AT 7.30PM

## IN THE BIG HALL AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

# EVERYONE PLEASE ATTEND.

#### The Bridge and Visitor Information Point Children's Corner

Another view of busy children at the Bridge. This is the Hallowe'en crafts event, showing some of the group making Hallowe'en cat lanterns. Following these came Hallowe'en "mummy" decorations and to round it all off: witches' fingers to eat and witches' brew to drink!

At the moment, in the Children's Corner, the tree branch covered in bird photographs linked to the Bird Survey, has become an autumn bough while the back wall is a display of well known scenes and landmarks from different countries to identify. We hope some of the children from Shaftoe Primary will enjoy working them out.

#### Local History Reference Library

This section of the Bridge is well-used by visitors to the area and by those researching their family history. We have a great new acquisition: a book by Pam and Ken Linge, which they have very generously donated to the Bridge. Pam and Ken were instrumental in the wonderful display in the Methodist chapel last year to commemorate the 1914-1918 war. Ken also gave us an in-depth talk about the war as it unfolded in France, pertaining especially to those from Haydon Bridge who died. Both Ken and Pam are well known for their meticulous research of those who died in the Great War from Haydon Bridge. We are very grateful to them.



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## MAJOR GENERAL PETER BRADLEY

**As I pen my Notes at the end of the year in which we have commemorated seventy years since the end of the war in Europe, I am pleased to be able record the achievements of a former Haydon Bridge resident, and Haydon News editor, Major General Peter Bradley. Witness this correspondence received from Alastair Grant Mackenzie.**

<p>Dennis,</p> <p>Good day from the other side of the water. We have just had a holiday in the Borders and had a nice day out in Haydon Bridge with lunch at the Railway Bar. I was house corporal for Peter Bradley and his wife Peggy 1967/68/69 and later visited them in Haydon Bridge. I visited them again in 2009 on the south coast, where they were close to their family but, according to Peter, "sadly, far from our beloved north country". Peter died in 2010 aged ninety five years and I flew from Norway for his funeral. Peter was the most fantastic person that I have ever known, I'm sure he is remembered at Haydon Bridge.</p> <p>Alastair Grant Mackenzie.</p>	<p>Norway.</p>
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**Major General Peter Edward Moore Bradley CB, CBE, DSO** lived for many years at 'Hill House' before he and his wife Margaret ('Peggy') sold the property to Mr and Mrs Milford. Young officers gazetted to the Royal Corps of Signals, are unlikely to have winning the DSO or commanding an infantry brigade high on their professional priorities. Peter Bradley achieved both in a career spanning almost five decades.

Only ten Royal Signals officers received the DSO during the Second World War. Bradley won his as Commander Royal Signals of 6th Airborne Division at the crossing of the Rhine in March 1945. Before then he had served a courageous and successful apprenticeship with the same division during the German offensive in the Ardennes three months earlier.

Peter Bradley was educated at Marlborough and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from where he was commissioned in 1934. He served with the 1st Division Signals Regiment in Palestine 1936-38, during the second Arab revolt in the British mandated territory, and also managed to squeeze in a couple of years on the North West Frontier of India with the Peshawar District Signals before leaving for Persia and Iraq with the 8th Indian Division in April 1941.

The collapse of the pro-Axis Rashid Ali regime in Iraq eventually released the division for more active service in the Italian campaign. Bradley left Italy and the 8th Indian Division in early 1944 to return to England to join the 59th Divisional Signals Regiment for the Normandy invasion. He left France to take over command of the 6th Airborne Division Signals in September, just in time to return with them to help counter the Ardennes offensive.

Even Montgomery conceded that the last German offensive in the west achieved complete tactical surprise when it opened with a huge artillery barrage on December 16th 1944. Hitler's aim was to strike the allied armies such a stunning blow that they would be unable to carry their advance any further during that winter and he could

switch his fast-dwindling resources to the east in a final effort to hold the Russians on the line of the Oder. It was a desperate throw, which failed with the collapse of both fronts.

The 6th Airborne Division was brought over from England to Belgium at almost no notice and ordered to join 30 Corps in attacking the southern flank of the German salient around Bure, only sixty miles southeast of Brussels. The roads in the area were in a vile condition, having been churned up by armour and then swamped by rain, and much of Bradley's divisional signals equipment was fogbound in England awaiting airlift. Knowledge of the enemy's whereabouts was hazy and sparse, making travel behind the quickly changing front exceptionally dangerous. Determined to establish communications with the six brigades under the division's command, Bradley drove relentlessly, crossing and recrossing the divisional sector, going for several days and nights without sleep and at great personal risk, until he had achieved that objective. Improvisation was essential at every point, as the bulk of his signals equipment was still waiting in England when he got back there to prepare for the parachute assault beyond the Rhine.

The airborne assault of the Rhine crossing was conducted by the 6th British and 17th United States Airborne Divisions flown in from England and France respectively. The combined force took 3,500 German prisoners on the first day and captured all objectives, but many enemy pockets remained around the bridges over the Ijssel and beyond. Bradley again showed courage and leadership, travelling widely to ensure every signal detachment was functioning to capacity and urging the operators to even greater efforts. His communications withstood the test of battle. The citation for his DSO concluded: 'His gallantry and initiative have been outstanding. He has inspired his men to great efforts.'

Staff College and a variety of General Staff and other posts followed after the war, including that of Royal Signals representative at Sandhurst, Colonel General Staff at Headquarters 1st (British) Corps in the Army of the Rhine, and with Military Standing Group in Washington. He was promoted brigadier in 1961 and seconded to the Singapore Government as commander Singapore Military Forces. When the island state joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963, he took over command of the 4th Federal Infantry Brigade of the Malaysian Army, comprising units from Singapore. President Sukarno of Indonesia's 'confrontation' with the federation, over its inclusion of the former British states of Sarawak and North Borneo, began soon afterwards. While military action was initially confined to the Borneo border areas, a campaign of terrorist bomb explosions in Singapore kept the British and Malaysian forces on their toes. Bradley was appointed CBE in recognition of his service in the Far East, in 1964. He went on to Ottawa as military adviser to the British High Commissioner but was recalled after only nine months to become Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) and professional head of his corps in the Ministry of Defence. He was appointed CB in 1968 and

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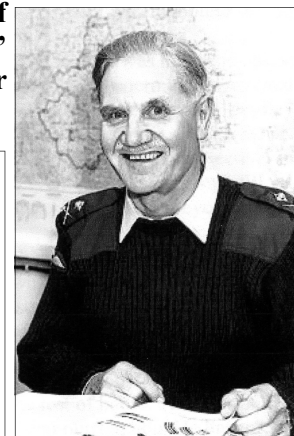
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subsequently he served as Chief of Staff to the NATO C-in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe in Oslo.

Bradley retired from active duty in 1970 but was Master of Signals and President of the Royal Signals Institution 1970 to 1982. He was Colonel Gurkha Signals, 1967-74. His outgoing personality was ideally suited to these representative appointments, which brought him in touch with all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals and with the technical and welfare institutions with which the Corps maintains close contact.

**Major Peter Bradley lived in Haydon Bridge after leaving the service and from 1975 to 1982 he was the secretary of the Vindolanda Trust. Peter played a significant role in the launch of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge' in 1979, and was the first editor of The Haydon News.**



**Major-General Peter Edward Moore Bradley, CB, CBE, DSO.**

Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) 1965-67.

Master of Signals 1970-82.

Born on December 12th, 1914.

Died, June 2nd 2010.

Aged 95 years.

**THE HOME FRONT : 1939 - 1945**  
 My earlier notes of the Second World War 'Home Front' in Haydon Parish were published in the July to November issues of The Haydon News.

**1940: A Farming Link:** Two respected farming families of the parish were united on Wednesday, June 5th 1940, through the marriage of Mary Cartmell of East Elrington and Robert Ridley of Elfoot.

**Cold Comfort:** In June 1940, Haydon Parish Council petitioned Northumberland Education Committee to provide air raid shelters at Shaftoe Trust School. The headmaster, Mr R. Walker, pointed out that there were 150 children under nine years old and 70 under six years. He said that the only form of protection available at the school was the boiler house which would hold 40 - 50 children and, in the event of an air raid during school hours, the children would have to be taken the one quarter of a mile to Geeswood for protection. Mr Walker said that if the raid was on a cold, wet winter's day when they went to Geeswood, the children would be at risk as much from pneumonia as from air raids.

**Certified:** Edward Kirsopp, the Chief Air Raid Warden at Haydon Bridge, reported to the Parish Council that the Auxiliary Fire Service in the village was the first to receive its certification in dealing with incendiary and high explosive bombs. He also reported that three stirrup pumps had been provided for Haydon Bridge Wardens.

**Salvage collection** of scrap iron for the war effort was being undertaken in the parish by Haydon Bridge Scouts in June 1940; under the direction of Mr Robert (Bob)

Continued on page 8



Campbell. Householders were requested to 'fire' their tin items before putting them out for collection. The Scouts were also collecting paper and Mr J. Drydon, clerk to the Parish Council, accepted the position of salvage warden.

**Alex Rodger:** At an evening service held in the Elmfield Church on Sunday, June 9th 1940, a beautiful pulpit Bible was dedicated by the Rev. B.P. Evans to commemorate the life and service of the late Alex Rodger. Alex had worked unceasingly for the Church and was secretary and Sunday School Superintendent.

**Well Alight:** On Monday, June 17th 1940, the Haydon Bridge Auxiliary Fire Service under the command of Mr E. Kirsopp, had their first experience of fire fighting, when more than an acre of brushwood surrounding a saw mill north of New Alston took fire. The flames were leaping to a height of thirty feet or more and a detachment of soldiers also helped in bringing the fire under control. After two hours, the combined AFS and detachment of soldiers had extinguished the fire.

#### W.S. Walton:

**One of Haydon Parish's best known businessmen died, aged seventy eight years, on Thursday, July 4th 1940 at his home at 'The Dene'.**

*(See column on the right)*



**More Rationing:** Margarine and cooking fat rationed to 6 ounces of margarine (or butter) and 2 ounces of cooking fat per person each week, from July 22nd 1940.

**A Sad Case of Drowning:** On Monday afternoon, July 22nd 1940, eight year old Madeline Patricia Jones and another young girl took Madeline's step brother, William Clive Otto of 13 Church Street, out in his push chair. The children went down to the riverside at Limestone where, while the older girls were picking wild flowers, two year old William undid his straps, got out of the push chair and went into the water. The girls ran through the fields for help and met with a general labourer, Peter McGarvey, who was walking from Haltwhistle. McGarvey waded into the river where he reached William's body but was unable to save his life. Regulars to Limestone will know that a deep hole in the river bed there, where the smooth rocks slope dangerously down into the water, should be treated with caution.

At William's inquest, Dr. Richard Bell stated that "death was due to asphyxia due to immersion in water" and the verdict was accidental death. The River Tyne at Haydon Bridge had claimed another life.

**Limestone has for ever been a pleasant place for a young Haydonian to while away a sunny afternoon swimming in the turbulent waters of the Tyne; or a romantic evening enjoying the pleasures of the opposite sex, perhaps. But, beware! Danger lurks beneath the surface and the hidden depths can so easily catch a boy or girl unawares!!**

I will return to the 1939 - 1945 'Home Front' in February 2016.

#### W.S. WALTON

William Samuel Walton's early education was at Shaftoe Trust School, before moving to a private school in Edinburgh. He returned to live at 'The Dene' and was one of the best known businessmen in our parish during his lifetime. He was a life director of Langley Barony Fireclay Works, chairman of the Haydon Bridge Gas Company and a director of the Whitechapel Colliery and the Lanchester based, Iveson Coal Company.

A councillor for over thirty five years, prior to his death W.S. Walton had been the oldest surviving member of the Parish Council that had been established in 1895, and of which he had been vice chairman. He was a governor of Shaftoe Trust and chairman of the South Tyne Angling Association, from which he had received a testimonial recording sixty years of service in 1929.

A local historian, Mr Walton contributed articles on the history of Haydon Bridge for two Hexham Courant anniversaries; to commemorate the sixtieth (1924) and seventieth (1934) years of publication.

W.S. Walton died at 'The Dene' on Thursday, July 4th 1940 aged 78 years and was buried in St Cuthbert's Churchyard extension above Alexandra Terrace.



**The headstone of William Samuel Walton died 1940, his wife Elizabeth and eldest daughter Jenny (left) and**

**that of his mother Jane (right) which also commemorates William Samuel's father William Walton, a Haydon Bridge postmaster for 37 years.**

#### WILLIAM WALTON

William Samuel Walton was the son of William Walton who was postmaster at Haydon Bridge and Greenhead for thirty seven years, before the villages were linked in 1838 by the Newcastle Carlisle Railway, and when the Royal Mail was carried to Alston by stage coach. William (Snr) also established an ironmongery and saddlery business on 'Bridge Loaning', a village street that was to become 'Walton Place' and, eventually, today's 'Church Street'.

The father of William (Snr) - Wm. Samuel's grandfather - one, Samuel Walton, farmed at East Land Ends and was a contemporary of our famous artist and engraver John Martin. The Walton family donated a fascinating oil painting of the artist's birthplace and John Shaftoe's Grammar School to the Laing Art Gallery; a painting they believed to have been the work of the young Martin. The painting was hung in the first major exhibition of John Martin's work, in 1951, as part of an event at the Laing commemorating the Festival of Britain.

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## **HAYDON BRIDGE PLAYGROUP**

**From 2 years**

**Playgroup runs on Monday and Friday mornings**

**from 9.15 to 11.15 (term time only)**

**at Haydon Bridge Fire Station**

The sessions give children a chance to learn through play and to experience lots of different activities.

Playgroup is lead by a fully qualified Playgroup

Leader & assistant(s). **Cost per session is £6.00**

*HB Playgroup is a member of Pre-School Learning Alliance.*

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

**I continue my reports of activity on 'The Home Front', in Haydon Parish, during the Great War, 1914 -1918 Previous accounts, from the day war broke out on August 4th 1914, are written in my Notes in The Haydon News' July 2014 to November 2015.**

**Telegrams from the Front:** The emotional highs and lows, experienced by those at home awaiting news of their loved ones, are unimaginable. The information received by Mr and Mrs Phillipson of Haydon Fell, in respect of their twenty four year old son L/Corporal Ainsley Morris Phillipson, is particular harrowing.

- A telegram dated **April 5th 1918** and received by his parents on April 7th, dictated by Ainsley, said he had been dangerously wounded but expected to be in Blighty soon, as he was making excellent progress and there was no cause for worry.

- Ainsley's parents received a second telegram, dated **April 6th 1918**, from his Commanding Officer: 'I regret to say that the condition of your son is not so good today, gangrene has set in the wound. He has been operated on and I trust the danger has been averted. Possibly you will be coming across to see him (in France).'

- And a further telegram dated **April 7th 1918**: 'Corporal Phillipson passed away on Sunday morning. There is for your memory that he gave his young life in a glorious cause ... such an exceptionally nice and appreciative young lad he had intended to write to you with his left hand in a day or two but God's will has been otherwise.

Ainsley had lived all his twenty four years at New Alston and Haydon Fell and was voted 'Best Boy' at Shaftoe Trust School by his fellow pupils. After leaving school he served his apprenticeship as a painter with Mr Cooper in Haydon Bridge.

**Last Will and Testament:** The will of Harold Linton Heslop who served his country and died of heart failure in October 1917, created much interest in the parish when it was read at Haydon Bridge in May 1918.

Captain Heslop left an estate of £3,439-5s-11d to his widow, Isabella Sinclair Heslop of Selwood House.

**Robert George Irwin:** One of eleven children of John and Margaret Irwin, John was killed on the front line on June 30th 1918. Born in Cumberland, John worked at Haydon Bridge Whinstone Quarry.

**MM:** On June 15th 1918, a Military Medal was presented to Sapper J.W. Ridley by Brigadier General C.L. Bates in Haydon Bridge Town Hall, for a 'conspicuous act of bravery at the Front'.

A listening post of four men had failed to return to their trench, having lost their way. The men were in a shell hole in No Man's Land, about ten yards from the German trenches and covered by enemy snipers. It was deemed impossible to do anything for the men as it looked like certain death for anyone attempting a rescue. Ridley, however, crept within speaking distance of the men and told them he was going to fire at the snipers and one man was to make a rush to where he was sheltered each time he fired. In this way he got three of the men safely back; the fourth man, unfortunately, was shot.

**'Home Front' 1914-1918 continued from page 9**

A new **Station Master** was appointed for Haydon Bridge in June 1918. The retiring F.G. Wood being replaced by Mr Milner of Norham, Berwick.

**William James Morrison**, a former Head of Shaftoe Trust Boys' School, from 1896 to 1910, and a resident in School House, Shaftoe Terrace, died on July 19th 1918 aged 60 years.

Chairman of the Parish Council until 1917, he was well known for his views on temperance and was leader of the 'Shaftoe Band of Hope'.



**Haydon Hunt:** The First World war did not stop the sport altogether and the Haydon country was hunted all through the war years, although, with a much reduced pack. C.T. Maling and A.M. Allgood were joint Masters and the pack was kennelled at Mr Maling's Chesterwood Grange home - where they remained until 1936.

In August 1918, the future of the Haydon, as a 'Farmers' Hunt' was discussed in committee. Mr Maling agreed to continue as Master with the help of a Deputy Master, and James Dodd was appointed to the post. Arthur Spraggon of Willimoteswick was appointed chairman and Forster Armstrong of Beacon Grange, treasurer.

**I will return to the 1914 - 1918 'Home Front' in Haydon Parish, in the February 2016 issue of The Haydon News.**

**W.M.H.**

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**"THANK YOU"**

As 2015 comes to a close, I'd like to thank those who have provided sources of reference for my **Historical Notes in The Haydon News** this year.

Especially Hexham Library, the Hexham Courant, Northumberland County Record Office, Newcastle City Library and the various city archives - to name but a few.

And, of course, to all those individuals who have shared their research and memories with me.

**Thank you all and  
Best Wishes for Christmas and 2016  
to the readers of The Haydon News and to  
those volunteers who deliver a copy to  
your doors.**

**Dennis.**

PLEASE SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR  
AND INFORMATION ABOUT:

**THE HISTORY OF LANGLEY BARONY**  
*WRITTEN IN 7 PARTS*

**Written by L.C. Coombes and Dennis Telford**

This beautifully presented publication is of great interest to all with a love of local history and would make a very welcome Christmas gift.

**MICHAEL HAGGIE**

**ARCHITECT**

9 Alexandra Terrace, Haydon Bridge.  
01434 688100

[michael.haggie@virgin.net](mailto:michael.haggie@virgin.net)

*Michael Haggie BA(Arch), Dip Arch. RIBA*



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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**



### **HEARTS & STARS**

We'll be at the Christmas Tree lighting up ceremony on  
December 6<sup>th</sup> 4pm with wooden tree decorations in the  
shape of hearts and stars. You can buy one for £1, write a  
dedication to a loved one, write a Christmas wish or mes-  
sage and then hang it on one of the trees by the monu-  
ment on Church St. You can take it home for your own  
tree if you prefer. We've sold lots already and they'll look  
very festive on the trees. All proceeds go towards future  
trees and fireworks events in the village.

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS**

The New Years Eve fireworks display is almost here –  
let's hope it's as good as last year; maybe a bit warmer  
and a bit less windy would be great. The best viewing  
point will be on the new bridge and from the Anchor so  
gather there from 11.30pm.

Please remember that the old bridge will be closed to pe-  
destrians from 3pm to allow the fireworks company to set  
up. Disruption will be minimal, and it's only a couple of  
minutes extra walk. The new bridge [A686] will be  
closed to traffic from 11.30pm-12.30am, so as not to  
cause any danger to spectators. It's unlikely that there'll  
be much traffic at that time – I think there was 1 car last  
year - but alternative routes are available and there'll be  
marshalls to advise on this. We'd be very grateful to any-  
one who can spare some time to marshall; the more peo-  
ple we have the less time each person needs to spend do-  
ing it.

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

After the fireworks, all our lovely local hostelrys will be  
open to carry on celebrating with your friends and  
neighbours, so spread the New Year cheer and give all of  
them your custom.

### **ART COMPETITION**

There's an Art Competition again for children aged up to  
11 and the winner will have the opportunity to press the  
button that starts the fireworks display! [There will be  
other prizes]. Just create an A4 picture with the theme  
'Fireworks on the Bridge' and take your artwork to the  
library or to Shaftoe Trust Primary School **before mid-  
day on Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Make sure your name,  
age and address /phone number is on the back. We had  
entries last year with no details so we had no idea who'd  
created them L

### **AGM**

Our AGM is at 8.30pm on Monday December 7th, in the  
Havelock. All welcome.

### **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who has supported, donated and  
volunteered throughout the year to ensure that Haydon  
Bridge has the best Christmas and New Year celebrations  
around. It certainly is a village with a big and generous  
heart.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Get  
It Together Society.**

*Pauline Wallis  
Get It Together Society*

## CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

### CLERGY MESSAGE FROM:

Deacon Anne Taylor



Longing for light, we walk in darkness'

The first line of an advent hymn by Bernadette Farrell. As the clocks go back and the darkness of the winter months become a reality we search for a way through the dark winter months. One is very much more conscious of the importance of light in the winter months. The light of a candle, the light of a warm fire, the lights on a Christmas tree. People are drawn to the light searching for a way forward for warmth and comfort and for hope in the darkness.

The fact that we have Christmas in the middle of the winter months is a great source of delight, people looking forward to Christmas are drawn to the lights and festivities.

And there in the centre of it all is the Christ child,

### Jesus, the Light of the world.

Jesus offers us a way forward in the darkness, offering us a light to guide us and the warmth and love of God.

And yet the brightest and best light of all is often missed. We may choose the light that will go out, the one that will last only for a short while instead of choosing the light that will last forever and will continually guide us on our journey through the dark times and into the light.

We don't need to remain in the darkness

- look for Jesus, the Light of the World.

May the light of the Christ Child be with you and yours this Christmas.

*Deacon Anne Taylor*

## **A CHRISTMAS PUPPET SHOW**

at

### **Haydon Bridge Methodist Church**

Sunday 6th December

2.30pm

N.B. Before lighting of Christmas trees.

### **Christmas songs with a difference!**

Refreshments to follow the show.

## **FREE ENTRY**

### ADVANCE NOTICE

## **STREET NATIVITY**

12th December 11.00 am onwards

IN COMMUNITY CENTRE

(During St. Cuthberts Coffee Morning)

Incl Activities for children

Followed by processing to Monument  
for Carols and Prayers

## CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES 2015

### **STREET NATIVITY**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 11.00 am (during Coffee am)  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Followed by processing to the Monument for a short time  
of Carols/Prayers

### **CAROL SINGING AROUND THE PUBS**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 8-9 pm (meet Methodist Ch.)

### **VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 6pm St. Cuthbert's Church

### **CRIB SERVICES**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm St. John's Catholic Church  
6pm Henshaw

**(Proceeds from all the above services to be sent to  
West End of Newcastle Refugee Centre)**

### **EXTRA SERVICES**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30 pm St. John's Carols  
11.30 am St. Cuthberts Midnight Mass

### **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES**

St. John's Church	9.30 am	Nativity of the Lord
Beltingham	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
Methodist Church	10.00 am	Christmas Day (Family Service)
St. Cuthberts Church	11.00 am	Parish Eucharist

A Big Thank You to all those who donated so generously  
to the collection at the Remembrance Sunday Service at  
St Cuthbert's which raised £302.82 for the Royal British  
Legion.

The Village total was £1453.34

## **THE MEETING PLACE**

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
Come and Bring your friends for  
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**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
10am – 12 noon

**A Warm welcome to All**

## **Messy Church**

9th December 3.30 to 5.45 pm

13th January 3.30 to 5.45 pm

at the Methodist Church, Haydon Bridge

Henshaw Messy Church Christmas Party

Sunday 13th December 3pm

Bardon Mill Hall

January 30th Henshaw Messy Church  
10.30am

*All children welcome under 8's to be  
accompanied by an adult*

### ANGLICAN SERVICES

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

#### December 6

Beltingham 9.30 Parish Eucharist BCP  
Haydon Bridge 11.00 Parish Eucharist BSP

#### December 13

Henshaw 9.30 Parish Eucharist  
Haydon Bridge 11.00 Parish Eucharist

#### December 20

Henshaw 9.30 Parish Eucharist  
Haydon Bridge 11.00 Parish Eucharist  
Henshaw 3.30 Carol Service  
Haydon Bridge 6.00 Village Christmas Service

#### December 27

Haydon Bridge 10.00 Joint Eucharist  
Beltingham 3.30 Carols and Reading

#### January 3

Henshaw 9.30 Parish Eucharist BCP  
Haydon Bridge 11.00 Parish Eucharist B  
Haydon Old Church Evensong and Carols  
Village Service

#### January 10

Beltingham 9.30 Parish Eucharist  
Haydon Bridge 11.00 Parish Eucharist

#### January 17

Beltingham 9.30 Parish Eucharist  
Haydon Bridge 11.00 Parish Eucharist

#### January 24

Henshaw 9.30 Parish Eucharist  
Haydon Bridge 11.00 Parish Eucharist

#### January 31

#### Candlemas Sunday

Haydon Bridge 10.00 Joint Eucharist  
Haydon Old Church 3.00 Evening Worship

### ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

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

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am

Mass each Sunday at 11.00am at Haltwhistle

Mass on weekdays (except Mondays) at 10.00am either  
St John's or Haltwhistle.

### METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

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

#### December 6

10.00 Morning Service  
Ruth Johnson  
2.30 Advent Puppet Sh  
Led by the local Bell Family  
6pm Cafe Style Worship  
Deacon Anne Taylor

#### December 13

10.00 Morning Worship  
Incl. Toy Coll. For S.Army  
Envoy Eunice Blakey  
6.00 Communion Worship  
Rev. David Good

#### December 20

10.00 Morning Worship  
Anne Worthy  
6.00 *United Village*  
*Carol Service at St. Cuthberts*

#### December 27

10.00 Morning Worship  
Bob McAlpin  
No 6pm Service

#### January 3

10.00 Morning Worship  
Roger Bland  
3.00 *United Carols*  
*At Haydon Old Church*

#### January 10

10.00 Covenant Service  
Rev. T. Buglass  
6.00 Evening Worship  
Rev. J. Pryde

#### January 17

10.00 Morning Worship  
Roger Anthony  
6.00 Communion Worship  
Rev. D. Goodall

#### January 24th

10.00 Morning Worship  
Ian Warburton  
6.00 Evening Worship  
Kevin Williams

#### January 31st

10.00 Local Arrangements  
6.00 Evening Worship  
Supt. T. Quenet



Haydon Bridge Remembers 2015



## 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 fourth casualty, in 1918, was **Walter Charlton**

### (54) Walter Charlton



Photograph courtesy of Haydon Bridge Community Centre

Walter served as Private, 235351, 5th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, He died on 26th August 1918, aged 21.

Born in Haydon Bridge, he was one of eleven children of George and Mary Charlton.

Walter was employed as a miner at Settlingstones Mines and he enlisted at Hexham. Formerly he had served as Private 204688, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Walter is buried in grave IV.E.20 in H.A.C. Cemetery.



As well as having his name on the War Memorial, Walter is also commemorated on the War Memorial and Lychgate in Newbrough, the Reredos in St. Cuthbert's and the Shaftoe Trust School Memorial.

Walter's older brother, **Lance Sergeant Norman Charlton**, 1/4th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, died on 15th September 1916, aged 23. His story appeared earlier as number 15 in this series (HN April 2012).

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

## South Tynedale Railway - The Transformation

In Spring 2014 the STRPS was successful in gaining the largest ever grant in the Society's history.

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant was based on several facets of capital delivery, but also on bringing in a professional team to ensure the viability of the business. To deliver a physical transformation on such a large scale is not a small project anyway, but the business was in critical condition and the HLF were certainly not prepared to give a grant without being confident that it could be viable. Recruitment for the team began in late spring 2014.

By 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 when I became the Society's first ever General Manager, part of the new team had already left and this gave me the opportunity to reshape the details of the grant so that a better team structure could be achieved. The HLF accepted my application and the team now includes a railway operations manager, a full time engineer, a marketing and events manager, a finance and admin officer and part time and apprentice roles.

I also removed existing department structures and rebuilt them, appointing quality volunteers to department head roles within such areas as education, engineering, operations, H&S and volunteer recruitment. This new blended team approach ensures that the volunteers have a voice while we focus on delivering a safe and successful business. We would also love to have more new volunteers.

Business is now buoyant and the capital works exciting. Next season we will unveil a new Discovery Centre which covers the history of the line, the original mining of the area, the flora and fauna and the history of the Society itself.

The current loco shed is being developed into (double clad with Solar PV) engineering workshops with accessible viewing gallery so that the work on our loco's can be seen by visitors. This is where we are beginning to deliver our heritage engineering apprentice training which supports their external training.

We are building a new café. The old café was transformed in 2014 to a profitable and inviting business area with a 5 star hygiene rating. The new café will deliver even more for our visitors as they want to spend longer on site.

The 'shed roof' (a beautiful double canopy covering the existing platform 1 and the new, to be laid, platform 2) will be fitted - with Solar PV panels. This is the first environmental improvements, echoed in the design of the other buildings.

Our battery electric fleet (currently being engineered to fit our narrow gauge tracks) will be charged using this power source. Our brand new toilet block will also benefit from the electricity generated.

The track bed preparation is under way to extend the line just over another mile to Slaggyford where we expect to install other visitor interest items into the sympathetically restored and extended station building. Management of the trains there will be via a replica signal box and reclaimed level crossing. The balance is to deliver these works while retaining/enhancing the charm of this beautiful railway.

There are other parts of the project which makes this an exciting and challenging time for the team, but it is also business as usual as we plan for our traditionally themed Santa's this year which are an old favourite with visitors. I hope we see you there.

*Heather Palmer*

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**Festive treats for all your pets**

**Warm hats, gloves and socks**

**Dog coats (fluorescent, warm or shower proof)**

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**Seasons greetings from all at Jobson's.**

**6 Church Street, Haydon Bridge**

**01434 684248**



## **Tracy Pringle**

*Reiki, Chakra Dance  
Guided relaxation 1:1 sessions  
Angel & Fairy Card Readings*

My book link: Letters from the heart <http://littlefil.es/62RV>

People buying my book and deciding to try another of my services can bring the book to their appointment, as proof of purchase, and I will sign it and give them a 25 % off their session.

My contact number, with answer machine, is 01434 230164

The chakra dancing is ready to start now from the week of January 4th, a 7 week course is £52.50. Book in advance as it is very popular! We have already had a couple of taster sessions. This can also be booked as a 1-1 or as a group one-off workshop. People can ring me for details

I have a hall already for a class at:

**Stonehaugh Tuesday 6.30 - 8**

**Riding Mill Thursday 7.00- 8.30**

**Allendale Wednesday 6.30 - 8**

**Hexham Friday 5.30 -7**

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## Haydon Bridge United AFC November 2015

<http://www.haydonbridgeunited.co.uk>  
<https://www.facebook.com/haydonbridgeunited>

### Club News/Events

#### Floods

Rising river levels always causes some concern for the football club and the latest events were no exception. The flood water flowed freely across our pitches, penetrated the astro turf pitch, the pavilion and the various other buildings at Low Hall Park. Thankfully our main flood defences held and the damage has been limited. Thanks to all of our helpers with the clean up!!

#### New defibrillator installed at Low Hall Park



Following the cardiac arrest suffered by Adam Stephen at Low Hall Park last year, the club made buying a defibrillator a priority. Funds donated by the successful Haydon Bridge Festival were used to purchase the defibrillator which was installed recently. Members of the football club have received training in the operation of the device and training sessions have also taken place at the Bridge Library for members of the public.

Avril Kirsopp (Treasurer) commented "Hopefully we'll never have to use the defibrillator, but after what happened last winter, we though buying one was definitely the right thing to do".

New defib with committee members and players



#### Season 2015/16

This season Haydon Bridge Utd have U8's, U10's, U12's, U13's and U14's at junior level and the Anchor and Veterans teams at senior level. Each team have their designated training session under the floodlights on the Astro Turf area. The Under 8's training sessions, held on Monday nights between 6-7pm is open to all youngsters aged 6 - 8 years old. All are welcome - only pay £1/session.

As with all clubs affiliated to the Football Association all of Haydon Bridge United's coaches and assistants comply with Child Protection and Safeguarding. Each junior team has at least 1 FA level 1 coaching qualified coach. We are an FA approved Charter Standard club, which is reviewed by the FA annually.

#### Teams Update

The Under 8's and Under 10's are currently playing friendly matches across the area, all of the children are enjoying the experience of playing and goals are being scored a plenty. Unfortunately due to the non-competitive rules of the Football Association we are not able to publish results and league tables are not kept for these age groups.

The Under 12's are currently 8<sup>th</sup> in the Pin Point Recruitment League 5, recent performances have resulted in a home win over North Shields and a defeat away to Walker Central.

The Under 13's are currently 5<sup>th</sup> in the Pin Point Recruitment League 4, recent performances have resulted in a home cup win over Corbridge United and an away defeat in the league to Montagu.

The Under 14's are currently 6<sup>th</sup> in the Pin Point Recruitment League 3, recent performances have resulted in an away defeat at Berwick Rangers and a away defeat to Tynemouth in the cup.

The Senior's (Anchor Team) play in The Hexham and District Sunday League, in the Phoenix Hexham Division 2. Currently 4<sup>th</sup> position last game beaten at home in the NFA minor Cup by Stobswood and a win at home against the Adam & Eve, Prudhoe, in the league.

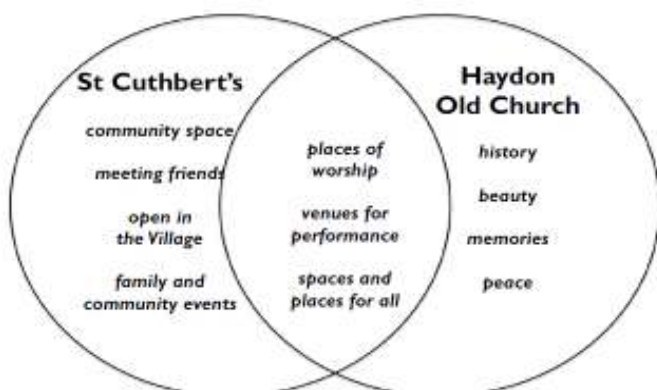
#### Other Info

The club has recently update its website which contains links to each teams, results, fixtures and league tables. We've also created a new Facebook page, links at the top of this article can be used to access both sites and they are frequently update with info from the club. If you or your children want to get involved with the club, contact information is available on the website.

## Inspired Futures for your Parish Churches

Over the last year I have been asked, more than once, "how are things going at *your* Church?" To which I always reply, "It's not *my* Church, it's *your* Church, it's *everyone's* Church." Just as I am not the Minister of St Cuthbert's Church, but the Vicar of Haydon Bridge, so the churches in my care – St Cuthbert's and Haydon Old Church – do not belong to me, or those who regularly worship there; they are the Parish Churches, they belong to everyone, whether you are Anglican or not, a person of faith or none. If I have been asked the same question more than once, then I have been doing the same, except my question has been, 'what do you want *your* churches to become?'

**We are developing your Churches as spaces open for the whole community**



**What would you like them to become?**

When I was invited to be Vicar here the worshipping community was very clear that one of our tasks was to develop the Church buildings and grounds as spaces open for the whole community. So over the last year we have begun that process:

- through more frequent regular worship at St Cuthbert's and the Old Church;
- through events like the GITS *Songs from the Shows*;
- regular school services and school visits to both churches;
- and offering the *Café at St Cuthbert's* for the Tour of Britain.



*Café at St Cuthbert's at the Tour of Britain*

What all this has shown us is that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for our churches to be developed for the benefit of community life, for both churches and their grounds to be spaces of peace and beauty for all, and for the churches to act as places of welcome for visitors from near and far.

## 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

November 17th	Guide Dogs
December 15th	Dragonfly Trust
	<b>**Queenie Quiz**</b>
2016	
January 19th	West Tynedale Rugby Juniors
February 23rd	Tynesight
March 17th	Breast Cancer Campaign
	<b>**Queenie Quiz**</b>
April 19th	Anthony Nolan Trust
	Quizmaster
	John Harrison (johnandaveril@aol.com)



*After the Easter Sunday Service at The Old Church*

Now we have begun this process we are beginning to do three things. The first is that the Church Council has set up a Steering Group, led by me, to oversee the long term redevelopment of both St Cuthbert's and Haydon Old Church. This will be an open group, so if you would like to contribute in any way to this, please do let me know.

The second is that through 2016 we have set ourselves some initial targets. These will include:

- having both churches open more often;
- running more events to explore the use of the churches and grounds for community use;
- engaging with local partners – the schools, The National Trust, AONB etc – to see how the churches could support their work;
- continue essential basic maintenance on both churches and church yards;
- and explore plans to open up the St Cuthbert's Church yard as a community garden.



Third, and most importantly, is to ask you what you think. On this page you will find a leaflet asking for your initial ideas on how we could develop both buildings. Anyone who has ever been involved in redevelopment projects will tell you that the most vital part of that process is the quality of the consultation with the local community. So I would invite you to cut out this leaflet, fill it in, and hand it in at Claire's Newsagents or to me personally. Your responses will provide the basis for the ideas we begin to explore and develop the exciting futures of our churches.

If you would like to speak to me at more length about any of this please call or email me through the details on the Church pages. I will write again in the Haydon News in the coming months to keep you updated on the developing plans for your Parish Churches.

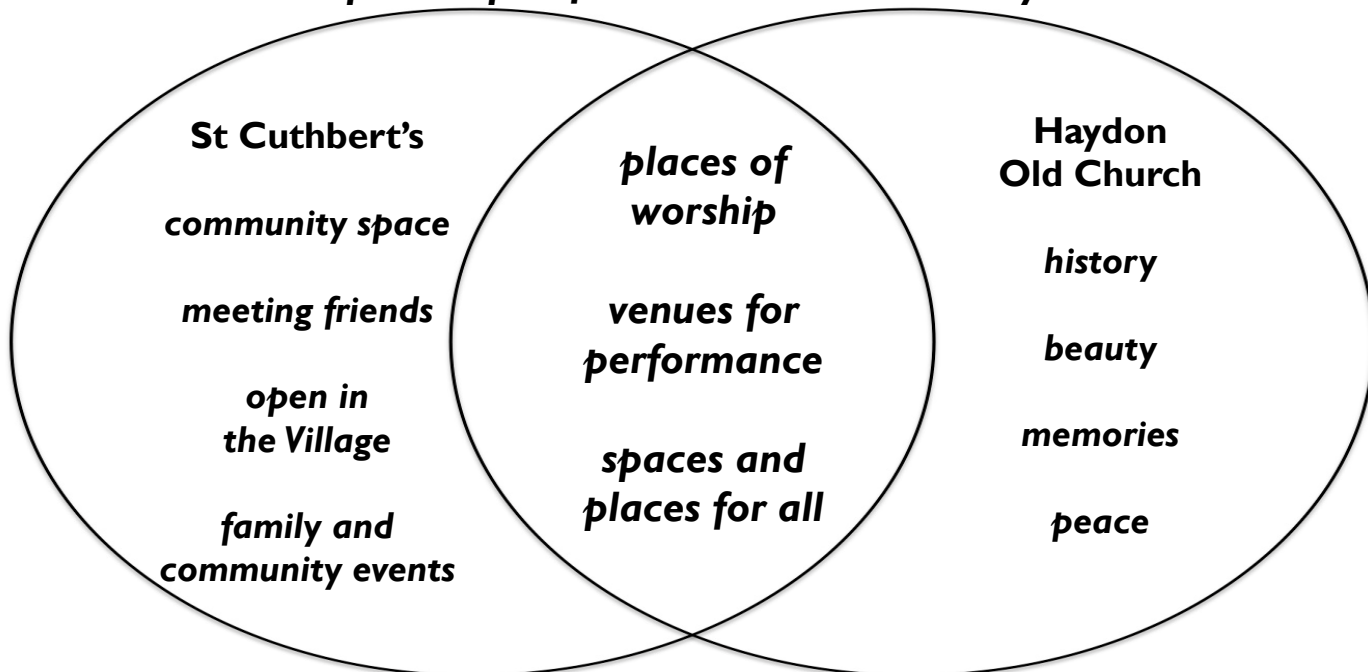
*The Vicar, The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter*

## RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID



# The Parish of Haydon Bridge

*We are developing your Churches as  
spaces open for the whole community*



**What would you like them to become?**  
*tick as many as you like*

### St Cuthbert's

a community garden  
with access to the River ☐

a community café ☐

a venue for concerts  
and exhibitions ☐

### Haydon Old Church

a destination for tourists ☐

a place for artists to work ☐

a unique venue  
for celebrations ☐

**What else? Let us know...**

**Thank you for your time. Please return via the box in Claire's newsagents**

# 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/westtyndalejuniors](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtyndalejuniors).

ALL WELCOME.

## HAYDON BRIDGE DANCE CLUB

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Haydon Bridge

Community Centre



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NE42 5PU

Or

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## 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

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E-mail address: [Admin@GP-A84045.NHS.UK](mailto:Admin@GP-A84045.NHS.UK)

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

## 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**

## Hexham Beacon Club

Programme-

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

Diving throughout the world.

9<sup>th</sup> Dec

Dukesfield Smelter & Carriers

16<sup>th</sup> Dec

Gardens of Northumberland & Borders

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

## HAYDON BRIDGE LOCAL ARTISTS' GROUP

### HAYDON ART CLUB

Open to all, first session free.

Meets fortnightly at

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

6.30 - 9.15pm

NOVEMBER 11th and 25th.

## HAYDON LOCAL ARTISTS A.G.M.

AND SPECIAL FORWARD PLANNING MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER**

**7.15 pm at the COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Anyone with an interest in Art or craft please come  
along. (We need this meeting to work as we need  
more help to keep doing our events)

## 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)

## Haydon Bridge Nature Club

Meetings held at the Methodist Hall,

Haydon Bridge at 7.15pm. Talks are open to all.

Members FOC Non-members £4

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

Dec 17th

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL  
PARK Mr. Forster

Jan 7th

GREAT CRESTED NEWTS  
Lizzie Ross

Jan 21st

LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE  
John Grundy

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I'd like to tell you about two of the great things we've done at Shaftoe Trust Primary this term. It's been a really busy term with lots going on.

Our school was chosen to take part in a project about Joe the Quilter at Beamish Museum. We started with a Murder Mystery! Years 4, 5 and 6 visited the museum and, in groups, we had to interview 5 "suspects". We had to make notes as we questioned them all; I tried to catch them out but they all stuck to their stories. We had to decide, based on our interviews and the evidence, who was guilty of Joe's murder. However we couldn't agree and the murder remains a mystery.

We had a great day and I enjoyed taking part but found Joe's reconstructed cottage quite disturbing especially the "blood-stained" hair at the top of the stairs! Ugh! It will be interesting to find out about the next part of the project.

Konflux Theatre came to school for Anti-bullying week and we did a play in a day called "No Bullies Here". This really made me think about bullies and now I know exactly what to do if I think I am being bullied or it is happening to any of my friends. I learned about STOP which stands for "Several Times On Purpose" - this helps you to understand if something is actually bullying or not.

Did you know that 3 in 5 children have experienced bullying and recently cyber bullying has become a real issue? Everyone should think carefully before sending messages to each other. Don't forget, once you've clicked "Send", you're not in control any more!

We all enjoyed acting in the play and everyone agreed that they'd learned something new.

We're now busy rehearsing our Christmas plays.

***Eleanor Sowerby***  
***Year 6***

Ms. Gillian Underdown, Assistant Headteacher/SENCO at Shaftoe Trust Primary School has sent in this very welcome letter from one of our youngest ever contributors.

Thank you Eleanor.

The Haydon News is always delighted to receive contributions from young people. Writing, drawing, paintings, photos, jokes - all are welcome. *Ed.*

### **VACANCY SHAFTOE TERRACE**

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in need of supported housing?

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email [info@shaftoecharities.org.uk](mailto:info@shaftoecharities.org.uk)

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS  
FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY at 5pm

## **Haydonian Social Club**

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2015**

#### **Friday 4th December 2015**

8-30pm Quiz Host: Joycey

#### **Saturday 12th December 2015**

XMAS FAMILY PRIZE BINGO

eyes down@7.30pm.

Come along and have fun - you could be a winner!

#### **Wednesday 16th December 2015**

BINGO AS NORMAL

EYES DOWN @ 8.30pm.

#### **Saturday 19th December 2015**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - Starting 1.30pm.

(list for names behind bar -before 10th Dec.2015)

REMEMBER SANTA WILL BE CALLING!!!

(He could be early)

#### **Sunday 20nd December 2015**

BINGO + MEAT VOUCHERS 8.00pm

+ KEY DRAW 9.45pm

(Draw tickets on sale until 9.30pm only)

#### **Wednesday 23th December 2015**

BINGO + WINE & CHOCOLATES

Eyes down 8.30pm

#### **Friday 25th December 2015**

##### **(XMAS DAY)**

OPEN AT NIGHT

8.pm TIL 11.00pm

#### **Sunday 27th December 2015**

BINGO 8.00pm + KEY DRAW 10.00pm

(Draw tickets on sale until 9.30pm only)

#### **Wednesday 30th December 2015**

BINGO + CASH 8.30pm

Come and welcome the New Year In with fun at your club

#### **Thursday 31stDecember 2015**

SPECIAL NEW YEAR FAMILY PRIZE BINGO

Eyes down7.30pm

Come and welcome the New Year In with fun at your club

#### **Friday 1st January 2016**

##### **(NEW YEAR'S DAY) HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Open all afternoon and night 'til late.

Welcome 2016 and Celebrate with us!

##### **WEEKLY BINGO SESSIONS**

Every Wednesday - eyes down 8.30pm

Every Sunday - eyes down 8.00pm

Final flyer is all monies paid out - approx £40+

Everyone welcome! Come and enjoy a friendly social night.

Please get your friends to join and come along

##### **LOCAL GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS**

Have a fund raising disco/party here and get 5% of the Concert Room takings towards your funds whilst enjoying yourselves.

##### **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- now due for 2016 - only £2.0(existing members)

Join our Social Club for only £3.00 (new members) and take advantage of our cheaper prices for alcohol and have free hire of the Concert Room for parties.

**The Committee and staff of the Haydonian Social Club  
send everyone Best Wishes for Christmas & the New Year.**

## A Slightly Different Christmas

My children are very lucky: come Christmas Eve and they will open their first presents, brought to them by Baby Jesus. Then, when they wake up in the morning on Christmas Day, there will be more presents from Father Christmas or Santa.

In the Czech Republic we also have our own “Santa” who comes in the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, before St Nicholas Day. Kids dress up as angels, devils or St Nicholas. They go around houses – just like here on Halloween – and get little treats. Traditionally you would get exotic fruit such as mandarins, walnuts or bananas. I used to be terrified of the devil and tried to be good leading up to this holiday. Parents add an onion or a piece of coal in the stocking for the children, as a reminder that perhaps they were also a bit naughty in the past year.

I try to recreate as much as I can from my own country, so our children know at least some traditions. It's not dramatically different from England though. The whole of advent should be devoted fasting. On Christmas Eve you should not eat anything until you “see a golden pig”, a good trick to make people eat a rather unpalatable fish for supper – a carp. (Indeed, if you were in Prague before Christmas, you would see huge water tanks with live carp in the streets, being bought and killed publically, which shocked many of my British friends). There is fish soup followed by fried carp fillets and potato salad. The presents are brought by Baby Jesus – as I explain to my boys that there are too many children around the world, so there must be more magical creatures to deliver the gifts to all of them.

On Christmas Day we normally visit our friends, eat apple strudel with cinnamon and walnuts, Christmas cake called vanocka, pork or goose, home-made Christmas biscuits, which, incidentally, we are baking now. This is a day for feasting.

Our superstitions are very similar to the English ones. Perhaps one remainder of our Celtic heritage who gave the whole country a name – Bohemia. We have mistletoe under which you have to kiss. Unmarried women throw a shoe over their shoulder toward the door. The man who enters first will be their husband. We cut an apple in the middle to see if the pips create a star for good luck. We sail walnut shells on water in the sink, with candles in, to see how far we are going to go in our lives. We pour hot wax into cold water to see what future brings.

Mainly, we are all together. Just like here.

*Veselé Vánoce! Natalie Nera*



**Natalie's 2014  
Christmas cake.**

## EXERCISE CLASS STARTING

Since moving from Newcastle and retiring from paid employment many things have changed in my life, but the only thing I have really missed is a local exercise class that suits me. I've stayed active but I know I am not as flexible and fit as I was – and I miss dancing around, singing along to the music.

Earlier this year Age UK advertised in the Courant offering to sponsor people to train as leaders of “Exercise to Music” classes. Time to put my trainers to some use then and do something to get the local fitness class I missed. After weeks of tuition I took the exam. With the generous assistance of two Haydon Bridge lady guinea pigs (you know who you are) forming some of the test “class”, I passed.

My intention was always to start an exercise class in Haydon Bridge but my first experience was covering a chair-based exercise session linked to a lunch club. Having seen how much people enjoyed it, I decided I would like to offer a similar session here too.

So, starting on 8 January there will be 2 hour-long classes each Friday morning at the Community Centre. Anyone who thinks they will enjoy them will be welcome, any age, male or female, active or not. Everyone will be asked to complete a health questionnaire before they start, so you can consider what you may need to think about. If you have any doubts about your ability to take part for health reasons, please ask your doctor or medical professional. Some of the first session will be an introduction and explanation of the sessions to come.

The Exercise to Music class will be from 10 to about 11, and will involve moving around the hall to music I like from the 1960's to 1980's mainly. Be warned - there will be Tamla Motown and I will probably be singing along. You control the intensity of the exercise, and everyone should put in the level of effort that suits them, whether challenging or comfortable. The only requirements are loose comfortable clothing and good pair of supporting shoes. You may want to bring a mat for the floor exercises and snooze at the end. The charge will be £4 per session.

The chair-based or standing exercise class will run from 11 to 12, again the only requirements are comfortable clothes and shoes. The charge will be £3 per session.

The most important thing is to enjoy the sessions, getting fitter, stronger and more flexible is the side benefit. Come along and give it a try, or give me a ring. I might even let you choose (some of) the music!

*Carole Price 07939202930*



## WHAT ABOUT A VILLAGE PANTO?

### He's behind you...!

Many of you will remember that some years ago, Haydon Bridge used to have its own pantomimes, sadly not performed for many a year. (Boo!)

So, at the last meeting of the editorial board of the Haydon News, we thought we could stir up some interest for reviving this much loved art form (oh no you didn't). Oh, yes we did!

If you have any experience, enthusiasm (lots of it), 10 league boots, magic beans or wands, please contact Jo at the Havelock. Alternatively, just go ahead, get together with friends and give it a go. Jo has agreed to co-ordinate any expressions of interest in the early stages.

It goes without saying that we would need directors, writers, set designers and builders, stage hands, lighting and sound engineers, costume makers, make-up artists, and of course actors, and anyone silly enough to put themselves forward as organiser and general factotum, but there you go, I've said it anyway.

Anyone prepared to let the genie out of the bottle, or is the idea too wishy-washy?

*The Editorial Board*

## BUG OFF

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# THE HAYDONIAN CRUCIVERBALIST

November 2015

£10 PRIZE EVERY MONTH!

## ACROSS

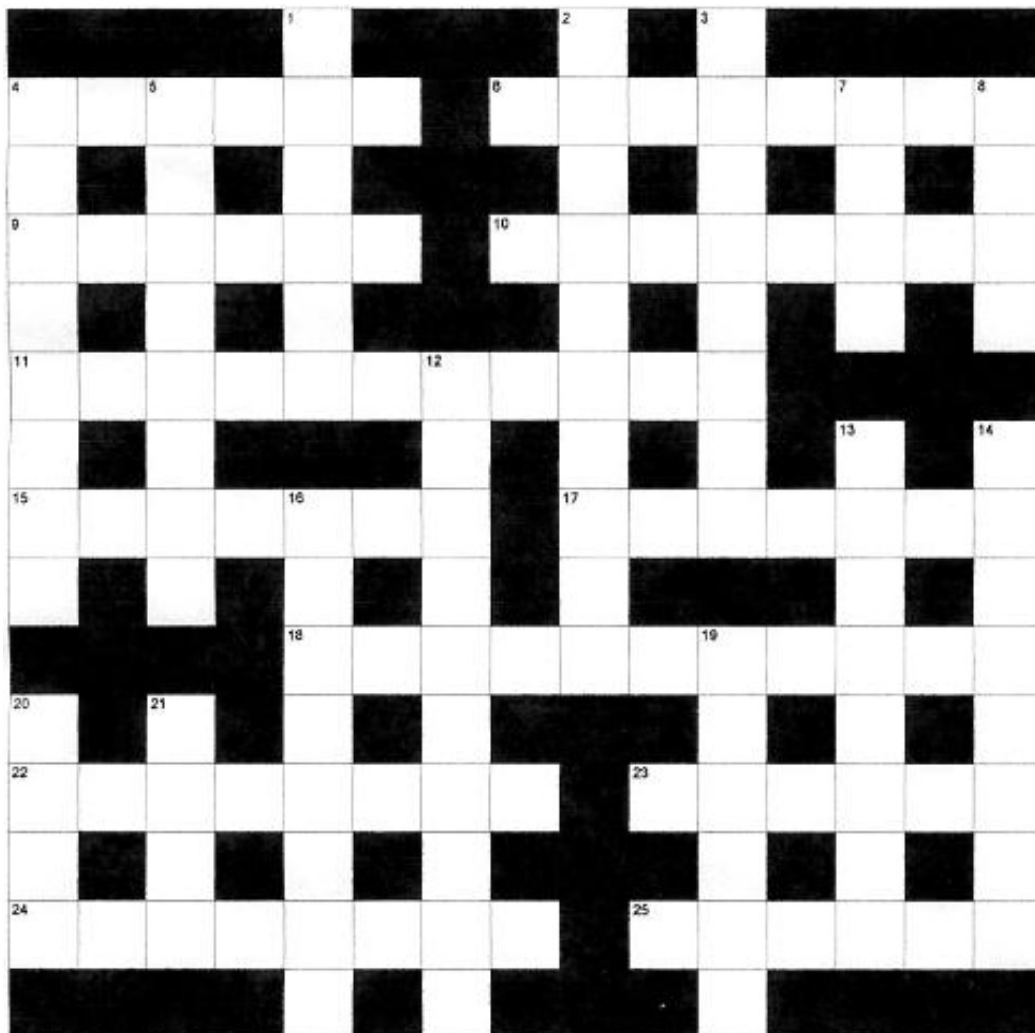
4. Strong burst round about (6)
6. Good in Animal Farm (4,4)
9. Church music in control of the meeting (6)
10. Diggers donkey in rum base (8)
11. All countries insisting on not insisting (11)
15. Time for judge's proceedings (7)
17. Roy at the front tightly grouped together (7)
18. Bell ringing advances at speed and pays its way (4,7)
22. A revolutionary anger (1,3,4)
23. Graduate has two articles of fruit (6)
24. Wonders if you care to be slim (8)
25. I leave the centre and turn into confusion (6)

## DOWN

1. Retreat from burnt out remains of a sheep (6)
2. Like a single large stone (10)
3. Artist travelled widely to put things in order (8)
4. A return to religious teaching procedure (8)
5. No orchid miss her (8)
7. Otherwise a short woman (4)
8. Father wears one in Northern Ireland (4)
12. Not lending to a country with no alliances (3-7)
13. As if an idle fellow keeps pests off the veg (8)
14. Not even on form (3,5)
16. Burial decree works amongst us (8)
19. Warned by a mural (6)
20. Accountant left a thousand quietly (4)
21. Bitter brew (4)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....



## NOVEMBER'S ANSWERS

Please drop answers off  
at Claire's by  
20th January.  
(or post them to the editor).

## NOVEMBER'S WINNER

Carole Muir

## NUMBER OF ENTRIES

8 - all correct

## ACROSS

1. CRACKPOT
6. DIE OFF
9. MISTRUSTFULLY
10. ETCHED
11. PARAFFIN
13. CHESTERTON
15. NYET
16. HUGO
18. CHOKEBERRY
21. CHEYENNE
22. POPLIN
23. PROCRASTINATE
25. CYCLIC
26. ELEVENTH

## DOWN

2. REMATCH
3. CASE HISTORY
4. PARED
5. TOSSPOT
6. DEFERENCE
7. ELL
8. FLYLINE
12. FINGERPLATE
14. ECCENTRIC
17. UNHAPPY
19. OVERSEE
20. RAIMENT
22. PRIME
24. OIL

## NEW LOCAL BUSINESS - see page 16 Sparkles Cleaning.

I have recently started up my own business as a mobile cleaner within Haydon Bridge and surrounding areas. I have worked as a cleaner for another company for a year where I gained experience cleaning homes, offices, pubs, restaurants, B&BS, holiday cottages, car show rooms and much else besides.

I present myself as a friendly, reliable, flexible and extremely hard working cleaner with a good eye for detail. I live in the village with my husband, Jamie who is a self employed painter and decorator and my two young sons.

I offer weekly, fortnightly, monthly or one off cleaning and I provide all of my own tested products, equipment and powerful vacuums. I also offer oven cleaning, steam cleaning and take away ironing services as extras.

I look forward to taking on more local work and one day expanding my business.

*Charlotte Dunn.*

Mobile - 07817807919  
Home - 01434 688445  
Email - C.Dunnhb@outlook.com

## The History of Langley Barony - a review.

L. C. Coombes was a gentleman academic of distinction, who lived and worked in Haydon Bridge for some decades and whose work is housed in a number of respected archives. He was also a fascinating man to meet and I feel privileged to have spent some time with him in the past.

The meticulous character of his research and the informative and engaging style of his writing is evident in the recently published seven part 'The History of Langley Barony' - now available to buy, see back page.

Dennis Telford has edited and amended the work to bring it to its present published state. He has done a great service to our community and to posterity and deserves our thanks and support for his efforts.

The range, extent and detail of the information presented is remarkable. The lucid text is generously illustrated with photographs, both colour and B&W, maps and tables. The earliest date I encountered whilst reading the work was 1165AD. I find it amazing that reliable records can still be accessed, from such a remote period, for such an outlying part of the country, and because of the efforts of Leslie Coombes and Dennis Telford we can all share in that knowledge.

These boxed sets of books need to be snapped up by all who have a love of local history and who are inspired to pass the information to future generations. It being Christmas, the opportunity to send a really beautiful gift to family and friends ought not to be missed. *Steve Ford*

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## Waad Yuh Beleev It?

Noo then! As some on yuh knaas, Aah's frae Hexham. Di yuh knaa Hexham? If'n yuh dee, yuh'll knaa yuh canna gan varry far afore yuh hev ti gan up a hill or doon a hill. It's that kind ov a plyec. Yous'll mind on as weel that wuh had a lot o snaa a couple o winters back. Moontins o thi stuff. Whey, this tyel's aboot whaat happened tiv is i thi snaa.

One neet, wor lass went ti see one ov hor freends whe lives in a hoos at thi top o thi hill abeun wor hoos. It was-n't snaain whan she left, like, but it started ti snaa syun efor, an afore lang it waas canny deep. Efor haff an oor, she rings is up an she sez "Can yuh come'n get is pet, coz the snaa's geet deep up heor, an Aah divvent think Aah can waalk back hyem doon thi hill?"

Me bein a hero like, Aah sez ti hor "Whey aye hinny, nee bother! Aah'll be theor as syun as Aah can, coz Aah's just finishin off a bit stotty cyek an a mug o tea". So, efor aboot thorty minits, coz yuh canna rush chowin a stotty, can yuh? Aah gets thi car oot, an sets off up thi hill.

Whey, Aah haddent gon varry far whan thi snaa got wors an wors. It waas blawin aall ower thi plyec, me wipers waas deen, an Aah thowt ti mesel "Bye, Aah's ganna be lucky ti git ti thi top like wiv aal yon snaa." Sure enyuff, thi car started ti slaa doon. Theor waas nowt for it. Aah torned thi winda doon, lowped oot thi car while it waas still gannin, reached intiv it, got a hadda thi steerin wheel, an started ti push it up thi hill.

Bye, it waas hard wark! Thi wind waas blaain thi snaa ivvorywheor, inti me fyec an doon me sark. Me fingers waas frozen, an Aah thowt Aah wuddent mek it ti thi top. It waas cumin on fer neet an aall, an ootbye theor's nee street leets ti show yuh thi way ti gan. Bye, Aah waas puffin an pantin like a reet tanky.

Aal ov a sudden, Aah heerd someone shoot "Div yuh want a bit hand like?" Aah keeked aal aroond, but Aah cuddent see nee-one, cept Aah cud just mek oot a black gallowa powkin its heed ower a dyke top, so Aah just started pushin me car agyen. Then theor it waas agyen "Div yuh want a bit hand, like?" Aah still cudna see whe it waas, but Aah shooted back "Aye! Just giz a push ti thi top o thi hill, but. Aah cn manage aal reet frae theor."

Whey, yuh cud a dunchd is doon wiv a stotty like, coz thi gallowa lowped ower thi dyke, got ahint me car, an started ti push it up thi hill wiv its heed agin thi back winda. Aah waas that chuffed for thi bit help, Aah just steered thi car, an Aah pushed a bit an aal like. Weel, yuh hev ti show willin, divvent yuh?

Efor aboot ten minutes, wuh got ti thi top, an Aah cud see thi hoos wor lass had gon ti, so Aah giv ower pushin ti tyek me pipe a bit afore Aah got back i thi car.

Noo, me mam had erlwis telt is ti say "Ta" ti them whaat helps yuh, so Aah torned ti thi gallowa ti thank it, but bugger me, it had fliggied! Aah looked aal ower for it, but it waas nee-wheor ti be seen. Whaat gov is a reet gliff but, theor wor nee hoss tracks i thi snaa ahint thi car nowther!

Onyroad, Aah got back i thi car, an drove ti thi hoos, an efor a few minutes, me an wor lass drove back hyem doon thi hill.

As wuh passed thi dyke wheor thi gallowa had been, Aah gov a toot on thi horn, like, ti say thank yuh ti thi bogle, coz Aah reckon that's whaat it waas, coz yous aall knaa that hosses canna taak, divvent yuh?

"What did yuh dee that for?" wor lass sayd, so Aah started tellin hor aall aboot me adventures i thi snaa like. Aah cud tell frae thi look on hor fyec that she didn't beleev is, an aal she waad say waas "An Aah suppose yor ganna tell is that's wheor thi word hoss-pooer comes frae, are yuh?"

*Peter Arnold*

*Northumbrian Language Society  
www.northumbriana.ork.uk*

## MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

You know they say you're getting old when policemen look young? Well young I can cope with. It's young and daft I have problems with.

I was returning home from Hexham recently when I saw a row of red brake lights on the cars in front of me as one by one the vehicles all screeched to a halt. A cow had wandered from a neighbouring field through a gap in the fence and was now standing sad and bewildered in the middle of the A69. As were most of the drivers.

I pulled over and dialled 999. The girl who answered sounded about fourteen and enquired in a bored voice what the emergency was. I told her the cow was causing havoc and that I was calling from a layby. She asked if I could describe it. Now please understand I'm no David Attenborough - but I did my best.

I said "OK. We-ell it's er big, brown with, um, four legs and an udder..."

She said "No, no! I mean the layby. Can you describe where it is?"

That's more my terrain. I told her I was exactly midway between Hexham and Haydon Bridge - on the westbound carriageway.

"And the cow?" she asked. Still bored.

I said it too was halfway between Hexham and Haydon Bridge and wandering across both the west and eastbound carriageways. This gormless woman was by now beginning to worry me. She asked me to be more precise.

For heaven's sakes woman! Apart from getting out a tape measure and sextant how much more precise can I be? Not many motorists would have the presence of mind in such circumstances to know which lane is which. So I repeated again that my car and the layby (plus cow) were all on the A69. Three miles west of Hexham. Direction Carlisle.

"Could you spell Carlisle please".

At this point the cow was starting to mount a VW Polo so I gave up and hung up. Just then a big red (and very welcome) fire engine on a training call came around the bend. Within moments the crew saw the drama unfolding, leapt out, and in no time corralled the poor beast back into its field.

Meanwhile the call handler was probably still looking up the correct spelling of Carlisle and Cow. More worrying is the fact that the nation's safety is in these people's hands.

*Marita*



## Tynedale Views: From Above

Of all the views of Tynedale, the best is from the air. The countryside is beautiful from the ground, but from above everything it is possible to see how everything connects. On a clear day, flying between London and the USA, you might see the Tees, the Wear and the Tyne and all the countryside to Kielder Forest. Climbing towards 10,000m it is plain how sparsely populated our part of the world is. All the evidence of man's impact upon the landscape is laid out before your eyes. There may be little sign of industry, but from hilltops stripped of trees, to the outlines of fields, ancient remains and roads winding where tracks once took animals and people between farm and market, centuries of change are woven into the tapestry below.

I always feel disappointed when cloud obscures the land below. Then, on a journey from Newcastle to London, the climbing aircraft will bank steeply, so that Northumberland is but briefly glimpsed in misty green before breaking through a layer of cloud to razor-sharp blue skies above. However, on a clear day, on a return flight passing over the Tyne Valley towards Newcastle, you can pick out individual buildings, be dazzled by the flash of sunlight on patches of water and see small towns and villages hugging the banks of the bronzed River Tyne. In winter nights these are a string of sparkling jewellery lights in the blackness. In the early morning or late afternoon, the low rays of the sun throw shadows accentuating the lines of long forgotten drovers tracks or earthworks etched in fields. The patterns of plough furrows where animals now graze, show that we are not the first people to carve our existence from these valleys.

Each season has its own display. Springtime has a quiet greening of the fields, the slow appearance of colour into a monochrome world, the gradual softening of harsh lines across the landscape. Often though, it is still dark on the ground and as you climb through the rays of the rising sun, the world below is gloomy, grey and damp. Summer brings a chaotic patchwork of colour as the agricultural calendar turns its pages faster and faster. Crops turn darker green as they fill with the moisture of early summer. They blossom and begin to dry out once midsummer has passed and are mown down, leaving a dull grey strip that spreads northwards day by day. Suddenly it seems autumn returns the world to bright colour, as the leaves turn and the fields are stripped of their clothing to reveal the rich dark soil. Clouds of impossibly white gulls follow the ploughs across the sloping fields below. Winter flights, when I took them, were usually in the dark, with the headlights of cars in a uniformly spaced line the only thing giving us a bearing towards the ground. I never returned early enough to see the long winter shadows, nor to experience the snow clad horizon touching the same colour sky, which is confusing enough when you are looking upwards to it.

My favourite view of all is from much lower. Dashing across country in a helicopter at around 100m above the earth is exhilarating, more like a dream of flying. The speed as it races over the ground causes a dazzling array of scenes to appear, rushing towards you and then immediately lost behind. Nothing compares with rising over a hill just above the trees, to see a fresh valley displayed below your feet. A fellow passenger on one of these flights said that he never realised how beautiful his country was until, as if seeing it for the first time, he fell in love with its wildernesses, small walled fields, straggly hedgerows and its tree-filled burns like deep scars in the flanks of bare hills. Tearing along above Hadrian's Wall, it is impossible to follow the contours as it plunges, twists and clambers over the edge of the whin sill. Somehow, from this angle it seems much more of a marvel of human organisation and effort than it does from the ground.

The helicopter startles those who hadn't expected it, from farmers on quad bikes inspecting animals, to small herds of deer. The animals scatter in all directions in panic at the sudden approach of a flying monster. Cows rush to the edge of a field, a lone hare lopes in a straight line, parting the grasses as it makes for a distant wall, where it disappears from view, reappearing on the other side a second later.

Much less intrusive is the hot air balloon flight. Once a common sight over Tynedale, the multi-colour upside-down teardrop floating on a very light summer breeze, is as attractive to those on the ground, as the world passing below is to the occupants of the basket slung beneath. The additional pleasure of flight at this speed includes the chance to study everything carefully, the swans nesting on Crag Lough, the parallel tracks of the combine harvester across the fields now dotted with large wheels of straw, casting a lengthening shadow as the sun slips down the sky, the sensuous curves of the River Tyne, a line of sheep following each other on a well-worn track, a couple of horse riders nodding slowly along beside a burn overhung with dark leaved trees.

Both sounds and smells seem to rise amplified by the warm evening air. Barbecues, freshly mown grass and hot tarmac fill the nostrils. Hedgecutters, cows snorting, even snatches of conversation can be heard at a surprisingly high altitude. In the very light breezes that are all a balloon flight is allowed to contend with, everything takes ages to pass. However, it is also possible to experience a thrill at very low level, slipping across a field below the height of the bordering hedges. The explosive roar of the gas burner and the oh, so, very, gradual rise away from the ground as elder and hawthorn come rushing towards you, their branches almost and sometimes really touchable, as you finally clear them and soar upwards. This is what it must be like to be a bird in our valley. What a view.

*The Very Reverend Unseemly Kneetrembler*

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## **Brendan Healy**

### **Hopes his bones are alright.**

Some funny people aren't comedians and some comedians aren't funny. I know this is an oxymoron but it has to be true. If we accept that what makes us laugh is very personal, then we must find some comedians unfunny. I know there will be people who think I'm a comedian who isn't funny, but the majority of my audiences must like me otherwise I'd be really hungry. Anyhoo, I've always had a back up plan. Exhibition crocodile wrestling! (Having worked some clubs in Middlesbrough, the two jobs are more similar than you may think.)

I'm waffling. The point here is that I find many modern style comedians unfunny. I hate the phrase 'alternative comedy', much preferring 'alternative to comedy'. The Pythons initially left me cold but have grown on me through the years. Is Chubby 'alternative'? The 'alternative' comedians would say he's not but I think the 'alternative' Jenny Eclair is much more swearsy and rude than Chubs, whose timing is undeniably brilliant, like him or not. Jo Brand used to send me to sleep but she's a sharp wit on panel games.

Peter Kay is a great comedian and, by the way, a very nice blerk. (*Name drop warning! NDW.*) He hired me to work on 'Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere' and they paid me handsomely so I love him. Is he 'alternative'? Naa! He was a warm up on Parkinson, you can't do that and be telling jokes about ladies' front bottoms. Speaking of Parky, he must have the golden touch 'cos it was him that gave us the genius Billy Connolly who is the master of us all, on every level.

Then there is Lee Evans, who falls into the category of 'alternative' and is undoubtedly a classy wordsmith and a superb clown. Check out his film 'Funny Bones', a black comedy which also showcases him as a marvellous actor. This brings me, hamfistedly, to my point. I like comedians who have 'funny bones'. The type that walk onto a stage and you start to giggle before they seem to have done anything.

Tommy Cooper could do it in spades. I like people who are funny, not people who just say funny things. Deadpan delivery has me reaching for the remote and the over-friendly-aren't-I-smart delivery of ninety per cent of modern comics makes me want to eat my own head. The fact that they say they don't tell jokes but make observations is utter nonsense. Billy Connolly is described as the greatest observation comedian but he calls himself a comedian who tells jokes. He'll be right. Let's all just be honest. There are no barriers, we are either funny or we're not, whatever title we hold. We tell jokes. It's that simple. The jokes may be new, they may be old, who gives a monkeys as long as people laugh.

I used to do a golf tour throughout the north, for charity. It was called the 'Celebrity Golf Tour'. We used to play golf and then have a gala dinner, followed by a cabaret involving the celebrities who were there. The first show I ever did for them consisted of the following (*NDW!*):

Frank Carson

Stan Boardman

Norman Collier  
Norman Wisdom  
Brendan Healy

Mine was the only name I didn't recognise and I was terribly glad that I was wearing brown corduroys. I loved all four of these comedians because, in my opinion, they all have one thing in common, funny bones.

The press launch of the tour one year was at the Houses of Parliament, on a boiling hot day in May and we were gathered in the conservatory. I found an air conditioning unit on the wall and leaned over it for relief. At the time my hair was rather long and it blew out behind me. After a minute the whole room was giggling. I turned round and saw standing behind me Norman Collier, wielding an imaginary whip like a stagecoach driver, shouting giddy up, then behind him with a chair turned sideways, was Norman Wisdom just gently giggling in his seat as the passenger. People told me afterwards that it was one of the funniest images they had ever seen. Normans Wisdom and Collier R.I.P. Two of the greatest comedians who ever lived.



## Police Surgery at the Methodist Church

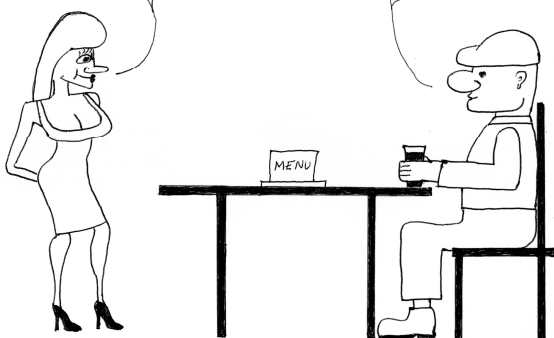
Every five weeks our local police hold a 'surgery' in the Methodist Church during Meeting Place (as advertised elsewhere in the Haydon News).

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

## RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID

We didn't do very well in the talent competition last night, Raydon, done up as Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers.

I still think it could work, Dusty, but next time I'm going to be Kenny.



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