

# The Haydon News

November 2015

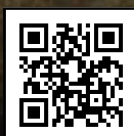


Photo: Kevin Liddle

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

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

### The Haydon News Committee

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**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.

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# ADOXOGRAPHY



Haring up and down the A69 to Carlisle at the crack of dawn, or sparrow's fart - as my late father-in-law would have it, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays has shown me what an enormous boon it would be to have the whole thing dualled. No question about it. Can you imagine the disruption such an enormous undertaking would create? Furthermore, there are several places, such as west of Lipwood Hall, where the only obvious option would be a fly-over or a tunnel - or redirect the Tyne.

I am indebted to Mr. Peter Carruthers for drawing my attention to an option at the Carlisle end. Driving a dual carriageway through all the little villages in the few miles east of the motorway (Hayton, Warwick on Eden, etc.) would be horrendously destructive but taking the new road north, up the A689, past the airport, would make much more sense. The existing roundabout and motorway access could be used too.

The cost will be vast - if the job is ever undertaken. The feasibility study is going to make interesting reading when it appears.

The Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Pre-Submission Draft is now available to see on line and will be on show on 2nd November in the Community Centre between 2 and 7pm.

Humshaugh has its own village electric car - a Nissan Leaf - available to hire. Should Haydon Bridge follow suit? Easier to arrange would be a public charging bay or possibly a Tesla Supercharger - or both. The rate of charge on the Tesla device is so great that the cable has to be water cooled! The Parish Council might wish to consider the idea as it would help to draw trade into the village.

I am delighted to report a continuing flow of new advertisers to The Haydon News. For 2016 we have a new charging structure and a small price rise - there is a four page .pdf for anyone who wishes to consider joining in. Email me for a copy.

A number of local people and organisations are giving thought to sending articles along and we welcome them. The greater the range of items and topics, the better - DO JOIN IN! The wildest idea so far is a recipe for Boar's Head and Sauerkraut crumble. Personally, I prefer the look of StreuBELkuchen.

Lots of Christmassy events in this edition. Do support all the local organisations who take such a lot of trouble to provide goods and services to the community. Do buy a village calendar too! (see back page)

I hope there will be another good turnout on Remembrance Sunday. It really is very important that we remember.

*Steve Ford*

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A meeting of the Haydon Parish Council was held at 7.30pm on 22 October 2015 in the Community Centre.

## Public Participation

None.

## Apologies

Received.

## Declarations of Interest

None.

## Minutes of the previous meeting

Agreed.

## NCC

Cllr. Alan Sharp apologised for his late appearance - due to his having been asked to judge the Children's Halloween pumpkins at Greenhead.

The application for development at Inner Haugh has been withdrawn.

The concerns raised at the last meeting about the parking to the west of the Community Centre and Reflections have been investigated. It is confirmed that the restrictions apply to the footpath and not the private land in front of the houses. The ticket that had been issued has been rescinded. However, parking on the footpath where yellow lines are present remains an offence. Letters are to be circulated to the households affected, explaining the situation in greater detail.

The next Community Chest funding meeting is to be held in January 2016 and therefore applications need to be in before Christmas. So far there have been few applications but the Community Centre is considering one for planters and a front elevation sign.

The drain by the Health Centre has been attended to.

There remain a few repairs to local roads to do and some signs to be cleaned and/or refurbished.

The on site consultation about changes to the parking and the potential crossing at the old bridge end in Shaftoe Street has yet to be arranged.

## Highways

Nothing reported.

## Lighting

Nothing reported.

## Planning

Nothing to consider.

## Accounts

Agreed.

In the light of an estimate received, the play areas were discussed under this head. A recent report showed that work is required to the old play area in The Showfield. As there is a new play area further along the development, the necessity of maintaining the old one was questioned. The desirability of consulting the residents was emphasised. Further discussion at a later meeting was felt appropriate.

Detailed examination of the existing equipment by the supplier showed that work to the value of £1,965.44 + VAT is required.

A short discussion about the possibility of viring funds between the play area funding and other pots was had.

## Correspondence

The Core Strategy is to be consulted upon in the Community Centre on the afternoon of 2 11 15. Many councillors propose to attend.

A curious intrusion upon the allotment area by the territory to be devoted to industry was noted. No apparent reason for the change is currently apparent. It was felt that allotment holders would wish to take an interest.

It was note, with some asperity, that the contributions submitted by the Parish Council over the years have been studiously ignored and never appear in the final documents.

## Parish Projects

The wildflower meadow is doing well and will get it's first strimming at the end of November.

The Bridge was filled with young children recently. They had a very good time.

No reply has been received from NCC about the councils proposal to assume responsibility of the public toilets over winter only. It was noted by several councillors how inequitable and irregular it was for the council to be faced with new responsibilities after the budget had been set for the year. Any changes ought to have been delayed until after April 2016. So far no one has come forward to do the job - albeit the job has yet to be advertised. It was noted that not all the county's public toilets were being treated in the same way. Co-ordination with other councils was recommended. On current evidence the toilets will close on 1 11 15 for the winter. A strong letter is to be drafted to NCC about the proposed changes and the way the situation has been handled.

## AOB

The customary wreath collection was made.

The path through the Dene requires repair.

Grass cutting by the disabled person's bungalow is incomplete. Warm appreciation was expressed for



the excellent lawn care being provided at either end of the village.

The donated willow tree may find a home by the new bridge over the railway.

The proposed new bus shelter is still being pursued.

Recent examinations of the grass on Shaftoe Green showed a complete absence of dog faeces.

November 12th is the day of the budget meeting.

Next meeting: November 26th 2015.



New Years Eve is fast approaching so we need to make sure that we have plenty of volunteers for the Fireworks at Midnight. As last year, the old bridge will be closed from 3pm. We can't reiterate enough that this is not our doing – Northumbria Police have insisted on it – having so many explosives on the bridge is a safety hazard so the public have to be kept at a safe distance from the moment the fireworks experts start setting up. This means that we need pairs of marshals at either side of the bridge doing one and a half hour shifts from 3pm – midnight. We also need people to marshal the road closure points at either end of the new bridge from 11.30 'til midnight-ish as well as helpers to serve refreshments and rattle collection buckets to start off the Fireworks 2016/17 fund. Please contact me or any of the other Get It Together Society members with your name, email and phone number ASAP so we can liaise with you as to what times are most suitable for you. We can't do it without your support on the night. Many, many thanks.

As mentioned last month the 70's Disco at the Haydonian was extremely successful and hugely enjoyable. A few people have been asking how much was raised – it was approx. £270. Fantastic! We're hoping to organise another one soon. Watch this space. A big thank you to Claire Hunter who was joint winner of the Best Decorated House for the Tour of Britain Event. Claire kindly donated her winnings - £50 - to the Get It Together Society, as well as £10 she received when she sold her piano playing scarecrow! 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 Have-lock at 8pm.

Pauline Wallis  
The Get It Together Society  
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## DEATH OF A SMELTER

One hundred and ninety years ago this month, in November 1825, the Tyne Valley at Haydon Bridge and its adjacent uplands was visited by a snow storm that took the life of a member of one of the parish's best known families of the day. One, John Mulcaster.

**But first:** It is difficult to imagine the scene today, but, in 1825 the fields and wooded area alongside the A686 Langley road - before turning south across the Langley Burn towards Langley village and Allendale - was a hive of industry. In 2015, a saw mill, stores and mill workers' cottages are, almost, all that remain above ground on the site as evidence of industry and two lead smelt mills that stood side by side in this corner of our parish.

The establishment of a lead smelter at Langley in 1767/68 was the most important industrial enterprise of Greenwich Hospital within their Langley Barony and, by 1784/85, the site became a major industrial complex - described by contemporary sources as having the appearance of 'a small village' - with the construction of a second smelt mill, the Blagill Mill, alongside the Greenwich Hospital's Langley Smelt Mill development of 1767/68.



A view of the former Langley Mills, from the North West

The Greenwich Hospital's management of deliveries of ore to the mill for smelting, the overall management of the smelting process, and the dispatch of smelted lead ore and silver to Tyneside, was the responsibility of their Mill Agent. It is at this point that a most familiar name in the history of lead mining and smelting, that of the Mulcaster family, became associated directly with lead smelting in our parish.

Greenwich Hospital's first Mill Agent at Langley was forty year old **Peter Mulcaster**, appointed in 1768 on a salary of £30 per year together with a house, coal and a few acres of land. Peter continued in his role at the Mill until around 1808; in 1805, having completed nearly forty years of service at Langley, he had been described as 'a good practical man, but almost worn out'.

Peter Mulcaster lived at Langley Mill until his death and burial at Haydon Bridge, in March 1814 at the age of eighty seven.

Peter Mulcaster's older brother, **James Mulcaster**, was also appointed to a position of responsibility at Langley Mill and having been appointed in 1768, the same year as Peter, it seems that he probably supported Peter's work as Mill Agent. (Perhaps as joint Agents.) Certainly, in his paper on 'Smelting', read to the Lit and Phil Society of

## Living accommodation at Langley Mills



Little resident skilled labour was available at Langley and new housing was built on the site as an inducement to retain skilled men; and to discourage workers from calling at a public house on their return home from work 'to slake their thirst after the labour of the day in very hot buildings'.

A cottage consisted of a lower and upper room for the family, each 16' x 15' with a connecting step ladder. A byre and a piece of land - described as 'little farms' - were also provided. The cottages were built for £133-9s-0d a pair.

The estimated cost of the Mill Agent's house was £117-3s-11d, consisting of a dwelling 40' x 19' by 14' high, and a stable. Peter Mulcaster occupied 66 acres at a rent of £26-13s-4d. Two dwellings, two cottages, three byres, one barn and three stables were also included.

Newcastle upon Tyne in 1794, James described himself as 'one of the Agents at Langley Lead Mill'.

James Mulcaster died in February 1805 aged eighty four years and is buried at Haydon Bridge.

**John Mulcaster:**

**It is the third child and second son of James Mulcaster and his wife Hannah (nee Holmes), whom I introduced to you in my first paragraph of these Notes. I do not have a record of John Mulcaster's baptism, however, it is likely that he was born around 1751 and by 1770 was working on the Langley site.**

John Mulcaster did not work at the Greenwich Hospital Langley Mill, where his father James and uncle Peter were agents, but at the adjacent Blagill Mill.

John Mulcaster of the Blagill Mill married Susannah Todd in May 1774 and the couple had two children; one, a son James, named after his grandfather.

John and Susannah's son, **James Mulcaster (Jnr)** was to follow his Muncaster ancestors in their chosen profession and he eventually became Chief Agent for the Greenwich Hospital Langley Mill; following the path of James his grandfather and his great uncle Peter, rather than that of his father who managed the Blagill Mill. We are indebted to James (Jnr) for much of our knowledge of the smelting industry at Langley as, in 1806, he wrote a 'Description of the Works at Langley Mill' and added footnotes to a 1794 account of lead smelting written by James (Snr), his grandfather.

It seems that James (Jnr) was more academic than his predecessors, having learned the principles of chemistry in Edinburgh at Greenwich Hospital's expense. James (Jnr) combined his theoretical and practical knowledge at Langley and, by 1815, a laboratory had been built for him

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James Mulcaster (Jnr) left Langley Mill in 1833 after more than thirty years service and, following his death in 1859, was buried at Allendale.

Returning to **John Mulcaster**, agent at the Blagill Mill: John clearly suffered a number of sad occurrences during his life and in death. John's first wife Susannah died aged only twenty eight years in July 1780. After nine years John married again, this time to his cousin Frances. John and Frances had at least three children but, sadly, like Susannah, Frances died young, aged twenty eight years in December 1796. Both Susannah and Frances are buried at Haydon Bridge.

**John Mulcaster was at the Langley Blagill works from 1770 to 1825; around fifty five years service from the age of nineteen, cut short by his tragic death on Friday November 11th when, walking to his home at Langley Mills from visiting Threepwood Hall, he perished in the 1825 snow storm.**

### MULCASTER FAMILY HEADSTONE

You can visit the Mulcaster headstone in St. Cuthbert's Church Yard in Haydon Bridge. It stands against the east wall and, though parts are weathered and illegible today, it is a permanent reminder of one of our parish's famous families.



To the memory of James Mulcaster of LANGLEY LEAD MILLS who departed this life Feb 16th 1805 aged 84 years & of Hannah his wife died April 16th 1795 aged 74 years. Also John son of the above who perished in a storm Nov 7 1825 aged 74 years. Of Susannah his wife who died July 17 1780 aged 28 years and of Frances his second wife who died Dec 18 1796 aged 28 years. Also of Margaret daughter of the said John & Susannah who died April 5 1783 aged 5 years. Of Thomas their son who departed this life July 6 1807 aged 27 years. Also of Margaret daughter of the said John & Frances Mulcaster who died March 18 1807 aged 11 years. Also Betty wife of James son of the said John & Susannah Mulcaster who died April 8 1840 aged 65 years. Of Sarah daughter of the said James & Betty Mulcaster who died March 9 1809 in infancy of John ----- son of the same who  
**REMAINING 4 LINES ILLEGIBLE**

**John Mulcaster** is remembered today for his life's work and its association with the smelting industry at Langley, but also, in a wider context, for his 47 verse ballad on the 1771 River Tyne flood, entitled: 'The Inundation of the Tyne'. (*I published a 43 verse edited version of John's ballad in my Haydon News Historical Notes of November 2011 - [www.haydon-news.co.uk/back issues](http://www.haydon-news.co.uk/back%20issues).*)

Dark rose the morn, the cheerless swains  
Beheld no warm refreshing sun;  
Fast from the clouds the heavy rains  
In salient streams descended down.

The rivers soon their bounds outswell'd  
Tyne kept no more his native bed;  
By banks and weirs in vain repelled,  
He desolation round them spread.

Continued on page 8



Continued from page 7

The Greenwich Hospital and Blagill lead smelters closed in 1887, and by 1896 the buildings had been largely demolished. You can, however, still follow the line of the 7' x 5' flue from the smelt mills to the 100' chimney on Stublick Moor today. (see photograph)

An excellent article outlining the Mulcaster family tree, by Ian Forbes and Yvonne Purdy, was published in the August 2015 'Hexham Historian' No. 25.

Further information on the Langley Mills can be found in The History of Langley Barony (Part 6) by L.C. Coombes and Dennis Telford and available in 'The Bridge' library.



### HAYDON BRIDGE CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

Thank you to those readers who have provided positive comments about my history of the Haydon Bridge Store. I understand there are those who are disappointed that I did not continue my list of official members of the Society after 1914, (HN June 2014) so I will make good that omission in a future issue; as far as I can.

In the meantime, enjoy this photo of a group of Store employees, friends and relations who enjoyed a trip to Blackpool in the 1950s.

Some wonderful memories of our Parish are mirrored in these faces, most of whom no longer with us.

Thank you to Rene Armstrong for helping me to name the cast.



Back Row: Ridley Telford, Muriel Armstrong, Robert Harding, Maurice Armstrong, Charlie Cowing.

Second Row: Robert Charlton, Jackie Wardle, Doris (Doyce) Barron, Arnold Robinson, Dent Oliver, Theresa Humble, Jean Telford, Marrie Harding, Edmund Charlton, Roland Lowes, Mrs Gill, Neville Gill, Eric Porteous.

Front Row: Mrs R. Charlton, Johnny Brown, Lily Brown, Florrie Turnbull, Wilf Turnbull, Ossie Moore, Eddie Moffatt, Mrs Smith, Mrs Routledge (Snr.), Mrs Ronnie Routledge.

I continue my reports of activity on 'The Home Front', at Haydon Bridge, during the Great War; from March/April 1918. Previous accounts, from the day war broke out on August 4th 1914, are written in my Historical Notes in The Haydon News' July 2014 to October 2015.

**War Deaths:** The end of **March and April 1918** brought further sorrow with news of the deaths of seven more men from the parish. A stark reminder to everyone that the consequences of carnage many hundreds of miles away were still being felt closer to home.

**L/Corp. Robert Henry Little** (36), a coal miner and the only son of eleven children of John and Annie Little (nee Gaddes), was killed in France on March 23rd.

**Pte Maurice Scott Dove** (19), a farmer and the second of five children of Thomas Johnson Dove and Ann Elizabeth Dove (nee Parker), died in France on March 25th.

**L/Corporal John Walton Robinson** (38) was killed in action in France on March 28th. John was one of five children and the only surviving son of John and Margaret Robinson (nee Joicey). He was a nephew of Lord Joicey.

**L/Corporal Ainsley Morris Phillipson** (24), one of six children of Mathew William and Mary Jane Phillipson (nee Dodd) of Haydon Fell, died on April 7th.

**L/Corporal Herbert Pearson** (22) was a stone hewer and the son of Thomas and Margery (nee Thompson) of

Ratcliffe Road. He died on April 10th and his death was recorded: *(Duty called and he was there, To do his bit and take his share; His heart was good, his spirit brave, His resting place a hero's grave.)*

**Corporal John William Johnstone MM** (24), one of four children of William Pearson Johnstone and Alice (nee Dixon) he was killed in action on April 12th.

*(He left his home in the flower of youth, He seemed so strong and brave; The hand was clasped when saying "goodbye", Lies now in a soldier's grave.)*

**L/Corporal Thomas Arthur Willan** (29) died on April 30th. He was a draper and one of three children of Thos. and Mary Willan (nee Harrison).

**Volunteers:** The Haydon Detachment of the 4th Battalion Northumberland Volunteer Regiment had held its first social event in the Town Hall on Friday, February 8th 1918. By May 1918, many of our local detachment's volunteers had joined the army or navy.

Continued on page 9

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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

### The Home Front 1914-1918 - continued from page 8

**A Family At War:** In May 1918, Stanley Brown, the fifth son of Jacob and Bessie Brown of New Alston, joined the Machine Gun Corps. All the sons of the New Alston family were now serving their country in the land forces.

**Station Master Retires:** F.G. Wood retired as Haydon Bridge Station Master in May 1918 after forty seven years service - as a clerk at New Bridge Street for the Blyth & Tyne Railway from 1871, to his appointment in 1896 to Haydon Bridge from Newcastle Central. During his 22 years at Haydon Bridge he was a sidesman at St Cuthbert's Church, treasurer of the Reading Room, and on the committee of the Floral and Horticultural Society.

**Two interesting deaths** occurred in the parish in April 1918. Those of Mary Hedley, a daughter of the late William Lambert of Threepwood Hall; and Mathew Cowing, a well known village butcher who had occupied the Low Hall Farm.

**Pte William Robson Brown:** of the serving family from New Alston, died on May 6th 1918, aged twenty eight. Before serving his country, William was employed as a stonebreaker at the Haydon Bridge Whinstone Quarry.

**Sacrifice:** More sad news was received in the parish of those men who had given their lives in May 1918, making a total of seven in the month: **Pte William Kennedy (24)**, son of John and Jane of Elrington. **L/Corporal James Batey (23)**, the eldest of four children of Mary Jane Batey of Plunderheath. **Sgt Edward John Brown (23)** (William's brother - see above) also a 'stonebreaker', at Barcombe Colliery. **Pte Louis Spark (22)**, the son of Elizabeth Spark, who worked at Langley Barony.

**Bombardier John Todd (28)** the youngest child of Joseph and Harriet (nee Ridley). **Capt David Thompson Turner (28)**, son of William Murdoch and Hebron King Turner of Haydon Lodge and a farming apprentice with Mr Davison of West Mill Hills Farm. Capt Turner's death is not recorded on our village War Memorial, the reason for his omission is unclear, he is commemorated on the Reredos in St Cuthbert Church and the Tynedale Rugby Club War Memorial, however.

The circumstances of **David Turner's death** have been published and thanks to Pam and Ken Linge's research I am able to share an edited version with you here:

At Baslieux, a composite Brigade was formed under Major Robb's command, with Capt. Turner in charge of the 149 Company. The difficulties faced by the slender force were enormous and, while they defended Romigny, the enemy entered the village at about 2.00pm on May 30th and there was considerable rifle and machine gun fire. At 2.30pm, Capt. Turner went to reconnoitre in person - runners having been sent but failed to return - he passed behind some large French huts and was never seen again. Thus, the puny force put up its retreating fight ... Captain David Turner was one of the stoutest soldiers the Fourth ever attracted or produced and was reported killed in action or died of wounds on or shortly after May 30th.

**I will return to the 1914 - 1918 'Home Front' in December.**

## 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 third casualty, in 1918, was **George Mansfield Anderson**

### (53) George Mansfield Anderson



George served as Private, 41274, 1/4th Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment. He died on 19th August 1918, aged 19.

Born in Co. Durham he was the one of least six children of Gawen and Lily Anderson (nee Gibson). Gawen was a quarryman.

George was reported as missing on 27th May 1918 and was later reported as a prisoner-of-war. He died in a German Field Hospital.

George is buried in grave VI.B.16 in Grand Seraucourt British Cemetery.



As well as having his name on the War Memorial, George 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 George Mansfield Anderson, 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).**

## THE HOME FRONT : 1939 - 1945

**My earlier notes of the Second World War 'Home Front' at Haydon Bridge were published in the July, August and October 2015 issues of The Haydon News.**

**April 1940:** The Annual Meeting of the Haydon Bridge Cricket Club, decided to continue playing during the early war years and run one team in the West Tyne League. Officers appointed were: Chairman, W. Walker. Treasurer, Joe Keen. Capt. Wm. Rutherford. Vice Capt, Jimmy Taylor.

**Home Visits:** The Annual Meeting of the Haydon Bridge Nursing Association reported that Nurse Anderson had made 1,691 home visits during the year April 1939 to March 1940.

**Fire Alarm:** Memories of 'The Nipper', who terrorised the parish in the 1920s, setting fire to farm buildings and property, were revived in May 1940 when the fire engine used to extinguish all The Nipper's fires was sold for £20 at Hexham. The fire 'engine', was bought in 1906 and first drawn by horses, and then a motor car. The pumping apparatus was driven by steam and a fire that was lit on alarm was always kept laid and ready. Enough steam to pump 250 galls/water/min was generated in ten minutes, usually by the time the machine arrived at the fire.

**New postal rates** were introduced throughout the country on May 1st 1940: Letters not exceeding 2 ounces 2½d. Post cards 2d.

**Fire Alarm:** Hexham Rural District Council agreed to station one trailer pump at Haydon Bridge in case of fire, and it was agreed that it was necessary to have a man in charge of the village siren, twenty four hours a day.

**Watch and Listen:** I am told that, in the early years of the war, the country was alive with rumour and nervous anticipation and a poster campaign warned that 'traitors were everywhere'. It was the duty of everyone to 'watch and listen' for those whose curious actions could be an indication that they were members of a fifth column; or, for those strangers who might have been parachuted into the country from the lands of the enemy. Locally, in May 1940, residents were warned to be on guard for German parachute troops who might land with milking stools. It was reported that in Belgium, a paratrooper on landing had rushed to the nearest cow and started to milk it, pretending to be a local farmer. *(Or, maybe, he was just thirsty? - I apologise for my flippancy. It must have been very scary at the time, but, seventy five years later it does appear that some war-time events do contain an element of farce.)*

**Rationing cuts** were made on Monday May 27th 1940: Sugar from 12ozs to 8ozs. Butter from 8ozs to 4ozs; and on June 10th: Bacon from 8ozs to 4ozs.

**It's Curtains:** When Mrs Tait removed the drapes from her front room window to clean them, on May 15th 1940, she reckoned without the presence of our determined keeper of the peace, Police Constable Scott. Discovering there was no blackout material at the window, PC Scott saw to it that a fine of 12s 6d, was imposed by Hexham magistrates for the contravention of black out regulations.

**I will return to the 1939 - 1945 'Home Front' in December.**



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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, parents and carers to meet, play and try crafts. Followed by a snack and a drink, music or story time.

Cost per session is £1.50.

**For more information on the above sessions or an informal chat please contact:**

**Kelly Richardson 07732260415**

**or Nicola Grint on 07879999289**

## **U3A University of the Third Age**

No pressure! No exams! Join what you like! Have fun!  
What kind of university is this?

Not so much a university as a gigantic self-help organisation, the University of the Third Age, generally known as U3A, has hundreds of thousands of older people learning about foreign languages, science, music and art and countless other topics in informal groups. Despite its name this is not intensive study at university level, more a way of learning through enjoyment.

Here in Hexham, Tynedale U3A has about 300 members who can improve their bridge or Mah Jong, go hiking, keep fit, read and discuss plays and books, join in social outings and events, all within a friendly group whose aim is to help each other. People share their knowledge and life experience and all benefit.

Monthly meetings with speakers on all sorts of subjects are open to all members. Recent topics have included a fascinating insight into growth and many other areas of life related to the Fibonacci Series of numbers, the amazing Brontë family and the local dementia charity Chrysalis.

Longstanding U3A member Robert Ford says, "It certainly plays a big part in my life as I am a member of so many groups. I don't get out on walks as much now but I am still a member of the walking group." Robert is the convener (U3A-speak for group organiser) for The Play Bridge group, the Cruise group, and the Water Colour group. He also participates in Mah Jong and Art Appreciation.

Joan Sykes says, "What U3A has to offer has enriched my life beyond all expectations. It has given structure to my week, improved my health with Tai Chi and Walking groups, given me mental stimulus with Art Appreciation and Music Appreciation and above all has given me a social circle and many new friends." Joan edited Tynedale U3A's newsletter for three years from 2011 and she is now co-convenor of the Art Appreciation group. "I think that the process of sharing knowledge and learning together has been very successful."

Miranda Barker came to the area knowing no-one other than her partner, so she appreciates the friends she has made through U3A. "I think the U3A philosophy is excellent, although it means that a few enthusiastic people sometimes 'carry' a group. The 'circulating' model of the book group I attend, where different people lead each session, is a good one. And we have fascinating discussions about all sorts of things."

**If you are interested in joining Tynedale U3A please visit our website at [www.tynedaleu3a.org.uk](http://www.tynedaleu3a.org.uk) to find out more about the many groups we run, or contact our membership secretary Harry Shipley on 01434 602360.**

**Trisha Wall, Chairman Tynedale U3A**

## CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

### CLERGY MESSAGE FROM:

**Father Leo Pyle**

Where is the action?

The action is in you and me and all of us. The action is in humanity, the action of God which we call the Spirit is active in humanity and the message is crystal clear.

The Spirit reaches beyond institutional boundaries, those who have eyes to see and hearts that are in tune with the rhythm of life will recognise the Spirit at work in people, very often in those **outside** religious practice.

So very often we tend to do a 'Joshua' we tend to say, think or feel 'they don't belong' so how are they be Spirit filled?' And this is what we call small mindedness.

We need the larger mindedness of God to welcome all the prophets in our lives, all those to whom the Lord gives the gift of his Spirit, in whom the Spirit is active.

We cannot really waste our time playing games of 'them and us'. Who-ever is not against us is **for** us. Whoever is kind for Christ's sake **will** be rewarded. We must not scandalise and shock folk by minds closed to all the good, beauty and love in their humanity and ours. Just because the manifestation of charismatic power is unprogrammed, we must not close our hearts and minds to the Spirit. Restrain as we may, 'The Spirit blows where it will'. The wind blows wherever it pleases, and that is how it is with all who are born of the Spirit.

However it must be said, both Baptism and Confirmation contain a right of anointing with chrism, the most precious of the three sacramental oils and the sign of the Spirit.

As the baptised people of God, we are a royal, prophetic priesthood. This is the source of our dignity as Christians. In virtue of our baptism, we have a right to exercise those three functions in the name of Christ through prayer, stewardship of our lives and consciences and by lives of prophetic witness.

**Love is the mark of the true prophet,**

Love of God and his creation

Love of God and his people

Love of God and his Christ

Love of God and his Spirit

who finds his home in **our** humanity.

*Father Leo Pyle*

### 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

## QUIZ NIGHT

With Pie and Pea Supper

Tuesday 10th November

Commencing 7.15pm

**METHODIST CHURCH**

QuizMaster - Rev. J. Harrison

## HAYDON OLD CHURCH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

**Sunday 29th November - 3pm**

**All Welcome**

### *Methodist Church Christmas Fayre*

*Saturday 5th Dec. 2pm*

*Usual Stalls, Teas*

*Visit from Santa*

*All welcome*

*Come along and join us*

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**

## METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

### 1 November

10am Morning Worship Mark Knowles  
6pm *All Souls Service* (St. Cuthberts Church)

### 8 November

10.15am *United Service at St. Cuthbert's Church*  
10.50am *War Memorial - Act of Remembrance followed by refreshments in the Methodist Church*  
6.00pm Evening Service Rev. J. Harrison

### 15 November

10.00am Morning Worship Graham Wilson  
6.00pm Evening Worship Roger Anthony

### 22 November

10.00am Communion Rev. Tony Buglass  
6.00pm Evening Service Nigel Gotobed  
Salvation Army Newcastle

### 29th November

Morning Worship Tom Dodds  
3.00pm *Advent Carols* Haydon Old Church  
**No 6.00pm Service**

## ANGLICAN SERVICES

### 1 November All Saints Day

#### **Beltingham**

9.30am BCP and Baptism

#### **Haydon Bridge**

11.00am BCP  
6.00pm **All Souls Service**

### 8 November

#### **Henshaw**

10am Service of Remembrance,  
followed by War Memorial

#### **Haydon Bridge**

10.15am Service of Remembrance  
followed by War Memorial 10.50 am  
Refreshments at Methodist Church

### 15th November

#### **Henshaw**

9.30am Parish Eucharist

#### **Haydon Bridge**

11.00am Parish Eucharist

### 22nd November

#### **Beltingham**

9.30am Parish Eucharist

#### **Haydon Bridge**

11.00am Parish Eucharist

### 29th November

#### **Haydon Bridge**

10.00am *Joint Communion*

#### **Haydon Old Church**

3.00 pm Advent Carol Service

## ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

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.



### **Harvest Festival Cross**

Created by Deacon Anne Taylor  
along with several members of the Methodist Church  
and has been greatly admired by passersby.

## **Messy Church**

11th November 3.30 to 5.45 pm  
at the Methodist Church

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

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## **South Tynedale Railway. The Rise and Fall**

The South Tynedale Railway Preservation Society (STRPS) currently has three stations; Alston, Kirkhaugh and Lintley Halt, with around three and half miles of narrow gauge (2 foot) track. However getting there came in stages.

In 1983 trains ran into Gilderdale Halt using the main line and then the loco ran-round the train using the loop on the east side, which ran alongside the footpath. As there was no platform of any sort, passengers wishing to alight did so between the main line and the run-round loop, using the deep steps provided on the coaches that allowed them to reach ground level. This method of working continued for the remainder of the 1983 season but it was considered highly unsatisfactory. The original Gilderdale Halt remained in use until 13th December 1986, when the extension to the County Boundary was inspected and passed for service.

Although a platform edged with old sleepers was installed at Gilderdale, work soon started to extend the line into Northumberland with the intention of reaching a point near Kirkhaugh. Unfortunately it was discovered that although Gilderdale Viaduct was in a satisfactory condition the small Whitley Viaduct about half a mile to the north of Gilderdale required major repairs before trains could once again run over it. This delayed the opening of the next extension until Saturday 4th September 1999. Originally it had been hoped to keep Gilderdale open as an intermediate station, but by the time the extension to Kirkhaugh was ready, the Society possessed six coaches and a long train could not be stopped at the short Gilderdale platform, so the halt was closed.

While all this work was going on, the volunteers were also acquiring old steam and diesel stock and were busy restoring them for use hauling the passenger coaches. The passengers were charmed by the old steam and diesel loco's and the stunning scenery which is passed at a leisurely average of 12 miles an hour. Passenger numbers grew rapidly and the STR became a viable business despite the high running costs in terms of infrastructure, engineering and basics such as coal, diesel and oils.

Prior to the start of the 2012 season, the train departing Alston terminated at Kirkhaugh. As part of the plans to extend the South Tynedale Railway back to the first stop on the former British Rail branch line at Slaggyford, a new station was needed after the first 1½ miles of additional track had been laid and this is the present station at Lintley. The opening day of Lintley station, 1st April 2012, was greeted with clear skies and fine spring sunshine which helped to bring out large crowds, but this was the Society's heyday as things had already begun to slip.

New stringent regulations, a decline in active volunteers and a few trying to carry too many roles, all took its toll. With the exception of the very popular Santa Express, passenger numbers declined and in one year alone a reduction of 30% was recorded. The small café, shop and the trains themselves all grew quiet and there were no longer funds to maintain the business. It is only by the absolute dedication of a small number of volunteers, and clever grant applications that the Society remained in operation. But times were changing and a major grant by the HLF was the start of a transformation for the Society.

*Heather Palmer*



# Santa Specials

at South Tynedale Railway, Alston



**December weekends:**  
**12th & 13th • 19th, 20th & 21st**

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**All tickets include a train ride, seasonal refreshments and a visit with Santa.**

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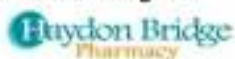


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Haydon  
LOCAL ARTISTS



# Christmas Art and Craft Fair

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 10am–2pm

Admission Free

Xmas Shopping on your doorstep!!

Refreshments and Raffle

## Re-viewed, Re-read

I am a relatively new mum which means when my children are finally in bed in the evening, I have just about energy to clear up after dinner, iron several pieces for the next day and collapse to bed. Reading is now reduced to about five pages before by promptly falling asleep with my book firmly in the hands. Short-stories collections are ideal for this state of mind, allowing me to read a complete story without having to re-read the same lines over and over again, trying to recall where I left off the previous evening. *The Penguin Book of Modern British Short Stories* (Penguin, 1988, edited by Malcolm Bradbury) provided me with precisely this opportunity – getting lost in great writing once again. I am on the second volume now. Many English Literature graduates will be familiar with these anthologies as I believe they are quite often a part of the syllabus.

I loved the diversity on offer combined with excellent story-telling, however, one particular piece called *To Room Nineteen* saw me fetching my red pencil and correcting it. It followed a marriage of Susan and Matthew to the bitter end. Seemingly comfortable suburban life of a family with four children, the man making money to provide for them, the woman giving up everything to raise their offspring. It provides a remorselessly gloomy view of such an arrangement as Susan escapes into a hotel room to spend time on her own while she is becoming more and more depressed.

My problem with the story was that it was written in the third person whilst throwing at us judgemental statements such “Children are boring.” It would have felt much differently if it was written in the first person or if such statements were made in direct speeches. I struggled through the whole plot to the inevitable end of the hero-

ine, understanding what the author was trying to depict but disliking the way it was done. Afterwards I checked who the write, who prompted me to reach for the best editor’s tool - the dreaded red pencil. It was none other than the Nobel Prize Winner Doris Lessing. There you go. If someone is universally critically acclaimed, it does not mean that everyone is going to love what they write.

That also goes for the much-talked-about Scandinavian crime writing of recent years. I have read quite a few books by the authors from that region. Whilst I find them readable, I would hardly call them “greatest works of literature”. It’s an interesting point of view, very dark with a flavour of hopelessness - a hint of Ingmar Bergmann. Jo Nesbo’s *Police* (Harvey Seckell, London, 2013, translated from Norwegian by Don Bartlett) is one these uncompromising tales that take us on the spiral downwards rather than upwards, full of damaged, brooding misfits who could all potentially be the culprits.

I appreciate that Scandi-crime is all the rage now and its authors are rightly regarded for their craft and professionalism, for me it’s too much blood and gory details. I wonder if today’s crime novels are revolving around extremely psychopathic characters rather than exploring the fascinating world of what makes ordinary people criminals as the great P.D. James could do so brilliantly. Do we really have this Victorian desire for blood, twisted minds who know no remorse, deeds that defy human understanding?

In my opinion it goes a little bit too far to enjoy it but I am obviously at odds with millions of readers out there who think otherwise.

Next time: A bit about Spanish Civil War and one well-known trilogy

Natalie Nera





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

It's congratulations time for the children, who took part in and completed the Summer Reading Challenge. Fifteen young people took part, resulting in 87% of them gaining their Certificate and medal. Some of the successful readers are pictured above. Altogether, they were: Connor Alder, Bea Bentley, Guy Bentley, Lily Bradley, Eloise Buchanan, Ben Cantwell, Dan Cantwell, Hannah Carruthers-Dunn, Skye Carruthers-Dunn, Matthew Morgan, Sophie Plaice, Tom Taylor and Stella Taylor. Skye was rewarded with the annual red cap for her reading so she and also Sophie Plaice, whose name was drawn from a hat, had their names put forward for the County selection, the prize being a bicycle. Jackie White, from Hexham Library organised the Pres-

entation event and Councillor Alan Sharp gave out the awards. Friday's team of volunteer librarians organised refreshments for the children at the end of the ceremony.

#### Bird Survey

Bird survey findings will be published in the "Haydon News". They are already proving interesting with quite a few birds, from a hundred years ago, nowhere to be seen now and others that would not have been known in this area then. If you still wish to fill in a survey, this is the last push. You can ask for a copy, and also hand the completed version in at the Bridge.

#### Local Interest Booklets

Thinking of presents for family abroad. They may like the first two books in Dennis Telford's continuing series: "Welcome to Haydon Bridge" and "Old Haydon Church"...

### Letter from Burma - Part 2

In 1948 the "Union of Burma" was the name chosen for the new country. Following, the 1962 military coup it was amended to the "Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma. In 1989, the military regime of Burma set up a commission in charge of reviewing the place names of Burma in the English language. The aim of the commission was to correct the spelling of the place names of Burma in English, in order to discard spellings chosen by the British colonial authorities in the 19th century. The official English name was then changed by the country's government to the "Union of Myanmar", and later to the "Republic of the Union of Myanmar". The name of the country in English was changed but they did not change the official name of the country in Burmese. Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi at first opposed the new name "Myanmar", pointing out the hypocritical justification of inclusiveness put forward by the regime. Opposition parties, although they oppose the English name "Myanmar", do not oppose the official Burmese name *Myanma*, They do not speak Myanmarese in Myanmar, they speak Burmese and so the idiosyncrasies continue.

Brian Johnston, the infamous cricket commentator, once said when in India "this is my third Test Match Tour here but I still don't know on which side of the road they drive!" Fortunately for him Burma (Myanmar) does not play Test cricket, otherwise he may have been rendered totally speechless by the traffic here.

As with most of the British Empire Burma drove on the left and the cars were right-hand drive. In 1970 however the decision to switch sides of the road was reportedly because the General's astrologers felt that Burma had moved too far left, in political terms. In no way did he want to veer away from the "Burma way to Socialism" so to appease the "mad monks" giving him advice he ordered the road shift – overnight!\*. As cars were a banned import, except to the chosen few, the roads then were full of right hand drive vehicles all nervously driving on the right. It is reported that to this day that the change is not complete as some road signs in central Rangoon still face the wrong way. The military once had total control but now it is a land with no control.

The import of second hand vehicles has no restriction so the roads are full of Japan's used which of course are RHD.

Ex-Japan buses are the biggest laugh of course as the doors open on the wrong side. Driving through Rangoon in the rush hour can be quite entertaining with passengers hanging out of the doors of crowded buses facing the oncoming traffic. It is difficult sometimes to know which country you are in being surrounded by commercial vehicles still being sign written in Japanese, Korean and Chinese – yes the characters are recognizably different. At least new vehicles can only be imported as left-hand drive. Burma it could be said now has a “split personality”! \* *There appears to be no written record as to the details of this move, I wonder why?*

Of course there are the cynical observers that will say that Myanmar will eventually change back to driving on the left. Increasing trade with driving-on-the-left neighbours India and Thailand will surely prompt this. If recent history is anything to go by then this is entirely possible.

It will then be feasible to drive overland from Pakistan to Singapore and thence onwards through Indonesia, PNG Australia, New Zealand and Samoa. Why Samoa because they did it in 2009, moved back from the right to the left. Whichever side of the road Myanmar ends up driving on, the proportion of left-hand and right-hand drive vehicles on the roads will be very finely balanced for many years to come.

I am reliably informed by an ex-colleague that he and I were last in Rangoon 14-15-16 September 1975. At that time the cost of a room per night was 60.50Kyats which at an exchange rate of 6.35 equates to US\$9.35. Today a room at the same and very tastefully refurbished Strand typically costs \$220 and with the Kyat:Dollar exchange rate just gone thru 1200 equates to 275,000kyats. Get your head around that one if you can!

Burma too has joined the ex-colonial band wagon by changing names of towns and cities, namely Rangoon to Yangon but, Ha! Ha!, the 3 letter Airport Code remains as RGN, just as it was under the Brits. Some others:

Canton change to Guangzhou	CAN
Saigon change to Ho Chi Min City	SGN
Bombay change to Mumbai	BOM

Just like the Pakistani's they have seen fit to move their capital away from their main port and commercial centre: Pakistan from Karachi to Islamabad

Myanmar from Rangoon to Nay Pyi Taw

Brazil from Rio de Janeiro

Finally the “YME” - the Yangon to Mandalay Expressway. Conceived in 1954 work finally started in 2005 and was officially opened in December 2010, it is 366 miles or 589km long, There is no camber on the curves, frequent subsidence, the signage does not meet international standards, slip roads are non-existent and farm livestock is free to roam. Before it was finished the Government was already asking for proposals for it to be upgraded. It does however have milestones, a lot of them. They are big and white, on both sides of the carriageways and spaced a *furlong* apart! So how many are there, try  $366 \times 2 \times 8 = 5,856$ , there is also a Km stone every 1km so another 1,178 – Total 7,034. When heading North the milestone numbers are ascending and when going South they are descending!

*Seamus Android*

## **(F)LIGHTWEIGHT**

F.Scott Fitzgerald once famously said "The rich are different..." Too true. As my nephew found out to his cost recently:

As a pilot for a private jet company based in Hamburg Germany, his job is to fly the glitterati around the world. "Nice work if you can get it!" I hear you cry. He thought so too and was congratulating himself on his darned good luck when the boss called him into the office one day recently. He instructed my nephew, Patrick, to fly a very well-known sports superstar to Milan. The client was also well-known for being a proper little diva - whose demands were legend. As was his tight-fistedness. Fortunately the trip would be a short one. This time the star's management were paying for the über expensive trip and said his every wish was to be fulfilled - down to whether he wanted caviar or ketchup on his in-flight sandwiches.

The aircraft prepared for take-off and the Superstar settled down with a magazine. One which had his oh-so-important face on the cover. As the plane smoothly reached its optimum altitude he dozed off and seemed to be asleep for most of the journey - so my nephew enjoyed some rare peace and quiet from this normally demanding passenger.

As the Captain approached Italy, the sportsman woke up. His face signalled all was not well and he called the co-pilot urgently to his side - whereupon he pointed angrily at his feet:

"Hey man! Check this out! My treads. They're ruined! Ruined! That's two grand this airline owes me mate!". Courtesy forbids me from including his expletives. Of which there were many.

My nephew looked down. Yes indeed, the designer trainers (personally signed by someone very senior at Nike HQ) were badly scuffed - the bigwig's signature now barely legible and the Swarovski encrusted laces a little less sparkling. The soles appeared in imminent danger of coming apart at the seams.

"Yo man!" the player continued in a fury 'What yo' gonna do about it? This is bad. Real bad. Someone's gonna pay that's for sure."

Patrick was perplexed as to how it could have happened to an immobile sleeping passenger - in fact the only passenger - on his flight. The Celebrity pointed to a small white box affixed to the fuselage. He said that before going to sleep he had wedged his snake-skin shod toes firmly into the grille for comfort. Granted he needed to push 'well hard' to get into the best position - and hey man, it did the trick. But now look! LOOK! Ruined!

My nephew did look. Aghast, he said that as the main outlet for air into the cabin, this box made all the difference between life and death. The now badly damaged Nike-shaped grille had compromised everyone's safety aboard the multi-million pound jet. And its repair would cost substantially more than the trainers. He looked around for a pen to better write down the invoice details; like the rest of the world he knew the guy's name - now he just needed his address.

With that the sportsman grabbed his bag and broke his own speed record as he headed for the exit - the tattered torn treads flapping behind him.

*Marita Berndt*

# 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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7.30 to 10.00pm

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Ask for details at:

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**NE42 5PU**

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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**

All phone calls for dispensing or prescriptions: **01434 688351**

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

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

## Haydon Bridge & Allendale Medical Practice

### Patient Participation Group

We are looking for volunteers to join our existing group. Meetings are held regularly (approx. every 6 weeks or so) at both sites to discuss general and local health issues and practice specific issues.

The only qualification required is that you are registered as a patient with the practice.

If you would like to join the group, suggest a topic for discussion or just want more information please contact the Practice Manager.

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

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

## 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)

## Haydonian Social Club QUIZ

Friday 30th October 8-30pm

Quiz host Joyce

Everyone welcome

## HEAR TO HELP

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

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

All sessions at the Haydon Bridge Health Centre.

## 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**

Nov 5th NORTHUMBRIAN ROCK ART  
Sara Rushton

Nov 19th HEDGEHOGS PROTECTION  
SOCIETY  
John Parker

Dec 3rd FLOWERS OF THE DESERT  
Pat & Alan Porrett



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Debt can often be a difficult thing to admit to but we know it causes untold misery to many people and their families. There are numerous causes for this problem and we know that once people tackle the issue they can feel much better about their predicament.

Here are Citizens Advice, we offer people help to face the problem and work together to look at options and solutions. These can range from help with budgeting, ensuring you are in receipt of all the benefits you may be entitled to, help to prioritise what payments are important, help to negotiate with creditors, consider options like bankruptcy or Debt Relief Orders.

The advice we give is free, independent, confidential and impartial. All CABs across the county have specialist workers who can give you the best advice. Contact your nearest CAB now, don't delay the debts won't go away.

You can call Northumberland Adviceline on 03444 111 444 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm to speak confidentially about the matter or find your nearest CAB at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

By calling into one of our drop-in sessions at:

**Hexham office**

Community Centre, Gilesgate, Hexham. NE46 3NP  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am to 2pm

**Prudhoe office**

Spetchells Centre Prudhoe NE42 5AA  
Tuesday & Thursday, 10am to 2pm

**Haltwhistle office**

Masonic Hall. Greenholme Rd, Haltwhistle NE49 9DL  
Thursdays 10am to 2pm

**We have specialist debt and welfare benefits adviser to help you. Help also available at**  
**[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)**

**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.*

**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**

**Haydon Bridge Scout Group**

1<sup>st</sup> Haydon Bridge Cubs meet on a Tuesday evening @ 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm in St Johns Church hall on North Bank. We are a mixed pack and troop with a varied programme based around the outdoors.

**Contact Ian Everard on 01434 344651**

Scouts meet Wednesday 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm at St Johns Church hall;

**Contact Raymond Henderson on 07761101145**

Last term's Cub activities included a walk and swim at Allenbanks, fire lighting and sausage sizzling, cycle rides on the south Tyne trail, and a weekend camp at Dilston. All these events were supported by parents who helped out and made the events possible. Scout activities included night hikes, gliding and weekend camps, brass monkey camps, shooting and go karting..

Any old cub, scouts or interested adults 18 to 65 who want to lend a hand are very welcome, as adult leaders are always a welcome pack and troop addition.

**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**

**Hexham Beacon Club**

Programme-

4<sup>th</sup> Nov- Durham Cathedral

11<sup>th</sup> Nov- Athens First & Last Democracy.

18<sup>th</sup> Nov-The-Gideons.

25<sup>th</sup> Nov- African Train Journey.

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec- Diving throughout the world.

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

**General Havelock**

Film & food night - 3rd December

"It's a Wonderful Life" Please contact 684376

Christmas menus available 20% discount  
for Haydon Bridge residents

Christmas puddings available end of November

**THANKS FROM MESSY CHURCH**

On behalf of 'Churches Together Messy Church' a big Thank You to the team that transformed the village into a welcome haven for competitors & visitors for the passage of the Tour of Britain on Sept. 10th and especially for the joint 1st prize for the best decorated building. There was frantic activity in church on the Wednesday before race day to get streamers, flag and banner ready and in place. The young children & helpers are very pleased their work was noticed and rewarded. Luckily the rail crossing gates came down just after the last cyclist went through. A street full of support cars was trapped and Bradley Wiggins' car was just outside the church with several others for a few minutes. They could hardly fail to see the decorations. Thanks to everyone concerned for a day to remember.

*Patsy Gibson (Treasurer)*

## Tour of Britain - part 2

And so the day of the race dawned. Spectators made their way through nearly deserted streets. Shaftoe Street and John Martin Street were completely traffic free – probably for the first time since the automobile arrived in Haydon Bridge! As early as 10 in the morning, some two hours before the race was due to pass through, crowds were starting to form, the butcher's shelves were groaning with extra pies and pasties, a café had popped up in the churchyard and most incongruous of all – a hog roast was heating up in the graveyard! Unfortunately the church clock wasn't working: an over eager parish councillor had gone up to try and ensure the clock was telling the right time but instead managed to break it!

With North Bank closed all the way up to the Military Road to allow recreational cyclists to ride part of the race course on closed roads; somebody thought it might be a good idea to set up an electronic timing system so that some of the more adventurous cyclists could have their times recorded accurately and compare themselves with the professionals. Tyne Tees Television got wind of this and sent a film crew along, fortunately missing the aforementioned and doubly red-faced councillor panting his way up the hill, accompanied by the ribald comments of some spectators and wishing that he could break the electronic clock as well as the Church one!

The weather was perfect – warm autumn sunshine and next to no breeze and all was apparently going well until someone pointed out that the race was due to arrive in the village at around 12 noon and that there was a train due to pass through at 12:04. Would the organisers face the ignominy of having the race halted by the level crossing gates? There was a great camaraderie amongst the crowd – after all we were all there for exactly the same reason. People were talking about their bikes, their favourite riders, good routes to ride nearby, where the best vantage points might be and so the waiting passed in a flash.

The first indication that the race was approaching came with police motorcycle outriders checking that the course was clear. All of a sudden, the traffic policeman was everybody's friend with one or two leaning over to slap hands with eager spectators. More motorbikes of every shape and colour appeared followed by the race director and some of the support vehicles. A PA system announced that a 4-man breakaway was 6 minutes ahead of the main field and then we finally saw, across the valley, the first of the riders as they sped down into the village, under the "Welcome to Haydon Bridge" banner that was hanging on the A69 bridge and past the First School. A few minutes later and the sound of cheering and applause could be heard from the lower reaches of North Bank and the High School and then the lead group came round the corner. They were certainly moving a lot quicker than expected on that slope and soon passed by and disappeared out of sight past Tofts Farm.

More support vehicles followed and then the main phalanx of riders appeared following the same route into the village. Travelling at around 40 miles per hour they hurtled down Shaftoe Street with some people waving them by and then running along the old bridge to try and get another look as they swept into Church Street. Children and adults were waving flags and cheering as they passed. For those up North Bank there was the same anticipation as before and then the cyclists were in view: Andre Greipel the German sprinter, known as "The Gorilla", Mark Cavendish the "Manx Missile" (who would eventually retire from the race after riding into the back of a

parked car – something this writer has done before too!) and Sir Bradley Wiggins "Wiggo" (the first British rider to win Le Tour de France) were riding through our village, inches away from the crowds who were standing 3 to 4 deep at the best vantage points. Past they went – the hiss of the tyres on the tarmac and the clunking of chains and gears mingling with the sound of cheering and shouting from the crowd.

And then, yes – it was all over. The riders had been and gone and only the last couple of support cars were stuck at the level crossing. The spectators packed away their cameras and camping chairs, the recreational cyclists climbed back on their bikes and headed off to Hartside for the finish and the crowds dispersed. The café seemed to be doing a roaring trade, the hog roast in the graveyard was as incongruous as before but everybody seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere.

So "Well done" to Northumberland: "it has exceeded our wildest expectations by an astonishing amount". Apparently the ubiquitous "three men and a dog" watched the race depart Edinburgh for Stage 4 – the estimate for Prudhoe was 8 to 10 thousand. "Well done" to Haydon Bridge: we certainly pulled together and our village was better decorated than anywhere else, even if the cameras missed it. We know we did a good job.

Yes – it might only have lasted a few seconds but it was an experience lasting for weeks and we'll remember "the day the Tour of Britain came" for a long time.

And.....yes – the Church clock has been mended!

*Simon Walker*

### **The Haydon Bridge & Allendale Medical Practice**

#### **The Friends and Family Test**

From 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 it has been a contractual requirement that all GP practices undertake the NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT).

The FFT question asks if patients would recommend the services they have used to their friends & family and offers a range of responses.

When combined with supplementary follow up questions, this provides a mechanism to highlight both good and poor patient experience.

You can take the FFT using a card at the front desk in both receptions or via the Practice website.

#### **Staffing**

Dr James Jackson is our GP Registrar from August until February.

Shelley Atkinson has completed her apprenticeship with us and is now a permanent member of the Reception team and works at both sites.

#### **Please Help Us to Reduce DNAS (did not attend)**

We continue to monitor patients not attending.

Please help us to reduce waiting times for appointments by letting us know if you can not attend your appointment. These appointments can then be offered to other patients.


  
**Christmas Market &  
Family Fun Day**  
 Sunday 6th December  
 1pm - 4pm  
 Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall  
 \*Santa Experience    Handmade Stalls  
 Games    Raffle  
 Refreshments

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November 2015

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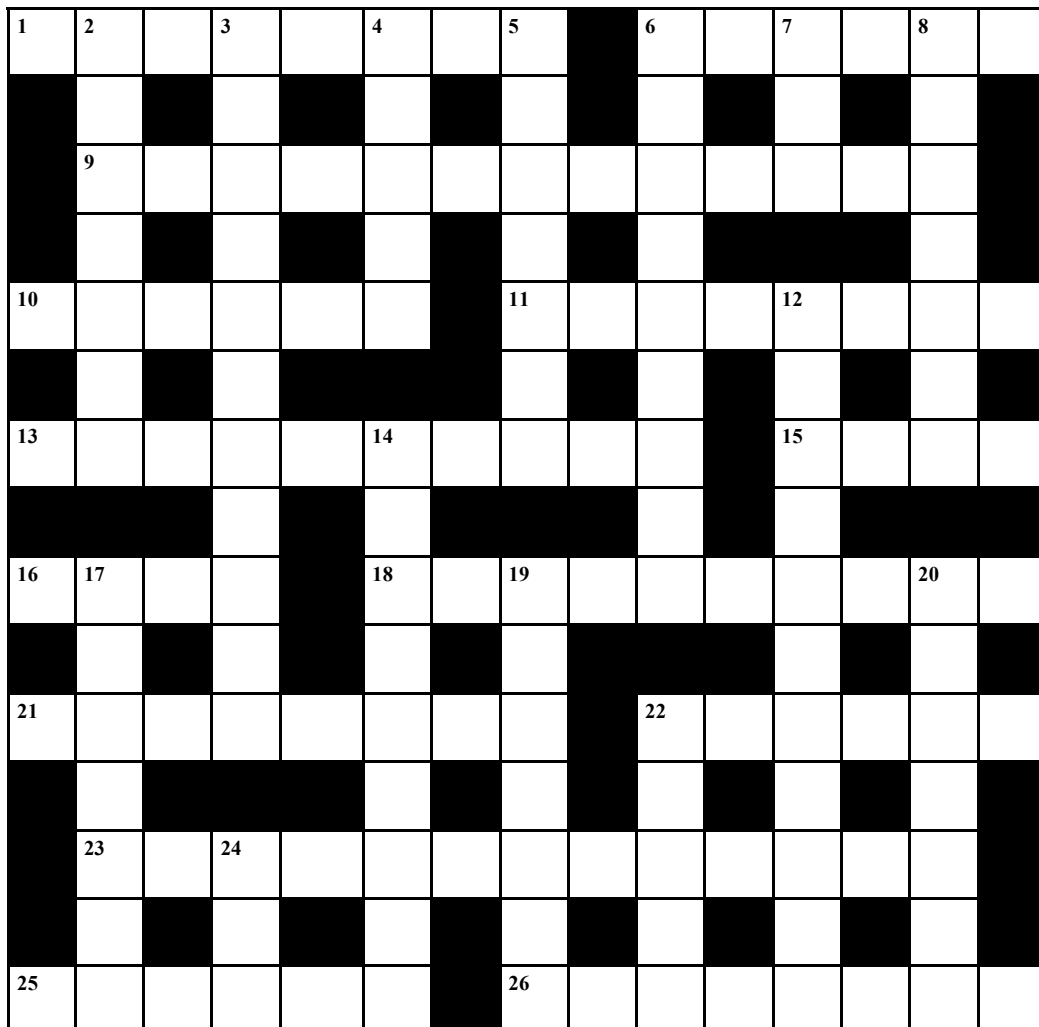
ADDRESS.....

## ACROSS

1. Headcase has to damage vessel (8)
6. Endless fiefdom doctored to do just the opposite (3,3)
9. Spray oxidisation completely and warily (13)
10. Right away, vomited and made an impression (6)
11. Flammable stuff for gunmen very loudly in pain (8)
13. Torch 'e sent round to novelist (10)
15. Our river is around no Russian (4)
16. Cuddle no writer (4)
18. Cherry be OK about this New World fruit (10)
21. Retiring girl announced Indian (8)
22. Dad has nothing to back material (6)
23. Defer changing trains to Pacer model (13)
25. Comes round again in racy cliché (6)
26. Pipers piping on this day of celebration (8)

## DOWN

2. Return game or marry again (7)
3. Bag man's conservative record (4,7)
4. Soundly matched and skinned (5)
5. Hurl cannabis at drunkard (7)
6. Submission when deer get involved with fence (9)
7. 'aved is forty-five inches (3)
8. Angler's kit may be flap on railway? (7)
12. Steal crockery and protect the door (11)
14. Odd cent in Circe knocked back (9)
17. States association with dwarf is sad (7)
19. Disregard poetry in Old English (7)
20. Train writer to make clothing! (7)
22. First Marines invade pastry (5)
24. Hard work cutting head off for fuel (3)



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

### OCTOBER'S WINNER

Mrs. Isabel Charlton

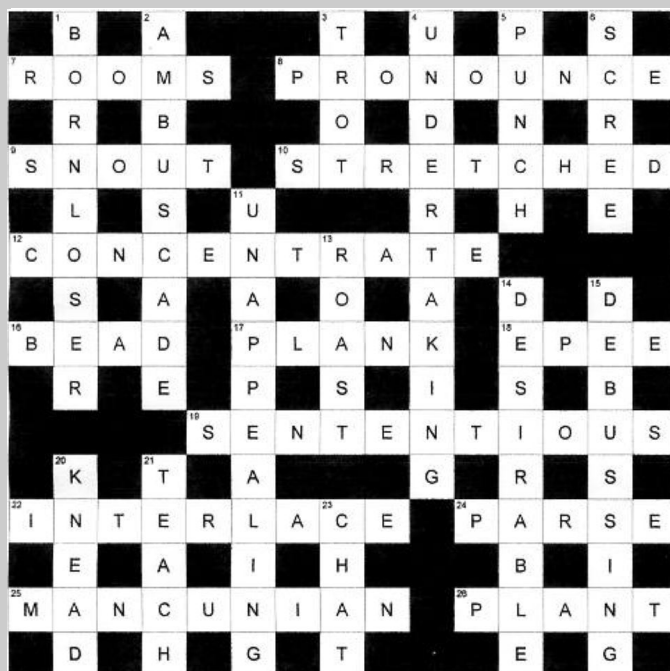
### NUMBER OF ENTRIES

4  
3 correct

#### Editor's note

Last month's crossword bore an uncanny resemblance to a previously printed item. Sorry.

### OCTOBER'S ANSWERS



## BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN DEEP

Every Thursday and Sunday Aldi has a 'Special Offer' which is only available for a short time. It can be anything from Baby Goods to Gardening to Motoring Accessories. And beyond. Today was no exception and on special offer was face cream.

"Nothing special about that!" I hear you old wrinklies cry.

Aha but there you'd be wrong! This cream was for sale at £6.99, which is still considerably more than the chip-pan oil I usually slather on my face each morning by way of a beauty regime.

All the newspapers hailed the Aldi one as being equivalent to La Prairie face cream - worn by celebrity stars of TV, stage and film. Or fillum as they say in these parts. For those of you with money to burn, a small tub of La Prairie in Harrods is priced at an eye-watering..... £247. Yes, dear reader - two hundred and forty seven pounds. Containing real caviar apparently. And unicorn hair.

Now fortunately I'm a natural beauty myself wot needs no artificial embellishments but I do like a bargain as much as the next person. So I hot-footed it down to Hexham half an hour before they opened their doors this morning. I figured I could browse the aisles at my leisure then begin my quest for eternal youth when I got home.

I figured wrong.

There were so many 4x4 cars in the Aldi car park and throngs of women racing ahead of me that anyone would think George Clooney was in town. As the Manager opened the doors, these same crazy-eyed women stampeded as one, past the own-brand cereals and jams, towards the 'Specials' counter at a speed which would make Mo Farrah hang his head in shame.

I followed in hot pursuit - no time even to grab a trolley.

I didn't need to ask where the magic potion was, I just looked for the baying crowd of desperate middle-aged ladies a-shovin' and a-pushin'. The boxes containing the lotions were piled high. Hundreds and hundreds of 'em. As I asked a tall stranger to pass me some from the top, a rude (and heavily lined) woman elbowed me aside, shouting "Oi! You! Leave some for the rest of us!"

I only had two boxes in my hand but I passed one over to her saying "Here dear. I can see you need them more than anybody!"

Then I ran towards the cash desk before she could lamp me one, in my soon-to-be flawless face.

The poor Aldi guy on the till was bewildered and bemused by all these hundreds of women concentrated on the one aisle - shouting and swearing at one another to get out of the way. I've seen more grace on a rugby field. I explained to him that the cream, at only £7, was over two hundred pounds cheaper than its counterpart in Harrods. He turned the box this way and that before asking:

"Really? Do you think it works? I might get the missus some."

"Put it this way" I replied. 'If you need proof I'm over 18 the next time I'm in, then yup, it works!'"

If not, I'm getting my money back.

Or 'Win-win Bro' as we young kids on the block say.

*Marita. Now aged 15 and a half.*

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## **Brendan Healy**

### **Who loves The Great Indoors.**

Premier league football. I don't get it. I don't fancy paying a fortune to sit on a plastic seat in the winter, (not with my condition) watching multi-millionaires playing with a ball and occasionally cheating when the man in the black outfit isn't looking. By the way, how backward is that anyway?! We have incredible video technology but they won't use it, 'cos if they did there wouldn't be anything to discuss afterwards and there are a lot of mumbly scotsmen making a living on the telly from footballing post-mortems.

I remember a World Cup match when some Brazilian boy got hit gently in the body with a football, but then he cheated by clutching his face and rolling around in agony, much to the dismay of the boys playing on the other side who were forced to let him have a free go. We all saw it, but the poor man in charge must have spotted his Mam in the audience 'cos he missed it. There was even an Argentine, once, who scored a goal with his hand. He must have had some special dispensation for a headache or something 'cos they let him have the goal. It may seem like it's mainly South Americans who do this sort of thing but there are softy cheaters from all over the world.

I may not be a fan of what I call commercial football, but I do love the World Cup. I like to see different styles of play and I love the underdog games. In 2014 we saw the Belgians put aside their waffles to take part, also the Ivory Coast who are nicknamed Les Éléphants, which was kindly translated for me by Wikipedia; The Elephants.

I also like grass roots football and the people involved who have worked tirelessly all their lives to bring football to local communities. People like Davey Kirsup, who keeps the football fields in Haydon Bridge just as well as any premier league groundsman, and for nowt.

There are people like Davey all over the North and they are, I think, responsible for some of our greatest home grown talent. Alan Shearer and Peter Beardsley spring to mind. Proper blokes. They grew up playing in Wallsend and if you cheated there you got filled in. Which brings me to Rugby. The people who play this game are not softies, they are barking. They actually get downright peeved when their referee sends them off just 'cos there's blood pouring down their faces. Thirty seconds and a swig of water later, they are pawing at the touch line to be back on, with a bath towel of a bandage on their heads. They then proceed to attack everyone with said head, to prove that it was just a scratch.

To my personal favourite, the sport of kings, beach volleyball! Our football stadiums should be thinking about putting this on midweek, millions would attend. I remember watching Brazil versus the USA in the Olympics. The skimpily dressed players were soaked and it was cold which made the whole game so much more interesting. The women's version of the game is pretty good too.

I also know why we British are generally naff at most sports. It's because we don't get a chance to have a go at them. There is no way for me to know whether I would have been the world's greatest curler, Tae Kwondist or bog snorkler. There are thousands of sports that kids have never even heard of. I was lucky, after I left school I discovered the joys of outdoor activities. Climbing, surfing, fell walking, canoeing etc.

Most kids will never get a chance to have a go at these great adventure sports because of the over-enthusiastic health and safety police, and I think it's a tragedy, 'cos not only are

they exciting and fun but it's dead hard to cheat against yourself.

I buy dolphin friendly tuna but, for the life of me, I can't find tuna friendly dolphin.

One thing about European football is that it is played with the foot (apart from that Diego fellow.) Not like the daft Americans. In their game of football the foot is hardly ever used. Nitwits.

## **A Church Family for the Community.**

Hexham Community Church is a church family based in Central Chambers, on Beaumont Street. Community, faith and family are the foundations of our church family. Hexham Community Church is part of a international family called *Salt and Light Ministries* with over 80 churches in the UK.

Wednesday Welcome meets every Wednesday from 12-3pm. It is a lunch club with a touch of faith for over 55s. They meet downstairs 12-3pm with a two course hot lunch served from 12:30pm, followed by a short talk and plenty of time for tea and chat.

Live at The Cedar Tree is a music event held in The Cedar Tree on the fourth Sunday of every month. There is music from local talent and a life changing story. Free muffins or other cakes are available with all drinks. The next Live at The Cedar Tree is September 27<sup>th</sup> and then October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Messy Church is church but not as you know it! It is 11am – 1pm on the first Saturday of every month. There is crafts and activities for an hour, then a story, songs and a free lunch! Messy Church is for the whole family to enjoy and parents stay for the fun too! The next Messy Church is October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 in our main hall upstairs, everyone is welcome!

Ever had any questions about Christianity? Jesus? The Bible? The meaning of life? The Alpha course is a chance for you to ask all of those questions and more. It is a chance to discuss and explore questions without any pressure and among friends. For more details call our office.

Hexham Community Church opened a CAP centre in 2011. Christian's Against Poverty offers a completely free debt counselling service. It is available regardless of age, gender, background or belief. We offer this service so you don't have to face debt alone. Our service is unique because we visit clients in their own homes and instead of telling them what to do, we stay and support them until they are debt free. It is an in-depth service respecting the whole person, knowing that often poor finances are due to a range of other problems like relationship breakdown, job loss or ill health. CAP's freephone number to make an appointment is: 0800 328 0006. The Centre Manager at Hexham Community Church is Judith Mann and there is more information on our website or at [www.capdebthelp.org](http://www.capdebthelp.org).

Hexham Community Church's CAP centre also offers money courses, a course that aims to teach people budgeting skills and a simple cash based system that works. This course will help anyone to get more control over their finances, so that they can save, give and prevent debt. It is



completely free and for anyone. We also have CAP Drop In every Thursday, 11:30am – 1:30pm for all involved in CAP to drop in for a chat, a cup of coffee and something to eat. CAP Job Club has just been launched and is an 8-10 week course that helps equip people to find work, whether they are re-entering the job market or looking for a change in direction. It will give you the tools you need to find work and have support along the way. For more information call our church office.

Part of the ground floor is home to our book/giftshop and café, The Cedar Tree. All the volunteers who help run the shop are from churches across Hexham and the surrounding area. The giftshop sells an array of gifts including crafts made in Northumberland, gifts for the home, quirky plaques, journals, Polish pottery, a large collection of cards and lots more. The Cedar Tree also has Christian books for sale including Bibles, fiction, non-fiction, biographies, books for children, books for youth, devotionals and more. The café offers locally produced food – soup, toasties, cakes and scones, gluten free traybakes, drinks and a warm welcome! The Cedar Tree has recently started a suspended coffee scheme – a world-wide tradition that began in Naples, Italy over 100 years ago. A suspended coffee is a prepaid coffee that you purchase and it is then suspended until it is claimed by someone who needs it for whatever reason. The Cedar Tree Facebook has photos of new products and events we are putting on.

Hexham Community Church meets every Sunday morning at 10am for tea and coffee with our service starting at 10:30am. You can read more about any of our work and ministries on our website [www.hexhamcc.com](http://www.hexhamcc.com) or on our Facebook. We hope you will come along and see what we do and enjoy yourself!

*Joanna Rann*

## Tynedale Views: The Grand Tour

I was once given a tour of Tynedale by limousine. The intention was I should get a flavour of the place I worked in. It was not so much blue badge guide, more three men in a boat. More precisely, three men in a roller, for one of my guides whom we shall call Barry, owned one. The other, Ian (to avoid embarrassment) was an expert in the attractions of Tynedale.

We met early and Ian began demonstrating complete control over his subject, giving me a barrage of statistics on the size of the district, population, miles of road, industry, culture, listed buildings, length of Hadrian's Wall, real ale pubs, etc. This last, he confessed to having visited a number of the night before, purely for research.

We set off, with Ian in the back, pointing out the marvels as we passed. We visited towns, villages and remote communities; saw forests, lakes, hilltops, castles, mansions and terraces. We discussed rainfall, agriculture, the seasons and the number of tourists. Ian remarked that Tynedale is the largest district in the country. Barry seemed determined that we should see it all in one day. We travelled north to Kielder then south to Allendale and Allenhead, visiting Wylam and Blanchland, before heading west to Haltwhistle and Gilsland.

The Rolls Royce is ideally suited to the gentle sweep of a country house drive and the consumption of champagne, not so along rutted farm tracks and twisting, narrow lanes

where the smooth ride is more of a slow roll from side to side. Ian began to regret his last few pints of Jennings as we swooped over the marvellous switchback countryside. He complained of the poor state of the roads around Carr-shields. Barry attempted to smooth out the undulations, potholes and sudden dips by driving faster. It did not help. I noted the truth of the saying; at sixty miles an hour in a Rolls Royce, all you could hear was the grumbling of Ian's stomach.

Ian became quieter and stopped giving his commentary on everything. At Haydon Bridge he failed to point out the haunted Anchor pub. His skin had taken on the same yellow as its walls. At Haltwhistle he appeared far closer to death than to the 'Centre of Britain' as it called itself. At Greenhead, he adopted its colour as his own. As we swung off the A69, centrifugal force slid Ian across the rear seat towards the door, which he tried desperately to open. Barry executed an emergency stop, perhaps more to protect his car than to prevent Ian ending his life there and then.

It took a while for Ian to recover enough to continue the tour. Finally, we set off, but at a much slower pace, with Ian fighting desperately to stop the world spinning around him; Barry determined to make me appreciate the sheer scale and variety of what Tynedale offers its inhabitants and visitors. For my part, I could only admire the tenacity with which both men carried out their chosen task. They created a lasting fondness for the often neglected parts of Northumbria and for the stiff suspension of a 4x4.

*The Very Reverend Unseemly Kneetrembler*

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What has he come up with this time, Dusty?



## What it all means

Language is possibly the greatest of human inventions, but lets be honest it could do with some improvements. There are all sorts of problems with the design of it. Not least is that everyone seems to be allowed to invent their own. Recently, a group studying the Scots language found nearly five hundred words for snow. Forget, for the moment, how dull life must be in the Highlands for them to be spending so much time coming up with new ways to describe snow. Surely this means that speakers of Scots are likely to have difficulty following a conversation about the weather with someone in the next village, let alone someone in another part of the country. And this in a language spoken by a minority of people in a national region of a small island.

If that wasn't bad enough, there are the tricks that language plays on you when you think you are using the same word as others who speak your tongue, only to find it doesn't mean the same in your audience's world. I'll never forget the reaction of my liberal American friends when I said that I was a republican. They all got up as one and moved away from me down the table. Luckily we soon sorted out that they thought I was a right-wing nut and I meant that I am not a monarchist. If I had said the same thing to friends in Northern Ireland, it might have resulted in a lot worse. They could easily take me for an anti-British supporter of a terrorist organisation, or foreign state. That would have stirred things up properly.

The problems some people have with language is sometimes not their fault, but the result of changes in meaning. You may have heard someone say 'It's the exception that proves the rule', when faced with evidence that undermines their beliefs. This they think, allows them a let out from rational argument. The problem is that they are using a modern understanding of the verb *to prove* and attaching it to an expression created when the word meant *to test*. As in 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating', which also uses the traditional meaning of the verb.

In his book 'On The Map', Simon Garfield quotes an account of Sir Frances Drake's voyage around the world, in which it is written that he '*pretended*' to rob the Spanish of gold, silver and other treasures. Garfield hoots with laughter at what he sees as a historical gaffe. Imagine Drake returning home with a ship laden with Dubloons and jewellery, which he had dug up on an island where a pirate had buried it and claiming that he had wrested it off the Spanish in South America with force of arms, because it made him look better. Unfortunately, the word *pretend* has changed its meaning so much as to appear to contradict itself. Pretend in Tudor England meant the same as *intend* does today and not our word to deceive. So the truth is that Drake had *intended* to rob the Spanish of their treasure, but had not *pretended* to circumnavigate the globe, only doing so, because he lost most of his fleet and knew the Spanish would get him if he tried to get back via the Atlantic.

In one of those TED pieces that you find on the web when you've had enough of cat videos, Anne Curzon gives a list of words that have changed their meanings. Some of them are so altered that speakers from the past would end up in serious trouble if they found themselves in today's litigious society. If long ago, you called someone egregious, silly, senile, or a flirt, you would be describing them as distinguished, worthy, mature, or a flick of the wrist. Today, calling someone by any of these can result in a claim for damages or fisticuffs, depending on the kind of hostility you frequent.

The good news is that those Twitter trolls who start a campaign of harassment after you use the terms hussy or wench can be reminded that the first is a housewife and the second a child, or they were when you were born.

Paul Mingard

## Filming Country File with the BBC.

Back in May of this year I was asked by a friend at Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) if I would be interested in taking an artist diving. Of course I replied, if I can spread the love of diving and the knowledge of the amazing life under the waves, then I am happy to. I met Chris Rose a few weeks later, where he asked me, not only if I would be his dive buddy, but would I be happy to appear as his dive buddy on Country File.... This is how it all started. I was contacted by the BBC subsequently to arrange all of the diving, the boat hire and the venue. To my surprise, I was then asked by the director if I would like to appear in the episode too. How could I turn that opportunity down? I always wanted Kate Humble's job!

The day of filming (3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015) dawned so sunny and warm. I was parked up in Bambrough carpark waiting for the film crew. When they arrived, we walked up to the castle to fly the drone, watching the live footage as it flew it over a huge golden and empty beach then up over the castle. Matt then arrived by taxi, having spent the night in Edinburgh. Yes, he had been live on the One Show in London the night before! He looked a bit tired, had a cold and was very worried that his t-shirt didn't look right. We were introduced and I was immediately struck by his genuine curiosity about all things marine.

We did our piece to camera only once, with microphones hidden in our clothes, chatting about Seasearch and the records which recreational divers have been able to gather. Then we re acted the initial piece, but happily chatted about all other things, his up-coming trip to host Monterey Bay Live in California and his family. Apparently this is how they do it, first the spoken bit to camera, then all film other angles while just chatting, hence the final piece had 3 minutes of talking, but we were filmed from the drone, a hand held camera and for the final cut, other wildlife and beach shots were added too. Matt then filmed his link-in bits, telling the viewers how wonderful Northumberland is!

On leaving the beach we headed down to the boat to do the section out on the Farne Islands with Chris Rose the artist. We loaded all of our kit on board and tried to work out if the safety dive manager was actually going to take charge. Matt had a cold, so I advised him not to use his "full face mask" as it makes clearing your nose a lot harder, but Matt didn't have a spare regulator, and would only dive with two. So in the end, Matt dived with my kit (hence his pink dive kit on film!!), and I dived with his. Due to his cold our max depth was only four metres, but did at least allow a good amount of light in for the underwater filming.

In the water were six of us: Matt and his buddy, Chris

and Me as his buddy plus a camera man and his buddy. Where we ended up diving was quite silty with a lot of large brown kelp. I took on the role as retriever, so like a happy puppy, I kept finning off and finding things, then bringing them back for Matt and Chris to draw. A sea urchin, a shore crab, a nudibranch and then pointed out a small shoal of fish. Chris drew some lovely sketches underwater, Matt's looked more like a big bottom with a snail on it.... Much to everyone's amusement when he brought it up at the end of the dive and showed everyone what he had drawn!

On surfacing we all boarded the boat, chatting about what we had seen. Matt and Chris were happy, they liked the crab and the nudibranch especially. We did a few more pieces to camera then headed in and hence to the pub.

In the pub we sat and chatted about the day and the other filming jobs that the camera man and sound man do. I also found out that there are four freelance teams working on Country File: two for each weekly episode and each episode has a two week lead in. So they guys are constantly busy and looking for new ideas and destinations.

While in the pub Chris started to paint. We were a little worried about talking to him while he was painting, but he assured us that he can multi-task. He had also developed a painting pallet, so that he can have and mix his acrylic paints all on one hand, then hold the paper and paint with the other. Quite a good system, allowing him to paint outdoors or on a boat. Only waterproof paper and pencils work underwater though.

While in the pub, Matt saw someone trying to covertly take a photo of him, so he got up walked over and said "hello, are you papping?" the guy looked terrified, his wife looked delighted! In the end they got some photos and all were happy. I had a few hours to talk to Matt while in the pub. He does come across and a really nice guy, even if I was insanely jealous of his trip to do a show from California in the autumn.

The final scenes were filmed back on the beach, the big reveal of Chris Rose's painting from the morning's dive, the meeting up of Matt and Anita and the introduction of the themes for the following week's episode. It was a nice end to the day, seeing the final scenes being filmed. On finishing we all said our good byes, it had been a busy but enjoyable day. Now to wait to see what the final production is like.

*Nic Faulks*

# Christmas Lighting Up Event.



Sunday 6th December at  
4.00 p.m.

Meet at south side of old bridge.  
Shaftoe Trust Primary School children will lead  
the sing-a-long.

SWITCH ON!

Singing will continue at the War  
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Broth, hotdogs, drinks on Church Street.

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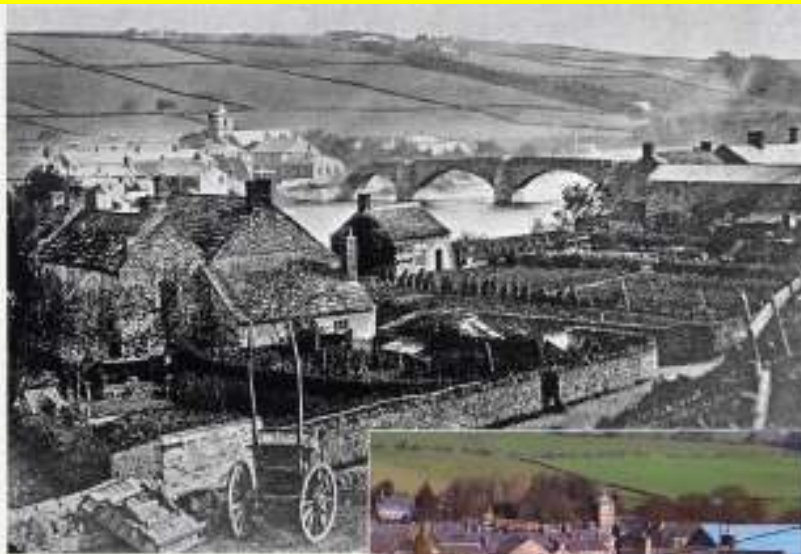
# HEXHAM BRASS

On the evening of Saturday October 3rd The Hexham Brass gave an excellent concert in the Methodist Church. A large audience was very appreciative of both the music and the buffet supper that followed. The program covered many well and less well known pieces - all played with both verve and skill. Presentations were made to two outstanding band members. Warm words of thanks were offered at the conclusion.



## HAYDON BRIDGE 2016 CALENDAR

# THEN AND NOW



May 2016

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Bank Holiday	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Bank Holiday	31				