The Haydon News

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It is a pity we don't have a January edition - this would all have been so much more topical.

Three rousing cheers for everyone who came to the recent meetings about our threatened Fire and Rescue Service. I do not recall seeing so many people at events before. Three more rousing cheers for the regiment of strong, articulate and indefatigable women upon whom our community depends to a such very large extent and who so ably led the charge on this occasion.

Weather records are tumbling worldwide, not just in the UK. It is beyond doubt that worse is to come everywhere. For decades it has been predicted that our part of the globe would become progressively warmer and wetter and recent events are bearing out these predictions. Even supposing all the influences driving climate change were to magically stop today, the changes would continue for centuries or, more probably, millennia. The Gulf Stream may stop and then the UK will be dramatically colder. Nobody can be certain what the future holds but it is certain to be very different indeed to today.

How perverse then that, at a time of increasing need, our Fire & Rescue and Ambulance services are all withdrawing to the large conurbations (- along with many other services) and funding reduced.

Since 2010 there has been a reduction in UK flood defence spending widely quoted as 14%. The Association of British Insurers put an initial value on this year's damage at £1.1billion (rising to £27billion by 2080). £600million of which is said to be in the north and Scotland. A minimum annual increase in expenditure of £1billion is estimated to be needed to stay on top of the situation.

When the Thames valley flooded £297 million was made available and yet Leeds flood defence plans have lately been abandoned. A paltry £40 million is promised for Yorkshire. Funds for Tynedale? Nowt, the last I heard on top of the approximately 40% reduction in central government funding to local government.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/

attachment data/file/491113/ Storm Desmond prospectus.pdf This website gives advice on additional funding for registered charities.

Consider also the current state infrastructure investment per head of population (from Sheffield Political Economy **Research Institute):**

London	£5,305
North West	£1946
Yorks and Humberside	£851
North East	£414

Are Londoners 13 times more important than us peasants in the "desolate and under populated" north?

Pickering in North Yorkshire may well have proved the concept that will lessen Tynedale's flooding. 'Fixed maximum flow' dams to the west of the A69 to Ridley road and at the natural bottle neck to the north of Plankey Mill in Allen Banks (which will also save the new bridge when it is rebuilt - again) will hold back the damaging peak flows by 'parking' a few hundred thousand tons of water on the flood plains for a few hours as required. In addition, land owners must be assisted to permanently and densely reforest all uncultivated land above, say, 250 metres and to block all drainage channels above that level too. This would create an immense water storage facility, a major wildlife reserve, future timber supplies, a CO₂ sink, a recreational asset, local employment etc...

Need I add that the Fire and Rescue Service must be increased in men, machines and stations. We know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that they will be needed.

Pat Hirst and her team have performed brilliantly in producing and distributing a village calendar for 2016. A useful sum of money has been raised and distributed to the Church, the flood fund and the Haydon News - by way of explanation: the Haydon News funded the production of the calendar. Thank you Pat and team. Steve Ford

Haydon Bridge & Allendale Medical Practice. Rank 152 out of 7708 surgeries in England. Hurrah! Well done the Team!

NEXT DEADLINE: Third Wednesday of each month SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

The Haydon News is grateful for the contribution made by local businesses who advertise in it. Please always support local businesses and make our community more prosperous.

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

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A meeting of the Haydon Parish Council was held in The Community Centre on 17th December 2015.

Public Participation

An employee of ARUP, with experience of environment and flood management, highlighted a number of points in connection with the recent flooding: The lack of preparation, the need to modify homes and the possible contributions from existing bodies—such as EA, TRT, NP and NT. From these flowed a discussion about the current status of the flood group, options for self help, mapping of the key problem points, pre-placement of resources, the need for deep dredging (Thompsons would be keen to do it and remove the rock/gravel), government funding and possible relief from council tax for affected houses, improved management of rainfall in the catchment and much else besides. The very warmest appreciation was expressed for the crucial help provided by our local firemen and the many other volunteers.

Pre-placement of sandbags, in anticipation of future events, and the absolutely vital role fulfilled by the local Fire Station received special mention. The misleading statistics employed in support of the Fire Station closure were roundly condemned.

The great extent, complexity and cost of the measures needed was alluded to. Consultations involving many parties will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Apologies Sought

Declarations of interest Sought

Minutes of previous meeting Agreed

NCC

Cllr Sharp added his own words of appreciation for the local Fire Station and noted that the retention of the Haydon Bridge station is supported by other stations and neighbouring Parish Councils. Contrary to the official assertion that Haydon Bridge had been summoned to only 69 incidents, the actual figure was 677 - with many of them being outside the local area. Cllr Sharp will be meeting the leader of NCC in January. The possibility of postponing a decision for three months, due to recent events, was raised.

Some drains remain to be sorted out and advance notice may be required to make sure that cars are not parked astride the drains when the work crews arrive. Recent weather has caused considerable damage to road surfaces.

Highways Nil

Lighting Nil

Planning

Detached residence adjacent to Maresfield, North Bank. No objections.

A meeting, before the next parish council meeting, is scheduled with the Showfield developers to discuss future plans.

Accounts

Agreed. The Council voted in favour of a rise in the parish precept to cover the cost of keeping the public toilets open.

Correspondence

Received - a footpath order concerning the football field.

The permanence of the changes at Stublick have been queried.

The possible existence of covenants on the land occupied by the Fire Station, formerly allotments, which might constrain other developments on the site was raised. Greenwich Hospital and their agents, Smiths Gore, are to be contacted.

Parish Projects

The Bridge doors have swollen dramatically after their recent wetting.

The state of the Spa well is 'horrendous' after the floods. There has been a great deal of damage and concern for the A69 was expressed.

The hope was expressed that GITS might make the arrangements for the Queen's Birthday events in 2016.

The desirability of co-ordinating fund raising in the parish was raised and the respective roles of the PC and the PCC were considered.

Options for long term, but accessible, storage for a parish supply of sand bags were examined.

Next meeting: 28th January 2016.

A meeting of the Haydon Parish Council was held in The Community Centre on 28th January 2016.

Prior to the meeting a presentation by Bellway, about the proposed further development of The Showfield site with 75 additional houses, was made. Reassurance was given that every potential cause of concern would be formally addressed.

Public participation

The Church clock is eight minutes slow—this will be dealt with.

The sign to the picnic area is broken off and the remains constitute a hazard.

In answer to a question about the identity of the flood wardens it was reported that the funding that would have been available for them had been withdrawn.

Reporting the dangerous state of the footpath between the Anchor and the Spa Well to the relevant authority was advised.

John Martin Street drains are blocked. Cllr. Sharp will sort out. Valerie Bell is to be contacted about the possibility of installing a Defibrillator at The Community Centre. Training is available. The Meeting on Saturday 30th January in the Community Cen-

trte with Guy Opperman MP, the Environment Agency and NCC was discussed. A big turnout is hoped for.

Flooding

The view was aired that the Environment Agency seem to be shirking their responsibilities. The availability of some funding for flood victims was mentioned.

Three strands of community response were identified: Immediate action at the time, relief for those affected in the immediate aftermath and long term works to ameliorate the problem.

The Parish Council is to call a public meeting to begin the proc-

THURSDAY 11TH FEBRU-ARY IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. PUBLIC MEET-**ING TO DISCUSS FUTURE ACTION ON FLOODING.**

As many organisations as possible will be invited as well as the public. The widespread community solidarity apparent was praised by the councillors.

Some fund raising has already occurred and matched funding will be applied for. The Development Trust, a registered charity, will shoulder the burden of managing the finances. Clear accountability must be in place and criteria for employment of the funds. An application for resources from the Desmond Fund will be made.

Apologies sought.

Declarations of Interest sought.

Previous meeting's minutes agreed.

NCC

Continuing attention to the parish drains is underway.

The legal responsibility of land owners for the land drains on their land and for the ditches adjacent to roads around and through their land was noted. The possible need for legal enforcement was discussed.

The excellent turnout at recent meetings to do with The Fire and Rescue Service was commended. The necessity of preserving the local station and the urgent need to reset the terms of the upcoming NCC budget before the closing date were mentioned.

Highways

Much repair work needed to washed out roads in the Langley area.

Lighting

Lights broken at Shaftoe School corner, Foundry Court and Strother Close were noted. Members of the public finding broken lights should take note of the light number and report it on line.

Planning

Detached house in the grounds of Belmont House. Objections.

Accounts agreed.

Correspondence

A letter from a disabled lady was read describing her effective imprisonment in her home on Belmont because of the poor state of the road and pavement outside her home. She contrasted the present situation with that which obtained when her father maintained the area under consideration. The road and pavement in question, being privately owned, are beyond the remit of The Parish Council. The correspondent was advised to seek the advice of a solicitor with a view to seeking redress through civil legal proceedings. The suggestion was made that Guy Opperman MP might be invited to intercede.

The imminent destruction of the foul water sewer running along the southern river bank, by the joiner's workshop, was discussed. During the discussion of the change of course of the main flow of the Tyne at this point a sotto voce lamentation was heard from the public seats to the effect that life in Haydon Bridge more closely resembled Last of the Summer Wine with each passing day - the speaker having fallen in up to his neck whilst carrying out the Parish Council's instructions to remove fallen trees.

Parish Projects

The Development Trust has discussed the current crises. This year's Haydon Hundred will occur on 1st June. Ideas to widen its appeal are invited from the community at large.

The Patient Participation Group is undergoing a period of transition with changes in personnel and continuing efforts to meet the needs of the two communities affected. Changes in dates and times of meeting have been tried with limited benefit.

Amongst the topics under consideration are the much desired closer integration of health services with social services and local authorities. Implementation remains problematic and recent crises have not helped. New members are always very welcome and should make themselves known at their health centre.

AOB

Further problems with dog fouling are reported from the Old Bridge all the way up to the school. Complainants are very strongly urged to report their concerns directly to the Dog Warden Service - it being very important to give a good description of both the dog and the owner to facilitate prosecution and to make the report at the time of the offence. A letter will be sent to NCC about the problem.

Next meeting: 7.30pm 25th February 2016, Haydon Bridge Community Centre.

CAN YOU HELP US SAVE THE HAYDON BRIDGE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE?

Northumberland's Chief Fire Officer is proposing that the Council close Haydon Bridge Community Fire Station.

His detailed report is available on the internet together with details of how to respond to his proposals at :-

http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Fire-and-Rescue/Consultations/NFRS-Consultation-Document-Working-Towards-2020_2.pdf (or there is a copy at the Bridge and in the chip shop).

We believe this proposal is wrong and the options on Northumberland County Council website for your response to the Consultation Document are very limited. As demonstrated by the recent floods, our local Fire & Rescue Service is indispensable. If you agree and would like to support us, please do these things and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same:-

Read the consultation document. Write with your objections to The Consultation Officer by 15th February 2016 and send a copy to our MP, Guy Opperman, and Grant Davey, the Leader of the Council. (Addresses below). Individual letters carry more weight than just putting your signature to a template letter.

Please don't miss this opportunity to inform the County Council of your opinion. It may influence their decision.

Thank you for any help you can give. Save Our Service Campaign, c/o The Bridge

The Consultation Officer, Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service, West Hartford Headquarters & Community Fire Station, West Hartford Business Park, CRAMLINGTON, NE23 3JP

Guy Opperman MP, Western Room, Office 2, Horton Park, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE13 6BU Cllr Grant Davey, Leader, Northumberland County Council, MORPETH, Northumberland, NE61 2EF

2016

Welcome to a New Year to readers of my Historical Notes and to all readers of The Haydon News. It is remarkable that this magazine has been published for the parish, continuously and independently by the Friends of Haydon Bridge for thirty seven years, since its first issue in February 1979 when Peter Bradley was editor. Since that date, the editors have been: Keith Lees (July 1980), Chris Bulman (Sept. 1981), Martin Scudamore (December 1981), Marion Howard (February 1983), Gina Richardson (1991), Stan Mitchell (February 1995), Richard Snowdon (September 1999), Alistair Bowen (July 2004), Mike Parkin and Dennis Telford (February 2005) until your present editor, Steve Ford (October 2013).

HAYDON PARISH 'HOME FRONT' 1914 - 1918

On Tuesday night, August 4th 1914, Britain officially declared war on Germany. By August 1918, the Great War was entering its fifth year. This month I will take you through to the final stages of the conflict, continuing my Notes from the 'Home Front'.

Soldiers' Welfare: Living in the shadow of the dreadful war and its ghastly consequences that affected everyone, folk in the parish were, nevertheless, determined to show solidarity at home by carrying on as near normal as was possible - if only for the youngsters of the new generation whose early lives had been so blighted by the hostilities abroad. On Monday, August 5th 1918, four years after the start of the conflict, a fete was held in Haydon Bridge on behalf of the 'Parish Soldiers' Welfare Association' and hundreds of people from all parts lined the route of a procession, from the north end of Church Street to the old cricket field owned by J. Harle Henderson of Esp Hill Farm - but by now known as the 'Flower Show Field' since our cricketers moved to 'The Park' in 1910.

The procession consisted of decorated horses and vehicles individual tableaux and comic costumes, all headed by Ovington Brass Band. Fancy dress judging, pony races and adult and juvenile sports were all held on the 'Show field' during the afternoon. - and, on a personal note, my dad Cecil Telford won the sack race for twelve year olds; the start, perhaps, of a hobby as a successful sprinter in many a local foot handicap!

Barking: In August 1918, the chairman of Haydon Parish Council drew attention to damage done to trees down the Eiland, on the riverside near the Gas Works. He pointed out that nearly every tree had had its bark stripped off by young boys. The trees had been planted by the Parish Council to beautify the village and it was decided that something had to be done to protect them. A notice board would be erected and the village policeman informed!

Farm Sales: Outside our parish, but of local interest, a number of farms on the southernmost portion of the Ridley Hall estate were sold by auction at Newcastle in August 1918, on the instructions of Hon Francis Bowes - Lyon: Kingswood, 665 acres, £5,500. The Steel and West Shankhead, 280 acres and East Shankhead, 146 acres, £5,200. East and West Midgeholm, 101 acres £1,700. Building land of 3 acres known as Scrogwood, £530. A Lot of East and West Morwood was withdrawn.

John Glenwright of River View, Ratcliffe Road, died on August 16th 1918. John, a mason, had moved to Haydon Bridge from Catton in 1881 and was for many years a valued employee of our 19c local builders, Telford *(my great grandfather's brother)* and Wigham. John was then appointed estate mason at Featherstone Castle before he returned to Haydon Bridge to set up his own business. John left an interesting legacy, *(See photographs)* in that he helped with the construction of the Spa Well - restored as a permanent memorial to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee - and his masonry skills were used on the very fine Linton House for its first owner/occupier, Mrs Walton. (Many readers will recall that Linton House was left to wrack and ruin and eventually demolished, in an act of vandalism by Northumberland County Council.)



Haydon Spa was restored for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and reopened with great ceremony on May 30th 1898.



A Winter Scene with Linton House in its Former Glory. Photograph with the kind permission of Joy Davidson (nee Sillitoe) who lived in Linton House from 1938 to 1947.

War Deaths: News of two more of our young men who died as a result of the war was received in August 1918. George Mansfield Anderson was 19 years of age and died as a German prisoner of war lying in a German Field Hospital, on August 19th 1918; and Walter Charlton aged 21 years died on August 26th 1918. Walter was born at Haydon Bridge one of eleven children of George and Mary Charlton. Walter's older brother, L/Sergeant Norman Charlton had died, as had another eight young men from our parish, in September 1916.

Brambling: It will surprise many to hear that picking brambles in 1918 was more than just a pleasant way of spending a Sunday afternoon when out walking. Indeed,

Dennis Telford



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it was deemed an activity of national importance due to the serious shortage of fruit and, on August 28th 1918, a 'Blackberries Order' came into force. It was of concern to the Ministry of Food that unless the rural hedgerows were stripped of their fruit and it was placed in the hands of the national jam makers, soldiers and sailors would go short of jam.

The success of the 'Order' relied on the patriotism and self sacrifice of groups of children and their teachers who were asked to supervise them, to ensure that the crop was picked and delivered to local agents or head teachers who would send it by rail to an agreed jam making centre. The children were paid threepence (3d) by the local agent for every pound of sound fruit picked, and had the added satisfaction of knowing that they were doing an important service for those fighting for them.

The 'Blackberry Order' also fixed maximum prices of $\pounds 42$ per ton ($4\frac{1}{2}$ d per pound) to a manufacturer and 4d per pound retail if the jam was to be consumed locally.

Lend a Hand: Forty nine walking sticks were collected by the Haydon Bridge Brownies for disabled soldiers and they were sent to Dunston Hill After-Care Home.

Not in the Right Spirit: While our village Brownies were collecting walking sticks for disabled soldiers, Shaftoe Trust School pupils were picking brambles to support the war effort and our young men were dying abroad, there were adults, who should have known better, who seemed to be more interested in making profits from ill-gotten barleycorn.

As a consequence of several complaints, a watch was kept on a goods train as it stopped between Haydon Bridge station and the east signal-cabin. Three men; the engine driver, guard and a greaser who lived on Church Street, Haydon Bridge and had been in the North East Railway Company's employ for two and a half years, were seen tampering with the seal of one of the train's box waggons and, on Wednesday, September 4th 1918 the three were charged with stealing a quantity of whisky.

Working Class Nomination: At their meeting in October 1918, the Parish Council considered the nomination of William Kindred, from Haydon Bridge Co-operative and Industrial Society, for a vacancy on the council. If Mr Kindred was elected, the Society said he would provide a 'direct working class representation'. In the event, Mr John Woodman of Grindon was appointed to the Council, as a representative of landowners who were living outside the village, from where two thirds of the parish's rateable value was collected. It was pointed out that seven existing councillors were already living in the village.

L/Col George W. Lee: News was received in October 1918 that George W. Lee, the eldest son of G.G. Lee of Lipwood Hall, was awarded the D.S.O. for his services in German South West Africa. George W. Lee had been to South Africa with the Second England Rugby team in 1896; he had been through the Mashonaland rebellion and the Boer War and he held medals for both campaigns.

Snookered: In view of the restrictions on lighting and the use of fuel, shopkeepers in Haydon Bridge agreed to

close their premises early from Monday, October 7th 1918: Mon/Tues/Wed at 6.00pm. Thursday at 1.00pm. Saturday at 8.00pm and each day at 12.30pm to 1.30pm. The Reading Room committee also agreed to close the billiard tables one hour early, at 9.00pm during the week and 9.30pm on a Saturday. *(See below)*

THE READING ROOM

Today, the Reading Room (or 'Reading Rooms' to give it its recent title) offers a fine place in which visitors can stay as they savour the delights of our parish. From 1841, however, when it was built as the village News Room and Library, and through 1886 and 1913 when smoking and recreation rooms were added, it was very much a male preserve - except for those who were caretakers and cleaners, perhaps. It became home to those for whom billiards or snooker was their sport, until its sad closure in the face of competition for leisure time, from television and, ironically, just before 'Pot Black' became a much watched television programme. The Reading Room was a wonderful place in which to relax, to read the national news of the day or join in the local gossip round a roaring coal fire on the ground floor, and a heavy cast iron stove in the billiard room; or, just to stand at the low windows and watch the world go rushing by outside.

I have two photographs of the Reading Room in its hey day in the 1950s that will interest older residents.



Eddie Moffatt lines up a pot as Joe (Wiggy) Armstrong's expert eye follows the line of the ball.



Johnny (Father) Brown concentrates on the white while a cigarette calms his nerves.

The Movies: On November 6th 1918, a 'Cine Motor' visited Haydon Bridge and, according to the Hexham Courant, 'showed some of the best war pictures' and was 'an open air exhibition of rare interest that was projected onto immense screens'.

Howard Dixon Bell, aged 20 years, was born in Haydon Bridge and died in France one week before the end of the war, on November 4th 1918. Howard Dixon is buried in Villers-Pol Communal Cemetery Extension, a burial ground made as late as November 1918.

GERMAN CAPITULATION

After four years, ten months and ten days since Britain declared war, hostilities ceased at 11.00am on Monday, November 11th 1918, following Germany's capitulation. News of the signing of the armistice was greeted with great delight and celebration locally; although, it would never be forgotten, that, of around a million soldiers and fifty thousand naval personnel who died as a result of the war, fifty five (to become 57) had been from our Haydon Parish. In Haydon Bridge, there was a fine display of bunting hung in the streets to celebrate the signing of the armistice. St Cuthbert's church bell was rung, as was the ancient bell at Langley Castle, and the Hexham Courant reported that 'fog signals' were discharged by our local railwaymen. Local businesses were closed for the day and, in the evening, a thanksgiving service was held in St Cutbert's Church where the congregation included the Girl Guides with their flag. The vicar, W.H. Ainger, gave a short address and hymns 'Thank We All Our God' and 'All People That On Earth Do Dwell' were sung, as was the National Anthem and a rendering of the Hallelujah Chorus. On the Tuesday, the law on the shading of lights in houses was withdrawn and permission for displays of fireworks and bonfires was given, subject to local police approval. At Haydon Bridge, the Girl Guides marched through the village during the day and at night a bonfire was lit at West Land Ends.

Post War Politics: Major Wentworth Beaumont, Liberal Coalition candidate, opened his campaign with an address to a public meeting in Haydon Bridge Town Hall on Saturday, November 23rd. A firm favourite to win the candidature, Beaumont was eventually defeated by Capt Douglas Clifton Brown of the Unionist Coalition and well beaten into second place by the Labour candidate.

Isaac William Veitch Douglas: The joy in the parish at the ending of the war, was tempered with the news of nineteen year old Isaac Douglas's death on December 5th in a German prisoner of war camp at Dietkirchen (Limburg). Isaac was the youngest of six children of Isaac and Esther Douglas (nee Veitch) of Cubstocks.

Returning P.O.Ws: By December 14th 1918, a number of our parish P.O.Ws had returned home: Sgt. Sidney Thirlwell of Burswell House, captured/P.O.W in May; Pte James Mewes of West Ellrington, March; Pte John Robert Curry of Deanraw, April; Pte Joe Heslop of Temple Houses, March; Pte Thomas Stokoe of New Alston, May; Pte William Bell Dobson, Nov. 1916.

<u>Treaty of Versailles:</u> Although most of the fighting ended following the signing of the armistice on 11th November 1918, the Great War didn't end officially until the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28th 1919. I will, therefore, continue my Notes from the 'Home Front', until July 1919, in next month's issue.

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or call into one of the sessions at the fire station.

HAYDON PARISH 'HOME FRONT' : 1939 - 1945

My earlier Notes of the Second World War 'Home Front' in Haydon Parish were published in the June to December 2015 issues of The Haydon News.

Shaftoe Shelters: (See 'Cold Comfort', December Issue) In July 1940, the reply from Northumberland County Council, to an earlier request for air raid shelters at Shaftoe Trust School, was not encouraging:

'To provide shelters in every small village in the county would be an enormous undertaking. The object of public shelters is to provide for people in the streets of a town who are unable to reach their homes when a warning is given. In villages, there should be no difficulty in

absorbing people in the open into houses. The latest Board of Education advice is that in the event of an air raid, the children should be made to lie down in their classrooms.'

The Shaftoe Trust School managers decided to continue in their requests for an air raid shelter.

Local Hero: Two well known local families were united in Haydon Bridge Central Methodist Church in July 1940 with the wedding of Eddie Dinning and Jennie Anderson. Residents turned out in large numbers, not only to wish the couple well but, also, to catch a glimpse of Jennie's uncle, the famous Aberdeen F.C. manager Mr. George Anderson, who gave his niece away.

On August 8th 1940, Haydon Parish Council applied to the Hexham Rural District Council for thirty stirrup pumps at 28/- each less one third discount. Councillor and ARP Chief, Edward Kirsopp, agreed to distribute the pumps when they arrived. Residents in the village were asked to buy their own pumps, to deal with fires in the event of Haydon Bridge being hit by incendiary bombs.

Mr Kirsopp informed the council that the trailer pumps allotted to the Haydon Bridge area had arrived but, as yet, no helmets for the firemen.

P.O.W: In August 1940, the mother of Fusilier George Kitchener Moore of Burswell House, Church Street,

Haydon Bridge, received a letter from her son telling her that he was in a prisoner of war camp hospital, he having been wounded. Kitchener had been missing since May.

Major Champion F. Branfill of Threepwood and Master of the Haydon Hunt since 1930, joined the forces again in August 1940. In the First World War, Branfill had been twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded two Military Crosses; our own and that of Greece.

During the war years, a committee ran the Haydon Hunt under the chairmanship of Major Lockhart of Sunniside and the secretary, Arthur Spraggon of Willimoteswick Castle.

Tying the Knot: A match of particular interest to parish residents took place in Haydon Bridge in August 1940, when the Reverend Clemence Sinclair, Congregational Church Pastor, officiated at the wedding of his fusilier son Henry Sinclair to Wynsome Stokoe, daughter of Mr and the late Mrs Stokoe, a well respected family from New Alston.

Notes from the 'Home Front' 1939 - 1945 continued:

Reverend: On Tuesday, September 3rd 1940, members of the Elmfield Methodist Church at Haydon Bridge met to welcome their new minister, C.R. Ransome.

"Taxi?": In September 1940, Robert (Bob) Brown, a cart man of Innerhaugh, was fined £1 for driving a motor car at Allendale licensed as a Hackney Carriage without a Hackney plate attached, and £2 for driving the car with unscreened side lights. P.C. G.W. Wiffen said that while on duty at 10.45pm on August 30th, he saw the beam from Brown's car side lights showing on the road for a distance of twenty five yards and the houses on either side were illuminated for a distance of thirty five feet. P.C. Wiffen also said, there was no plate on the vehicle to show it was being used for Hackney purposes.

I can provided a little more detail to this story, thanks to Maurice Armstrong, no longer with us but a friend whose recollections will remain with me for ever:

As Bob Brown, Joe Armstrong and Ted Hughes, a fellow from Newcastle who lodged in Haydon Bridge during the war years, set out in Bob's Jowett Javelin car for a night out in Allendale, P.C. Scott stopped the car at Haydon Bridge and told them they needed to remove some of the blackout paper they had used to cover the lights, "to be safe on the road".

After a glass or two (or three) in Allendale and as they set off on the return journey, Allendale's renowned constable P.C. Wiffen was soon on the case. "What do you think this is. Blackpool illuminations?" He enquired. It seems



that P.C. Wiffen was about to accept the story that the travellers had removed the blackout paper on P.C. Scott's advice until Mr Hughes - a clever chap from the Toon who believed his life in the metropolis gave him an edge over those of a rural upbringing - continued to lay down the law to the "constable from the sticks", informing him that the vehicle was a taxi and, therefore, it was subject to different rules in the blackout that he - P.C. Wiffen - should have known about.

Guess what! The result was a court case, an additional charge of failing to display a Hackney carriage plate, a £3 fine, and a constable from Allendale showing our chap from the Toon just who was in charge in 'the sticks'.

THE CO-OP DIVIDEND



When Ray Richardson was turning over his garden in Hordley Acres, he came across a small but interesting piece of Haydon Bridge history. From its early days, the Society paid a dividend to members based on their purchases and shared out from the Society's profits or surplus.

At first, a system of metal tokens was used. The tokens were given to the customer at the time of their purchase as a record of their spending. On October 7th 1904, the 'tin' checks were replaced with paper checks, with a carbon copy retained by the Society. A photograph of the

carbon copy retained by the Society. A photograph of the pre 1905 'tin' check found in Ray's garden is shown above.



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If groups aren't for you or are just too hard to get to we can offer one to one advice and support either face to face or via the telephone. We provide a quarterly newsletter for everyone registered with us and regular e-news for those with internet access. Registering also gives you access to our Carers Emergency Card Scheme which can give you peace of mind that the person you are caring for will not be left alone if you find yourself unable to be with them.

If you would like to register with us or would just like to know more please ring our Information line: 01670 320025 or have a look at our website www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk

We are also more than happy to come and talk to local groups about our work and what we can offer.

Mary Hull. Carer Support Manager Carers Northumberland Adapt(North East) Burn Lane, Hexham. NE46 3HN Tel: 01434 267000 Mob:07500886322 www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk

RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID



CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

CLERGY MESSAGE FROM:

The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter

This winter I can't have been the only person thinking about the story of Noah. As the rain has continued to fall and the flood waters have risen and fallen and risen again, I can't have been the only person wondering if building an Ark wouldn't be a good idea.

We remember the story of Noah because of the rain, but the story is really about something else, it is about the deep biblical idea of covenant. Covenant is the Old Testament word which describes not only the right sort of relationship we have with God, but also our right-relations with each other.

Over the weeks since the flooding in early December it has been a privilege to see the informal and formal covenants which have bound this community together. On the night of the worst flooding it was amazing to see so many people come out to help – so many that we had too many hands for sand bags at times. I remember one person being so busy helping others that they had to be called back to their house when it too began to flood.

These informal right-relations have also developed into more formal covenants. The village fundraising stands – at the time of me writing – at over ± 3000 and not a day goes by when there is not another offer of help posted on the "Haydon Bridge Matters" Facebook page. More than these we have all been galvanised by the floods to renew our covenant, our right-relationship, with our volunteer Fire and Rescue Service; to fight for their survival from these uncalled for and unjust cuts for the benefit of the whole of West Northumberland and beyond.

With all of these covenants, formal and informal, I find myself returning to the story of Noah. At the end of this story God – through the sign of the rainbow – re-asserts his covenant with Noah and his descendents. God reminds us that we are called to live the way so many have lived in this community in the last months, in right-relationship with each other - selflessly and lovingly for the sake of others.

However this is only half the story. At the end of the story of Noah God also remakes his covenant with creation. God reminds us that as we are called to live in the right sort of relationship with each other, we are also called to live in right-relationship with the earth. As our weather changes, as we get more rain, we all need to think of how we can better live in the right sort of relationship with nature. We all need to find better ways of living in sympathy with creation so that we to, like Noah after the flood, can reassert our covenants with each other, with the earth, and with God.

Benjamin, your Vicar.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March 2016 2.00pm at St John's Catholic Church. This has been prepared by the Christian Women of Cuba entitled 'Receive children, receive me!' Refreshments to follow.

Collections Total

Collections from Churches Together Events in Haydon Bridge over the Christmas period (Carol singing, carol service and Crib service) totalled

£328.00

To be split between West End of Newcastle Refugee Centre and local flood victims fund.

THE MEETING PLACE

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

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am – 12 noon

A Warm welcome to All

Messy Church

In Haydon Bridge 10th February 3.30 - 5.45pm

Saturday 27 February 10.30am: Messy Church All Hallows', Henshaw

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

Venue to be announced on posters nearer the time.

MOTHER'S UNION COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5th March, the day before Mothering Sunday. 10-11:30 in the Community Centre. Stalls for Produce, books and CD's, Bric a Brac and a raffle. Last year, with your support, we had the best results and we were able to change lives for the better for mother's here and abroad. We hope we are able to repeat our success.

St. Cuthbert's Church Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 12 December, just one week after the floods, Haydon Bridge was again subjected to more torrential rain which turned into a heavy snowfall by midday, but this did not stop St. Cuthbert's Church Christmas Fayre from going ahead in The Community Centre. In spite of the weather it was very well attended and there were many attractive stalls loaded with seasonal gifts, light snacks and a big raffle. The morning was rounded off by an enactment of the Christmas story by members of the churches plus sing-along carols. A very successful event to lift the spirits on a cold gloomy winter's day.

PICTURE OPPOSITE

Services in the Benefice of Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw. Rev. Dr. Benjamin Carter. St. Cuthberts Anglican Church	METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES Deacon Anne Taylor Methodist Congregation Woodville, Redesmouth Road, BellinghamTel: 01434 22028					
The Vicarage, Station Yard Tel. 01434 688196	February 7					
Sunday before Lent: Sunday 7 February 2016	10.00am	Morning Worship Joyce Short				
9.30am: Parish Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw 11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's HaydonBridge	6.00pm	Cafe Style Worship Deacon Anne Taylor				
Ash Wednesday	February 14					
Wednesday 10 February 2016 9.15am: Eucharist with Ashing (with Henshaw	10.00am	Morning Worship Margaret Weatherson				
School), All Hallows' Henshaw 7.30pm: Eucharist with Ashing, St Cuthbert's Hay-	6.00pm	Evening Worship Rev. Benjamin Carter				
don Bridge	February 21					
Lent 1: Sunday 14 February 2016	10.00am	Morning Worship Norman Fullard				
9.30am: Parish Eucharist, All Hallows', Henshaw 11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon	6.00pm	Evening Worship Bob McAlpin				
Bridge	February 28					
Lent 2: Sunday 21 February 2016	10.00am	Morning Worship Joan Histon				
9.30am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Beltingham 11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon	6.00pm	Evening Worship Local Arrangements				
Bridge	March 6					
Saturday 27 February 10.30am: Messy Church, All Hallows' Henshaw	10.00 am	Family Worship Deacon Anne Taylor				
Lent 3:	6.00pm	Evening Worship Mott Parrick				

Sunday 28 February 2016

10am: Joint Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Beltingham 3pm: Evening Worship, Haydon Old Church

Mothering Sunday:

Sunday 6 March 2016

9.30am: Parish Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw 11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

METHO	DIST	C	HUR	СН	SE	RV	ICE
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	10.00am	Morning Worship
		Joyce Short
	6.00pm	Cafe Style Worship
		Deacon Anne Taylor
February	14	
	10.00am	Morning Worship
		Margaret Weatherson
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
		Rev. Benjamin Carter
February	21	
	10.00am	Morning Worship
		Norman Fullard
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
		Bob McAlpin
February	28	
	10.00am	Morning Worship
		Joan Histon
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
	-	Local Arrangements
March 6		
	10.00 am	Family Worship
		Deacon Anne Taylor
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
	I	Matt Barrick

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

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

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.



Maths - Oh Yes you can!

For many people the difficulties of mathematical understanding take root during school years and by the time we reach adulthood they can have grown into a fully developed phobia. Fortunately, technology has progressed to compensate for our deficiencies. Mobile phones, check-out tills and even Google do the work for us. We don't need to remember even our own phone number never mind anyone else's as our mobile device will do it for us. Of course, without maths absolutely none of this technology would exist! (Google is based on the PageRank mathematical algorithm, named after Larry Page, one of Google's founders.) As a teacher of many years, I have often heard the question "When am I ever going to use this?" My answer is in two parts:-

Firstly, we need a level of basic numeracy knowledge to help us day to day. No matter where we are or what we are doing, maths is always there whether you notice it or not. Daily activities that involve the use of this universal subject include checking our change when shopping, measuring ingredients when cooking, doing our finances and budgeting, and working out travel times and exchange rates when going on holiday, to name but a few.

Secondly, although you may not be using the maths as such, an ability to work through any algebra problem in logical steps is very important. It trains your brain in a way that allows you to process non-numerical instructions or problems in a systematic way. In other words, if your brain can cope with the apparent confusion that is algebra it can cope with most things! Being able to think in a logical and rational way is what puts us humans at the head of the food chain.

My name is Amanda, I live in Haydon Bridge (on the main street) and I have just posted an ad in the Haydon News (see page 18) for maths tuition. I am an experienced maths teacher and have been teaching maths in secondary schools and colleges for the past twenty years. I have extensive knowledge of the maths National Curriculum and the GCSE and A-level exams, and I have a great track record of helping students of all ages and abilities achieve their potential. As well as helping with mathematical understanding I can also help with exam technique and revision.

I am sure you already know how important maths is! From Architecture to Zoology and everything in between, a maths qualification is required for every job or university course. Not only that, a good numerical knowledge is useful for everyday life.

I believe that the greatest hurdle to mastering calculation skills is lack of practice. For those of us brought up on a leisure time diet of darts and card games this may be hard to fathom, but not many video games need a player to work out that treble 17 and a bull's-eye will give them the win! Get the basics right and the world is your mathematical oyster!

I can help you with your maths, whatever level you're at, in a patient, supportive and understanding way.

For more information, contact me on:

or

01434 684301 or 07534 268798 <u>amandawhit@tesco.net</u> Amanda Whitfield

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HAYDON BRIDGE WAR MEMORIAL by Pam and Ken Linge

We continue our series of articles on those individuals who died in the Great War. The biographies are published chronologically and the fifty fifth casualty, in 1918, was Howard Dixon Bell

(55) Howard Dixon Bell



Photograph from the Lloyds Bank Memorial Album

Howard served as Guardsman, 27936, 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. He died on 4th November 1918, aged 20.

Born in Haydon Bridge he was the elder child (and only son) of John and Ann Bell. John was a railway clerk.

Howard was employed in the Grey Street branch of Lloyds Bank, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and enlisted there.



As well as having his name on the War Memorial Howard is also commemorated in the Lloyds Bank Memorial Album and on the Shaftoe School Memorial.

Howard is buried in grave E.3 in Villers-Pol Communal Cemetery Extension.

If you have any information relating to Howard Dixon Bell, 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.

The Children's Society

Many thanks to all the box holders for donating in their boxes throughout 2015. A total of £314.22 has been collected for The Children's Society which helps to reach and protect young and vulnerable children.

The long history of the society began in 1881 when Edward Rudolf, a Sunday School teacher, found two of his pupils begging in the streets and saw a real need for changes in society.

Before the welfare state there was no safety net for the most vulnerable of children. The Children's Society opened its first children's home in 1882. Later the society became an adoption agency. Times have changed and the society evolved and adapted to best meet the needs of children, these include children and youngsters who are caring for their parents and siblings, those who run away from home, children living in poverty and children who are exploited.

The work depends on supporters. If you want to know more about the box holder scheme, please contact me.

Thank you again to the folk in Haydon Bridge and Bardon Mill who have boxes.

Joyce Armstrong 684094







Such a handsome devil and only 23 pence per hour too! Where would we be without them?

THE GREAT F

Photos - centrefold and cover: Aron Mazel, Charlotte Fletcher and others.



South of The Old Vicarage









A building with a bilge pump!

COD OF 2015



Looking north east from The Anchor

97 hours without a break - I'm ford



Another great New Years Eve

It was a pretty awful November/December in Haydon Bridge, torrential rain causing devastating flooding to many. Hopefully, the New Year will be a much happier time and everyone affected will be back in their homes as soon as possible.

Goodbye to 2015 and Welcome 2016 with a great fireworks display. It was wonderful to see so many people out enjoying it. Weather-wise, it was a perfect night and it was made extra special when the first one went up, just before midnight, in memory of lovely June Willis – a beautiful cascade of pink hearts.

GET IT

From 3pm the old bridge was closed so that the fireworks team could set up the display while it was still daylight. Thank you to everyone for being so understanding – it really is essential and it's not too far to walk around over the new bridge. A huge thank you to the marshalls who were at either end of the old bridge to stop people from crossing and to those who marshalled the new bridge later on; it was very cold but worth it. Thanks to those who served refreshments and those who went round with collection buckets. We've made a good start to the fund for next year. At midnight our competition winners flicked the switch that started the wonderful fireworks display that brought in 2016. Stella and Lucio [who couldn't be with us unfortunately] wrote fabulous poems describing fireworks.

There was a lot of organising to make this event safe and successful. Appreciation to the Get It Together Society, Reaction Fireworks, the long list of volunteer on the night, the Parish Council, Northumberland County Council [several depts.], English Heritage, Northumbria Police, Shaftoe Trust Primary School, Claire Marshall for the competition prizes, everyone who came along and enjoyed it and everyone who donated throughout the year and on the night.

If anyone hasn't donated and would like to – please give it to a committee member or take it to the library. Thank you. Our next event will be the Easter Eggstravaganza at the Community Centre on Saturday March 19th. We need a few volunteers who enjoy making things and don't mind getting messy with paint and glue! Call me on the number below. Watch out for posters with more details.

We're constantly looking for new committee members – our numbers are much diminished so we need more people if we want more events like this. Please consider joining us. *Pauline Wallis. The Get It Together Society Tel: 01434 684061*

Fine Works

Banging draws my attention, Looking up to the Iky I see: Enchanting dancing frames, Rockets racing through the pitch black sky, Mesmonised I stand, amazed Glittering, Spacklag, a neon explosion Satisfied, I watchon, The Sky is on fire. Like a volcano spearing multi coloured law,

As bright as a new born stor. Fester, faster. A flock of amillion aquammine cotonrol birds, Suddardy, silence, I walk every exchanted

By Stella Taylor.

Lucio Di Meo's poem page 15

HAPPY NEW YEAR FIREWORKS 2015/6 Haydon Bridge



Stella, Tom and Leo who set them off.





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

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

My contact number, with answer machine, is 01434 230164

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

Stonehaugh Tuesday 6.30 - 8 Riding Mill Thursday 7.00- 8.30 Allendale Wednesday 6.30 - 8 Hexham Friday 5.30 -7

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

Programme of Charity Fund-Raising Quizzes at the General Havelock Haydon Bridge All Quizzes start at 8.15 pm £1.50 per person

Refreshments, 'Beer Question' and Raffle

2016 February 23rd

March 17th

Tynesight Breast Cancer Campaign **Queenie Quiz**

Anthony Nolan Trust

April 19th

Quizmaster

John Harrison (johnandaveril@aol.com)

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Our small fascinating Europe......We're in it together!

Some time ago I heard about an EU inspired cooperation project between basketmakers in Northumberland and their colleagues in the Swedish province of Småland. Talk about grass roots cooperation!

It could of course have happened without the EU. Enthusiasts will find each other. But the 'European concept' has a way of pointing out and making way for cooperation on all levels; be it industrial standardisation, environmental regulation or - a currently hot issue international policing. So not only basketry!

"It's a small world!" It's been a saying for ages - long before the world became the shrinking place it is today (what with the moon, Mars and some other new surroundings creeping in under the horizon). Perhaps the saying could even be heard already in the days of the British Empire - the vastest, most inclusive "union" we've seen so far. The European bits of this conglomeration were comparatively very small. Thus it was quite natural that England most often had its eyes turned the other way, across the seas... Europe is a small part of a small world.

But whenever Britain did take a look over the shoulder, back into Europe, there were silly doings going on, that needed some corrective measures. And Britain repeatedly administered these measures with great bravery and sacrifice. And finally, towards the middle of the twentieth century, there was a new Europe with eternal peace!...? How's that?

Good men like Robert Schuman and Jean Monet initiated praiseworthy work on rebuilding and reorganizing the wartorn continental lands, tying old enemies together, striving for close economic cooperation and, eventually, a union with political overtones. Some surrounding countries, led by Britain, initially thought a less ambitious cooperation - a more traditional free trade agreement would be enough. It was not; in 1973 Britain (and Ireland and Denmark) left the EFTA and joined the European Economic Community, EEC. Sweden (Finland and Austria) still hesitated but finally joined what had then become the European Union, EU, in 1995.

There we are - the historic background in the proverbial nutshell! What next for Britain and Sweden, two countries with many differences but with more in common than is perhaps often recognized? Just look at the geography! We're both looking at Europe from peripheral points. We're not 'surrounded by it'. And there's a stretch of sea in between. For both countries, therefore, the question: *"to enter or not to enter?"*, had some purely geographic relevance.

Judging from the timing cited above, it seemed Sweden was a good deal more reluctant to enter the Union than Britain. Once inside, perhaps it can be said that Sweden engages in the various projects with more enthusiasm than Britain. Britain's sometimes more hesitant attitude or reserve is well understood in Sweden. We perceive and respect Britain's more complex historic background, its special international role, and its sheer size. Sweden and Britain, so often conceptually in unison, are of course two very different entities.

It can be said without doubt that for Sweden - and, I'm sure, for several other EU members - the continued active and authoritative participation of Britain in the EU work is strongly appreciated. It's a very demanding work even in the best of times. Recent developments have added to the burden in a way that is clear to everyone. The unforeseen and unprecedented inflow of refugees from the Middle East is a thing that calls for a good deal of improvisation and quick fixes. The problem of so called "EU migrants", on the other hand, is a more home-made situation that must find its definite solution. The much heralded "strict conditionality" for new members' entering the EU has - so it seems - in several cases, unfortunately, had to be waived for political reasons. And there we are, with a serious corruption situation within the Union that shouldn't be there! Eliminating that now is a very sensitive necessary job to tackle, on top of everything else...

It won't be made easier by the fact that nationalist oriented pressure groups and parties score easy points by instead proposing escape from the Union (and its responsibilities). In Sweden the so called Sweden Party has rapidly won over 13 percent of the parliament seats and so created a totally new situation. The traditional parties have feen forced to work out clever ways to make the nationalist votes irrelevant. The British majority system works differently and so seems to keep the problem in the background. In the strictly proportional Swedish system ways of avoiding 'stoppages' in voting have had to be invented.

The refugee situation will inevitably bring the issue of 'the incoming stranger' onto the table. It will have to be discussed in a factual way by *all* parties; snatched away from the Sweden Democrats, who have it as their main topic, and given a more nuanced treatment...

The prospect of a British referendum on EU cannot be said to meet with glee in Sweden. Rather it's disquieting. It is clear to all observers that Sweden and Britain share similar views on most issues. Swedes regard Britain as a strong, stabilizing element, not only in the EU context. The loss of such a partner would be disturbing, to say the least.

An English friend resident in Manchester said, on this matter, that a 'No' in the referendum would mean the definite defection of Scotland. Were that to happen, he would propose that the Scottish border be moved south of Manchester. So as to re-enter EU under Scottish flag! An unrealistic scenario? Yes, and a sad one. But a telling thought.

We can only hope that a coming British vote on EU membership will result in a clear 'Yes'! The Swedish public will be for that - if not a hundred percent, so a hundred minus thirteen...

Invaluable British assistance and cooperation is strongly needed - also in these, more peace-like, times!

Ingemar Börjesson. Lund. Sweden.

NOTICES & WHAT'S ON?

HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

HBUAFC hold their monthly meeting on the first <u>Monday</u> 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 or the website

or <u>dave.thornhill@tiscali.co.uk</u> or the website www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtynedalejuniors. ALL WELCOME.

HAYDON BRIDGE DANCE CLUB

SEOUENCE DANCING

<u>VICTIM SUPPORT</u> Working for victims of crime.

If you are a victim of crime, we can offer support in practical and emotional ways. Just a phone call away.



Community Centre Only £1.50 inc. tea & biscuits DANCING IS FOR FUN

EVERY MONDAY

7.30 to 10.00pm

Haydon Bridge

Ask for details at: 01434 684 452 Call Leanne at: 01661830770 82, Front St. Prudhoe. NE42 5PU Or

0167082234 (Bedlington)

HAYDON BRIDGE LOCAL ARTISTS' GROUP

Open to all, first session free. Meets every other Wednesday at HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE February 3rd and 17th: March 2nd, 16th & 30th 6.30 - 9.15pm

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 <u>fourth</u> 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*



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)

SHAFTOC SINGERS (used to be The Shaftoe Chorale)

7.30pm Friday evenings

term times only
Very wide ranging repertoire.
All voices welcome — experienced or not.
Methodist Church Hall

Hexham Beacon Club

Programme-	
3 nd Feb	History of Dove Marine Laboratory.
10 th Feb	Emergence of the Stephensons.
17 th Feb	Trip to Iceland.
24 th Feb	History of Hexham.
2 nd March	AGM
On We	ednesdays 10-30 to 12-00 at
T · · · A A	

Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Hexham

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

Feb 4th	AGM (Members of	
	WIND	John Harrison
Feb 18th	BRYOPHYTES	John O'Reilly
March 3rd	WONDERS OF BI	
	MIGRATION	Graham Bell
March 17th	WALLINGTON W GARDEN	ALLED John Ellis

Police Ladies in the Chapel

The next session will be at the Methodist Church between 10am and 11 am during Coffee Morning on Thursday 18th February.

GENERAL HAVELOCK

 \square

Valentines Dinner

 \bigcirc

3 courses plus coffee £20 Saturday 13th February 2016

FILM ("Chef") & FOOD night @7.15 cost £8 Friday 26th February 2016

Thank yous to all involved with

OAP Lunch 8/12/15

Hexham round tableClaire's newsagentCo op (Haydon Bridge)Billy Bell ,HaltwhistleFather Christmas - Dennis Telford/Sheff ExhamAll volunteers (including Meals on Wheels)Wonderful atmosphere / wonderful village

A Dramatic Arrival at Haydon Bridge

We arrived in Haydon Bridge at the beginning of October. We wanted to retire in the Tyne Valley, having got to know it through having had a cottage in the North Pennines. We came from Durham where we had worked for the past twelve years; we once lived in north Northumberland in the 1980s, so the North East is a familiar and muchloved landscape to us.

We didn't expect our life in Haydon Bridge to begin so dramatically: you are supposed to glide gently into retirement and old age. However, like others in the valley, we found ourselves assaulted by Storm Desmond on 5-6 December. The water in our cellar rose to a height of almost six feet drowning the biomass boiler we had installed there earlier in the year. Thankfully, the house itself was spared. Fire service crews were on duty in Church Street throughout the night to keep the waters from flooding our properties. They spent the whole of the next day and part of another pumping out the cellar.

Generous neighbours took us in and cared for us for nearly a fortnight. Acts of kindness on the part of others helped us through those days of Advent. The village Face Book page *Haydon Bridge Matters* was a key source of helpful support and advice, keeping us in touch with what was happening where. Insurers and contractors were quickly on hand to assist.

Among many memories of that weekend, one stands out. The day after the flood, we gathered as a village on the old bridge to light the Christmas trees. It was powerful to stand directly above the same waters that had so threatened us the day before and sing carols about how Love came down at Christmas time. It was as if the message of the season was bidding the waters 'Peace, be still', just as Jesus did on the stormy lake when the waves threatened to submerge the ship. This community came together to celebrate, as if to say: nothing, not even this disaster that has overtaken us, will stop us being glad. The Vicar led us in three hearty cheers of gratitude for the fire service. But they may have been too busy manning their pumps to hear us.

We've been impressed and at times moved by the spirit of this village during and after the flood. But questions remain to be answered. They have been well rehearsed in the past month, but here they are again for the record.

- How is it possible for the County Council doggedly to continue with the proposal to axe Haydon Bridge Fire Station in the light of its vital role during the crisis? If ever evidence of the need for this station was required, it is now there in abundance. But the new awareness recent events have brought to the big flood risk faced by the area is not being taken nearly as seriously as it should. I am wondering who, among decision-makers, is paying attention to the facts on the ground.
- Who is taking responsibility for the regular clearing of the watercourses that flow through the village on their way to the Tyne? We have to ask whether drains and culverts have been maintained as they should, for these, as well as the river itself, have added to the flood problems the village has had to face.
- What is the Environment Agency's policy for

the river in its upper catchment and in the towns and villages through which it flows? We did not get clear answers to this question at the public meeting held after the floods. And what is going to be done to ensure that the effects of any future inundation (which we must assume will happen again, given what is happening to our climate) are protected against and minimised?

Good comes out of dark times. The flood has helped us to be 'hefted' to this community, get to know our new neighbours, make new friends. We don't feel strangers any more: the flood has helped us to arrive. We certainly wouldn't wish a crisis like this on anyone. But it has brought out a huge amount of good in the village. Thank you everyone. We are so glad that we chose to come to Haydon Bridge. *Michael Sadgrove*

<u>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS</u> Another great community effort!

This year the Christmas lights were switched on by William Thornhill, watched by huge crowds and once again we were entertained by the beautiful singing of pupils from Shaftoe Trust Primary School. Everyone then enjoyed a variety of refreshments and a chat with Santa. If you are part of a local singing group and would like to lead everyone in some carol singing during this event please let us know.

Once again our thanks to all those willing and enthusiastic workers involved in assembling the trees and disposing of them in the New Year. This year they battled rain and gale force winds! These helpers (without whom this event would be impossible to achieve) were fed Fish and Chips lunches by Harry and refreshments were supplied throughout the day by Claire's Newsagents and the General Havelock. Thanks again to Reverend Benjamin Carter who led prayers and blessed the proceedings. Thanks also to Paula Collis who transported the boxes to and from Ralph Marshalls yard.

Members of the community have again shown great generosity and increased last year's jar total by over £150 to produce an overwhelming total of £777.12. Once again the mammoth task of counting the money was led by Joyce Brown and her stalwart helper Rene Armstrong. Local businesses that sponsored a tree raised a further £300.00. This makes a grand total of £1077.12. This year expenses incurred were; £205 for the trees, £180 for wood to repair the boxes and £30 for the cost of electricity. Total expenditure was therefore £415.

The Fireworks Display on New Year's Eve organised by the 'Get it Together Society' was impressive and as agreed last year half of the jar money (£388.50) will be donated towards fireworks for 2016.

The following people and businesses kindly sponsored the trees:

Gary Cunningham, Harry's Fish and Chips, Westall family, Alan and Brenda Tweddle, Safe and Secure, Brain and Ruth Welch-UK Industrial Tapes Ltd, Haydon Bridge Cricket Club, M.D. Thirlaway, Peter and Shirley Watson – garage, Dennis and Jackie Oliver, George Gamble – Building and Construction, Jamie Eales, Paul Brown- Tiles, Emma – Driving Instructor, Kevin Williams Builder and Electrical, Graham Murphy and Jimmy Carruthers, Rene Armstrong, Haydonian Renovation Service, Haydon Bridge Pharmacy, Cloudhouses – home of yurts and squirts, Kevin Liddle – Topsigns, Lisa Alder – Eden Beauty and Holistics

Once again many thanks to everyone involved and very best wishes for 2016! Julia Cooper

Brendan Healy Who is fully prepared for a dusting of slush.

It's like magic. The weather girl mentions that there is the tiniest possibility that a snowflake might fall on the Cheviots and it all kicks off. The country grinds to a halt, planes are grounded, trains are scared of the wrong type of leaves, the gritter-wagon drivers start rubbing their hands with glee at the prospect of overtime and the poor hapless motorist rushes to the nearest camping store for a sleeping bag, snow shovel, portable gas stove, bag of sand, night-light candles, flares, baseball bat, a motor boat and three cross-country skis. (Which were on offer because one of the two pairs wasn't quite complete.)

I think these stores must club together every year and bribe the weather people into telling these white lies (pun intended) making it a very merry Christmas for all of them.

Imagine the meeting:

"Camping Ootside, The Store For All Seasons' have just made a very generous offer, if we mention the possibility of snow in the weather forecast."

"You can't do that, Jocinda, it's August."

"I think the word 'possibility' sort of lets us off the hook here."

Suddenly, in the clothing stores, we see enormous ladies and gentlemen fighting over the salopettes and moon boots, and I don't think it's for the apres-ski in St Moritz, but more likely to get to the bingo. Nobody seems bothered that they are going to look like right divvies at the Gala, when everyone else is in their shorts 'cos they haven't seen the weather forecast.

A couple of winters have been pretty bad recently though. It was so cold last year that on one Friday night some lad was spotted in the Big Market in Newcastle wearing a long sleeve tee-shirt. The young generation, pah! Soft as clarts.

Faceache and other social media go daft when it snows and it becomes a game of one-upmanship.

"I can see the odd flake of snow."

"Snowing properly here."

"Can't see the cat and I only put her out three minutes ago."

"That's nothing, our car is completely covered."

"We can't even see out of our windows, it's that deep here."

"Haven't been out for over a week, close to malnutrition." It's then you notice that they all live in the same street.

Oh!... and one other thing about the British winter... it will only be about once every one hundred and twenty-seven years that you need a massive 4x4 to get from your coffee morning to the tennis club.

People who really need 4x4's don't have time for those sort of things.

It's very different in Canada. I went there once. What happened was, a bus went past and on the side it said 'Drink Canada Dry' and I thought "What a good idea!" so off I went.

They have ten feet of snow there in two minutes and don't even notice, whereas we whinge over a dusting of slush.

Had lunch with some old pals this week and Keith Fisher,



who used to play drums in Beckett, (check them out on the net on the Old Grey Whistle Test) pointed out that the second-best answer in the world is "I don't know." He is right, it is actually very refreshing to hear this sometimes. Here are some examples.

"Scuse me, do you know where the Catholic Club is?"

"Er, let me think, hang on, I'm sure me dad's been there, no, that was the Conservative Club, hang fire, I think it might be next to where the co-op used to be."

Preferred answers;

1. Yes, it's the second street on the left. Number 2. I don't know.

"Scuse me waiter, are there nuts in this dish, as I will die if there are?"

'No... well, I'm not really sure actually 'cos I only started today, but I wouldn't think so 'cos when I was at the last restaurant I worked in, there weren't any in that one."

Preferred answers; Number 1. No, definitely not. Number

2. I don't know.

I was watching the telly this week about how our borders are controlled. It's hilarious.

"So, Officer, what you're saying is that it's illegal for me to bring nine suitcases full of tabs home from me holidays? How the heck am I expected to know that?"

Another thing that struck me was the incongruity of the names of places at the airport. All travellers have to go through a place called the 'TERMINAL' which is a bit scary, and yet all the bad smuggly-type people who get caught are sent to a lovely-sounding place called the Custardy Sweet.



Langley Furniture Works The Old Brickyard Langley, Hexham NE47 5LA 01434 688 977

www.langleyfurnitureworks.co.uk

Haydon Bird survey ends, RSPB survey starts.

Many thanks to all those who took part in our local survey last year, there is still time to record your winter visitors and hand the final forms in at the Bridge. From the list that was compiled 50 years ago we are still missing several birds, and it would be particularly good to know if any of them are spotted.

Corn Bunting Garden Warbler Grasshopper Warbler Merlin Reed Bunting Sedge Warbler Shoveller Duck Wood Warbler

Whilst it may be that some of them were wrongly recorded around the village all those years ago it is clear from national surveys that dramatic changes are taking place in the bird population, with one of my favourites the Puffin – suffering at the moment.

Don't forget that the RSPB Big Garden watch is over the weekend of 30/31 January this year, and there is still time to get your results in. And as a fair amount of winter is still to come it is not too late to start feeding the birds in your garden. The RSPB website has lots of ideas for supporting nature.

Carole Price



THE HAYDONIAN CRUCIVERBALIST

February 2015

£10 PRIZE EVERY MONTH!

ACROSS

1. Hurried, apparently, and found description of modesty (6)

4. Animal a North Tyne village lo-

cated underground (8)

9. Starters without bad habits? (7)

11. Scarface managed to lose a hundred bottles (7)

12. Got an arrangement of the last one in Paris (5)

13. Were ten mad men out of order any improvement? (9)

14. Wallace film of fighter's love symbol (10)

16. State where toff may doff one back? (4)

19. Dash in blue Landrover – and in the outside lane! (4)

20. Meeting in quiet on the Cape? No rocky bits here (10)

22. Sweet break in the main course (9)

23. A lady whichever way you look, and inside (5)

25. Tell musician of Italian origin (7)26. Stepwise layout of Loch Nee (7)

27. Relieved, we're told, on the arm of an octopus maybe (8)

28. Scots forge Southern beer glass (6)

DOWN

1. One painter who ought to be lawabiding (9)

2. Stardust possibly in astral viniculture (5)

3. Engine left on until credit runs out (8)

5. Engineer made their crop into foreign landmark (3,2,8)

6. Wear down, seemingly, a plait(5)

7. Turned on the middle? No, not exactly (3-6)

8. Surrounded drug with superlative
(5)

10. As Kissinger maybe says he gets Facebook approval (13)

15. Silage can be fermenting for painkiller (9)

17.Paid to keep one's mouth shut (4,5)

18. Fancy a hit? Just a trifle (4,4)21. First off, nurse bustles round in a bearlike way (6)

22. Father's anger on board (5)

24. Up in the citadel, odd bits and pieces were handed out (5)

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

DECEMBER'S WINNER

Joyce Waugh

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

7 entries (six correct)

DECEMBER'S ANSWERS



ADDRESS.....

NAME.....



Lost Property

I moved north from the midlands with my family in 1979 and set up home in Haydon Bridge. The wonderful local landscapes and traffic-free roads encouraged me to get back to my teenage pastime of cycle touring; it was a great way to explore new territory. Most weekends I would pedal off on a 50 or 60 mile ride finding the quietest roads and learning my way around the region.

One Sunday I had ridden south to Alston and was planning to return via Slaggyford and the back lanes to Whitfield then home. It was a dry and clear Spring day. Around midday I rode through Slaggyford and turned right at Knarsdale heading for Eals following the course of the South Tyne. This was my first ride along this road. Not knowing what to expect I was surprised and delighted to come across an old manor house set back to the east of the road. It was not large, not a ' stately home' but in amazing condition for its age. It had probably been built by a successful local land owning farmer, not an aristocrat, it wasn't posh. It had a wooden structure that looked original and clearly dated back at least to the early seventeenth century. It was not a picture book black and white Elizabethan 'chocolate box lid' place, just unpainted natural wood. I couldn't tell what the roof was made of, possibly a type of thatch.

The area around the house was of beaten earth, like a farmyard without the animals. There was an old rustic style wooden fence against which I leaned my bike. I assumed that such a historic building would now be in the care of the National Trust and maybe opened for visitors. Hoping to find an information board I scooted down to the gap in the fence, but there was nothing, no information, no name, nothing, no clue to its history. There was no sign of life, no people, no cars. None of this seemed odd at the time. I also recall the place had a tangible sense of tranquility.

Thrilled to have discovered such a hidden treasure I pressed on and finished my ride. Back home I told my wife the story and she suggested I contact Charlie Coombes the local village historian to ask what he knew of this house. Well I didn't get around to it, I was busy, there was no rush, and the house slipped to the back of my mind. Several months passed and I continued exploring the region discovering many more memorable places. But the day came when once again I was riding the same route towards Alston, this time in the reverse direction. Of course I remembered the old house and was hoping to get more information or even get to look inside if it was open. Well, I had done the steep descent down to Eals and was tootling along by the river waiting for the house to come into view, but it didn't, and on I went all the way to Knarsdale. Puzzled I turned around and rode slowly back to Eals. Nothing. And back again. Still nothing. It wasn't there. I was at a loss to understand how this could be houses like that do not disappear without trace. On the way home I thought maybe I was on a different road, possibly there was another similar road nearby and I was confused about the route. The next weekend, armed with an OS map, I took the car to Slaggyford and drove up and down every road and lane in the area. There was no sign of the house - it did not exist.

Back home, totally stumped, I again considered contacting Charlie Coombes but thought better of it, after all what could I say, 'I've seen an old house that doesn't exist'. Charlie would have loved that.

So I have no proof, no evidence to explain what I saw. I don't believe in ghosts and don't go for nutty sci-fi theories about bubbles in time etc. It will have to remain a mystery. That won't stop me cherishing the memory of the house and its serenity. Looking back I wish I'd had the courage to go into the yard and knock on the door - maybe.

Once or twice a year I ride down the Eals road, just on the off chance..... you never know. *Richard Hirst*

Counselling - another view

Things have chaged since women stood with their back fence between them and gossiped. It was a way of getting things sorted out then or being a relief that someone was willing to listen.

Men are, for the most part, okay now and not suffering 'battle fatigue' unless still in an active way with the armed forces. They often talk together about some things but keep a lot inside, until they have had enough to drink for it not to matter because neither could remember what who said to which.

Counsellors are professionally trained so that they can hear what someone is saying without needing to be able to tell that someone what they ought to do, to get change in their lives. Counsellors are good at helping people to explore what there is in their lives and even more important, to help the client see what they can do to help themselves. My counselling training gave me a variety of ways to work with clients. I do listen to what my clients say (and don't say) and the feelings or emotions present.

I can still remember a client whose daughter was married to someone working abroad. The client came because this daughter had died after throwing herself out of a hotel window on an upper floor. During the discussion that followed that extremely painful revelation it became clearer and could be worked with. Towards the end of one painful session she suddenly told me that I had helped her to look at such a pain, so far away, and she felt enabled. The she laughed and came over to me, gave me a hug and said a big thank you, because as she said, she could see her daughter in her head, talk to her, tell her what the problems were that she had been experiencing.

I do want to help people who come to see me. I don't want to just sit and listen, letting the client talk throughout the session. What clients bring are things that are very important to them but which they cannot handle alone. Many want to talk to somebody they really don't know, so that things don't suddenly become a topic of conversation in any local shops.

I take my work very seriously but I don't hang about on the negative side of everything, agreeing with clients that their lives are totally messed up and that there is nothing they can do.. Of course there is, talk tome about things. It's not rocket science, it's people science, something we are too frequently hurt by. It's two people - you and me! Life has fun times, even during the worst times and I think of that as a kind of human balancing act. So if you just want to get something safely said, without any major consequence, come and talk to me. Just come and talk with me about anything that's getting to you. No being flogged into talking, no whispers to anyone with me.

COUNSELLING

- Home or work problems getting you down?
- Feeling lonely or misunderstood?
- Not sure where you want your life to go anymore?
- Want to talk about something in confidence?

Personal counselling, face2face, email, Skype or phone

Justine Oldfield-Rowell 01434 684522 www.personal-counselling.co.uk justine@personal-counselling.co.uk

<u>HA EN GOD JUL OG ET GODT NYTT ÅR</u>

My, we are a polyglot crowd in HB, what with pure Geordies as well as folks from old Bohemia, as well as me with my Norwegian background. I am sure there must be others who hail from other countries far and away. I did so much enjoy the contributions from Peter Arnold and Natalie Nera's Czech Christmas in December's Haydon News. They set me thinking about my early childhood Christmas's and New Year's immediately after the end of WWII. 1945 was my first Christmas in a 'mixed' household with dad from Norway (Telemark) and mam from good old Geordie land, i.e. born on the 'Law Top' in South Shields.

This gave rise to our first family cultural clash! Mam's Christmas experience was very much English (i.e. Victorian) based whereas dad's was traditional Norwegian. Despite the post war privations, with rationing lasting until 1953, we still managed to indulge and enjoy ourselves, but perhaps not to the extent possible these days. In Norway, however, the Christmas tree – always a real one! – did not go up until Christmas Eve whereas all the other kids in Shields had theirs up well before then. After much pestering from my twin brother Eric and I we eventually negotiated this down to the last week before Christmas. But mum always insisted that the festive food should be purchased on Christmas Eve, probably a necessity in those early days because most houses did not have fridges, only cold pantries.

This brings back many powerful memories of sights, sounds and smells that are redolent of Christmas Eve. We would walk from Marsden to the Nook in Shields to do the shopping. All the shops, mostly individual family owned, would stay open late stuffed full of goodies; at least that is how it seemed to us kids. There were few chain stores in those days. The smell of pine trees, myriad fruits and hanging birds was a powerful indication that Christmas was with us once again, emphasised by the glittering lights everywhere! I have never forgotten the first time I smelt a tangerine and pomegranate, and tasted Turkish delight. Chocolate, however, was not available until well after the war.

The next clash was over the timing and nature of the Christmas dinner. In Norway this was always held on Christmas Eve with presents opened immediately after midnight service, not on Christmas morning. It goes without saying, fish was the primary ingredient. Since dad could not be doing with turkey, and mam definitely was not having fish, a compromise was struck. So all my early Christmas dinners were a combination of a capon and hand of pork - just to be different from all the other kids - but it was always delicious. In our early years, at least half the time dad would not be home for Christmas because he was a merchant marine officer who went deep see sailing for months at a time. But this did not change the Christmas rituals.

There was never any disagreement about dressing the Christmas dinner table; we simply followed both traditions with the centre piece being a Norwegian decorative runner down the centre of the table and a mini Norwegian flag at the end! Eric and I were always made to wait to Christmas morning until our parents were up before we could open our presents – just a few compared with today. It was best to have lots of uncles and aunties! Sometimes this would be only an hour or so after they had gone to bed. Three or four attempts would be made to sneak downstairs before success was achieved. One year dad hid all our presents behind the curtains, etc –he thought this was a whale of laugh!

When dad was away at sea we would go to my English grandmother's place in Shields for Christmas. Early memories of this include sharing a massive bed with my brother and cousin Bruce from Allendale on the ground floor of an old Victorian house. Lights from the open fire would flicker on the ceiling as we desperately tried to pretend we were asleep so that Santa would come sooner rather than later. We could see the shadows of our large Christmas stockings hanging from the mantelpiece cast on the ceiling, which only helped to heighten our expectations. But sleeping was not helped by the old Swiss cuckoo clock in the hall which struck every quarter of an hour then did its self really proud on the hour!

Having just experienced the recent mild drenching storm it is so different from childhood memories of Decembers past. It always seemed to be freezing cold from November onwards with snow falling just in time for Christmas. If dad was home he would take us tobogganing on Boxing Day using a traditional Norwegian sledge he made while at sea, with steel runners and a curved up front using highly polished dark wood which lasted for years. We were the envy of all of the other kids.

Well, that's enough for now. For those without the words, my title wishes you all a (belated) Happy Christmas and New Year!

Peter Henriksen, Highshield, HB.



It's a Derg's Life

Noo then! Yous'll mind on that Aah'd dyun reet canny last yeor i thi National Dialect Day competitions at Exeter, so whan Aah got back hyem, Aah telt thi papers aall aboot it. Aah nivvor thowt the'd be bothered like, but Aah had phone caals frae thi papers, an thi radio, an TyneTees telly wanted ti cum ti thi hoos ti film is, an sumbody put is on U-Tube, an the aall wanted quotes an fotees.

Whey, Aah waas that tewed, cos Aah's not ower keen on smilin yuh knaa, so yous en jaloos hoo wraxed Aah waas wi hevin ti stand like a daft'n time the took pikters heor, theor an ivvorywheor.

Aboot ten days eftor, Aah gets a caall frae "Britain's Got Talent". The sayd the wanted is ti gan on thi show cos the'd seen is on U-Tube, an the'd been that impressed that Aah waadent hev ti dee thi audition. Whey, Aah waas that med up, Aah sed Aah'd gan. Then a posh lettor kem, wiv a croon on thi front. Whan Aah oppens it up, Aah saa it was frae Buckingham Pallis, yuh knaa, thi Kween!

Aah shooted fer wor lass an wuh red it tigithor. It sayd Aah had ti gan ti Hor plyec cos she'd seen is on U-Tube an aall, an shi had been that impressed, shi waanted is ti giv hor a speshul performance fer Horsel an a few freends. But then Aah saa it waas for thi syem day as tother invite! "Whaat's Aah ganna dee?" Aah sayd ti wor lass. "Yuh'll hatta gan," she tellt is, "cos yuh canna say na ti the Kween, noo can yuh?" So, Aah sat doon an writ tiv Hor Majesty an sayd Aah wud gan. Aah waas that nooled ower tother invite, but, Aah got **WOR LASS** ti tell them Aah cudn't dee it eftor aall cos Aah had ti gan ti see thi Kween. "Did Aah dee thi reet thing?" Aah axed mesel.

Onyroad, Aah hoyed me best duds on, thesens, an bogied off ti Lunnon on a charra. Aah thowt ti mesel, "Will Aah git a medal or summat? Or mebbies a posh title like Lord Arnold o Hexham? That soonded aboot reet!" Whan Aah gets ti thi palliss, Aah showed me invite tiv a flunky, an off wuh gans, me wishin Aah'd gon ti thi netty forst. Whan wuh got ti Hor Majesty's private bit, thi flunky brayed on thi door, an a voice sez "Come in". Whey, Aah waas that norvus! Aah cud hardlys think strite, but thi Kween looked reet freendly like, wiv hor pearls, hor yaller twin set, an hor croon, an cos she taalked tiv is reet canny, Aah syun calmed doon.

Aah looked aall roond thi room fer tother folks, but Aah cudn't see nee-one else ceptin Horsel an fower dergs. "Is theor nee-one else cumin Yor Majesty?" Aah sayd. "No," she says, "just me and the corgies." Whey, Aah waas that gutted. Aah'd given up gannin on "Britain's Got Talent" just so's Aah cud entertain fower bloody dergs! Aah cud see mi medal fleein oot thi winda. Nee posh title fer is nowther!

Onyroad, Aah decided tiv ax Hor whaat she liked maist aboot me tyel, an she sayd, "Actually, I couldn't understand a word of it. It sounded like a foreign language to me, but the corgies were so excited when they saw you on U-Tube, that I had to play it again and againfor them. They were barking and running around all the time, so I just knew I had to invite you to come and give them a specialtreat in person. Would you mind awfully telling your story again?" Whaat cud Aah dee? Aah waas at Hor Majesty's beck an caal, cos it waas Hor hoos, yuh knaa, so Aah sayd "Whey aye, yor Majesty. Nee bother at aall." So, swallerin me pride, Aah tellt me tyel aboot me adventures i thi snaa, puttin a bit mair action itiv it, like, jist fer thi dergs. The barked an lowped aboot time Aah tellt me tyel, an whaan Aah'd finished, the jumped aal ower is, dunched is doon, licked me fyec, an one o them even browt is one of its byens fer is ti chow!

Yuh cn say whaat yuh like, but Aah rekkon it's a reet bloody derg's life!

Peter Arnold

Oops!

So the weathermen have done it again: after promising a Barbecue summer (where?; when?), they predicted Arctic winter and white Christmas. It begs a question what meteorology is good for.

When I was at school many winters ago, we learnt that with all the might of satellites and computers the weather predictions were only 60% accurate. Somehow I don't think there has been a major improvement in the past twenty years. It's basically only marginally better than throwing a die.

Although I am writing these lines on a rare sunny and snowy day, I don't believe I am wrong in saying that the only weather in Britain these days seem to be rain, rain and more rain. In the weeks leading up to Christmas instead of cross-country skiing from the front of your house to Newcastle, most of us wondered whether we shouldn't keep canoes and diving kits as essential equipment of our households.

I must also cast a doubt over calling meteorology "a science". Yes, it does use mathematical models, computers, satellites and knowledge of ocean streams but it still does not make it a scientific discipline especially with the high degree of unreliability.

The same way in my mind, medicine is no science as it ultimately relies upon a decision of a flawed human being. And before you stone me to death for such a sacrilege – how dare I attack the good medics! – I am saying it with affection and intimate experience of having two doctors in my family. They all know roughly the same about human body and diseases but the difference between a good doctor and bad one is not science, it's the human factor. A good doctor will listen to his patient and make sure that the apparent tonsillitis is not in fact say a glandular fever. After all, even the medics themselves speak of *ars medicinae*, or the art of medicine. Not science.

However, I am not sure I can talk of the art of meteorology. What's the use to get a forecast one day for an eternal sunshine tomorrow, only to wake up the following morning to torrential downpour lasting forty-eight hours? I can see what's going on from my window, thank you very much. Oops, you got it wrong again?

Perhaps the weathermen should adopt a disclaimer: "Our predictions are never wrong; they come true - eventually."





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The South Tyne and Flooding in Haydon Bridge

There has been a great deal of discussion in around the village as to how to avoid a repetition of the damage and distress caused by the pre-Christmas floods. Given the way that global climates are changing, we are likely to experience an increase in the frequency of flood events so there is a degree of urgency here. It would seem to me that views are in danger of becoming polarised between the 'shift the gravel banks' and 'manage the catchment' options. I have summarised this in a rather scruffy back-of-envelope version of how the river may have behaved during the flood (See diagram). The solid line represents the volume flow of the river over the several hours that it took for the waters to pass Haydon Bridge - this is known as the flood hydrograph. If we add in the (entirely theoretical) channel capacity at some critical point in Haydon Bridge (ie the maximum the channel can take without overtopping the banks ie flooding) which is indicated by the solid horizontal line labelled 'Current Channel Capacity' it can be seen that for some number of hours the river was exceeding its channel capacity by the total volume shown by the cross-hatching. In theory, the solutions are [A] Increase the channel capacity so it can take more water or [B] flatten the flood hydrograph (the dot-dash line) by managing the water flow through the whole South Tyne catchment. Any river catchment manager will wish to take the [B] approach as this offers a long-term solution but those in the firing line see the large gravel banks which reduce channel capacity and wonder why these can not be moved. Wearing my academic's hat, I have to say that [B] is the better option in the long term. However, this should not preclude the possibility of channel management over relatively short distances if, and only if, the side-effects of such an action would not serve to make matters worse. A short section of the river channel through the village could be cleared – the suggestion has been made that the rocks could be loaded into wire baskets (box-gabions) which would then be installed along the banks problem solved? Well no, not really. Box gabions need to engineered into the existing river bank and can't simply be dumped. If they are not well engineered, water will flow around them making bank erosion worse. (Can anyone tell me why river gravel is regarded as toxic when it is suggested that it be removed, but perfectly OK for children to play on at the picnic area?). Assuming that the boxes can be installed securely, the newly cleared section of channel should, in theory, carry a greater volume of water, thus potentially reducing flood risk in the centre of Haydon Bridge. However, there are several potentially side-effects of such action. The force of water coming through the improved channel would have increased erosive powers on the banks and higher impact force on bridge structures. Large detritus (tree trunks) would hit bridge piers with greater force than currently. Below the enlarged section there is an increased risk of flood (picnic site and football field) and potentially greater erosion on the bend below the railway. In the long-term the most secure solution is a combination of management of catchment run-off above the village and a wellrehearsed flood emergency action plan. How long this would take to implement is unknown but I suggest that we would be thinking in terms of decades. And perhaps, given current climate trends, we don't have that much time. John Harrison Retired Environmental Scientist

Environment Advisor to the Bishop of Newcastle





Anyone we know?

I have some photographs that were taken last year at the train station. My son Adam saw them first. I am pretty open minded about stuff like this, but both Adam and I think the apparition, if indeed that is what it is, is well spooky.

I have asked my Dad who it might be in the window of the waiting room, but to no avail, which I why I am asking your readers for help. I have one or two thoughts, as to who or what this may be but for reasons of taste, I will not say what they are.

Rob Turnbull and Adam Turnbull (Ex HB residents) rcturnbull1968@yahoo.co.uk

Editor's comments:

There are features of these photos that suggest a straightforward optical phenomenon to me (the recent Christmas special edition of Sherlock mentions the same thing) but I realise that others may have different views. My own father reported conversations with a powerful and ancient shade that possessed the land he farmed and he encountered moving figures in the very old house where I was conceived. Critics may say this explains a lot... SF