

THE HAYDON NEWS



JUNE 2020

Editor's Letter

This year so far has been one of the strangest times many of us have ever experienced in our lives. One thing that has struck me again and again is how lucky we are to live in such a lovely village, where the pressure-cooker atmosphere of city life is something that happens elsewhere. This was particularly true in the beginning of the lockdown, where the world quickly became a very strange place. Where shop shelves were empty, where rationing of vegetables had to happen, and none of us were sure quite what was happening. Haydon Bridge saw those dedicated people who run their essential businesses in the village continue with barely a pause, so we know we can rely on them in even the most difficult times, where friendly faces say hello on the deserted streets and there was a real sense of being together in a completely unknown and quite frankly scary moment in the life of the world.

People have pulled together brilliantly, with neighbours helping others far more than has ever even been necessary, to the amazing sights and sounds of the applause for NHS and care workers ringing out from the village across the valley, to the pictures of rainbows and signs of thanks for the NHS hanging across the village and the wonderful stone towers built on the riverside adding a magical atmosphere. Where the beautiful countryside all around us has been literally on our doorsteps for our escapes from lockdown, this year and the feeling of community won't be forgotten.

In this issue we haven't been able to do our usual regular features of the events and reports of Haydon Bridge life, as so much of it has had to stop, but I hope you'll enjoy

some of the stories of Covid-19 lockdown life that we've put together.

With that said, we are looking for more people to help us at The Haydon News. The magazine is put together entirely by volunteers each month and we need your help to keep the magazine going.

We want to feature more news about anything and everything that's happening in the local area. So we're looking for more volunteers to join our editorial committee to help us decide on stories to feature, to research, write and put it together.

No experience is necessary as you'll be part of the team, and our rule of thumb is that if you think people will find it interesting, you're probably right!

If you're interested in submitting a story or working with us to find interesting stories each month, please do get in touch.

We're also looking for support in designing the magazine - so if you have any design experience and would be willing to support this local publication, please drop me a line.

Alex Kinsey
June 2020
Editor@haydon-news.co.uk
www.haydon-news.co.uk

Cover photo: many thanks to Tony Messner

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Donations of any value are always gratefully received, helping us to keep this publication going. For people living outside the Haydon Bridge delivery areas, we can arrange delivery of The Haydon News by post for an annual cost of £20

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All correspondence, contributions, adverts
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Please submit any articles for inclusion in our
next issue by the 12th of the month

The Haydon News Committee

Alex Kinsey (Editor), Pauline Wallis (Chair), Pat Hirst (Secretary), Mark Weldon (Treasurer), Richard Woodley (Distribution Coordinator), Peter Parker, Dennis Telford, John Wallis.

The editorial policy of the Haydon News is the responsibility of the Committee, although day-to-day responsibility is delegated to the editor. Our intention is always to ensure that the content is as fair and factually correct as possible. Any complaints concerning editorial policy should be addressed in writing to the Chair and will be considered by and receive a formal response from the Committee. Complaints other than those made above will not be entertained. The editor reserves the right to decide which letters/articles are to be published, and to alter or shorten letters/articles when necessary. Anonymous letters will not be published. A nom-de-plume may be used if the authors name and address are supplied.

Haydon Bridge in the time of Coronavirus

Business as Unusual!

From national toilet roll and pasta shortages, to reduced train services and empty roads, the shops and services of Haydon Bridge have adapted to the circumstances and proved even more how essential they are to all of us.

Claire, who runs Claire's Newsagents has been doing a brilliant job for the community. Along with providing all their usual products, Claire was asked by a customer if she would consider selling fruit and vegetables. 'I never thought one day I'd end up selling the likes of avocados, potatoes etc, but as shops were selling out of everything very quickly at the start, if I could get things, I made them available to our customers.' Claire has been careful to keep her customers and staff safe and has been grateful that everyone has been so conscious of how to behave safely. "It's made everyone think and be sensible, and people have seen the benefits of supporting local businesses, which has been great." And we all say, long may it continue!



And while pubs and restaurants across the country had to close, whenever there was an opportunity to keep some sort of service available, Haydon Bridge has proved no exception. Jo Thompson, owner of the General Havelock has provided a takeaway food service and talk of their pies has been overheard in the village more than once or twice! 'It's been great to be able to offer meals and keep seeing many of our regulars' she said, 'And we've all been so proud of the staff at the pharmacy, the health centre, community medical staff and Haydon View care home .through this difficult time. Everyone has been truly amazing.'

Janette Mcgregor got in touch with The Haydon News to pass on her message; 'As a nurse that has worked full time during the Covid-19 pandemic I would like to say a huge, massive 'THANK YOU' to all those in Haydon Bridge that have self-isolated, and to the village shops and all their staff...and to those that have had to stop their businesses. The 'clap' for me on a Thursday night is for you all. Keep going folks...this will not beat us!'

Haydon View Care Home

The team at Haydon View Care Home have been delighted with the donations and support they've received from people in the area.

Jayne Davidson, manager of the home said, 'Everyone has been amazing, with donations of PPE, chocolates, flowers, children's drawings and scrubs made by local people, it's all very touching and appreciated.'

Brian and Ruth Welsh provided PPE, while others provided homemade scrubs and headbands to ease the discomfort of face masks.

Julie Clark at the centre added her thanks, saying 'We are truly grateful for what we have received', while Angela Webb, Senior Carer added 'It's so nice to be in peoples' thoughts in these hard times.'



Helping Each Other

The Haydon Bridge Covid-19 Community Care Group is a volunteer group that was set up before lockdown began, offering help and support to anyone who needed it in the village.

Hayley Turner started the Facebook group and began to administrate the activities with Gill Valentine and Julie Renwick.

‘We had a very quick response from lots and lots of people offering to help. Within a week, our volunteers, including members of the Shaftoe Young Farmers, put a leaflet through every door in the village to offer support and contact details and the requests for help started to come in.’

‘We have over 30 volunteers from across the village providing food, phone calls and help with anything they need in lockdown, from shopping, picking up prescriptions or even just having a phone call to check how they are. The volunteers have all been amazing and done such a great job. For some of the people we deliver to, it’s their only interaction they get all week, so it’s proving so important.’

Hayley, who is shielding herself and has stayed at home since March, is busy cooking meals and organising support and advice for people who have lost their jobs and who have never had to apply for help from the government before.

‘As I’m shielding, I can’t do the shopping, but I can coordinate things and cook, as well as call people who are isolating and are not used to not being able to go out. Life can be hard in these times for any of us and so if we’ve been going a bit crazy in lockdown, we end up helping each other just by talking.’

‘I used to volunteer at Lunch Club and library so know a lot of people in the village already through that. We’ve been able to work with Age UK to arrange food boxes for people – and along with the essentials, there’s often a treat in the box. One lady called me to say they’d had popcorn in their box and were delighted ‘It was like Christmas! So we’re going to watch a film and eat the popcorn tonight!’

Geese on the South Tyne

The banks of the river are a busy place for wildlife at this time of year, with our resident heron, a family of oystercatchers and one of the most popular residents so far this year - the family of geese.

They’ve almost become social media stars in their own right, with the progress of their litter of goslings being shared online by many people in the village.

Lesley Eagan is one of their fans; ‘I live right by the river and look forward to seeing them every day. Apparently there were originally eleven goslings but four of them fell victim to a Sparrowhawk, and then another one disappeared, but it’s been so nice to watch the six now little goslings growing up.’

They seem to be thriving and enjoying the attention from their human neighbours. They’re certainly not shy in being in front of many cameras!



A Diamond Anniversary Postponed

The celebrations for a Haydon Bridge couple's sixtieth wedding anniversary celebration was another event which had to be cancelled due to the UK-wide lockdown.

John and Joyce Hill celebrated their Diamond anniversary on Thursday 2nd April and were due to have a reception on Saturday 4th April.

'We had sixty people coming, including relatives from abroad and London. We'd been looking forward to it for so long, but we're going to try to do it in January and time it with Joyce's 80th birthday' said John, who is celebrating his own 80th birthday in June.



'We were booked to have a blessing at St Peter's Church in Humshaugh, the flowers were ordered and everything was arranged, but then it all had to be cancelled. Our relatives in America had their flights cancelled and we had planned a few days in Bamburgh with everyone, when everything stopped.' Joyce added.

John and Joyce were married at St Peter's in 1960 and held the reception at Waterside Farm where Joyce's family lived. 'It was a lovely day even though it rained in the afternoon – but we were all inside and eating by that point so it didn't matter!' John said.



John was born in Haydon Bridge and met Joyce when she came to Haydon Bridge in 1953 when her father worked at the farm at the end of the bridge.

They both went to Shaftoe Trust Agricultural school as it was then; Joyce remembered with a smile; 'I sat on the bar of his bike and he'd cycle us to school!'

They later moved into their current home in Langley Gardens; 'We moved in when it was new and we've been here for 47 years.'

So what's their secret to a long happy marriage? Joyce said, happily, 'I don't know, we just live day by day, don't we love?', John replied; 'it's just what you make it, man'.

John and Joyce are looking forward to celebrating with family and friends next year, with the plan to have a reception at Twice Brewed in January if they can. 'It'll be lovely party - all the dresses have stopped in the wardrobe!'

Hope Stones

We have all been impressed with the stone cairnes down on the riverside and would like to see if we could build on your creativity.

Many of us have relatives or friends that we have not seen for many weeks, these stones would let them know you were thinking of them.

How does it work? Collect a flattish stone from the riverside, paint a message or picture on the side and leave it where it can safely be seen - at the riverside or at St Cuthbert's, on the wall or by the door. We will gather up as many as we can so that we can share the messages.

We have had wellies now we can have hope stones to cheer someone up!



This Tree

There is a tree not far from me,
Which sadly should no longer be,
It's served its time, that, I can see,
This tree that is not far from me.

Crumpled and old it hangs weighed down,
By branches gnarled by the passage of time,
Who will see to this dangerous tree,
This tree that is not far from me.

It's dangerous branches soon to fall,
This tree that once stood so straight and tall,
Please be kind and give this tree,
A helping hand, to feel free
This tree that is not far from me.

I write this as I am concerned about an old tree along the Lands End road. I am not sure who is responsible for maintaining this tree, but it's branches are quite precarious. Another strong wind, and I fear the branches will come crashing down onto the road below, and they are very chunky branches from a dead tree. The last two storms we have had, has seen much movement of the branches. This tree is awesome, but it is also very dangerous.

Kate Steele



Christmas Lights

In our last issue we omitted in error the full details of the community donations for the Haydon Bridge Christmas lights. The materials for the boxes cost £1,938.43 (Richard very generously charged nothing for his time and labour). The new lights and fixtures, including some new battery lights, cost £649.31. The trees plus delivery cost £245.

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HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB



COVID UPDATE

At present we plan to open the new season during September or October. This however is subject to Government guidelines relating to COVID-19. One of the Club's programme secretaries, Ann Nicholson, sadly passed away recently so we have yet to complete our new programme for 2020/21
Look out for announcements.

Methodist Church news

During these difficult times, we have been sending out Sunday Service sheets and a Pastoral letter to keep in touch with people, particularly as not everyone has access to the internet. This has been reaching more people than usual, others have been asking for a copy and some have been passing it onto friends. We have also been making a lot more telephone calls and being able to speak with people that we don't normally get the opportunity to have a conversation with.

We have also been encouraged to pray more for people to meet with the Lord Jesus through 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative which runs from Ascension to Pentecost (21 to 31 May), praying for five specific people to come to know the Lord Jesus - this brings thousands of people together for prayer.

God continues to meet and work with people during these difficult times and to make his presence known in all sorts of different ways.

God bless you and your loved ones at this time.

Deacon Anne

Deacon Anne Taylor, Methodist Church

Message from the Parish Council

Since the onset of Covid 19 and the lockdown these have been times without precedent. Like everywhere else our churches and schools are shut. When did that last happen? A few weeks ago a number of people in the Parish with underlying health problems received a letter from the Health Centre, warning them because of the pandemic not to leave their homes. One of those people is our longest serving Parish Councillor, Eileen Charlton, who says that she has been “Imprisoned” for ten weeks! Others in the Parish have been self-isolating voluntarily. A number of locals have rallied round to help out these people- friends, relatives and the Haydon Bridge Covid 19 Community Care Group.

The Parish Council would like to express its gratitude to all those helpers. We have had at least four families in the wider parish struck down by the virus (fortunately without any very serious consequences.), but it does show that such help is not without its own risk.

Throughout all this- community spirit has remained high as the Haydon Bridge Matters Face Book pages clearly demonstrate: lots of jovial banter, splendid photos, video recordings on V.E. Day- thank you Kevin Moore and everyone for sharing their positive updates. The message to all from the Parish Council is keep smiling and keep safe.

Chair Esmond Faulks

Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Overall Plan progress

Firstly, thanks to everyone who returned the Housing Needs Survey to Community Action Northumberland. The response rate was 28%, a very healthy result we are told, and your comments will be the basis for a more comprehensive assessment of local needs. Secondly, it was great to meet up with those of you who came to our latest consultation day in February, the room was buzzing with conversations about what we have come up with so far and new ideas to add into the mix. Displays on many of our themes attracted useful suggestions and a new overall theme, Sustainability, introduced the idea of potential local initiatives concerning homes, vehicles and woodland. Work hasn't started yet on the two themes of Economy & Employment land and Flooding, but we already have some ideas. If you are interested in these topics, and any of those below, we are now working in small groups of volunteers to collect information and ideas for the future. We are particularly keen to hear from young people. It's not too late to get involved, the more the merrier, please contact us at haydonneighbourhoodplan@hotmail.com or leave your contact details at the Bridge. Thank you.

Next Steps on our themes

1. Housing – The survey results will be combined with other information about the current and future parish make-up (people and buildings) to produce a Housing Needs Assessment.
2. Green Space – Areas of interest around the parish have been identified and now being assessed for protection. Make sure your favourite site is included.
3. Mobility and Transport – Lots of work has been done on existing and potential walking, cycling and public transport routes. We need to start work on how accessible the parish is to all.
4. Design and Development – Professional help has been secured to assist the group of residents who are discussing guidelines for the future.
5. Community Services and Facilities – Information about what we already have has been collected, ideas about what we want are still very welcome.
6. Economy and Employment – Work is starting from April
7. Flooding – Work starting from April, hopefully with the expert support of the local Flood group.
8. Sustainability and Carbon Reduction – As this overarching theme covers aspects of all the themes above, we already have many suggestions. We are working on how best to address each issue, and would welcome volunteers to take the issues forward

Carole Price

Co-ordinator, Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Fire at Haydon Fell

Many of you will have seen the fire engines and smoke resulting from the woodland fire at Haydon Fell recently. Dr Steve Ford and his wife Dr Jean Ford who own the wood, explained “We’ve lost 40 per cent of the woodland, but the area affected was the lowest value from a forestry point of view. We’ll re-plant it, and re-plant it better.”

Locals and people from further afield have already been in touch to offer help clearing and replanting the area. “We’ve had a lot of offers of help and trees in pots – there’s loads of really good people about.”

“There are some survivor trees and they will become apparent in the next few weeks. Initial plans include creating new access tracks and ponds, planning the coming winter’s planting – starting in the west incorporating firebreaks, creating new ponds for future fire service use (fingers crossed) and clearing some of the charred brushings that remain from the 2008 felling. We are prioritising creating a windbreak in the west to shield the main plantings.”

Dr Ford explained that the part of the wood that has burned was the least well grown and developed, which will allow them to make improvements.

“The amount of stones and boulders lying on the surface has been a real surprise. We will also not be employing the plastic tree guards which are such a problem to dispose of and do not biodegrade as they were intended to.”



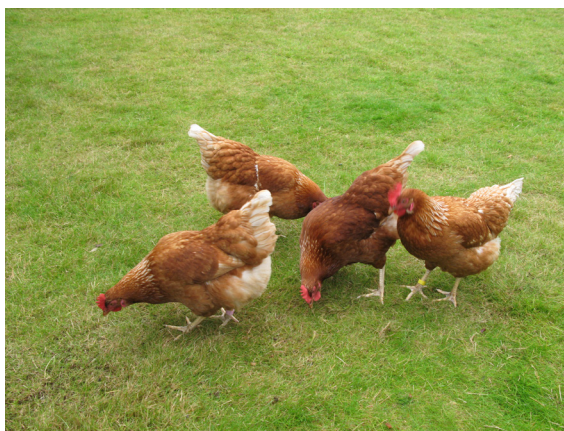
The Haydon Fell woodland - Before and after the fire

Keeping Chickens

I’d always wanted to keep chickens but every time I suggested it to my wife it was “No”. But now we are getting on in years and we have a garden to keep them in, she finally gave in.

I’ve had the chickens for 18 months now. They are one of the easiest pets to look after. Some of the benefits are not having to take your pet for walks, picking up poo up off the foot path or needing to use a kennel or cattery when you are on holiday. I do very much like dogs and cats as I have had my fair share in past years. I have a good neighbour who likes chickens, she is very happy to look after them and has given them all names. She keeps an eye on them and collects the eggs for her family when we are away. If you are only away for a week you can purchase auto feeders and water units from Haydon Bridge farm shop for about £12 each.

The coop and run must be cleaned out regularly, but if you only feed them the amount they require then you will have healthy chickens and no housekeeping problems



If you purchase the correct type of hen, they can become very tame, sitting on your knees and feeding out of your hand. In fact mine are so friendly, I think my wife might even come round to liking them!

The Road to Rattenraw

How time flies! Eleven years ago last month (May 24th 2009) Haydon Bridge residents met on Ratcliffe Road to celebrate the opening of the new Haydon Bridge Bypass.



A party atmosphere throughout five and a half hours of music, street entertainment, competitions and grand food in abundance, signalled the culmination of the outstanding efforts of Haydon Bridge folk in their quest for a road to bypass their village. Not before time, mind! The history of our residents' efforts over the years is remarkable.

The first call for a Haydon Bridge bypass was recorded as far back as **1928** and in the intervening years, proposals from so called planners for 'bypass's' have followed, including: In **1938**; a road at the foot of the North Bank laid east to west through California Gardens, Belmont and Linton House.

In **1948**; another to the South Side of Haydon Bridge, but on this occasion through a field above the Show Field, which two years earlier had been designated as a new burial ground.

In **1978**; - perhaps the daftest of the lot - a route was chosen that appeared to go off the new bridge - which had been built in 1967-70 - through the Railway Hotel arch, through Parker's Terrace and running directly behind Ratcliffe Road. I promise you; I am not joking!

After local criticism about this, 'economically viable' route, the A69 'Haydon Bridge bypass' was removed from the National Roads' Programme and it wasn't until 2002 that a bypass scheme for Haydon Bridge was back on the agenda and, thanks to a great deal of local effort was, by 2007, to become a reality.

Site preparation for Haydon Bridge's Bypass from Crossley Burn to Rattenraw got underway in **January 2007**, although, the turf cutting ceremony that signalled the official start of the work, took place on **April 5th 2007**.

During the period of the work, the bypass contractors CVC Highways Solutions, invited The Haydon News to act as a link between themselves and those living in the parish and from March 2007 we provided monthly updates as the

work progressed. (All updates and photographs are available in back numbers on our website: www.haydon-news.co.uk)

On the morning of Wednesday, March 25th 2009, two years after the official turf cutting ceremony, the Haydon Bridge Bypass was officially opened.

And 11 years ago on May 24th 2009, the party started!



SILENCE IS ..

The early days of the Haydon Bridge Bypass, with at least 14,000 vehicles a day motoring round the village rather than passing through, had some interesting consequences. I will remind you of a few:

“It’s so quiet now, I cannot get to sleep at night!”

“I didn’t realise that the birds make such a racket in the mornings.”

“Eee whey! Aa’ve nivvor heard the church clock chime afore ‘till now!”

And I had it on good authority that for some residents on Ratcliffe Road and Victoria Terrace, the earth never moved after March 25th 2009.

THE ROAD TO RATTENRAW

When CVC Highway contractors,
Said “We have solutions for you,
If you want to get rid of the traffic,
From the village where it all goes through.

We’ll put down two miles of macadam,
With white lines and cats eyes and all,
And we’ll build a great muckle embankment,
That’s bigger than Hadrian’s Wall.”

*So let’s say three cheers for the bypass,
That runs to the south of the town,
There’s no need now for Eileen and her supporters, In
their rages to jump up and down.*

Mind it’s many a long year since the folk here,
Thought a road round the town would be great,
In fact the first time it was mentioned,
Was in the year nineteen and twenty eight.

But there was one idea they abandoned,
When the planners said each heavy load,
Would pass close by the shops and the houses,
On a bypass they called, ‘Ratcliffe Road’.

*So let’s say three cheers for the bypass,
That runs to the south of the town,
There’s no need now for Eileen and her supporters, In
their rages to jump up and down.*

So let’s say three cheers for the bypass,
From Crossley Burn you can travel by car,
Through Gee’s Wood, past Esp Hill and Land Ends;
The new road leads to West Rattenraa’.

And now we have gettin’ the bypass,
That runs to the south of the town,
There’s no need for Eileen and her supporters, In their
rages to jump up and down!!!



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CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS AT THE GENERAL HAVELOCK HAYDON BRIDGE

Unfortunately, because of Corvid-19 restrictions we have been unable to offer Charity Quizzes since February.

As a result, we shall be retaining the planned quiz dates and the list of supported charities, and will resume once permission has been given.

Quiz Dates – start date subject to Government guidance
June 16th, July 21st, August 18th, September 15th ,
October 20th, November 17th, December 15th

Charities listed:

Breast Cancer Care
The Brain Tumour Charity
Dragonfly Trust
Haydon Old Church Restoration Project
Haydon Bridge New Year's Fireworks
Macmillan Cancer Support
Hexham Youth Initiative
Blood Bikes
Haydon Bridge Playgroup



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Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge

by Dennis Telford

VE DAY

The 75th anniversary of the Allies' Victory in Europe was celebrated last month. At 3pm on 8th May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an announcement on the radio that the Second World War had come to an end in Europe, following Germany's surrender.

Due to COVID-19 and the non-publication of The Haydon News in April and May, I wasn't able to record in the appropriate month, my celebration of Peace in respect and honour of all those men and women from Haydon Bridge who were involved in the World War II effort. The memory and remembrance is, nevertheless, just as heart-felt one month later.

At the age of four years and three months, my recollections of VE Day are sketchy, to say the least. Why the adults were celebrating I had no idea, but I do know that the events that day on John Martin Street, where I lived, are one of my earliest memories and I recalled those memories five years ago in The Haydon News of May 2015, when the seventieth VE anniversary was being celebrated:

World War II was for me, I'm pleased to say, nothing more than a couple of gas masks in the bottom of our wardrobe, that were playthings for a boy of my age and even though I was unaware of the tribulations that were at an end, I recall an occasion that day in 1945, of joy and excitement.

The event I recalled that celebrated VE Day in Haydon Bridge on the South Side in May 1945, was held on the grass verge on the south side of John Martin Street. *(A width of grass where, as young children, we played football, cricket, rounders and the like, on a much wider grass verge than it is today; it having been reduced by road widening at least twice since 1945.)* I recall a sporting occasion in May 1945, in which all those in the street, and many others, took part and almost certainly involved egg and spoon races, three legged races, and sack races; followed by a celebration tea of homemade sandwiches and cakes and jelly and ice cream, in the Nissen hut at the west end of John Martin Street. *(A Nissen hut that was for many years the village fire station and had previously been Adam Nixon's builder's yard and shed, when he built the houses on the south side of Broadstone - today's John Martin Street - before the war.)*

I have been told by my elders, that, victory in Europe was received in the parish in a happy but subdued fashion, with streets decorated but the cost of victory never far from the mind. For our adults, the 1945 celebrations may have been understandably restrained, but for me as a four-year-old

toddling up and down the grass verge on John Martin Street with my friends, it is one of my earliest happy memories.

So, who were those children who, along with me, made John Martin Street their VE Day playground in 1945? You can preface these names with 'probably' or 'possibly', I am sure.

Denis Boyd, Joyce Adamson, Maureen Ridley, Joan Farley, Margaret Swallow, Fraser Robinson, Lorna Dixon, Jean Robinson, Alan Telford, John and Ann Leathard, Jill Rogan, Eileen Moffat, Denise Scott, Vernon Welch, Enid Armstrong, Donald Gardner, Margaret and Mickey Walker, Nora and Bobby Beckwith, Doreen Barron, Vera Bowman, Audrey Elliot, Jeff Marshall, Gwen, Jean and Linda Ridley, Heather Campbell, Denis Hogarth, Cynthia Wylie, Audrey Milburn; and the Burrows, Beavers, Rumney, Tait, Robinson, Brown, Duffy and Hill family children ... et al.

And, of course, there were many more children from the North Side who enjoyed their own VE Day parties.

On May 8th 1945, Winston Churchill's broadcast to the nation, informed the population that hostilities would end officially at one minute after midnight, but in the interests of saving lives, the 'cease fire' had begun the previous day and was, 'sounded all along the Front'.

It is thanks to the sacrifice of those from Haydon Parish who gave their lives (named here) and to those who fought alongside them and worked for the cause, that my generation and those who have followed have enjoyed a lifetime of freedom.

**In proud and loving memory of the men
of the Parish of Haydon
who lost their lives due to World War II**

Joseph Charlton Wylie (23): Died 25th February 1941
Thomas Gilmore (21): Died 14th March 1941
Joseph Hector Philipson (29): Died 11th May 1941
Alexander Barnes Reed (35): Died 10th June 1941
Thomas Frederick Bell (26): Died 19th December 1941
John Sidney Mason (21): Died 6th June 1942
James Edward Brown (22): Died 6th June 1942
Charles James Patterson (22): Died 10th June 1942
Oscar Wardle (29): Died 9th November 1942
John Law (28): Died 3rd December 1942
Cyril Stuart Clemitson (29): Died 4th August 1943
Percy Brown (35): Died 16th June 1944
John Armstrong (24): Died 28th June 1944
Robert Cullan Patterson (22): Died 8th September 1944
John Henry Ridley (19): Died 16th February 1945
Alexander Bates (27): Died 10th March 1945
Harry Lax (37): Died 23rd October 1946

PRIVATE JOHN ARMSTRONG D.C.M.

There were numerous acts of bravery during the conflict, of course, and in these Notes of recollection and celebration, and in memory of all those men from Haydon Bridge and Langley who fought that we might remain free, I recall the actions of one young man, for which he was awarded the D.C.M.

John Armstrong was a son of William Edward and Emily Kathleen Armstrong (nee Paxton) of Station House, Langley and he worked for the Langley Barony Coal Company before being called up in 1940. John served in France and was evacuated through Dunkirk before leaving England again, a year later, to serve in the Middle East.

The battle of El Alamein opened on October 23rd, 1942 and on the night of October 25th and 26th, during an attack in the Munasib Depression, Pte. Armstrong was advancing with his platoon commander when they were fired on by a machine gun post. After his platoon commander was wounded and unable to carry on, Pte. Armstrong of the Green Howards went forward with complete disregard for his own safety and destroyed the enemy machine gun post, thus enabling the platoon to move forward. Later, when the platoon was held up again by another machine gun post and flash bombs, Pte. Armstrong with another private again went forward and put the post out of action, killing and wounding seven Italians. The following day, under intense mortar fire, Pte John Armstrong kept up a continual fire on an enemy sniper post, subsequently killing at least one sniper and forcing them to evacuate the position.

Information was received that Pte. Armstrong had been wounded while serving in the Middle East and a letter home stated that he was convalescing. Apparently, there was no indication that John had been involved in an incident in which he could have been recommended for a medal and it wasn't until February 6th 1943 that the Hexham Courant reported the award of the D.C.M. gained by John Armstrong through his courage and bravery. The Hexham Courant reported the details of the incident on August 21st, 1943.

JOHN HANNA

It seems to me to be an appropriate time to publish the correspondence I have received from John Hanna, whose family lived at Selwood House, Haydon Bridge from 1938 until 1944.

Dear Dennis,

At 90 years of age and a former resident of Haydon Bridge who keeps in touch through The Haydon News, I have composed some of my recollections.

You will scarcely remember the War, but it was a time of great emotions and I wanted to be a soldier from earliest times. I joined the army in June 1945, two months before VJ day and was commissioned in Bangalore, India in 1946. General Hedley (at that time commanding the Brigade of Gurkhas) had written to the Clerk of Postings asking for me to be seconded to his regiment, (which he commanded in Burma with 3 DSOs) but London had decided to stop the postings of more British officers to Indian regiments so I was off to the middle east, serving with 2nd battalion RNF in Greece and Gibraltar.

On May 16th, 1944, our Langley hero Pte. John Armstrong, was decorated by King George VI with the D.C.M. 'For his courage and bravery in destroying an enemy machine gun post during an attack in the Munasib Depression in October



1942 which enabled his platoon to move forward.' John's proud mother and sister attended the investiture ceremony. **Private John Armstrong of Langley on Tyne, at the investiture on May 16th, 1942 when he received the Distinguished Conduct Medal from King George VI.**

Sadly, the war did not end well for 24-year-old John when, fighting in his fifth campaign, he died of his wounds in North West Europe on Wednesday June 28th, 1944. John was buried in Ryes War Cemetery, Bazenville, Calvados, France and a Memorial Service, conducted by the Rev. J.H. Salisbury, a former Vicar at Haydon Bridge, was held in St. Cuthbert's Church, Haydon Bridge.

I hope that John Armstrong's experiences give you pause for thought, to share in thanks to all those young men who fought and especially those who gave their lives.

My thanks are due to Charles and Dorothy Thompson for John's Investiture photograph and the Hexham Courant and Pam and Ken Linge for sharing their research.

Demobilised in 1948, I joined the Territorial Army and commanded Y Company of the 4th Battalion in Haltwhistle. I have had a varied career in the subsequent 70 years, and now live in Vilafranca del Penedes, I have lived most of the last 40 years in Spain and for the last three have been a Nichiren Shoshu Buddhist.

My father, John Clindinning Hanna II, was born in London in 1892, son of a master mariner and the family moved a few years later to Penarth, South Wales. There, my father studied music (piano and organ) and in 1908 started work as an office boy in a paint manufacturing business in Cardiff (J. Dampney and Co.). In 1910 he joined the Territorial Army and during the first World War, served as a Warrant Officer in Gallipoli and Palestine (with a Mention in Dispatches). One of his proudest memories was to have played the organ of Jerusalem Cathedral at the first service after that city was entered by General Allenby in 1917. Demobilised in 1920, my father rejoined Dampneys and married Kathleen Cory and they set up home in Esher, Surrey. Shortly afterwards Dampneys was absorbed by a company in Newcastle upon Tyne, (later to be known as British Paints Ltd), and they moved to Northumberland where they chose to live in Corbridge, where I was born in 1927 and brother Michael in 1932. In Corbridge, my parents were friends of the Hedley family, whose two sons were Cecil (Indian Army) and Percy (Curator at Corstopitum).

In 1935 we moved to Hexham, where I was enrolled in a preparatory school, and in 1938 to Haydon Bridge, where my father leased Selwood House. Selwood House had (and presumably still has) a large terraced garden and a paddock which suited my father as he was a keen gardener. Weekends and holidays were great for an 11-year-old, who soon made friends. David Allen, son of Col. Robert Allen, was a constant companion. He lived in Haydon Lodge, immediately below Selwood House. Paul Sillitoe (who died tragically when about 20 years) lived only few minutes away in Linton House; and I found a new older friend Jack Humble who lived in Ratcliffe Road and who introduced me to angling and rabbiting with ferrets. On one terrace at Selwood was a tennis court which was very popular with locals at weekends. In the paddock, my mother kept chickens and ducks and we also had goats for milk, and I kept rabbits in hutches.

Came the war; I remember the day ... I was sent to church with my mother while my father, now General Manager of British Paints Ltd., waited to hear the announcement on the radio. Not long afterwards, the first troops arrived in the village and during the whole of the war, soldiers from a host of different regiments, including Americans, were billeted in our garage at Selwood House, which was a large building with two floors. Father joined the LDV - later renamed, by Churchill the 'Home Guard' - as Corporal and the local platoon was equipped with Canadian Ross rifles ... a dozen of which were kept in a cupboard in my bedroom at Selwood House!

In 1940 I was sent to boarding school in Durham and was a cadet in the Junior Training Corps. When I left in December 1943, I became a junior clerk of the Petroleum Board, in Corbridge, and in summer I cycled there from Haydon Bridge, to save my pocket money!

The Army Cadet Force in early 1944 was my next step. HQ was in Hexham but there was a platoon in Haltwhistle and my military career started there as a lance corporal. (Curiously, I ended there in 1950 Commanding Y company 4th Bn-NF (TA)). Feeling that there were interested boys in Haydon Bridge, I approached the C.O., who promoted me sergeant and authorised 'recruitment'. In no time we were 20-30 strong! Drill, marches, lectures, and parade twice a week in the church hall. In the meantime, I applied for a cadetship in the Indian Army and was accepted. As I was only 16, I had to wait until I was over 17, by which time we had left Selwood House and moved to Bardon Mill, just as the war in Europe was finishing.

I hope your readers will be interested in my memories of my time at Haydon Bridge and 'Selwood House' Dennis, and best wishes for The Haydon News in the future.

John Hanna.

A Trek to the Annapurna Sanctuary (Part 3)

In The Haydon News' of February and March, we joined Haydonian Ian Foster on his 2019 trek to Nepal and the Annapurna Sanctuary, a glacial plateau surrounded by a ring of massive peaks, in the Himalayas. In March we followed Ian to Fishtail Lodge at the Machhapuchhre Base Camp and he was looking forward to taking the path into the Annapurna Sanctuary itself.

Ian continues on the final stage of his journey:

Altitude at the Machhapuchhre Base Camp is 3,700m and a good night's sleep was less easy to come by in the thin air. At some times of the year the parts of the trail we had followed which are overhung by the lower slopes of the big mountains are prone to avalanches, but we had been lucky with the weather. Trekking seasons in the Himalayas are in the autumn and spring. Summer is the monsoon and too wet, and winter is – winter. We enjoyed sunny weather and as long as the sun is shining then the temperature is around 20-25°, but given the altitude it soon drops below freezing after sunset.

Annapurna Base Camp Day! Our destination was a two hour climb from Machhapuchhre Base Camp, and we set off after breakfast full of anticipation. Our surroundings were spectacular now and becoming more so with every step of the ascent. Entertainment on the way was provided by the passage of helicopters flying to pick up better-off trekkers who were less inclined to enjoy the walk back. Soon we had reached the 'Welcome to ABC' sign which was festooned with flags, and we paused for the obligatory photoshoot before heading up the final few steps to the base camp lodges themselves.



Ian (on the left) reaches his destination

Even now the Sanctuary was not giving up its secrets easily. Almost as an afterthought, a path leads around the back of the lodges and there before you is the awning abyss carved out by the South Annapurna Glacier, and surrounding it the circle of mountains which compose the Annapurna range; the main summit itself loftily distant at the rear. Photographs can help do justice to the view, but you really need to be there, and not only for the view. The memory I

will take away is the experience of sitting on the edge of the chasm and listening to the glacier below me. Its progress downhill produced noises ranging from the rattle of pebbles, through the creak of moving ice to deep and ominous thuds in the distance. It seems a long way to go to get a sense of perspective, but well worth the trip in my opinion.



Annapurna Sanctuary and Glacier

And so, as they say, it was all downhill from there. Three days of trekking remained before our rendezvous with 21st century transport back to Pokhara, Kathmandu and home. Descending into more oxygen-rich air put a spring into our step as we followed the path back down.

Our last river crossing on the final day is worthy of note. We had crossed a series of suspension bridges in the course of the trek, but this final one was rather special; imagine the old bridge at Plankey Mill but as high above the river and as long as Lambley Viaduct and you will get the idea.



Not Plankey Mill

Our final adventure was the jeep ride back to Pokhara, on roads clinging precariously to the edge of precipitous slopes and surfaced with gravel and mud. Combine this with a driver reluctant to give way and who took pride in overtaking any and every vehicle and you will be some way to sharing the final couple of hours experience.

I hope you have enjoyed following my trek with me and though it's good to be home, I have many memories of a memorable journey and the crew who made it all possible; which I would be happy to regale you with over a pint...

Ian.

A View From Up There

We've had some interesting weather during this pandemic, as John Harrison reports.

The weather has probably been the least of our worries over the last few months but in my last report to the Haydon News I referred to the exceptional rainfall total in February so we had to deal with flooded roads and extremely wet ground conditions. Farmers were unable to take equipment on to their fields and my vegetable garden looked in a sorry state. And yet here I am writing these comments in the latter days of May when we have had only two days of significant rainfall in 85 days. Small streams have vanished and the ground is very hard. This puts me in mind of a weather saying which I used to hear frequently in East Anglia "Be it dry or be it wet, the weather always pays its debt".

March lived up to the reputation of Spring days as being changeable. The first half of the month continued with the same wet and windy theme which characterised February. Conditions were generally blustery as a sequence of relatively deep Atlantic depressions brought strong winds and rain. The 8th to the 18th were particularly windy with blustery showers, some of which fell as sleet. The 11th was the month's wettest day (13.3 mm). Rising pressure from the 18th brought an end to the unsettled weather and by the 21st a strong anticyclone was fully in charge. By the 29th this had become one of the highest pressures recorded in March in the history of weather recording in Britain (reached 1041 mb here in Haydon Bridge on the 29th). Almost no rain fell for the remainder of the month and under relatively clear skies the classical pattern of cold nights and sunny days brought some early tastes of Spring. However, as the wind turned to E/NE on the 27th temperatures fell sharply and there was a raw edge to the moderate breeze. Our magnolia chose to blossom on the 25th as the cold polar air arrived, which is the same date as 2019, but I'm not sure that we should read anything into that.

April was sunny and dry for the most part, only 3.4 mm of rain falling over the entire month due to prevailing

anticyclonic conditions, which also resulted in relatively moderate windspeeds and lengthy spells of sunny weather. Low pressure and associated weak frontal systems over the first three days brought the only spell of unsettled weather over the month with occasional rain in a fresh breeze. Rain arriving late on the 3rd (1.9 mm) became the wettest day of the month!! As pressure began to rise after the 3rd the breeze changed to a more southerly direction and the air temperature rose well above the seasonal average, reaching 19.2 degC on the 10th. However, wind direction at this time of year exerts a strong influence on air temperature and cloud cover. Winds from the North Sea coast bring grey and cool conditions. For example, the temperature on the 9th reached only 9.9 degC and was a raw, cold day in a moderate easterly breeze. Clear skies at night results in rapid radiative cooling which can lead to frost. Early on the 14th the air temperature fell to -3.6 degC, causing some damage to early-growing plants. From mid-month onwards the weather was dominated by a persistent anticyclone, which resulted in a protracted spell of rainless weather until the 27th. A moderate, but cool, easterly breeze was ever-present and days were generally sunny and also warm where sheltered. By mid-month the anticyclone over northern Europe had become a "blocking high", keeping less settled weather out to the west of the British Isles. It was not until late on the 27th that a low pressure system managed to make headway eastwards, bringing rain, especially to the southern half of the UK. In Haydon Bridge, rain fell as showers amounting to relatively little rainfall.

And finally, one of Gladys' posher friends had been driving along a country road at some speed, when he had to take a particularly sharp bend. Right on the apex of the bend a young lady in an open-top sports car came to other way. As they passed she waved at him and shouted PIG. Incensed at this apparent slur on his driving he made a number of very rude gestures at her – then he hit the pig !!!

Month	Ave Max Temp Daytime (°C)	Relative to long-term average (°C)	Ave Minimum Temp Night-time (°C)	Relative to long-term average	Rainfall (mm)	Percentage of long-term average
March	9.6	+0.9	2.2	-0.4	45.0	70
April	13.4	+1.9	4.0	+0.2	3.4	7

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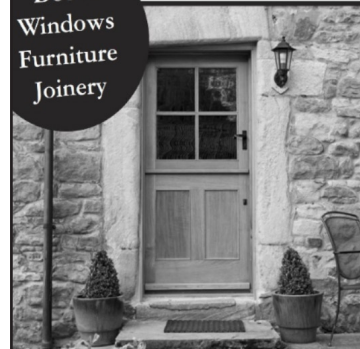
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Churches Working Together

Clergy Message: from The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter

During this time of lockdown, particularly when it was its most stringent, times of daily exercise have become very precious. As a family we have tried to all go out in the afternoon either walking or cycling where we can. On these short trips out a new game has developed. As we walk around Haydon Bridge we start counting rainbows. Not the ones that form from time to time so gloriously in the sky, but the home drawn and created rainbows that adorn windows throughout our community. The practice of posting rainbows on windows seems to have begun early in this international crisis in Italy and then spread around the world. This instinctive movement reminds us, as rainbows do in nature, that even in the darkness of a storm hope and light can emerge.

For many of us the rainbow is inextricably linked to the story of Noah. At the end of that story, as the flood waters recede (another experience of crisis we know all too well about in Haydon Bridge) God puts a "bow in the heavens". As a sign of God's new promise to creation we hear God say: "I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13). Very often we encounter this story and image through children's bibles and toys. A smiling Noah with smiling family (and smiling animals) look up jollily to the rainbow above their heads. But a brief examination of the story tells a different story. This sign of hope does not appear when everything is back to normal, it appears when the flood water recedes. As the death and devastation of the great flood becomes apparent what we find is the hope of God's creative love reaching into that scene of destruction to give us a sign and image of hope to look to.

The rainbow is not simply then an image of hope, but a reality of the light and hope we have seen in our community life through these dark and deathly days of lock down. In our own community as I have been speaking to people I have not found anyone who has not been reached out to by a neighbour, or are themselves reaching out to someone in need. The wonderful work of the Haydon Bridge Covid-19 support group has brought support and joy to many of the most vulnerable and isolated in our community. Across the country and across the world we have found that into the darkness of this time light and hope have reached in, and rainbows have shone out.

With ongoing prayers and best wishes for all the community during this challenging time,

your Vicar,

Benjamin

Worship in the Parishes by the Wall during the Covid-19 pandemic

At the time of writing we are unable to worship in our Parish Churches, but the worship of the church continues in different ways.

- Sunday Morning Prayer with Hymns and Reflection is posted each week on "Haydon Bridge Matters"
- Morning and Evening Prayer is streamed daily on our Facebook page (facebook.com/parishesbythewall) at 9am and 6pm where we pray for the life of this community each day.
- Resources for prayer and reflection are available on our website (parishesbythewall.org.uk/ourfaith)
- For those without access to the internet we post prayer and worship resources each week. If you would like to receive these please call the Vicar on 688196.
- The Church of England has also created a free-phone prayer and worship resource called "Daily Hope" which you can call on 0800 804 8044.

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

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Carter,
St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church
The Vicarage, Station Yard.
Tel. 01434 688196

Deacon Anne Taylor, (with the Methodist Church)
Woodville' Redesmouth Road, Bellingham NE48 2EH,
Tel: 01434 220283

Father Christopher Warren, (With St John's Catholic Church)
c/o St. Mary's, Hexham.
Tel. 01434 603119

St. John of Beverley

As St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Haydon Bridge is closed at the moment all masses are being streamed online from St. Mary's in Hexham and can be followed on St. Mary's website www.stmaryshexham.org.uk

LIVE STREAMED MASSES

Daily Mass Mon to Fri at 6:00pm
Saturday Mass Saturday at 10:30am
Sunday Mass Sunday at 10:00am
Holy Hour Sunday at 4:00pm

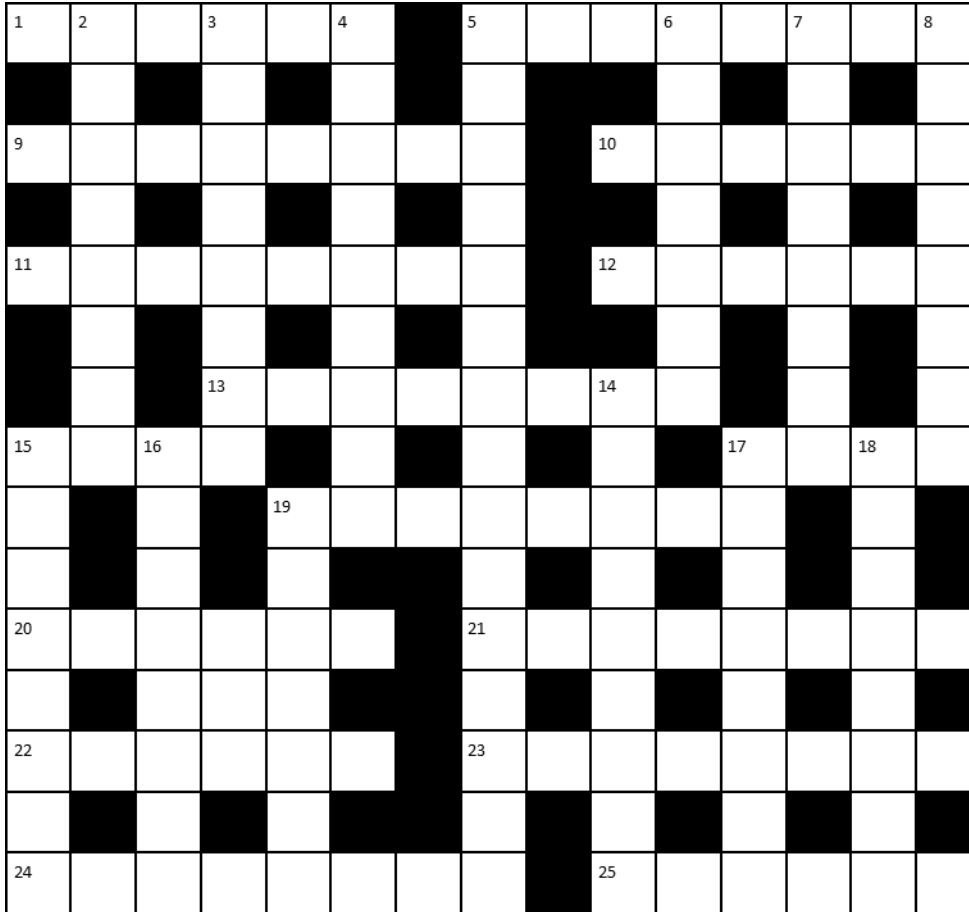
If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the Parish Weekly Newsletter, together with other updates and pertinent information, please contact the Parish Office (admin@stmaryshexham.org.uk)

HAYDON NEWS CROSSWORD

March 2020

£10 Prize every month! Drop off your answers at Claire's by **12th March**
 Last month's winner: Jen Ballantyne

NAME..... ADDRESS.....



February 2020 Answers

ACROSS

1. SOLDIER
5. MUSCLES
9. APT
10. TAM O' SHANTER
11. IOLANTHE
12. AGARIC
15. NEWS
16. SCHERZAN-DO
18. CAMOU-FLAGE
19. GOYA
22. ORNATE
23. ATYPICAL
25. UNDER ARREST
27. VOW
28. TUESDAY
29. STEERED

DOWN

1. STATION
2. LITTLE WOMEN
3. IN TUNE
4. RAMSHACKLE
5. MUST
6. STARGAZE
7. LOT
8. SIROCCO
13. RUN FOR COVER
14. WEIGHTLESS
17. CULTURED
18. CROQUET
20. ALLOWED
21. SPATHE
24. TROY
26. DYE

ACROSS

1. Incentive from said prince (6)
5. Satellite crossing young bovine for possible phantom pregnancy (8)
9. Soldiers on the wagon out in front (8)
10. Force of hardship (6)
11. Steam on Venetian bridge, not to be inconclusive case (8)
12. Gorse has sex appeal inside (6)
13. Sour name involving tumours (8)
15. Cutting tool announced totals (4)
17. Sauce of second donkey (4)
19. Fast plane, it's old, working? Throw it out (8)
20. In hobo, is there a player hiding? (6)
21. No puree stirred with a Belgian, for instance (8)
22. Sad for cart to overturn with soldier inside (6)
23. Show state (8)
24. Reprimanded on the floor (8)
25. A motorcycle race finish? Be there (6)

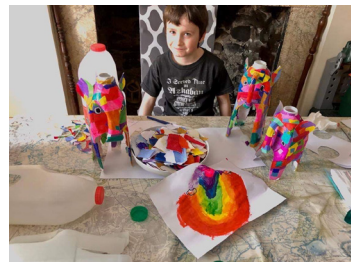
DOWN

2. Conjectured about gin I made (8)
3. Swirling the sling makes it less weighty (8)
4. Truism of quiet freedom from restraint (9)
5. Centrist position but not a safe place to be (6,2,3,4)
6. Geordie's old privies (7)
7. Earth turning over America forming nymph (8)
8. Castle secure on cape (8)
14. Gangster in EU country? Not EU country (9)
15. Puzzle where initially all can read out some trivia in company (7)
16. Clad, and holding Ian up, still of good disposition (8)
17. Posh ants crawled all over image (8)
18. Ditch character possibly bringing the skip(8)
19. Only diamonds hopefully found in court (7)

Wise Shaftoe Trust Academy

The children at Shaftoe have continued to be very busy and creative during lockdown with some lovely activities at home.

We've continued to open at Haydon Bridge High School for the children of key workers and had fun preparing decorations and baking for VE Day.



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Scouts - Be Prepared!

As events were cancelled and venues closed their doors, another group affected by Coronavirus was the Scouts group of Haydon Bridge. But with news of grants from the Co-Op and the Parish Council, along with 'Virtual Scouting', the formidable spirit of scouting continues!

We are supposed to 'Be Prepared' but to be honest we didn't see this one coming! At the start of the new year 1st Haydon Bridge Scout Group was in great shape. If you saw my note in the Haydon Bridge news before Christmas you may remember we were trying to find a new Leader for our Scout section which is harder than uncovering a precious diamond in a glass factory that has just been totally destroyed by a hail storm. Well, we actually managed to find three!

Next good news, our fund raising quiz night and raffle in the Haydonian social club at the end of February raised over £300 and perhaps more importantly was a very memorable and entertaining night. We all laughed as one team named themselves 'Corona virus' and in a sign of things to come went on to become the main talking point for the foreseeable future by winning a stunning victory. Massive thanks to everyone who came along on the night and also who bought a ticket for the raffle from Claire's Newsagent and donated a prize. But special thanks for everyone at the Social Club for hosting the event and of course to Joyce who is the mastermind of both organisation and quiz questions!

We also took a very hardy bunch of Scouts (and Leaders) to Kielder Forest on what turned out to be one of the wettest and windiest weekends of January. You might often associate hammocks with palm trees and beaches but let me tell you we found they also work well in force ten gales and sideways rain.

The Cubs and Beavers were also gaining Nights Away from home badges by attending an activity weekend at Dukeshouse Wood with loads of other members from our District. This weekend was much dryer, unless you count the tears of parents seeing their young people away from home for the first time, an essential part of life that Scouting gives to parents and children. Everyone had a great time and returned with bags of washing which when unzipped was another occasion where Scouting makes parents eyes water. But suddenly all change, no more meetings allowed, all future camps cancelled, subscriptions suspended, lights out at the meeting hut and uniforms in drawers indefinitely.



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Like everyone we were rocked back by the new and sudden reality of social distancing and staying indoors, two things that are really the opposite of Scouting.

However, within just a few days our amazing Leaders were looking at how we could continue to reach out to the young people in our community who in some ways would need Scouting more than ever. Virtual Scouting was born and is currently being used to keep our Group going and stay connected with each other in a very real way albeit with no physical meetings. A new Facebook page has been set up and is being used to run activities such as Camp@home where the young people are challenged to build dens or shelters inside their own houses and then spend the night in them, posting pictures so we can see their efforts and award them badges.

The future is also looking bright. We have recently received our first of two grants from Haydon Bridge Co-op Community funding scheme. This was over £500 and is the result of anyone with a Co-op loyalty card choosing us as their charity on the Co-op website, after this, every time they use their card, 1% of own brand products profit comes to 1st Haydon Bridge Scout Group. If you have a loyalty card and have not yet chosen us as your charity please do as we will get one more payment in the Autumn.

More good news followed shortly after that as we were also given a very generous grant from Haydon Bridge Parish Council, also for £500. Anyone who runs a sports club or youth group will tell you we operate on the margins and support like this makes all the difference to the experience we can provide for the young people. We are confident we can justify the Parish Council's generosity and faith in us. Assistance from local organisations and authorities like that greatly encourages us to try even harder for the current and future generations of the Haydon Bridge area's youth.

We are going to use this money to renew our camping equipment so that once all this craziness is over we can get back out in the fresh air for some much deserved fun and adventure. Just the planning and expectation of a trip like that is enough to make these difficult times just a little bit easier.

Stay safe everyone.

Rob Copley (Chil)

Group Scout Leader -1st Haydon Bridge Group



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We try to cover any news or events to do with life in the parish.

Contact: editor@haydon-news.co.uk or submit any ideas or stories by the 12th of each month.