

# THE HAYDON NEWS



MARCH 2020

## Editor's Letter

My first weeks of editing The Haydon News have seen both glorious sunshine and then the 70mph+ winds and dramatic flooding by Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis. I think we'll all be very glad to see the back of 'Stormy February'!



I'm very pleased to have joined The Haydon News Committee. The first issue of was published 14 months before I was born, and I'd like to think it will still be going strong in another 41 years and beyond.

Thanks also to Dennis Telford and the entire committee for making me feel very welcome and for helping me put my first issue together. A lot of hard work and time from everyone involved goes into preparing and distributing each issue. It is a great team effort and we're glad of everyone's support. Huge thanks also to our advertisers who enable us to continue producing the magazine, please try to use them.

A big thank you to everyone who made a donation to The Haydon News in our donation envelopes in our last issue. So far we've received £688.00 – which is hugely appreciated and is a great demonstration that the magazine has a popular following. While more generally print media may be suffering at the hands of digital publications, it's great to see how valued The Haydon News continues to be.

## Would you like to write for The Haydon News?

We're looking for anyone interested in writing, journalism or graphic design to help us. If you know anyone thinking of a career in writing or design who might like to gain some experience, please ask them to get in touch.

Finally, this is your magazine and we rely on you to help us cover what's going on, such as the new things and events happening in the village. We're always keen to hear from any of our readers on anything they'd like to see included, whether that's news of anything happening or coming to the area, or ideas of new regular features that you think would be of interest.

Any thoughts, suggestions and contributions are extremely welcome. If you'd like to submit a story or article, photography or simply let us know about something you think we should consider including, please do get in touch.

**Alex Kinsey**  
**February 2020**

**Editor@haydon-news.co.uk**  
**www.haydon-news.co.uk**  
**Deadline for submissions: 12th of each month**

*Cover photo: many thanks to Roger Clegg*  
*www.hadrianswallpictures.com*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS

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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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.

# What's On Guide

*If you'd like to publicise your event or activity in our What's On Guide, email the details to: [editor@haydon-news.co.uk](mailto:editor@haydon-news.co.uk)*

## **Sunday, 1 March**

09.30 **Parish Eucharist with Storybook Church, All Hallows' Henshaw**  
10.00 **Morning Worship, Methodist Church, Deacon Anne Taylor**  
11.00 **Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge**  
10.30 West Tyne Junior Rugby, Haydon Bridge High School  
15.00 Quoits practice, General Havelock  
18.00 **Evening Worship, Methodist Church, Rev. Tony Buglass**  
20.00 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar  
20.00 Buskers' Night, Anchor Hotel

## **Monday, 2 March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
10.00 Yoga, Community Centre  
12.30 Sure Start Children's Activity Class, Community Centre  
15.15 Youth Dance, Community Centre  
18.00 Beavers, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
19.30 Sequence Dance Club, Haydonian Community Bar  
20.00 GITS meeting, General Havelock

## **Tuesday, 3 March**

10.00 Coffee for all, Methodist Chapel  
10.30 'Fresh 'N' Thyme', Church Street  
13.00 Card Craft Club, Community Centre  
13.00 Art Club, Community Centre  
14.00 World Day of Prayer, St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church  
Refreshments follow the service  
18.00 Cubs, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
18.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Jnrs.)  
19.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Snrs)

## **Wednesday 4th March**

12.00 Fresh fish van, Church Street  
18.00 Scouts, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
20.30 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

## **Thursday 5th March**

10.00 Coffee for all & Police Surgery, Methodist Chapel  
19.15 Nature Club, Methodist Chapel  
19.30 Bowls Club, Community Centre

## **Friday 6th March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
09.45 Keep fit, Community Centre  
12.00 Lunch Club, Community Centre  
19.30 Shaftoe Singers, Methodist Chapel

## **Saturday 7th March**

10.00 Coffee morning, Community Centre

## **Sunday 8th March**

09.30 **Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Beltingham**  
10.00 **Morning Worship, Methodist Church**  
11.00 **Parish Eucharist with Storybook Church, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge**  
10.00 Hornby Railway Collector's Club  
10.30 West Tyne Junior Rugby Club, High School  
15.00 Quoits practice, General Havelock  
18.00 **Evening Worship, Methodist Church, Rev. M. Lloyd**  
20.00 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

## **Monday 9th March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
10.00 Yoga, Community Centre  
12.30 Sure Start Children's Activity Class, Community Centre  
15.15 Youth Dance, Community Centre  
18.00 Beavers, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
19.30 Sequence Dance Club, Haydonian Community Bar  
19.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Snrs)

## **Tuesday 10th March**

10.00 Coffee for all, Methodist Chapel  
10.30 'Fresh 'N' Thyme', Church Street  
12.30 Barber Bus, Church Street  
13.00 Card Craft Club, Community Centre  
18.00 Cubs, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
18.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Jnrs)  
19.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Snrs)

## **Wednesday 11th March**

12.00 Fresh fish van, Church Street  
18.00 Scouts, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
20.30 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

## **Thursday 12th March**

10.00 Coffee for all, Methodist Chapel  
19.30 Bowls Club, Community Centre

## **Friday 13th March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
09.45 Keep fit, Community Centre  
12.00 Lunch Club, Community Centre  
19.30 Woody's Pie and Mash Club, General Havelock  
19.30 Shaftoe Singers, Methodist Chapel

## **Saturday 14th March**

10.00 Coffee morning, Community Centre

## **Sunday 15th March**

09.30 **Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Beltingham**  
10.00 Communion Worship, Methodist Church, Rev. Alan Dawson  
11.00 **Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge**  
10.30 West Tyne Junior Rugby, Haydon Bridge High School  
15.00 Quoits practice, General Havelock  
18.00 **Evening Worship, Methodist Church, Supt Paul Dunstan**  
20.0 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

### **Monday 16th March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
10.00 Yoga, Community Centre  
12.30 Sure Start Children's Activity Class, Community Cntr  
15.15 Youth Dance, Community Centre  
18.00 Beavers, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
19.30 Sequence Dance Club, Haydonian Community Bar

### **Tuesday 17th March**

10.00 Coffee for all, Methodist Chapel  
10.30 'Fresh 'N' Thyme', Church Street  
13.00 Card Craft Club, Community Centre  
13.00 Art Club, Community Centre  
18.00 Cubs, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
18.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Jnrs)  
19.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Snrs)  
20.15 Quiz, General Havelock

### **Wednesday 18th March**

12.00 Fresh fish van, Church Street  
18.00 Scouts, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
20.30 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

### **Thursday 19th March**

10.00 Coffee for all, Methodist Chapel  
19.15 Nature Club, Methodist Chapel  
19.30 Bowls Club, Community Centre

### **Friday 20th March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
09.45 Keep fit, Community Centre  
12.00 Lunch Club, Community Centre  
19.30 Shaftoe Singers, Methodist Chapel

### **Saturday 21st March**

10.00 Coffee morning, Community Centre

### **Sunday 22nd March**

09.30 **Mothering Sunday Service, All Hallows Henshaw**  
10.00 **Morning Worship, Methodist Church, Tom Dodds**  
11.00 **Mothering Sunday Service, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge**  
10.30 West Tyne Junior Rugby, Haydon Bridge High School  
15.00 Quoits practice, General Havelock  
18.00 **Cafe Style Worship, Methodist Church, Deacon Anne Taylor**  
20.00 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

### **Monday 23rd March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
10.00 Yoga, Community Centre  
12.30 Sure Start Children's Activity Class, Community Centre  
15.15 Youth Dance, Community Centre  
18.00 Beavers, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
19.30 Sequence Dance Club, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

### **Tuesday 24th March**

10.00 Coffee for all, Methodist Chapel  
10.30 Fresh 'n' Thyme, Church Street  
12.30 Barber Bus, Church Street  
13.00 Card Craft Club, Community Centre  
18.00 Cubs, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
18.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Jnrs)  
19.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Snrs)  
19.00 Tyne Valley Film Festival - Bait, General Havelock

### **Wednesday 25th March**

12.00 Fresh fish van, Church Street  
18.00 Scouts, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
20.30 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

### **Thursday 26th March**

10.00 Coffee for all, Methodist Chapel  
19.30 Bowls Club, Community Centre  
19.30 Parish Council, Community Centre  
20.00 Ukuteers, General Havelock

### **Friday 27th March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
09.45 Keep fit, Community Centre  
12.00 Lunch Club, Community Centre  
19.30 Shaftoe Singers, Methodist Chapel

### **Saturday 28th March**

10.00 Coffee morning, Community Centre  
20.00 Live music, General Havelock

### **Sunday 29th March**

**09.30 BCP Communion, All Hallow's Henshaw**  
**10.00 Morning Worship, Methodist Church, Nigel King**  
10.30 West Tyne Junior Rugby, High School Field  
**11.00 BCP Communion, St Cuthberts Haydon Bridge**  
15.00 Quoits practice, General Havelock  
**18.00 Evening Worship, Methodist Church, Rev. Alan Dawson**  
20.00 Bingo, Haydonian Community Lounge and Bar

### **Monday 30th March**

09.15 Playgroup, Community Centre  
10.00 Yoga, Community Centre  
12.30 Sure Start Children's Activity Class, Community Cent  
15.15 Youth Dance, Community Centre  
18.00 Beavers, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
19.30 Sequence Dance Club, Haydonian Community Bar

### **Tuesday 31st March**

10.00 Coffee for all, Methodist Chapel  
10.30 Fresh 'n' Thyme, Church Street  
13.00 Card Craft Club, Community Centre  
13.00 Art Club, Community Centre  
18.00 Cubs, St John's Catholic Church Hall  
18.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Jnrs)  
19.00 Judo, Haydon Bridge High School (Snrs)  
19.30 Film and Food Night, General Havelock

## Silverware for the Bridge

Haydon Bridge Under 9's football team brought home the silverware from the Tynedale Mini Soccer 5-a-side indoor tournament recently.

The competition, held at the Wentworth Centre, Hexham in January, saw 10 teams in the tournament with each team playing for one of the 2 top positions for a place in the final.

Despite losing the first match 1-0, the team then won all of their other matches. This put the team top of the league scoring 25 goals and only conceding 5 in the 9 matches.

The final saw a superb strike from Haydon Bridge that gave us the lead. We came against some strong defending and then in the last few minutes our defence had to produce some great tackles and our goalkeeper some diving saves. Haydon Bridge held on to win the tournament.



Richard Smith, team coach, said; "The coaches and parents were extremely proud of the players and they certainly represented the village in the right way."

## Shop Local

**Local businesses are a fantastic asset in a village such as ours. The convenience, ease and lack of travel needed to pop to local shops and services undoubtedly make many of our lives much easier.**

The Haydon Bridge Pharmacy has been owned by Tom McCullough for thirteen years and his friendly, helpful presence is one many of us are very grateful to have in our community. With further cuts to the NHS budget, the challenge of running a pharmacy have increased hugely in recent months.

'Over the last thirteen years I have concentrated on delivering the best service I can to all our patients. We have gone from being in the bottom 1000 pharmacies in the UK to the top 100 in terms of dispensing volume, according to November's dispensing data. Unfortunately I am now in the middle of the biggest fight of my life. We had some operational challenges last year but resolved those and were looking forward to a great Christmas and to the challenge of 2020.'

However, the nation-wide challenges the NHS is facing was to bring bad news. 'It was a few days before Christmas when I opened the monthly letter from the NHS telling us what we would be paid for drugs for the month ahead. My heart sank. We were to get £60k less than I was expecting and relying on to pay my suppliers and staff wages.'

It was thanks to the dedication, support and hard work of the pharmacy team and the loyalty of patients, that the pharmacy survived January. 'Like all of us, I've been through tough times before. I am doing everything I can to preserve my ownership of the pharmacy, as you all know how much I care about the pharmacy, its patients and team. The one thing I am sure of at this moment in time is that there will



be a pharmacy in Haydon Bridge. The massive success we have had over the years makes sure that as the pharmacy is a valuable asset. What is not clear is whether I will continue to be the owner.'

Tom was faced with a difficult challenge. Cut back on staff, services and opening times or push through this by offering more to existing clients, improving our service levels and taking on more clients?

'Anybody who knows me, will know that I have chosen to attack and push on through making the pharmacy better in the process. We had to make some adjustments to our running costs to get us through this challenging period. I have done these in such a way as that it should not affect the service patients receive. Time will tell, probably quite quickly, whether I have made the right calls or not.

Regardless, I would like to thank everyone for their continued ongoing support. It is always a pleasure to serve you and I feel privileged for every day I am the pharmacist and owner of Haydon Bridge Pharmacy.'

# Christmas Lights!

We were very fortunate to see another fantastic Christmas lights switch-on in December. This great event took place with a lot of hard work and generosity from individuals and the collection on the evening.

New boxes for the trees and bright new lights welcomed in Christmas. The new boxes made assembling the trees a much easier task and it is thanks to the huge efforts and skill of Richard Hood and Claire Marshall, who put an enormous amount of time into making this happen. Also, thanks to the new lighting system, the electrical work was easier to assemble.

It was great to have more members of the community turning up at the end of November on a cold and extremely wet morning to help dress the trees; thank you. Thanks also to Stuart Furlong for the loan of his trailer.

The competition to switch on the lights was won by Theo Thompson and Catelin Dunn, who with other pupils of Shaftoe Trust Academy performed Christmas songs for everyone's entertainment. Once again we must thank Colin Todd and his fellow band members for providing a brass accompaniment for the children. The sound of the brass instruments conjured up images of a Charles Dickens Christmas scene!

This year Benjamin was joined by Deacon Anne Taylor, the Methodist Minister, who led the prayers.

There are too many people to name individually but many, many thanks to everyone who supported this event in any way; Collecting and erecting trees, providing refreshments, storing equipment, loaning us trailers, collecting and counting money and organising the actual lighting up event. Many thanks also to Graeme Collingwood of Karbon Homes, who kindly allowed us to erect the four trees on the grassed area in Strother Close. We had a huge outgoing of funds this year due to new boxes and lights but this was possible thanks to the money collected during past years. As always, people gave generously and this year all previous totals were beaten! The collection was an absolutely astounding £928.29, of which half went to the Get It Together Society for the New Year Eve fireworks. The Parish Council donated £1000 towards our costs and again thanks go to Claire Marshall for organising a raffle which raised a staggering £206.

This year we once again approached local businesses to help us cover the increased costs and they generously donated a total of £455. Many thanks to: Paul Stead (Joiner and builder), Haydon Bridge Cricket Club, A. Scudamore Garage, Safe and Secure 24, George Gamble, M.R. Cook Construction Ltd, Haydon Bridge Pharmacy, Spa, Jim (DC Oil Heating and Plumbing), Alan Tweddle (Joinery), Ken Little (Topsigns), Ruth and Brian Welch (UK Industrial Tape), Fish and Chip Shop, Richard Hines (Joinery), Keiran Robley (Carpet Layer), Geoff Jackson (Langley Furniture Works), Ken Simpson (Electrical), Susan Crozier (Reflections Salon), Murray Farmcare, David Edwards (Joiner), Greame Murphy and J. Carruthers and Paul Brown (Tiler).

*Julia Cooper - On behalf of Haydon Bridge Christmas Tree Lights Committee.*

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## HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB

### Thursday 5th March

The World of the Honey Bee  
Sue Robinson  
& Jonathan Storey

### Thursday 19th March

Gardening for Wildlife  
Susie White

*Haydon Bridge Methodist chapel  
at 7.15pm*

...

The Nature Club's 2020 annual excursion, open to all, is to Traquair House on Saturday 30th May.

...

March 19th is our last meeting of the current season.  
First meeting of the new season: September 24th

## The Calendar Group

Thank you to everyone who bought a 2020 'The Way We Were' calendar last year, and also, to the outlets - Claire's Newsagents, the Methodist Chapel, The General Havelock, and the Bridge Library, whose contribution was enormous, and without whom we wouldn't have sold any calendars!

Shaftoe Trust Academy PTA, who funded the venture, are now better off to the tune of £300. All the money will go towards buying essential items for the students, and I know it will be put to very good use.

I hope everyone who bought a calendar last year will get a lot of pleasure from the photographs, bringing back memories of people and events from years gone by. It's a timely reminder to keep taking and saving photos from events happening today, so that future generations will be able to look back with fondness on 2020, and spark conversations about 'remember when...?'

With so many people carrying and using mobile 'phones, there should be plenty of opportunity to record those special moments, however small and insignificant they seem today. In 20 year's time, they could well be a topic of conversation. Now to think about 2021!

*Pat Hirst on behalf of the Calendar Group.*

# Parish Council Notes

## The minutes of the Haydon Paris Council meeting 23rd January

**Present:** Cllrs J. Bates, I. Burrows, E. Charlton, E. Faulks (Chair), B. Howard, J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, J. Thompson and D. Thornhill. Members of the public; and C. McGivern (mins.)

### Public participation

**Community woodland** – Donald Price said that he was approaching the PC with a proposal to bring together volunteers and landowners together to plant woodland in the parish especially adjacent to watercourses. A similar thing has been done in Pickering, where they've also had problems with flooding. This has been seen to be very successful over the last 10 years. Planting woodland would also help to increase biodiversity. A recent RSPB report on the State of Nature 2019 had warned about dramatic losses in wildlife in this country. Tree planting would also help to address climate change, which we need to prepare for and mitigate. Both the National Farmers' Union and NCC are committed to doing this. The government has stated that 100 million trees need to be planted every year. This is being done from a low base, as we have far fewer trees than other European countries. Mr Price hopes to extend and enhance the dialogue between the community and local landowners. There is a lot of change to come with the move to "public money for public good" in agriculture. It was hoped that a forum could be created a forum of stakeholders such as the EA and wildlife charities involved, but the authority of the PC was needed to create a partnership with landowners. The PC agreed that they supported the proposal. Cllr Charlton said that the DT had discussed climate change and she agreed that this was the perfect time to bring the suggestion forward as it could be incorporated into the NP. Mr Price said that there was guidance available from the Woodland Trust on where to plant using grade 4 agricultural land. Cllr Sharp said that there had been a meeting at the National Park Authority and they were treating the issue as a priority. He wondered whether landowners might be prepared to go ahead on poor quality land. This is already happening around Penrith. Cllr Bates suggested that as there is going to be a move toward payments for this sort of work, landowners might not be willing to do it for free. An article in the Journal today said that every household will be given a tree to plant. Mr Price confirmed that NCC were offering saplings and suggested that they be accepted as a community.

**Green energy projects** – Steve Ford said he was suggesting alternative energy projects. In the past he had suggested a hydro-electric scheme for Haydon Bridge, but it had turned out that there was not sufficient drop on the river for this. He wondered if there might be opportunities available if we co-operated with other parishes. There were two places where flood prevention and hydro-power could be combined. One location was near Haltwhistle and the other around Allerwash. If a structure was created to hold back flood water this could also provide power. At the Southern end of the Allenbanks gorge, fields up toward Haltwhistle could be allowed to flood.

This would involve a large civil engineering project, but this would be cheaper than having to restore the village after a major flood. The second idea involved the field currently for sale below Heugh House Lane. Residents were nervous about this sale, fearing that someone would want to build on the site. The site is south facing and would be ideal for a solar array, with wildflowers planted underneath the panels. He wondered whether the PC might be interested in applying for the Community right to bid to keep this land in use for "public benefit" and allow time for funds to be raised. Cllr Keyte said that in Scotland a hydro scheme had gone ahead with funds raised by a share issue. The Community Right to Bid had already been applied for at the library. Should the building come up for sale the DT will get the first option on it. It was agreed that the PC would investigate whether it was possible to get Community Right to Bid on this piece of land, while taking on board possible concerns about the visual impact. It was noted that 1.9 million pounds is to be invested in hydro-electricity in Hexham. Carole Price said that at the next NP meeting an expert on environmental projects who lives in the village would be coming along to speak. She said that other villages had received money for environmental schemes.

c) Mrs Brown wondered when the new bin would be installed at the Co-op. The Clerk said that the bin had been ordered and should be delivered to NCC for installation soon.

**Apologies** – none received.

**Declarations of interest** – none received.

**Minutes of previous meeting** – having been circulated, were agreed and signed with the following alteration – the minutes should have said "there is no point in installing the bin" ..[at Peelwell] until a decision is taken on possible parking spaces.

### Report from Northumberland County Council

The extension to the dropped kerb at Whittis Crescent has been completed. NCC is awaiting delivery of the fingerpost. The lights on Church Street are still yellow lights. These are decorative columns and will be dealt with as a separate project. The yellow lights will be replaced with LED lights. There is also an old light at the Showfield, but this had not been adopted yet, and it will be changed once this has happened. There is also one on the lane below Belmont Garden and Cllr Sharp will chase this up.

On Ratcliffe Road the planned mini-roundabout will require the kerb line to be revised and a meeting was planned to finalise everything. The road sweeper will do the whole village. The road from Hill House to Standalone has been patched, but Cllr Sharp said that a better job was needed. In recent heavy rain surface water had not been able to get into the drains on North Bank. Cllr Sharp had reported this to NCC. Potholes on Shaftoe Street will be attended to, and Cllr Sharp trying to get NCC to treat the road up to Threepwood as a priority. A meeting should soon be set up with the Footpaths Officer to discuss the Spa Well. Cllr Charlton said that this needed to be dealt with as it was 4 years since Storm Desmond had caused the damage.



The contractor who had repaired the road behind the Community Centre will be asked to have another look at part of the road. Cllr Howard said that Ratcliffe Road needed to be swept. Residual stones from when the road was resurfaced were causing problems as people can slip on them when they get out of their cars. A leaflet drop to ask people to move their cars could be carried out if the PC knew when work was planned. Cllr Thornhill said that he had promised to speak to a resident who was concerned about the proposed parking at Peelwell. He had spoken to Mr Nimmin who had two issues with the suggestion. Firstly turning into Peelwell from North Bank there was a blind bend and adding parking into the mix created a problem. Secondly it would involve putting parking over the burn. Cllr Sharp said that the farm access would also have to be retained. This meant that a maximum of 3 spaces was likely and this meant that the cost was probably not worth it. Mr Nimmin had also said that he and a neighbour had dug out the verge as the drain was completely grown over and this was leading to water running across the road and into his driveway. Cllr Charlton wondered whether the fact that less water was being held in the reservoir had made the problem worse.

### **Highways**

Cllr Bates said that one of the new rumble strips near the Shaftoe Academy is already coming off the road. Cllr Sharp will look into this.

Cllr Burrows said that there were a lot of potholes on the Allerwash road. Cllr Sharp will ask if the road is to be resurfaced.

Cllr Bates said that the Langley road also needed resurfacing, as well as the corner past the Castle. Cllr Sharp will chase this up.

Cllr Thornhill said that Mr Nimmin had added his voice to the complaints about noise from the new road surface on the bypass.

Cllr Keyte reminded everyone that the boundary wall between the fields and road at Peelwell is in a dangerous state. This was the responsibility of the farmer, but would pass to any purchaser.

Cllr Bates said that the litter on the A686 was disgusting. A litter pick was desperately needed.

### **Lighting**

Cllr Charlton said that the light above a sign warning of the level crossing ahead at Strother's Close is out. The Clerk will report this.

### **Planning applications**

20/00087/FUL - Retrospective - construction of detached garage and construction of garden room/conservatory at Inglenook Cottage - No objections.

19/05002/FUL - Construction of a lean-to extension steel portal framed building at Ellfoot Farm - No objections.

### **Accounts**

Request for grant from Lifespan charity – It was agreed that the Clerk would ask how many households in the parish had been helped by this charity.

## **Parish projects**

**Development Trust** – Cllr Charlton said that work continued on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Housing Needs surveys had been delivered, and she encouraged people to complete this. The group of people working on this were now splitting into smaller groups to look at topics such as green spaces, economy, flooding and transport. For example a cycle route from Haydon Bridge to Hexham had been suggested and seems feasible. A public drop-in session is planned for 15th of February. The Haydon Hundred will be held on the 13th of June this year.

**Flooding meeting** – a follow up session with NCC, NWL and EA is planned for the 27th of February. Cllr Snowdon felt that a planning officer's presence would be valuable as planning of new developments impacts on flooding. Cllr Sharp will chase this up. Network Rail and Roadlink should also be involved as after Storm Desmond both the A69 and the railway were blocked. The Clerk reported that a drain survey of North Bank was planned in the next week. Cllr Charlton said that the new build foundations at Greenwich Gardens were sitting in water already. Also a footpath behind Hordley Acres House would be closed for a period in February. Cllr Sharp confirmed that a footpath closure notice was needed.

**Parking spaces on the riverside** – Cllr Faulks said that Savills, who act for Greenwich Hospital Estates, had requested more information from the EA and Tyne Rivers Trust. This had been provided and they had now given consent to the project, as long as the necessary insurance was in place.

**Tree planting** – Cllr Faulks explained that the agent for the Bates family had recommended that they should not allow planting on Shaftoe Green. Cllr Thornhill will approach the High School, perhaps the saplings could fringe the playing fields. Cllr Charlton suggested a triangular patch of land west of Innerhaugh Mews. Green parking and picnic benches were suggested, but a line of trees along the riverbank would be attractive. This will be considered before the next meeting.

### **Any other business –**

Cllr Richardson will meet Cllr Sharp at Shaftoe Academy. People are parking 3 cars abreast across the road and this will lead to an accident. Cllr Thompson also suggested that the Police should be informed.

Lights at the High School – Cllr Sharp asked whether a complaint about lights at the High School had been addressed. Cllr Keyte will ask for more information at a meeting in the next week.

At the last meeting it had been suggested that the trees at the library only need a light pruning. Cllr Charlton said that they need to be properly cut back.

## U3A - Something for Everyone

Tynedale U3A (University of the Third Age) is a self-help educational and social body organised and run by retired people in Hexham, Haydon Bridge and Corbridge.

There are groups ranging from Wine Tasting to Walking and from Bird Watching to Bridge, so there is something for everyone!

Members meet each month in Hexham Abbey's Great Hall to hear talks on a wide variety of subjects given by a guest speaker. We organise outings and excursions including theatre visits and in the summer we hold a Garden Party.

U3A stands for University of the Third Age, but there are no syllabuses, no exams, no grades or certificates, just ordinary people doing things they enjoy and learning as they go. As we know, all kinds of activity, physical, intellectual or social, help to keep us healthy and stave off the problems of loneliness.

Tynedale U3A is thriving, with membership increasing month by month. If you are retiring, like being active and keeping your mind alive then this is the organisation for you.



Find more info online - search 'Tynedale U3A' or contact our membership secretary:  
[tyneu3amemsec@gmail.com](mailto:tyneu3amemsec@gmail.com)

### Future talks

**April 7** - Climate Change in Antarctica

*Prof Michael Bentley (Durham Uni)*

**May 5** - Unlikely Connections - *Seán Mac Nialluis*

**June 2** - Cuthbert Collingwood - Northumbrian Admiral

*Ian Moffat*

**July 7** - Marine creatures of Knysna lagoon, South Africa

*Alan Hodgson*

## Feeling Creative?

The Haydon Bridge Summer Art Exhibition takes place every year and is managed and run by the Haydon Bridge Local Artists' Group.

If you'd like to make something for the exhibition, come along to the Local Artists' Group sessions which takes place fortnightly. It's a great opportunity to work alongside like-minded people, whether you're knitting, sewing, claymodelling, sketching, painting, embroidery - whatever takes your fancy!

And don't worry if you've never been 'arty' or 'crafty' before as there is tuition and help available in a friendly, supportive environment. It might just be the new hobby you've not discovered yet!

**Haydon Bridge Local Artists' Group takes place on Tuesdays: 3rd, 17th & 31st March**

1.00-4.00 pm in the Community Centre  
First session is FREE for new members!  
Subsequent sessions £4 -refreshments included!

Contact Helen on: 07890333868 or  
[gandhbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:gandhbrooks@gmail.com)

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# News From The Bridge

## January Presentation



Elyse Alexander receiving her winner's prize for the Christmas competition, Nibbles the Book Monster, from Audrey Mills. Audrey has been volunteering at the Bridge on Saturday mornings for over two years, carrying out the community service part of her Duke of Edinburgh's Award, now at Gold level.

## WE'RE CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN THE BRIDGE



Come in to see our display showing photos of some of the highlights of our first 10 years in The Bridge, and details of some of the activities to which we're home, including The Haydon Bridge Development Trust. This is made up of the hardworking, behind the scenes volunteers who do so much for our village. It was responsible for obtaining EU funding and overseeing of the conversion of an unused railway station building into the light and cosy building which now houses The Bridge.

As well as the usual Library services, The Bridge also contains the village Tourist Information Centre, which makes an important contribution to drawing business to the village. The free use of computers to library members has been a godsend to many people, and now we have free wi-fi for all, with printing and photocopying for a fee, which is a very useful asset to the village. You can see many more photos of village places and events spanning many years in our computerised and hard copy Village Archives.

**Just imagine if we had been left with no library, or any of these services, in the village!** We'll all be celebrating in The Bridge, offering free birthday cake and teas and coffees to visitors who care to drop in, round about the 10th anniversary of the Official Opening Date which was on 21st May 2010.

### The Bridge Library & Information Centre Winter Opening Times

Monday	9.00am - 12.00pm
Tuesday	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Friday	4.00pm - 6.30pm
Saturday	9.30am - 12.30pm
Tel: 01434 688 658	
Email: admin@haydon-bridge.co.uk	



Pick up a leaflet in The Bridge to tell you about all the Northumberland Library Services and how to access them. Did you know there's a Home Library service? Go to

[www.mylibrary.co.uk](http://www.mylibrary.co.uk) to apply to receive this service.

## Northumberland County Council

### Library Services Consultation Resident Survey

The survey closes on 16th March 2020. You can complete the paper survey in The Bridge or complete it online at:-

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCCLibraryConsultation](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCCLibraryConsultation)

### The Library Service is changing!

Please help us by taking this opportunity to give your opinion on the Library Service here at The Bridge as it is at the moment, and to express your views on what a library service should provide.

# CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS AT THE GENERAL HAVELOCK HAYDON BRIDGE

All quizzes start at 8:15pm  
£1.50 per person

Evening includes the infamous 'Beer Question',  
Refreshments & Raffle  
Team size from 2 to 6 (optimal 4-5)

*Tables can be booked in advance at the bar*

## Charities being supported

March 17th - Breast Cancer Care 'Queenie Quiz'  
April 21st - The Brain Tumour Charity  
May 19th - Dragonfly Trust

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

If you'd like to nominate a charity, please contact  
John Harrison (AKA Queenie) via the  
General Havelock or [johnandaveril@aol.com](mailto:johnandaveril@aol.com)



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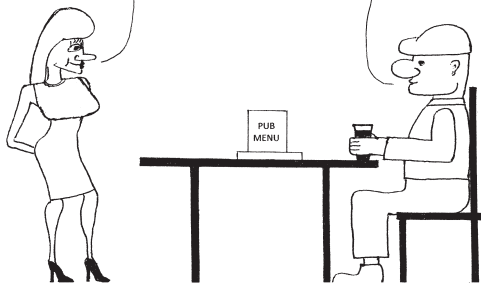
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# Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge

by Dennis Telford

It is always a pleasure to welcome support from William Veitch when recording my Historical Notes. William lived all his life at Haydon Bridge until his employment took him to Lancashire, where his close relationship with our parish manifested itself in the name of his Lancashire home: 'Haydon'. I have been grateful for William's genealogy skills on many occasions during my social history research and from this month, William and I take a closer look at three neighbouring properties that hold a special interest for our ex-Haydonian.

## THE ROAD TO THE NORTH (Part 1)

Outbye farms are a feature of our parish, and beyond Haydon Bridge to the north there are three properties of special interest to William Veitch. Taking the high road beyond 'The Tofts' - named simply 'Tofts' in its earlier days and a property to which I will return to in a later issue of my 'Notes - you will come across three of our C19th rural farms. The farms are Cruel Syke (or 'Cruelsike' according to my Ordnance Survey map), Westley Bank and Cubstocks. William Veitch was born and raised on Heugh House Lane at Heugh House (farm), and afterwards at Pleasant Cottage, which had been owned, and lived in, by his grandfather. It is no surprise, then, that he is well acquainted with the nearby North Road farms forming the basis for my 'Notes this month and onwards; especially as his ancestors lived in each of the properties at one time or another. 'Cruel Syke' was home to William's uncle Jack Veitch; 'Westley Bank' was his great grandfather's home and both he and his wife died there; and 'Cubstocks' was also home to his grand-father and some of his uncles and aunts were born there.

### Cruel Syke

The first farm beyond the Tofts is Cruel Syke, taking its unusual name after the stream there that flows east past Haydon (Old) Church and, from there, south alongside Haydon bank beyond Pagecroft and into the River Tyne. The Cruel Syke stream is, by tradition, associated with a C16th affray having been fought upon or near it; such as that in 1528 in which raiding thieves William Charleton of Shotlington and his companion Jamys (sic) Noble, were slain by Thomas Errington, Constable of Langley. The body of Charleton was hanged in chains on a gallows near Hexham and Noble's was hanged at Haydon Bridge. (See my 'Castles Peles and Bastles : A Short History of Langley Barony and The Border Reivers' - Pub 2017.)



*Looking north over 'Cruel Syke' in September 2019, with 'Westley Bank' just visible on the horizon beyond*

Or, William Veitch offers another plausible explanation for the name as: 'an old definition of a crooked or winding waterway'.

Whichever is the case, Cruel Syke farmhouse did not come into existence until three hundred years after the border raid and, circa 1830-1840, it consisted of four rooms with 16 acres of land. In the 1850s, the land held with Cruel Syke farm was increased to 24 acres.

The first known inhabitants at Cruel Syke, in 1841, were George Bell, an 80 year old farmer (*Son of a George Bell of Haydon where George jnr., was born in 1755, one of eleven children*) and 15 year old John (possibly George's grandson); and they had a female servant at Cruel Syke called Isabella Turnbull. George Bell moved away from Cruel Syke and died at Crindledykes on October 28th 1842.

In 1851, Henry Dickinson, his wife Ann and their seven children were the occupiers at Cruel Syke. Henry had been baptised at Haydon Bridge on August 16th 1805 and was the son of Matt Dickinson and Jane (nee Maughan) of Haydon. Henry's father Matt was a tanner and native of Hexham and his wife Jane was a daughter of Edward Maughan who lived at Lipwood. (*Maughan had been the most common family name in the district for many years.*) Strangely, although living at Cruel Syke, in 1851 Henry Dickinson was a builder, not a farmer. By 1861, the Dickinson family had moved from Cruel Syke and were living in Haydon Bridge, where Henry continued his occupation as a builder.

In 1858, Cruel Syke was being farmed by George Kent whose wife Jessie had died there on February 7th of that year. The Kent's son William, his wife Ann (nee Reed) and children Thomas and Jessie, made up the family who lived at Cruel Syke. George Kent was born at Chesterwood on May 15th 1807, the son of John Kent, a hind, and his wife Margaret (*the daughter of Joseph Hutchinson of Chesterwood*). George was an 'agricultural labourer' at Chesterwood before moving to Cruel Syke as the farmer there.

*Continues overleaf*

By 1871, the family had moved further north to Cubstocks and Cruel Syke was occupied by Joseph Kent, George's son, with his wife Elizabeth (nee Dodd) and their children Jessy (sic) and George Edward. Joseph was a farmer at Cruel Syke in 1871, however, ten years later the family had moved to Priestpople, Hexham where Joseph was working as a general cartman. The farm at Cruel Syke remained with the Kent family however as, in 1881, the farmer living there with his wife Mary and adult children John and George was John Kent, aged 54, another farm worker from Chesterwood. *(It seems likely that this John Kent Snr., was another son of Chesterwood born George Kent who had moved north from Cruel Syke to Cubstocks sometime before 1871 - See above.)*

By 1891, John Kent had changed his occupation; he had left Cruel Syke and was working on the Newcastle and Carlisle railway as a platelayer, as was his son George. John and George were living at Lipwood Cottage, in one of a number of rail company owned properties. *(Older residents of the district will remember the red brick cottages that stood, before their demolition, alongside the railway on the south side of the main road at Lipwood.)*

It seems that, around this time, a number of relatively poorly paid agricultural workers in the district chose to seek better paid employment on the ever expanding Newcastle and Carlisle line, which was by then part of the North Eastern Railway Company.

The NER provided houses for some of their employees and this mitigated concerns the farm workers had about losing their tied cottages when leaving the land; their new employment did have its downside, however, as serious injury and fatalities on the railway were commonplace. On March 27th, 1877 for example, a few years before John Kent and his son George moved into their railway cottage at Lipwood, John Gillies who was a foreman platelayer on the length from Ridley Hall to Lipwood Well and also lived in a railway house at Lipwood, was killed on the line outside his cottage when hit by a passenger train from Carlisle.

When John Kent moved from Cruel Syke to Lipwood to work on the railway, it brought to an end some thirty years of occupation by the Kent family at Cruel Syke.

It is possible that Cruel Syke was occupied by a Thomas Parker for a short time after the Kent family moved, but by 1891 the occupier was Robert Lee with his wife Jane and seven children, the family having lived in Haydon Bridge before their move to Cruel Syke. Robert Lee came from Blanchland and was a lead miner, so it seems likely that during this period the land at Cruel Syke was being farmed by someone else.

*(It is worth recalling here that the first ore from Thomas Bewick's nearby Lead Mining Company, on the Honeycrook Burn, was washed in the month of September 1873 and men and boys from local families were employed there until the closure of the mines in 1893. Here again, as with the railways, there were opportunities for employment in the*

*district other than agriculture ... with, perhaps, better basic pay.)*

Robert Lee left Cruel Syke after the Honeycrook mines closed and by 1903 the family were living in Elswick in Newcastle, where Robert was an engineering labourer and three of his sons were engineering machinists. *(Probably, at William Armstrong's engineering works at Elswick.)* Living in Elswick in the 1900s would be very different to a rural Cruel Syke, for the Lee family.

The next occupants recorded at Cruel Syke were Thomas Walton and his wife Mary Jane and in August 1892, their daughter Emily Jane was christened at Haydon Bridge. Shortly after the Walton's had lived at and left Cruel Syke, 68 year old farmer Robert Dixon and his daughter Ann lived and died there. Robert died in October 1907 and Ann his daughter died in September 1909.

Robert and Ann Dixon were followed into Cruel Syke farmhouse by David Armstrong and Mary Elizabeth, his wife, and their four children. *(One of whom, David, was a 'correspondence clerk' at William Benson's Iron Works in Haydon Bridge - formerly, Coultas, Dodsworth & Co. - on the site of today's Foundry Court.)* David Armstrong Snr., had been a farmer at 'The Dairy Farm' at Fulwell in Sunderland, before moving to Cruel Syke farm.

I am now following William Veitch's genealogy detail into a period that is within living memory/knowledge and the occupants following the Armstrong family into Cruel Syke were Robert Isaac Bell and his wife Ruth who, before moving, had been farming at Whittington White House near Matfen. The Bell's had no family and they both died at Cruel Syke. Ruth on November 1st, 1925 aged 69 years and Robert Isaac on July 15th 1938 aged 81 years. From that time, Cruel Syke was farmed well into the twentieth century by Haydon Bridge residents Jack and Gladys Veitch; whose story may well be told one day in The Haydon News by their grandson, David Tait.

### **Westley Bank**

Westley Bank farmhouse was probably built in the early C19th - 1810, like Cruel Syke. Westley Bank was a five roomed farmhouse with 40 acres of land.

An exact date for the creation of individual farms on the North Road may be determined in the future, if deeds for the two properties become available, what is clear is that the land making up the farms was owned by Nicholas Todd before his death in 1863; Miss Jane Todd from 1863 - having been willed to her by Nicholas, previously of The Tofts - and, on her death in 1882, Miss Todd's executors. *(More about Nicholas and Jane Todd in a future Haydon News).* William Veitch points out that as Westley Bank is pronounced locally as 'Wesley' Bank, there are those who believed the name was associated with preacher John Wesley, but, that is not so. The farm was originally known as West Lea Bank - i.e. the west pasture on or up the bank - and was often written that way in earlier days.

Westley, or West Lea, Bank, being a five roomed farmhouse with 40 acres of land, was originally a larger holding than the 16 acre Cruel Syke.

The first recorded evidence of occupants at Westley Bank is the baptism at Haydon Bridge on June 20th, 1819 of one Thomas, the son of William and Elizabeth Ridley. William was recorded as a butcher of West Lea Bank to where the family had moved from 'Blackhill', on Heugh Lane. The next evidence found is the baptism at Haydon Bridge in August 1839 of Isabella, the daughter of Gawen and Mary Anderson of Westley Bank. Interestingly, given his future status within the Haydon farming community, Isabella's father Gawen is recorded as a labourer. Gawen Anderson and his wife Mary had moved to Westley Bank from Plunderheath and were still there in 1851, but now had eight children and a farm servant living with them. By 1855, Gawen Anderson had moved on to West Haydon as a 'Cart Proprietor' where, in 1861, he farmed 70 acres.

*To be continued next month...*

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## **HEXHAM BEACON CLUB**

Wednesdays 10:30am - 12:00pm  
at Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Hexham

### **March Events**

4th - Annual General Meeting

11th - Remaking Beamish 50's Town

18th - Pacific Perambulations

25th - Battles of Coronel &  
Falkland Islands 1914

# A Trek to the Annapurna Sanctuary (Part 2)

Last month we invited you to join Ian Foster on the first part of his 2019 trek in Nepal. In February's edition, we left Ian at Nayapul, a primary starting point for trekkers to the Annapurna Sanctuary, a glacial plateau in the Himalayas which is surrounded by a ring of massive peaks. Join Ian again this month as he is ready to 'start walking' once more.

Our main luggage was given to the porters, each of whom carried on their backs two bags tied together, a load of around 30kg. All we would be carrying was a day sack with waterproofs etc. The afternoon's walk to our lodge at Hille was mostly along the jeep trail beside the river, climbing gradually through the terraced fields of rice as the valley narrowed. A snake popping out of a hole in the stone wall opposite was a reminder that we were far from home.

The following day was the first day of serious trekking to Ghorepani and Poon Hill. This is one of the highlights of the trek, noted for its views of dawn over the mountains, but it also meant a day of unremitting ascent, climbing by the end of the day to some 2800m altitude. This is a fairly populous area and the track made of well-constructed stone steps, with which we were to become familiar over the coming days. It climbed out of the valley past farms and villages including Ulleri which is a major recruiting centre for Gurkha soldiers. As we gained altitude we left the fields behind to enter the forest of rhododendron and bamboo which would be our main surroundings for the next few days. Don't judge these rhododendrons by those that you see at home, by the way. Here in what is their native environment they are full-sized trees and I can only speculate in awe on what these forests must be like in the spring when they are in bloom. It's little wonder that Victorian travellers wanted to bring them back to plant on their estates.

Today was a long day, and my relief on finally reaching Ghorepani was compounded by the view of surrounding mountains. From the terrace in front of our lodge we were treated to a panorama of the Annapurnas to our right and the massif of Dhaulagiri to the left. We would be seeing dawn break over them in the morning, but the evening presented us with a sunset so beautiful as to make all the day's exertions worthwhile.

And so to bed, ready for a 5.15am early wake up call to ascend Poon Hill to see dawn break over the mountains. This is a highlight for trekkers and we joined hundreds of like-minded travellers on the steep and narrow path to the view point at the top and were treated to the sun's rays breaking over the panorama, picking out first the snow-covered summits of Annapurna South and Machhapuchhre. The latter, also known as Fishtail Mountain is sacred to the locals and not to be climbed; its distinctive forked summits were to be a landmark to us over the next few days, gradually filling more of our view as we approached our goal.



Crowds greet the dawn at Poon Hill

The next four days of trekking would see us making our way over ridges and through valleys, losing and then regaining altitude as we made our way towards the valley of the Modi Khola, the river which drains the Annapurna glacier and whose valley we were to follow on our gradual ascent towards Base Camp. The second day saw us enjoy a lunch with a view in the village of Chhomrong. Unfortunately part of the view was of a never-ending flight of steps which we would have to descend before climbing back up towards the next ridge; a hard afternoon's work



Sunset over Annapurna South from Ghorepani



and one we would have to repeat in the opposite direction on our way back.

Finally on the fourth day we left the forest below us and began the climb up the increasingly narrow valley towards next ridge; Fishtail Lodge at Machhapuchhre Base Camp, which was to be our home for the next two nights. Behind us towered the bulk of Fishtail Mountain, no longer a distant prospect, and ahead lay tomorrow's path into the famed Annapurna Sanctuary itself.

**Join Ian in Part 3 next month on his trek into the spectacular Annapurna Sanctuary**



Machha puchhre beckons

## A View From Up There

**Storm winds, rain and flooding - it's been an eventful winter so far. John Harrison reports.**

As I sit here writing these weather notes Storm Ciara is trying its best to blow our cottage off the hillside, which reminds me of a couple of joiners working on a weather-damaged roof. One of the men would look at each nail, utter an expletive, then toss the nail away. Asked why he was throwing away so many nails, his reply was that the heads were all at the wrong end. His mate shouted across to him suggesting that he saved these rejects for when he was working on the other side of the roof where the head would be at the correct end!

These weather reports are always a month behind so this one is for the first month of 2020. So far the winter has been one of the most miserable that I can recall. The wet ground, low cloud, high humidity and generally dreich conditions aren't reflected fully in the weather statistics which point towards above-average temperatures and below-average rainfall. The wind has also been quite brisk, which should encourage evaporation of surface water. And yet those of us who enjoy walking in the countryside have been encountering squelchy conditions underfoot. The problem has been due mainly to the high humidity of the atmosphere which slows down the rate of evaporation of surface water.

January was a windy and quite mild month. Although damp there were only two 'wet' days. Airflow was dominated, almost exclusively, by winds from the west. Under a ridge of high pressure and attendant clear skies the overnight temperature fell to -4.5 deg C early on the 1st, but a warm front introduced milder air late in the day and the daytime temperature was up to 10.1 degC by the 2nd. High pressure returned on the 3rd and remained in control until the 5th over three dry, cloudy, warm and very breezy days.

More frontal activity arrived late on the 6th with one of the month's wettest days on the 8th (13.8 mm) some of which fell as sleet and snow (SL 1000 ft). Unsettled weather continued until late on the 17th. The 11th was a wet (14.1 mm) and very windy day with some local flood and gale damage. There were some brighter spells but daytime temperatures were significantly lower than earlier in the month. Night temperatures fell as the clouds cleared but there were no significant air frosts. A strong ridge of high pressure took control of the weather on the 18th a moderate westerly breeze and heavy cloud cover brought a sequence of very dull grey days up to the 25th – this was true "anticyclonic gloom". The rainfall over the nine days 17-25th was only 0.3 mm. Unsettled cyclonic weather systems cleared much of the gloom and the 27th was a particularly pleasant spring-like day but precipitation readily turned to snow on the 28th but this didn't settle on the relatively warm ground. A warm front followed quickly and the remaining days of the month were very mild. Hedgerow and garden plants were well ahead of schedule by the end of the month.

**“So far the winter has been one of the most miserable that I can recall.”**

And finally, Gladys recently sent me one of the corniest jokes ever. A man walked into an ironmonger's shop and ate a toolbox full of tools. When asked if he was a professional strongman, he replied that he was only a hammer-chewer.

Month	Ave Max Temp Daytime (°C)	Relative to long-average (°C)	Ave Minimum Temp Night-time (°C)	Relative to long-term average	Rainfall (mm)	Percentage of long-term average
January	7.8	+2.00	3.4	+2.1	54.6	66

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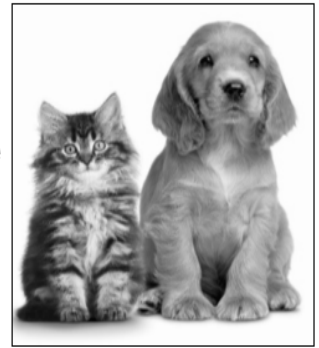
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## **Northumberland Day 2020**

The countdown to this year's Northumberland Day on Sunday May 24 – has begun in style, with a unique CD produced by the organisers, to sum up everything that the day brings to life in the county and the aspects that it celebrates.

Northumberland Day is the annual celebration of the county of Northumberland, England and its culture, history, food and drink, landscape, wildlife and communities.

This is the fourth Northumberland Day with events and activities will be taking place in locations across the county in the two weeks around the official Northumberland Day date.

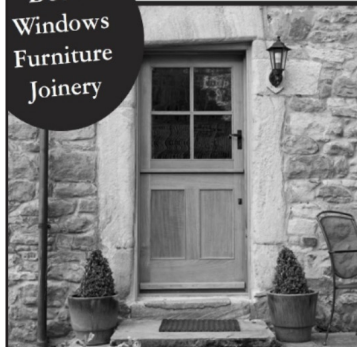
Anyone can take part in Northumberland Day, by creating an activity or event that suits their community, business, school or association and which allows them to express their pride and passion for the county. The options of what to do are almost endless and are as limitless as your imagination. Visit our website <https://northumberlandday.co.uk/> And remember to tell us what you are doing, so that we can promote it!

Email [2019@northumberlandday.co.uk](mailto:2019@northumberlandday.co.uk) to get in touch.

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# Churches Working Together

## Clergy Message: from The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter

The Australian Rugby Union second-row forward John Eales had the nick-name "Nobody". Eales was one of the great players of his generation. He lifted the world-cup twice, once as captain. He was a fierce competitor in the rough and tumble of the forwards, but could also unusually mix it with the backs and was known to kick the conversion and penalties (as task usually reserved for the fly-half) with the highest of skill. When his team were asked why such an illustrious player was called "Nobody" they would reply: "its because Nobody's perfect!"

We say that phrase so often that we can often and assume that we all know it to be true, but we are still held in thrall to the idea that we can, in some way, achieve perfection. Magazines and social media are full of the encouragement to get the perfect body or tan or look. We can make ourselves half-demented in December trying to create the "perfect" Christmas. The problem is that perfection is a wonderful thing to aim for, but it is impossible to achieve. That is why people who want us to buy things and spend more money encourage us to aspire towards perfection – because we will never get there. The problem is that when we don't achieve this longed for perfect we fall into the equal and opposite reaction of believing that there is nothing we can do. Why try something, we tell ourselves, if we can't be perfect.

## Allendale's Japanese Spirit

The Allendale Forge gallery has an exhibition during March which will be a feast for the senses and a lift for the spirit. A kaleidoscopic collaboration of textiles brings together two superbly creative local people, masters of their chosen discipline.

Following their successful exhibition last year, JU-MA returns to the gallery. Julia Neubauer is joined by Marion Woolcott, incorporating their considerable skills in hand framed knitting and weaving.

There is a strong Japanese influence in their designs, working in Italian spun Merino wool, initially producing kimono styled garments, intricate weaving patterns and subtle detailing.

This exhibition also features work with other artists; Phil Bradley and The Herdwick wool collection, with Sarah McHaig Designs, Kirsten Gilder, Ceramics by Catriona Archibald and leather by Kathryn Guy.

Opens 2nd – 30th March. Admission is free.  
[www.allendaleforgestudios.co.uk](http://www.allendaleforgestudios.co.uk)  
01434 683 975.

This month falls entirely into the Christian season of Lent. At the heart of this season is the fundamental belief that we are not perfect. It can be time when it seems like we beat ourselves up over this truth, but in fact it is a time of liberation. At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, Christians remember – often by being marked on the forehead with an ash cross – that we are "dust and to dust we shall return". In that prayer we remember that we are not perfect, in fact we remember that we are all equal in our ordinariness. But in that there is a liberation. A liberation from trying and striving toward the impossible goal of being perfect – whatever that means – and instead discovering and being who God wants us and loves us to be.

So, I hope and pray that you will not have a perfect Lent, and rather find in Lent that person again who God loves and cherishes for who we truly are.

Your Vicar,  
Benjamin

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.  
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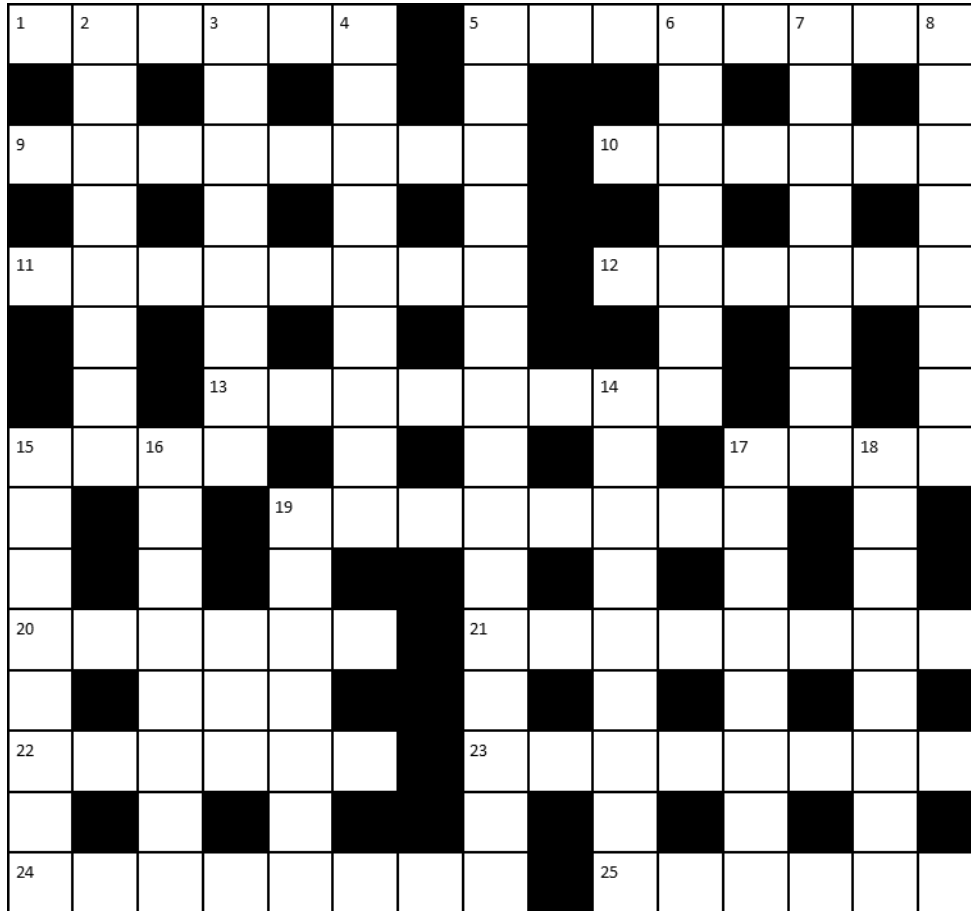
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# HAYDON NEWS CROSSWORD

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. SCHERZANDO
18. CAMOUFLAGE
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

Our children have been celebrating Winnie the Pooh Day - a firm favourite with children and staff!

We've also been working with Northumbria Police and the Encompass team on feelings and emotions.

Would you like to spare some time to listen to children reading? We welcome anyone in the community who might have time in the afternoons to come along! Please get in touch with Mr Storrie in our school office on 684309.



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**2020 is marching on and spring will soon be with us: the season for fetes, fairs and community get-togethers.**

At our last meeting we discussed lots of ideas for the coming year. May is a huge month – not only do we have Northumberland Day to celebrate on Sunday 24th May but it's also the 75th anniversary of VE Day – the day that Churchill announced the end of WW2. Surely that's a reason to celebrate! We are planning to do just that, on Friday 8th May (it's a Bank Holiday).

These two dates are very close together, so we hope to do something very different for each. We're still in the planning stage, so nothing is confirmed, and we welcome any ideas to make them extra special.

Our thought at the moment is that VE Day screams out for a street party but it'll still be quite early in the year so could be very chilly and the very nature of the day means it will appeal to the older generation. So, we're thinking – an indoor street part in the Community Centre with lots of wartime memorabilia and entertainment. If you know or have anything to help this event, please contact us.

Northumberland Day will hopefully be the same venue as last year – St Cuthbert's Church grounds. If anyone would like a table to sell their goods, then please contact me to book a space, the cost is £5. It would be great to get more Northumbrian themed goods. Any local groups or charities who want to use the opportunity to raise funds for their cause by doing a raffle, games etc. won't be charged. We hope to have live music, hot food and children's entertainment. The whole ethos of this day is to celebrate everything Northumberland so if you have any ideas that you'd like to organise and incorporate into the day, then please let us know.

Other ideas for the rest of the year include, a treasure hunt, a family walk to celebrate John Martin's birthday, a celebration of Poetry Day and some music somewhere along the way. Oh! and fireworks....there's always fireworks!!

We meet on the first Monday of each month in the Havelock at 8pm. Meetings are very informal. We'd love you to join us or just pass on your ideas to us and we'll see what can be done.

**Pauline Wallis**  
**The Get It Together Society**  
Tel: 01434 684061  
Email: [pjwallis58@gmail.com](mailto:pjwallis58@gmail.com)



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# General Havelock Quoits Team

A sport that you have to practice in a beer garden?  
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The Haydon Bridge team plays in Division 3 of the Allen Valley Quoits League and the mixed cohort of players train diligently in the Havelock beer garden. In our first season, we won a Division 3 trophy which now resides in pride of place in the bar.

After such a magnificent start by team members; some of whom had never even seen a quoit before last year, never mind attempted to throw one - the only way is up. Lorna Woodward gained impressive victories in five of her singles matches against experienced men. We also played at the World Championships in Beamish – not bad for the novices.

The Wednesday evening match programme will begin in May and we need more players - no experience is necessary. The team will train on Sunday afternoons. The Havelock Saints will compete at diverse hostelrys in the Allen Valley with matches played at home and away in the season. The spirit of laughter and comradeship is second to none - and we get fed as well!



If you'd like to participate in this great sport and have some fun, please come and join us. To discover more, just pop into The General Havelock for a Sunday afternoon initiation.

## The Edward Waite Trophy Nominations

Nominations are invited for the Edward Waite Trophy Awarded for exceptional contribution to sport. This is open to anyone, any sport and with no age restriction.

The only stipulation is that nominees must reside within the Haydon Parish. Please pass any nominations to the Club Secretary - Paula Collis or by email: paulacollis4@hotmail.co.uk

Please submit your nominations by Friday 20th March 2020

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We're looking for contributors! We try to cover any news or events to do with life in the parish.

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