

**THE
HAYDON NEWS**



October 2020

Editor's Letter

As summer draws to a close and the Autumnal sights and smells of Northumberland begin to appear, the world felt, for a little while at least, that it was returning to a strange sense of 'almost normal'. At the time of writing, however, new social distancing restrictions are coming into force, and we face more unusual times of this virus in our everyday lives.

In spite of the difficulties we've all faced this year, the spirit of many people in Haydon Bridge remains undefeated. It's great to see the continuing offer of help and support from people in the village to help others, as we all go through this difficult time. If you'd like to get involved, the organisers of the various groups will always welcome extra help.

One of the things I'm most grateful for, particularly in these strange times, is the beauty and friendliness of the area we live in. Each morning while walking my dogs, I say hello to four farmers, ten

dogs and an assortment of early-morning walkers. And all before 8am and a busy day working from home. It's great to get a sense of the real world before I spend the day in 'virtual meetings'.

At The Haydon News we've also had new offers of help in producing the magazine, with new writers getting involved. We're hoping to be able to bring you some new perspectives on life in the area in the coming issues. If you're interested in getting involved, or have something you'd like to write or talk about, do please get in touch.

Alex. editor@haydon-news.co.uk

Cover Note

The world of Nadine Sutterby Art

With her children growing up, Nadine returned to her love of drawing, creating beautiful works of wildlife and pet portrait commissions from her home in Haydon Bridge. (See front cover.)

'Having studied at Carlisle art college and raised my family, it was time to take the plunge to just do it - and the response has blown me away. I started doing craft fairs and promoting my work on social media, and now sell my work in a number of brilliant independent venues in the Tyne Valley area.'

With a particular interest in wildlife, Nadine has an impressive portfolio and regularly takes part in exhibitions, shows and craft fairs.

'Covid-19 has stopped the craft fairs that I'd usually go to, so I've had to reinvent that, by doing online craft fairs. The demand for my work has continued to grow and it's a pleasure to be able to take commissions for personalised art. The whole point was to be able to make it affordable to buy original art, I didn't want to cut people out of a price range.'

Nadine's story continues on page 9

We will try to have the November and December editions of The Haydon News printed and distributed early in each month.
Please submit any articles for inclusion by the 12th of the previous month.
Thank you

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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 of the Haydon News 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.

Parish Council Notes

The next meeting of your Parish Council will take place at the end of September and we will report on that meeting in the November issue of The Haydon News.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS



In this unpredictable year, unfortunately, we have had to scale down the festive decorations. 2020 has undoubtedly been strange and most challenging year! Nevertheless, life goes on and Christmas will soon be upon us.

The group of community volunteers who organise the Christmas lights will endeavour to provide some of the usual festive delights by way of trees and fairy lights round the village. However, due to the genuine unpredictability of what winter 2020 may hold regarding Covid 19, and because it involves large numbers of people working in close proximity, we have reluctantly decided not to go ahead with erecting and dressing the large number of trees on the old bridge. Consequently, the usual lighting up ceremony will not be taking place.

Smaller groups **will** work together to place trees at the War Memorial and on the green (Strother Close) and there will also be fairy lights sprinkled over existing trees and shrubs.

Many thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Julia Cooper.

(On behalf of the Christmas Lights Committee)

HEALTHY SUPPORT

The spontaneous shared applause on Thursday evenings of recent weeks, acknowledging the commitment of the NHS during the pandemic, was a reminder that support for our local and regional Health Service by our residents is not something new in the parish. I am thinking, for example, of the efforts of the Watson family who for many years organised dances that provided welcome financial donations to our Doctor's surgery/health centre and Hexham Hospital. Dances recalled in rhyme on many an occasion, in the 'Residents' Lounge' of a rousing Haydon Hotel of days gone by.

A chunk of the ditty that follows was inspired by those two remarkable Ronnies, Barker and Corbett.

Harry Watson's Ball - Or - 'Ladies of the Parish'

Aa was passing Harry Watson's Garage just the other day,
He said: "Get on your bicycle and follow me this way."

So off we went across the bridge and o'er the River Tyne,
And just a little further on, we crossed the railway line.

To the doctor's surgery and we turned left right there,

When Fred Sams opened up the door aa could only stand and stare!

There was a Scottish dance band in the Technical School Hall,

With plenty ladies there for me, at Harry Watson's Ball.

There was Judy Irwin, Rene Armstrong, Margaret Young and all,

Hoping for a knees-up at Harry Watson's Ball,

They thought they'd never get a dance, but then they had a treat

When Jackie Robson left the bar and danced them off their feet.

There was Gina, there was Helen and their feet were really sore,

With dancing in formation in the middle of the floor,

Betty Cousin sold more drink than e'er she had before,

And xxxxxx she had all the men, shouting out for "More!".

There was June, Doris, Mabel, Nancy, Evelyn and Doreen,

Pamela, Joan and Jean; enchanting one and all:

I fancied every one of them but I ended up with none of them.

So aa came home on me bicycle, from Harry Watson's Ball.

Aye, aa came home on me bicycle from Harry Watson's Ball!

Oh Happy Days!

The late Harry Watson's passion for Scottish dance music benefited many local causes by around £90,000; thanks to dances and events he and his family organised that were supported and enjoyed by so many of our parish residents.

Caring for the community during Covid-19

Since its creation on the 15th March 2020, the team of volunteers in the Haydon Bridge Covid-19 Community Care Group have had a busy time of it.

In the beginning of the pandemic, most of our activities centred upon shopping for the elderly and shielding, collecting prescriptions and running other errands as required for them. We were then invited by Age UK to distribute care packages and activity packs to the elderly, these packages were co-ordinated and packed by Geordie Shore and 'I'm a Celebrity' star Vicky Pattinson. It just goes to show what a Northern lass with a good tan, good heart and fabulous manicure will achieve when she's determined the elderly are to be looked after. One of our volunteers, John Turner, also had his five seconds of fame when he appeared in an ITV news feature about the care packages: it was unfortunate that this was only of his derriere when he was loading boxes into his car, but most people agreed the camera man captured his best side.

Since restrictions were lifted back in July, a lot of our volunteers went back to work and the demand for our services dwindled; however, they did not disappear. There were still elderly and vulnerable people to continue to shop for and, as time has progressed during this pandemic, there have been many more vulnerable people identified in the village than would be expected. Some of our volunteers began cooking hot meals for those who (for one reason or another) were unable to do so themselves; others helped to signpost people to the food bank, citizens advice bureau or helped people to fill in forms for government assistance. Loneliness and difficulties with mental health have become a bigger issue than expected during the pandemic and volunteers have worked hard to support those members of the community who are experiencing this, and to help them to reach out to the appropriate support services.

As the number of cases of the virus is once again rising, we expect to see an increase in demand for help from the group. We want to make it clear that the group is not just here to help the elderly and vulnerable: anyone who needs help can access it. Also, we are looking to increase our volunteer database as we head into winter, so please do get in contact if you think you may be able to assist in

any way. You can contact the admins via the Facebook group or contact Gill Valentine on 07711110850 or Hayley Turner on 07546378581 if you need some help or support or if you wish to volunteer.

Hayley Turner

WHAT ARE THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS ANYWAY?

Lockdown and beyond has been a very confusing time for parents, but even more so for kids. Firstly, there has been the upheaval for schools closing for all apart from the children of key workers. It seemed that overnight they were uprooted from their safe and known routines into the world of the unknown and confused. Parents and carers suddenly had to become teachers and, with all the will in the world, the fantastic job done by schools and teachers to set up online learning just proved to us that we couldn't understand Year 3 maths, so how on earth were we to explain it to our kids? Trying to reconcile children to do schoolwork at home was never easy, as schoolwork is for school not home, so why should they do it at home? A lot of us resorted to BBC learning, or in a lot of cases, 'documentaries'. Which is why when the children came back to school in September, some children were able to give talks to their teachers about astrophysics and some on why they hated Carole Baskin.

Routines went out of the window. As did rules. Some parents questioned themselves on their ability to parent if they couldn't get the children to do ten minutes reading each day. Some parents questioned themselves on their ability to parent if bedtimes and mealtimes ended up on the same timescales as university students, i.e. non-existent. Some parents questioned themselves if just letting their children raid the snack cupboard all day and then giving them a carton of apple juice counted as one of their five a day. Some parents questioned themselves if, when wine we opened much earlier than we normally would, it counted as one (or several more) of one of our five a day. All of us swore that we would we be donating some "five a day" to the teachers when the kids went back.

Then suddenly, it was the summer holidays; usually the time of year that fills some parents with trepidation and some with joy (or usually a mixture of both). This year, however, was different. A lot

of us had long since given up the home schooling as it was set, so this year, we asked ourselves, what was the difference? Surely, it's a continuation of what has gone on before and the kids won't notice? For our children, however, it was not so clear cut: it was now the summer holidays and it was meant to be different from school, no matter how different school had become. And what a different summer holidays it was! Some people could continue as usual and go away for a break or visit relatives, but it was not so simple for everyone. During the pandemic, people have lost jobs or income. Some family members are still shielding or just too frightened to become involved in large crowds. A lot of attractions were still closed, or altered, and people were flocking to beaches and other tourist hot spots where social distancing was not being observed and so it was not safe to visit. So, what was to be done?

Quite frankly, not a lot. This year, because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Haydon Bridge Fun Food and Friends Club could not run in the Community Centre as planned. However, we did not want to focus on the things we couldn't do (to quote Lady Violet from Downton Abbey "Don't be defeatist dear, it's very middle class) so we instead focused on what we could do. Obviously, we couldn't do the food (and social distancing proved the friends part to be difficult) but at least we could try to help with the fun part. And so, the idea of summer holiday activity packs was born.

During the first week of August, over 60 activity packs were distributed to parents who requested them. These were divided into the age groups of 2-6, 7-11 and 12-16 years old. Included in the packs were treats, activities and competitions to enter. All of these were based on the arts and practical skills so as to differentiate from schoolwork so that the children viewed these as summer holiday activities and not schoolwork. A lot of children entered the competitions, but some did not. As John Turner, a retired senior teacher and artist specialising in children experiencing trauma through his many years of work in secure units and young offender's institutes, explained:

"What young people are experiencing right now is unprecedented in our lifetime and although we as adults find it difficult to comprehend, it is often downplayed for younger people as we consider them "resilient". For many years, the creative arts

have been underfunded in schools and, through no fault of their own, during lockdown schools were not able to offer young people an opportunity to express what they are feeling or having been experiencing through the mediums of art, music and creative writing in the way that the schools really would like. Although schools in Haydon Bridge have been extremely pro-active in setting up support networks and sign-posting young people for help and support, sometimes young people and their parents are not aware of the difficulties which are being experienced. As well as being a way to fill rainy days, these packs have encouraged young people to express themselves and their feelings about what is going on in the world around them. Some young people have completed the competitions, but decided not to enter because they have brought these feelings to the fore. Where this has happened, parents have been given information of organisations which can help."

This is very obviously as important as entertaining children and keeping them busy on wet weekends. However, it has not just been something for the young people of the village to focus on, it has also given an immense amount of joy to those of us who are a little older in the village to be involved in: whether that is through contributing to the packs, judging competition entries, donating prizes or simply seeing the creativity through Facebook pages. As one of our judges, Hayley Ellen Watson states:

"My fellow judges and I all judged entries individually, but once they were all judged, we discussed the entries together via Facebook. I can honestly say we were absolutely over-whelmed by the creative talent of the young people of this village, in every category. It was very difficult for all of us to make decisions as to who would win each category, as the standard was so very high. We have all loved being involved with this activity and Hayley Turner has asked us if we would like to be involved in a future activity for October half-term (whether it is contributing, judging or providing prizes) and all of the judges have responded with a resounding YES!!!"

We have also had some very positive responses from parents. Greg Clarke stated:

"The packs were such a fantastic idea to raise the

Continued on page 6

spirits of young people in our area. This has no doubt been the most confusing and challenging times of their lives so far - we are incredibly grateful for the kindness and effort put into these activities by the organisers."

Cassandra Kirsopp went on to say:

"I loved the packs and so did the girls. Such a great idea to keep the children entertained, especially during this unknown time."

We intend to produce another activity pack for the October half-term term. We are extremely grateful that local schools/nurseries are very much on board in making sure we can reach as many people as possible and also to Claire's Newsagents for agreeing to have packs within their store for

people who could not otherwise access them.



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CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

Clergy Message: from the Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter

Sunday 18 October is St Luke's Day. St Luke is one of the most important, but perhaps most illusive voices in the New Testament. Many of us will know his name from the Gospel which he "set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us".

Even if you do not know Luke's Gospel in detail you will know its Christmas greatest hits – it is Luke who tells us of the stable, and the manger, and the shepherds. But alongside this Gospel Luke also wrote a second book in the New Testament, the Acts of the Apostles, which tells of the establishment and growth of the early church inspired by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the Church, though, Luke is remembered not only as the author of these books but as the patron saint of physicians, based on a passing reference to "Luke, the beloved physician" in one of the letters of St Paul. This link between Luke and the work of healing has meant that St Luke's day has become a time when the Church focuses on the gift and ministry of healing within the life of the church and the world.

The Gospels, and Luke's is no exception, speak again of Jesus' great deeds of power realised, more often than not, in acts of healing. As a Church we pray for the healing of the divisions of the world. Each week we pray in church for those who are ill and in need of healing "in body, mind, or spirit". At this time of global pandemic we need those prayers more than ever.

As we come to St Luke's Day we have an opportunity to pray for this healing within the world. To give thanks for the skill, courage, and commitment of all those physicians and caring professionals who have worked so selflessly through this pandemic. Beyond this, the Gospels also show us that the healing we pray for is more than just the restoration of health in our bodies. Healing comes by the overcoming of the fissures and injustices in our society that amplify the experience of some who need healing in what ever for. Focusing on the words that Luke places in the mouth of the Virgin Mary in her Magnificat in the first chapter of his gospel, we also pray that through this pandemic we will find a deeper healing for ourselves and our

world. And through that restoration we might create a world on the other side of this pandemic where the lowly are lifted high and the hungry are filled with good things.

**Your Vicar,
Benjamin.**

St. Cuthbert's Church in October

www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall

Trinity 17

Sunday 4 October

9am Morning Prayer Online

10.30: Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

10.30: Morning Prayer, All Hallows' Henshaw

Trinity 18

Sunday 11 October

9.00am Morning Prayer Online

10.30: Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw

10.30: Morning Prayer, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

St Luke's Day

Sunday 18 October

9.00am Morning Prayer Online

10.30: Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

10.30: Morning Prayer, All Hallows' Henshaw

Last after Trinity

Sunday 25 October

9.00am Morning Prayer Online

10.30: Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw

10.30: Morning Prayer, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

Please note our pattern of service for the time being:

There is now a service at 10.30am at both St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge and All Hallows' Henshaw, alternating each week between a Benefice Eucharist and said service of Morning Prayer.

We hope that this regularity will help those who would like to come to Church after a break or for the first time.

The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter

Methodist Church Update

We have been unable to open for Worship on a Sunday at the present time due to the Ministers being allocated elsewhere in the Tynedale Circuit at the seven Churches who have been allowed to open again during this past month, however, we are looking to offer a mid-week service in Haydon Bridge Methodist Church, maybe on a Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm.

This will give us the opportunity to worship along-side others which many of our members are looking forward to doing.

In the meantime, the weekly 'Worship at Home' Services are still being sent out and will continue for the time being.

(Look out for details of our starting date)

Deacon Anne Taylor

St. John of Beverley Catholic Church

Father Christopher Warren welcomed Father Jim Dunne to the Parish in September. Father Jim will live in the presbytery at Bellingham and will assist Father Chris with Masses at Bellingham, Haydon Bridge, Haltwhistle and Hexham

St John's opened its doors for public Mass on September 13th, and on every Sunday at 9.15am. To meet both Government and Diocese Guidelines numbers are limited, making booking your place essential. To book a place go to:
www.heavenfieldpartnership.org
or telephone 01434 603119.

September also saw the completion of work on the presbytery at St. Johns and new tenants are now in residence.

Father Christopher Warren

WHO AND WHERE

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

NEWS JUST IN - GITS

The Get It Together Society have taken the very difficult decision to cancel the New Year's Eve fireworks as social distancing would be impossible to implement. Safety of the community must come first.
(More information next month.)

The world of Nadine Sutterby Art

Continued from our front cover and page 2

While Nadine's wildlife – and in particular, her Northumbrian country wildlife, pheasants, bees and kingfishers, prove enduringly popular, her pet commissions have varied from dogs, cats and horses, to snakes, lizards and a tortoise.

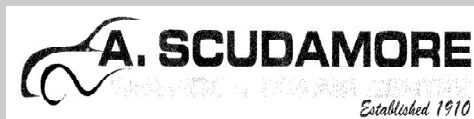
And for the future:

'I was about to start a drawing course when Covid-19 arrived, but that's something I'd love to do in future, helping people develop their own skills and finding the pleasure in drawing.'

www.nadinesutterbyart.com



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Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge

By Dennis Telford

LOOKING BACK

It is quite some time since I looked back at dated chronological events in our barony, chapelry and parish's history; The Haydon News of December 2019 in fact, when I recalled the rebuilding of the bridge at Haydon Bridge in 1774 following the great flood of November 1771; and The Haydon News of February 2020 when I took a brief look back at Langley's remarkable industrial past, from 1684 to 1888.

This month, I return to those occasional events of interest across the Barony/Chapelry, from 1774 onwards.

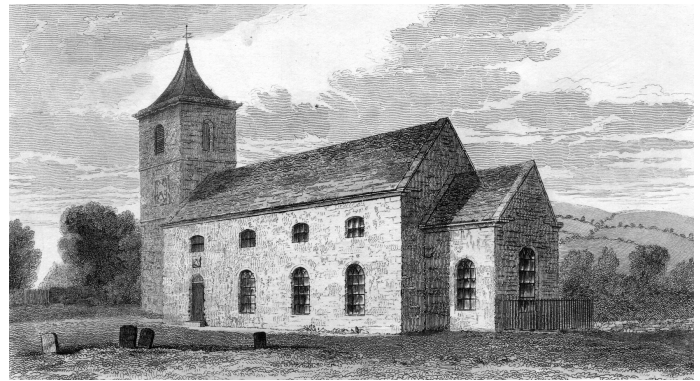
1774: In this year, an examiner of coal mines, John Barnes, - officially called a 'Coal Viewer' - visited the district to report on industrial activity in the area. Coal had been worked at Brokenheugh from at least 1723 and in 1774, two more pits were opened on the Brokenheugh estate; one at 19 fathoms and one 3½ fathoms. The former, nearest Haydon Bridge, was worked for domestic coal and the other for lime burning.

1774: Coal Viewer John Barnes also reported on Stublick's coal mines at Langley on his 1774 visitation, and he confirmed that a constant and unwavering and abundant supply of water which, most interestingly, 'rarely froze in winter', was available from a drainage level and was sufficient to drive a 40 feet wheel.

1778 October 10th: As some workmen were digging gravel for repairing the highways, near John Shaftoe's School at Haydon Bridge, they found the skeleton of a human body, 'of an extraordinary size'. The skull was entire, and all the teeth were in jaws.

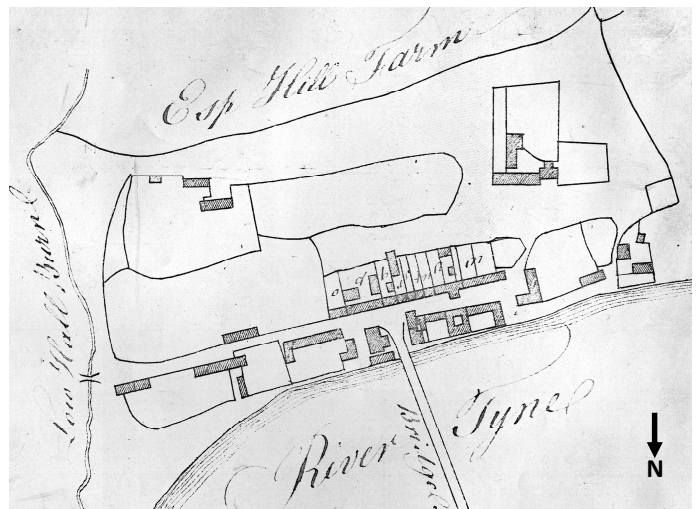
Note: *The convenient and spacious new chapel at Haydon Bridge (St. Cuthbert's Church) was built by public subscription in 1796 on land given by the Governors of Greenwich Hospital.*

The chapel was consecrated on July 20th 1796.
(See engraving in the next column.)

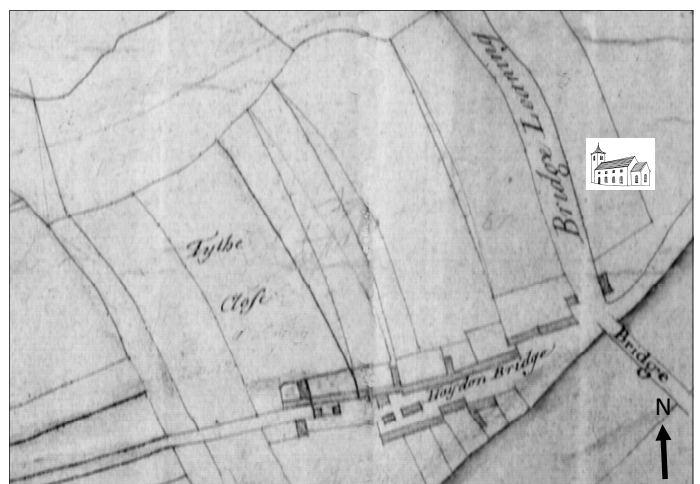


St. Cuthbert's Church as it was when it was built in 1796

1782: In 1782, Haydon Bridge was a typical linear village, the village housing congregated down the road leading to each end of the bridge.



Haydon Bridge South Side: from 1782 Grindon Common Division Papers.



Haydon Bridge North Side: from 1797 Grindon Enclosure Award — with position of 1796 chapel shown.

1782 March 10th: On this day there was a heavy fall of snow followed by heavy rain which together with melting snow raised the River Tyne higher than could be remembered, except for the great

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

flood of 1771. The rapid current threw down the Ridley Hall bridge that had been rebuilt after a previous flood, five arches of Hexham bridge, and rendered the bridge at Haydon Bridge impassable.

Following this 1782 flood, a new bridge was built at Ridley Hall, the foundation stone was laid on August 20th 1789 and work completed in 1792. This bridge still stands today and you can see the weathered inscription, 'Built by the County 1792'.

1789 July 16th: The Reverend John Rotherham, a renowned and well travelled scholar responsible for a number of essays and publications, and rector of Houghton-le- Spring, died today.

John Rotherham was born at Temple House (*Low Hall*), Haydon Bridge on June 22nd 1725, the son of a clergyman. He commenced his education under his father William, who was headmaster of Haydon Bridge Grammar School (*John Shaftoe's School*) from 1719 to April 4th 1734.

1789 July 19th: John Martin was born at Haydon Bridge on this day. As recorded in Haydon Bridge Baptisms:

'July 19 John son Bella (*Isabella*) and Fenwick Martin of East Landends.'

John lived in Haydon Bridge for the first 14 years of his life, going to the Haydon Bridge Grammar

School and growing to be one of the most famous of our Victorian artists.

HAYDON BRIDGE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

There will be those who have read my paragraphs above, relating to John Rotherham, John Martin, and especially their schooling at **Haydon Bridge Grammar School**, who may express surprise that our village was once home to a 'Grammar School'.

Let me explain, with the help of a (circa) 210 year old oil painting (*below*) of John Shaftoe's schools; a painting attributed to John Martin by its original owner W.S. Walton whose ancestor went to the school with John Martin.

On June 17th 1685, the Shaftoe Charity foundation deed, made between John Shaftoe and his seven trustees made eight provisions, the first of which was to: ' ... **purchase a convenient parcel of land in Haydon Bridge ... and thereupon erect and build a house for a free grammar school-house, and keep an English school and a dwelling house for the master**'.

So it was, without doubt, John Shaftoe's intention in 1685 to provide a lower 'English School' where the rudiments of reading, and writing were on the curriculum, and a higher 'Grammar School' with a



classical bias where he expected a master to teach the pupils Latin and Greek. In fact, the whole school became known as the **'Haydon Bridge Grammar School'**.

I suspect there would be few parents in this rural district in the 1600/1700s, no matter how lofty their ambitions for their children, who would see a knowledge of Latin and Greek as more important for them than practical skills and a knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic. The numbers of pupils who attended each of the two schools are, probably, an indication:

By 1737, the single room of the English school was 'overcrowded' with 80 pupils and an additional teacher (Usher) was appointed, and yet, in 1785 the head-master had no more than 4 or 5 Latin and Greek scholars in the Grammar School who were, eventually, to occupy his school-house in relative comfort and well clear of the lower school.

This state of affairs continued for as many years as the two schools existed side by side. Indeed, almost ninety years later, in 1869, a schools inquiry reported that the headmaster at Haydon Bridge was only required to give instruction in Latin and Greek, which he did in his own house to six Latin scholars, four of whom were not from the chapelry and for whom he was paid a fee. And yet, there were 136 boys and by now 120 girls, being taught in the lower school.

Returning to 1697, following John Shaftoe's death, the land for his school was purchased on Chapel Hill - *the site of the former Chapel of Langley which was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Katherine* - and the school was built in accordance with the 1685 foundation deed and, by having a Grammar School as its place of learning - even if, to a large extent in name only - Haydon Bridge enjoyed the implied status for many years to come.

It is clear from newspaper reports and Shaftoe Charity documents of the day, that the Shaftoe trustees of successive years fought their corner to maintain the 'Grammar School' title in the charity's name, and persisted in the use of the name 'Haydon Bridge Grammar School' until 1905, even though, after the state took an increasing role in schooling through the Education Act of 1870, by 1878 the free grammar school in Haydon Bridge was obsolete and had finally run its course.

The late L.C. Coombes suggests that the grammar

school had been less of a school than a handful of scholars, and that if John Shaftoe had founded a free grammar school only, and not an English School as well, the school would have sunk into obscurity long before its demise in 1878.

I have outlined my short version of how a grammar school - of sorts - came and went in Haydon Bridge. As for residents of the chapelry, it was the element of the scheme that was to remove free education that worked them into a lather, rather than the closure of a moribund grammar school. But that is a story for another day. *Or you could read about it in the late L.C. Coombes' history of: 'Shaftoe Trust School and The Rev. John Shaftoe's Charity'. Published in 1981 and out of print in 2020, but available in 'The Bridge' village library.*

Returning to the C19th painting on the previous page: the view is from the south east and, as mentioned earlier, Shaftoe Terrace is shown in the foreground on the right. A contract for twenty alms houses, two houses for ushers (*teachers*) and one for the school mistress, was awarded in 1803, although it took six years to complete the work and it was 1810 before applications were invited for lettings.

It is the school building and master's-house that are relevant to my earlier paragraphs however, and the building on the painting with chimneys on the gables and a lean-to on the east end, that follows approximately the line of today's school, was the first Haydon Bridge school built in 1697/98, in the name of John Shaftoe.

From the years 1697 to 1813, the school as shown comprised a single room, although in 1725 an internal gallery was added; along with a stable, byre, and brewhouse at the west end of the school building. In 1813, the school-room was divided into two with a brick partition and one of the rooms created was divided again. This division provided three separate classrooms; one each for the school head-master and the first and second ushers' scholars.

The original master's dwelling house had been built along with the 1697 school buildings, just to the south at the east end of the buildings and, in 1765, a plot called Wallace's Close had been purchased at the west end of the original Chapel Hill site and a house built there, attached to the school, for an usher, together with new stables and

a new brew house.

It was, probably, around this time, 1765, that the original head-master's house was taken down and in 1790/91, a new and, apparently, rather grand head-master's house which was said to contain fifteen rooms, was built.

It is this 1791 head-master's house that dominates the school building on the C19th painting, and once built, became the classical higher/Grammar School and the personal domain of a series of headmasters, who left the responsibility for the lower/English School and its increasing numbers of pupils, to the individual ushers to deal with.

I recognise that at least half our readers will be wondering what happened to the Haydon Bridge girls' education in C18th and mid to early C19th. Whether girls were pupils at the school in classes with the boys before 1785 is not clear, however, in 1785 a mistress for a girl's school was appointed and it is recorded that a 'proper house' was hired for the mistress and girl pupils. This location was a temporary measure until an additional building could be provided on the main school site. Where the 'proper house' for the girls was situated is unknown, and it was not until 1813 that the term, 'Girl's School', appeared in the school records.

According to L.C. Coombes, it seems likely that significant building was undertaken at the school on Chapel Hill between 1830 - by which time there were two rooms for 143 boys and one room for 118 girls, each with separate entrances - and 1869, when there were three separate rooms known as: the Latin School, Upper Boys' School and Lower Boys' School built where the former brew house, stables and usher's house had been; and an Infants' School and Girls' School in two or three rooms at the east end of the original building.

We do know the girls' curriculum in 1864 when, according to a Schools Inquiry Commission report, there were 120 girl pupils fairly taught in reading, writing, arithmetic and knitting, 'but know nothing else'! (*My exclamation mark.*)

As written earlier, John Shaftoe's Grammar School was no more, from 1878 - almost 200 years of dubious educational impact in the higher school, according to L.C. Coombes - and, in 1879, the school moved into temporary accommodation, while the old buildings were being reconstructed ready for a new era. (*And another Haydon News?*)

The Painting: (page 11)

The painting entitled 'John Martin's Birthplace' is in the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne and was originally dated by the gallery as 'pre 1806'. As mentioned earlier, the painting shows Shaftoe Terrace, as it is called today, and as it was not until 1809/10 that these almshouses were completed, it is certain, therefore, that the date of the painting will be 1810 or later. As we have no record of John Martin returning to Haydon Bridge after he left with his family for Newcastle in 1803, can we be sure that the painting at the Laing is a Martin? Nevertheless, as there are no plans existing that show the first school at Haydon Bridge until the 1869 Grindon Common Enclosure papers show, simply, the size of the school building, the C19th painting here - allowing for an element of artistic licence - is an important addition to our historic documents relating to the school and to Haydon Bridge.

Looking Back ... continued from page 10/11

1789: This was, probably, the last year in which oxen were used for ploughing in the district. Two oxen were yoked before two horses in the plough at Whitechapel. It was said that the oxen needed driving and they were slower than the horses, but very steady.

1792 August 20th: A new bridge was built and opened at Ridley Hall by the County. (*See also - March 10th 1782*)

1796 July 20th: St. Cuthbert's new chapel in Haydon Bridge was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Durham.

1803 May 7th: A register of parish apprentices for the Chapelry of Haydon was kept from this time, according to an Act of Parliament (Ref. George III)

1806 December 21st: About ten o'clock in the forenoon, one of the arches of the bridge at Haydon Bridge which had long shown signs of weakness and decay, fell with a tremendous crash while a number of people were going to church. Thomas Nixon, sunk with the ruins of the bridge to a depth of forty feet but was taken out alive. Thomas suffered a broken thigh bone and was much bruised. Three arches of the bridge were rebuilt following this collapse.

My 'Looking Back' will be continued

THE NOSTALGIA OF NATURE IN HAYDON PARISH

For many, 'Lockdown' hasn't been pleasant, and yet, the lack of local events has given me the opportunity and space to recall memories from those Haydonians of the past. This month I join the late William Tait again as he ventures beyond the Military Road and Hadrian's Wall in late August; following a sad summer, weatherwise.

I sat on Sewingshields Crag the other evening, gazing out towards the hills that roll away to the Scottish Border. The crag with its tumbled rocks, has for centuries been the haunt of the fox, and the lordly kestrel has nested in a cleft beneath the tooth of the crag.

At one time, its vastness was part of the glory that was once Rome's, but now, silent and beautiful, a wild place where Swaledale and Blackface sheep leap away amongst the bracken as the solitary walker follows the way of the Roman Wall.

It might well have been late October rather than mid-August as I sat taking in the view before me. The heavy incessant rain of the past weeks had flattened the coarse herbage and a pair of mute swans lifted from the distant Hallypikie Lough as if disturbed, and, in heavy laboured-flight, drifted low above the crag on creaking pinions to splash down on the cold grey waters of Broomlee Lough beyond Dove Crag.

Jenkins Burn thundered in its spate between its tree-less heather-clad banks as I followed its wild course from Broomlee to Greenlee Lough.

Normally at this time of year, the curlews still call their wild clarion notes far across the endless bogs, with meadow pipits springing from the flowering heath. Now, this sad summer weather has driven the curlew back to the coast and the pipits into flocks among the bracken patches a good month ahead of their time.

As I rounded the heather-clad hill, a brood of grouse sprang to wing, vanishing in swift flight towards Queen's Crag. I stood watching them go, only to hear their call as they landed in the haze on

distant heather. The piping dunlin has gone from the endless bogs, and only a lone golden plover wailed its mournful cry from the slopes of King's Crag, otherwise I was in a world as silent and barren as the still crags in mid-winter.

A biting wind whistled through the bents as I squelched my way back to Sewingshields Crag.

I know these wild uplands when snow makes them impassable. I know them when they are turned to beauty by spring sunshine and the singing larks. But never have I known them more grim and foreboding than the other evening, when I was expecting them to be warm and gentle.

William Tait

I hope you enjoy sharing Bill's walks in our rural countryside, as much as I do in rewriting his memories for you. I am grateful to Bill's late wife Jean for allowing The Haydon News access to his nature diaries, many of which were first published in the Hexham Courant.

LEGEND HAS IT ...

For those who follow in Bill Tait's footsteps and stretch their legs beyond the Roman Wall, you can visit the scene of an Arthurian legend.

Beyond Hadrian's Wall and Sewingshields Crag are two rocky outcrops that would be of little significance but for their topographical names and the legend of world renown with which they are associated. **Queen's Crag, and a little further north King's Crag,** are just over a mile north west of Sewingshields, and will be forever linked with the romantic story of the fifth century military leader King Arthur and his Queen Guinevere, the prophet Merlin, and the Knights of the Camelot round table.

It is here that King Arthur, seated on the furthest rock to the north, was talking to his Queen who was preoccupied combing her black hair. The lack of interest shown in the conversation by the Queen apparently offended Arthur, and seizing a rock that lay near him he threw it in the direction of the Queen. Guinevere, with great presence of mind, caught the rock upon her comb to ward off the blow. The rock in question lies there to this day with the marks of the comb upon it.

For more see:

www.haydon-news.co.uk/backnumbers/oct 2011

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‘TWTB — A Series of Reminiscences’

Part 2 ... (Part 1 in September 2020 Haydon News)

“It would seem that you have no useful skill or talent whatsoever,” he said. “Have you thought of going into teaching?”

Terry Pratchett

I was allocated a school flat (‘for the better performance of my duties’, according to my contract of employment), situated above the cavernous garage of a cathedral dignitary, in the late summer of 1985. I spent the August Bank Holiday weekend sanding and staining floorboards, then moved the few sticks of furniture I had managed to acquire, including the lumpy sofa my parents bought when they married in 1957, during the course of the following week. Bookshelves were made with bricks and scaffolding boards, blankets were draped over ancient metal curtain rails and a portable black and white TV with a dodgy set-top aerial provided four channels of entertainment.

Term didn’t begin until mid-September so my first day of full-time paid employment (Monday 2nd September) was spent at the Oval, watching England complete a 3-1 series win against Australia; I can recall thinking, as I took my seat alongside some university friends, that being paid to watch a test match really was quite a wonderful way to begin my teaching career – things could only go downhill from there.....and they did. Reality soon began to kick in, however, and an unexpected knock at the door saw me face to face with a burly and brusque Welshman who introduced himself as the Head of Sixth Form; he asked me what I was going to offer as part of the lower sixth General Studies programme, which came as some surprise given that this particular aspect of my teaching allocation had never been mentioned! I mumbled something about giving it some thought which was, from his abrupt and tacit withdrawal, clearly the wrong response and I felt strongly that, through absolutely no fault of my own, I had set off on the wrong foot. I happened upon the same gentleman in a local hostelry the following evening and it was as if I were talking to someone completely different; he insisted that there was no rush and that I should take more time to consider the topic I would like to present. An amazing thing is beer.

In next to no time, the day before the boys returned to the classroom had arrived and several meetings were scheduled. Before the main meeting, however, the Headmaster had asked the three ‘new boys’ to report to his study for a ‘brief word’. The other two had been appointed to Head of Department posts after several years’ experience in state schools and both were to have a significant influence on my life in various ways. After the necessary introductions, the Headmaster went on to make his point which was a bizarre one even in those distant times.....he basically said that, if an occasion ever arose where one of us lost our temper and physically assaulted one of the boys, we were to let him know immediately and that he would always try to support us in the event of a parental complaint. How times have changed!

My thoughts immediately raced ahead, summoning imaginary scenarios where I would be forced to employ self-defence techniques against a squadron of aggressive teenagers. For the record, I never had to utilise his advice. It transpired that there had been an unsavoury incident the previous term which involved a teacher striking a pupil; the Headmaster had asked the teacher for a written promise that such an incident would never happen again, an act which he was unwilling to perform. Surprisingly, he remained in post.

Another faux pas occurred during break on the very first day of term. Having successfully negotiated three forty minute lessons – and by successfully, I mean that any major incidents, including the aforementioned physical contact, had been avoided – I gleefully made my way back to the staffroom for a well-earned cup of coffee and maybe even a chocolate biscuit or two. Feeling a little like the guest at a party who knows no-one else, I made for the nearest chair, carefully placed my cup of coffee on a coaster and attempted to eat my biscuit allocation without covering my shirt with crumbs.

“Excuse me, but these seats are reserved for those attempting the Daily Telegraph crossword,” rang a shrill voice in my ear, shortly followed by a number of disapproving looks from several gentlemen similarly dressed in tweed jackets, grey slacks and brown brogues, hiding behind the ample frame of the lady who had made the interjection.

“My apologies, I had no idea.....” I spluttered,

Continued on page 17

making a grab for my cup of coffee which parted company from its saucer and sprayed its contents across both the newly cleaned carpet and the aforementioned lady's skirt. Time appeared to stand still as I muttered further apologies and

sloped off to find some cleaning materials, much to the amusement of many of my new colleagues. I had arrived.

To be continued

Correspondence

Dear editor,

Could anyone tell me why people go to the trouble of taking their glass bottles up to the bottle bank and then leave the boxes and plastic carrier bags to blow all over the countryside?

It mystifies me.

Peter Mead.

HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB



**Meetings usually take place at
Haydon Bridge Methodist chapel
On Thursdays at 7.15 pm**

**THE CLUB COMMITTEE HAS YET TO MEET
BUT WHEN THE MEETING TAKES PLACE
THE CHAIRMAN WILL BE PROPOSING
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AND MAY CONTINUE INTO LATE SPRING.**

LOCATION MAY CHANGE

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

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

**The cash that was held over from the
cancelled quiz on March 17th
has now been donated to Breast Cancer
Now (£50)**

**In the meantime you might like to get
into training.**

**I am offering a new quiz every month
which will be dedicated
to different charities.**

**You can receive a copy of the October quiz
from me at:**

johnandaveril@aol.com

**Answers will be available on request from
the same address at the end of the month.**

**If you wish to make a team donation
(suggest £5) to charity then
"MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT"
is my nomination this month**

John Harrison (aka Queenie)

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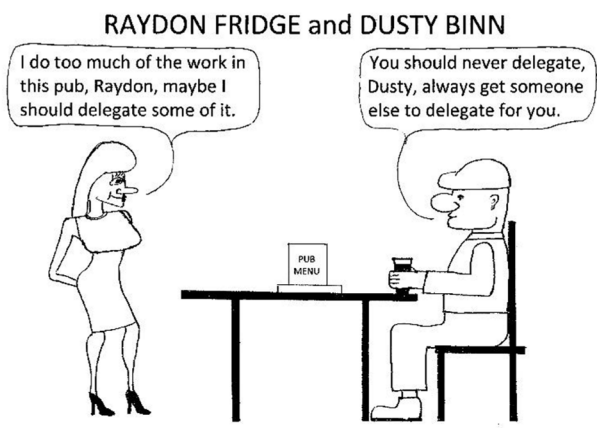
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All fired up

Having seen the sign for Errington Reay from the A69 for a while, it wasn't until I actually saw the updates from the pottery's Facebook page that I became quite fascinated by the place.

The processes that this cottage craft industry use to create their beautiful pots is a lesson in living history. From hand throwing the clay into pots, to the bricking up of the old 'beehive' kiln to start the firing process, it's a unique place that's well worth a visit. Established in 1878, the Errington Reay pottery is situated in Bardon Mill, in the once water powered woollen mill.

The original founders, Robert Errington and William Reay, established the pottery in 1878 and since Victorian times it has remained a traditional family-run pottery.

Holly Henderson is one of the team, along with Carl, Roly and others who have worked in the pottery for over 30 years.

"We're the last commercial pottery in Britain still producing salt glaze pottery and have continued all the original processes involved in making our range of pots. We still only practise traditional ways of hand throwing which together with specialised salt glazing give Errington Reay pottery its truly unique textured finish.

Our pottery is formed by our kilns reaching extraordinarily high temperatures in order to give our pots their stunning salt glaze finish. When firing, the kilns reach an incredible temperature of 1250 degrees centigrade, which is when the salt is thrown into the kiln, vaporizes and sticks to the clay to give the glazed, orange peel texture."

The products are available online and are regularly delivered across the UK, with many pots finding their way to far flung foreign homes. Landscape designers, stately homes, hotels and corporate buildings commission the many large-scale pots to adorn their grounds, while there are pots of every size to fit all kinds of outdoor and indoor space.

Visitors are welcome at the pottery where they can view the large selection of garden pots, with a visitor's centre and a 'seconds' section selling near perfect pots at very reasonable prices.

With the approach of Halloween, Errington Reay has been creating handmade pumpkin pots with a very unique design.

If you haven't been before, Errington Reay's traditional pottery is a great place to visit that's only a short drive from Haydon Bridge, and the original owners and early employees have close connections with our parish.



Errington
Reay
Pottery

Bardon Mill

The Music Maker

A talented musician from Haydon Bridge has returned to the airwaves, bringing his musical choices and passion for music to Radio Tyneside.

James Bell became a presenter earlier this year and as lockdown has eased, has returned with his popular Sunday evening musical theatre show.

'I was loving doing the weekly show, which is broadcast on FM in Newcastle and online. It's also the music played in local hospitals including the RVI, Freeman and Queen Elizabeth



Continued on page 19

in Gateshead. We get listeners from all over the world thanks to our online streaming, so it's great to get messages from people who are thousands of miles away.'

Lockdown meant much of the station was shut down, with a handful of presenters continuing to broadcast from home. 'We weren't allowed into the studio, but as lockdown has eased, it's been great to get back in and continue where we left off.'

Jame's show, 'Curtain Up' is broadcast on Sunday evenings at 7pm and plays a range of musical theatre, show tunes and film soundtracks. 'It's great fun, I play a variety, old and new so keeping a broad mix, including orchestral soundtracks and a lot from my own collection, including some classics that I've discovered in charity shops. I have creative control on planning the shows and feel very lucky to have that freedom to do it how I want to do it.'

I've had really positive feedback from other presenters who have been in the business for a long time, which has meant a lot as I start out in this part of the industry.'

Having graduated from Hull University in Creative Music Technology, James works as a freelance musician, most recently as composer on forthcoming independent French feature film, Snowglobes, that was filmed in Hull.

'I loved the variation in the modules at university, which gave me insight into studio production and audio engineering, composition, musicology and performance. I developed a lot of different skills, which has allowed me to do all kinds of projects in music. It was great to be involved in the Snowglobes project. It is a very atmospheric film and the music plays a big part of it.'

James can also be found on his Youtube channel, James Bell Northumberland, where he does album reviews and other music-related content, with his own concept albums available on Bandcamp.



Climate Action Corner

Siobhan Stephenson

I would like to create a regular space to discuss and highlight the positive steps we can take to support each other in the face of the Climate and Ecological Emergency that we are in.

This emergency will get significantly worse. I won't dwell on the huge amount of science that shows how terrifyingly fast our planet is heating up, or how the massive network of life – our ecosystem – is breaking down. This is all already available online. The Government, and Northumberland County Council have accepted we are in a climate emergency. Personally, I really struggle to read the facts and implications of them without feeling overwhelmed by fear and panic.

I guess most of us are just carrying on as normal in our everyday lives. This is totally understandable. I hope we are able to do this for a long time to come. However, I am worried that we won't be able to, and I am frightened of how I / we will cope when things get worse.

Did anyone else feel frightened when food disappeared off the shelves in the shops during the COVID 19 lockdown?

What will happen as crops start to fail around the world due to temperatures rising, more extreme weather, flooding or fires? It doesn't take much for our food supply chains to breakdown. This year the National Farmers Union has predicted that the UK wheat harvest will be a third down, due to extreme weather conditions.

So what I would be keen for us to publicise are the amazing things that people are already doing, as well as any thoughts and ideas about how our village will cope and adapt to our rapidly heating planet. (Some of which will be really good things – like a greater range of crops due to warmer temperatures). Has anyone noticed any changes already? fewer insects? Different birds?

My initial thoughts are from what we learned from COVID 19 lockdown: how important our local businesses were – we have some fantastic local resources that we need to use to ensure they carry on. Maybe articles could focus on a business in depth. We also did a great job of supporting vulnerable people in the village who couldn't get

out. We have a flood support system. Lots of people have an allotment or grow food in their gardens

Please get in touch with your ideas or thoughts, or tell us what you are doing, would like to do or about your business (or a new business idea?) at siobhansib@protonmail.com



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A VIEW FROM UP THERE

John Harrison

On a summer's day, as a break from sermon writing, the vicar loved to stroll around his parish, which gave him the opportunity to chat to some of his parishioners. He particularly liked to take in a visit to Joe Mucklethwaite's well-tended garden. One day Joe was sitting in his garden as the vicar walked by.

"Isn't it wonderful to see what beauty man and God can achieve when they work together" he said, to which Joe replied "I dare say you might have something there, but you should have seen the garden when God was looking after it on his own." However, at the end of the day, any gardener will tell you that it's the weather that decides how the plants fare.

August was a month of contrasts. The first half was relatively warm and dry with daytime temperatures usually exceeding 20.0 degC, while the last week was cold and the weather forecasters were talking in terms of the 'first taste of autumn'. These guys really know how to cheer us up !! Apart from a drier spell mid-month, under the influence of an easterly airflow, rainfall was a frequent visitor, often in the form of blustery showers. The South Tyne was in spate on a couple of occasions towards the end of the month. Storms 'Ellen' (19-21) and 'Francis' (24-25) brought spells of severe weather.

The first five days a westerly breeze brought warmth with sunshine but many days started cloudy and very dull. Rainfall was usually light and was largely absent after the 5th as pressure began to rise. Rainfall amounts remained slight and the daytime temperature continued to rise until the 12th when it reached 25.8 degC, followed almost inevitably by local thundery outbreaks which were restricted largely to Allendale, never reaching Haydon Bridge. Although the air was considerably cooler, the weather remained dull while the breeze was in the east.

Complex areas of low pressure and associated fronts assumed control from the 19th with the arrival of Storm Ellen followed in quick succession by Storm Francis. Apart from the associated strong winds 77 mm of rain fell over ten days. As the ground was relatively moist, catchment run-off was rapid and the South Tyne was running high.

A strong arctic airstream developed from the 29th bringing very low night temperatures (3.2 degC on 31st). Isolated pockets of ground frost were reported.

For statistical purposes, the UK Met Office define summer as constituting the months June, July and August (which means of course that September is in autumn). Taken over the last three months, the average daytime highest temperature was 18.3 degC (0.7 degC below normal), the average night-time lowest temperature was 10.6 degC (0.8 degC above normal) and the total rainfall was 237 mm (40% higher than normal). A summer index based on daytime temperatures suggests that over the past ten years 2020 was of about average quality.

Monthly Weather Summary (Haydon Bridge : Height 162m asl)

Month	Average Maximum Temperature (Daytime) deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Average Minimum Temperature (Night-time) deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Rainfall mm	Percentage of long-term average
August	18.8	-0.6	11.5	+1.4	97.7	162

And finally, Gladys found out only recently that her friend Ken has a glass eye. When asked how she found out she tells me that it just came out in conversation.

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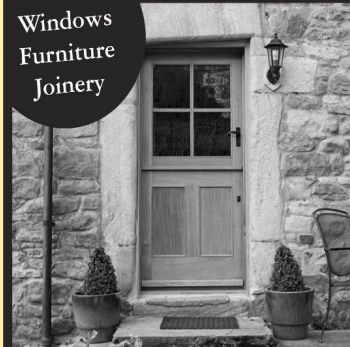
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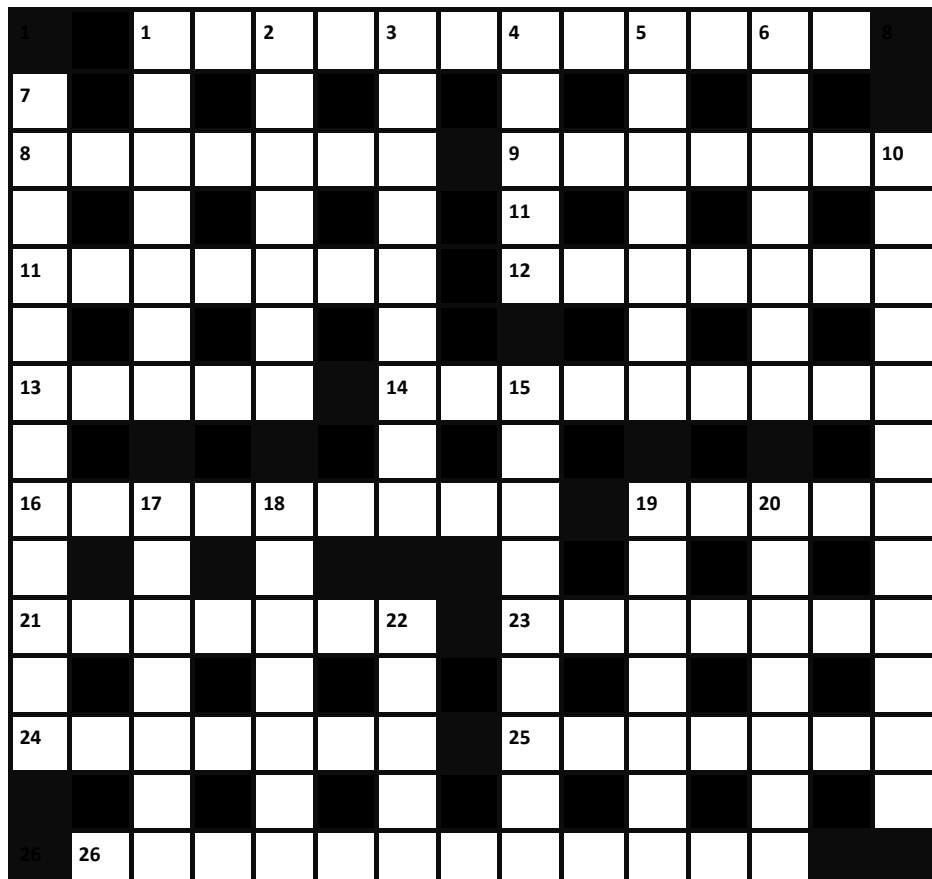
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September 2020 Answers

ACROSS

1. PARASITE
5. FLECKS
9. CONJUROR
10. ENTAIL
12. LABORATORIES
15. OKAPI
16. GEORGETTE
18. FRIGHTFUL
19. LIEGE
20. GLOBETROTTER
24. RANCID
25. CELERIAC
26. SHANTY
27. ASSERTED

DOWN

1. PUCK
2. RANI
3. SQUEAMISH
4. THOROUGHFARE
6. LENTO
7. CHARIOTEER
8. SELF-SEEDER
11. MAN OF LETTERS
13. CONFIGURES
14. CALIFORNIA
17. GOLDENEYE
21. ELIOT
22. WILT
23. SCUD

ACROSS

1. Not brave enough to trounce little bird (12)
8. From Latin, turn alternative crazy (7)
9. Magician to trick person in court (8)
11. Typical example of cat in European pastry (7)
12. One in shawl twice confused native (7)
13. Heroine that is lost bird (5)
14. Dance on families in these pubs (9)
16. Terrible female according to justice (9)
19. Small role arrived, round (5)
21. Standing of sheep by the fountain (7)
23. Encourage Jovian moon – but then say goodbye (7)
24. Notice lake, you say, but it's more sordid (7)
25. Have this sort of cough when riding horse? (7)
26. Tot lithe Beth imbibed when she did this ... (3,3,6)

DOWN

1. ... alternatively, your mum's in Europe so it's tastier (7)
2. Abe's continental car (7)
3. Band from box held by different soldiers (9)
4. Entertains armies (5)
5. Place of pilgrimage, not a toy (7)
6. Evokes from relic, it seems (7)
7. Ecowarriors from Richmond (5,9)
10. Artist profits from town near 2dn (12)
15. Nosy puppet (9)
17. Peake, perhaps, on cooking vessel one drums (7)
18. Saltire flapping about practical thinker (7)
19. Eight, maybe, hacked at short hair (4,3)
20. More round Scots own glacial debris (7)
22. Time for Gaelic but is short (5)

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