



THE HAYDON NEWS

**Two 1797 Grindon Common Enclosure Roads
Above: Lime Road - Below: Haresby Road
(See page 14)**

You can still walk these eighteenth century roads in the parish today



September 2020

GINA RICHARDSON

It is sad to report the death of Gina Richardson. Gina was the editor of the Haydon News for four years from February 1991 to December 1994; before moving to Fairford, Gloucester, to be closer to her brother. Gina stayed in Fairford for 20 years before moving into a care home in Chester, where she died on July 29th in her ninety fourth year.

Gina Richardson moved to Haydon Bridge in the 1970s, living up the North Bank before moving into her new home in 1984, built on Shaftoe Street. She had a most successful career as a chartered engineer and moved from her hometown of Wolverhampton to the north east in the 1960s where she worked at Parsons & Co., and, on her retirement, was an advisor to HM Government.

Gina Richardson was a committed and successful editor of your Haydon News and we will remember her in this issue, with part of her first editorial in February 1991, it is still very appropriate twenty

nine years later.

'... It cannot be said too often that a great deal of effort on the part of many people goes into the production and distribution of the Haydon News. Even so, such effort would be in vain without a constant supply of articles, announcements, news items and reports to be published: to say nothing of the ongoing support of the advertisers.

Contributions may be small or large; they can be regular, occasional or once in a lifetime; they will be equally welcome. In particular, it would be nice to hear from parishioners of all age groups. Please ...'

Gina Richardson

14-9-1926 to 29-7-2020

Gina has kept in touch with Haydon Bridge during the twenty five years since she left the parish, thanks to a regular contact with Margaret Clarke and her son Jonathan.

THE HAYDON NEWS DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Donations of any value are always gratefully received, and will help us to keep this publication going. For people living outside the Haydon News delivery areas, we can arrange delivery by post of the Haydon News for the year at a subscription cost of £20.

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Cheques should be made payable to 'The Haydon News' and can be handed in to 'Claire's' on Church Street, addressed to the 'Treasurer of The Haydon News'. Or, posted to **Mark Weldon**, The Haydon News Treasurer, Heugh House West, Heugh House Lane, Haydon Bridge. NE47 6HJ.

THANK YOU

I escaped from 'lockdown' to produce your August and September Haydon News. I hope you have enjoyed the 2 issues and I am grateful to our contributors, Richard Woodley and his team of volunteer distributors, and The Haydon News editorial committee, for their support.

We welcome our editor Alex Kinsey back for October, please send Alex your contributions: to editor@haydon-news.co.uk

Dennis Telford

The October/November/December editions of the Haydon News will be printed and distributed early in each month.

Please submit any articles for inclusion by the 12th of the previous month.

Thank you

ALL CORRESPONDENCE, CONTRIBUTIONS, ADVERTS AND CROSSWORD ANSWERS TO: editor@haydon-news.co.uk or by hand to: Claire's Newsagents 11, Church Street.

The Haydon News Committee

Alex Kinsey (Editor), Pauline Wallis (Chair), Pat Hirst (Secretary), Mark Weldon (Treasurer), Richard Woodley (Distribution co-ordinator), 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 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

Your Haydon Parish councillors have conducted their business on Zoom during the lockdown.

Minutes of the Haydon Parish Council held on Zoom at 7.30pm on June 25th, 2020.

Present : Cllrs. J. Bates, E. Charlton, E. Faulks, B. Howard, J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, J. Thompson and D. Thornhill; C. McGivern (mins.).

Apologies for absence – were received from Cllrs I. Burrows and K Richardson.

Declaration of interest in items on the agenda – none were received.

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting – having been circulated the minutes were approved and signed.

Northumberland County Council –

Castle Farm, Langley. Resurfacing works to be carried out this summer with dates to be confirmed.

Shaftoe School access. Resurfacing to be carried out with dates to be confirmed.

B6319. East and West accesses into the village off the A69. Resurfacing of both these areas is planned with dates to confirm.

Lowgate to A69. Structural patching is planned on this road with dates to be confirmed.

At Elrington junction drainage investigation works will take place next week with CCTV works to establish any issues, prior to any required work.

The finger post and bins are programmed to be installed early next week.

Some re-surfacing work has been carried out at Langley over the past few weeks and further works are going to be carried out on the A686 road.

A new sign has been ordered for Tynedale Cottages and hopefully this will be provided soon.

Cllr Sharp had not yet heard from Neil Snowdon regarding the Ratcliffe Road improvement scheme and said he would provide a further update on this very shortly.

He was also pushing for the signage and road markings to be installed in the Showfield as soon as possible regarding the 20mph speed restriction.

On the 4th June 2020 Cllr Sharp reported to all members that the problems with the drains at Martin's Close have hopefully now been resolved, but there is still some work required in the Langley

Burn which will require Environment Agency approval.

Following a report from Avril regarding the footpath opposite the A686 junction just above Esp Hill, Tim Fish the Footpaths Officer has met with the landowner and agreed to install kissing-gates and hopefully this will stop motorbikes using this footpath.

Cllr Sharp had also told Tim Fish once again that we need the footpath at Haydon Spa sorted once and for all.

As mentioned in last month's report Cllr Sharp had been chasing up the planning department regarding the planning application at Haydon Bridge High School. He has now been informed that the fencing around the school was included in the planning application which was approved about ten months ago. This was included as part of the landscaping works. The planning application will not be approved until a meeting can take place following the lockdown.

With regards to the problem with the rats on the estate, Cllr Sharp had arranged for the gardens to be inspected by the pest control department at NCC and the problem would appear mainly to be due to one or two householders who are feeding the birds. There is also a lot of soil blocking the drains and open holes in the stone work of one of the properties. Strictly speaking the feeders should cease to be used for at least fourteen days according to the Pest Control Officer and Cllr Sharp said that he intended to raise this issue with Karbon Homes as he believes they could have investigated this issue before now. Unfortunately, this is a chargeable service from Northumberland County Council and they charge £55.00 per property and £27.50 if the occupier of the property is in receipt of benefit. The author of the recent letter has had a visit from the Pest Control Officer and Cllr Sharp will also follow it up.

There had been reports of some anti-social behaviour from a residential property.

Village halls have recently received a grant from the County Council toward the loss of income during the Covid lockdown, and some other organisations have also benefitted from this funding.

Highways –

A dangerous tree branch at the riverside picnic area was reported by Brian Juffs and this information was passed to Savills who sent out a

tree surgeon to remove it on the 11th June.

A request for a street sign for Tynedale Cottages was received from Marcus Byron and passed to NCC.

Cllr Kirsopp had received a report of a damaged street sign at Hordley Acres. The Clerk has passed this to NCC.

Fly-tipping on a lane near Willow Gap was reported to NCC, along with a request to keep the track open for pedestrians, but closed to vehicles.

Trees branches which were blocking the path near Shaftoe Academy were reported to Wise Academies by Cllr Richardson and action will be taken.

Cllr Kirsopp said that a sign at the West end of the village had been covered over. It was thought that this might be a 30mph sign that had been superseded by the 20mph signs.

Lighting –

Cllr Charlton said that there was still an orange light on at Crook Hill, this is the one which does not yet have a number.

Planning –

20/01554/FUL - Change of use from redundant kennels to a single dwelling. Land North East of Threepwood Hall – no objections.

20/01554/LBC – Listed building consent to convert redundant kennels to 3 bedroom dwelling for holiday accommodation – no objections.

20/01712/FUL - Proposed greenhouse to the side of the dwelling house, replace an existing fence dividing the back garden from the drive with a stonefaced wall and wooden gate, Maresfield – The Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to this application, but from an environmental point of view they do in principle object to grassed areas being replaced by stone paving. This has a negative effect on carbon capture and creates flood issues, and as the County Council is aware flooding is a major issue further down North Bank. Can we suggest that the stone paved area remains as grass.

Accounts – as in budget.

Annual Return

The Internal Audit was received.

The Statement of Assurance was approved and signed.

The Statement of Accounts was approved and signed.

Correspondence –

An email from Helen Brooks regarding cycling on the pavements on Ratcliffe Road. Parish Cllrs who lived nearby had not noted a particular problem with this. However, they sympathised with this lady's concerns and hoped that when the Ratcliffe Road scheme went ahead it would lead to traffic calming.

An email had been received from NCC saying that they planned to re-open the public toilets in HB. The PC supported this but asked for details of the cleaning regime. These had been received.

Cllr Richardson had reported that the bottle bins are full again and this had been passed on to NCC.

A letter had been received from Derek Wilson regarding a caravan on his neighbour's land. The PC had replied to say that this was not a matter they could get involved in.

An email had been received from Carole McGivern in praise of the many verges which are currently full of wildflowers and grasses, she requested that they are not cut until it is essential, perhaps after they have flowered. The PC supported this suggestion and Cllr Sharp promised to take it back to NCC.

Parish Projects –

Development Trust – Cllr Charlton said that she had been contacted by someone from NCC who explained that the public libraries were to re-open and asking about Haydon Bridge library.

Cllr Charlton had explained that many of the volunteers are over 70 and are reluctant to put themselves in a vulnerable position. Since then, the volunteers had discussed only opening for 2 sessions per week, with a one-way system and only 1 person in the library at a time. She explained that most people can get hold of a book if they want to, the big problem is those who do not have a computer at home and use the computer at the library to carry out job searches etc. Cllr Faulks said that the library had got a grant of £10,000 from NCC which would help to tide them over until more normal times returned. The Clerk said that the Lit and Phil Library was re-opening soon and she would report back to Cllr Charlton on how procedures worked when they did.

Hanging baskets – Cllr Kirsopp said that hanging baskets could be delivered to Cllr Thompson the following day. Cllr Thompson said that she and her

husband were happy to distribute them, and she commented on how beautiful the baskets had been last year.

Flooding – Cllr Snowdon asked if anyone else would be willing to take over the role of lead on flooding issues as he was so frustrated by the intransigence of the EA and other parties. The PC had met with the EA, NCC and NW in February and things seemed to be moving in the right direction. However, since then Cllr Snowdon had received emails from contacts at the EA asking him to remove them from his contacts list. An approach to the Dept. of the Environment was discussed, with a first step of contacting Guy Opperman MP to get his support. Cllr Bates said that at the last meeting with them the EA had made it clear that they would not support further removal of gravel. Although the gravel was a very visual thing in the river, drains and infrastructure are probably more of an issue. The Clerk said that she had been in contact with NW and they had said they would be able to update the PC on possible options for addressing problems in these areas in September. It was agreed that she should invite someone from NW to meet with the PC in September. Cllr Snowdon agreed that NW had been helpful and had been very proactive during the flood. It was agreed that the PC would wait until September, to see what could be done. Cllr Charlton reminded everyone that the new houses at Greenwich Gardens could not be let until after the flood report was received, but despite this the houses are available to let on the website. Cllr Sharp promised to ask about the flood report.

Any other business –

The Chair said that he hoped that the PC could meet at the Community Centre in July, but Cllr Charlton informed him that the Community Centre would not be reopening until September. The Community Association had decided that it would be too difficult and too costly to open before then.

Minutes of a ZOOM meeting of Haydon Parish Council at 7.30pm on July 23rd, 2020.

Present: Cllrs. J. Bates, E. Charlton, E. Faulks, Howard, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, J. Thompson and D. Thornhill; C. McGivern (mins.).

Apologies – were received from Cllrs I. Burrows, J. Keyte and A. Kirsopp.

Minutes of previous meeting – having been circulated, were agreed and signed.

Report from Northumberland County Council –

The resurfacing of the approach road to Shaftoe School is scheduled to be completed on Saturday 1st of August, with the members scheme road markings etc to follow on after that. The additional work, which Cllr Sharp agreed to do from his Members Allowance Scheme, will follow on too. He had also spoken to Wise Academy and they are happy with the proposed plans for the work, but they have raised a concern about the curbs and NCC are investigating this further.

The new street sign for Tynedale Cottages was due to be installed in the next week.

The new sign at the Showfield had not yet been received but when it is, the work will be done straight away. A new sign for Hordley Acres has been ordered and when received it will be programmed in. It will be attached to 2 new posts. CCTV work had carried out on drainage at Elrington junction and as a result of this the matter was passed to the flood team who will contact the landowner to have the ditches on their land reinstated. Hopefully this will alleviate issues at the junction and there will receive a further update on this in due course.

Cllr Sharp had been dealing with a request for a loading bay on Church Street. He had hoped that this could be provided at an early date and is now awaiting confirmation of the date when this will be done.

A new bin for Innerhaugh had not yet been received by NCC. This will be programmed in as soon as it is received.

The finger post and a new bin outside the Co-op have now been installed.

Plans for new signage at New Alston were shared with Parish Cllrs last week and hopefully this work will be done shortly.

Resurfacing works are due to be carried out at Castle Farm this summer with dates to be confirmed. East and West accesses into the village off the A69 (B6319) are due to be resurfaced, with dates to be confirmed. Cllr Sharp had now spoken to Neil Snowdon about further signage and road marking to be installed in the Showfield as soon as possible, regarding the 20mph speed restriction, and he was putting this work in hand to be done.

Cllr Sharp had circulated an update on the works

on Ratcliffe Road and Church Street. This said that skid resistance checks on the existing surface heading towards the proposed roundabout from the east had been carried out. Street lighting level checks at the proposed roundabout, and new lighting would be introduced if required.

He had been advised that the above checks will be completed by the end of July, with the scheme being issued by the design team (to the area office who will programme the works) shortly afterwards. The speed activated sign which is situated on the west of the village to be changed from 30mph. This sign is currently covered over with a bag. The fly-tipping had still not been removed above Willow Gap and Cllr Sharp is chasing this up.

Highways –

Cllr Richardson said that she had received a lot of complaints about weeds in the kerbsides, which made the village look untidy. Cllr Sharp said that he was happy to get the road sweeper out to attend to this. One lady has slipped on the pavement outside the farm supply shop. Cllr Charlton said that another lady had had a bad fall where tufted weeds were growing in one of the dropped kerbs. This is causing people to trip.

Cllr Richardson had also received complaints about speeding cars and delivery vans around Hordley Acres/Strother Close. She wondered whether speed humps could be installed.

Cllr Richardson suggested that once things return to normal there could be a walk around the village by Cllrs to look at what could be improved. This will be considered later when Cllrs are able to meet.

A visitor to the village had asked why there were no bins for recycling on the pavements. Cllr Richardson asked whether one side of the large bins could be stickered and used for this. It was felt that this would be a good idea if people stuck to the rules. It was not clear whether NCC would collect recycling from the street. Cllr Charlton said that the Handyman had queried why the old damaged bin from outside the Co-op had been placed by the war memorial. The Clerk explained that the people had complained about the bins at the war memorial not having lids. The PC had decided to have the old bin from the Co-op moved to this location. Cllr Thornhill said that it was unfortunate that the PC had requested this and then gone on to say that they did not want it. He suggested that a full audit of all the bins around

the parish be carried out and documented. Cllr Sharp said that at Haltwhistle a sub-committee surveyed the bins and told the PC when one needed to be replaced.

Lighting –

Cllr Charlton said that the orange light was still in place at Crook Hill, and another below Belmont Gardens. Cllr Sharp will chase this up.

Correspondence –

A letter had been received from Jackie Willis and other residents of the Showfield regarding traffic problems. Cllr Sharp said that he planned to contact Mrs Willis and he hoped to have a socially distanced meeting with residents. Cllr Thornhill said that in the last 2 weeks there had been a number of posts on Haydon Bridge Matters Facebook page from motorists who have got their speed below 20mph but have had children and bikes lurch out into the road in front of them. They are concerned that children are not being educated in road safety. Cllr Sharp said he was happy to have speed humps installed near the play area if necessary.

Parish Projects –

Development Trust – Cllr Charlton explained that the library has not been open, but volunteers are now busy preparing for the library to re-open, perhaps for just a few hours per week. One option being considered is for people who need to use the computers to have an appointment out of hours. This is a service that is needed. Those who are able to volunteer at present are making a list of the things that can be done. Cllr Charlton went on to say that it would be useful to have a heavy box to hold tourist leaflets, to be put outside the building. Cllrs Richardson and Thornhill had both said that they were interested in the vacancy on the Shaftoe Trust. Cllr Faulks had passed this on, and they will be informed of the outcome of the process in due course.

Hanging baskets – Cllr Thompson said that the hanging baskets were now in place and they looked beautiful. She will collect the money for them at a later date.

Flooding – Cllr Snowdon said that he had not changed his mind regarding dealing with the EA over flooding matters.

High School, Belmont Gardens access – Cllr Charlton had attended the meeting with residents

of Belmont Gardens and Mr Glover from the High School which was arranged by Cllr Keyte. She said that there might be a way of putting a footpath outside the fence, from the railway up past the school. She asked if this could be raised with the footpaths officer at NCC. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact NCC after consulting Cllr Charlton about the suggested route.

Any other business –

Cllr Charlton said that the wagons coming to Greenwich Gardens at the moment were reversing in the road where children were playing, and in front of the pensioners’ bungalows. The Clerk will request that they use the newly created layby at Langley Gardens.

Cllr Faulks said that he hoped that the Parish Council would be able to meet at the Community Centre in September, and he thanked Cllr Bates for arranging the zoom meetings that have been held.

Note! These minutes from June and July 2020 have been edited for The Haydon News.

The substance of the minutes has not been altered



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CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

Clergy Message: from Deacon Anne Taylor

I think one of the hardest things for me during the lockdown period has been the separation from people - not only my family and friends but people from the Churches I oversee and also those within the village communities. Seeing and interacting with people even for a short while is very important for our mental and spiritual health, not being able to go to Church and have the support and encouragement of our Christian friends, in something that impacts our everyday life has also been hard. For myself and others this has meant a greater focus on our individual relationship with God - the source of our strength and being.

Being socially isolated has affected people in different ways having to face things on their own rather than with the help and support of other people. Some people have been able to put technology to good use, using zoom, facetime and facebook to keep in touch with people but not everyone is able to access these things - thankfully we still have the telephone and postal services.

The Bible tells us that Jesus became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John Chp 1: v 14) so that we might get to know God in person. After spending time on earth in the flesh Jesus returned to the Father but before he went, he told his followers that he would ask the Father to send us another helper, the Holy Spirit, (John Chp 14: v16) the presence of God, that we may never have to face things alone, this has been a great help to me and others during this time of separation from our family, friends and support networks.

Paul's letter to the Romans Chp 8: v 38-39 says: 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation (including coronavirus!), will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Although physically unseen we can know the love and presence of God just as we know the love of our family, friends and loved ones even if we can't physically see them.

Now however seeing it is starting to be possible to actually physically meet up with our friends and

family and folks in our community even if it is behind a face mask! We look forward to the time when all our Church buildings are open again for worship, until then may you be held in the love of God and in the love of others.

May God Bless you all

Deacon Anne

Methodist Church Updates

At the time of writing, weekly Clergy Letters and Home Worship Services, continue to be distributed to Members and Friends of the Methodist Church in Haydon Bridge and also throughout the North Tyne area.

St. Cuthbert's Church in September

6 September: 9am: Morning Prayer with Hymns and Reflection on:

www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall

10.30am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge.

10am-12noon: Private Prayer, All Hallows' Henshaw.

13 September: 9am: Morning Prayer with Hymns and Reflection on:

www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall

10.30am: Parish Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw.

10am-12noon: Private Prayer, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge.

20 September: 9am: Morning Prayer with Hymns and Reflection on:

www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall

10.30am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge.

10am-12noon: Private Prayer, All Hallows' Henshaw.

27 September: 9am: Morning Prayer with Hymns and Reflection on:

www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall

10.30am: Parish Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw.

10am-12noon: Private Prayer, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge.

The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter

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

SCIENCE AND THE WORLD AROUND US

John Harrison

When I decided to pursue a career in science back in the 1960s it was because I wanted to know more about the world around me. At no stage did I feel that as a scientist I would become in any way a superior all-knowing being or that I would contribute to a field of knowledge that would eventually make God redundant – the ultimate enlightenment. It may sound strange, even weird, when I say that I heard an inner voice telling me that the earth was calling out to be understood. During a discussion group meeting with university chaplaincy students in the 1980s it was suggested to me that having a scientific perspective must surely take away any sense of wonder – that my chosen career path would lead me to reduce everything to process and I would therefore be unable to appreciate the magic, or the spiritual, in the world around me. Nothing could be further from the truth – I believe very strongly that science is in every sense the language used by the earth to communicate with its constituent parts, ourselves included. If indeed this is the case then I must dwell not on the language but what it expresses. To do otherwise would be like using a foreign language simply to exclude from a conversation those who do not understand it. Used as a language, science can widen understanding and deepen our empathy with the world we inhabit.

As we approach autumn we can anticipate a stunningly beautiful display of the whole spectrum of autumn colours. As deciduous trees prepare themselves for the forthcoming winter they withdraw chlorophyll from their leaves – chlorophyll reflects light mainly in the green area

of the visible spectrum. When it has gone, the remaining components of the leaves reflect in the yellow/orange/red end of the spectrum. This purposeful event tunes us into the processes of death and decay which is common to all life on earth – the colours tell the story.

The rain that we have experienced has been showery in nature so the rainbow has been a regular visitor. I never cease to wonder at what is a stunningly simple optical phenomenon. Light from the sun is refracted and reflected back from the raindrops, splitting white light into its constituent wavebands from red to blue. The height of the rainbow and its position are determined by the elevation of the sun above the horizon (low sun, high rainbow), and the relative positions of the sun, the raindrops, and the point of observation. So, in every sense, the rainbow which we see is unique to the individual observer. Thus the rainbow is not only symbolic of the storm that has passed but is, at the same time, a very personal experience. **JH**



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Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge

By Dennis Telford

In the July and August issues of your Haydon News, I commemorated the ending of the Second World War and remembered those who fought for our freedom. I apologise for missing the boat by a couple of months; 75 years since victory in Europe and Japan in 1945 having been celebrated officially in May and June. The blame for my delay can surely be laid at the door of the boffins in Wuhan, who allowed a nasty little virus escape their clutches and spread across the world faster than the wind-swept flames from a fire on Fords' Fell and, as a consequence, my remembrance continues into this September 2020 issue of The Haydon News.

The official British Commonwealth, Empire and Allied victory celebrations were held on June 8th 1946 and residents of Haydon Bridge played their part. The event in Haydon Bridge was organised by a committee with Noel Shaw as chairman, Mrs. Hetty Brown as secretary and the Rev. C.R. Ransom as treasurer. As local councils 'were empowered to make a modest grant' towards the proceedings, Mr. Ernest Harrison proposed, Mr. George Wardle seconded and it was agreed unanimously that, as there appeared to be a local demand for some kind of celebration and a responsible committee had been formed, the Haydon Parish Council would make a contribution of £15 towards the V Day Celebrations on Saturday May 8th (1946).

In my July Notes, I recalled a street party - one of my earliest memories - celebrating the end of the War in Europe. That joyous get together was a spontaneous do, organised overnight by family and friends on John Martin Street ... a collective out-pouring of relief. The Haydon Bridge celebrations one year later on June 8th 1946, were part of a much grander affair. They must have been, the Parish Council coughing up £15 towards them and commemorations held simultaneously in London and across the country.

At Haydon Bridge, 70 competitors took part in a fancy dress parade, headed by the Haydon Bridge Silver Band. Kitchener Moore, a returned prisoner

of war was Legion standard bearer, and ex Sergt. Jack Westall laid a wreath on the War Memorial. *(In its original location on the north side at the end of the 'old' bridge. See photograph below.)* Mrs. Mellish declared the proceedings open and she was presented with a bouquet by Margaret Gilchrist. Mrs. Mellish, Mrs. Dr. R. Bell, Mrs. Routledge and Mrs. Edge judged the fancy dress; and the winners and their costumes were:

Muriel Walton (Post Office), Ronald Marsh (Toy Soldier), Peter Routledge (Sleepless Nights), Margaret Gilchrist (Nurse), Rhoda Brown (Victory), John Bond, Norma Brown (Prince Charming), Bobby Beckwith (Pirate), John Oliver (Safety First), Doreen Brown and Marlene Turnbull (Darby & Joan), Margaret Hill (Miner), Rene Lax (Japanese), Pat Ridley (Waiting for the Old Man), Kathleen Robinson (Granny), Aileen Hill (New Loaf), Dorothy Paul (Red Riding Hood), Margaret Bond (Nell Gwynne), J. Marsh (Charlie Chaplin), Kathleen Burrows (Robin Hood), Sandra Moore (Fairy).

Consolation prizes were given to 50 other children; an example of how successful the event was - no televisions or computers in those far off days to compete for our leisure time, and how everyone loved and supported community activities, shows, parades and the like. Events never to be forgotten by those who were there!

Sports' prizes were presented by Mr. Lee Wanless, chairman of the Haydon Parish Council, the children were entertained to tea in the Methodist Youth Club *(The Community Centre in 2020)* and to end a wonderful day, there was a bonfire and fireworks at night.



Haydon Bridge War Memorial in its original position where it was unveiled on September 25th 1921. The memorial was moved to its present site in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard, on June 26th 1969.

THE ROAD TO THE NORTH (Part 3)

Parts 1 and 2 of my journey beyond the Tofts, to visit Cruel Syke and Westley Bank, were published in the March and August issues of The Haydon News.

In March and August I followed the Great North Road, as it was named in the 1797 'Grindon Common Award' when 4,300 acres of so called 'waste land' to the north of Haydon Bridge was enclosed with walls, fences or earth mounds. Those previously entitled to their rights on the waste or common land, were allotted shares in the new enclosures and encouraged to bring them into profitable use with cultivation and improvements. As a consequence, in the 1800s farm houses and farm buildings were built alongside the Great North Road and roads that branched off east and west from this main artery through the former commons, and the ancient lands here were transformed. *(To read more about the enclosure roads across Grindon Common, see page 14.)*

In August's issue, I stopped at the New Alston crossroads and admired the views to the west. Beyond the New Alston crossroads and former farms of Cruel Syke and Westley Bank, on the road to the north from Haydon Bridge, there stands another nineteenth century property with a farming history; a name with obvious agricultural connotations, '**Cubstocks**'; and a personal family connection for the Tailfords *(or Telfords)*.



Cubstocks

'**Cubstocks**' seems to have been built circa 1845 and, as well as the farmhouse, it is likely that there was a cottage there. The inhabitants at Cubstocks were not always only farmers; for example, the first listed occupier in 1851 was George Tailford, a 57 year old iron ore worker who was also,

'occupying 25 acres of land'. George was born at Standalone on October 7th, 1791, a son of James and Ann Tailford, and moved to Cubstocks with his wife Mary (nee Bell) and their children George, James, John and Edward. The family could also, afford a 19 year old servant girl, Jane Phillipson.

George and Mary Tailford and George's father and mother James and Ann, were my 2x and 3x great grandparents. George and Mary had been married on May 17th, 1823 at St Cuthbert's Church in Haydon Bridge.

George's wife Mary was the daughter of Martin and Jane Bell (nee Bainbridge) and before moving to Cubstocks, George and his wife Mary had lived in Haydon Bridge, at Tofts Bank and Chesterwood Fell. George Tailford - my 2x great grandfather - died aged 66 years on Sunday March 1st, 1857 at Cubstocks, and his wife Mary died there in 1859 aged 57 years.

By 1861, George Tailford's son James, (my great uncle) who had married Eliza Jane Kennedy, was at Cubstocks with children Mary Ann (3 years old), and George (9 months). James had changed his occupation as an iron ore carrier, to a farmer of 30 acres. James and Eliza had 10 year old Hannah Lawson with them at Cubstocks, as a nurse!

(Of particular interest to me is that James, along with the rest of the Tailford family including James' brother William, my great grandfather, changed their surname to Telford (circa 1820). Was it a slip of the clerk's quill or?)

By 1871, James had moved his family to Pleasant Cottage on Heugh House Lane - bringing to an end around twenty years of my ancestors at Cubstocks - and later to Tofts Bank, before returning by 1891 to Pleasant Cottage.

By 1871, George Kent, a widower whom we first met at Cruel Syke where he had lived from (circa) 1858, *(See page 13, March 2020 HN)* had moved to Cubstocks as a farmer of 35 acres. (Notice that the acreage of Cubstocks farm kept increasing.) George had his son William, who was a lead ore miner, and his wife and seven children living with him. Also living at Cubstocks in 1871 was John Thompson, who was a lead ore miner from Alston, with his wife Elizabeth and two young daughters.

In 1881, the acreage at Cubstocks had increased again, and 39½ acres were being farmed by 22 year

old Michael Pigg whose housekeeper was his sister Rachel. Michael and Rachel were two of the eleven children of Thomas and Elizabeth Pigg who were farming at Mount Pleasant, Ninebanks; although they had previously been at Dean Raw.

Thomas Pigg was, more than likely, the first to introduce the family to the parish of Haydon; where they still farm 140 years later - and long may they continue to do so.

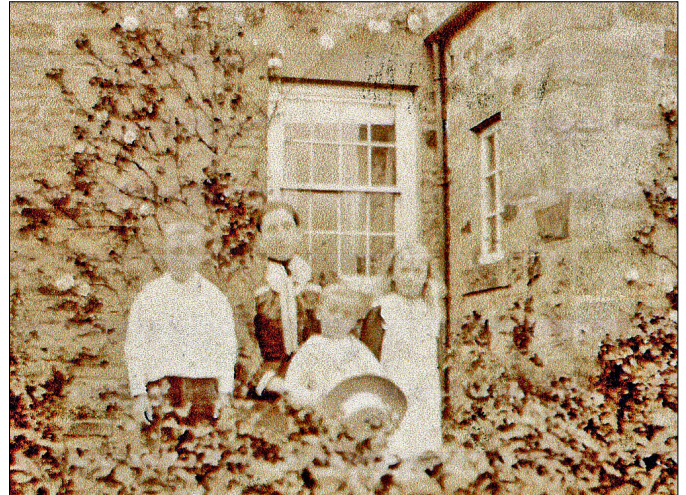
In 1885, Michael Pigg of Cubstocks married Elizabeth Dickinson who, unfortunately, died in 1888. In 1901, Michael was married again, to Annie Veitch. Annie Veitch was the daughter of William and Elizabeth of Westley Bank, (*Whom we met around 1885 in my Notes in August's Haydon News.*) Later, Michael Pigg moved to the farm at Chesterwood where his descendants still farm today.

By 1891, Cubstocks was occupied by Thomas Place, Thomas's wife Elizabeth, his brother Anthony, brother-in-law Robert Stobert and niece Dawn Stobert. Thomas Place had moved to Cubstocks from High Lipwood when he had been working as a lead miner. (*Between 1873 and 1893, Thomas Bewick's Langley Barony Lead Mines were being worked at the nearby Honeycrook Burn.*) When at Cubstocks, Thomas was working as a cartman, not a farmer, so, it is likely that the land was still being farmed by Michael Pigg, the previous occupant, who was by that time at Chesterwood.

It is known that areas of land at Cubstocks at this time were contaminated with lead poisoning, from constant traffic and water courses associated with Thomas Bewick's mines on the Honeycrook Burn. Haydon Bridge postman, the late William Foster, (*See later - page 14 - in this Cubstocks story*) would recall how his father, a dairy farmer at Cubstocks in 1939, kept his cattle away from some fields near the farm as the grazing had a detrimental effect on their health. It was forty three years earlier, in 1896, when Mr Pigg of Chesterwood Farm claimed he had lost two horses due to lead poisoning on land surrounding his farm and, when the stomach and liver were examined, lead and copper was found inside the beast.

By 1901, Cubstocks was occupied by William and Jane Veitch with their children Robert William, Elizabeth Jane and John Thomas - who would later become a farmer at Cruel Syke - plus two lodgers.

William was the son of William and Elizabeth of Westley Bank (*See previous column*) William was a coal miner, another living at Cubstocks who was not a farmer, and he was a brother of Michael Pigg's second wife Annie whom Michael married in 1901. William and Jane Veitch later moved their family to Chesterwood.



Jane Veitch with children Robert William, John Thomas and Elizabeth Jane at Cubstocks in 1903
(*photo William Veitch*)

In 1911, Isaac Douglas and his wife Esther (nee Veitch) were at Cubstocks, with children Ethel Jane and Isaac William Veitch Douglas, the family having moved to Cubstocks from Whitechapel. Isaac and Esther had married in 1884. - Esther was another offspring of William and Elizabeth Veitch of Westley Bank who raised twelve children. - (*See my 'Notes in August's HN.*)

Isaac and Esther Douglas's son, Isaac William Veitch Douglas, is commemorated on our Haydon Bridge War Memorial, the Reredos in St. Cuthbert's Church, the organ in Haydon Bridge Methodist Church and Shaftoe Trust School Memorial; as well as the family headstone in the burial ground extension to St Cuthbert's Churchyard, built above California Gardens.

Isaac William went to France in 1918, aged 19 years and was taken prisoner at Ypres in Belgium. He was posted as missing on May 27th, 1918 and died of consumption at Limburg Prisoner of War Camp, Dietkirchen, Germany in that year.

The Douglas connection with Cubstocks continued as Isaac and Esther's daughter Elizabeth Ann, (always known as Lizzie Annie) married William Foster in 1906 and they were dairy farmers at Cubstocks in 1939. William and Elizabeth had two

daughters, Esther and Hilda Jane and a son William. Better known to readers, perhaps, as Bill Foster, who was well known and respected in our village, the parish and the district, until his death at the age of 99 years on March 2nd, 2017.

Bill Foster was another member of the family who was posted as missing - on this occasion during the Second World War - and he would often recall that when his mother Lizzie Annie, whose brother Isaac had died during the Great War in a POW Camp, heard that he was also posted as missing, her hair turned white overnight, brought about by the extreme shock.

William (Snr.) and Lizzie Annie Foster retired to live with their family at 'The Timbers', a house on the North Bank in Haydon Bridge; and their grandson is Haydonian Ian Foster, of course, whose trek to the Himalayas we followed in the February, March and July issues of The Haydon News.

It is now time for me to to leave Cubstocks and return to Haydon Bridge passing The Tofts farm on the way, where I will stop for a while in a future issue and recall the part it played in a fascinating item of Haydon and Newbrough's social history.

ENCLOSURE ROADS ACROSS GRINDON COMMON

Armstrong's 1769 map of Northumberland, below, shows the waste land to the north of Haydon Bridge which, from 1797, was enclosed and brought into profitable use with new and improved roads.



As previously mentioned in my 'Road to The North' articles, the main enclosure road - the grandly named **Great North Road** - started from the end of Bridge Loaning (*Church Street in 2020*) in Haydon Bridge and continued undulating north to join the Military Road. (*Note! ... St. Cuthbert's Church had been built and opened for worship one year earlier (July 20th 1796) than the 1797 Grindon Common's enclosure, however, it was many years later before 'Bridge Loaning' was named Church Street.*)

Three main east-west roads branched off the Great North Road:

Lime Road: from north of The Tofts farm, eastward to Nun(s)bush. (*Passing New Alston in 2020*)

Haresby Road: from Hall Bank westward.

Causeway Road: following the line of the Roman Stanegate. (*'Military Way' on Armstrong's 1769 map in previous column*)

Other minor roads were:

Hill House Road: north/south to join Haresby Road.

Prior House Road: to join Hill House Road.

Haydon Road: from Haydon to join the Lime Road.

Netley Hole Road: to join the Great North Road. (There is no trace of this road today.)

Heugh House Road: from Heugh House east to the Great North Road.

Chesterwood Road: from Chesterwood Fell gate, east to the Great North Road.

The cost of the access roads across the common was shared by the owners of the allotments created and the roads had to satisfy certain regulations:

The roads had to be at least 40 feet wide exclusive of ditches.

No gates had to be erected across the roads.

Planted trees had to be at least 50 yards apart. Watering places had to be set out.

Except for Haresby Road, the west end of Lime Road and the unknown Netley Hole Road, the roads have been made up to modern standards today: The Haresby Road and the greater part of Lime Road, remain in much the same state (or even worse) than when they were laid out. However, They do show the true characteristics of Grindon Common's eighteenth century enclosure roads.

(See Lime Road and Haresby Road on this month's cover)

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The last few months have been very strange for all of us and at last we are starting to slowly see the easing of the lockdown rules. Community centres, village halls, and other multi-use community facilities support a wide range of local activity. However, their communal nature also makes them places that are vulnerable to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Managers of community facilities have discretion over when they consider it safe to open for any activity permitted by legislation and may decide to remain closed if they are not able to safely follow the advice in the relevant guidance, to make the space COVID-19 secure. We are pleased to announce that we should be able to reopen our Community Centre in Haydon Bridge very soon for our regular users. We are now making preparations to make it COVID SECURE. Our aim is to ensure that the building is as safe as possible. To achieve this, advice has been taken from HM Government, ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) and our Insurers.

To ensure we comply to rules and guidance for community buildings we have done a COVID-19 specific risk assessment, 2 automatic hand sanitisers will be installed at the entrances aswell as on the first floor, various signs and procedures for social distancing will be prominently placed. **Continued on page 18**

Keeping Chickens as Pets

Part 3

In the July and August Haydon News', Peter introduced you to the pleasures of keeping chickens as pets. If you decide to follow Peter in his hobby, here are a few words of advice from the master.

Chickens, even kept as pets, are classed as livestock. So first check your house deeds or rental agreement and also NCC bylaws regarding the keeping of livestock

There are many types of hens and costs vary depending on the age of them. The type I have are ISA Brown Hybrid. I purchased them at 16 weeks old for £6.50 each. They are very friendly and good egg layers. Personally, I think hybrids are the friendliest hens. Another hybrid I like is the Light Sussex which is also a good layer. There are more unusual types like Skyline, White Stat, Bluebell and many others which are quite expensive. However, they may not be as friendly and could be poor egg layers, but you will get your money back and more when you sell their offspring.

There are many places to purchase chickens, such as farms who purchase in bulk and will sell to you in small quantities. There are local people in the village who would be quite happy to sell you perfectly good hens. If you would like to re-home chickens which is very popular you can find charities online selling them for about £3.50.

“Free Range”? Be aware that this can mean many things including a chicken who is in a free to range enclosed barn with a view through a window or a door, or a chicken with only access to a concrete yard. Chickens that are free to roam outside in a large grass area, like my chickens, have a different name, they're called Pasture or Farm Chickens/eggs.

There are various types of hen food, but I recommend Layers Pellets or Layers Mash and a small treat of corn which can be purchased at farm shops or your local Haydon Bridge farm store. I also give my chickens a mash of fresh scraps, but no meat scraps as this is against the law. The law also states that no scraps should have been in or passed through your kitchen. Farmers are fighting the government to change this.

Exercise and keeping chickens occupied is very important as they can suffer from stress and depression which will reduce the amount of eggs they lay or even stop them laying completely.

Hens have a pecking order and there is medication to consider, but we will not go into that here ... just get your hens and enjoy them.

Peter. If you have any questions you can contact me by email: peter.p7744@gmail.com



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‘TWTD — A Series of Reminiscences’

Those who know, do; those who understand, teach - Aristotle

I always thought that I would have the time to write a novel based on my teaching experiences once I had retired from teaching; three years on and, although I have managed to write down a number of anecdotes, the book remains pretty much a random selection of incidents, amusing and otherwise.

For the majority of you who don't know me, I taught Latin and Greek in four independent boarding schools from Kent to Scotland, in addition to filling gaps in the timetable by attempting to teach English, History and Religious Studies.

I also contributed to the Games department in all schools by coaching Cricket and Rugby, in addition to the management roles of Boarding House-master, Director of Studies and Deputy Head-master.

It is no co-incidence that most of my stories come from the early part of my career, before the more eccentric teachers were eradicated by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, who demanded lesson plans, departmental handbooks, pupil profiling, personal education plans, risk assessments, differentiation none of which existed in 1985, or if they did, no-one bothered to tell me about them!

I only applied for a place on the PGCE course at St Luke's College, Exeter, having completed my degree in 1984, because I hadn't the faintest clue about a career and another year as a student, generously funded as was then the case by Essex County Council, seemed like a good idea.

I started my teaching practice at an independent school in Taunton in January 1985, lodging with a Biology teacher whose wife had just left him and whose nocturnal activities seemed to suggest more than a passing acquaintance with a variety of females.

The only Classics teacher, a sandal-wearing relic from the carefree 1960s and Bob Dylan devotee, also ran one of the boarding houses and had clearly envisaged an easy term as he handed me a timetable consisting of 19 lessons from his own allocation of 25, including A level Ancient History to one young lady in her penultimate term. After

three weeks I recall asking him for some feedback as he had failed to pay a visit to my (his) classroom when I was doing my stuff and he mumbled something about the fact that I was doing OK. When asked how he knew, he explained that the previous student teacher's lack of classroom discipline meant that he spent his newly-acquired free time patrolling the corridors, looking for escapees and returning them to their place of torture! Either the escapees had become more skilful in their endeavours or I was doing something right.

I'm still really not sure how I managed to acquire my first job; my landlord was a Man of Kent and suggested one Friday evening, having perused the vacancies in the Times Educational Supplement in the local pub, that a vacancy at one of the oldest schools in Kent would be right up my street. I was still unsure about a career in teaching but heeded his advice and soon a hastily hand-written CV and cobbled-together letter of application was in the post. I was surprised and terrified in equal measure when a week later I received an invitation to visit the school. I remember very little about the occasion and was more than a little over-awed by the prospect of teaching Latin, English and General Studies (whatever that was – I don't think I ever found out!) in an independent school; my own education at a stoically traditional boys' grammar school in Essex seemed far removed from what appeared to be a cross between Greyfriars and Dotheboys Hall (quite appropriate as Charles Dickens lived and wrote nearby). After being given a tour of the school by the Deputy Head, I was deposited outside the Headmaster's study and waited for what seemed like an eternity before a wisened, begowned and bespectacled figure emerged from within, gave me an astonished look and hurriedly invited me inside.

“I do apologise, I had completely forgotten about you – remind me, who are you and why are you here?”

This was perhaps not amongst the questions I had expected, but I answered them truthfully and a conversation ensued, mostly about cricket.

Twenty minutes later he offered me the job and I accepted. Subsequently, I discovered that mine was the sole application!

To be continued

Haydon Bridge Community Centre (Continued from page 15)

We all have a part to play in minimising risk of infection and therefore we ask that when visiting and using the Community Centre you follow the advice of the person organising the activity you are attending, and follow the guidance clearly posted throughout the building. Face coverings will be required by law to be worn in the community centre as this is a public space.

Valerie Bell. Haydon Bridge Community Assoc.

HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB



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

The committee will be meeting sometime soon to reassess the situation regarding the new season of talks.

At present the situation is complicated because of ever changing Government regulations and the number of people involved.

Rest assured that we will let you know as soon as possible.

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**CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS
AT THE GENERAL HAVELOCK
HAYDON BRIDGE**

Unfortunately, because of Covid-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.

Quiz Dates – start date subject to Government guidance – October 20th, November 17th, December 15th, January 19th 2021.

Charities Listed

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

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 September 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 !MIND! is my nomination this month

John Harrison (Aka Queenie)

RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY BINN

I hear you're keeping chickens in your garden now, Raydon.
Ungrateful? How come?
That's right, Dusty, but I'm thinking of getting rid of the ungrateful creatures.
I spend a fortune on chicken feed and all I get back is, "Cheep Cheep Cheep."



**When I woke up this morning I forgot from which direction the sun rose ...
Then it dawned on me.**

JACK RABBIT RECALLS



We are pleased to welcome a new contributor to The Haydon News this month, recalling a famous resident of our parish.

Christopher Thomas Maling 1863 - 1934

Noting Chesterwood Grange currently for sale reminds me that John Martin from Land Ends, born 1789, isn't Haydon Bridge's only famous son.

Maling's Pottery was established in Sunderland 27 years earlier than Martin's birth, in 1762, moving to Byker in Newcastle 55 years later in 1817.

"So what?" – you might say.

Well, not long after that, in 1863, Christopher Thompson Maling, to become known as CETEM (the phonetic abbreviation of *CT Maling*), was born and having 'served his time', took over the reins at Maling & Sons, guiding it in a new direction and bringing it to international fame.

Most people, particularly in this neck of the woods, over the age of 100 and some even younger, will have heard of Maling pottery and very possibly have acquired or inherited the odd piece.

Whilst there's no such thing as 'typical' Maling, many examples are typical of the era in which they were produced. Our friend CETEM, however, **was particularly responsible for the Art Nouveau period (1900-1919)** where items were often inspired by nature, decorated with flowers, fruit or birds – including commemorative items such as marking the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 and then the coronation of her lad, Edward (VII), in 1902.



Art Nouveau; a Maling Water Jug
and a Commemoration Edward II Mug.

Then came the Art Deco period (1920-1939) which had a more modern look, colourful, a bit brash,

artistic, detailed – often heavily gilded and metallic glazed.

CETEM's leadership was during the timespan which saw the company at its most prolific – deemed to be the foremost pottery in the world. Over its 200-year life, it produced an astonishing output; the high-end, gilded pieces and lusterware selling at the top end of the market down to simpler pieces, run-of-the-mill basins, jars, jugs and tea services – and yes, even chamber pots. It



Two very different examples
of Art Deco Maling Bowls

was said to produce over 16,500 different patterns over its 200 years. And in the middle of all this, CETEM started producing containers for other companies – meat paste, marmalade, ointments and the like, ending up with 90% of the country's packaging market.

"So what?", you might say again.

Well, our friend CETEM wasn't just a pottery-nerd; he was also an enthusiastic countryman; his company's Art Nouveau designs of flowers and birds tell the story. He became passionate about hunting which led him to taking up residency, with his wife Ava, at Chesterwood Grange in 1902 from where, over the ensuing seventeen years, he both commuted to his pottery in Byker, mostly by train from Haydon Bridge and also indulged his passion for country living and specifically fox-hunting

Having taken over The Haydon Hunt, CETEM was sole Master for the first six years before being joined in the Mastership by Captain Major Allgood (Major was his Christian name – fools a lot of people!) after which they shared the job for a couple of years – with CETM then reverting to sole Mastership, sometimes 'taking the horn' himself on Saturdays otherwise with hounds hunted by his professional huntsman. It was enthusiastically reported that this seventeen-year period, which continued through World War I, was a highlight in the life of The Haydon Hunt – established nearly one hundred years earlier, in 1809.



CETEM (Centre) with his hounds in front of Chesterwood Grange

Sadly there won't be any of us left who can remember CETEM's tenure at Chesterwood Grange but there may be some around still who can remember their forebears talking of CETEM and if there are any nonagenarians about, they may remember his death in 1934.

What is well-chronicled is, after his death in 1934, in memory of their well-loved and much admired huntsman and Master, the members of The Haydon Hunt initiated a race in honour of CETEM on Haydon Fell, north of the hamlet; apparently an event not to be missed in Haydon Bridge's sporting calendar, run until the outbreak of World War II, complete with bookies in attendance and a thriving beer tent.

However, the more tangible and lasting memories will be of those Maling 'bits and pieces' that many of us still have in our own homes and see in many others. CETEM and his wife Ava were very generous, particularly at Christmas and especially to the farmers in the country over which he hunted his hounds – and they were 'his' hounds in those days when packs were privately owned. Many still have these tokens of appreciation, handed down through the generations, still on display. Their monetary value varies enormously. The simpler examples, like those 'Art Nouveau' illustrated, can still be picked-up for £10 / £20 – but considerably more for the later, intricate gilded and metallic pieces nowadays in many cases, north of £500.

But the ultimate goal, at least for devotees of The Haydon Hunt, must be to own one of the few remaining Haydon Stirrup Cups, that were produced originally in only very limited numbers and thereafter used by Haydon participants for a

'tipple' (or two) at the meet – where many would be damaged – creating even further scarcity.

The Maling pottery produced numerous stirrups of varying designs but The Holy Grail is like the illustration – with horses and hounds in full cry, around the base. The principle of a stirrup cup, of course, is that it has no flat base for laying it down – so the contents must be completely drained!

But for all these items, priceless or almost valueless, it's usually the sentimental value that's immeasurable.

Jack Rabbit



**Above
CETEM on his
favourite hunter
and right
The Haydon Stirrup Cup**

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THE NOSTALGIA OF NATURE IN HAYDON PARISH

I'm pleased you enjoyed my nostalgic nature ramble last month, through the writing of the late William Tait. This month, I join Bill again, as he recalls our countryside in earlier days, from a hayfield at Sillywrea in the west of the parish.

The day was warm and still, one of those days filled with the fragrance of summer, as I sat at the edge of the hayfield.

I was watching John Dodd as he sat on his horse-drawn reaper mowing down great swathes of sweet-scented grass. A whinchat flitted along the dry stone wall, vanishing among tall foxgloves and fern at the road side, then re-appearing among rough grass. Wild roses scented the hedgerows amid the endless hum of insects as I sat there and meditated about days long gone.

What memories such a hay-field brings back to country folk - the swishing of the reaper blade, the creaking of leather and the smell of the sweating horses beneath blue skys and burning sun.

I never see a hayfield without it bringing back to my mind the once common call of the corncrake ... but where have they gone? As a boy, I would listen on a summer's evening to corncrakes calling in the Tofts fields and in fields close to the river. Have they gone altogether? Or could it be that the corncrake is not so uncommon in other parts of the country, and it is just round here that it has become noticeable by its absence?

Most years that come I still manage to hear at least one corncrake in the district, though not in old meadow grass - their favourite haunt - but in seed grass. Modern methods of farming, the ploughing out and re-seeding, have left little old meadow grass and only a limited choice for the corncrake.

It is certain that very few people will have seen a corncrake, and I think I could be safe in saying that very few of our present generation have ever seen or heard one ... the birds are that rare in the Tyne Valley.

Few people ever walk any distance at night, but those who do will remember the corncrake as

being most vocal on still warm summer evenings when the moon casts long shadows over hayfield and woodland alike. Its loud rasping voice was once a familiar sound in Tynedale and the decline in the population must surely be due to modern methods of farming and the change in the time of mowing the hay. In the nineteenth century, hay meadows were cut by hand, scythe, or at least mown later in the year than is done today (1979).

The crake, or landrail as it is sometimes called, is a shy and skulking bird, more often heard than seen, but, the odd time I have seen a corncrake take wing, it only flew to the nearest cover, appearing to fly with great effort, the legs dangling as it skimmed the tops of the grass before dropping down in the sedgy meadow. Yet, fly it must as the corncrake is migratory, wintering in Africa and southern Asia.

For a long while then that evening I sat looking out upon that rural scene, so familiar and so hallowed to the countryman, when a voice from behind me and over the stone wall said:

"Noo that's a grand sight mistor, them horses at work in a hayfield."

It was old Ned, puffing on his pipe, the fragrance mingling with the sweet smell of the hay.

"Aa tell yer what man, aa de miss them pikes man. What aa satisfaction aa got frae leukin at them", he said, "Aye and the scalding het tea, an' the rich red juice oozing from black-currant tarts, an' the fresh baked scones owd Jake's wife wad fetch for us fellas at tea-time working among the hay."

But there was just a glint of sadness in those bright blue eyes, as he talked of hay-making in years gone by. For, except on farms like John Dodd's, they are days long gone.

William Tait 1979



Memories of Sillywrea

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A VIEW FROM UP THERE

John Harrison

One of the books used most frequently in our house is an atlas. One in particular, our AA Road Atlas, has relieved the boredom of many a long journey. A favourite game has been converting place names into questions such as “Where’s Felixstowe?” to which the answer is “on the end of Felix’s foot”. The challenge is to stay sane if the journey is a particularly long one !!! What we could with is something to relieve the boredom of the weather which we have been offered this summer.

July could probably be regarded by many as a typically British summer month with occasional sunny periods in between long spells of cloudy, dull and showery weather. There were only three ‘warm’ days (daytime temperature exceeding 20 deg C) compared with twenty in July 2019. By the end of the month the average daytime maximum temperature was 1.9 degC lower than normal and the rainfall was 120% of normal. Verdict – cool and damp.

For the first six days, low pressure was in charge. Temperatures were well below the seasonal norm and the wind was strong at times, reaching gale force overnight on the 5/6th. This caused considerable local damage, not least to my vegetable garden. My peas tried to cling unsuccessfully to the twigs that had been provided for them. Higher pressure took control after the 7th bringing drier weather and some longer spells of sunshine. With the wind mainly in the west daytime temperatures were never more than moderate but any morning cloud often cleared to give lengthy sunny periods during the afternoon.

As warmer air was drawn into the British Isles from the 16th onwards daytime temperatures were slightly improved and nights became muggy when the breeze died back. This warmer air became more of a feature of the weather for the remainder of the month, reaching its peak in the North East by the 31st when the daytime temperature was already 24 degC by 10.00 am, reaching an early afternoon maximum of 28.9 degC at Plunderheath - but I have received reports of temperatures well in excess of 30 degC in some sheltered locations. Such 24hr ‘heat waves’ are quite rare as temperatures usually tend to build over a few days, but pulses of exceptionally warm air are occasionally brought our way by the Jet Stream.

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
July	18.0	-1.9	10.5	-0.1	72.0	120

And finally, Gladys has sent me a story about a local vicar who went into a pet shop to purchase a parrot. The shopkeeper showed him a beautiful blue parrot and explained that if you pulled its left leg it would recite the Lord’s Prayer, or if you pulled the right leg it would sing ‘Rock of Ages’. The vicar was very impressed and asked “What happens if you pull both legs at once?”, to which the bird replied, “I’d fall off my *****ing perch you idiot”

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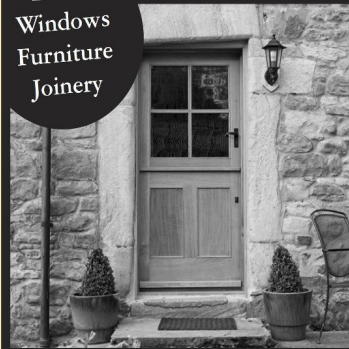
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September 2020

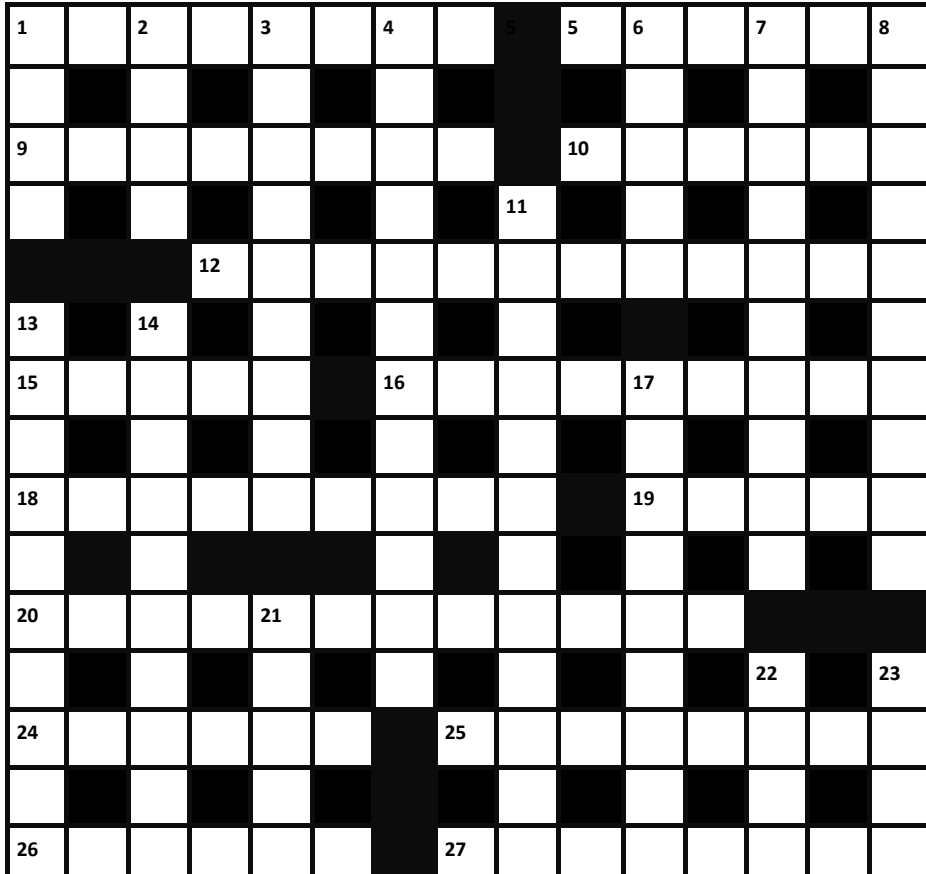
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Please drop answers off at Claire's by 12th September

WINNER August 2020 — **Jen Ballantyne**



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August 2020 Answers

ACROSS

1. HOBNOB
4. TRADES-UP
9. PER YEAR
11. COWGIRL
- 12 & 24dn RISHI
13. BENBECULA
14. CHANCELLOR
16. RAAB
19. MATT
20. PRITI PATEL
22. CONSTRUER
23. CUSEC
25. ACETONE
26. DOMINIC
27. DISPERSE
28. SNAKES

DOWN

1. HYPERICUM
2. BORIS
3. ONE-PIECE
5. RECONNOITERED
6. DOWDEN
7. STIMULANT
8. POLKA
10. RABBLE ROUSERS
15. ATTENDERS
17. BALLCOCKS
18. SPACEMEN
21. STROBE
22. CHARD
24. SUNAK

ACROSS

1. Soldier on building area contributes nothing (8)
5. Speckles in bend, you say? (6)
9. Magician to trick person in court (8)
10. Settle in late, crumpled (6)
12. Party speaker that is second at research locations (12)
15. Antelope fine when chromosome lost for Greek letter (5)
16. Girl's fine fabric (9)
18. Terrible female according to justice (9)
19. Subject – or lord – in white lie Georgian recanted (5)
20. Horse on the ball, travels widely (12)
24. Off went the police department! (6)
25. Lice race all over vegetable (8)
26. Song worker in fling (6)
27. Declared that sad trees were up the creek (8)

DOWN

1. Merry fairy pushed around in ice hockey (4)
2. Queen in Iranian state? Yes and no (4)
3. Shame quisling dropped fish – became nauseous (9)
4. Complete price for passage (12)
6. Initially let everyone notable totter out slowly (5)
7. A trio cheer poor driver (10)
8. Elder's fees processed by this type of plant (4-6)
11. Postman is highly educated (3,2,7)
13. Prisoner works out shapes (10)
14. State racial info widely disseminated (10)
17. Duck the bond film? (9)
21. Writer was prophet on the Bible (5)
22. Will you old droop? (4)
23. Fast missile (4)

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Wildlife Photography by Will Nicholls

Summer Sale in aid of Haydon Bridge Red Squirrel Group

My name is Marion Craig and I run the Haydon Bridge Red Squirrel Group (HBRSG). Many of you will know my son Will Nicholls because of his wildlife photography and in particular his red squirrel photography - he was the first winner of the Young British Wildlife Photographer of the Year with his picture of a red squirrel taken in Kielder Forest.

Will now lives in Bristol to pursue his career as a wildlife cameraman and selling his photography and merchandise at craft fairs has come to a natural end. The time has come to sell the remaining stock and **Will has offered to give 100% of sales to HBRSG.**

If you want to view the pictures online then please visit Will's website www.willnicholls.co.uk

Please note that the prices quoted here only apply to stock that I have available.

Haydon Bridge Red Squirrel Group was set up when I realised there were red squirrels living just down the track from my house. There was only a small colony and Will spent hours photographing them getting to know the individual squirrels and learning their habits throughout the seasons.

It all resulted in him publishing his first book 'On the Trail of Red Squirrels' when he was just 18 years old.

The book retails at £19.50 and if ordered through me £5 will be donated to HBRSG.

If you would like more details or to make an order, please email me at marioncraig987@gmail.com or call me on 07984 630 967. Delivery is free to the village and Hexham area.

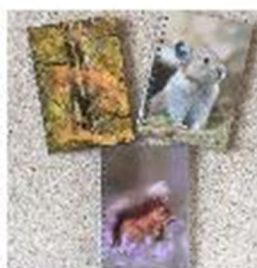
If anyone is interested in becoming involved in red squirrel conservation, please get in touch.



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1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

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Red Squirrel in Heather - Oak Frame approx 57cm x 43cm £45

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British Weather - Oak Frame approx 60cm x 39.5cm £50

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Pika - Oak Frame 46cm x 36cm £30

Puffin at Sunset - Oak Frame 46cm x 36cm £30



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Summer Sale

Will Nicholls
Wildlife Photography
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Page 26 and 27

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