

# THE HAYDON NEWS

June 2021

Supporting the community of Haydon Bridge, Northumberland

To celebrate the start of the community consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council is holding a...

## COMMUNITY FUN DAY

**SAT 3 JULY, 11am – 3pm**

*Come and tell us which community priority action areas you want to support or get involved in:*

- Car sharing club
- More community services for younger and older people
- Cutting the energy cost for your home
- Improving our footpaths and cycle paths - cycle path to Hexham
- Get fit - indoor and outdoor gym equipment
- Ev charging points and Ebike hire
- High speed GIGABIT broadband at fantastic low monthly charge
- Community tree planting and orchard
- Community cafe
- The Tuesday (or Wednesday) Group for village enhancement projects
- Smallholdings and selling food locally at a Saturday market
- MUCH MORE

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• [www.haydon-news.co.uk](http://www.haydon-news.co.uk) •

We had hoped to start our What's On Guide again this month but while some organisations and events have running again, it seems a lot of things haven't yet restarted. Get in touch if you'd like your activity, event or club meeting to be included and we'll hopefully restart it again soon.

Thanks as always to the contributors to this issue. We're always keen to receive new articles about Haydon Bridge and the surrounding areas, whether that's about local initiatives, or activities happening in local organisations, businesses, clubs and schools. If you have a story about something you've been involved with in the area, please get in touch. You can read more about our appeal for more help with the magazine on page 6.

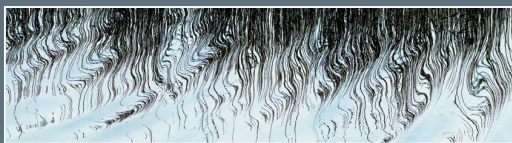
We're also trying to include more photography of the area and would love to find a photographer who could work with our writers to produce photos of some of the articles we feature – drop us a line if you'd be interested.



How the landscape changes with the seasons - taken near Eltringham. Mark Royston McGovern



The Environment Agency and Haydon Parish Council members visit the works on the river – see page 6



DOUBLE VISION

Alan Hayward, photographer  
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**We try to have each edition of The Haydon News printed and distributed early in the month.**

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

**All correspondence, contributions, adverts and crossword answers to:**

**editor@haydon-news.co.uk or to Claire's Newsagents 11 Church Street.**

**Thank you**

## ZOOM MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Present** : Cllrs. J. Bates, E. Charlton, E. Faulks (Chair), B. Howard, J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, J. Thompson, D. Thornhill, Mr. P. Fletcher and C. McGivern (mins).

**Apologies were received from** – Cllr Burrows.

**Declarations of interest** – none were received.

**Minutes of previous meeting** – Cllr Faulks said that on page 2 of the March minutes where it said that Karbon Homes had “sent a further letter to the Parish Council which confirms that they no obligation to take on the ownership and responsibility for maintaining the park,” should say that the Parish Council has no obligation to take on responsibility for the park”.

**Report from Northumberland County Council** – Cllr Sharp said that when he had going around the various rural roads over the last week he had noticed several roads which require attention.

Water is coming down West Mill Hills Bank and washing away the road and NCC have been to attend to this urgently. The water appears to be coming from a spring under the road. The road to West Rattenraw requires resurfacing. The road down to Plankey Mill also requires attention. The road around East Elrington also requires some re-surfacing works to be carried out. The road around Ridley Hall to the bank above Tedcastle needs attention and much of this is already included in next year’s programme. The ditching work on the road to Whinnetley and on the Haresby Road has been completed. There are various other areas which also require attention and Cllr Sharp will be reporting them to NCC.

A payment to Haydon Bridge Football Club of the sum of £3,000.00 for the new lighting on the astro-turf pitch has been approved and this will be paid from Cllr Sharp’s Member’s Allowance Scheme monies. He has also requested the payment is made to Haydon Bridge Community Centre, (a total of £2,866.80), towards the repairs to the boiler. The payments to Langley Village Hall and Haydon Bridge Cricket Club for their respective schemes are also progressing.

Cllr Sharp had received confirmation that the road to Threepwood would be attended to in April and he is chasing this up to ensure that this work is done.

With regards to the former railway bridge at Staward Railway Station, the County Council have now confirmed that any works on the bridge would require full planning permission.

Karbon Homes have agreed to meet with Cllr Sharp, (when it is safe to do so due to Covid), to progress the improvements required to the play area in Langley Gardens and when a date is agreed he will let the Parish Council know so that someone can be present at the meeting. Cllr Sharp is also progressing the other issues with Karbon Homes as mentioned in the report last month.

Looking at some of the discussions about the Ratcliffe Rd/Church St scheme on Facebook it seemed that there was some misunderstanding about what the scheme was going to provide. It was agreed that this was frustrating given all of the community consultation that had been carried out.

**Mr Fletcher – Neighbourhood Plan action list** – Mr Fletcher explained that until now the Neighbourhood Plan working group had been drawing up the plan, but the Parish Council will need to take on various aspects shortly. The full plan should be ready for the PC to read before the next meeting. After that there will be two months of community consultation. Out of the consultation there will come a list of action areas for the PC and Development Trust (DT) to take forward. Mr Fletcher said that it would be helpful to get comments from Parish Cllrs before the formal plan arrives. The action list that Mr Fletcher had circulated set out a number of short and long term actions, and who is responsible. In the final column is set out the initial thinking about actions needed to make things happen. Some things have been set in motion already. The Chair of the PC had been approached by Wefibre, potentially opening the way for ultra-fast broadband. In addition to this there had been discussions in the previous week with a no-for-profit company about creating four electric charging points. In the next round of Co-op Community funding, after the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, £2000 to £6000 is available for projects for young people. Cllr Thornhill expressed concern that electric charging points would not be viable given the historic nature of the village, with little off-street parking. Mr Fletcher said that Charge My Street were particularly focused on areas of housing that don’t have off-street parking and that it offered an opportunity to get going. Mr Fletcher thanked Cllr Keyte and the Clerk for agreeing to sign up with Wefibre to “express an interest”. Wefibre need 100 households to do this in order to go ahead. They had stated that they will be willing to connect any property within 15km of Haydon Bridge, and this would be a way of rolling out decent broadband speeds to more rural areas. There will be an advert in the Haydon News to alert people to this, as well as flyers through letterboxes and information on the community website. He also hoped that everyone on the Parish Council would promote in by word of mouth. Mark l’Anson had said that £20 per month was a very good price for broadband, let alone gigabit broadband. Cllr Bates said that she was already signed up to a scheme were she pays £30 for broadband, but any profits go to the community. Mr Fletcher said that there had not been sufficient interest from the household survey to generate that type of scheme.

Mr Fletcher said that the Neighbourhood Plan working group now needed to know that the PC was happy to sign up to actions arising from the plan and were happy as a body to put their name to it. He asked Cllrs to email any comments to him by the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. The Chair thanked Mr Fletcher for his input, and Mr Fletcher left the meeting.

**Highways** –Cllr Thompson said that the family of Maurice and Betty Cousin would like to install a seat in their memory. The proposed site is as you leave the village heading west, on a bend where there is a lovely view. Cllr Charlton said that a seat had been installed at this location previously, but it had been stolen. It was agreed that this was a good location for a seat and permission would be given, as long as the family are aware of the risk. Paul Charlton will install the seat. Cllr Charlton noted that a recently refurbished seat had also been stolen from Lands End Road.

One of the barbecue stands at the picnic area had been vandalised, and Cllr Faulks said that Mr Eales would repair this free of charge. Cllr Charlton said that it was heartening to

see that most people commenting on Facebook had been horrified by this damage.

At the March meeting it had been agreed that the old dog bin on the way to the Showfield should be removed. The Clerk said that it would cost around £300 to remove this bin and to install a wheelie bin on the Peelwell Corner. Cllr Howard had checked locations of bins in the area between the Showfield and the centre of the village and he suggested that an additional bin at the corner of Lands End Road and Shaftoe Street would be very useful. He will look at the best site for this and circulate his ideas for discussion.

**Lighting** – nothing to report.

**Planning applications** – none were received.

**Correspondence** – Haydon Bridge Scouts had been in touch to say that they are thinking of putting planters on either side of the road bridge. The planters would cost £25 per pot and they were thinking of putting 6 on either side of the road. They wondered if the PC would be willing to help with costs. The scouts will be going to Down to Earth to help with the planting. Cllr Sharp is dealing with permissions from the Highways Dept for this project. Cllrs wondered what size the pots would be and who would be watering them. Cllr Richardson promised to get more details, so that the PC could decide at the next meeting whether to contribute to the cost.

A brief update had been received from Northumbrian Water regarding possible actions following on from their survey of drains etc in Haydon Bridge. This had just been circulated by the Clerk earlier in the day. Cllr Charlton said that a map showing the locations being referred to would be very helpful. The Clerk will request this.

#### **10. Accounts – as in budget.**

The Clerk explained that she would be circulating the Risk assessment and Review of internal audit shortly, she just needed to speak to Mr Miller to confirm that he was able to carry out the internal audit this year.

#### **Parish projects -**

**Development Trust/Bridge** – Cllr Charlton said that staff from NCC had been in the library for four days, going through the stock and replacing some of the older books. She went on to say that several of the volunteers had now had their second dose of the vaccine and were keen to start work again. The Haydon Hundred is going ahead and has already received lots of entries.

**Play areas** – Alan Sharp said that he had met with Karbon Homes to discuss the Langley Gardens play area. He had also visited the plot of land adjacent to 34a Strother Close, where lots of children were playing. He said that the PC needed to decide how this piece of land should be used. He said he would be happy to meet with Cllrs to discuss this with representatives from KH.

**Any other business** – Cllr Bates said that the Co-op fund mentioned by Mr Fletcher might be ideal for raising money for a toddler's play area at Strother Close. Cllr Sharp said that he would be happy to top up funds raised in this way. He noted that the PC would need to decide what equipment they needed and get quotes to apply to the Co-op.

Cllr Thompson said that Joyce Brown had been asking when PC meetings would return to the Community Centre. Cllr Faulks said that this would hopefully happen in May or June.

Cllr Thompson said that Joyce Brown was concerned about the small walled area next to the Co-op. This is now full of rubbish and is an eyesore. Cllr Thompson and Howard said that with some work and a little money this could be tidied up. The pot was supplied by Peter and Vera Fletcher and Cllr Charlton said that it would be a nice gesture to tidy the area up. Cllr Howard is trying to get a quote from Down to Earth for the materials needed. He said that in the past Joyce Brown had planted this area at her own expense and then had plants stolen.

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# The Future of the Haydon News

Our last two issues have unfortunately been late to complete and get to the printers. We've had queries from readers asking if their house had missed the delivery, but unfortunately, it's been down to the huge amount of work that's involved in assembling the issue while also trying to juggle full-time day jobs, families, health – and sleep.

Trying to produce each issue is a mammoth task, involving the admin of many emails and liaising with contributors to submit their pieces, before the work begins of actually putting the magazine itself together, and then the proof-reading and editing process begins... the hours and days mount up very quickly.

Michelle Gregg, one of our volunteers who helps with the magazine, grew up in Haydon Bridge. When we first discussed her offer to join the editorial team, she explained why she was keen to help; 'When I was little, I loved the Haydon News arriving to read about what's been happening in the village' It's a sentiment we hear echoed from other readers, that the magazine means a lot to many people.

Alex Kinsey, editor, moved to the village four years ago and saw the appeal to find a new editor for THN last year. While very happy to help, it's fair to say the time commitment required was seriously underestimated!

The Haydon News has been in existence for over 40 years and a recent appeal for contributions saw over £600 donated locally. But we do need more help with the production of the magazine to continue. We're looking for a number of volunteers who can spare a few hours each month to help share the workload – it's a case of many hands make lighter work and all that!

It's also a great opportunity for us to be able to include more stories about local life that you'd like to read about, village-based news, stories about the activities and the people who make the village what it is.

Would you be able to help? It could be as much as you can afford the time to spare. We'd love more help to continue the magazine, as well as new people who can help us develop articles and ideas each month to keep the magazine interesting. Please get in touch and we can discuss how you could help us protect the future of the magazine.

## Environment Agency Delivers Vital Haydon Bridge River Bank Repairs

Work has started to repair a heavily eroded section of river bank on the River South Tyne in Haydon Bridge, Northumberland.

The bank, downstream of the road bridge, is not a formal flood defence but if further erosion occurs, it could impact the riverside footpath and gardens to the rear of Rocksprings Crescent as well as flood defences further downstream.

In May, Haydon Bridge Parish Council visited the site to see the work underway. They met with Environment Agency project manager, Tom Pitman, to find out more about the repairs and how they will protect the town's flood defences. The project involves strengthening the river bank below the riverside footpath and then re-planting with trees to further stabilise it.

Once the Haydon river bank repairs are completed downstream, the Environment Agency will raise the height of the existing flood wall at Brigwood and replace the flood embankment to better protect properties there.

Tom Pitman said: "We recognise the importance to local residents that this work is completed as soon as possible and we've been keeping the community updated with progress.

"We're pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with the parish council to show them the work taking place and to discuss planned work in the future.

"The restricted access to the area means much of the repair work will have to be done from within the river, which presents a risk to our team, so we will continue to monitor weather and river levels to ensure that it is safe for our teams to continue".

The Environment Agency is also taking precautions to minimise disruption to the local environment, with fish being safely removed from the affected area prior to work taking place and fish passage being maintained.

It's expected that the Environment Agency will be on site for most of the summer to complete the works, as long as weather conditions remain fair. Flood Community Engagement Officer, Colin Hall, was also on site to speak with councillors about the importance of flood resilience and being prepared for flooding. Signing up to the free Flood Warning Service and creating a personal or business flood plan can help reduce the impact of flooding. You can find out more at [www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk](http://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk) or email [colin.hall@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:colin.hall@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Post Office Temporary Closure

Due to extensive building work taking place, Haydon Bridge Post Office will temporarily close on Monday 21 June, with a temporary service operating in its place.

It is envisaged that the work will take approximately four weeks to complete, following which the service will re-open at 4 Ratcliffe Road, Haydon Bridge, on Thursday 15 July at 7am.

We understand the importance of the Post Office service to the local community and will be providing a temporary Mobile Post Office service to our customers, while building works are carried out.

This temporary service on a Monday and a Thursday will be provided by the postmaster from Stocksfield Post Office from Thursday 24 June to Monday 12 July.

The visiting times on a Monday and Thursday are: 9.40 – 10.40am. It will operate from opposite Co-Operative Food store at Haydon Bridge. Alternative branches in the area also include: Allendale, Market Place, Allendale, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 9AZ

To accommodate the temporary Mobile service, there will be some changes to the opening times of current Mobile service provided by Stocksfield Post Office in Brandon Mill from Thursday 24 June to Monday 12 July.

Mike Ball, Post Office Partner Account Executive, said: "We apologise for any inconvenience caused to our customers during the work. The safety of our customers is of paramount, therefore, to allow for refurbishment work to take place, it will be necessary for the service to close temporarily. We are delighted to have been able to organise a temporary solution during the building work store."

### Haydon Bridge Mobile Post Office Service

Opposite Co-Operative Food Store

4 Ratcliffe Road  
Haydon Bridge  
Hexham  
NE47 6ET

### Opening times

Monday 09:40 – 10:40  
Thursday 09:40 – 10:40

Do you have an event or group meeting you'd like to include in future issues of The Haydon News?  
Get in touch with all the details:  
[editor@haydon-news.co.uk](mailto:editor@haydon-news.co.uk)

## A New life in Northumberland

Patricia Green

I've written a poem this month.

### Hope on the horizon

I intend to visit Hampshire when we get to June,  
I have family to see and hopefully soon.  
Eight months have passed since seeing them all,  
And plans are afoot to have a party - a ball!

We have done our bit and 'stuck to the rules',  
So it's time to have fun, but not to be fools.  
There are variants still, that must be avoided,  
If we don't want to see the re- emergence of covid.

How great to eat out and check through some menus!  
Relief from food websites, only choosing which venues !  
Enjoying a drink in the pub, having walked the two dogs,  
Will be a nice change, more interesting blogs !  
Some news to impart makes us seem far less boring,  
More cheerful and happy even if it is pouring !

The spirits are lifted when out and about,  
"Mine's gin and tonic", if it's your shout,  
And when the sun shines, it's much better still,  
A trip to the beach - oh, what a thrill!

The picnic is shared with family and friends,  
Covid at bay with all its mean trends.  
Life back to 'normal', at least we're all hoping,  
The joys of free choice, not stuck at home moping.

Positive thinking will be easier surely,  
With all lockdowns lifted and people less poorly.

Let's say a big thanks to all the workers that helped us,  
Get through this pandemic, with what seems like no fuss!

## World Day of Prayer

(postponed from March  
due to Covid)

**Methodist Church**  
**Friday 2nd July at 2pm**  
Led by Deacon Anne Taylor

Everyone welcome

## Community Fun Day – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

To celebrate the start of the community consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council is holding a Community Fun Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Local residents are invited to join the fun and come to tell us which community priority action areas you want to support or get involved in.

### Some of the many great initiatives include:

- Climate change and energy: Cutting the energy cost for your home
- Accessibility and transport: Car sharing club; EV charging points and Ebike hire; Improving our footpaths and cycle paths – cycle path to Hexham
- Natural environment: Community tree planting and Orchard; Smallholdings and selling food locally
- Group for village enhancement projects
- Thriving community: More community services for younger and older people; Get fit – indoor and outdoor gym equipment; Community café;
- High speed GIGABIT broadband at fantastic low monthly charge
- Planning, housing and the built environment: Developing community led social housing; conserving the history and buildings of the parish
- Economy: supporting local business; promoting tourism

And much more! For everyone who comes along to the event, we'll plant a tree.

## Pet Advice from Murray Farmcare, Haydon Bridge

### This month: Fleas and ticks.

June sees the beginning of flea season - and dogs can catch fleas from anywhere. One could jump onto the dog while you're out for a walk, or through close contact with another animal. If you have a regular flea programme it is unlikely your pet will get a flea infestation, however if you don't routinely treat or if there has been a gap in treating your pet, it is likely fleas can occur. If this does happen you must treat the pet - as well as your home.

### Here are 5 things you should know about fleas.

- Only 5% of fleas live on the animal, the other 95% live in the household environment of the animal. This could be anywhere in your house, but they will mostly be in warm areas such as carpets, pillows, beds, sofas and any other area your pets have access to. Without treating the environment fleas will be a permanent problem.
- Fleas are usually located around the waist, neck and behind the ears. These are the warmest areas on your pet and should be checked while regularly grooming. A clear indication of fleas is the pet scratching constantly, tiny black specks on the fur and in the pet's bed.
- Your pet can get worms from having fleas. A flea invasion will often bring on a worm problem. After having fleas, it is essential to worm your pets.
- Treating the fleas on a pet will not stop the flea cycle. You must treat all areas in your home, flooring, pet's bedding, sofas - anywhere in the home your pet has been. This must be done with suitable household insecticides. These can be in the form of sprays, powders or fumigators. You must follow all instructions to prevent harm to yourselves and any animals in the home.
- You will find many products to help you combat fleas. On-animal treatments such as 'Spot On' will kill any flea living, or jumping onto the pet. This will also prevent any more eggs from being laid. Once this is done you must treat the environment to break the lifecycle.

### Ticks

Ticks are active during warm and humid conditions, making it likely your pet might pick one up in the spring and autumn months. Not only can ticks attach to animals, they can be found on humans as well. You can protect your pet with a medicine that kills the tick. Meaning that should a tick attach itself to your pet it will be killed quickly.



# Bringing High Speed Gigabit Broadband to Haydon Bridge

The consultation work for the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan highlighted that slow broadband speed was a major issue for a significant number of businesses and households in Haydon Parish.

We have therefore been looking at how we can bring full fibre Gigabit broadband services to Haydon Bridge. The Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) was launched on the 8<sup>th</sup> April to assist communities in gaining access to reliable gigabit capable broadband to everyone in the UK as soon as possible.

Over the past month the Parish Council and Development Trust have been approached by broadband service provider WeFibre (the retail brand of Telcom Group), advising us that they wish to roll-out a Gigabit (1,000 Mbps) full fibre service to residents and businesses in Haydon Bridge and other hamlets in Haydon Parish utilising the government's GBVS scheme.

This initiative is supported by Northumberland County Council and WeFibre are already working with rural communities nearby in Acomb, Fourstones, Oakwood and Bellingham on this initiative. The advantages include:

**FREE INSTALLATION:** The GBVS provides a voucher to cover the full cost of installation of your broadband service but to apply, you must go through a registered supplier such as WeFibre / Telcom.

**FAST SPEED:** The scheme will help accelerate the rollout of very high-speed broadband services which will benefit the community.

**LOW MONTHLY COST:** £20 a month for households and small businesses (5 or less employees)

WeFibre will be dropping off flyers through your door and placing posters within the community. We ask that you take the time to look at their literature and if their service is of interest to you please register that interest and reserve your voucher on their website as directed by their communication.

You can also use the following link to reserve your voucher: [www.wefibre.com/grants](http://www.wefibre.com/grants)

*We are advised that in registering interest there is no obligation to take the service, but the more people that register the sooner we can begin the roll-out. **We need a minimum of 100 households to register an interest to get government approval for WeFibre to be able to go ahead.***

Thank you for your help and support.

The flyer features a dark blue background with white and pink text. The main headline reads 'The only Gig in town'. Below it, it says 'Awesome full-fibre internet is coming to Haydon Bridge'. A registration instruction 'Register at [wefibre.com](http://wefibre.com)' is provided. A large pink circle contains the text '1 Gbps (1,000 Mbps) £20/month'. At the bottom, it says 'Enabled by Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport' with the UK government crest.

Esmond Faulks,  
Chairman, Haydon Parish Council  
&

Mark l'Anson,  
Chair, Haydon Parish Development Trust

# My First Day At Work

Richard Woodley

I started work on the twelfth of April 1966. I was sixteen years old and I was an apprentice gas fitter working for the Northern Gas Board, later to be privatised and renamed as part of British Gas.

The letter I had received from the company telling me I had the job told me to turn up at their Newcastle depot at 8am wearing a pair of strong boots and with a pencil, a six-inch ruler and a knife in the pocket of my donkey jacket. Don't ask me why.

The boss told me I had been assigned to work with one of the many gas fitters in the depot and that I was to accompany this bloke to a building site where we would be installing gas pipes into new houses under construction.

Today every tradesman would have his own van but in those days the men were taken to their various places of work in a minibus. To my surprise our first stop was not a building site but a café where we all spent the first half hour of our working day consuming mugs of tea and full English breakfasts. Luckily I had come to work with a pound in my pocket, a lot of money in those days.

When we eventually arrived at the building site it was pouring with rain and the houses we should have been working in still had no roofs. We spent the next couple of hours sitting in a big shed drinking tea and playing cards with some Polish labourers. At 11am the gas fitter I had been apprenticed to said, "We're not going to get any work done in this rain. Let's go for a pint."

We bought a couple of pork sandwiches at a butcher's shop for our lunch on the way to the pub. Nobody in the pub asked me how old I was and as I ate my pork sandwich I had my first pint in a pub, and probably my fourth or fifth. In 1966 a pint of beer cost about two shillings (10p).

In those days the pubs closed between 3pm and 6pm.

"I know a club in Wallsend that's open all day," said the gas fitter at closing time, "we can get a bus at the stop outside the pub."

I don't remember the club in Wallsend and I don't know how I got home. My mother later told me that, just as it was getting dark, our doorbell rang and when she opened the front door she found me sitting fast asleep on the doorstep.

That was my first day at work and I stayed in that job for 44 years.

How was your first day at work?

## Double Vision at the Allendale Forge Gallery - June 2021

A new exhibition in June at the Allendale Forge Gallery is the first time Mary and Alan Haywood have exhibited their personal work together – despite working together for nearly 40 years running a small design, photography and print company.

Mary has been working on a series of paintings drawing on recollections of Puget Sound on the Pacific North West Coast of the USA, where she visits family. She continues work referencing her local North Penines.

Alan is now less able to go out and take photographs so is exploring his vast back catalogue and printing images to be enjoyed at leisure that captured a fleeting moment, whether the movement of water or changing light.



Haydon Bridge through the trees  
- Tony Messner

# Bridge2Care – Parent/Carer Support

Just before the start of the pandemic, the Haydon Bridge Covid-19 Community Care Group was set up. During the work within the village and surrounding areas, it has become apparent to volunteers that there is a lack of support in the area for parents and carers not only of children and young people with SEN, but also with physical disabilities and mental health problems (which have increased exponentially during the pandemic). NHS, Education and other resources are pushed to breaking point just to provide the support that the young people need and often lack the resources to support the parents/carers too in the way which they would like. Parents and carers in these situations face more physical and mental health problems than those without our incredible (but very challenging) young people, which further adds strain on NHS and Social Care budgets. There is a geographical lack of such support between Haydon Bridge and Brampton, with many such services being centred in Newcastle, Hexham or Carlisle.

Therefore the idea of 'Bridge2Care' came about. This will be a parent/carers support group in Haydon Bridge, which will consist of coffee mornings twice monthly during the week day. As some parents are unable to attend this because of work or other commitments, the Pillar Box Cafe in Haltwhistle are happy to provide tables for the group twice a month on a Saturday morning for those who cannot attend the weekday sessions. Attending a group where you can share experiences and gain knowledge reduces these stresses immeasurably. It looks likely that the group has already secured some funding from Northumberland County Council and we are looking to secure further funding from other areas too.

Something else which has come to light is that male parents/carers often feel isolated in a different way as they feel they have to be the "man" in each situation, supporting their female partners and do not feel they can talk about their struggles or seek advice. Therefore, there is also going to be a separate male parent/carers support group. This will give male parents/carers an opportunity for men to speak freely about their experiences and to have support from other men who share similar experiences. It's highly likely this one will start off in the pub, but opportunities to start football or other sports is also being explored.

Finally, via local schools and social media, a competition has been launched to design the logo for Bridge2Care. One of the co-ordinators, Sonia Brown, will be judging this with a prize going to the winner and their logo used for the group.

We will keep you posted in the next issue about dates for the meetings of Bridge2Care and Bridge2Care men's group and the winner of the logo design. If in the meantime, anyone would like to register interest in either of the groups, please join the Bridge2Care Facebook page or email one of the co-ordinators at [bridge2care@hotmail.com](mailto:bridge2care@hotmail.com)

## Shaftoe Educational Foundation Grants

If you are a student leaving school and needing educational support or you're starting a trade or apprenticeship and your family home is in Haydon Parish then you may be eligible for an education grant.

The Foundation provides grants to promote the education of residents, or the children of residents, of Haydon Parish.

This means that:

- Students undertaking further or higher education academic courses can apply for a support grant for all years of their course
- Students taking vocational courses or apprenticeships can apply for a support grant, and/or a contribution to the cost of their tools.

Because of the present uncertainty, not least in the world of education and schools, colleges and universities, please note the following provisions:

- If you are continuing on a course for which you have previously received a Shaftoe grant, you should reapply in the usual way
- If you are intending for your first year of study, you should complete the form as far as you can. When you receive confirmation of your place on your chosen course, you should provide missing details to the Clerk in an email.

Grants would normally be processed in July and November but in these exceptional circumstances we will try to be flexible.

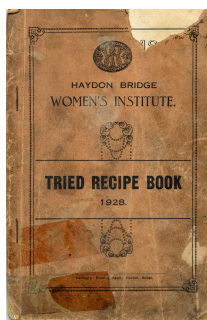
Ideally you should submit your application by June 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. For a grant application form or to talk through applying for a grant, please visit [www.shaftoecharities.org.uk](http://www.shaftoecharities.org.uk) or email Sheff Exham, the Clerk at: [clerkshaftoecharities@outlook.com](mailto:clerkshaftoecharities@outlook.com) or write to The Clerk, The Office, 15 Shaftoe Terrace, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6BW

## RECIPES ... AND MORE

**Shake your head in exaggerated dismay, if you must; or, mutter something about me not taking my fair share of domestic responsibilities seriously, if you like: I have what are well rehearsed answers to all the admonishments. It is true, though, that during fifty nine years of married life I have steered well clear of what is known, with good reason in our family, as 'BETTY'S KITCHEN' ... no mention of the 'husband of the old school!'. So, it will be a surprise to those who know me that my Notes this month are a response to a fascinating book of recipes.**

It is thanks to Ann Puddick (nee Hutchinson) an ex Haydonian and, in 1958, Haydon Bridge Flower Show Queen, that I have in my possession the Haydon Bridge Women's institute Recipe Book of 1928. Ann is married and lives in Preston, but keeps in touch through the Haydon News and will be remembered by older readers when she was at Shaftoe Trust School and living at The Tofts with her mother, Mollie Hutchinson.

The 1928 W.I. booklet of tried and tested recipes and useful culinary hints was published by our local, Harding's Newsagents, and here are a few of the 90 year old recipes that would be to my taste ... if Betty is willing to prepare them.



*They liked their battered sausage dishes in 1928 and here are a couple contributed by Mrs Steel of Haydon Bridge.*

### Sausage Fritters:

Cook ½lb. sausage for 10 minutes then allow to cool, skin and cut into halves lengthways. Make a batter with 3 tablespoons of flour, 1 egg, a little chopped parsley, salt and pepper to taste. Dip the sausages in the batter and fry in boiling fat until a nice brown. Serve on hot dish with mashed potatoes heaped round.

### Savoury sausages:

Fry lightly ½lb. sausages with a few slices of fat bacon. Put sausage, bacon and some of the fat into a piedish and cover with sliced potatoes. Make a stiff batter with ¾ pint of milk, 2 tablespoons of flour, 1 teaspoonful of baking powder, salt and pepper. Pore over potatoes and bake in a sharp oven one hour.

And, if you were really hungry in 1928, here is: 'A

**Plentiful Dinner'** recommended by The Red House occupants on the North Bank.

Ingredients - 1 Rabbit : 6 large onions : ½lb bacon or bacon pieces : Flour, salt and pepper.

Scald and cut the rabbit into small pieces. Put slices of bacon first, then onion, then a layer of rabbit. Sprinkle with flour, salt and pepper. Proceed thus till the pan or stew jar is full, finishing with bacon. Add 4 tablespoonfuls of water and cook very slowly in live oven for about four hours. When it is finished it will be found that there is plenty of gravy. The pot must be kept covered.

And, what about finishing off with '**A Five Minutes Pudding'** suggested by Mrs Rutherford; and '**Brandy Snaps'** prepared by Mrs Thompson?

### The 5 Minutes Pudding:

Mix flour, sugar and baking powder together. Add eggs and mix lightly. Bake in buttered tin for 3 or 4 minutes. Before lifting out of tin, spread with jam or marmalade and then roll. Cover with castor sugar. Serve with cream or custard sauce.

### And, as for the Brandy Snaps:

1 tablespoonful of ginger : 4ozs butter : 10 ozs flour : 4 ozs sugar : 3 tablespoonfuls syrup : a little carbonate soda : and milk.

Put butter, sugar and syrup into a basin and put in the oven to melt. When butter is all dissolved mix in flour and ginger. Take about ¼ teaspoonful of carbonate soda and dissolve in a teaspoonful of milk. Mix all together and put about a teaspoonful on a cake tin about 4 inches apart and bake in a moderate oven.

### Other Haydon Bridge ladies of the 1928 W.I. who added to the one hundred and forty recipes were:

Miss C. Atkin, Mrs S. Moore, Miss F. Hogg, Mrs W.W. Ridley (the Shaftoe School headmaster's wife), M. Paxton, Mrs. Patterson of Linton House, M. Willan of The Craggs, Mrs J.C. Coats, Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs Snowball, Mrs Kindred, Mrs Brown, Miss Russell, Mrs Dick, Mrs Johnson, Ursula Charlton, C. Miller, Mrs Dodsworth, Mrs Clark, Mrs Harry Harding (whose husband arranged for the publication of the booklet), Mrs Hetherington, Mrs Wren, Mrs R. Armstrong, Mrs Allen of Highfield, Mrs J. Gibson, Mrs T. Robinson, Mrs J. Moffat, Mrs Wilson, Mrs King, Miss Middleton, Mrs Marshall, Mrs Watson, Mrs Melvin (the Co-op Store manager's wife), Mrs Carrick, Mrs Armour, Mrs

Usher, Mrs Young and Mrs Milburn.

And, not forgetting J.E. Coats, who provided a recipe for '**A Strengthening Drink For Invalids**':

Take 2 fresh eggs and place them with small end downward, in a jar. Squeeze over them the juice of 4 lemons. Tie down carefully to exclude the air and leave in a cool, dark place for 4 days. Then, open the jar and beat up and strain through muslin (the egg shells will have dissolved). Add ½lb sugar and ½ pint of rum. Bottle and it is ready for use.

Dose - one tablespoonful taken in the morning fasting and another in the afternoon. A splendid tonic that no invalid refuses to take.

The ladies of the 1928 W.I. also offered advice in a chapter called: '**Things Worth Knowing**'. I've chosen a few of their recommendations, to provide a flavour of women's work in the Haydon Bridge of the 1920s.

**To mend a leaking pipe:** Leaks in iron water pipes can be effectually repaired by the handy housewife.

Turn the water off at the main and dry the outside of the leak. Secure some iron fillings from (*Clemitsen & Son*) the ironmongers or (*Alan Scudamore, Henry Watson & Co., or Belmont Garage*) the motor repair shops and mix these up into a kind of paste with vinegar. Fill the hole in the pipe with the mixture and leave for a few hours. At the end of that time, the iron fillings and vinegar will have set into a hard cement and the water may be turned on again.

**New stockings:** New stockings will last twice as long without wearing into holes if they are shrunk before wearing them. Soak them in warm water for an hour or two and you will be delighted with the result.

**Frosting a window:** There is no reason why the handy housewife should not try her hand at frosting any small window that she would like barred to the gaze of the outside world. Make a strong mixture of vinegar and epsom salts and paint on the window with a piece of cloth. The window should have the affect of crystalised ground glass - *and the modest housewife's privacy from prying eyes will be assured.*

**No mouldy jam:** recommended by an old lady who always followed it herself and never had a pot of jam go mouldy. Take the white of an egg and beat it well. Cut papers to fit the tops of the jars and brush each piece over with the egg white and put on the top of the jam while it is hot.

**Cleaning a clock:** *I wonder whether our 'Mr George's Museum of Time' would recommend this today?*

Soak a good size piece of cotton wool in paraffin oil. Put it on an old tin lid, place it inside the clock and

leave it for 3 or 4 days. At the end of the time, the works of the clock will look like new, while the cotton-wool is covered with the dust and dirt that has been loosened by the fumes of the paraffin.

**There are many more recipes and hints for the housewife; to tell the truth, however, the main fascination for me, and as an archive of our parish, revolves round the Haydon Bridge retailers' advertisements in the 1928 W.I. booklet.**

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## SUDOKU

Sudoku is played on a grid of nine by nine spaces. Within the rows and columns are nine squares (made up of three by three spaces). Each row, column and square (nine spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers one to nine, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

								8
		6		9	4			
3	1			2	6	7		4
4		8	1					7
	7						1	
5		1	3					6
7	2			1	5	4		9
		5		4	7			
								5

## WORDSEARCH

M	R	G	E	O	R	G	E	S	M	U	S	E	U	M
S	H	N	S	X	T	N	R	W	U	T	Z	G	E	O
U	E	I	V	Y	E	I	T	E	R	H	G	D	B	F
B	R	N	R	W	M	R	N	N	R	E	K	I	L	T
R	I	E	P	S	Y	E	E	E	A	A	F	R	A	I
E	T	D	U	R	H	T	C	R	Y	N	H	B	M	M
B	A	R	O	E	T	A	Y	I	F	C	P	N	C	E
R	G	A	Q	H	D	C	T	A	A	H	I	O	Y	D
A	E	G	Y	C	N	S	I	L	R	O	J	D	C	T
B	N	F	R	T	A	L	N	C	M	R	E	Y	A	H
E	D	M	T	U	H	L	U	W	C	N	G	A	M	E
H	E	G	N	B	S	I	M	X	A	Y	A	H	R	C
T	C	B	U	H	E	J	M	A	R	O	R	D	A	O
J	I	L	O	M	R	S	O	T	E	B	A	C	H	O
K	H	A	C	W	F	R	C	U	Z	V	G	Q	P	P

## Spring Inspiration

David Armstrong

I can't quite describe it  
 Put it in words,  
 But everywhere I look  
 From the babbling brook  
 To the sound of the birds  
 I can feel it, taste it and breathe it  
 Yes I swear spring can be heard.  
 The hedgerows, the woods  
 Are bursting with song,  
 As if all of God's creatures  
 Had been sleeping too long,  
 Then I saw a March hare out in the field  
 And definitely noticed spring in his heels.  
 The buds on the trees  
 Were swaying in the breeze,  
 Saying ready to open please  
 And oh what a joy  
 Between a girl and a boy  
 Out in the morning sun  
 Making new plans  
 Well everyone can  
 Now that Spring has come.

### TO FIND:

CLAIRES NEWS  
 THE BARBER BUS  
 MR GEORGES MUSEUM OF TIME  
 COMMUNITY CENTRE  
 WMH BUTCHERS  
 MURRAY FARMCARE  
 THE COOP  
 JILLS CATERING  
 HERITAGE COUNTRY GARDENING  
 THE ANCHOR GARAGE  
 HAYDON BRIDGE PHARMACY  
 FRESH AND THYME

### Local Business Focus

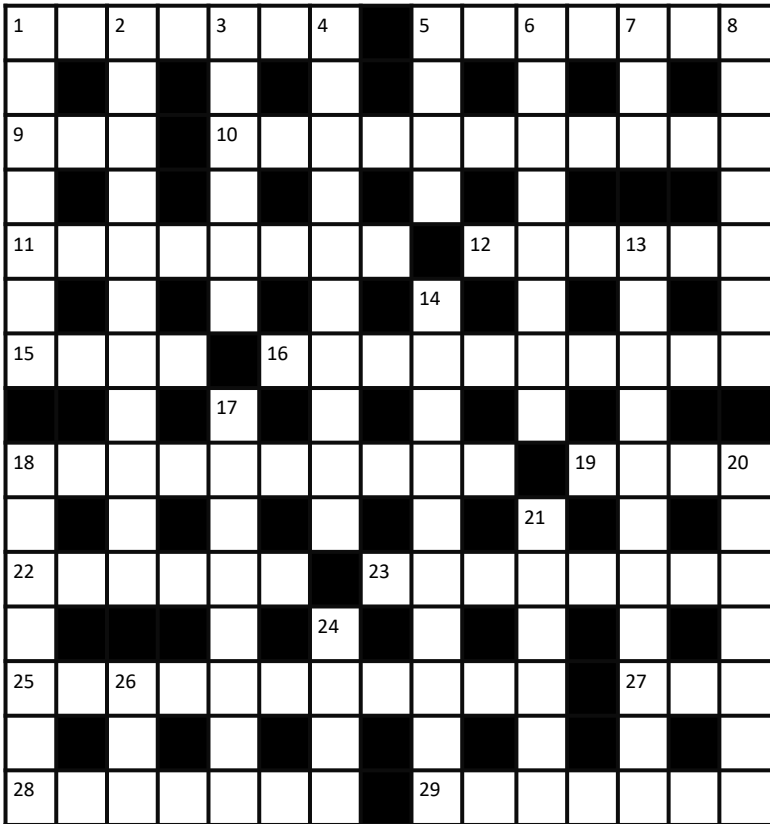
Would you like your business featured in our Local Business Focus?  
 Please get in touch for a short interview by emailing [editor@haydon-news.co.uk](mailto:editor@haydon-news.co.uk)

CROSSWORD

June 2021  
£10 PRIZE EVERY MONTH!

Please drop answers off at Claire's by 12th June  
Winner May 2021- Carole Muir

ADDRESS .....



ACROSS

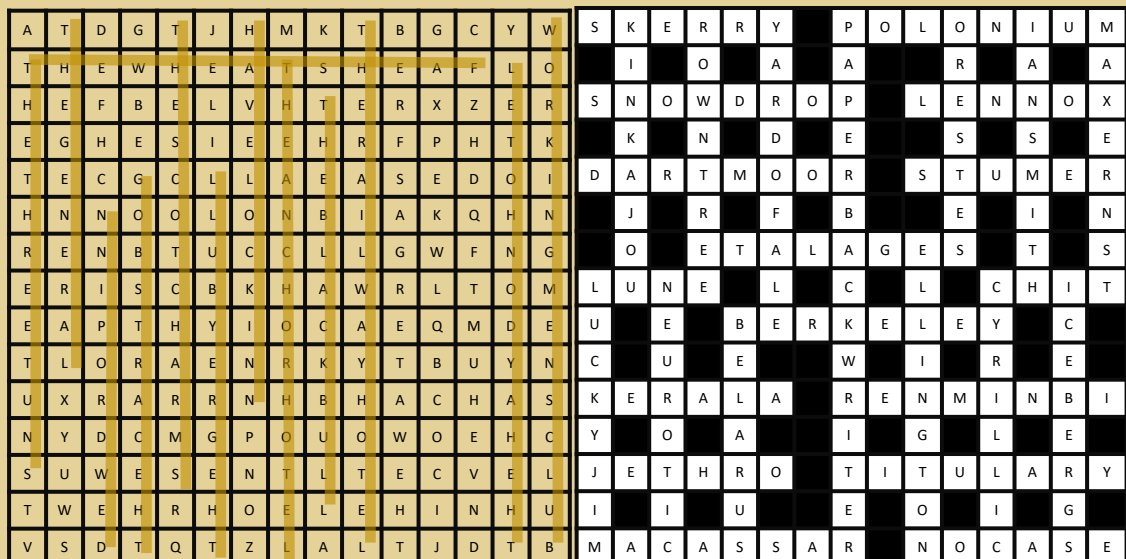
1. Little devil does influence (7)
5. Sea meadows could make musical miscellanies (7)
9. One in Munich (3)
10. Slip-up by key worker (6,8)
11. Tag used in Chancellor's office (8)
12. Author holding pound? Not quite (6)
15. I am fine in a frenzy (4)
16. Bettered when expelled from form (10)
18. Flying and undecided as to where to go (2,2,3,3)
19. Forward player handled the ball, you say? (4)
22. Brownie maybe a long time on the river (6)
23. Protection from French receivers (8)
25. Unique snort out of order- conclusion does not follow (3-8)
27. Feel compassion for plant (3)
28. Girl beginning year of leisure after not doing anything (7)
29. Street in place harbours flying pests (7)

DOWN

1. Passivity apparent if latrine drops fifty for one (7)
2. Uproar ensues when man gets involved with opium den (11)
3. Most dainty nick is in Paris (6)
4. Particularly good conman (5-5)
5. 007 boss in "Times"? What a cheeky lass (4)
6. Languishes on opponents' ground so sound fades (4,4)
7. Hesitate, holding article, to construct organ (3)
8. Run in remained but went off course (7)
13. Puts off entertainment in East Anglian town (11)
14. Western accent idol perverted (10)
17. Nicola's source of caviar (8)
18. International body is frugal – that's weird (7)
20. Files I left for some rough sleepers (7)
21. Encountered old king, losing hard measurement (6)
24. Goddess left male in the Caribbean (4)
26. Penniless writer removed, so left with nothing (3)

May puzzle answers:

6	1	3	2	7	9	5	8	4
7	8	9	5	4	3	2	1	6
5	4	2	8	6	1	3	7	9
8	3	1	6	2	4	7	9	5
4	2	5	7	9	8	1	6	3
9	6	7	1	3	5	8	4	2
2	5	6	9	1	7	4	3	8
3	7	8	4	5	6	9	2	1
1	9	4	3	8	2	6	5	7





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**“Now, young sir, your father don’t pay £300 a year in school fees to have you flicking your bat at balls just outside the off stump!” J.H.Thorpe**

My infatuation with the game of cricket began in the spring of 1972. I lived in a village in Essex and attended the local primary school. A good pal of mine invited me one evening to cricket nets, enticed by the promise that we would be allowed in the bar afterwards to purchase a pint of lemonade and lime and a packet of salt and vinegar. The evening was a huge success and I was hooked; my pal and I were soon opening the bowling for the Colts XI, although our respective cricketing journeys couldn’t have been more different, as he went on to enjoy a hugely successful career with Essex and England. I often said that I used to rough the opposition up with fiery, short-pitched bouncers and he got all the wickets; sadly, only one of those statements is true!

That summer the England cricket team played Australia and the likes of Geoff Arnold and John Snow quickly became my idols. The BBC broadcast test cricket in those days and I found myself glued to the TV. I also discovered scoring and became the owner of a beautiful Empire Cumulative Scoring book, carefully following the games and scoring every ball in pencil. I also became scorer for the village 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and particularly enjoyed the post-match, beer-fuelled festivities, some of which were probably unsuitable to be witnessed by an 11 year old, but it was all part of growing up, I guess.

I was given the opportunity to coach the U15 side during my first summer of teaching and was eager to pass on my pearls of wisdom, although I soon discovered that a number of the boys had played representative cricket for Kent through the age groups and many were vastly more experienced and knowledgeable than me! The school playing fields, affectionately known as the Himalayas due to the fact that they were situated a mile or so up the hill from the school, provided the venue for our first game and a shiny red ‘pil’ (school slang for ball, from the Latin word ‘pilum’ meaning spherical object) was placed in my pigeon-hole by the cricket professional. There was very little need for ‘school kit’ as the boys had their own bats, gloves and pads (no helmets in those days!), and the rest of the paraphernalia required – stumps, bails, scorebook etc – were stored in the pavilion. After a quick lunch, the boys got changed in school, grabbed their kit and walked up to the Himalayas where we were to meet the opposition, who turned up promptly and were going through their fielding drills. Parents began to arrive and chairs appeared at various points around the boundary, taking advantage of the warm sunshine, unusual in April even down south. The toss was won by the opposition captain who elected to bat first and, after a short pep-talk, our skipper led his side out, allotted fielding positions and politely led the applause for the incoming batsmen. All was set and our opening bowler approached me and said, “Sir, please may I have the match ball?” You’ve guessed it – the ball was not where it should be in the pocket of my umpiring jacket but was still nestled amongst the unmarked jotters and ignored memoranda in my pigeon hole! A helpful father drove down to school and rescued the ball in record time, saving both the day and my acute embarrassment.

A few weeks later, we found ourselves in south London, struggling to save a game in which we had been outplayed, conceding over 200 runs, taking very few wickets and our last pair at the wicket with half an hour to play out for a draw. The last over arrived at the same time as a very large limousine, from which emerged a father who had clearly enjoyed rather a good lunch. As he approached the boundary, he coarsely bellowed, “Go on, son, belt it for six!” His boy, who had thus far demonstrated an immaculate forward defensive to frustrate the opposition, glanced furtively towards me at square leg, where I slowly shook my head from side to side. Whose advice to follow, father or coach? Blood proved to be very much thicker than water; he charged down the wicket to the penultimate delivery of the match, missed the ball by a country mile and was stumped. Game over and out.

Another bizarre incident occurred in a fixture at the Himalayas. Our visitors included an American who strode purposefully to the wicket and took his stance baseball-style. He connected with his first delivery but sent the ball off the top edge skywards, straight to the fielder at mid-off. As he steadied himself to take the catch, the American, who was running directly towards him, yelled “Drop it!” at the top of his voice.....which he did. An embarrassing silence followed, broken by my umpiring colleague who raised his finger and gave the boy out for ungentlemanly conduct and obstructing the field – the only time I have ever witnessed this method of dismissal in almost 50 years of watching cricket.

### Services in the Parishes by the Wall

[www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall](http://www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall)

<http://www.parishesbythewall.org.uk/>

#### St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church - 10.30 am

6th June Morning Prayer (a Lay Person to lead this)  
13th June Eucharist Service Curate Gill Alexander  
20th June Eucharist Service Lesley Chapman  
27th June Eucharist Service Nigel and Mary Warner

#### All Hallows at Henshaw - 10.30 am

6th June Morning Prayer Visiting Reader Gwyn McKenzie  
13th June Eucharist Rev. Canon Rosalind Brown  
20th June Morning Prayer with Reflection  
27th June Eucharist Rev. Gill Alexander

## Finding Wisdom in the Old Ways

We have all had to respond in variety of creative ways to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this has been no more so than for our churches. And, of course at St Cuthbert's in Haydon Bridge, we are now having to find new ways of working together in order to respond to the 'vacancy' that has followed Benjamin's departure to Carlisle Cathedral.

When faced with new challenges there is sometimes wisdom to be found in the old ways of doing things. As we cautiously emerge from lockdown one of the old ways we explored this May in St Cuthbert's was Rogationtide.

The three days leading up to Ascension Day are known as Rogation Days. Rogation Days are an ancient tradition. They began in the 5th century with processional liturgies to pray for God's blessing and protection over the land *in the fields themselves*. In England from medieval times clergy, church wardens and the people of God would process in large numbers around parish boundaries praying for God's blessing. The 17<sup>th</sup> century priest and poet George Herbert interpreted the procession as a means of asking for God's blessing on the land, of preserving boundaries, of encouraging fellowship between neighbours and of practising generosity towards those in need.

Rogation days continue to be observed in a few communities by the beating of the bounds, boundary riding on horseback or walking from church to church. However, it is largely an ancient tradition that has disappeared.

During this last year of pandemic, we have had to stay put within our four walls and our parish boundaries. We have been 'grounded' in our parish in more ways than one. And, we have discovered so much that is good in the land, the people and in creating new ways of caring for each other. So, as a small group of us got out of our four walls and walked the ancient paths from St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge to St Cuthbert's Beltingham this year we discovered wisdom for our times in the old ways of asking for God's blessing on all that is growing in our parish, not just in the fields but in our care for each other and our common life together.

Perhaps, next year, we can make this an even bigger community event.

Rev'd Gill Alexander,  
Assistant Curate, St Cuthbert's

### Methodist Church Services

Sunday Morning Services (10.30 am)

6th June Reader's Service Christine Thompson  
13th June Deacon Anne Taylor  
20th June Sandra Martin  
27th June Local Arrangements service

Mid week Informal Worship Wednesdays 7pm  
2nd June, 16th June and 30th June

### St John of Beverley Services

Sunday Morning Masses as follows

St. John's Haydon Bridge 9.00 am

St. Oswald's Bellingham 11.00 am

Thursday Morning Mass at St. Wilfred's Haltwhistle  
9.30 am

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St. Mary's, Hexham Public Mass and Live Stream,  
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### Contact Details

#### Deacon Anne Taylor, (Methodist Church)

Woodville', Redesmouth Road,  
Bellingham NE48 2EH,  
Tel: 01434 220283

#### Father Christopher Warren, (St John's Catholic Church)

c/o St. Mary's, Hexham.  
Tel. 01434 603119

#### St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church

Church Wardens Pippa Exham 01434 684239 or Gill Valentine 07711110850

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## Climate Change Corner – Get Involved in Local Projects

Siobhan Stephenson

I started this regular slot to give more voice in our parish to the issues resulting from the climate and ecological emergency we are in. I want to encourage us to think about how we will cope with this and encourage and support each other to make the changes that need to happen.

It was for this reason that I became involved with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, after seeing posters up round the village. I have been really encouraged by this process as it has felt a bit like creating a productive compost system! A means of building fertile soil from which to grow many projects.

The Neighbourhood Plan puts the need to address the climate and ecological emergency firmly at its' heart. The exciting section is towards the end, after all the technical planning stuff, (although we did manage to thread the climate and ecological emergency into that too). The last section is 'Community Actions' and is based on what people suggested in the Neighbourhood Survey that went to all households and businesses in the parish. These will need people to get involved to take them forward.

After more than two years being researched, developed

and written, the final draft is almost ready for 'the community consultation phase.' So, when the opportunity arises, hopefully in July, please have a read and give feedback.

By the time this Haydon News comes out, we will hopefully be well on the way, along with many others in the village, to organising a Community Fun Day. This will be a chance to find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan, give comments, and find out about the community actions – and sign up to get involved in some. But most importantly, it will (hopefully) be a chance to come together and have a lovely day, to celebrate our amazing Parish, especially our massive efforts to look after each other during these Covid times.

Please email me ([siobhansib@protonmail.com](mailto:siobhansib@protonmail.com)) if you are a local person wanting to promote or sell your products on a stall, or a local community organisation wanting to contribute in some way – be it offering an activity, or for your fundraising efforts. (cake stall or garden plant/produce stall?) Or with any other ideas!

Look forward to see you all on Saturday July 3rd in the church yard, or community centre (depending on the weather).

## Jobs for the Garden in June

What an unusual year of weather it has been so far! If you've wondered what you did to stunt your shrub hydrangea or kill off your hardy fuchsia that has survived countless Northumbrian winters, trust me you're not alone! Summer is however finally getting into its swing and there's plenty to keep us busy in the garden.

### Lawn Care

Mow lawns regularly to keep them healthy - removing a 'little and often' is the key. Cut the lawn edges to keep them neat and well shaped. At the same time create a 3in gutter to define the lawn edge from the flower border. Apply a high nitrogen summer lawn fertiliser if not done last month to - encourage a healthy-looking lawn.

### Trees, shrubs and climbers

Tie in climbing and rambling roses as near to horizontal as possible to restrict sap flow and cause more side-shoots to grow along the length of stem resulting in more flowers. Prune out any frost damage from evergreen shrubs. Continue to clip evergreen hedges such as privet and box.

### Flowers

Plant out summer bedding and seed-raised plants, if not already done so.

Now is the time to lift and divide overcrowded clumps of bulbs after they have finished flowering so that you can increase your stock for next year.

Hellebore seed can be harvested once the seed heads have ripened –

sow them straight away for growth next year.

Lift clumps of forget me nots as these can get out of control.

Divide hostas as they come into growth.

If you need help with any of the above, or more specific advice on any of the points, please feel free to get in touch.



Adam, 07585115000

[heritagecountrygardening@gmail.com](mailto:heritagecountrygardening@gmail.com)

It's a little known fact in the fairy world that Tinkerbell suffered constantly from tired wings. As she looked down on the ground below all she could see were signs which said "NEVER NEVER LAND" While on the subject of flying, in a remote corner of a forest a small squirrel could be seen climbing up to the highest branches. From there he would leap off, frantically flapping his arms and legs as he crashed headlong towards the ground below. After yet another impact with the hard ground, he would climb back up the tree and repeat the exercise. Watching this performance were two large owls, sadly shaking their heads. Eventually, one turned to the other and asked, "Don't you think it's about time that we told him that he was adopted?"

Towards the end of March there was a shift northwards in warmer air, heralding perhaps the start of Spring but this was certainly not going to be a sustained improvement in the weather, but rather the opposite. With anticyclonic conditions becoming well-established in Polar latitudes, we experienced typically cold and very stable weather with low windspeeds and dry air. Although there were a few cloudy days, for much of the time we were treated to blue skies. While this brought many hours of bright sunshine, during the night-time it resulted in extensive cooling of the ground surface and frosts. Twenty days began with frost which for the most part had disappeared by mid-morning. Atlantic low pressure systems brought brief wet spells 8<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. The cold Polar air meant that precipitation fell as snow on much of our hill land, sufficient to accumulate to 3cm on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. The period 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> was totally lacking in precipitation and by the end of the month local water courses were running very low. Not surprisingly the news media latched on to the cold conditions and we were told that this was the 'coldest' April on record across the UK, expressed in terms of average daily minimum temperatures and number of frosts. Although April is on average the driest month of the year, last month was exceptionally dry, at 11.9mm which is only 25% of the long-term average. This was a bitterly cold start to the lambing season but at least winds were relatively gentle. My garden is launching in to 2021 with cold dry soil, and delayed planting due to the frost risk, Maybe the May Bank Holiday will see a shift to warmer and wetter conditions! At least April provided plenty of statistical interest for the climatologists – me ? I was just fed up feeling cold.

And finally, Gladys was amused to hear on a visit to relatives in Australia that her nephew had been offered two standards of seats at a forthcoming sex education class at his school – smirking or non-smirking.

Month	Average Maximum Temp (Day) deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Average Minimum Temp (Night) deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Rainfall mm	Percentage of long-term average
April	11.6	+0.1	0.2	-3.6	11.9	25

## The Spotted Flycatchers

Living in such beautiful countryside as Tynedale, lockdown ensured we noticed more of the everyday changes in our natural environs. For two previous Springtime's, a nest in our honeysuckle bush had been home to a bird family.

In May 2020 the little mother bird appeared again, zooming into her 'old' nest. Within a week or so, four little eggs appeared, followed in June by the baby birds.

An Electricity Board chap arrived one day to deliver a letter informing us of a pending electric supply shutdown. "Oh my goodness" he declared, "this is so rare, I must get my camera". He returned from his van with a huge wide lens camera to snap the nest and the bird family members. It turned out the family were 'Spotted Flycatchers'.

Smaller than sparrows these tiny birds migrate to Africa for Winter and usually return for up to 4 years to the same area and often the same nest site each Spring. Mum and Dad both feed their fledglings, perching on fences and low branches to catch flying insects.

While the pandemic raged, it was a wonderful treat to watch these garden visitors, providing a distraction from our national woes. Normal activity was continuing for these birds, their natural rhythms of life impeded.

I've been on the lookout for the arrival of this year's visitors. The good news is our little birds have returned this week and are nest building in our garden honeysuckle bush, for the 4th year running.

Christine Irwin

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