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March 2021



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What a month of weather we've had – from snow to sunshine and sometimes both at the same time. One spectacularly sunny day over the deep snow seemed to lift spirits across the county. And while Spring is creeping in, memories of temperatures of -15 in Whitfield are still fresh.

In general, we've loved the snow we've had so far this year, it improved the usual winter blues. Our walks have been hugely improved with the fantastic sights and sounds that the thick snow has delivered. Even so, lockdown is better when the sun decides to shine.

Local wildlife photographer Will Nicholls produced a beautiful video with his drone that showed the snow as it lay over fields, hills and hedges above the village, with a fantastic image of a pair of swans in the water in the old quarry near the village. Thank you to Will for his image for this month's front cover.

We'd all like to wish many happy returns to Dennis Telford, long-standing contributor to The Haydon News, who turns a youthful 80 this month.

As ever, we welcome contributions, help and ideas from everyone to make the Haydon News better each month. If you'd like to submit an image or story, please send it to editor@haydon-news.co.uk.



The Haydon News Needs You!

Could you help make the Haydon News even better?

We're an entirely voluntary organization that aims to publish local news and information for the local area. We need ideas and people to help us do it.

We also need a new treasurer to join our committee – please get in touch if you can help.

We welcome everyone's ideas and any kind of stories and photographs each month.

If you've got something you'd like to contribute, please email editor@haydon-news.co.uk

Pet Portraits



Pet Portraits by Nadine Sutterby
Nadinesutterbyart.com

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

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

1. Peter Fletcher, Neighbourhood Plan –

The Neighbourhood Plan (N Plan) group are starting to create a draft plan, setting out objectives and vision around sustainability. Some community actions will also be set out that can't be dealt with by planning policy. Mr Fletcher said that in relation to housing need and the findings of the Housing Needs Assessment, NCC had acknowledged that in recent years the type of housing built had been unbalanced. At present the group is drafting sections that deal with housing need and housing supply. This should be straightforward as they are fairly clear about what is needed and the full details of the Housing Needs Survey can be found on the website. Cllr Faulks said that the summary seemed to suggest more affordable housing is needed, and Mr Fletcher confirmed more affordable rented homes are required. There should be an opportunity with the Strawberry Fields plot to shape what is wanted on the site by 2036. Cllr Thornhill said that it would seem that there is a large group who cannot afford to buy, a figure of 101 households quoted. He wondered where this estimate had come from. Mr Fletcher explained that there is a government template for assessing housing needs, and the total had arisen out of that. Both the N Plan group and NCC believe that this figure is an over-estimate and that the balance should be more toward social (affordable rented). The group would also like to try for community led housing with the Development Trust possibly as landlord. They are talking with NCC about a local letting policy. This would allow for advertising houses in the local community first before they go on Homefinder. The view is that local people with housing needs are missing out.

The key thing with the N Plan is to demonstrate community consultation. Both NCC and the N Plan planning consultant are very happy with the level and quality of the response to the recent household and business surveys.

People either like or love living in the parish. Local employment is also important and this needs to be promoted. Cllr Charlton and Mr Fletcher will take part in a follow up zoom meeting with local businesses. Local businesses would like to see a business forum and perhaps a business hub to provide office support and support land for employment. However, all concerned would need to be careful about this last point, as if land was not picked up by businesses then developers could take it for housing.

One concern was the reliance on fossil fuels in the parish. There had been a lot of support at household and community level to a move to more renewable sources. The group are trying to be pragmatic and realistic in the options considered. One big gap in community facilities was felt to be the lack of a café. There was also a lot of interest in a community gym and more community education. Local parking and traffic were mentioned frequently in responses. These survey findings had come before recent works, and it will be interesting to see the affect that they will have.

Mr Fletcher is in touch with a group in Cumbria called "Charge my street" responsible for installation of electric charging points at street level. Possible sites will need to be considered for this.

The N Plan will take a little while to emerge and the next steps will be to convert all of this information into a plan which will be brought back to the PC in 2-3 months time. Cllr Charlton said that each time the local community was surveyed the same things come up and some of these will need to be passed to the

PC to take forward. Mr Fletcher agreed saying that they might be listed under community actions with an indication given as to who will be responsible for them. The Parish Plan was created 10 years ago and most of the things that came out of that have now been done. The PC will need to become more engaged with the process at this stage. Cllr Sharp said that he had been working hard over recent months to get the local roads improved and he asked whether anything had come up of particular concern. Peter Fletcher will go through all of the data entered electronically and pass on the relevant points to the Clerk to circulate. Cllr Faulks thanked Mr Fletcher for all of the hard work so far. Peter Fletcher said that there was an excellent team working on the N Plan and the planning consultant, Jo-Anne Garrick was also excellent. NCC are being very supportive too.

2. Apologies were received from – Cllrs Burrows and Howard.

3. Declarations of interest – none were received.

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

5. Report from Northumberland County Council –

Cllr Sharp explained that he had been ill with COVID-19 since Christmas, so had not progressed things as he would have wished. Works have now been completed at Elrington junction. the Landowner has carried out drainage work and NCC will complete their work by the 3 February 2021.

Some further work is needed on the road above the junction to stop the water coming down the road. This should be done in the next week. NCC had felt that this work was the responsibility of Northumbrian Water Ltd, but they have said that it was not their responsibility, NCC will complete the works by the next meeting. Cllr Sharp thanked Cllr Snowdon for his help with this.

The old Speed Restriction Sign on Ratcliffe Road has not yet been removed and Cllr Sharp will chase this up again.

Work has now commenced on the Ratcliffe Road/Church Street scheme. Unfortunately work has not progressed as quickly as Cllr Sharp would have liked because Network Rail objected to the three way traffic control signs. NCC are now sorting this matter out with them. Cllr Sharp will request that cones are removed until work begins again to allow residents to park.

The road re-surfacing between Low Hall Farm and Haydon Bridge has now been completed. Cllr Sharp has been working very closely with Haydon Bridge Football Club, Langley Village Hall, and Haydon Bridge Community Centre, who have all submitted Community Chest applications for schemes to improve their facilities. Cllr Sharp is also going to help these organisations with a contribution from my Members Small Allowance Scheme monies.

A new Headmaster has now been appointed at Haydon Bridge High School, his name is Michael Smith. Michael was previously Deputy-head at a school in Prudhoe.

6. Highways –

a) Cllr Kirsopp said that on the way up to the Showfield there was water running over the road, from the gateway at Shaftoe School. This has created a sheet of ice on the road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the school.

b) Cllr Bates reported litter on the A686 from the turn off the A69 up to Alston. Cllr Sharp will request that this is looked at.

c) Cllr Thornhill said that someone had carried out litter picking near Geeswood. The Clerk said that she had received a report of litter around the bin in the layby and passed this on to NCC.

d) Cllr Charlton said that an email had been received regarding the closure of the path to Spa Well. Cllr Bates read out the email which stated that the path had deteriorated. Cllr Charlton said that the closure of the path was not a decision for Roadlink. At present NCC is looking at establishing an alternative route to the Spa Well and is in negotiations with the landowner. However, Cllr Charlton said that until now people could still use the bottom path to view the river. She also said that elsewhere in Northumberland paths damaged by Storm Desmond have been reinstated, and she felt that the question needed to be asked why this had not happened in this case. The Clerk will contact NCC.

7. Lighting – Nothing to report.

8. Planning applications – None received.

Cllr Kirsopp explained that the football club had been looking into the removal of 3 or 4 willow trees near Temple Houses. They have split and are in a dangerous condition. A tree surgeon has looked at them and said that they need to be tidied up. The Planning Dept has agreed that as this is not in the conservation area and do not have tree preservation orders a planning application was not needed.

9. Accounts – as in budget.

Cllr Faulks said that Mr Batey had asked about buying a bag of grass seed to have on hand for levelling graves over the next year. This was agreed.

Details of work carried out over the last year by Age UK and Mencap was discussed and it was agreed to continue making an annual donation to both bodies.

10. Correspondence –

a) Information about memorial inspections had been received from NCC. The cost of this would be around £600 + vat. Cllr Charlton explained that Paul Charlton had been trained to carry out this work but his training was now out of date. He had advised that the PC must have the work carried out by a suitably qualified person. Cllr Thornhill said that he carries out this testing on behalf of the PCCC. It was agreed that the Clerk should get details of the relevant training.

b) An email regarding creating Food Champions in the parish was discussed. It was agreed to put this on the back burner for now.

11. Parish projects –

a) Development Trust – Cllr Charlton said that the library was still closed, but she will get her vaccine on Saturday and hopes the other volunteers will get theirs soon too. Once they have all had the second doses of vaccine she hoped that the library would be able to reopen if only for a couple of days a week.

12. Any other business –

a) Cllr Charlton said that the new housing across the road from the Anchor was meant to be sheltered housing. As they have not been used for this purpose yet, she wondered whether they would apply for a change of use. It was agreed that the Clerk would look at the planning application and find out who to contact.

b) b) Cllr Kirsopp said that the path up to the cemetery from the Showfield was covered in leaves. Cllr Sharp said he would raise this at NCC.

c) c) Cllr Thornhill informed everyone that Rev. Carter had

been appointed to a new post at Carlisle Cathedral and was due to leave the parish after Easter. This would leave a vacancy. The PCC would try to continue normal services until the end of the year. Cllr Sharp said that Benjamin Carter had done a very good job and it was good to hear of the new role, but he was sorry that he would be leaving Haydon Bridge.

d) d) Cllr Snowdon had asked Gary Thompson if he was willing to take over flag maintenance at St. Cuthbert's and Gary will be delighted to do so.

e) e) Cllr Thompson also said that Gary Thompson had jet washed the steps to the clock tower for safety.

f) f) Cllr Thompson wished Cllr Sharp a speedy recovery.

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Jo Thompson – (01434) 684376

Using the right bin for the job

While recently our roads have been icy and needing grit, it's important to be aware that not all of the bins in the area are for this purpose.

In times of flooding a limited supply of sand bags and sand is available. These can be found in GREEN BINS in five locations around the village namely Innerhaugh, Brigwood, Reading Rooms, Martins Close and the Haydonian Club. There are also bins at Lipwood just off the A69.

It should be noted that the sand in the **YELLOW BINS** is for use on the roads when icy. The sand in the **GREEN BINS** is for flooding purposes.

Northumberland County Council replenishes the sand in yellow bins but not the green bins. Further sand and bags have to be paid for out of Parish funds. Northumberland County Council do not provide sandbags direct to residents in the event of flooding.

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Easter Cheer for Haydon Bridge Care Homes

Hayley Turner

We are on what feels like Day Eleventy-billion of remote learning (you can probably tell the Year 4 maths isn't going so well). I am currently seriously considering suspending the students for repeated snack, TV and electronics violations. The two doggy Teaching Assistants are on their final written warning as one of them peed on the rug: neither will admit it, and they both nicked and consumed the bag of carrots I was going to use for dinner. I cannot understand how children have one meal and one snack each day at school, as mine seem to be consuming the equivalent every hour. I am reminded of the old adage: "It takes a village to raise a child, but a vineyard to homeschool one". I have seriously considered buying a wine making kit and claim it's a science project, just to tick that off the list and save money in the process.

I know I am not the only one who feels this lockdown is much harder. Whether it's because we haven't got the summer or Christmas in sight to look forward to; whether it's the cold, dark days; or whether it's simply fatigue, it's sometimes extremely difficult to stay positive. Children and young people are especially missing the socialising and interaction they have in schools with other pupils and adults alike. The schools are doing an absolutely amazing job at attempting to teach their pupils, look after their mental and pastoral wellbeing; they are also working so hard to help and support the parents, who often feel helpless, over-whelmed or a failure. With the best will in the world, teachers teach because that is their profession and the rest of us can only muddle along as best we can. Even parents who are teachers or former teachers, like my husband, are struggling as this new style of learning is just not something we, nor they, have experienced before. Children are resilient and do adapt quickly, but some are really struggling this time round, as are many adults, whether they have children at home or not.

So, on to more efforts to help keep people feeling positive. Following the success of the initiative to cheer up care home residents of Haydon View and Lowgate care homes, the local community has decided to repeat the endeavour at Easter.

Shaftoe Trust Academy and Queen Elizabeth High School found their pupils enjoyed the Christmas activity so much that both schools have eagerly agreed to contribute to the Easter Activity too.

"We all loved being part of the Christmas project and are delighted to be part of the next venture. Children loved being assigned a person and particularly loved some of the older names. Due to Covid, we've missed visiting the home, singing, chatting and reading to residents. Children know how important it is to cheer each other up during these tricky times and understand the pleasure it will bring the residents. Shaftoe just want to help our community wherever we can." said Victoria Binovec, Assistant Head Teacher of Shaftoe.

Meanwhile, Jen Ballantyne, Pastoral Mentor at QEHS said; "Our students gained so much by being involved in the project at Christmas. They were very considerate in their messages to the residents, making sure they had an upbeat and optimistic style. We were delighted to be asked if we would like to be involved in an Easter project and have got our creative thinking caps on to think about what students could make and how we could organise this, with the majority of the students not being in school. However, this did not stop us, and we can't wait to see how the residents respond."

The activity is being co-ordinated by Pauline Johnson-Wallis, Hayley Turner and Gill Valentine. If you wish to contribute gifts/cards etc, then please get in contact with one of the team or visit the group's Facebook page: Easter Cheer for Haydon Bridge Care Homes.

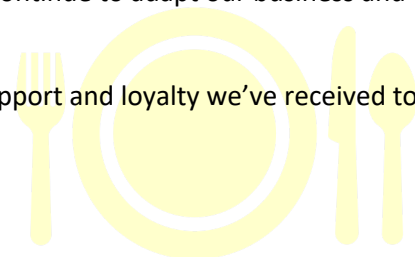
Take it Away, General!

Jo Thompson, The General Havelock

When we closed on 20th March 2020 like everybody else, we had no idea how the rest of the year would pan out. But over the next two days we'd served sixty Mother's Day meals! So zooming right on! We then started Friday Pie & Mash nights and Sunday Lunch meals as regular take-away sessions. We reopened in July but continued to offer our take-away option which proved very popular.

Christmas Day saw us serve thirty-five three-course meals, with homemade chocolates and crackers, with New Year's Eve seeing thirty four-course meals! Now as we approach Mother's Day 2021, we continue to adapt our business and what we offer to cater for local need.

As ever we are grateful to live in a beautiful county and value all the community support and loyalty we've received to help us through this difficult time.



PLACES OF WORSHIP AND PAGES OF HISTORY

Part 3

(Continued from The Haydon News' of December 2020 and February 2021)

In **Part 1 (December 2020)** I recalled Haydon (Old) Church; Langley Chapel of Saint Mary and Saint Katherine; St. Cuthbert's Parish Church in Haydon Bridge; and St. John of Beverley Catholic Church.

In **Part 2 (February 2021)** I took my first look at the Non-Conformists in Haydon Bridge and the first Haydon Bridge Methodist Churches.

This month, in **Part 3**, I introduce you to the early Primitive Methodists in our locality.

Last month, I left you as the two predominant groups of Methodists in Haydon Parish, the Wesleyans and Primitives, agreed to combine as a united church in the home of the Primitive Methodists on Church Street.

The union between the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist churches was completed in 1946 and on January 9th, 1946, the last service of public worship was held in the Wesleyan Chapel.

In August of 1946, the former chapel on Ratcliffe Road, built in 1874, was dedicated as a village Community Centre. *(Our 2021 Community Centre is on the site of the 1874 Wesleyan Chapel.)*

Primitive Methodists:

As for early Primitive Methodism in Haydon Bridge, I will return, in part, to W.M. Patterson's 1909 publication 'Northern Primitive Methodism.' *(Ref. Chapter XIII) - First mentioned in Part 2 in February.*

Tyne Valley Primitive Methodist preaching is said to have commenced on October 26th, 1822 in the Old Malt Kiln on the Battle Hill in Hexham and after its formation in 1824, the 'Hexham Circuit' spread itself in all directions.

A report in the late nineteenth century recalled that in 1824, the first Primitive services at Haydon Bridge were held in the open air on the south side of the road leading to Alston.

The next moves for the Haydon Bridge Primitive Methodists, sometime between 1824 and 1829, were into a cottage in the Tanyard then tenanted by one, Thomas Brown, and from there the congregation moved to a cottage on the north side of the river on the main road which led to Haltwhistle.



The nineteenth century Haydon Bridge Tanyard where the Primitive Methodists held their first services under cover.

It wasn't long before cottages as preaching places were too small and inconvenient, and a room was secured and fit up in an old brew house on the south side of the River Tyne at Haydon Bridge (*Shaftoe Street today*). Services for the Primitive Methodist congregations were held in this old brew house until 1863.

In 1863, a new Primitive Methodist Chapel was built, in large part by the members of the chapel who were described as: 'almost exclusively made up of the poorer classes.'

It was also reported that these 'poorer classes': 'Could dig and to beg they were not ashamed, and what with their digging, quarrying stones and other work, and their begging, the chapel was built.'

The new Chapel was opened in 1863, opposite St. Cuthbert's Church in Haydon Bridge. **(Photograph of the 1863 building, below.)**



When the new Haydon Bridge Chapel was opened in 1863 for the Primitive Methodists' congregation, it was reported that: 'The tone, the fervour and the hallowed sanctity made it a delight in which to preach' - *Well it would be, wouldn't it, after their early worship in cottages, fields and farmers' barns.*

There was no doubting that the Primitive Chapel and school room that had been built, were a credit to the men and women, many of whom were 'of the poorer classes', who had fostered and served their cause for so many years; and this Primitive cause was served locally by preachers of renown across the north of England.

John Davidson, who became agent for Greenwich Hospital Estates, was known across Durham and Northumberland as a preacher of power and a man of high character, and he made his home in Haydon Bridge (*at the Belmont Temperance Hotel*) and Mr. James Davison of Dean Raw was another young man with a formidable reputation as a local preacher. James Davison was also a school master, at Dean Raw School.



John Davidson's Belmont Temperance Hotel

On October 18th 1884, the Primitive Chapel on Church Street was extended and was able to seat a congregation of four hundred and from 1946, in what was a new era of co-operation, the worshippers from the Wesleyan Chapel on Ratcliffe Road moved in with the Primitives and the Haydon Bridge Primitives and Wesleyans worshipped together in what was by now called the 'Elmfield Chapel', on Church Street.

More recently, in 1996, the congregation left the original Primitive Chapel for the last time, the Chapel closed, was demolished and a new chapel was built on the site. The new Methodist Chapel was designed for community activities as well as religious services, and with ease of access available for all.

This new Haydon Bridge Methodist Church opened for worship on Easter Sunday, April 12th 1998.

I reflect here, as one who doesn't care too much for change, on the 1996 demolition of the 1863 Haydon Bridge Methodist Chapel.

Rest In Peace 1863-1997

It's not of real importance,
The planners did declare,
So you can knock this building down
And put a new one there.

Its architecture's not of note,
Who'll miss it anyway?
It's disposable, it's out of date.
Take it all away.

Take away the pulpit
And pews of old pitch pine.
Take away the windows,
Stained for men who died before their time.

Take away the organ
And the musty hymn book room,
And the choir stalls, where proud young bairns
Would sing an Anniversary tune.

Take away the school room,
Where happy days we had.
The joy of Sunday parties
When I was just a lad.

Take away the altar
Where my daughter she got wed:
"This place is always here for you."
The preacher said.

Take away the old oak rail,
Where my grandchild was baptised,
Where my parents stopped a while
On their last journey – when they died.

So it may not be important
To those who sealed its fate,
To be replaced by something new,
More practical, and up to date.

But take away the old slate roof,
And walls of ancient stone.
Take away my chapel.
Take away its soul.

In spite of my doubts in 1996, I have to admit that today's Haydon Bridge Methodist Chapel does offer a pleasant meeting place that is much more convenient than the old 1863 building. And, after all, it is the people who make up the congregation who are important; and, fortunately, I still retain my many early memories.



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Notes to Creativity

Being asked to write a few words regarding how being creative during lockdown can help mental health and give focus to the day, has challenged me to think about the processes other artists and I use in our day-to-day working lives. And how some of those processes might be of interest, useful, or at least of some assistance to the more general public, grappling tentatively with the notion of doing something creative, even if simply to pleasantly pass the time.

In doing so, I have been amused to think back to John Hoyland's words, considered one of Britain's leading painters, known primarily for his large abstract works, who came to prominence in the 1970s and became professor of painting at the Royal Academy Schools in 1999. In 1979, (coincidentally the year I started my formal creative journey by attending art school for the first time), John Hoyland appeared in the BBC Arena film 'Six Days in September' (available on BBC iPlayer). Over six consecutive days, the film documented Hoyland, clearly in a state of agitation and mild irritation, struggling to work in front of the tv cameras and a naïvely questioning voice off. At one point, Hoyland commented to the effect that he found it ironic that anyone would suggest doing some painting for one's mental well-being since he could think of nothing more stressful, or more likely to drive you crazy. I have to say, I have some sympathy toward this viewpoint. That said, it is undeniably true that all of us, at one time or another, can find comfort, solace, and enjoyment, pursuing various creative interests, however frivolous, unimportant or inconsequential they may appear to others, or even to ourselves. The sillier and more distracting, in all probability, the better.

What advice would I give regarding being creative, to aid one's mental well-being, during these difficult times of lockdown and pandemic?

Firstly; don't worry about skills or techniques, or how to acquire them: these can all be achieved in time, as and when they become necessary. Secondly; the most important and only essential thing is to make a start, with whatever you have to hand, at whatever it is you are currently thinking of doing. In truth, making a start is 'the' most challenging thing you will ever ask yourself to do. If you have something you can write with; a pencil, biro, crayon or pen, then you have something you can draw with too. If you can write, you can draw, and even if you cannot write you already know how to draw a line. Many different drawn lines (or even one longer line drawn in continuously different ways) becomes a drawing!

Use any scraps of paper or card to hand, the inside of an old cereal packet makes an excellent working surface. 'But what should I draw?' I can hear you ask. Maybe the first thing to try is to shut your eyes and make some marks, unseen, while thinking of a piece of music, a place you once visited, or a friend you haven't seen for a while. You might be surprised at just how creative you are. You might want to draw something in front of you, or something remembered, or something from your imagination.

There's no right or wrong to the 'what', 'how' or 'why' of any of it, and the more you do, the better you will get, the less self-conscious and the more creative you will feel. Most importantly, remember you are doing this for yourself. It doesn't matter what anybody else thinks. If you choose to show your work to anybody else, it still doesn't matter what anybody else thinks; as long as you had some fun and amused yourself in the process.

I leave you with a quote from Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, which I wrote in large letters on my studio wall and read aloud in my head at the start of each working day:

"Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it".



John Turner

Did you know?

There are electronic copies of leaflets mapping local walks at

<http://www.haydon-bridge.co.uk/visitors-walkleaflets.php>

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.

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

WORDSEARCH

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

Answers to all puzzles next month

Local Walks to find :

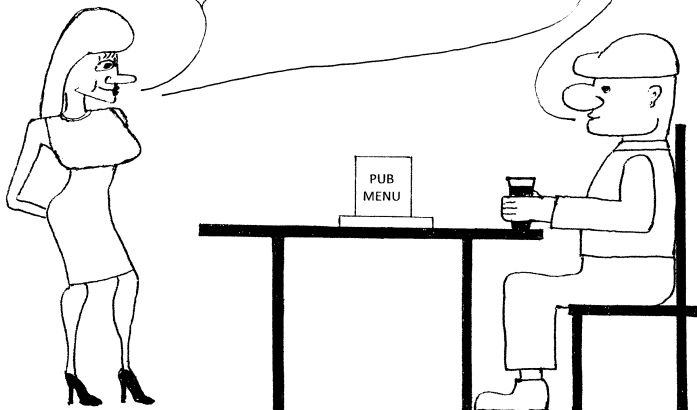
- Haydon Spa Well
- Planky Mill
- John Martin Trail
- Chesterwood
- Allenbanks
- Threepwood
- Landends Road
- Limestone
- Geeswood
- Haydon Old Church
- Humbleton Fell
- Stublik Chimney
- Dinnetley Wood
- Grindon Lough
- Tony's Patch
- Peelwell

RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY BINN

The apples on the tree in the pub garden are out of reach, Raydon, how could it grow so tall so quickly?

Hmm, climate maybe, Dusty?

You must be joking, you want an apple, you climb it.



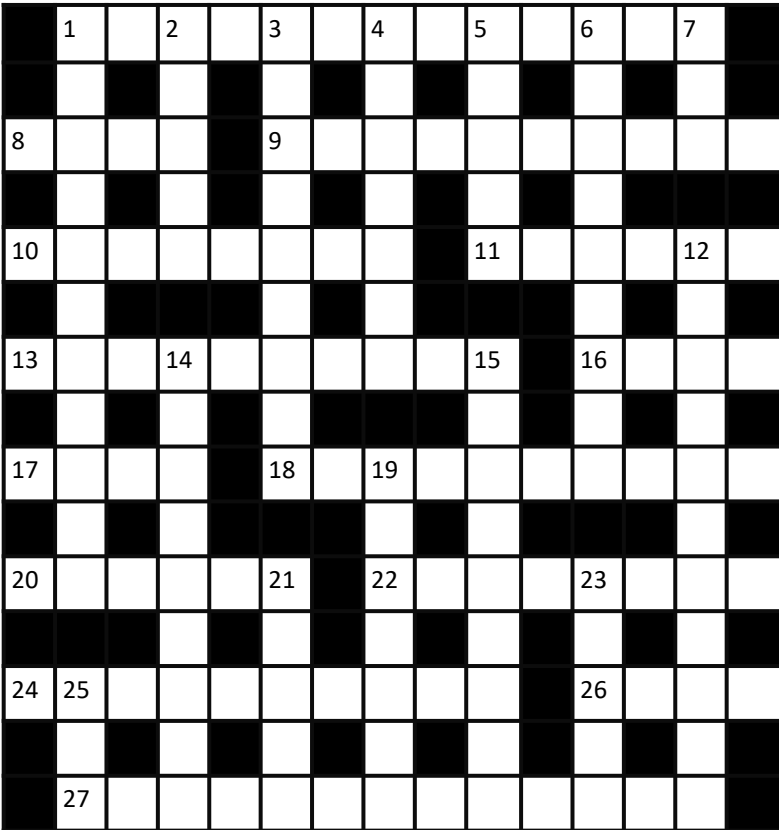
CROSSWORD

March 2021
£10 PRIZE EVERY MONTH!

Please drop answers off at Claire's by 12th March
Winner February 2021- Susan Stephenson

NAME

ADDRESS



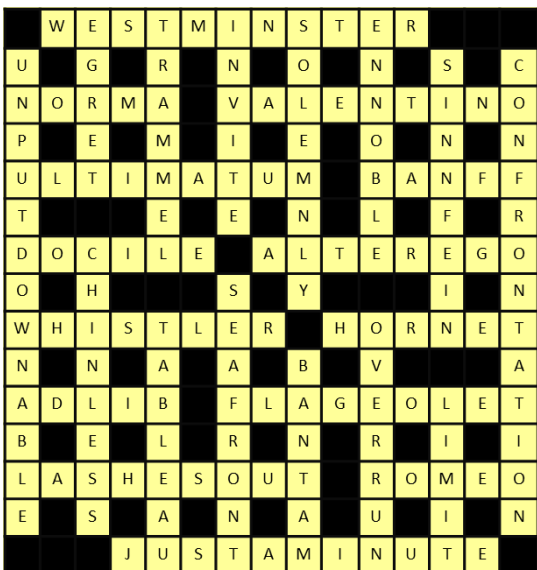
ACROSS

1. Appearance of a cupboard on the other side of the house (6,7)
8. Bright star leading Venus entering Gemini astrologically (4)
9. Flexible troops on time for multivitamins? (10)
10. Car extricated from stream on the A1 (8)
11. Structuring sentences when VAT is put on sound offence (6)
13. Passed on holding up good Agnes – but now released (10)
16. Country for takeaway food and drink (4)
17. Rate described during "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (4)
18. What Warren, drunk on malt, does for a living (10)
20. With University in disarray Tottenham takes possession (6)
22. Enterprise of James T. Kirk (8)
24. Bogart's White House (10)
26. Singer from TV's "The Waltons" (4)
27. Politician left, perhaps, not much by way of payment (13)

DOWN

1. An ensign has become tangled, what with all the dubious goings-on (11)
2. Subside as mariner arrives on sound island (5)
3. Attack ONS hilarity without hesitation (9)
4. Managing to hold quietly – it's catching (7)
5. Cries out loudly for dances (5)
6. Room at inn ordered for proposer (9)
7. Head over large barrel (3)
12. Hound is brown here? (11)
14. Treat to go into Scottish town (9)
15. A curd Alma manufactured was bittersweet (10)
19. Want to damage cab seen while away (7)
21. Ragout eaten during rehearsal might keep you going all day (5)
23. Teacher begins to swear when all male initiates sit down (5)
25. Bend over part of macramé (3)

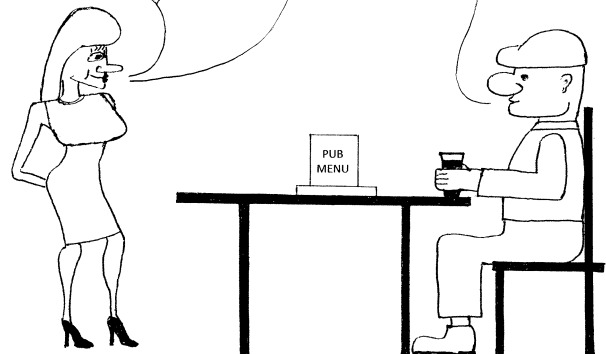
February crossword answers:



RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY BINN

There's a blizzard outside but we've run out of port so I'll have to go to the Co-op.
Any port in a storm, Raydon.

I'll go for you, Dusty, what brand would you prefer?



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‘The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education’ - Martin Luther King.

One of the huge advantages of teaching in a boarding school is the fact that one’s living expenses, during term time at least, are remarkably low. Accommodation was provided completely rent and bill free, and I was entitled to eat breakfast with the boarders if I chose. Teaching staff were expected to eat lunch, an informal cafeteria-style meal, with the boys although colleagues tended to prefer each other’s company rather than that of the pupils they had just endured during lesson five. But the crowning glory in terms of nutritional sustenance was the splendidly named ‘Bachelors’ Mess’. Afternoon lessons finished at 4.00pm, by which time freshly baked bread, cakes and biscuits, accompanied by a selection of preserves and spreads, and a steaming pot of tea had magically appeared. Nothing has ever been quite so effective at reducing the trauma induced by a lesson with the Lower Fifth as thickly sliced bread, lightly toasted and liberally covered with butter and honey. As if this were not sufficient, a three course meal was put in the hot plate at 7.00pm – a cook was employed specifically to cater for us and, understandably, I began to put on weight. As I recall, much of the time between tea and supper, and then supper and my personal 10.00pm deadline was spent marking and preparing, after which a visit to the pub for a few well-earned beers and a couple of goes on the quiz machine completed the cycle.

Every Tuesday evening, between the hours of 7.30-10.30pm, I undertook a boarding duty in St. Cuthbert’s House, a stand-alone house for boys in what was called the Remove year, equivalent to Year 9 in today’s nomenclature. My remuneration for this fairly straightforward duty was both considerable and bizarre: every Thursday at 7.00pm I was entitled, along with the two Boarding House Tutors, to eat dinner with the Housemaster and his wife (and, intermittently, his massive Irish Wolfhound named Gelat). It was a fairly formal meal, accompanied by plenty of wine, and the talk inevitably revolved around school; as I was soon to discover, if you put two teachers in a room together, the topic of conversation inevitably involves education. These were, however, pleasant occasions and my contribution to the various snippets of gossip grew as my confidence and experience increased. The second perk was to have my work clothes (including muddy rugby gear!) sent away to be laundered once a week! Sadly this ceased after one year when a new Bursar arrived and began to rationalise the school’s finances.

There were many aspects of independent education which were alien to me, not least of which was the number of after-school and evening clubs which were available to the pupils. One of these intrigued me – Costerces (pronounced *cost-air-sees*) – until a colleague informed me that it was ‘Secret Soc’ spelled backwards. Membership was by invitation only and extended to both colleagues and pupils alike, but I never received a calling, although I understand that proceedings were similar to that of a Masonic Lodge. Teaching staff were encouraged to share their own interests with the pupils, as a result of which I began a balsa wood aeromodelling club. My father, a metallurgist by trade, spent many a long evening painstakingly constructing a variety of aircraft from balsa wood and tissue paper. Although allowed to observe from a suitable distance, I was never allowed to assist in any way due to my perceived clumsiness inherited, of course, from my poor dear mother. As was my lack of success on the rugby field. Although I represented the school 1st XV in my upper sixth year and continued to play at a social level throughout university and my 20s, my father, who had represented Northamptonshire at full-back long before the very best rugby players turned professional, had always hoped that I would pull on the number 15 jersey for Northampton, Leicester or even England. A lumbering lock forward, occasionally called upon in the line-out due to height rather than catching ability, proved to be the limit of my expertise.

I digress. I always thought that my father derived more pleasure from making and mending these fragile gliders than actually flying them; our Sunday afternoon visits to the local heath nearly always ended with a tangled mess of balsa being placed carefully in the boot of the car. The club was similarly unsuccessful: I seriously over-estimated the patience of 14 year old boys and I can’t remember any model graduating from the construction board to the air, and the experiment lasted only one term as interest from both teacher and pupils waned.

Walking Northumberland

Many of us are doing a lot more walking than we might have done before! And if you’ve exhausted all your usual routes, there’s a great website to find more inspiration.

Walking in Northumberland - www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland - has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more.

John Harris, creator of the website said ‘There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you’.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!



John with his dog Baxter
www.walkinginengland.co.uk

Churches Working Together

March is one of those months that seems to mark a time of beginning. The beginning of spring, the beginning of lighter evenings, and even (we hope) the beginnings of the end of lockdown. Beginnings are often illusive things. As children we are told that beginnings present us with something which is exciting: the beginning of "once upon a time". But my experience is that beginnings are often very challenging things. Beginnings are challenging because they follow the ending of something else.

As many of you will now know I am coming towards the end of my time here as Vicar (more about this hopefully in next months Haydon News). In April we are moving to Carlisle where I am going to be taking up the post of Canon Warden at the Cathedral. Although this will be an ending – and a very sad one for us having been so happy here for over six years, there will also be a challenge in the beginnings we will make. Beginning a new role, beginning new schools for the children, beginning life in a new home.

We all face times of endings and beginnings in our lives and through those times I have found myself drawn to two pictures we have of God in the Bible. The first is of God as the beginning and end of all things, the "Alpha and Omega" "the first and the last". In this awesome image of God is a comfort that the uncertainties of our beginnings and endings are held in the surety of God's love and plan for creation.

However, this awesome image of God can make our lives seem inconsequential and small against this cosmic scale. That is what draws me to a second image of God. Of the God who in Jesus comes close to us, walks with us, lives and dies with us. The God who, in words that have come to mean a great deal to me and my ministry here over the years, "pitches his tent among us".

In all the beginnings and endings of life it is a comfort to know that these things come together in the scale and purpose of God's love for us. But we also know that it doesn't always feel that way. And when it feels that way it is an even greater comfort to know that the God who is the beginning and ending of all things comes close to us in Jesus Christ and lives with us and loves us through all the endings and beginnings of our life.

Your Vicar,
Benjamin

Parishes by the Wall Worship in March

www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall

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

During the current lock down we are continuing to move towards our regular patterns of public worship, whilst maintaining "At Home" offerings for those for whom that is most appropriate.

- There are simple weekly services of Morning Prayer at 11am on Sunday mornings and Evening Prayer at 3pm on Wednesdays in St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge.

- We continue to offer prayers for our community at 9am and 6pm each day on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall)

- We have developed our "at home" worship offering, particularly making our regular Sunday 9am service more available to those who are not able or happy to use our current format on Facebook.

Public Worship at St Cuthberts in March:

Wednesday 3 March: 3pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 7 March: 11am Morning Worship

Wednesday 10 March: 3pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 14 March: 11am Morning Worship

Wednesday 17 March: 3pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 21 March: 11am Morning Worship

Wednesday 24 March: 3pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 28 March: 11am Morning Worship

Wednesday 31 March: 3pm Evening Prayer

Methodist Church Update

At the time of writing the Methodist Chapel is still closed but we are hoping to open as soon as it is safe to do so and from April to return to a Sunday morning service which is going to be at the slightly later time of 10:30 am rather than 10am.

We will still be meeting fortnightly on a Wednesday night for a more informal style of Worship at 7pm.

In the meantime we are running a Lent course 'Worship in the Wilderness' on a Wednesday evening as well as following daily devotions some are joining through Zoom and others are following the Study book.

I thought this was very relevant as we all to some extent find ourselves in what might feel like a wilderness experience!

For this Lent Study we will be meeting up with people across the North Tyne Section from different Chapels and with different denominations coming Together

Deacon Anne Taylor

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

Local Business Focus

New legislation that came into force in 2020 to help keep rivers and streams clean has kept a local waste services business very busy in the Haydon Bridge area.

Shotton Waste Services is a family-run business, bought by locals Will and John Rutherford seventeen years ago. Originally set up by Richard Shotton, resident of Haydon Bridge, the business employs six people and a team of part-time staff who work across the range of services Shotton provide.

Alongside drain jetting and CCTV drain surveys, a large part of the business is septic tank emptying as well as the supply and installation of new systems. This takes the team all over Northumberland and Durham to towns, villages and remote locations.

‘Whether it’s a farming estate, country property or business, anywhere from the coast to the moors or up in the borders, we go far and wide’ Will said.

The new ‘Binding Rules 2020’ legislation has led the business to guide many property owners needing to adapt or in a lot of cases replace their septic tank with a new wastewater treatment plant. This treatment will then allow the outflow water to go directly into a watercourse.

If you need any help, advice or maintenance on your septic tank, get in touch with Shotton Waste Services on 01434 681219



**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**

Jobs For Your Garden In March

By Adam Howells

I have to admit that February was a bit of a white-out, but I did manage to get some small landscaping projects well underway. I’ve set up the propagator and have some salvaged seeds from past years annuals underway, so fingers crossed that the seedlings are ready for hardening off in a month or two.

Lawn Care

If there’s been some growth on the lawn, feel free to check the lawnmower over and give it the first outing of the year.

- Your first cut of the year should be longer than usual – don’t shock the lawn by going too short too fast.
- This is a good time to define the lawn edges with a half-moon edger and create a 3in gutter between the lawn and the flower border. This will stop the grass encroaching on the border and makes it easier to maintain the edges.
- **TOP TIP:** If you didn’t do it last autumn it’s not too late to scarify the lawn; raking out dead moss and thatch. This will encourage new grass growth.

Trees, shrubs and climbers

- As a general rule, you can prune deciduous shrubs (shrubs that drop their leaves in the winter) between January and March i.e. before they flower in the summer. Some examples are Buddleja, Caryopteris, Hydrangea, Lavatera, Fuchsia, and Ceanothus.

- Some shrubs such as Buddleja are usually cut back very hard (stooled) to keep them at a manageable size.
- March is a good month to plant roses especially around here, but remember not to plant them where roses have been planted previously.

Flowers

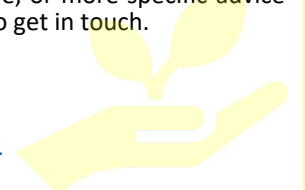
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs.
- Divide and/or plant snowdrop bulbs while they still have leaves on them; this is called planting in-the-green and some bulbs prefer to be moved when the foliage is just dying down.
- Plant herbaceous perennials.

Personally, I love March as it is where nature starts to rebuild the structure that will support a beautiful year ahead – it certainly keeps me busy from hereon in!

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.

07585115000

heritagecountrygardening@gmail.com



Following all the community consultation and evidence gathering, work on preparing the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is now in full swing. We are aiming to have a DRAFT TO SHARE WITH YOU in April or May. Once approved by the community and adopted by the County Council it will become a formal part of planning policy for our Parish and will be used to make decisions on planning applications. For example, anyone wishing to build houses in the Parish will be expected to follow the policies within it. In the meantime there are three things we would like you to consider:

- Housing
- Heating your homes – green energy options
- Volunteering

Housing

ARE YOU IN HOUSING NEED?

HAVE YOU HAD PROBLEMS GETTING RE-HOUSED IN SOCIAL RENTED HOUSING

Feedback from the County Council and Karbon Homes is that local people in housing need ARE generally prioritised and ARE re-housed in social rented housing in the village.

But **YOUR FEEDBACK** tells us that local people in housing need **ARE NOT** always able to get on the HomefinderRegister and get rehoused in the area.

IF THAT IS YOU PLEASE PHONE PETER FLETCHER ON 07968 488521

We will use any information you give us (anonymously if you prefer) to present evidence to the county council to improve the current situation.

Key messages from the Housing Needs Assessment

To follow up the information YOU GAVE US in the Housing Needs Survey, the NP Steering Group commissioned AECOM to carry out an assessment of future Housing Need for Haydon Parish for the next 15 years up to 2036. The key findings are:

Headline population and housing numbers

- The estimated population is 2,462 and there are 1,132 dwellings in the parish
- There has been a significant amount of new building in recent years, with 105 homes completed since April 2017 and more in the pipeline. The county council have set a target of 160 new homes in the Parish between 2016 and 2036, of which 111 have been built up to March 2020. The 160 figure is a minimum target

Housing affordability

- The parish has a lower level of home ownership and a higher level of private renting than across Northumberland and England as a whole
- Since 2011, only 11 affordable homes (8 rent/3 affordable

sale) have been built in the Parish compared with 109 homes for sale at full market price

- 32% of residents could not afford the deposit for an entry-level/starter home (estimated to be £11,500 for a £115,000 home)
- There is a large group who cannot afford to buy, who would be eligible for and benefit from the kinds of affordable housing that help people become homeowners, if more were available – an estimated 101 households between now and 2036
- There is a further group who cannot afford private rented and can only afford social rented housing and more of this is also needed as soon as possible
- Community-led housing is one way to deliver more affordable housing

Housing type and size

- Recent building has mainly focused on 3 bedroom homes despite how many there already are in Haydon Parish
- Building smaller two bedroom homes would provide options for young or new households and help to tackle affordability issues
- There is also a growing population of older people and households approaching retirement age. The household survey showed that wishing to downsize was the most common reason for wanting to move home. In particular this meant in many cases: fewer but still good space standard rooms; a smaller garden; moving from rural settings into Haydon Bridge itself.

To find out more: a more detailed summary, together with the full Housing Needs Assessment report (December 2020) and Housing Needs Survey report (June 2020) can be found via the Neighbourhood Plan page of the parish website – www.haydon-bridge.co.uk

Heating your homes – Green energy options

The Household Survey for the Neighbourhood Plan – see report on key findings in the February Haydon News – showed that more than 70% of households were reliant on fossil fuels (oil, coal, liquid gas). It also showed a very positive attitude to developing renewable energy but a big knowledge gap about future energy options (e.g. air source heat pumps). Here is some information from the Energy Saving Trust website. For more information go to their website – www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Air source heat pumps absorb heat from the air to heat your home – even when outside temperatures are as low as -15 degrees. They are like a fridge working in reverse. Air source heat pumps require a place outside your home where you can fit the unit. A sunny wall with plenty of space around it to get a good flow of air is ideal.

Ground source heat pumps use pipes buried in your garden to extract heat from the ground. You need plenty of outside space for a ground source heat pump, so they are ideal if you've got a reasonable garden, where you can dig a trench.

Solar water heating systems, also known as solar thermal, use heat from the sun to warm up water for your home. The system uses solar panels called collectors, which are usually fitted on to your roof. The panels collect the heat from the sun and use it to heat up water in a cylinder.

Wise Shaftoe Trust Academy

You'll need around five square metres for the panels in a sunny location. The panels can be mounted on a roof, fixed to a frame on a flat roof or hung from a wall. You will also need space for an additional or increased size hot water cylinder.

Biomass systems burn wood pellets, chips or logs. While burning the wood does emit carbon dioxide, it is at a much lower level than coal or oil provided the fuel is sourced locally. Biomass is considered a sustainable option as long as new plants continue to grow in place of those used for fuel.

If you're considering a biomass boiler, you will need space for the wood boiler itself, which would be bigger than a gas or oil equivalent, as well as space to store the fuel. You would also need a flue which meets the regulations for wood-burning appliances.

Generating renewable energy

In addition to green energy options to heat your home you can also generate renewable energy through solar electricity panels or wind turbines to cut your electricity bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

Volunteering - Household Survey question 4 about what could be improved about living in Haydon Parish

The household survey asked what residents liked about living in the parish and what could be improved. Some things people asked for we already have – for example we have walks and cycling leaflets available in The Bridge Community Library on Church street, when it is able to open again.

Other improvements will depend on volunteers from the parish helping with the work. One example is a general wish to improve the appearance of the village through improved planting, flower beds, tubs and more hanging baskets, as well as weeding or general tidy ups. We have had some success with occasional calls for help but **REGULAR VOLUNTEER HELP IS NEEDED.**

In Wark there is a group of volunteers called The Monday Club, who meet weekly to undertake such tasks. **Could we set up something similar in Haydon Parish?**

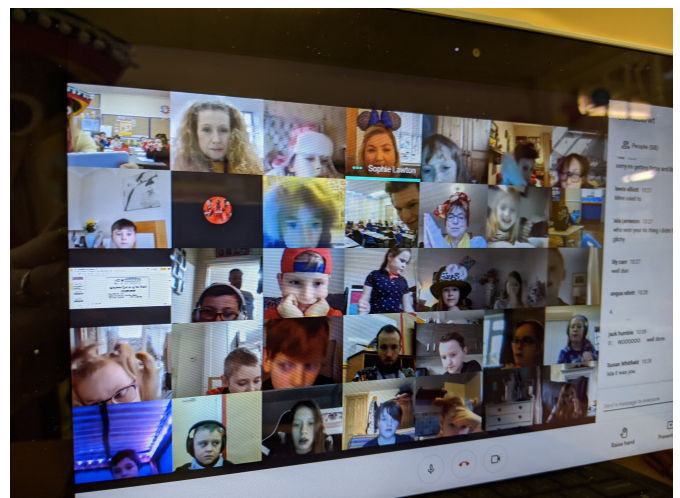
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH PLANTING, WEEDING OR IMPROVING THE GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE PARISH

Please contact Carole Price: 07939 202930 or email: caroleannprice@hotmail.co.uk

Our school remains open for a number of children while our online learning is going well for those who are at home. Our children are accessing regular live lessons but looking forward to getting back together in the classroom when we can!

We marked Children's Mental Health Day with an 'Express yourself day...dare to be different' with wacky clothing and hairstyles!

We've also had a lot of fun with all the snow!



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Sometime last year Averil and I were enjoying a drive along the Solway Coast in South-West Scotland when we came across a roadside advertisement "Golf Course Ahead: 99 % Midge -Free". We wondered how this could be established as fact?? While still in Scotland it was good to see priority being given to the mountaineering fraternity "Climbing Lane Ahead"; does this mean that traffic regs can be ignored? Is this why all the midges from the Solway Coast can readily be found in vast numbers in the Highlands. "Midges Guaranteed" ???

It was without much satisfaction on my part that towards the end of 2020 I pencilled a sign "Cold Weather Ahead". The British climate is driven by two sets of influences, continental and oceanic. If the former is the more dominant in winter then airflow is stable, relatively drier and very cold. The latter brings us variable conditions, moisture from over the Atlantic and relatively less cold. Weather observers among you will have seen dominantly westerly winds in November and December shifting to a mainly easterly direction later in January. In other words we have seen a shift in winter character to a more persistent continental pattern, suggesting that very low temperatures and drifting snow are to be expected before we can enjoy the daffodils.

By the start of 2021, the weather had already set into a winter pattern with the presence of a stable area of high pressure over northern Europe. Snow fell daily over the first ten days but amounts were only slight and the wind was relatively light. Temperatures were well below the long-term average for the month and fell as low as -8.1 degC early on the 9th. Pressure remained relatively high after the 10th but was considerably more variable as cyclonic weather systems brought stronger winds, higher temperatures and more significant amounts of precipitation. The daytime air temperature managed to reach 8.0 degC on the 11th, the only significantly warmer spell over the course of the month.

Storm Christoph became a principal player over western Europe, and brought floods, strong winds and heavy snowfall (6 cm on the 14th). Between the 11 and 19th almost 80mm of precipitation were recorded at Plunderheath, 31 mm of which fell in a single 24hr period on the 19th. Low pressure dominated the weather pattern over the British Isles but despite being quite breezy and very raw brought very little precipitation for the next five days. There were hoar frosts on most mornings. A number of relatively weak frontal systems ensured a damp end to the month although with occasional spells of brighter weather.

January 2021 appears on the climatic records for Haydon Bridge as the coldest January since Plunderheath records began in 2010.

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

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
January	3.6	-2.2	-0.6	-1.9	128.5	156

And finally, Gladys tells me about a young father-do-be who was anxious to find out how his wife was, as he had heard that she had been rushed into the local maternity hospital. They had been told to expect twins but he could hardly have expected what he was told. Unfortunately in his anxiety he phoned the wrong number and reached the local cricket ground. When he asked how things were going he received the reply "Pretty well; we have got three out so far and the last one was a duck".

A New Life in Northumberland

Patricia Green

As a newcomer to the area last March, having recently re-married, and with the majority of my family living in Hampshire, I can honestly say that a huge part of my new 'wedded bliss' has been spent in lockdown.

Gone were any thoughts of meeting new people, doing voluntary work, getting to know beautiful Northumberland and having leisurely pub lunches. I was very fortunate that I even managed to organise a house move.

This was very much on a wing and a prayer - being able to re-visit my old home in Hampshire in July (NOT in lockdown at that point) and pluck a date out of mid-air for the removal.

Our house move went ahead in October as we were out of lockdown. What a marvellous way to spend your 'free' lockdown time - packing up boxes, distributing requested items to various family members and visiting the charity shops or local tip to get rid of unwanted things.

We'd just started to get everything unpacked when the country went into lockdown again.

Then just before Christmas, due to effective track and trace, we had to isolate. What had become a bit of a chore - doing a massive weekly supermarket shop, suddenly seemed like a treat when you could no longer do it!

Christmas came and went, still in lockdown, and efforts made to try and make things as normal as possible. Then hey ho – we were told again about close proximity to someone testing positive to Covid and we had to isolate again.

During all this, boredom has really set in. Cooking for me has always been a relaxing, inventive and pleasurable way to spend my time, but I have never been so cheesed off at having to think about meal after meal after meal.

Daytime television is about as interesting as watching paint dry and I now know exactly what programmes are on each day and when!

I actually did watch some paint dry when completing odd jobs around the house, some of which were outstanding even before I came to live here!

This, to date, has been my introduction to life in Northumberland and I am truly grateful I came upon the Haydon News and its plea for some support. It has indeed kept me sane!

Boxes for the Birds

Now is the time to get a nest box in your garden if you're keen to watch wild birds during their breeding season. We've put together some useful hints and tips if you are wanting to take part in supporting our local wildlife by putting your own nest box up.

Choose the right spot - Not too close to other nest boxes – nest boxes should not be sited too close together as this could promote aggressive behaviour between neighbouring birds.

Shelter from the weather – Make sure the front of the nest box is sheltered from the wind, rain and direct sunlight. Place the front of the nest box pointing slightly downwards or angled vertically to prevent rain from entering the box.

Height from the ground – The box should be placed 1-3 metres from the ground. This can be on a tree trunk or on the side of your shed or wall. Avoid sites where foliage obscures the entrance.

Open fronted boxes to be hidden from view – Attach the box to a wall or fence that has shrubs growing against it.

Keep box away from feeders – High levels of activity could disturb nesting pairs.

The type of bird box will depend on which bird you want to attract

- Small holed nest boxes 25mm – 28mm will attract smaller birds; Blue tit, great tit, coal tit, tree sparrow, pied flycatcher
- Open fronted nest boxes will attract; Robins, wrens, spotted flycatcher, pied wagtail
- Bigger holed nest boxes will attract; Great spotted woodpecker, starling

Once the breeding season is over, any old nests can be removed and the box cleaned out from the 1st September- 31st January. When cleaning out the nest boxes it is sensible to wear surgical gloves and a dust mask, as old nests may have fungi growing on the damp material, which can cause respiratory diseases.

Louise, Murray Farmcare

Your Letters

We welcome letters and emails from our readers. Please get in touch with any thoughts, news or reflections on anything you'd like. Email us at: editor@haydon-news.co.uk or by hand to Claire's Newsagents, 11 Church Street.

Dear Editor,

The story by Dennis Telford in the February Haydon News concerning non-conformism reminded me of two episodes from my Family History.

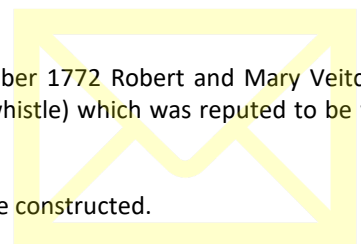
One concerning the 'missionary' at Beggar Bog was that because around the same time my great great grandparents Thomas and Ann Veitch were living at Beggar Bog, and presumably knew the man and possibly worshipped under him.

It didn't work for my great grandfather as he eloped to Gretna with Elizabeth Batey although all their 13 children were baptised in Non-Conformist Chapels (they finally lived at Westley Bank, Haydon Bridge).

My early ancestors lived in the Roman Wall area and there are no records of baptisms of their children who, I suspect, were baptised by 'wandering' preachers in what was called 'Kitchen Sink Baptisms'.

One exception was in the Haltwhistle Presbyterian Register that said that on the 20 October 1772 Robert and Mary Veitch (my gt,gt,gt grandparents) had a son Robert baptised at Scotch Coultard (a farm north of Haltwhistle) which was reputed to be where early open air non-conformist meetings were held.

Non-Conformism was obviously prevalent in West Northumberland long before Chapels were constructed.



Regards
William Veitch

Climate Change Corner: No Digging for Gold

We know that to live we need air to breathe and water to drink. But just as important is soil. 95% of our food comes from soil. Without it we would starve.

Just 1 spoonful of healthy soil contains more living organisms than there are people on the planet.

Beneath every step we take is a highly complex underworld of interconnecting microorganisms which enable our planet to thrive. Fungi are particularly vital, being drawn to plant roots to eat the sugar produced there. In return, the fungi maintain the structure and nutrients in the soil by breaking down both dead plants and animals and rocks into minerals. The soil then acts like a sponge, soaking up and holding moisture and nutrients that enables plants to live. Fungi also enable soil to take up carbon and hold this – in fact, soil contains more carbon than the atmosphere and all the world's forests combined.

So the healthier the soil, the less carbon is emitted into the atmosphere, (which would make climate change worse), and the more and better quality of food can be grown.

However, healthy soil needs nurturing to keep it healthy, and most food production methods do not do this. The equivalent of 3.4 tonnes of soil for every adult and child on the planet is washed or blown away every year. As well as this, soil is being degraded by poor farming methods, causing it to lose its organic matter and structure and turning 30 million acres of food producing land into desert, worldwide, every year. Even in the UK, researchers in Sheffield claim that at the current rate of soil degradation we only have enough for another 100 harvests – this drops to 60 worldwide.

Last month I wrote about how amazing making compost is as a way of recycling a wide array of waste. This month I'll say more about the 'no dig' vegetable beds I'm making with that compost. The theory is that by digging, you are disturbing that complex web of soil life, and thus the structure of the soil. This is not beneficial to our plants. So what Charles Dowding recommends in his numerous you tube videos is to lay down cardboard and then 4-6 inches of compost straight onto the area to be grown on. I have done it straight on to a bit of lawn. The card and compost act as a mulch, excluding light to suppress weeds. The card gradually decomposes into more compost – and the compost feeds the soil below. I've done this recently to plant up in spring. However, he says you can do it in spring and plant straight into it. He has compared the same vegetables grown in dug and non dug patches next to each other and says the no dug produces better vegetables. All will be revealed later in the year!

Siobhan Stephenson

siobhansib@protonmail.com

Stay connected to your community

Are you living with sight difficulties and finding it hard to read the local newspaper? Perhaps you know a relative or friend who is visually impaired who might enjoy listening to local news?

The Tynedale Talking Newspaper (TTN) sends out a free audio recording of local news each week, courtesy of the Hexham Courant.

Every month there is also a new recording of The Tynedale Talking Magazine or The Northumbrian. Recordings arrive by post on a USB memory stick which can be listened to on a computer or Smart TV.

No computer? No problem. TTN also has easy-to-use audio players to loan out to people who are not on the internet.

To find out more please contact Ed, the Registrar, on 07400 096937 or www.ttnweb.uk or check out Facebook.

TTN is a charity (1034087) run entirely by local volunteers, helping people to stay connected and feel part of the community.

Gandering at the Geese



Thanks to Mark McGovern for this great picture of our local superstar geese!

Do you have any photos or stories of the geese from years gone by that you'd like to share? Email them to editor@haydon-news.co.uk

Did you know our the village pet shop sells duck food for only £1? Feeding the ducks is a perfect lockdown activity.

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

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