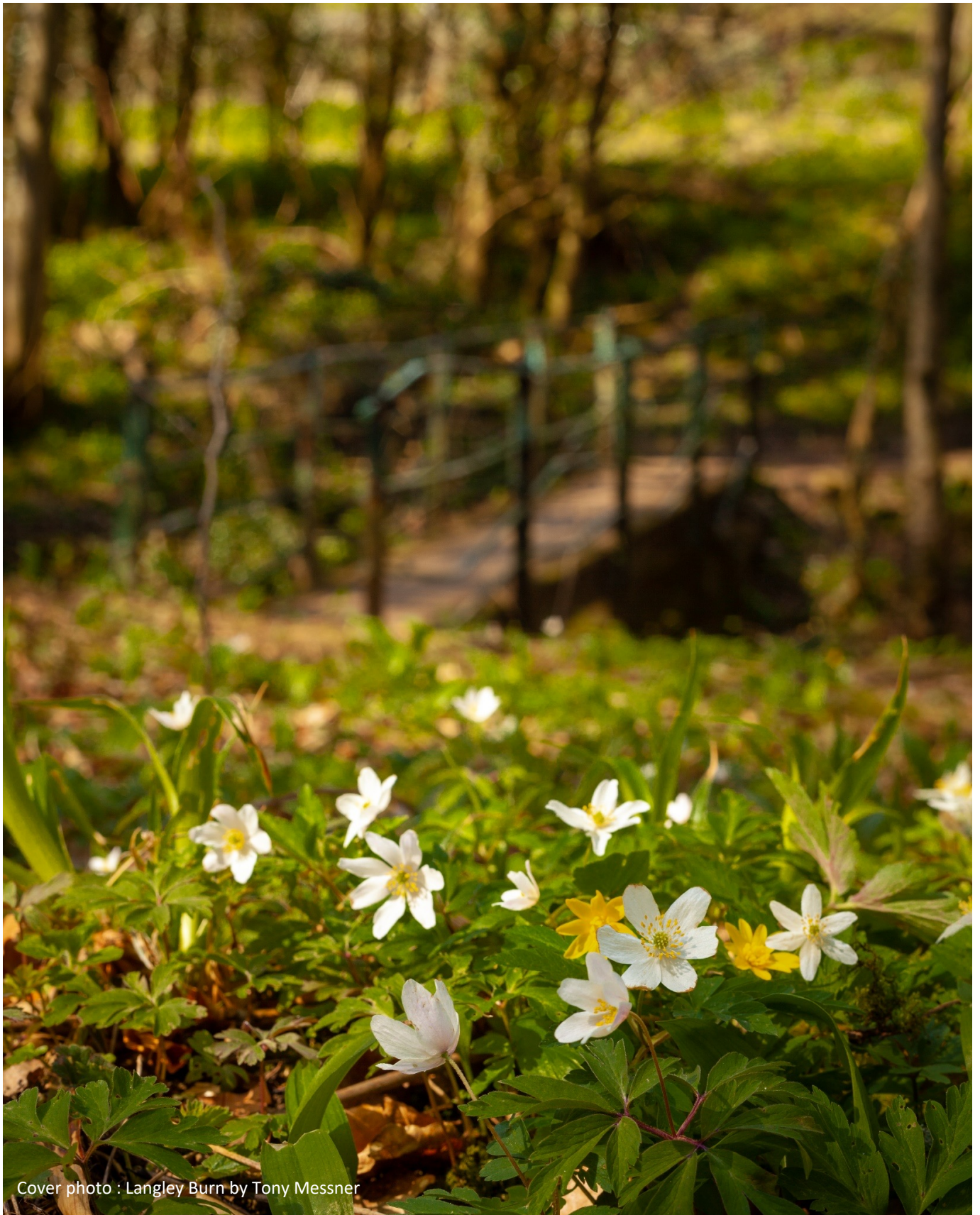


# THE HAYDON NEWS

May 2021

Supporting the community of Haydon Bridge, Northumberland



Cover photo : Langley Burn by Tony Messner

Local information • Businesses & Services • Community, Environment & Planning • and much more!

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Thanks to all our younger readers who took part in the Easter colouring competition last month and to Ann who gave us two of her fabulous Haydon Bridge mugs. You can buy a mug at [www.nyenganyenga.com](http://www.nyenganyenga.com).

We received some great feedback from readers on last month's issue – thanks to those who got in touch, it's great to hear people are enjoying the magazine. We'd like to encourage everyone and anyone to contribute to the stories and news we include each month, so please get in touch if you have something you'd like us to feature.

As we emerge from hopefully the final lockdown of the pandemic, more and more local activities, clubs and events are opening up again. If your group or activity is starting again, please let us know the details as we hope to start our What's On guide again next month.

Finally, a big thank you to our regular contributors for making the time each month to send their articles, stories and crosswords for everyone else to enjoy. It is much appreciated by the team and helps us to include lots of different voices in the magazine.

For anyone needing inspiration, this month we're asking for short stories of fifty words on any subject.

It can be on any subject and the only rules are: it must have a beginning, a middle, and an end, and should not use any more than fifty words. The best submissions will be included in the next issue. Send your submission to us at [editor@haydon-news.co.uk](mailto:editor@haydon-news.co.uk) or via our Facebook page.

## Gigabit Broadband Initiative

The household and business surveys carried out for the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan showed that one third of households do not have the broadband speed they require.

To tackle this the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Haydon Bridge Development Trust are in the early stages of working on an exciting new community initiative to bring Gigabit Broadband to the village in association with Wefibre, with more details to come next month".

Contact Peter Fletcher to find out more: phone 07978 488521 or email [peterfletcher32@gmail.com](mailto:peterfletcher32@gmail.com)

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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](mailto:editor@haydon-news.co.uk)

**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](mailto:editor@haydon-news.co.uk) or to Claire's Newsagents 11 Church Street.**

**Thank you**

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

**Apologies were received from** – Cllrs Burrows and Keyte.

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

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

## **Report from Northumberland County Council –**

Road markings at Elrington junction have now been done and the work is complete.

With regards to the work on the Ratcliffe Road/Church Street scheme, Cllr Sharp said that permission has now been received from Network Rail regarding the three way traffic control lights. Cllr Sharp was pleased that NCC had provided an apology to both the Parish Council and himself for not obtaining the necessary permissions from Network Rail earlier. NCC will be re-commencing the work on Monday 29 March 2021 and the traffic lights will be installed then too. The traffic lights will be removed for the Easter weekend as this should be beneficial to the residents. It is expected that all of the work will be completed by the end of April.

Cllr Sharp said that he would like to thank the residents of Haydon Bridge for their patience and understanding in this matter and the work should now be completed very soon.

The potholes have been attended to on the road from Standalone down to the A69 and ditching work down the side of the road has also been done. The County Council are going to do further ditching works on the road to Whinnetley and to the Haresby Road. The drainage work at West Rattenraw has been completed.

The road to Threepwood will be attended to in April when new funding is in place.

Litter picking on the A686 road was completed at the end of February.

Cllr Sharp has agreed to contribute from his Member's Allowance Scheme towards the purchase of a new grass cutting machine for Haydon Bridge Cricket Club.

Both the Parish Council and Cllr Sharp had been in touch with NCC to request that the proposed cycleway from Haydon Bridge to Hexham alongside the A69 be put forward in the Local Transport Plan as a priority. Cllr Sharp supports the scheme and said he would be willing to provide some financial assistance from his Member's Allowance Scheme.

NCC have been asked if they will take over the responsibility of the maintenance of Staward station bridge in the future. NCC are going to write to Highways

England to ask them about the financial contribution that they are prepared to make to them for taking over the bridge and until this information is known they cannot progress the matter.

The Planning Dept gave permission for permitted development at this site but as there is now some doubt about how urgent work is. Cllr Sharp has asked the planning department to look into this matter further. He will provide a further update as soon as he receives a reply from the Director of Planning.

Cllr Sharp had also spoken to Karbon Homes about the play area at Langley Gardens and they have sent a further letter to the Parish Council which confirms that they have no obligation to take on the ownership and responsibility for maintaining the park. The maintenance and the replacing of any equipment will be the responsibility of Karbon Homes. It would be a good idea to have a meeting with them to discuss the improvement of the park.

Cllr Sharp is also talking to Karbon Homes about installing tree seats around the trees in Strother Close, and they have also agreed to replace the fence around the rear of the Community Centre.

The new grit bin at the bottom of Shaftoe School bank, just outside the Club, has now been installed.

## **Highways –**

A contact at Northern Rail had been in touch with Network Rail and said that "since the underpass [on Station Road] is a public footpath this does not fall within Network Rail remit/responsibility as it not within their lease area." The Clerk had then taken the issue up again with the Footpaths Officer at NCC and he has confirmed that this will be put into their scheme of work for 2021-22.

The Clerk had contacted Network Rail regarding water in the station car park, and they had replied saying that this was Northern Rail's responsibility. Cllr Sharp is going to provide a named contact at Northern.

A member of the public had written to raise concerns about Temple Houses lane being used as a cycle track. It was agreed that the Parish Council does not have powers to deal with this. It would be a Police matter to enforce laws regarding cycling on paths.

A member of the public had written to say that rubbish had been dumped on the green behind the Community Centre and that the adjacent lane was being used as a cycle track. The Parish Council said that they have been trying to find a use for this piece of land for some time, and they continue to do so. Cllr Sharp has been in contact with Karbon Homes about replacing the fence around this area.

**Lighting** – nothing to report

## Planning applications –

**21/00725/FUL** - Extension to front of Bothy Cottage, North Bank – no objections.

**21/00713/FUL** - Construction of ground floor side extension across the front of the existing attached garage and dormer extension to existing house front and rear, above attached garage at Innerhaugh House – no objections.

**21/00172/FUL** – Single storey extension to the side of Derwent Cottage – no objections.

**21/00905/FUL** – **Proposed conservatory to front of Holmlea, Alexandra Tce** – no objections.

## Accounts – as in budget.

## Correspondence –

Siobhan Stephenson had written, on behalf of the DT, to request that the PC support the Local Electricity Bill. It was agreed that the PC would support this.

A request was received from Ciaran Doherty for facilities for older children, perhaps a skate park. It was agreed that the PC supported the need for a skate park, however a suitable location was needed. Suggestions for suitable sites would be welcomed.

A reply was received from Karbon Homes re the request last year to erect seats under the trees on Strother Close. They said “Unfortunately, Karbon Homes are unable to provide permission for structures to be erected upon communal land. On this occasion the request to erect a seating area has been declined.” Cllr Sharp has taken this matter up at a higher level.

## Parish projects –

The Bridge – Cllr Charlton said that the library would remain closed until the volunteers had received both doses of the vaccine. They would then look at phased reopening.

The Haydon Hundred cycle race will go ahead on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, probably with staggered starts to allow social distancing. Cllr Faulks said that over 100 entries had already been received which would allow it to go ahead with a small profit. Profits from the event help fund the running of the library.

## Any other business –

Cllr Thompson asked if the PC wanted to have hanging baskets again this year. This was agreed. Cllr Charlton asked for pots to be planted instead for the library to make watering easier. She will provide the pots for planting up.

Cllr Kirsopp asked who had organised the planted wellies in previous years as these had really cheered the village up. Cllr Richardson it had been started by the Shaftoe School and everyone had been responsible for their own

display. Cllr Charlton suggested a competition with prizes for the best displays.

Cllr Howard had taken a look at the dog bin on the way to the Showfield and said that it needed to be removed. The Clerk said that a bin was also needed on North Bank at the Peelwell turning. It was agreed that the Clerk would get prices for removing the dog bin and installing a wheelie bin at Peelwell.

Cllr Faulks said that Peter Fletcher had been in touch to say that the Neighbourhood Plan is now in draft form. It will go to NCC so that their experts can look at it first, then hopefully it will come to the PC at the June meeting. At that point the PC will need to take responsibility for actions that arise from the document. Cllr Charlton said that at this stage there will be a public consultation to let people scrutinise it.

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## As we move into Spring

I have always liked the idea that what you eat was what the season provided – so we should enjoy the fruit and veg of the contrasting times of the year. When I discovered that Traditional Chinese Medicine also linked the way the body responded to the distinct stages of the year, I was hooked.

I teach and practise a style of yoga called Seasonal Yoga. This is a holistic mix of Traditional Chinese medicine and Hatha Yoga, and covers mindfulness, seasonal eating and general good health.

I have learnt so much about how to make the best of one's mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing through this practice as I have built mental stability, physical strength and have a greater understanding of both ancient philosophies and how they can be brought into our busy lives

This time last year we were just starting our unknown journey into the start of the COVID pandemic, the mystery of the virus clouded by the fantastic weather and a sense of the entire world slowing down. We are so very privileged to live in such a wonderful part of the world that it is sometimes easy to forget the suffering and struggle of others. It was during this time that I discovered that yoga not only taught me physical postures (asanas) but also how to breathe!

So many of us are 'over breathing'! We all know how to breathe but have lost the ability to breathe properly and to our advantage. We do not breathe as well as we could as we tend to breathe from the top of our chest. This means we may also breathe through our mouths in times of stress and harder exertion and this in turn increases the number of breaths we take as these breaths go in and out of the upper chest. And so, we do not use all our lung capacity.

This is so important today as so many struggle with respiratory problems and what is now known as Long Covid.

So back to how to breathe properly. Breathe in through your nose filling into your belly so that the diaphragm is pushed up. Try it? Place your hand on your tummy just below your tummy button and breath in through your nose, feel your hand move away as you breathe in and feel it return as you breathe out. Breathe in, expand the belly, breathe out, tuck up the pelvic floor muscles and tuck the tummy button towards your spine. Release muscles, breath in. After a while try to make the exhalation longer than the inhale. It is the exhale that does all the important work.

Using the breath, we can move from the Fight or Flight state to Rest and Digest, from anxious to calm. Our modern way of living means that we are too much in the first, over stressed and over stimulated, we can respond to events quickly and without thought. Simple breaths calm the nervous system, in this calmer state no adrenaline or cortisol is released, we can improve our lung capacity and build our immune system just by doing the simple thing breathing properly and its free! There are no contra-indications of this breathing technique and after a few breaths most of us feel calmer and more focused.

Take a few minutes every day to mindfully breathe, teach your children how to remain calm; learn to take a mindful breath before answering that question, take several deep breaths before an interview or exam.

Remember if you do nothing else for yourself today take a deep breath through the nose and exhale through the nose for slightly longer. Repeat

*Find Gill Valentine on Facebook for more information about her yoga practice*

## A New life in Northumberland

Shall we indeed be out of lockdown on 21st June? I wonder what we can expect over the next few months?

I know the pandemic has shifted my perspective on many things over the last year. For example, I didn't think I was the sort of person to take things for granted - I have always been a pint half empty type of person. If you expect the worst, you can only be in for a pleasant surprise should the worst not happen. Alternatively, if you always expect the best, you're potentially setting yourself up for a nasty shock!

I realised during this period, that I didn't need to do certain things or have certain things, as they were truly of no significance at all. I was becoming a bit of a spendthrift. When did that happen coming from a thrifty Scottish family? I didn't really need another set of bed linen, or any more clothes from shopping online. I was browsing on the internet for something to do, even though internet shopping had never been my shopping choice.

I used to prefer meeting up with friends, going for a nice lunch and enjoy a catch-up natter! The thrill of receiving a parcel is far outweighed by not liking the item when it arrives and then having the hassle of returning said item. At this rate, if I pursued this internet pastime, I might even get ahead of myself and be prepared for next Christmas by September!

This pandemic has changed me. My husband's comment one morning when we were both ready to go out for our daily walk was "You're going out wearing that then are you?" I was wearing a shirt that had been a firm favourite for some time - what could be wrong with that? I checked myself in the mirror and realized I hadn't actually had to use an iron for a long time (thank goodness), my favourite shirt was as creased as the neck of that reptile on 'One Foot in the Grave'. Ironing has always been one of my most hated chores, ever since school uniforms and sports clothing had to be pristine every week.

Not ever having been keen on general housework, it has definitely taken a back seat in this household of late. Because you are stuck indoors a lot, continual cleaning as far as I'm concerned can always be put off - it could be done more or less any time.... couldn't it? This house has at most, five people living in it and at least, three people living in it. There are constant comings and goings - within the covid restrictions of course - but because we are all here, sometimes even further self isolation is necessary to get some peace and quiet. Eventually, even I have to tackle unwelcome 'duties'. Boredom can get the better of me so that wielding a duster, hoovering or splashing the bleach around is a welcome distraction. There is an expression that goes something like this, 'Ask a busy person to do something and they will find time to do it. Ask an idle person and they will not'. Always having been a busy person - my children - now in their late twenties and thirties - would often say "For goodness' sake, sit down Mother". I now know that the less busy I am, the less busy I want to be. As the days stretch ahead still, with no real set plans, I can always put off what I don't fancy doing for yet another day, or the day after that ...

I have begun to appreciate simple things more. When possible, sitting in the garden with a glass of wine, chatting with family on WhatsApp or FaceTime - even weeding the garden if needs be! My mother used to get lumbered with the weeding I remember. Dad got the best bit - although to some that may be debatable. He used to put in all the new, colourful additions and wait for the praise that usually came with it. Mum used to liken it to the decorating of the house, if they both chose to become painters and decorators for a period of time. For some reason, she would do all the prep (maybe she was just better at it) and Dad would come along with the gloss paint! It's always the finish that gets admired. I've never heard anyone being complimented on the finesse of the rubbing down or the filling-in of holes.

Anyway, if all goes according to plan, we should all be able to enjoy some more freedom soon, be grateful for the small and supposedly insignificant things in life, Like using the Polyfilla and make the most of life and appreciating things to the full.

Patricia Green

## PUBLIC HOUSES

**When I introduced my brief outline of early worship in Haydon, in The Haydon News of December 2020, I felt it necessary to refer to there being as many churches as public houses in the early days of the Chapelry/Parish. Why did I think that was a fact that was worth mentioning?**

Did I think it was unusual? Was I reflecting on two extremes of our social scene? Or, was I re-tracing, subconsciously, my own mid-teenage years in which Sunday School at two o'clock in the afternoon and a Sunday Service at six o'clock in the evening, at Haydon Bridge's Methodist Chapel, were followed by worshipping the grape during many happy hours spent at the 'Grapes Hotel' and the 'Robin Hood' at Hexham, or the public house that was to become Charlie Brown's 'Scotch Arms' at Haydon Bridge?

Yes! There were age restrictions for public house patrons when I was a lad, but, licensees in all quarters didn't seem to mind unless the Law was about, and Charlie, especially, was a good friend to us all at the Scotch Arms.

Anyway, I recall thinking at the time: 'If those of a Catholic persuasion can go drinking and dancing on a Sunday after church, why can't us Methodists?'

Whatever my original, dubious, thoughts connecting the churches in Haydon Bridge with our village's public houses, there is no doubt that the district was well served by places of worship - as outlined earlier - AND, by thriving hostelries; deserving of much closer attention in The Haydon News in the future, maybe. In the meantime, here is a list:

**The Wheatsheaf:** So called in remembrance of a sheaf of grain, or garb, that adorned the coat of arms of one of our early Lords of the Manor of Langley. In later years this hostelry was renamed The Haydon Hotel; a name that would be more meaningful to hundreds of visitors who sought accommodation along the Tyne in the late nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries.



**The former  
Wheatsheaf  
as the  
Haydon Hotel  
in 2005**

**The Scotch Arms:** Were early proprietors seeking to attract summer visitors from over the border? Or, maybe, Scottish drovers who took their cattle south to market, using our River Tyne crossing?

**The Anchor Hotel:** formerly The Anchor Inn, and a name that is a mystery to many, not in the know. Did large ships or barges once make their way this far up the South Tyne?

Nothing quite so romantic, I'm afraid, but a reference to the year 1735 when the Barony of Langley was invested in the Crown and the rents from the estate, that covered much of our locality, were used for the benefit of the Greenwich Royal Hospital for Seamen and were collected in a room at the appropriately named Anchor Inn.

**On the north side of the river you could fill your glass at:**

**The Grey Bull:** a public house that was renamed the **Railway Hotel**, a name no doubt inspired by visitors who came to Haydon Bridge by train after the Newcastle and Carlisle line opened along its full length in 1838. **The Three Tuns:** that became the **General Havelock Inn** in memory of the distinguished north east Major, Henry Havelock. **The Black Bull:** a little further to the west in today's 'River House'; and, at number 22 opposite; the **Dew Drop Inn:** a play on words, encouraging visitors to call in.



Cropped from an old postcard, this is not the best view of the Dew Drop Inn (but, maybe, the only one unless one of our readers can tell me differently). However, look carefully and you can see the pub sign above the door (behind the chap on the bike). The Black Bull is only just visible, directly opposite.

I have it on good authority that the cyclist is Fred Brown, father to Drew and David and who lived at the west end of the 'Back Lane', adjoining Parker's Terrace, before moving to number 26 in the newly built, Hordley Acres.

Attempting to date the photograph, I know that chemist Nicholas Pringle set up business on Ratcliffe Road in 1905 and left in 1919/20.

Also, within easy reach in the Parish: the **Carts Bog** at Langley and the **Water House Inn** at Lipwood.

Or, you could sample a less intoxicating glass and rest your head at the **Belmont Temperance Hotel**

There was something for everyone in and around Haydon Bridge.

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**The Waterhouse Inn at Lipwood was a convenient watering hole, alongside the turnpike (today's A69), for early travellers, local farmers and those mining nearby for lead and coal. A long time gone, the Waterhouse is seen here as a going concern, and below, in a later state of collapse.**



I have written before in my Haydon News Notes about the Waterhouse Inn and its dubious past; I make no apology for recalling stories of the pub again, however. Regular telling will ensure that our historic legends will not be forgotten!

That a Public House - and, incidentally, a blacksmith's Shop - were located alongside the nineteenth century turnpike, between Lipwood and Whitechapel, is clear evidence of the importance of the area to the west of Haydon Bridge in those early days. Agriculture was predominant, of course, but mining for lead alongside the Honeycrook Burn until 1893 and coal mining at Whitechapel (until 1935) and elsewhere in the area, also provided a regular flow of customers for the ale house and the blacksmith. Neither the Waterhouse

Inn nor the building that housed the blacksmith's shop can be seen today, as the scene has changed over the years, and although some older readers will, like me, remember Livingston's, or more recently Armstrong's, Whitechapel blacksmith's shop and the adjacent Holm Cottage, the Waterhouse Inn was in ruins well before even our oldest readers were able to raise a glass.

While it is disappointing that memories of dubious activities of the nineteenth century in our historic Waterhouse Inn are few, authoress Nancy Ridley does offer a view that: 'Rather wild young men of the district used to gather at the Water House and drink far into the night. Bets were laid and disasters followed.'

Miss Ridley also recalls a well known account of Thomas Cowing, son of Mathew of High Moralee, who came to a violent end in 1849 when on his way from Haltwhistle to the 'notorious Waterhouse' his horse, being ridden at high speed, galloped against the end of a house at Melkridge 'killing the rider on the spot'. We also have a substantiated record that another Cowing of High Moralee, twenty three year old George, was drowned from his horse when he was crossing the river near the Waterhouse on 15th December 1852. By 1856, another Cowing, John, was the Inn keeper at the Waterhouse.

I share an ancestor with the author Nancy Ridley and it is through her recollections that I can place my 2x great grandfather, Mathew Ridley, as a Waterhouse customer. This was around 1816/1817 when he was attracted by the 'exceedingly pretty' daughter of John Woodman who lived and farmed at Whitechapel. Aware of the Waterhouse's reputation, Woodman did not look kindly on young Ridley, who frequented the pub and very much enjoyed the company of his daughter Jane. It was unlikely to improve her father's demeanour that Jane was 'with child' as a 15/16 year old. Woodman's doubts about her suitor, led to Mathew and his daughter meeting in secret and eventually eloping and riding off on horseback. Mathew Ridley and Jane Woodman were duly married and had five children: Robert (who was born illegitimately to Jane in 1817), William, John, Mathew and Elizabeth. It was Elizabeth, born November 21st, 1837, who was to connect the Ridley and the Telford families, when she married William Telford, my great grandfather on May 8th, 1862 in St Cuthbert's Church at Haydon Bridge and had nine children including my grandfather William Ridley Telford, born March 20th, 1872. The Waterhouse Inn today is no more than a few memories and a couple of photographs; but it has a lot to answer for in the Telford family tree!





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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.

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

### Did you know?

The Shaftoe Educational Foundation can help with grants for:

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## WORDSEARCH

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

Taking inspiration this month from Dennis' history of local public houses:

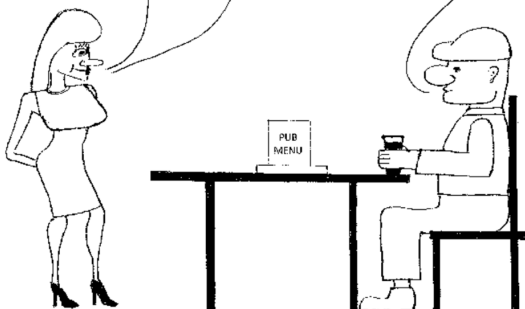
- The General
- Havelock Inn
- The Railway Hotel
- The Anchor Hotel
- The Three Tuns
- The Black Bull
- The Scotch Arms
- Working Mens Club
- Dew Dop Inn
- The Grey Bull
- The Haydon Hotel
- The Carts Bog
- The Wheatsheaf

### RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY BINN

My niece Robyn wants to marry her boyfriend but she's dubious about taking his surname.

It's Banks, Raydon.

Why, Dusty, what is his surname?

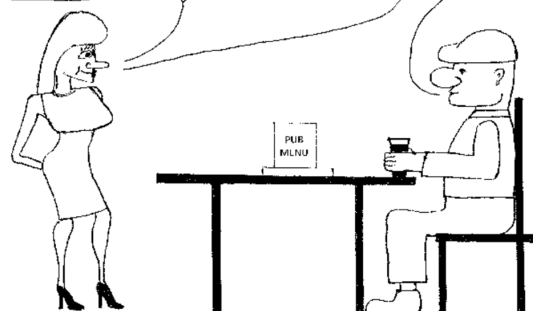


### RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY BINN

My American pen pal has just moved into the highest apartment block in New York, Raydon.

Not really, she's in the basement apartment.

Wow, the view must be fantastic, Dusty.



# CROSSWORD

May 2021

£10 PRIZE EVERY MONTH!

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

Winner April 2021- Fiona Robe

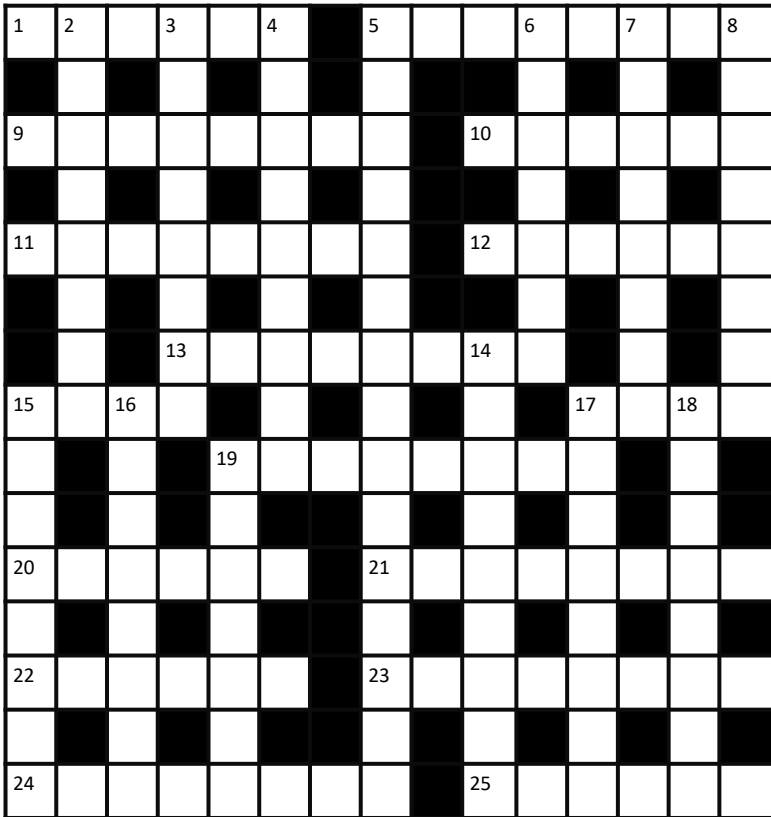
ADDRESS .....

## ACROSS

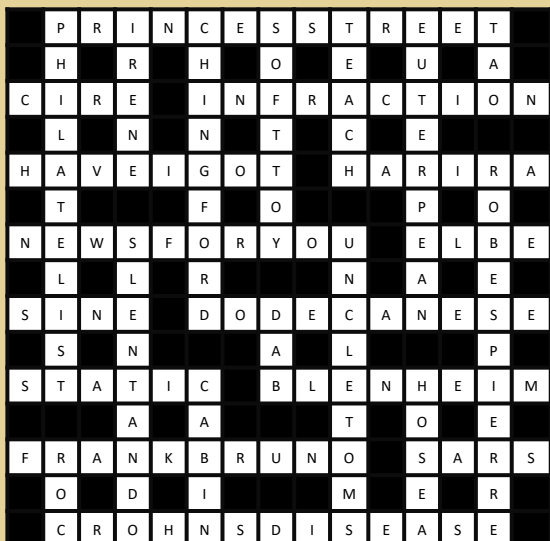
1. A reef of rock (6)
5. Radioactive element discovered by Mme. Curie (8)
9. Plant of the Galanthus genus (8)
- 10 & 19 English composer 1903-1989 (6,8)
11. Hardy pony once used as a working animal by tin miners (8)
12. A worthless cheque or fake coin, also a failure (6)
13. French word meaning window displays (8)
15. River flowing through Tebay (4)
17. To cause a potato to sprout by keeping it in a light place (4)
19. see 10
20. Indian state on the Arabian Sea (6)
21. Currency of China (8)
22. \_ Tull, UK rock band, also a pioneering agriculturist (6)
23. Person holding a title (8)
24. An oil once used on the hair (8)
25. \_ \_ to answer: insufficient or inadequate evidence in court (2,4)

## DOWN

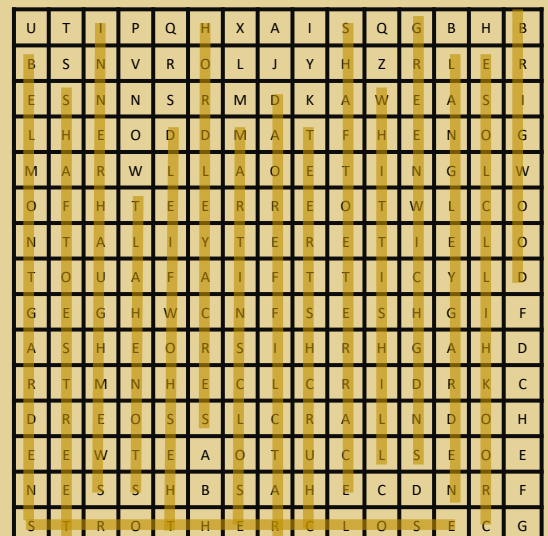
2. South American animal related to the raccoon (8)
3. Surname of the founder of one of the UK's largest confectionary businesses, now owned by Nestle (8)
4. Very tall glass used for drinking about 2.5 pints of beer (4,2,3)
5. 1966 Beatles hit (9,6)
6. Son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra in Greek mythology (7)
7. PM of Rhodesia from 1964 to 1979 (3,5)
8. German/French/American surrealist painter & pioneer of the Dada movement (3,5)
14. The last British Coal colliery to close in Northumberland (9)
15. The first Kingsley Amis novel, published in 1954 (5,3)
16. A word for an obsessive, irrational or hypersensitive person (8)
17. Alphabet currently used for more than 50 languages including Russian (8)
18. Masses of frozen floating water (8)
19. Minsk is the capital of this Eastern European country (7)



## April puzzle answers:



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



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**“The object of teaching a child is to enable him to get along without a teacher.”  
Elbert Hubbard**

Competitive sport figures largely in the lives of all independent school pupils, whether in a positive or negative way. Games happened on five afternoons out of six, with Thursdays dedicated to the Combined Cadet Force (more of which in a future article). Rugby was the main sport in the Michaelmas term, Hockey in the Lent term and Cricket in the Summer. Other sporting options were available for those who didn't quite fit the stereotype of the all-round sporting superhero, but these were very dependent upon the interests and availability of various colleagues. Fencing was huge, thanks to the enthusiasm of a retired member of staff who gave willingly of his time and experience, and many of his charges went onto achieve highly at both national and international level.

Most of the rugby coaches had played at a significantly higher level than me and I was assigned to help with the U15 squad, an experience which I thoroughly enjoyed and from which I learnt a huge amount. The best part of being involved with rugby, however, was the match day experience, particularly block fixtures away against similar schools on a Saturday. Break time was usually spent checking that all members of the team had turned up for school and were fit to play, filling water bottles and ensuring that wellies, woolly hat and big coat were close at hand. An added bonus to away fixtures was that the last two lessons of the morning were cancelled, with classes combined and supervision left to those colleagues not involved in the rugby.

It became something of a tradition on these occasions that, whenever the bus was within 10 minutes or so of arrival, the Head of Rugby would put a well-worn cassette tape into the sound system and everyone would accompany Tina Turner singing 'Simply The Best'. Lunch was usually taken at the opposition school, with staff enjoying the hospitality of the Common Room in the form of a few beers beforehand. Saturday games ensured that there was a decent crowd of parents in attendance too; some schools filled the touchline with pupils not involved on the pitch and one even provided entertainment in the form of cheerleaders!

Most parents managed to behave themselves with decorum and kept their comments positive, although there was a number of occasions when tempers became frayed and passions had to be calmed. I recall one particular incident during a home fixture when a visiting parent was loudly and boorishly questioning every decision which the referee made against his son's team; eventually, with shrill blow on his whistle, the official stopped the game and strode purposefully towards the miscreant. "If your knowledge of the Laws is greater than mine, here's the whistle, you referee" he stated with a glare, and marched off towards the changing room, much to the amusement of the other parents. Red-faced and apologetic, the gentleman ran after the ref and an apology was made, along with the promise that he would keep his opinions to himself. He did and did not have the temerity to attend match tea. And his son's team lost.

There was an annual game late on in the Michaelmas term when the staff would take on the school 2<sup>nd</sup> XV, a fixture which would most certainly not be allowed to take place these days. Although arguably past their prime, there was a considerable amount of experience among the staff; 'Action Jackson', the Head of PE, had represented his native Devon at schoolboy level and our scrum-half, affectionately known as 'Inch', had played for Saracens in the 1970s before top level rugby became professional. Conscious that this was a great opportunity for members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV to gain revenge for onerous preps and detentions given, I tried to keep away from the ball as much as possible. And, of course, the staff always won – the referee was one of us!

My contribution on the Hockey field was not great, to be fair. I hadn't played much at school (I can remember being scared of the ball!) and opted to play football instead. But I did end up coaching the U13 team for one season only; I don't have the team's results to hand but I do know that we failed to win a game, conceding a copious amount of goals to boot. The captain of the team played Hockey at County level and went on to play cricket professionally for many years. We keep in touch, although that Hockey season is never mentioned!

But cricket, lovely cricket, was, and still is, my main sporting passion.....but I've run out of space and you'll have to wait until June's edition for some recollections concerning the gentle sound of leather on willow.

## Co-Op Easter Activities

Thank you to everyone who knitted Easter creations for the community to find during the Easter holidays. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and received an amazing 107 donations from across Haydon Bridge, Bardon Mill and Haltwhistle. They were greatly appreciated by those who found them, and we have had an amazing response on social media and a lot of pictures of smiling faces!



I hope that we can continue to create happiness and engagement within our community in the near future, and hope that the current situation will resolve soon! If you have any ideas about future events or projects you would like to see in the village, please let me know.

You can contact me by email at [rachel.duffy@coop.co.uk](mailto:rachel.duffy@coop.co.uk)



## Churches Working Together

### Holy Week and Easter Services in the Parishes by the Wall

[www.facebook.com/parishesby the wall](https://www.facebook.com/parishesbythewall)  
[www.parishesbythewall.org.uk/](http://www.parishesbythewall.org.uk/)

St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church and Henshaw Parish Church Please note the change of time to 10.30am for services at both Churches

- St. Cuthberts Henshaw Parish Church 2<sup>nd</sup> May Eucharist Rev. Jeremy Thompson Morning Prayer
- 9<sup>th</sup> May Online and Eucharist Curate Gill Alexander Morning Prayer
- 16<sup>th</sup> May Morning Prayer Eucharist Bishop Christine Hardman
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May Morning Prayer Online and Eucharist Curate Gill Alexander
- 30<sup>th</sup> May Joint Churches Celebration Service at St. Cuthberts Curate Gill Alexander

### WHO AND WHERE

The names and phone numbers of the Clergy who minister in Haydon Bridge

#### **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

St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church,  
The Vicarage, Station Yard.  
Tel. 01434 688196

### Methodist Church Update

Please note new time of Sunday Services 10.30am

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May Deacon Anne Taylor  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May Robin Charlton  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May Rev. Maureen Lloyd  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May Ian Warburton  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May Peter Smith

Informal Worship (fortnightly only):

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 pm
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 pm

also fortnightly, 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm,

Bible Study continues on Zoom (further details from Deborah Bell email [clocktowerbells@hotmail.com](mailto:clocktowerbells@hotmail.com))



### St John of Beverley Update

Sunday Mass

- St. John's, Haydon Bridge -9.00am
- St. Oswald's, Bellingham -11.00 am

Weekdays

Thursday St. Wilfred's, Haltwhistle 9.30am

All other public masses and livestream can be found on St. Mary's, Hexham website

## April into May: Lambing - Lamb of God?

Sixty years ago, I was a boy at St Cuthbert's Grammar School, Newcastle. One piece of music we learned was the ballad "All in the April Evening". Set to music by Sir Hugh Robertson, it was a well-known part of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir repertoire. I must have been a 'pious bairn', as I found it quite moving: "All in the April evening, April airs were abroad. The sheep with their little lambs passed me by on the road. All in the April evening....I thought of the Lamb of God." (I'm sure some other 'oldies' will remember it!)

As I type this, it's a very chilly Easter week. (Your editor wants this piece in by mid-April, hence this early writing.) The Easter weekend influx of visitors (legal or not?) here in Bellingham has petered out – probably through the cold, rather than the police! For 11 years, I was parish priest in Consett, where, at nearly 900 feet up, 'lambing snow' was a regular event. Everyone loves the sight of the mother-ewes with their lambs in the fields, but town people often don't appreciate the worry and tension involved when cold, wet weather arrives – as often happens in hilly country in the north-east.

This year, worry and tension are part of everyone's life, thanks to the drawn-out effects of Covid-19. But for Christians, the sufferings of Jesus Christ are also part of the April experience. He was the "Lamb of God, who took away the sins of the world", as John the Baptist introduced him. The Jews had used roasted, sacrificial lamb as part of their Passover, and for Christians, Jesus' death on the cross was a sacrifice of love that reconciles us to God and to each other.

As adults of any religion - or none - I don't think we can escape all problems and suffering. (I wish some politicians would stop pretending that we can.) For me, shouldering burdens - our own and others' - is part of being grown-up. The difference Christianity makes is that, for believers, God came to share all this in the person of Jesus. He didn't 'magic' suffering away, but offered us a path through it. Just as better weather should have arrived by the time you read this, so the rising of Jesus from the dead can offer us hope for something better. Happy Spring-time!

Fr Jim Dunne, St Oswald's RC Church, Bellingham

## Hedgehog Awareness Week

Hedgehog Awareness Week runs from 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May. It takes place every year to help highlight the problems hedgehogs face and how you can help them.

Here's a few facts about hedgehogs

- The hedgehog is nocturnal, coming out at night and spending the day sleeping in a nest under bushes or thick shrubs.
- They have about 5000 spines. Each spine lasts about a year then drops out and a replacement grows.
- Their coats are thick and spiny, providing them with a formidable defence against predators such as the fox. When they feel alarmed or intimidated, they will curl up into a spiny ball to protect their vulnerable stomachs.
- They have a particularly long, extending snout beyond the front of their mouth which they use to help them forage for food.
- There are 15 species of hedgehog.
- Hedgehog fleas don't live on cats or dogs.
- Hedgehogs will feed their babies for up to 8 weeks and then they will leave them to fend for themselves. If the nest is disturbed during these first few weeks their mum may abandon them.
- Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant - milk can make them very ill, so this shouldn't be offered. Leave fresh water instead. It is also advised not to feed them bread.

- Hedgehogs can roam an average of 2km in a single night.
- Wash hands after handling a hedgehog as they can spread salmonella germs.

There are a few things you can do to help hedgehogs if you find one in your garden :

- Create a log pile that will offer them shelter and food
- Carefully check areas of your garden before strimming or mowing the grass
- Move any rubbish you may have piled in a corner that you are going to burn as this could be a good hiding spot for them.
- Check compost heaps before digging a fork in.
- Keep any netting up high as this could cause them to get tangled up
- Cover drains/deep holes
- Don't use any poison or pesticides that could be harmful to them
- Create access holes in the bottom of your fence 12cmx12cm as they like to roam
- Ensure your pond if you have one has sloping sides so if a hedgehog gets in it can easily get out.

Louise - Murray Farmcare

Easter Colouring Competition – The verdict is in...

Elyse Alexander, Age 8



1<sup>st</sup>  
Prize



Libby Giles, Age 7



2<sup>nd</sup>  
Prize



Courtney Alexander, Age 15



3<sup>rd</sup>  
Prize





## Easter Cheer for Care Homes

Following the success of the appeal for presents and cards for residents of Lowgate and Haydon View Care Homes at Christmas, the Covid-19 Community Care Group decided to spread some cheer to the residents at Easter too. Little Badgers Nursery, Shaftoe Primary and Queen Elizabeth High schools set their students to work making cards, decorations and presents. People from the local community were also extremely generous in their gifts, as was the Co-op, and local children added to the abundance of cards and decorations already made. On Good Friday, volunteers delivered over 60 hampers to the two homes, which were very gratefully received by the residents.

Joanne Hodgson Flatman from Haydon View Care Home said: "We were all so impressed with the efforts from all of the children, who had obviously spent so much time on the beautiful cards and decorations and making sure each resident's hamper was catered to their individual likes and interests. It is overwhelming how kind and caring the people in our community are."

Kim Miller from Lowgate Care Home said:

"The residents of Lowgate would like to say a huge thank you to all the children, and everyone else, who participated in the Easter Boxes. Everyone was overwhelmed at the kind gesture; each box was tailor-made to suit each person's personality and decorated beautifully: the artwork and lovely words in the cards were wonderful. There were so many smiley faces, whether it was the lady who loves dark chocolate and received a very large Bourneville egg amongst her gifts or Alan, our avid Sunderland supporter, who received a beautiful box of goodies decorated in red and white. The poignant poems were read out at our Easter church service. The thoughtfulness, creative effort and wonderful gifts made so many people very happy. Love from all who call Lowgate Home."

We would like to thank everyone who was involved and made this a special Easter for the care home residents. The schools and nursery have reported how much the children enjoyed spending their time creating their artwork, cards, presents and hampers. The Covid group is currently liaising between the schools and care homes to see if something similar can be done through the rest of the year for birthdays etc. Many members of both homes are missing the interaction and visits from grandchildren and local schools, so knowing they were being thought of brought them a lot of joy. If you are aware of any of our more mature or in need members of the community living in the village or surrounding areas who could also benefit from something similar to this, then please get in touch with one of the Covid group organisers or volunteers and we will do our best to help.

Although vaccines are gathering apace and fortunately the number of infections is dropping, volunteers are still actively helping people and the Covid-19 Care Group is still here to support anyone who needs it. If you do need help, please contact one of the co-ordinators and one of our volunteers will gladly try to assist.

Hayley Turner on behalf of the [Haydon Bridge Covid-19 Community Care Group](#)



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Monty Don recently called peat in compost ‘environmental vandalism’, calling for the Government to ban it, something that would be widely supported, including by the National Trust, Alan Titchmarsh, Kate Bradbury and the WI.

I was quite shocked to realise that peat had not been omitted from commercial compost years ago. I vaguely remember it being an issue and assumed it had been sorted out. It turns out we did make progress between 1999 and 2009 due to Government commitments at the time and action by B&Q, the National Trust and others. But this stalled long ago. Peat use in the retail market actually increased between 2012 and 2015.

Here’s why it is so important that peat stays in the ground...

Peatlands are the world’s largest carbon store – they hold more than twice the carbon stored in all the world’s forests. There’s a really lovely little video about peat here [www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/news/new-short-animation-explores-extraordinary-story-peat-and-carbon](http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/news/new-short-animation-explores-extraordinary-story-peat-and-carbon)

Blanket bog, where huge stores of peat are found, is a globally rare habitat. The UK, however, is a stronghold for it, so internationally important. It’s like having the Amazon rainforest on our doorstep but being hardly aware of it!

Our UK upland peat bogs hold a whopping 40% of all the UK’s carbon stores. Of this, only 20% remains undamaged. Damaged peat bogs are a huge liability – instead of holding the carbon, they then release it back into the atmosphere. So it is doubly important that we protect our peatlands. Causes of this damage, as well as extraction for peat compost, include draining bogs for farming and forestry, overgrazing, and burning of heather on grouse moor shooting estates. (I’m trying hard not to think about those gorgeous peaty Scottish whiskies here!).

Many of us are enthusiastic gardeners, especially during these mad covid times. And most of us use peat-based compost. This is

not surprising. Old habits die hard. AND it’s cheaper! The Government is not helping matters either. In 2011 it set a voluntary target to phase out peat in compost by 2020. This has totally failed, which is why a ban is urgently needed. According to a Wildlife Trust survey, only 1 of the 20 leading gardening retailers, Travis Perkins, said it would end peat compost sales in 2021. (Blaydon and Brampton; also Wickes is owned by them). Wyvale Garden Centres, (includes Dobbies), Morrison’s and Sainsbury’s didn’t even respond to the survey.

The Government’s own independent advisors, The Committee on Climate Change, say that to achieve the aim of net zero by 2050, peat use in horticulture must be phased out by 2023. So why is there no ban? Do they not really believe we are in a climate emergency?

SO we, as gardeners, have a huge part to play here. Just STOP buying peat based composts. It’s not even that hard these days, as there are really good peat-free alternatives available. We got some from Down to Earth a few weeks ago. They must work, as the National Trust’s gardens have been peat-free for years now, and the Royal Horticulture Society gardens (RHS) are now 97% peat-free. They also provide advice.

There is a petition you can sign too: [https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/562054?fbclid=IwAR3uGvBdKkymGPPVI-5GTIgT2iAFO\\_G4v73jVDPZkXCGUM1-pIEuD6N0J6c](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/562054?fbclid=IwAR3uGvBdKkymGPPVI-5GTIgT2iAFO_G4v73jVDPZkXCGUM1-pIEuD6N0J6c)

Please DO get in touch with any thoughts and feelings you have about Climate change. Is it something you worry about? If so, what do you worry about? Is there anything you think we could be doing in our local area to help?

[siobhansib@protonmail.com](mailto:siobhansib@protonmail.com)

## Jobs For Your Garden In May

By Adam Howells

I’m so glad that I warned everyone to keep an eye out for potential frosts in April in last month’s edition given the late snows and below freezing mornings we’ve had! Hopefully, by the time we hit May we should be able to rely on some sunnier days coming our way.

### Mulch

Whether organic matter or a hard mulch, May is the time to get the gaps between your plants under control. You can use bark, garden compost or even gravel or grit to suppress weeds, but the degradable materials are best for adding structure and texture to the soil in the coming years. Make sure that it’s a good couple of inches deep wherever you place it. It’s better to have half a bed properly mulched than a thin spread over the full thing.

### Flowers

- Once you are sure that the frosts are really over, cannas and dahlias can be planted back out.
- Any herbaceous perennials that have formed clumps should be lifted and divided now. This will give you free new plants for other areas and also reinvigorate the flower production in the parent clump.

- Cut back Pulmonarias after flowering. This controls the size of the plant and also encourages more flowers next year.
- Once daffodils and other spring bulbs have finished flowering, they can be lifted and divided to prevent overcrowding. Remember to leave the foliage to die back naturally as cutting it stunts the growth of the plant next year.

### Trees, shrubs and climbers

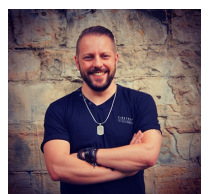
- Prune out any frost damage on evergreen shrubs.
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses as near to horizontal as possible to restrict sap flow and result in more flowers.

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)



Not long ago I came across a man who had decided to make his home out of car tyres. Despite the fact that he was using only well-worn tyres he eventually had to admit that it proved to be an expensive life-choice, so one day he decided to have a massive blow-out and he now lives in flats.

It is during Spring that many weather enthusiasts make essential life-choices about their hobby. If you are about to measure the weather and share this information, it is vital that what you are sharing is reliable. Unfortunately poor local weather data can find its way into our communities and false conclusions reached. Fortunately it isn't difficult to check garden weather equipment against readily available standard Met Office kit during a period of relatively settled weather. For example, during March it was necessary to make a small adjustment to the barometer at Plunderheath. A reliable set of weather observations can provide us with valuable insights into the timing and character of the onset of the growing season – this used to be called pheno-climatology. At Plunderheath I note the date of flowering of a key plant such as the daffodil. This has been delayed by a little more than a week in 2021.

After the 7<sup>th</sup> pressure began to fall quite rapidly. This introduced less settled weather, but daytime temperatures remained around the seasonal normal. The 8 -15<sup>th</sup> were wet days with low pressure and fresh to strong winds. Of these, sleet accompanied strong to gale force winds on 13<sup>th</sup>.

High pressure returned on the 16<sup>th</sup> but airflow was predominantly maritime so although grey and dull at times rainfall amounts were slight. The first sign of warmer Spring days arrived after a significant northwards shift in the Jet Stream. Temperatures in excess of 20degC were registered across southern England (18.8degC in Haydon Bridge on the 31<sup>st</sup>).

And finally, Gladys asked where do birds drink coffee? Answer: In a nest-café.

### 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
March	10.1	+1.4	3.9	+1.3	55.4	86

## Apply for the Co-Op Local Community Fund

Have you got a community project that needs financial support?

The Co-Op Local community fund is now open (4th - 30th May 2021) and this year's application process can be accessed via the Co-operate platform.

If you would like to apply for this funding round, please join the platform, where you can find information and discussions about funding needs, materials needed and volunteer requests.

To be accepted by the Local Community Fund, you must have a project in mind that will benefit your local community. Many applications are from charities or local community groups, but as long as your organisation isn't run for private profit you can apply.

You can find out more and access the platform at <https://co-operate.coop.co.uk/>

If you need any help to join the platform or the application process, please get in touch with Rachel, Community and Shared Value at Co-Op by emailing [Rachel.duffy@coop.co.uk](mailto:Rachel.duffy@coop.co.uk)



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# Adopting a Rescue Greyhound During Lockdown

by Annabel Wakeman

During early January of this year, we made a decision as a family to go to visit, and potentially adopt, a retired racing greyhound from a shelter. My mum had been looking into adopting a second dog for the family for a while and had been spending months searching through adoptable dogs for a perfect match. In late December, she found that match in the dark coated, 3-year-old retired racing greyhound who we later renamed Pepper.

When we drove up to see him it was cold and had been snowing. As we arrived, we found a nervous, gentle and sad looking boy who was looking very smart in a winter coat. Although he was very tall and slim, he had calm, gentle eyes and an adorable snout and nose. My little brother and I were immediately taken with him. He originally wasn't called Pepper, but he never learned to respond to his original name properly. It was more of a racing brand than a name, so he probably hadn't grown up with it being said to him that often. We walked him around in the snow for a while with our other dog, who seemed curious but otherwise unimpressed with this new, taller animal. As we walked, my stepdad examined him to check he was healthy. The owner showed us that his ears had been tattooed from his racing days. He had been abandoned when he was around two because he wasn't winning races and had been brought to the shelter. He slept in the kennels there, like the other rescues, while the owner looked after, trained and worked with him so he would be able to be adopted as soon as possible. Although she looked after all the dogs as well as she could, she couldn't possibly provide them all the one-on-one love and attention all dogs need and deserve. As he seemed well behaved and meshed well with everyone, we decided to come back in a few days, after getting the things we need, with the necessary paperwork to adopt him. On the car ride back home, we thought up new names for him. We wanted him to have a proper home and a name, not kennels and a brand. I came up with Pepper because of the colour of his fur and the little salt-like freckles of white around his nose. My little brother wanted to call him the most bizarre things like 'Steel'. We eventually decided on Pepper, thankfully.

A few days later we brought him back to his forever home. He was understandably anxious at first but also very unused to living in a house; when he first went into the living room, he jumped up onto the coffee table! He also isn't allowed upstairs as he has trouble going down them with his long gangly legs. We introduced him to our other dog in the garden, which is big enough for both of them to run around in, and there weren't any problems. Luckily, neither of the dogs are very territorial and they have no problems with sharing space or toys. They do need to be fed separately, however. During the first week or two since he began living with us, Pepper had some separation anxiety. He would stand up and get nervous whenever someone would leave the room, as though he was worried that we wouldn't come back. But as time went on, he became more and more relaxed and used to people leaving a room. He also became accustomed to his new name very quickly. Pepper did, and still does, get a bit nervous around shouting and loud noise but he has learned to just take himself off to a quieter room if things get too much for him.

Over time, as Pepper has got more used to living with us and has begun to realise that he will be staying here permanently, he's become less nervous and depressed and his true character has come through. His eyes and ears have become more expressive and he's begun to learn how to show affection to people, something he didn't know how to do when we got him. He didn't

really know how to give kisses, but he learned to give boops and air kisses. He's still predominately a gentle giant - and has become a major couch potato - but he's also become very cheeky. He's good as gold when it comes to not chewing things, being clean and being quiet, but he will steal any food he can get his paws on! He specifically likes to steal carrots: we've even nicknamed him 'the little horse' because of his trotting gait and carrot stealing tendencies. We had to install a second gate to the kitchen after we discovered him eating from a pot of pasta pushed right at the back of the counter. He's so tall when he jumps up that he can get to anything easily.

He doesn't really know how to play with our other dog yet. They get along well and sometimes have a friendly sniff of each other but they're not very playful together. When he sometimes gets the zoomies, though, he's discovered that he can throw his squeaky bone for himself around the garden. However, he much prefers to sunbathe in the garden than run around constantly. He often just lays there when we try to call him in. It's a big misconception when it comes to greyhounds that they are a high-maintenance, high-energy breed of dog. In reality, they require only two twenty-minute walks a day and might have only one or two few minute long bursts of zoomies. The rest of the time they usually sleep on the sofa like the big, lazy lumps they are. Some people might also be put off greyhounds because of their appearance. They're big, skinny dogs (characteristics that might alarm or repel some people) and their fur isn't long or fluffy. Their fur is so short, in fact, that they need special coats for wet and cold weather. However, I find their long faces and bodies elegant and their gentle, loving demeanours make them irreplaceable parts of any home. We've had Pepper for only slightly over three months, but I can hardly imagine life without him anymore. Very recently, he's begun to give small occasional kisses. He's come so far in terms of coming out of his shell in the past three months that it has felt extremely rewarding. I feel so glad that we chose to adopt him into our lives.

Over lockdown, there has been a large increase in the number of people choosing to buy puppies. With so many people at home from work and school and with so many commitments postponed, there have been many cases of people buying a puppy rashly without considering whether they will be able to take care of the dog in the future. Research by the Kennel Club suggests that one in five owners who brought a puppy during the pandemic did not consider the long-term responsibilities looking after it would bring. Unfortunately, that means there have been many puppies and young dogs given away, taken to shelters or even abandoned as schools and jobs are opening up again. If you are thinking about bringing a dog into your life, whether they're a puppy or a rescue, remember to take time to consider whether you can devote years into giving that dog a good life. That dog could be in your life for a decade or more, so make sure that you can spend enough time for them outside of work and other commitments. If you are thinking about adopting a rescue greyhound or another breed of rescue dog, remember to spend time searching for breeds and personalities that match with your lifestyle, type of home or other animals. Adopting a dog is a fantastic and rewarding experience but it is not a commitment to be taken lightly.

*For enquiries or donations, please contact Morgan's Dog Rescue on 07765355230.*

## An Update from 1<sup>st</sup> Haydon Bridge Scouts

Prior to the start of last year Zoom had several different meanings. It was a triple flavoured ice lolly in the shape of a space rocket, it was the function on your camera that made things closer and of course it was a UK No. 2 hit single for Fat Larry's band in 1982! But now it has a new evolution as an online chat and meeting website that has been the unlikely saviour of Scout Groups up and down the country.

At first it was hard to see what use the Zoom website could be to us at 1st Haydon Bridge Scout Group when they very kindly offered every Scout Group in the UK free access to its professional version for the duration of the pandemic. Wearing your big coat can only keep you outside for so long in Northumberland's winter months and so we are not strangers to holding some of our meetings indoors, but prising kids away from the glow of their computer screens and engaging with more practical and physical activities is certainly a traditional aspect of Scouting. That's why encouraging our members to join us on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings online over Zoom felt like sleeping with the enemy.

This format that keeps you remote from the participants is also not without its problems. If the Speaker of the House of Commons thinks he has trouble controlling MPs over Zoom it is nothing to marshalling the bag of frogs that is eight to fourteen year old Cubs and Scouts. We have had participants randomly disappear from their screen leaving us looking at an empty settee, various reluctant dogs and cats dragged in front of the web cam for everyone to admire and ten people all talking at once which when wearing your headphones gives you an insight into having voices in your head that might eventually drive you round the twist, thank goodness for the mute button!

Folding an origami fortune teller seemed like a very simple step by step procedure to explain to anyone when you are practising it yourself on the kitchen table at home but it turns out that via Zoom each fold takes more repetition and description than teaching a dolphin to build the lego Millennium Falcon. We are supposed to have a variety of activities in a balanced programme for the young people to complete but after you have done a quiz, the origami and a scavenger hunt carried out in the confines of the kid's house it is surprisingly difficult to come up with new and stimulating group activities to be performed via the internet.

As usual our fantastic Leaders have stepped up to the mark and have genuinely amazed me personally with their creativity and imagination in delivering this much needed relief from the everyday monotony of lockdown with very many fun and interesting sessions on Zoom. Over the last 12 months the Cubs and Scouts have made bird boxes and decorated plant pots for the local rest home, cooked a cake in a mug as well as much larger Mother's day cakes, learned about the 1st World War and the meaning of Remembrance day, located the isolation points for the gas, electricity and water in their house, championed fire safety in the home, allowed Mums and Dads to put their feet up by doing the ironing, laundry, cooking and even cleaning the toilet. Another great success was the 'Camp at home' which allowed the young people to pull the sheets and duvets off their beds to build dens, tents and shelters either indoors or out and then spend the night in a strange location. Adults would consider this situation a punishment like having to spend the night on the floor of an airport departure lounge or an Ibiza reveller in amongst the wheelie bins at the back of a night club, but kids have a much stronger sense of adventure and relish a night 'sleeping rough'! But even putting these evolutions to one side, one thing these electronic get togethers has really helped

with is keeping a sense of belonging and community to our Group and has held the nucleus of it together in these rotten times. The kids have been able to socialise safely and keep up with their friends while the schools were closed and that of course is as important as the activities themselves.

Now the pandemic is easing we have been given permission to start meeting face to face again starting in early April and all of our Leaders and the young people are incredibly excited about that. The Spring term is traditionally one of our best as the long dark winter is over and we are all outside in the lighter nights and sunshine, having campfires, carving whammy diddlers, hiking and tracking. While we are delighted to be back 'offline' again it would be way too harsh to say we are glad to see the back of those Zoom meetings, it has certainly been a challenge but a lot of fun too and the benefit to the kids is obvious. So many thanks to Zoom, in supporting us with free access to its platform, it goes to show that not all internet companies are inherently evil megalomaniacal personal data miners and can be a force for good in the community.

Now how about you? Are you up for blowing away those lockdown blues and having some exciting adventures and new experiences while meeting new friends where the laughs are guaranteed? No it's not online Bingo, but coming along to join us at 1st Haydon Bridge Scouts! We are always looking for more adults to get involved and join our existing team as Leaders of the fine young people in the village and surrounding area, to act as role models and teachers of the essential life skills that they need. You do not need any experience and the only age limit is being over eighteen, to have a sense of adventure and humour and you are ready to go. So if you fancy a new hobby that has a little bit of everything contact Chil at [haydonscoutsgsl@gmail.com](mailto:haydonscoutsgsl@gmail.com)

Chil  
Group Scout Leader  
1st Haydon Bridge Scouts



**The Scouts bike ride for the Great North Air Ambulance as part of their fundraising badge and raised over £830. The riders were Felix Wachsberger, Finn Healy Smith, Chloe Gilchrist, Eva Woodburn, Owen Stronach, Tom Richardson, Jessica Brown, Jake Richardson and Alex Quigley.**

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