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March 2022

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Welcome to our March issue.

It's been a very busy month here and we're glad Spring seems to be on its way with some brighter weather.

Thank you to all our contributors in this issue and to Mark Royston McGovern for the front cover image of his painting of the Haydon Bridge geese.

If you'd like to submit something for our March issue, please send it to us by 19 March.

All the best, Alex
editor@haydon-news.co.uk



**Read about Kiln Field
in Ali's Clarty Boots article**

Community News

Get It Together Society

The Get It Together Society got back together in February to discuss what could be done in the village to celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** in June. The dates are Thurs 2 – Sun 5 June. Both Thursday and Friday are Bank Holidays.

Street parties in the past have always proved to be very popular but we decided that closing a road was not necessary as we have a perfect place on the green at Strother Close. There's plenty of room for tables, chairs and children's activities. Nothing has been decided for certain yet but some of the ideas from our meeting are that we're suggesting Thursday afternoon 2pm-5pm as that is the actual anniversary date. As covid is still an issue and probably will be for quite some time, then sharing plates of food is not a good idea so we think that a Big Jubilee Picnic would be great. Bring your own food and drink for your family/friends' group. There will be tables and chairs available and there'll be plenty of space for picnic rugs. We'll try to get a food van and maybe an ice cream van. There'll be organised children's activities. Hopefully we'll have live music. Ideas for other things to make the celebrations memorable are very welcome. Please contact me or any of the GITS.

The weekend before the Jubilee is **Northumberland Day** – Sunday 29th May. There was no way we were going to organise 2 village events so close together, so it's over to you. Get your Northumberland flags out, decorate your house, dress up in red and yellow and have a get together with your neighbours to celebrate being proud to live in Northumberland. Let's turn the village red and yellow for this special day.

Contact me with your ideas on 01434 684061, pjwallis58@gmail.com

Pauline Wallis on behalf of the Get It Together Society – GITS

Charity Quiz Nights at the General Havelock

We have decided to bring our regular quizzes back to life again after the long COVID break. Our first attempt was on February 22nd. We shall be making the quiz environment as 'safe' as possible for you. The plan is to hold the quizzes on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8.15 pm - table booking will be absolutely vital. Watch out for posters.

John Harrison (aka Queenie)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THE 27TH JANUARY 2022, IN HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Present : Cllrs J. Bates, I. Burrows, E. Faulks (Chair), B. Howard, J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, J. Thompson and D. Thornhill; Parish Clerk (mins.).

1.Public participation – none.

2.Apologies – were received from Cllr E. Charlton.

3.Declarations of interest – none received.

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

5.Report from Northumberland County Council

The new bin will be installed on Peelwell corner in the next week and they will also remove the bin below the Showfield at the same time. With regards to the salt bin between 20 and 21 Tyne View Close, I am advised that there is no salt in the bin. This is because the road is not adopted and the salt bin has been provided by the developer. The County Council inform me that it is not their policy to fill salt bins on un-adopted roads. The road between New Alston and Grindon, the C228, has been put forward for funding for major patching works in 2022/23. I am informed that all actionable defects have been repaired.

The drain beside the memorial on Church Street has still not been sorted out and water is pooling on the road. Cllr Sharp had once again spoken to the County Council with regards to this matter, and he was informed that the works to realign the camber on the road will be done during the next month.

The street light outside 22 Tyne View Close has been repaired done. The pothole at the bottom of Whittis Hill bank has also been filled in, the yellow line has been extended near the butcher's shop on Church Street. The trees on the road between Standalone and Lipwood have been cleared away and the repairs to the drains have been

completed. Some patching and pothole works have also been carried out in this location.

Neil Snowdon has confirmed that he has been in touch with the manufacturer about the 30mph activation sign on Ratcliffe Road and he will come back to me regarding this in due course. The County Council are going to carry out a speed survey on the road at Martin's Close because Cllr Sharp has been pressing for the 20mph signs to be installed.

Cllr Sharp had also recently had a zoom meeting with the Planning Manager of Northumberland County Council and two of the senior officers as he had received some complaints about planning decisions in the Haydon ward.

Maintenance work is still behind due to the work required following Storm Arwen.

6. Highways

- a) Cllr Thornhill said that the road from the turn off for Lees Farm to the seat was covered in gravel. Cllr Bates agreed, saying that when it rained it all washed off the green lane. She said that the bottom third of that lane needed to be tarmacked or have groynes put in. Cllr Sharp will raise this at NCC.
- b) Cllr Burrows said that people were leaving rubbish next to the glass recycling bins. It was agreed to have a wheelie bin installed here. The Clerk will contact NCC.

7. Lighting – nothing to report.

8. Planning applications

21/04943/LBC & 21/04942/FUL –kitchen extension at North Cottage, Lipwood, Haydon Bridge - SUPPORT - We understand that North Cottage itself is not listed. While the Parish Council appreciates that this property falls under the curtilage of a listed building, the complex of buildings has already been altered as they were granted change of use in 2003, and for that reason the Parish Council supports the application.

21/04942/FUL – Kitchen extension at North Cottage, Lipwood, Haydon Bridge

22/00026/FUL – Construction of two-storey side extension and enlarge existing single storey utility room at 23 Hordley Acres – NO OBJECTIONS.

21/04727/FUL – Demolition of existing and replacement of single storey extension to the rear of 7 The cottages, New Alston – NO OBJECTIONS.

21/04540/FUL Low Hall Farm – The Parish Council had recently held a site meeting to reconsider this application. This is a derelict building within the farmyard. The applicants wish to repurpose the building. The application had proposed raising the roof ridge by 2 metres. This would dramatically alter the profile of the building, altering it from a squat building with a low-pitched roof to a relatively tall, thin building, therefore losing its proportion. This purpose of this was to stay within the original footprint. Cllr Howard had proposed that they ask their architect to redraw the design with only a 1 metre increase. Cllr Sharp felt that it was significant that the application had received no objections from neighbours. It was noted that as it is an agricultural building it could be demolished, and a larger agricultural building be built on the site without planning permission, however the applicants want to reuse the existing building to create a family home. Cllr Thornhill said that looking from Whittis Hill, he noticed that a recent new building had now weathered down quite well, but that it still stuck out as being different because the very steep pitch of the roof was not mirrored elsewhere. Cllr Bates explained that the pitch of the roof at Low Hall will not be altered. It was agreed that the PC would alter their response to SUPPORT this application, as they wanted the building to be preserved.

9. Accounts – as in budget.

10. Correspondence

a) Siobhan Stephenson had been in touch to say that the group working on the climate emergency were now on the 'Climate Champions Programme', and she wondered if someone from the Parish Council would like to be more actively involved. Part of the programme involves making a plan for moving forward, for which a template has been provided, and NCC will support the completion of the paperwork. It was agreed that Cllrs Howard and Thompson would meet with Siobhan to see exactly what was involved. Cllr Thornhill said that the PC intended to mainstream the climate emergency into its decision making process.

b) Alistair Guthrie had contacted the PC regarding metal fences which had recently been installed close to Moralee Farm elsewhere. While it was agreed that the fence was rather unattractive in this location, Cllr Sharp said that no permission would be needed for this work. It also had the support of the landowner. It was hoped that over time vegetation would soften the appearance of the fence.

c) Christopher Armstrong had requested a new dog bin in the middle of the Old Bridge. The PC felt that this was not necessary, as there are already bins at both ends of the bridge. However, a home-made poo bag dispenser had recently been attached on a lamp-post nearby and this seemed to be encouraging people to use them to pick up after their dogs. It was agreed that the PC would purchase a dispenser for this location.

d) Tommy Atkins had raised the issue of anti-social behaviour in the picnic area and this had been reported to the Police. Cllr Howard said that he and Cllr Thornhill had visited on a few evenings, but had found the site to be quiet. He suggested that his mobile number be passed on to Mr Atkins, so that he could report any problems when they arose, and the PC would get a better idea whether this was a persistent issue.

e) Jon Brown had emailed to say that some branches had been trimmed on the overhanging trees at Lands End Road, but that he felt they needed attention by a tree surgeon. It was agreed that Bellways, as landowner, should have a tree inspection carried out. The Clerk will request this. Mr Brown had gone on to say that a large bush on the corner of Douglas Gardens was obscuring the street sign. The Chair suggested that no one would object if a resident trimmed this back.

11. Parish projects –

a) Development Trust – Cllr Charlton had emailed to say that she expected the library to re-open during February

b) Haydon Bridge Matter Facebook – Cllr Thornhill said that at times of community stress the administration of the Facebook page could be onerous. This was partly because the decision had been made for everything to go through the administrators before being posted. It would be tempting to stop having this Facebook page, but that would run counter to the desire to aid community communications. Another option would be to remove the current restrictions and have a policy of one warning and then you're out if you misbehave again. The criteria for this would have to be agreed by the PC.

Cllr Faulks said it would be useful to put the minutes and details of forthcoming meetings on there. A third option would be to follow the example of Wooler PC, who use their Facebook page as a noticeboard, and have no community input. Cllr Thornhill

said he would like to talk to Wooler PC and find out how they administer their site. When HBM was set up an anti-commercial approach had been taken. When the site had 200 members, companies were not that interested, but now there are 3000 members lots of businesses would like to be visible on the site. During lockdown the administrators had wanted to support local businesses, but it is now necessary to step back from that and perhaps point people toward a separate page for businesses. Cllr Thornhill asked Cllrs to think about all of this, ready for discussion at the February meeting.

c) Storm Arwen – At the last meeting it had been proposed that each Cllr could have an area of the parish to cover in an emergency. Cllr Kirsopp had attended Guy Opperman's meeting prior to the PC meeting, and said that there had been some good ideas put forward. For example NCC was talking about setting up a hub, with contact details etc. At the meeting one person said they had tried to contact Powergrid for 3 days, and when they eventually got through they had been asked if they had checked their fusebox! It was agreed that Cllr Snowdon would talk to the flood group first, as a similar system of zones and wardens is envisaged, then after that there would be an open meeting to seek volunteers.

d) Queen's Jubilee on 2nd June 2022 – Cllr Faulks said that there was going to be a chain of beacons along Hadrian's Wall to celebrate this occasion. The PC had been asked if the parish would like to take part with a beacon on high ground. Cllr Charlton had been in touch to say that the Art Group who usually have an art exhibition in the community centre, had asked if the PC was celebrating this occasion. They would like to create an art competition "Portraits of our queen", with an exhibition of the works of art created. They will supply prizes for winning competitors, and suggested 3 age groups. The group would also like to give a donation towards the village celebration if one is to be organised, and they wondered if a party on the Strothers Close Green could be repeated as the Millennium Party with a tea party, music and entertainers was very successful. Everyone thought these were good ideas, which needed further discussion.

e) Haydon Bridge High School – It was suggested that it would be useful to invite the new Head to a PC meeting. The Clerk will arrange this.

f) Cllr Kirsopp said that the streetlight next to the lane leading to Mr Murphy's workshop was obscured by branches. The Clerk will request these are cut back.

g) Cllr Keyte said that Jack Rumney had begun work at the Showfield play area.

h) Cllr Snowdon wondered who had taken down trees on the riverbank behind the General Havelock.

Residents and charity working to improve the river

Thanks to support from the Co-op Local Community Fund, environmental trust, the Tyne Rivers Trust, has spent the past year working with volunteers, residents, and community groups in Haydon Bridge to improve the river and the village.

The £1,971 of funding has allowed the Trust, which is the only environmental charity dedicated to looking after the Tyne, to work with residents and volunteers to carry out river clean-ups and remove invasive species from the riverbank.

The summer months saw 1st Haydon Bridge Scout group enjoying 'balsam bashing' sessions to remove Himalayan balsam, which is an invasive species, from the riverbank across the river from Low Hall Park. The youngsters enjoyed the satisfying task of pulling the non-native plant out of the ground to stop it spreading and protect the bank from further erosion.

A river clean-up day saw volunteers and village residents fill 15 bags with rubbish collected from the riverbank.

Dr Ceri Gibson, CEO at Tyne Rivers Trust says: "It has been fantastic to work with residents and local groups to improve the river which is such an important part of living in Haydon Bridge. I'd urge any Co-op members to select the Trust as their cause so we can continue the work we have started.

"Much of what we collect on river clean ups is plastic. With less than 9% of all plastic being recycled globally, I'd like to see more retailers in the village using more sustainable packaging materials.

Ceri adds: "Haydon Bridge is now in the process of setting up 'Haydon Action for Nature and Diversity' group. As a resident, I look forward to getting involved personally, but to also developing a stronger partnership for the Trust with more tasks around the village, protecting and improving our local countryside as well as the river itself, for all of us to enjoy."

Tyne Rivers Trust will be running a free balsam bashing and invasive species ID session this summer. Anyone who would like to get involved should contact Jenny Dowden, volunteer coordinator for the Trust: j.dowden@tyneriverstrust.org



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Update on the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan

YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE SOON

Progress on The Neighbourhood Plan is on target and it is now at the Independent Examination stage. Following the work of the Independent Examiner, the two planning authorities for the Parish – the county council and the National Park Authority - will produce a final version of the plan which will go to **Referendum of all residents in the Parish**, probably in May or June this year. Approval will be by a simple majority of those voting. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY PEOPLE ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTER WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE. IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE REGISTER THEN CONTACT THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO SIGN UP.

All the documentation relating to the plan is available via the parish website: www.haydon-bridge.co.uk/community-plan

Progress on the Community Actions

Annex 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan sets out issues identified by the local community which cannot be addressed through the planning system. They are set out under the same seven objectives as in the plan with: the areas for community action; whether they are short or longer term; and who should be responsible for taking them forward.

Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been meeting with the Directors of the Haydon Bridge Development Trust, which led the community development work following the previous 2008 Parish Plan. Four members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group have now been co-opted onto the Development Trust as Directors and the two groups will work together and with the Parish Council to lead the development work on the community actions.

The aim is to start taking forward some of the community actions now rather than waiting till the full Neighbourhood Plan is adopted later this year. Here are some examples of action already under way.

Gardening group: the gardening group are making fantastic progress and have secured grants from the Parish Council and County Council to upgrade the flower beds in the village – see the beds opposite the community centre as an example. If you want to volunteer to help contact Carole Price on 07939 202930

Gigabit Speed Broadband for Haydon Parish: We Fibre continue to make progress to install gigabit speed broadband in the parish and you can see their installation cabinet near to Foundry Court and the Kattan site. If you want to register with WeFibre then go to wefibre.com/grants

Footpaths Group: All the footpaths have been adopted by a volunteer and have been surveyed so that improvements needed can be logged. Two meetings have been held with the county council to agree what improvements they can undertake and which the community will need to undertake. In addition the parish Council and the Development Trust have agreed to fund new interpretive information panels for the John Martin trail.

Electric car charging points: DID YOU KNOW There are now two EV (electric vehicle) charging points for public use at the back of the Haydon Bridge Community Centre on Ratcliffe Road. They have been put in free of any installation costs to the local community by a Community Interest Company we have been working with called Charge My Street.

For EV car owners the charging points are now listed on the national ZapMap App which is the primary source for EV drivers in the UK. All Charge my Street sites are on there and integration work is going on with ZapMap so that it will display realtime information about all Charge My Street chargers about whether each charging point is operational and available. There will also be integration with the ZapMap payment system which will provide another way for users to pay for charging their car. The charging points in the village are also on several other platforms and on google maps.

Please pass the word around to people in the village with electric cars or friends with electric cars who might want to come and visit.

Heating your home at a time of rising energy costs and possible grants available

Another key area for community action is the cost for residents of heating their home. The parish is off grid for gas and the majority of homes rely on oil, which has been rocketing up in price, for their main source of heating.

The Parish is aiming to work with CAN (Community Action Northumberland) and the County Council's Climate Change Team and Cold Homes Group to provide information for local residents about how to afford heating their home, retro fitting energy saving measures such as insulation, and options for moving to renewable energy sources.

So here are some initial ideas, based on information provided by CAN.

Energy advice

CAN Community Energy Advisers are helping people in rural Northumberland to keep warmer and spend less on energy. They can offer advice ranging from installing FREE simple measures to improve the energy efficiency of homes, paying less for energy, accessing financial help, adopting more energy-efficient habits and applying for grants to make improvements to your house. If you'd like a visit and live in Northumberland please get in touch and contact the CAN Energy Advisers on 0772 4867010 or 0771 5408343

Does the energy price cap affect you?

The energy price cap is backstop protection from the government, calculated by Ofgem. It applies if you're on a default energy tariff, whether you pay by direct debit, standard credit or a prepayment meter.

It won't apply if you:

- are on a fixed-term energy tariff
- have chosen a standard variable green energy tariff Ofgem has exempted from the cap.

You can contact your supplier to check if you are on their default tariff. If you're not, you may already be paying a better rate for your energy. But it's still worth checking if you could save more by switching to another tariff or supplier.

The price cap limits the rates a supplier can charge for their default tariffs. These include the standing charge and price for each kWh of electricity and gas (the units your bill is calculated from).

Ofgem sets the cap level for summer and winter based on the underlying costs to supply energy. This keeps prices fair and makes sure suppliers reflect any drops in costs in your rates.

• The price cap won't limit your total bill if you are on a default tariff - The cap level Ofgem sets depends on costs in the energy market. So your bills could go down or up. Different factors also affect how much suppliers change their prices (the rate they charge you) to meet the cap:

- where you live
- how you pay (prepayment, direct debit or standard credit)
- your type of energy meter.

Your energy usage will affect your total bill too. It's best to contact your supplier for personalised information on your tariff. Any figures you may see in the media aren't guaranteed. They also usually show a customer with 'typical' energy usage who pays by direct debit. So what you pay could be more or less than what's reported.

What next?

Your supplier must automatically apply the price cap Ofgem sets if you are on a default tariff. That's right so you get a fair price, but it won't mean you're on the cheapest deal. You can shop around to see if you can get a better tariff.

If your supplier has gone bust:

- Take a meter reading, sit tight and do not switch
- Wait for Ofgem to appoint a new supplier
- When the new supplier contacts you then ask to be put on the cheapest tariff or shop around and switch if you want to. You will not be charged an exit fee

Grants to help pay the cost of improving the energy efficiency of your home

The county council has secured £9m to deliver Warm Home Grants to eligible residents in Northumberland. Lower income households will be able to apply for grants to improve the efficiency of their homes and reduce energy bills.

Northumberland Log Bank

Are you in need of wood fuel due to financial constraints, poor health, advanced age or rural isolation? Northumberland Log Bank can deliver dry seasoned log. Contact: Kate Thick katethick@hotmail.com Tel: 07900 963234

They are also looking for volunteers to collect wood, process it and make deliveries and can provide training in chainsaw use. If you can spare half a day a week contact Kate Thick.

Drop-in Energy surgeries at the Community Centre

There is a drop-in energy surgery at the Community Centre - 10am to 1pm on Saturday 23 April in the Community Centre.

Skipper scoops latest honour with prestigious Edward Waite Trophy

One of Haydon Bridge's best known sportsmen has received a prestigious award.

Graeme Pigg has been awarded the Edward Waite Trophy in recognition of his remarkable achievements in cricket. The historic trophy recognises special sporting achievement and excellence, and the latest incumbent is no stranger to success.

Twenty years have passed since Graeme took over as captain of Haydon Bridge Cricket Club back in 2002. Over the past two decades, he has presided over five league championships in the West Tyne Cricket League Division One.

Under his stewardship, the club's first team have won four cup finals, and have been runners-up numerous other times in both league and cup competitions. No other team has surpassed the achievements of Haydon Bridge in the league over that period.

Graeme attended a special presentation at Haydon Bridge Football Club, which is the custodian of the famous local trophy. He received the award from last year's winner, Matthew Scott.

The football club's Gavin Boyd, who has also spent many seasons playing cricket for Haydon Bridge, said Graeme is a very worthy winner.



"He finds a way to win," said Gavin. "Being captain is a very challenging job but Graeme has a track record of putting a successful side together, using experienced players and also giving youth an opportunity.

"Not only that, Graeme's loyalty to the cricket club over such a period of time is remarkable, and so is the success he has brought with it as a player and captain.

"This is a special, prestigious trophy to win and Graeme is very deserving of it."

Graeme is set to embark on his 21st season as captain of the cricket club when the new season gets underway in the spring.

Haydon Bridge Football Club will welcome nominations for the annual Edward Waite Trophy for when it is next presented. It is open to sports people with ties to Haydon Bridge.

Edward Waite OBE served as headmaster of Haydon Bridge Technical School. He was chairman of Tynedale Council and chairman of Tynedale Sports Council, now known as Sport Tynedale.



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**“One of the hardest things for boys to learn is that a teacher is human.
One of the hardest things for a teacher to learn is not to try and tell them.”**

Alan Bennett

One of the most tedious tasks was loading the windsurfers onto a trailer every Thursday, particularly when the rowing club had ‘forgotten’ to take their boats off. There was room for eight windsurfers, four on each side of a central frame, and a large area at the bottom in which to store sails and spars. Ensuring that the windsurfers were secure was, of course, the responsibility of the driver, although this was almost always delegated to one of the senior cadets. On one never-to-be-forgotten occasion, in our haste to make the most of our time on the water, one of the windsurfers which had not been tied down slipped off when negotiating a sharp corner.....straight into the windscreen of a following vehicle! Shouts from the back of the minibus alerted the driver, who stopped and jumped out to investigate the extent of the damage, amidst a tumult of apologies. Thankfully, the board had just cracked the windscreen on the passenger side but the driver was less than impressed, especially as it turned out to be the school’s Bursar! At least he was in the best position to sort out the insurance implications.

News of the incident spread rapidly and there was much ribbing in the Common Room and the pub. The next day, as I passed the window to the classroom where the Year 10 pupils were eagerly awaiting an introduction to the poetry of Catullus, I was aware of a lot of hushing noises, accompanied by ‘He’s coming, he’s coming’. Silence greeted me as I opened the door, and the boys rose to their feet simultaneously. Aha, I wrongly thought, respect at last. But no. As soon as I had said ‘Do be seated, gentlemen’, the first line of the Beach Boys hit ‘Surfin’ Safari’ was belted out at full volume - ‘Let’s go surfin’ now, everybody’s learnin’ how.....’ – followed by howls of laughter. They had, of course, been primed by one of my colleagues and were delighted to join in with the teasing. It was some time before order was restored and Catullus took centre stage.

The opportunity for retribution came remarkably quickly. Word got around that the Head of Maths had made a very simple arithmetical error at the end of a hugely complicated equation which he had worked through on the blackboard (yes, all classrooms were fully equipped with state-of-the-art blackboards and top quality chalk!) with a Year 13 class. The equation was reduced to $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9}$ which he had mistakenly calculated as $\frac{1}{13}$ – those of you who are mathematically far more capable than me will know instantly that the answer is $\frac{13}{36}$. Having diligently checked the answer book and found that his conclusion was incorrect, he painstakingly worked through his working and again came up with the same fraction. By this time, some of the more alert pupils had realised that the miscalculation lay with the final step rather than earlier processes but they cruelly let the increasing flustered master check time and time again before some kind soul took pity and spilled the beans. The following day, and for several days after, my friend was asked the same question in every class he took: ‘Sir, what is $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9}$?’! He was, like Queen Victoria, not amused!

Several other wind-ups followed, the most memorable of which involved a poor bowling performance in a staff cricket fixture. The unfortunate player had been hit for a succession of sixes, as a result of which the game had been lost, and his embarrassment was magnified afterwards by a carefully rehearsed performance by a Year 11 class. At various points during the lesson, one of the pupils would make a clicking noise, similar to a cricket ball being dealt a mighty blow to the boundary, followed shortly by another saying ‘six’ then another standing up and extending both hands above his head in the manner of an umpire signalling a maximum. This was repeated, very surreptitiously, throughout the lesson. There were, of course, plenty of lessons when a more formal approach to teaching and learning was prevalent, but these more relaxed occasions always provided an opportunity for fun involving both teachers and pupils.

To finish, something to ponder: if ‘tomb’ is pronounced ‘toom’ and ‘womb’ is pronounced ‘woom’, why is ‘bomb’ not pronounced ‘boom’?!

Hexham Art Group Easter Exhibition

This year’s Art Group exhibition will be held at Newbrough Village Hall, from Monday 11th April until Monday 18th April 2022. The Art group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons with around 15-20 artists attending - using watercolours, pastels, oils etc with occasional tutorials, life models and workshops. Attendees are from far and wide including Haydon Bridge. The art show is an annual event that has been suspended for the past 2 years. New members are always welcome!



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A good friend of mine, Steve, a vicar in a local parish in Yorkshire, was driving his young daughter and three of her friends to a seaside birthday treat. It was a long and rather tedious journey and there was still some distance to go, when one of his passengers asked how much longer the journey was going to take. After a lengthy pause, his daughter asked “Dad, what’s sex” Conscious that they were still some way from their destination and keen to seize the opportunity to explain some of the facts of life to young people in his care, Steve embarked on the full ‘birds and the bees’ – sexual intercourse, gender, conception, the lot. As he drew his talk to a close, they were approaching their destination, he asked his daughter “why did you want to know?” “Well, she replied, “when we asked how much longer the journey was going to be, you said it would be a couple of secs – what are they?”

January marked the seventh month in a sequence of average daytime and night-time air temperatures being above the long-term (30 yr) average. This has been particularly marked during the last two winter months. The daytime air temperature rose to more than **9 degC above normal** during the New Year (21-22) holidays. Although the pressure was relatively high for much of the month, the wind came almost entirely from the west in association with occasional depressions and active frontal systems. The first week provided almost all the month’s extremes these being the highest and lowest daytime maximum and night-time minimum temperatures, and the wettest day (3rd). Between the 1st and the 6th the air temperature fell from 15.5 deg C to -6.0 degC as a deep depression drove in cold arctic air. On the 5th, 8 cm of snow was lying at Plunderheath. Sunny spells during the daytime saw temperatures which remained cool, but slightly above the long-term average. Under clearer night skies temperatures hovered around freezing with patches of early morning fog. There was very little precipitation after the 11th while high pressure remained in control. Water courses again began to run low. Although breezy at times, it was not until Storms Malik and Carrie arrived at the end of the month that we experienced any further damaging winds or significant rainfall.

Month 2021	Average Max. Temp (Daytime) deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Average Min. Temp (Night-time) deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Rainfall mm	Percentage of long-term average
January	7.8	+2.0	2.5	+1.2	30.3	37%

Gladys is currently staying with friends in New Jersey where breakfast is an occasion for family conferences. One day Jeff, the man of the house, had been reading a newspaper report about a beautiful actress who was about to marry a famous football player who was well known to be as thick as two short planks. Jeff turned to his wife and said that he couldn’t understand how the biggest idiots in the world end up with the most attractive wives. To which his wife replied “Well thank you dear”.

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Churches Working Together

Methodist Church Sunday Services 10.30 am

6th March	Ms. June Beeby
13th March	Deacon Anne Taylor
20th March	Rev. Tony Buglass (Covenant Service)
27th March	Rev. Jenny Porterpryde
3rd April	Readers Service Brian Japes

(Refreshments are now served after Sunday worship)

Informal Worship on Wednesdays 7pm

2nd March An Ashing Service

All other Wednesdays evenings in March up until and including 13th April will be a **Lent Bible Study**

Please note that **Meeting Place** meets at the **Methodist Church** on **Tuesdays only** 10 am to 12 noon why not call in for coffee or tea and a friendly chat

St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church Sunday Services 10.30 am (except one)

6th March	Morning Prayer Gill Valentine
13th March	Rev. Gill Alexander (Eucharist)
20th March	Revs Nigel and Mary Warner (Eucharist)
27th March	Rev. Gill Alexander (Eucharist) 9.00 am for Mothering Sunday (please note the time)
3rd March	Rev. Rosalind Brown (Eucharist)

All Hallows Henshaw/Beltingham Sunday Services 10.30 am (All Eucharist Services)

6th March	Rev. K. Teasdale	All Hallows, Henshaw
13th March	Rev. Michael Jackson	All Hallows, Henshaw
20th March	Rev. E. Ryder	St Cuthbert's Beltingham
27th March	Rev. G. Alexander	All Hallows, Henshaw
3rd April	Rev. Rob Saner Haigh	All Hallows, Henshaw

Catholic Church Services

St. John of Beverley	Haydon Bridge 9.00 am Sundays
St. Oswald's	Bellingham 11.00am Sundays
(to book your place visit Heavenfield bookings and choose a Church)	
St Wilfred's	Haltwhistle 9.30am Thursdays
St Mary's	Hexham
Public Mass and Live Stream (please check St. Mary's website)	

Letter from Deacon Anne

One of the most unsettling things in the last couple of months, for some of us, has been the power cuts, those planned and those unplanned.

The planned ones were because the electric company were doing some sort of upgrade to the network and we were told in advance when the power was going off. The frustrating thing was, having made arrangements, it didn't happen. This was annoying because you couldn't rely on what was happening or said would be happening.

The unplanned power cut was the result of a storm which put the power off for 24 hours, which is nothing, I know, compared to what some households had to put up with after Storm Arwen where the power was off for 8 days or more higher up the valley. Because of Storm Arwen, we didn't really know how long the next storm was going to last. However, this time we had the candles out and a flask ready. Having gone to bed early, 8pm, in order to keep warm, I watched the comforting candlelight in the window and was reminded of the words from John's gospel.

'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.' John 1:5

The light it talks about is the light of Christ. A light that remains with us during the dark times. A light that enables us not to be overcome, a light that is a source of strength and comfort and peace. It is a power supply that doesn't go off, a power supply that is there in the good times and in the bad times, a power supply that will remain with us throughout all times, a power supply that we can rely on.

'And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.' Matthew 28:20b

There are some things in our lives, that we can plan for and are therefore better able to cope with. But there are other things in life that we are not able to plan for and it is in these times that we need someone to rely on to supply the power, the strength we need to see us through these times as well.

Jeremiah 29:11 says 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you plans to give you a hope and a future.'

We can rely on God who is a constant, yesterday, today and forever and is always there for us whether we are in the dark or the light.

Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge

By Dennis Telford

“CHEERS”

Part 4 (Continued)

The Wheatsheaf - Haydon Hotel

In February, I left you on our parish pub-crawl in the Haydon Hotel, formerly The Wheatsheaf Inn, where the innkeeper Mrs. Mary Jane Weatherald died on September 25th, 1913.

At the turn of the twentieth century, it is my guess that the Haydon Hotel attracted more male clients than usual as the owners were John George Clark and his wife Sophia and they had six daughters. Mary Isabella, Elizabeth, Ada, Florie, Sophia and Catherine. George Clark married Sophia Moody in 1893 at Lanchester and, before coming to the public house at Haydon Bridge, he was a colliery banksman at South Moor, Stanley in County Durham.

Three of George and Sophia's daughters were to marry young men from Haydon Bridge: Mary Isabella married Thomas ('Tot') Barron, a well respected baker at number 4 John Martin Street; Ada married Cecil Stanton Curry, son of Ralph Curry the landlord of the Scotch Arms; and Sophia, a teacher at Shaftoe Trust School, married Haydonian Lance Spooner.

George Clark died at the Haydon, aged 53 years, on November 27th, 1923 and following George's death, his widow Sophia took over the running of the hotel and had her name above the door; as well as on the pub sign on the wall above their neighbour's garage.



A view of Henry Watson's garage on Shaftoe Street in the 1920s with Mrs. Clark's pub sign in full view

As a teenager in Haydon Bridge, I recall the Haydon Hotel as being one of the least frequented of our public houses. It was assumed that this was because of its location on the edge of our village boundary on the least populated South Side, and patrons preferred the Scotch Arms or Anchor Hotel at the bridge end, or the Railway Hotel and General Havelock on the North

Side. Whether this location was reflected in the Haydon Hotel's turnover, I cannot say. However, it might be significant that after Mrs. Clark's occupation there was a remarkable succession of licensees over the next few years and, circa 1925, the owners of the Haydon Hotel filed for bankruptcy and Henry Watson was able to purchase the land, stables and cottage he had been renting since 1921 for his garage and haulage business.

I'll leave much of the twentieth century at the Haydon Hotel for others to explore; and there are readers with more intimate mid twentieth century memories of the Haydon than I can offer - although, sadly, those numbers are decreasing at an alarming rate. Nevertheless, here are a few names I can recall - who each introduced their individual personalities and stiles of pub management to one of our oldest Inns - to stimulate those memories: Henry and Annie Wiles, Brian and Sheila Todd, M. Turnbull, Norma Travers, P. Bainbridge (who, as I recall, covered the inner walls of the bar with tree bark in the early 1960s!), Adamson, Edmondson, Maddison, Walmsley, Nicholson, Nixon, Tom and Sheila Buist, and Maurice and Betty Cousin who remained in the Haydon Hotel for 25 years until its closure in 2005.



The Haydon Hotel following its closure in September 2005

As we leave The Haydon Hotel and wander down Shaftoe Street to the Scotch Arms, our next port of call, the rich reedy sound of the accordions of Johnny Handle and Henry Robson and the raucous singing of the 'residents', fill the air. Reminders of so many wonderful nights and special occasions with good friends and acquaintances by our side; so many no longer with us, but not forgotten.



Johnny Handle and Henry Robson who accompanied the 'residents' in each of our village pubs

When the Haydon closed in September 2005, I asked the question: "Can anyone remember when 'Time' was last called at the Haydon Hotel?"

One neet in October wor lass said to me,
 "It's Maurice's birthday we'll gan on the spree."
 Well that's a fine notion aa thowt to mesel,
 And we both went that neet to the Haydon Hotel.

Henry played the accordion his music a treat,
 We persuaded Tom Potts to play there that neet,
 I'm sure they could hear us on Humbleton Fell,
 Sec a row that we made in the Haydon Hotel.

In the bar room, the pool room the residents' lounge,
 We made sec a din with wor musical sounds,
 There'd been many grand neets, but there'd none
 gone as well,
 As the landlord's birthday at the Haydon Hotel.

There was all sorts of folk, seldom been there afore,
 And to keep them all in Maurice bolted the door,
 If we'd carried on drinking until the last bell,
 Then we'd still all be there at the Haydon Hotel.

We had Leek Shows, Antique Shows and Barbeques
 with beer,
 There were weddings and funerals, and birthdays to
 cheer,
 Henry played the accordion and aa'd do a turn,
 And Jeff would serve the residents 'till yon time in the
 morn'.

We had quizzes, fancy dress, discos, quoits, darts and
 pool,
 Geoff Dixon was at the corner of the bar as a rule,
 Twenty five years with Betty's name over the door,
 And the grand times we had, now are village folklore.

Finally, 'The Black Bottle' and happy memories:

I'll tell you a tale about a pub that I knew,

Of a Sunday night they would all come,
 They'd stand at the bar with a glass in their hand
 But it wouldn't be best beer nor rum.
 For the evils of drink never left such a trail,
 For a man who would stick to his gill,
 They'd hang onto the bar with the room gannin round,
 Of the Black Bottle they'd had their fill.

They'd gan out on Sundays for to celebrate,
 for their wives they'd find any excuse,
 It was usually Mondays when they'd gettin supped up
 And they'd gan yem to call for a truce.
 Mind there was one occasion that I can recall,
 When the landlady looked kid of glum,
 She telt them they'd supped it and there was no more,
 "Aa'm afraid the Black Bottle it's done."

"Well aa'm glad that it's done" shouted long Matty Reed,
 To the chaps that was stood by his side,
 "If the wife comes for me aa'll be ready to gan
 Instead of walking now aa'll get a ride.
 There's many a morning upon Haydon Fell,
 With a bad headache that's been nee fun,
 Aye there's many a time aa've said: 'Never again',
 So aa'm glad the Black Bottle it's done."

Now Isabel she thinks her husband's left yem,
 He sees more of the barmaid than her,
 But she'll get quite a shock at eleven o'clock
 When Ozzie comes in through the door.
 His early night home she just can't understand,
 But she'll know when she asks him, "How come?"
 And he tells her that Betty's sold all that she had,
 And now the Black Bottle it's done.

"Well aa'm glad that it's done for the sake of me wife,
 If there's nee drink aa'l gan yem instead,
 And you'll see much more of us", he said to Eileen
 As she tucked Jasper up in his bed.
 "O' the morn aa'l be ready to give of me best,
 Without drink the farm work'll be done,
 And them two sons of mine they can lie in and rest,
 They'll be glad the Black Bottle it's done."

Now Maurice the barman he was of two minds,
 About letting folk gan afore time,
 Cos he'll make nee mair profit if they gan yem soon,
 But he'll get to his pit work on time.
 As he sang sweet love songs to Betty his wife,
 And she made eyes that promised much fun,
 He said, "Gan on upstairs pet aa'l be with ye soon",
 Now he's glad the Black Bottle it's done.

Mind there's always one link in the chain that is weak,
 And though all their intentions were good,
 And most of the chaps have now mended their ways
 Alone at the bar one man stood.

He looked at his glass it was empty and sad,
 He said, "I'll not leave this public house",
 And then Jackie Robson said them famous words:
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Clarty Boots: How did I Get to Here?

I was at college doing a Diploma in Agriculture in the late 80s early 90s learning how to farm. We were taught to grow by adding bags and bottles. It was also the time that organic farming was becoming more popular as people had more money to spare and pay the premium prices for their concerns about health, the environment and animal welfare. I remember thinking at the time that there were good farmers on both sides (the conventional and the organic), but neither way felt right and that there must be a path somewhere in the middle. That remained my thoughts on the subject, with no idea of what the other way may be until the mid-2010s when there started to be talk of a regenerative method of farming. I was sceptical to start with, but read and watched more and more. It wasn't till I saw a YouTube video with Gabe Brown, Treating the Farm as an Ecosystem (worth watching if you are interested), that I thought I may have found a middle way.

So what has happened since then?

There is another farm in the parish on the south side of the Tyne that has been dipping their toes into the regenerative pond for longer than we have, and it's been interesting to watch their progress. And so, about 5 years ago we also started dabbling. The first thing we tried was a cover crop mix of mustard, winter vetch and rye after winter barley. This was in a field that is quite heavy, especially on one side which also has a poor structure. In the spring we sowed spring barley and there was a noticeable improvement to the soil having had plants in during the winter. Previously we have nearly always ploughed, tilled and sown the crops. Soil movement is one of the things that is really bad for soil health and releasing carbon stored in the soil into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. So with the aid of a neighbour with a direct drill, we sprayed off a temporary grass field and sowed some spring barley. The direct drill has tines that cut a slot and drop the seed in then close the slot behind. We also spread some white clover seed on the surface to see if we could get a companion crop growing along with the barley that would keep the soil covered, add diversity and put nitrogen into the soil (clover being a legume). After a worrying few months of watching crows and pigeons seeming to decimate the crop, the barley actually grew into a very thick crop smothering out most of the clover and yielding nearly as much as the spring barley we'd sown with our normal method. The next year we sowed two fields of winter barley with a disc direct drill with limited success. The problem was due to the drills limited ability rather than the method I think, as where it sowed properly it was a good crop. We also sowed spring barley again, this time cultivating the top 2 inches (I know, slap wrists) as the tine direct drill pulled up loads of stones and picking them is not a fun job! I sowed the barley into this at a lighter rate to try and reduce the competition with the companion crop, which this time was a mixture of white clover, berseem clover, sweet clover, crimson clover, fenugreek, sainfoin and birdsfoot trefoil. This provided a nice mix of flowers in the barley through the summer; you may have noticed the field on the roadside above Haydon if you were passing. This year's experiment hasn't been finalised yet, but we now have our own direct drill (this one with discs instead of tines), so shouldn't have the stone picking issue, but we have 5 acres of a rye and winter vetch cover crop that went in after winter barley this Autumn. By mid-April this is supposed to be quite tall! Do we sow into it, spray it off and sow into it or top it and sow into it? We haven't ploughed now for two years and are min tilling to level the field and help transition to a direct drill method with minimal soil disturbance.

Normally a ley (temporary pasture) made up of white clover, rye grass and timothy (or something similar) would be planted. This isn't a diverse mix (soil likes a diverse mix of plants growing in it) and isn't good for insects. I wanted a ley that roots at different depths, was going to put nitrogen in the soil and cycle the other nutrients, was good for insect life and had anthelmintic properties to worm the sheep instead of having to use wormers out of a bottle. So we sowed our first herbal ley with a mixture of grass species and clovers as well as yarrow, ribwort, birdsfoot trefoil, burnet and sainfoin in the summer of 2020. This was made into round bale silage to be fed to the ewes at lambing time to hopefully clear them of worms. We fattened lambs on the field last September without worming them and they did very well on it.

The amount of insects in this crop was unbelievable! So many species of bees, beetles and butterflies. The whole field was alive, it was awesome. So on that note we sowed another 15 acres this last summer of an even more diverse mix, and there will be another 21 acres to go in this summer coming.

We also have had the privilege of capturing a lost and homeless bee keeper (his bees were anyway) and have got some honey to sell from bees off our farm which is very exciting. We've also planted spring flowers and flowering shrubs and trees for the bees so they have some food in the more sparse time of the year.

Our aim with the sheep is to try and reduce the reliance on artificial wormers by changing of diet to include those herbs that are natural wormers and their grazing habits to reduce the likelihood of ingesting the worm eggs. We now have some hens back on the farm. The idea is that they follow the sheep and the cattle round as they mob graze, spreading the muck and eating any parasites and fly larvae they find. So we will also have proper free range eggs to sell too.

We are taking our first steps into carbon sequestering and are aiming to continue on the path we have already started while also changing the way we graze our livestock to aid in this. We are hoping to have an open day this summer to show what we are trying to do. More details to follow nearer the time. Well that's a brief look at what's going on at East Haydon, I hope you found it interesting.

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