

# THE HAYDON NEWS

May 2022

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Welcome to our May issue.

Another busy month here, and great excitement of the new Oddfellows Coffee opening – read our interview in this issue.

Thank you to all our contributors this month. Our cover photo is by Tony Messner – capturing the sunlight on the Roman Legionary's shield, part of the celebrations of 1900 years since the building of Hadrian's Wall.

As ever, all submissions are very welcome for the magazine. If you'd like to submit something for our June issue, please send it to us by 19 May.

All the best  
Alex

editor@haydon-news.co.uk



The poster for the Haydon Bridge Festival features a central illustration of a beer glass on a stage. The background is a sunburst pattern in orange and white. Silhouettes of a drum set, a fork, a knife, and a guitar are arranged around the beer glass. The text 'Haydon Bridge Festival' is at the top, '11TH JUNE 2022' is in large bold letters, and '2pm - 11pm' is below it. A banner at the bottom reads 'HAYDON BRIDGE FESTIVAL'.

**The Haydon Bridge Festival**  
returns on 11<sup>th</sup> June with real ales, cider and wines, caterers and of course great live music. Profits go to support local good causes and charities. Visit [haydonbridgefestival.co.uk](http://haydonbridgefestival.co.uk) for more info.

## Community News

### Fancy a trip to Alnwick?

Friday Lunch club have organised a trip to Alnwick on Friday 20 May, leaving the Community Centre at 9.30 and returning to Haydon Bridge about 4.00.

We have a few spare seats on the coach and are able to offer them at a cost price of £9. There is also the chance to visit Alnwick Gardens at an additional cost of £11. If you wish to join us please contact Carole Price on 07939202930 or [caroleannprice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:caroleannprice@hotmail.co.uk) First come - first served.

### Plant and Book sale – Saturday 28 May – 9.30 to 12.30, Haydon Bridge Library

Home grown plants for sale or swap – in support of gardening work in the village. Flowers, veg, herbs  
Preloved books for sale – in support of our volunteer library. Thrillers, romances, crime, biographies, children's books, lots of non-fiction – cooking, gardening, crafts. 50p each or 3 for £1  
Come along and support these good causes.

### Storybook Church at St Cuthbert's Church, Haydon Bridge

If you enjoy listening to stories, cutting and sticking, colouring and much more....this is for you!  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month. Bring children along to the church service and join in the fun.  
Beginning on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30am – 11.30am. For more information see church notice board.

### Charity quiz nights at the General Havelock, Haydon Bridge

So far, so good. Our first two quizzes after our post-Covid return have proved to be very popular. Well over 40 attended each and we raised £200+ for each charity. It was good to hear the sound of folk enjoying each other's company. We plan to hold our May quiz on Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup> and this will be raising funds for a village celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. John Harrison (aka Queenie)

*If you have any community news you'd like us to include, please email [editor@haydon-news.co.uk](mailto:editor@haydon-news.co.uk)*

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THE 17TH OF MARCH 2022, AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Present : Cllrs J. Bates, I. Burrows, E. Faulks, B. Howard, J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, D. Thornhill and J. Thompson; members of the public and C. McGivern (mins.).

1. Mr. M. Smith, Head of Haydon Bridge High School – Mr Smith said that he joined the school in 2021. On day one he met the staff and on day two closed the school due to Covid. He had previously been Deputy Head at Prudhoe for 6 years. HBHS now has 400 students. The Ofsted inspection last July removed the school from special measures for the first time since September 2014. Improvements are still required and Mr Smith acknowledged that the school was on a journey. He said that young people had suffered a lot due to Covid, with year 13 students going into A levels not having done O'level exams. At present 72 pupils will be joining the school in September, but this number is expected to go up. While there is a lot of Covid amongst pupils, it is not transmitting in school.

The new library is now up and running, football fixtures and athletics events are starting again, as well as a production of Beauty and the beast.

Cllr Faulks wondered what was the critical level of students, given that each pupil attracted £4000 of funding to the school. Mr Smith said that it would be good to have more students, but he was not expecting to lay off staff. He was determined to keep the current breadth of curriculum. With the largest catchment area in England, pupils need to make a choice to come to HBHS after the school was in special measures for 7 years. Once students come to the school and have a good experience, then their siblings would come too. The local authority support the Head and the school.

Mr Smith said there was a lot of change going on in education, children with special educational needs aren't going into mainstream education any longer. While he acknowledged that the league tables this year would be awful, this does not include subjects which were teacher assessed last year and all of last year's year 13 students went to their first choice university. Ofsted will now look at what pupils achieved in year 11 and what were their choices and destinations in year 13.

Cllr Sharp said he had no doubt that things had improved over the last 2-3 years, the school had gone from strength to strength. Pupils are not choosing Hexham over HBHS. Mr Smith said that it was a big change for a school to have a new Head and he had not had a parents evening to allow him to meet parents. However, if anyone has a concern about the school his team will answer this over the phone. Cllr Thornhill said it was good news that the number of pupils had stabilised. He asked if there was a strategy in place for moving forward. Mr Smith confirmed that there would be an open evening in September. He said that one of the drivers for young people to come to a school was that they had visited before and were comfortable there. They will have young people coming in over the summer for sports workshops.

Next year once things return to normal Mr Smith will go out to parent's evenings at other schools. Cllr Thornhill asked about community access to the facilities at the school. In particular he wondered whether the multi-use areas could be opened up to the public. Cllr Bates said that the Parish Council had been given the impression that there would be open access when they were built. Mr Smith said that he had already met with the Chair to look at access to the sports hall/gym and tennis courts, but at this stage he could not make any promises. The Chair thanked him for coming along to speak to the PC and Mr Smith left the meeting.

### 2. Public participation

a) After receiving the planning application relating to Low Hall, Cllr Snowdon had suggested a site meeting.  
b) Siobhan and Phil explained that NCC was carrying out a consultation exercise about cycling and walking in Hexham, Haltwhistle etc. Although Haydon Bridge had not been included they felt it was important that the PC responded, in order to keep our desire for a cycle path in the minds of the policy makers. Mr Harley had already responded on behalf of the DT. A cycle route between Haydon Bridge and Hexham is one of the transport priorities for the parish. The consultation is looking at the 12 largest towns in Northumberland with a view to improving the cycling and walking infrastructure. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the consultation. Cllr Sharp said that the proposed cycle route from Haydon Bridge had been given a good response by Hexham and Corbridge Councils. He said that it was being discussed at NCC. Mr Harley that this is the first stage, and the next stage will be to get government funding. However, once created the route would require very little maintenance. Cllr Sharp said he was very keen to support it.

3. **Apologies** – were received from Cllr Charlton.

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

5. **Minutes of previous meeting** – having been circulated, were approved and signed.

### 6. Report from Northumberland County Council

Cllr Sharp said that the parts have now come for the new bin on Peelwell corner and the new bin would be installed in the next week.

With regards to the drains on Church Street, that water is still pooling at the corner of the road beside the War Memorial and this is due to one of the drains still not being cleared so a letter drop will take place over the next week asking people to keep the road clear and that the drains will all be cleared which should resolve the problem once and for all. The drain behind the Community Centre is blocked again and Cllr Sharp had asked for this to be attended to.

With regards to the following issues, Martins Close 20mph speed restriction signs, Ratcliffe Road - 30 mph hour activation sign, Woodhall Mill - Feasibility report on road improvements – an officer at NCC had told Cllr Sharp that *“We will be introducing a 20mph zone together with the necessary TRO for Martin's Road. The SID sign on Ratcliffe Road may need to be replace.. The existing sign could be re-sited elsewhere in the Parish, provided there is a 30mph in place.*

*At Woodhall Mill design work is in hand but a further site visit is required so options can be finalised. It should be noted that any priority system (which was requested) would require adequate lighting to avoid conflicts in darkness, given there is no lighting in the area at present this would have a huge impact on costs. A priority system also requires good visibility in both directions, or oncoming drivers can't see if anything is coming to give way too. Any scheme of this nature would also require an independent road safety audit. I am informed that a feasibility report will be ready by the end of next month. As soon as it is available it will be passed on for comment.*

*The issue of diversionary routes will be raised with National Highways to see if anything can be done about this, obviously when the A69 is closed, traffic is often diverted on this road.”*

Ditching improvements are to be carried out in the rural areas including Langley very shortly. All of the works following the tree damage to the fences and ditches have been carried out at Chesterwood.

There is a consultation being carried out for a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan and this consultation will end on the 15 April 2022. Cllr Sharp had mentioned at a meeting on Tuesday the importance of developing a cycle way alongside the A69 from Haydon Bridge to Hexham as we have discussed in the past but I think it would be good for the Parish Council and residents to also add their comments to the consultation which is being done on-line by the County Council. We are hoping that the government is going to make more money available for this in the future as there is no doubt the benefits cycling and walking bring to people's health. There will be further consultations to be carried out in the future once the initial plans have been developed.

I have been speaking to the County Council regarding the future of Haydon Park and The Lodge. It has taken too long for the ownership of the building to be transferred back to the County Council and hopefully this will be done very shortly, there will be building surveys required on both buildings and then the Council will need to implement the plan for the future of the two buildings because the buildings are deteriorating all of the time. Cllr Sharp will report a little further on this at the meeting.

There have been several other matters he had been attending to on behalf of individual residents.

#### **7. Highways –**

a) James Bell had recently enquired about the heritage paving on the corner next to the old Post Office, where the finger post is. The metal grating had been paved over, but unfortunately it is not waterproof. Water is seeping into the cellar and the rusting the grating and there is a concern it will eventually collapse.

Cllr Sharp will take a look at this and take it up with NCC.

#### **8. Lighting –**

a) Cllr Richardson said that there was a faulty light beside the road up to St. John's Church. The Clerk will report this to NCC.

#### **9. Planning applications –**

22/00746/FUL Langley Villa Langley-On-Tyne Northumberland NE47 5LA - NO OBJECTIONS.

22/00508/FUL 23 Innerhaugh Mews Haydon Bridge Northumberland NE47 6DE - NO OBJECTIONS.

21/04379/FUL Land North Of Low Hall Temple Houses - Haydon Parish Council supports this application.

**10. Accounts –** as in budget.

#### **11. Correspondence –**

a) Moving village halls away from oil use for heating. Cllr Howard and Ms Siobhan have made an appointment to open the conversation about this.

#### **12. Parish projects –**

a) Development Trust – Nothing to report.

b) Haydon Bridge Matters Facebook – Cllr Thornhill said that the requirement for

comments to be approved has now been removed. A notice has also been added to say that businesses cannot advertise on the site, business owners have been pointed toward the separate site for local businesses and a list is being created of contacts for the Buy Local scheme. The number of adverts being submitted has now tailed off. Cllr Thornhill is still waiting for Wooller Parish Council to get back to him, about how they run their site.

c) Emergency response group – Cllr Snowdon said that following initial discussions he thought it would be wise to call a halt to this proposed group. The original idea had come about as a knee jerk reaction to the meeting in December following Storm Arwen and it would need much greater thought, if utility companies and other people in the village were to be involved. This was agreed.

d) Queen's Jubilee – The GITS are arranging a picnic event on the green at Strother's Close.

#### **13. Any other business –**

a) Cllr Richardson said she had been informed that after recent storms water had got in behind the rock armour protecting the river bank near Rocksprings. The Clerk will report this to the EA.

b) Cllr Kirsopp asked if there was still a litter problem in the Rocksprings area. Cllr Faulks said that the resident who initially requested a bin had not been back in touch, but there was no litter in the area.

c) Some residents had complained about a trailer parked in the lane behind the community centre. They said they were walking into it as they turned the corner. It was agreed that this was a private matter that the PC could not get involved in.

d) Thanks from Cllr Charlton for flowers and a card were passed on to Parish Cllrs.

e) Cllr Kirsopp asked if there was any response from Bellway for a survey of trees overhanging Lands End Road. The Clerk had chased this up, but received no response.

## Touching hearts at Oddfellows Coffee

There's been great excitement in the village this month with the opening of the new café - Oddfellows Coffee on Shaftoe Street.

It's a place for delicious food and coffee definitely, a great daytime venue for seeing friends and family certainly, and perhaps something the village has been missing - a warm welcoming place of pleasing noise, full of people and life.

As I walked in, owners Rosie and Chris say hello while busily making coffees and shuttling delicious-looking cakes to eager customers. Artfully decorated and furnished, Oddfellows Coffee has a great feel to it, with beautiful hand-drawn pictures by the multi-talented Rosie adorning the walls and a great atmosphere of people chatting at the tables.

My visit had become rather urgent after seeing Rosie's post on Facebook the night before, saying that dim sum would be available. This would be the most exciting lunch I've had since working from home full time since lockdown - and having now tried them, will hopefully become a weekly highlight for me.

The cafe was already bustling with customers, and with scones selling out every day since opening, it's already proving to be a popular place. The coffee passes the taste test with flying colours and looks certain to become a regular habit for me and many others.

Speaking to Rosie later that evening, while she was busy baking cakes for the next day, I asked what had inspired the opening of the café. 'I've cooked and baked since I was young, I love food - and coffee!'

'It's been so busy in our first week of opening, I'm on my feet all day and then baking cakes in the evening! The most popular choices so far are our Brie and Bacon sandwich, and my pease pudding pepperoni. Vegetarians really like the spicy pickle green mustard and tomato melt. We are working on more vegan and gluten-free options, and our gluten-free sourdough is proving very popular.'

Talking about the renovation of the venue, Rosie explained 'We designed the café in a way to be sympathetic to the old building and retain an old-fashioned look with panelling while also wanting it to have a fresh, modern feel in our colour scheme. We wanted to make it feel like a home from home for us and for everyone who visits. Our community table, which can seat around ten people, has worked really well and we've seen different groups of people enjoying it together.'

There's clearly been a lot of thought, hard work and time put into creating the cafe. There's also a selection of Rosie's own artwork for sale, including coffee mugs and tea towels, inspired by Haydon Bridge and the Northumberland countryside.

It's a great addition to the village and Rosie and Chris deserve every success for all their hard work, creativity and ideas.

The dim sum will be a favourite of mine I'm sure. Originating in tea houses in the tenth century, this traditional Cantonese dish of small steamed dumplings was served to compliment tea. Dim sum translates literally to 'touching heart'. I think Oddfellows Coffee might just be touching quite a few hearts – make sure you visit soon!



## Haydon Bridge Under 10's Football

We have had a fantastic season in the Northumberland Football League. We have played 11 games, won 9, drawn 1 and lost 1, with 1 game left to play.

We left the Tynedale Mini Soccer league last year to give the boys a new challenge and they've done brilliantly, losing only 1 game and scoring over 60 goals.

We are already looking forward to the club's presentation night at Low Hall Park Friday 10th June.


Colin Mitchell from Scott Mitchell Veterinary Care is pictured with us as he kindly bought our strip this season.



## Correspondence


In his letter in the December 2021 edition of the Haydon News, Stephen Dabby was seeking information about his former teacher, one of the daughters of Dr Richard and Mrs Felicity Bell who used to live at The Dewdrop, Ratcliffe Rd. Her name was Antonia and she was the elder of two sisters; her younger sister was called Sally. I used to live in Belmont Gardens and went to school in Hexham with them between 1956 /60. Sadly, I lost touch with them after moving away from Haydon Bridge, but did once see Antonia in West London 10 years later.

Best wishes, Christine Bulcock



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- Students taking vocational courses or apprenticeships can apply for a support grant, and/or a contribution to the cost of their equipment

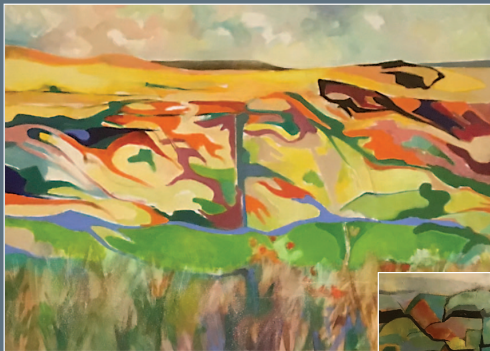
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If you are intending to apply for your first year of study you should complete the form as far as you can. When you receive confirmation of your place on your chosen course you should provide missing details to the Clerk in an email.

You should submit you application by June 24<sup>th</sup> 2022  
Late applications will be processed in November 2022

For a grant application form or to talk through applying for a grant please:

Go to our website [www.shaftoecharities.org.uk](http://www.shaftoecharities.org.uk) or email Sheff Exham, the Clerk, at [clerkshaftoecharities@outlook.com](mailto:clerkshaftoecharities@outlook.com) or write to The Clerk, The Office, 15 Shaftoe Terrace, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6BW



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## John Fowler - 'Absence' at Allendale Forge Studios

I paint trees, I've always painted trees, along with landscapes, animals and people – portraits and the human form. After moving to live in the high Pennines twenty years ago the upland landscape there became highly motivational for me. I developed a growing fascination for the many abandoned buildings that can be seen throughout these Northern valleys, a poignant reminder of past farming and mining generations. Inspired by them I have gradually produced a series of paintings, which I call 'absence'. If these remnants, often unseen or overlooked, are painted well the unremarkable can suddenly become remarkable. That is my aim.

*John Fowler will be exhibiting in May 22 with a moving collection of paintings on his theme of 'absence' in the landscape.*



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**“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.”**

**Marie Curie**

One of the perks of serving in the RNR was that any duties undertaken during school holidays up to 30 days total duration were remunerated quite generously by the Royal Navy. So when asked to accompany the Army section on their annual camp to Okehampton in Devon, I didn't think twice.

Inevitably, things were not quite as simple as I had envisaged. I had thought that I would be travelling down to Devon in a relatively comfortable minibus with the cadets, perhaps even taking a share of the driving duties. But no. It fell to me as the junior officer to drive an MoD Landrover, complete with a week's worth of provisions for 50 and a trailer full of canoes. I can only imagine that they had reserved the oldest and most dilapidated vehicle for me. The canvas roof was attached to the frame of the Landie by a complex system of air-elastics and frayed string, and proved to be less than waterproof, although I took the precaution of procuring a tarpaulin to ensure that my cargo arrived relatively dry. The driver's seat had springs visible through the patched padding and was barely attached to the floor, sliding in all directions at the faintest suggestion of turning and braking, and there was no sign of a seat belt. A large crack ran from the bottom middle to top right of the windscreen and both heater and radio were conspicuous by their absence. But of most concern was the fact that there was a massive hole between the driver's seat and the pedals, with the road surface clearly visible. I assumed that military vehicles are not subjected to an annual MoT test as this wreck wouldn't have passed in a million years.

I was permitted to travel in 'civvies' and carried the relevant paperwork which allowed me to be in possession of a military vehicle. Maximum speed with trailer was about 40mph, although the vibrations made anything over 30mph deeply uncomfortable. And it rained persistently, so that what remained of the floor on the driver's side became flooded and spray from the tyres caused my legs below the knees to be permanently soaked. The windscreen wipers made little difference to the visibility and water dripped constantly onto the dashboard through the crack. And my misery was compounded when the Landie spluttered to a halt on the side of the A303. Lack of hazard lights and mobile 'phone made my situation even more precarious although, before I had been able to come up with a plan of action, my luck changed drastically for the better. I had fortuitously broken down just a couple of miles from the military base at Andover, now the British Army HQ; some regulars noticed my plight while travelling in the opposite direction and stopped to help. Within a very short period of time, they had arranged for the Landie and trailer to be loaded onto a transporter and taken to the base. A hot shower, change of clothes, meal and hot drink were incredibly welcome while the Landie was set upon by a team of enthusiastic mechanics. Within a couple of hours, I was back on my way to Devon.

I eventually arrived at Okehampton Camp after a journey of almost thirteen hours, about five hours later than planned. I had been unable to inform those who had already arrived at the camp of my predicament and, as I had all the provisions on board, emergency fish and chips had been fetched from the town; my share had been sitting on a table for two hours or so. But the outlook was not all bleak; as the provisions were unloaded and taken to the kitchen, I was warmly welcomed by the Commander, who had made the journey down to Devon in the comparative luxury of his vintage Rover 90. He opened the boot to reveal a range of optics attached to the inside of the lid together with a rack of polished glasses, in addition to a fridge crammed with bottles of beer. Needless to say, beer with a malt whisky chaser had rarely tasted better and hardly touched the sides!

An exciting programme of climbing, abseiling, canoeing, gorge scrambling and initiative exercises lay in store for the cadets over the next six days, culminating in a 36 hour exercise involving navigation from the south of Dartmoor back to camp, including an overnight bivvie on Little Mis Tor near Princetown, infamous for being the location of HMP Dartmoor, a category C men's prison. What could possibly go wrong?!

Finally, what is the difference between a cat and a comma?

A cat has claws at the end of its paws and a comma is a pause at the end of a clause.



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Bill was driving along one evening on his way home from work when he noticed his neighbour, farmer Alf Jones, standing out alone in the middle of one of his fields. He drew over and called across from the gate asking Alf what he was doing. Apparently this wasn't an isolated occurrence as others passing by had also seen him standing there. "I am trying to win the Nobel Prize" came the reply, "and it says in the rules that it is awarded to people who are out standing in their field."

**In March** the warm daytime weather continued for yet another month,.... this time to the highest monthly average recorded here at Plunderheath since I started. This was reflected in the phenological data:- daffodils were out at least a week earlier than usual and our magnolia was in full bloom by mid-March. The lawn has already received its first cut. It has been good to see so many new-born lambs but we await the usual "lambing storms".

LAMBING STORMS can be a feature of late March/early April bringing cold winds and drifting snow at the start of the lambing season. To some extent these have already started this year, bringing the first sight of protective jackets for the lambs. Although our weather in the UK is characteristically very variable, there are certain weather sequences which tend to recur, such as the lambing season. To a large extent it is the changes in these weather patterns that are a greater cause for concern in Climate Change than changes in statistical averages.

For most of March the UK lay very close to the atmospheric boundary between cold polar and warmer tropical air, commonly referred to as the Polar Front. Relatively small shifts to the north or south this can bring about some significant changes in plant and animal life. Over much of March 2022 the wind came from broadly southerly directions. The first three days of this spell of weather were dull and damp, the 3<sup>rd</sup> being particularly wet. As pressure rose, clear spells appeared and there was night frost 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall was then largely absent until the 28<sup>th</sup> when anticyclonic conditions moved south from polar regions bringing sleet, hail, and snow. 6 cms of snow was lying by the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> but had largely melted by midday.

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
March	12.0	+3.3	2.0	-0.6	40.4	83%

Another farming story from Gladys who is still on her travels. A young farmer in the American Mid-West was in his barn one day helping one of his cows through a difficult birth. His five-year old son was standing watching when suddenly the calf plops out onto the floor. "Wow," said the son, "I wonder how that got in there?" In a state of panic and not wishing to try to explain the process of reproduction to such a young child, the farmer replied "how do **you** think he got in there?" "The son replied "well I think that he must have been running very fast when he hit the cow."

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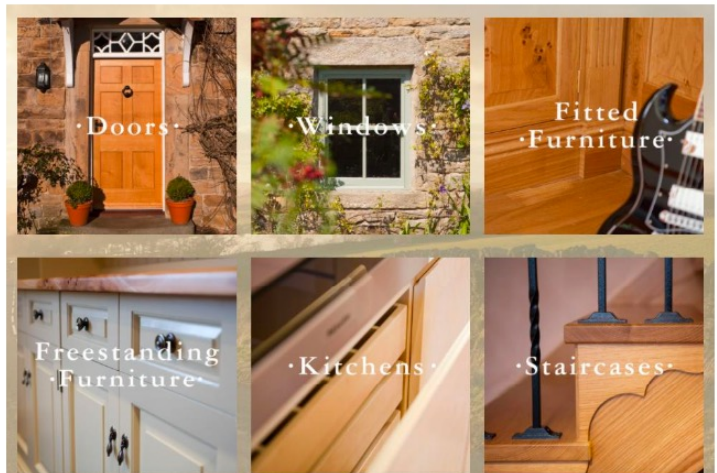
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## Churches Working Together

### Methodist Church 10.30 am

1 May Circuit Service at West End Methodist Church  
8 May Sandra Martin  
15 May Service at Fourstones Methodist Church  
22 May Bob McAlpin  
29 May Service at Fourstones Methodist Church  
5 June ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH join with  
CELEBRATION FOR QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

### Informal Worship on Wednesdays 7pm

#### 11th and 25th May

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

1 May Rev. Gill Alexander (Service and Baptism)  
8 May Rev. Michael Jackson Eucharist  
15 May Revs. Nigel and Mary Warner Eucharist  
22 May Rev. Janet Jackson Eucharist  
29 May Rev. Ken Newitt Eucharist for Ascension  
5 June Rev. Gill Alexander **SPECIAL SERVICE FOR QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

### All Hallows Henshaw PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

1 May Rev. Canon Steve Wright (H/C) 11.00 am  
8 May Rev. Canon Steve Wright (H/C) 11.00 am  
15 May Rev. Keith Teasdale (H/C) 11.00 am  
22 May Morning Prayer and Reflection 11.00 am  
29 May **JOINT SERVICE WITH GREENHEAD AND HALTWHISTLE (at Henshaw - please note time 10.00 am)**  
5 June Rev. Canon Steve Wright (H/C) 11.00 am

### Catholic Church Services

**St. John of Beverley** - Haydon Bridge, 9am Sunday  
**St. Oswald's** - Bellingham 11am Sunday  
**St Wilfred's** – Haltwhistle, 9.30am Thursday  
**St. Mary's** – Hexham Public Mass and Live Stream (please check St. Mary's website)

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2nd to 5th June

Village street party Thurs 2nd June 2-4 pm  
Strothers Close. The Methodist church will be open for refreshments and toilets during this time

#### Sunday 5th June at 10.30 am

A special service will be held in St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church, led by Rev. Gill Alexander - all are very welcome.

This will be followed by refreshments at  
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# Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge

By Dennis Telford

## “CHEERS”

### Part 5 (Continued)

#### The Scotch Arms

**Last month, I left you at the Haydon Bridge Scotch Arms following the retirement of nineteenth century licensees Ralph and Mary Ann Curry.**

As I write my Notes of Haydon Parish history, I am fully aware that so much is left unsaid. A lack of source material, evidence and, worryingly, memory loss, can each be held responsible for the omissions. And, of course, there are those events best left under wraps until all involved have passed on! This failure to offer an absolute social history of our parish, leaves ample opportunity for those who follow to complete the necessary research and the narrative.

With this in mind, here are a couple of speculative and/or genuine events that can be laid at the door of our Scotch Arms Hotel and might well be deserving of further investigation by Haydon Bridge’s historians of future generations.

By 1939, William Colin Ward was licensed victualler at the Scotch Arms and was living there with his wife Sarah, his mother Mary, his daughter-in-law and a number of visitors. William Colin Ward was born in November 1882 and Sarah in April 1877. William’s wife Sarah died in the Scotch Arms in January 1940, apparently as the result of an accident. William (*Usually known as Colin in Haydon Bridge*) married his second wife, Fanny (Frances) Ranson, later that year.

Colin Ward moved to the Scotch Arms Hotel from Newcastle where he had been head chef at The Grand Hotel, and there might be one or two very senior Haydon News readers who can recall that his connections with the town and its Grand Hotel, and his talent as a chef, provided a few advantages for the Scotch Arms customers and a number of our Haydon Bridge residents, during and following the Second World War. Unfortunately, for some of those involved, in August 1946 a Ministry official visited the Scotch Arms and it was alleged that sacks of bacon and ham were discovered: ‘hanging from a beam in the loft of the Scotch Arms Hotel’ in contravention of the Food Rationing and General Provisions Order and under the Bacon Prices Order of 1944. Three men of the village were accused, found guilty at Hexham Petty Sessions and fined £1.10 shillings and £2, with 9/6d costs each, for supplying and selling bacon and ham without having the required ration documents. In his defence, the landlord pointed out that he took

occasional visitors into the Scotch Arms Hotel and catered for them on their own ration books.

It was agreed that following the court case, the Ministry would sell the hams found in the Scotch Arms and they would then reimburse the owner of them, who was recognised as being Mr. Ward.

I have a clear recollection of Colin and Frances Ward moving from the Scotch Arms with their goods and chattels on a hand-cart, as they left the hotel circa 1950 to enjoy retirement at ‘Edenholme’, on John Martin Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward were well known and respected during their retirement in the village. Colin built a shed at the bottom of his garden and spent much of his spare time making wooden bird tables and bird houses; one or two of which might still be providing nesting places today, seventy years later. The few children remaining who lived on John Martin Street in the 1950s, will remember being fascinated by two wild/pet jackdaws that Colin Ward taught to speak.

Mrs. Frances Ward’s retirement involved a full-time voluntary commitment to Saint Cuthbert’s Church in Haydon Bridge, and the various social and religious groups with which it was associated.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward also provided accommodation in ‘Edenholme’ for Shaftoe Trust School boarders. Billy Carr lived with them there and was a fine runner and athlete, and David Renton from Lesbury also boarded there and became one of my best school friends.



**William Colin Ward and his wife Frances at Haydon Bridge.**

William was landlord at the Scotch Arms from the late 1930s until circa 1950.

William Ward died August 30th, 1961 and Frances died fifteen years later, in 1976.

In its early years, the Scotch Arms was recorded as an hotel of 14 rooms, and one of those rooms on the first floor was served by a dumb waiter from the bar below. It is no wonder that Haydon Bridge residents

turned to the spacious Scotch Arms Hotel as a venue for weddings, funeral wakes, birthday parties and many social events. And, early landlords encouraged the development of these business opportunities, as well as a thriving tourist trade. As seen in this 1900 advertisement.

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**JOHN DINNING, Proprietor.**

I introduced you to John Dinning, the Scotch Arms' landlord in 1900, in my April 2022 Historical Notes.

In later years, I can remember the Haydon Bridge Silver Band meeting in the Scotch Arms for a time, the British Legion and the Order of Buffaloes both held their meetings and events there, and the Haydon Bridge Football Club occasionally used the Scotch Arms as changing rooms; until the old Wesleyan Tennis Club pavilion was bought for £40 in 1955 and moved from the California Gardens to Low Hall.

Two more families who followed Mr. and Mrs. Ward into the Scotch Arms Hotel were Barney and Lillian Dab and, as mentioned earlier in this pub-crawl (April 2022 HN), Charlie and May Brown who were the friendliest of landlords and so kind to us.

The late Marlene Wilkinson recalled Barney Dab as: 'a lovely chap', and his blonde wife Lillian as being: 'a smasher and a very likeable person'. There are lots of wonderful stories of the Scotch Arms in the days of Barney Dab and Lillian, and Marlene remembered many happy times and sing-songs there with Barney

singing the lyrics to Nat King Cole's 'Too Young'. That was Barney Dab's swan song, apparently.

*'They try to tell us we're too young  
Too young to really be in love  
They say that love's a word  
A word we've only heard  
But can't begin to know the meaning of  
And yet we're not too young to know  
This love will last though years may go  
And then some day they may recall  
We were not too young at all*

Pass me the tissues please!

This could be where I came in last month, on our visit to the Scotch Arms ... and the sounds of Charlie and May's juke box in the 1950s that gave us such joy.

The Scotch Arms' wasn't the only juke box in the district in those early days, by the way. I can recall many happy nights and Sunday afternoons that weren't fuelled with alcohol, listening to music and meeting new friends round the juke boxes in coffee bars at 'Benny's' at Haltwhistle, and the Willow Café at Bardon Mill. (Benny Hutchinson, whose coffee bar in Haltwhistle was a favourite retreat, also worked for many years at Haydon Bridge, as a projectionist in our 'Town Hall Cinema'.)

The nurses' home at Wooley Sanatorium was another popular venue with a juke box ... and nurses! It was there that Flash, Joe, Jeff and me were introduced to pints of Newcastle Exhibition and soon found that it was much too strong for Haydon Bridge lads in their mid-teens.

Wooley Sanatorium near Slaley was built to treat gas attack victims during the Great War and later became a dedicated tuberculosis hospital. It is interesting that, in the belief that fresh air would encourage the TB healing process, all the windows were removed from the buildings so that the wind could blow freely through the wards.

Wooley Sanatorium/Hospital closed in 1975/76.

I cannot quite believe my memories are of almost 65 years ago: when Elvis was all shook up, Cliff Richard was moving it, the Everly Brothers were telling little Susie to wake up and, from 1959, Juke Box Jury on BBC TV was a 'must watch' for us teenagers.

Our next visit on this Haydon 'pub-crawl' will be to the Anchor Inn, undoubtedly the most historic and famous of our Haydon Bridge public houses.

In the meantime, we would welcome our readers' recollections of the district's drinking establishments, to add to this brief social archive. (Please contact the editor, or me at: [dennistelford636@btinternet.com](mailto:dennistelford636@btinternet.com))



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I am becoming adept at putting things off, especially if the weather is inclement. I'm referring in particular to my relatively recently acquired allotment.

In order to spur things along a bit I bought an electric propagator. That should at least give things a fighting chance to grow (not sure I'm as green fingered as I thought). My excuse for not having planted anything yet is mainly due to the weather. In an ideal world certain things could already have been 'interred', but we had snow only a few weeks ago and that would have put paid to any effort I may have made at planting anything. I'm not going to do things more than once if I don't have to for goodness' sake.

I have stood over all the required bonfires to get rid of any unwanted vegetation, clearing away large chopped down branches left by the previous 'owner' and coming home reeking like a lum to use some Scottish parlance.

I have the basic tools I haggled for at the car boot sale, I have the necessary compost and manure to prepare the ground and also a locked box, courtesy of the newly opened Lidl, to store the aforementioned tools. I've given up on the idea of a shed because they are expensive and I would probably have to erect it myself - Mr G having no interest in any horticultural activity whatsoever. He would be a gannet though when the opportunity to devour the end result came about - if there is indeed an end result worthy of devouring. I had to check with him at this juncture if he minded being likened to a gannet.

It's now getting down to the nitty gritty, the nitty gritty involving a degree of hard labour. Being a fair-weather gardener limits me somewhat as to how often I visit my hopefully very productive patch. I've become an avid weather watcher - eat your heart out Carol Kirkwood!

If it's too wet, I won't go, too hot I'd rather sit in the garden and there aren't many days when it's 'just right'. I'm sure if I can just get over this lackadaisical period, I'll become the budding grower that I feel is inside me somewhere, be it well buried at the moment. When I spot the first signs of life, I know I'll be encouraged to allow things to proliferate at their own pace and become an archetypal nurturer.

There is a slight hiccup though because I had visions of picking my own Brussels for Christmas (even if I'm not really a fan and my husband insists on them being put on to boil sometime in November). I might manage it for Christmas 2024!

Thank goodness my family are very encouraging. Mother's Day presents consisted of a Gardeners Pack containing 8,000 seeds for as many different vegetables and a pack of wildflower seeds to encourage back our bees. All you have to do for that - according to the instructions, is 'scatter, water, watch them grow'. Surely I can manage that! I need to get into the right mind set, which depends on the right weather of course.

## Clergy Letter - Storybook Church is Coming Back

When my daughter was in her early years she couldn't hear enough stories, "tell me a story" was a very frequent request. Indeed, she became very specific about the type of stories she wanted to hear. They were divided into: 1) a story from a book; 2) a story from your head – meaning I had to make it up; or 3) a story from your 'tummy' – which I eventually discovered was a regurgitation of either type 1) or a type 2) story.

I came to understand, just how important it was for children to hear stories in their early years. Telling stories is a fundamental part of being human. The stories we tell, and pass on from generation to generation, whether human or divine, myth or parable, order experience, construct meaning and help build a sense of community. They make claims on our hearts and minds, often before we know why or how. They help us make sense of who we are and where we come from and what we might expect from the future. Hearing stories is essential to child and human development.

There are so many goals for children in their early years – I'd like the Government to have just one – and that is we should all collaborate to make sure every child hears 1000 stories before the age of five.

The Bible is a rich source of stories that shape us. God speaks to us by telling stories. The Bible contains stories that have been passed on from generation to generation and Jesus told stories that draw you in and make you think about yourself in relation to God. Giving children the opportunity to hear and think about those stories is vitally important in helping them understand they are part of something much bigger than themselves.

*Continued overleaf*

That is why I'm delighted to announce that Storybook Church is starting up again at St Cuthbert's in Haydon Bridge. We are really grateful that we will be able to use the library every second Sunday of the month starting on **June 12<sup>th</sup>** when the theme will be Pentecost.

It follows a very simple format with parents, grandparents/carers bringing children along to the church service at 10.30. After the first hymn we leave church and walk along to the library for a story and crafts. In good weather we sit outside in the church grounds. An adult is asked to accompany their child/children. We then return in time for the children to receive a blessing, if they wish, and talk about the session with the congregation.

We look forward to seeing you there. Please tell other families who may be interested.

Let's together help all children in Haydon Bridge hear and tell 1000 stories.

*Rev'd Gill Alexander, Associate Priest, St Cuthbert's, Haydon Bridge*

## Haydon Action for Nature and Diversity

**Support our heroic wee beasties!** By Tina Taylor

One of the positive things to come from creating the 'Community Actions' in the new Neighbourhood Plan is a desire to take a range of actions to improve and expand habitats to support pollinating insects. These are the unsung heroes of the natural environment – performing the vital service of pollinating our food crops and flowering plants. Without them we can't survive. The list of important pollinators is longer than you might think. It doesn't just include bees but also wasps, flies, moths, butterflies and beetles to name a few. But a 2019 report concluded that current rates of decline could lead to the extinction of 41% of the world's insect species over the next few decades. The reasons for these declines are many, including habitat loss; exposure to pesticides and climate change.

Haydon Action for Nature and Diversity Network is looking at number of positive steps we can take in the Parish to improve conditions for these important animals. These might include creating a community meadow, improving our roadside and field verges and communal spaces, and supporting residents to create pollinator friendly spaces. Combined, these actions are designed to create a network of nectar and pollen rich habitats to help our pollinating insects thrive. Watch this space for more news to come.

In the meantime, whether you have a large garden, small yard or no outside space at all, there are lots of things you can do to create spaces for pollinators and other insects. The Buglife Charity provides some great ideas on their website: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/gardening-for-bugs/>. The RHS also has some great advice <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/help-our-declining-bees-and-other-pollinators>

Here is the top five:

1. Nectar and pollen rich plants are crucial to support our pollinators; fill gardens and other ornamental plantings such as window boxes, hanging baskets or planters with a range of plants from the [RHS Plants for Pollinators lists](https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators). <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>
2. Allowing lawn 'weeds' to flower by mowing less often provides valuable extra resources from areas that are often free of flowering plants. Take part in Plantlife's No Mow May campaign. <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/no-mow-may>
3. Provide water for pollinators by providing a shallow margin of a pond or shallow dish filled with stones or marbles filled with water. These will provide a safe source of water.
4. Provide nest sites for bees and other insects. The RSPB provides a step by step guide to making a bug hotel. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>
5. Avoid using pesticides and never spray open flowers.

So no matter how small your outside space is, you can make a big difference and help those heroic wee beasties that we rely on so much!

If you would like to know more about these or other community actions please get in touch with [siobhansib@protonmail.com](mailto:siobhansib@protonmail.com) or leave a note at the library and we'll get in touch with you.

## ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE HAYDON NEWS

**The Haydon News is delivered to 1,150 homes in the parish every month  
Contact us to discuss our advertising options  
hntreasurer@gmail.com**

### Beauty

Bloom in Beauty 07975 637 386  
The Barber Bus 07712 609 057

### Childcare

Little Badgers 01434 684 446

### Church Contacts

#### **Methodist Church**

Deacon Anne Taylor 01434 220 283

#### **Catholic Churches**

Father Jeffrey Dodds 01434 603 119

#### **St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church**

Pippa Exham 01434 684 239  
Gill Valentine 07711 110 850

#### **Henshaw Church**

Anne Galbraith 01434 684 302

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Jo Thompson 01434 684376

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Jo Thompson 01434 684376

### Health and Care

Haydon Bridge and Allendale  
Medical Practice 01434 684 216  
Bellevie Home Care 0191 313 0189

### Hospitality and Catering

Haydonian Lounge & Bar 01434 684 383  
Jills Catering 07957 571 885  
Langley Castle 01434 688 888  
The General Havelock Inn 01434 684 376  
WMH Quality Catering 07711 488 377

### Household Services:

DC Oil, Heating and Plumbing 07582 864 066  
D & J Oliver Electrical 01434 688 132  
07730 533 348

Gary Cunningham Decorator 01434 684 041  
George Gamble Construction 07710 193 144  
01434 688 804

GS Double Glazing 01434 608 619  
07801 574 799

Heritage Country Gardening 07585 115 000  
J P Westalls 01434 602 740

J Lester Roofing 01434 344 504  
07876 756 616

Kevin Moore appliance repairs 01434 684 736  
Langley Furniture Works 01434 688 977

Lynnwood Interiors 07963 026 298  
Mark Davison Cleaning 01434 604 711  
07768 176 873

Paul Brown Tiling 01434 684 890  
07769 537 513

Red Onion Kitchen Design 01434 618 920  
Safe and Secure 01434 688 423

Shotton Waste Services 01434 681 219  
Simi's Sweeps 07920 104 404  
Violets Tableware Hire 07735 462 671

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#### The Haydon News Committee

**Alex Kinsey( Editor), Pauline Wallis (Chair), Pat Hirst (Secretary), Mark Weldon (Treasurer), Richard Woodley (Distribution co-ordinator), Peter Parker, John Wallis, Michelle Gregg**

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

Anonymous letters/articles will NOT be published. A nom-de-plume may be used if the Editors know the author's name and address.