

THE HAYDON NEWS

November 2022

Supporting the community of Haydon Bridge, Northumberland



THE BEAUTY OF AUTUMN

It was one of those beautiful mornings
as I took the road for a stroll
All around me were tinges of Autumn
and the beauty took over my soul
(See 'Cover Note' Page 3)

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COVER NOTE (See also page 17)

In October's Haydon News, I introduced you to W.J. Palmer's description of the River Allen in autumn days, and my quotes from Palmer's book, 'The Tyne and its Tributaries', accompanied Bill Tait's nature ramble through the woods below Staward.

Our cover image this month continues that theme and is a print of an acrylic painting by David Armstrong, created from a sketch when on a walk near Staward in the autumn. (Thank you David)

The image illustrates an element of Palmer's further description of the Allen valley where according to his writing, and rightly so, there is:

'No long vista or distant horizon' but 'on every side the eye rests on or near rocky precipices or finds between sky and water only the wooded steep of the trees densely packed and thronging each other as if contending for the soil. The trees are in great variety - alder, ash and larch being most conspicuous.'

I have wonderful memories of Ridley Hall Woods, the River Allen, and Plankey Mill. Whether it be my first 1st Haydon Bridge Scouts' camp (at Easter, circa 1951/52) on a grassy pitch that was just beyond the Plankey suspension bridge; swimming in the deep pool beneath Raven's Crag; or simply rambling for many a daylight hour with friends through the narrow gorge among the trees and ferns, and climbing a winding staircase cut in the rock to the small tarn or lake where Water Lilies float on the still surface.

Thanks to the foresight of Susan Davidson, a niece of the Earl of Strathmore and an ancestor of the late Queen Mother, who purchased Ridley Hall with her husband in 1830 and set about enhancing the beauty of the estate, the River Allen and its steep wooded slopes, all overlooked by the ancient ruins of Staward Pele, have provided great pleasure and enjoyment for me, my children and my grandchildren.



Staward Gorge provides a stretch of beautiful river and woodland that is, arguably, unsurpassed in Northumberland.

*From 'Wayside' through to Morralee Banks and
down to Plankey Mill,
'Neath towering crags the Allen turns, there time
for us stood still.
A hermit's hut, a swinging bridge, the lily pond's
frog spawn,
With jam jars full we'd laugh and skip back home,
life's memories born.*



Early pleasures above the River Allen on the nineteenth century tarn or lake that became known as the lily pond.

You can still enjoy the lily pond and its surroundings today if you follow the John Martin Trail, or walk west through the meadows from Morralee Banks.



One of two swinging bridges on the River Allen came to a sad end in 2013, and (below) Plankey Mill bridge in happier times.



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT 7.30PM ON THE 29TH OF SEPTEMBER 2022 AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE .

Present : Cllrs. J. Bates, E. Charlton, E. Faulks, B. Howard, A. Kirsopp, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, D. Thornhill; Mr. P. Fletcher and a member of the public.

1. Peter Fletcher –

Community energy and community led housing.

Peter Fletcher said that there would be a **community energy survey** in the next Haydon News.

The group are working with a renewable energy company and Community Action to understand the cost of energy in the village, they will then look at the cost of a district energy scheme. The prize with community energy projects is that money goes back into the community. Peter requested that people complete the survey themselves and encourage others to do so too. If anyone has concerns about completing the survey then a phone number will be provided on the information sheet in the Haydon News, and through this help will be arranged. For a scheme to go ahead as much information as possible is needed, and mid-November is the closing date.

Community led housing – Peter Fletcher said that progress was being made on having 3 to 4 units as part of a development at West Langley Gardens. The group is working on gaining legal status and they are working with NCC. They hope to get a 50% grant for each unit. They've had a lot of help from Corbridge PC who've already gone through this process. At East Land Ends the developers are on the final design and are shortly going out to consultation. The site is being developed on behalf of Castles & Coasts. The plan now includes 25 units and is a mix of bungalows, 3 & 4 bed houses and 2 bed houses. The PC will get a website address through which they can add their comments. The metal store buildings on site will be demolished, but the stone buildings will remain.

Peter Fletcher said that he had received details of the launch of Northern Powergrid's 7.5 million charitable foundation which has a particular focus on improving energy resilience during emergency events. In 2005 there had been a system in place to deal with such events, the High School had been the designated resilience building and all of the bodies had met there. Since Tynedale Council had been dissolved things are more disjointed, as was seen following Storm Arwen. This initiative will provide funding for the development of community hubs. Northumbrian Water, EA, Powergrid etc would all know where the community hub was and it would be somewhere that people could get warm, have a shower and get something to eat. Grants of up to £20,000 are available. NCC will help with the application once the location and other requirements have been decided on. Northumberland has been singled out for the initial push, of what will almost certainly be a nationwide roll-out. The idea is that in an emergency each hub will be within one days walk of the next. This will not replace the existing Flood Group. Peter Fletcher and John Turner are happy to complete the application, with the help of a parish cllr. Cllr Thornhill agreed to join them. They will draft a

proposal to be circulated to all cllrs. Cllr Charlton said the schools were the obvious location, as they were outside the flood plain and Cllr Thornhill agreed that emergency services would not want to use the Community Centre as it could be cut off by floods and had little parking. Cllr Snowdon reminded the PC that the Flood Group needed reinvigorating, many in the group are getting older and it would be good to involve younger people.

2. Public participation –

a) A lady from the Showfield reported that a number of residents whose homes back onto the Bellway slope have had problems with children kicking balls into their gardens, climbing into gardens and damaging fences. The Police and the Housing Officer have been involved. The Chair said that the PC had been contacted by Bellway who wanted to put in a gate to allow access for work. This had been agreed and the gate was padlocked. He went on to say that the PC could not take responsibility for what had been going on. Cllr Thornhill said that he did not want people to think that the PC was unsympathetic, but there were limits to what they could do. He said that it sounded as though the Police had adopted a multi-agency problem solving approach.

b) Cllr Charlton said that she had been contacted by Vicky Oliver who was receiving complaints about the hedge in front of her property. Cllr Sharp will see if he can get the hedge cut.

3. Apologies – were received from Cllrs I. Burrows, J. Keyte and J. Thompson.

4. Declarations of interest – none were received.

5. Minutes of the last meeting – having been circulated were agreed.

6. Report from Northumberland County Council –

Cllr Sharp said that he was pleased that the road re-surfacing on the A686 from the junction on the A69 to Esp Hill, had been completed and this had made a great improvement. The re-surfacing of the road at the top of the North Bank has also been finished off. The 20mph scheme at Martin's Close was complete.

There is still ditching work to be done around Haydon Bridge and Langley, and this work should be carried out during the next two months. Plans for the improvements on the C284 road at Woodhall Mill have now been approved by all the parties and the work will commence on the 21 November 2022.

With regards to the area close to Park Cottage, the growth has now been cut back and improvements have also been made to the signage. White lines on the road going west past Innerhaugh have still not been done and Cllr Sharp will continue to chase this matter up.

Home Group have confirmed that they are responsible for trees overhanging the road at Douglas Gardens and they have said that they will carry out some pruning work.

Cllr Sharp is also trying to get overhanging branches on trees further along the road cut back.

The Low Hall planning application has now been approved. Work on the play area on the estate commenced on the 21 September and hopefully this will make the play area more attractive for the children in the village.

Cllr Sharp is working with NCC to carry out improvements to the road at the rear of Alexandra Terrace, and he said that Mike Cook will hopefully be carrying out the work. He is arranging for this to be done from his Members Small Allowance Scheme monies.

The first meeting of the cycle way group was taking place on the same evening as the Parish Council meeting and Cllr Sharp had attended this for a short time prior to the PC meeting. Having the N Plan in place would be helpful with this.

Cllr Sharp had been approached by the GITS regarding works on the bridge and fireworks for the New Year. The on-site foreman had said that the date to have the site cleared is the 20th of December, so this should not pose a problem.

Cllr Richardson said that the road-sweeper hadn't been around the estate, and Cllr Charlton agreed that there were weeds everywhere. Cllr Sharp will chase this up.

7. Highways –

a) The PC had looked into how to apply for brown signs. Due to the very large visitor numbers required, the lack of parking in the village and the fact that the body who would have to give approval had signalled that they felt the existing white signs were more than adequate, the PC had decided not to proceed. However it was noted that only one of the white signs has symbols for beds/food etc. It was agreed that the Clerk would request that the second sign is replaced with one which does include symbols.

b) A request for dropped kerbs from the Showfield to the Shaftoe School was passed to Cllr Sharp. Cllr Charlton also reminded Cllr Sharp of the need for a dropped kerb near 25 Greenwich Gardens.

8. Lighting – Nothing to report.

9. Planning applications

22/02381/FUL -Demolition of rear conservatory and replace with larger single storey extension at 24 Ratcliffe Road– NO OBJECTIONS.

22/02824/FUL – Demolition & reconstruction of existing chimney stack at 4 Ratcliffe Road – NO OBJECTIONS.

10. Accounts – As in budget.

External audit – PKF Littlejohn have completed their review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Haydon Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2022. They said “on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper

Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”

11. Correspondence –

a) Neighbourhood Plan – The plan has now been formally adopted by NCC and the National Park Authority. The Clerk will write to NCC to request hard copies for the library. Sarah Brannigan, the planner who had assisted with the work, had suggested training for planning with the N. Plan. The Clerk will arrange this with Sarah and invite DT members as well as Parish Cllrs.

b) Received from NCC – **Review of the Definitive map and statement of public** rights of way. Informal pre-order consultation.

c) Received from NCC – **Northumberland Local Plan 2016-2036** and Northumberland Local Plan 2016-2036 Policies Map and deposited at the library.

12. Parish projects –

a) Cllr Charlton said that the library was getting back to normal and was open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Volunteers are still needed for some of the teams. The bonus ball, one of the main money makers, would start again on Saturday 8th October. Books donated to the library are being checked and those with a value sent to a firm who will pay for them and arrange collection.

b) Two spaces have been left in the rose beds on Ratcliffe Road for benches. Cllr Bates said that it would depend how the nearby residents feel about benches in this location. Cllr Thornhill said that the bench opposite the Co-op had been well used and had never been damaged.

c) Cllr Howard wondered whether warm spaces should be made available for those who needed them. Cllr Charlton said that when power was off after Storm Arwen the Haydonian Club had offered comfy seats, heating and tv. Cllr Thornhill felt that the first step was to let people know that there are already warm places to go, as it made no sense to ask people to put on heating specially.

For example there are 3 coffee mornings in the village and a luncheon club. If there was a need for more than this then the PC could look at how this could be increased. It was agreed that something should be put on Facebook to make people aware of what exists and to provide a channel for people to get in touch if they need help.

13. Any other business –

a) Cllr Kirsopp asked if there was any progress with a request for electronic timetables. The Clerk said not, but said she would chase up normal timetables in the meantime.

b) Cllr Kirsopp said that a lady at the Showfield who has a twin buggy had been forced to walk on the road due to a car parked between the Club and the barrier. Cllr Kirsopp will ask the club if a sign can be put up asking people not to do this.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS ~~FOR EVER~~

As the rafts of ready-mix concrete continue their march, apparently relentlessly, through the green fields of Hungry Haugh/Tunnel Top to the west, and south of the Land Ends, I wonder what the future has in store for my once small village and its close knit community.

Who can tell? But, it occurs to me that you might like to know a little about the past at Hungry Haugh, before it is covered in concrete

In January 1956, 23 acres adjoining the A69 on land known locally as the 'Tunnel Top', and previously Hungry Haugh when part of the Rattenraw estate, was rented by Shaftoe Trust School.

The land had previously been part of a market garden and it proved an ideal fit for our village school that was developing a curriculum with a rural bias that included Agriculture and Horticulture.

The land was renamed 'Newlands' by the school and, initially, it supported the limited grazing available at Haydon Park where the school's small dairy herd of five Jersey cows was housed. Soon, the land at the Tunnel Top that had been expertly cultivated for many years previously, proved to be very successful for cropping of early potatoes, various other root vegetables and, especially, rhubarb and strawberries. The land at Newlands also provided an ideal venue for agricultural and horticultural demonstrations, the particulars of which, together with advertisements for sales of the school's home grown produce, being displayed on information boards along the roadside.

Agriculture had been introduced into the curriculum at Shaftoe Trust School in a small way in the late 1930s. Dairying and the production of butter and cheese was the first development, in a new dairy that had been added to the school buildings on Chapel Hill Close. The Second World War was to interrupt this initiative, however, and it wasn't until 1949 that a policy was formulated that gave the school its rural bias, and by the mid-1950s was offering county-wide opportunities in agricultural education for between 377 pupils (1954) and 480 pupils (1957). The school curriculum was described nationally as: 'Almost unique in the country and having a reputation that spread far beyond Northumberland.' In 1954, for example, 105 of 193 senior pupils were from outside

Haydon Bridge, many of the boys and girls studying agriculture, farm engineering, or horticulture.

When I left Shaftoe Trust School in 1956, the herd of Jersey cows had increased to 14 in number, and other livestock were: 5 Large White sows and 45 young pigs, 10 mule ewes, and a flock of 400-500 Rhode Island Red birds that formed an accredited poultry breeding station. Arable farming was also part of the curriculum and in addition to the root crops noted earlier; wheat, barley, and oats were grown, along with lucerne and Italian rye grass in a balanced system of ley farming.

The Shaftoe Trust pupils who chose Horticulture rather than Agriculture as their preferred subject - of which I was one - took advantage of the walled garden to the south of the main school building, that included two electrically heated greenhouses, and open land to the west of the school playgrounds.

For more information on the history of Shaftoe Trust School and its rural curriculum, go on-line to my Notes in The Haydon News of December 2013 at: www.haydon-news.co.uk/backnumbers

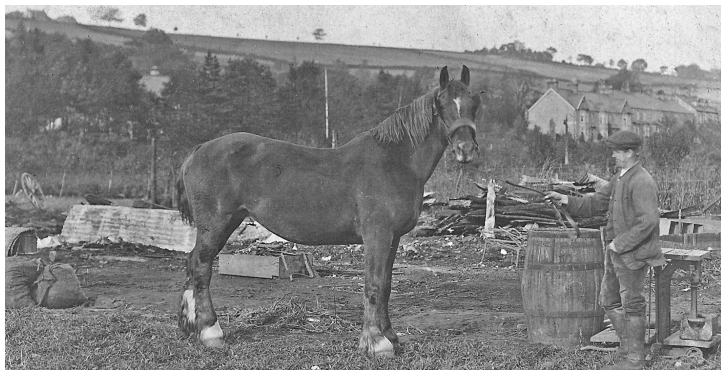
By 1956, the 23 acres at the Tunnel Top had been rented to Shaftoe Trust School and was christened 'Newlands'. The former market garden was bordered on the east by a row of tall poplar trees running north from Hordley Acre House, the poplars were a well known feature for many years when travelling into Haydon Bridge on the A69 from the west. Known locally as 'Jock King's Gardens', the business had been owned by Bookless & Co., Newcastle greengrocers of the day and Mr. King, both father and son, who were well known and popular village residents, managed the gardens; the son as expertly as his father had done before him.

The King family had moved to Haydon Bridge from East Lothian in Scotland so, for village folk in my youth and many years earlier, the market gardens at the Tunnel Top were known as 'Jock' King's!

In my Haydon News' Notes of June 2009, I recalled those who worked for Jock King at Bookless's 'Tunnel Top' market garden; they included, Jimmy Taylor Mr. King's right hand man, Eric Taylor, Jackie Thompson, Stan Bowman, and Walton Spark who lived in Innerhaugh and whose uncle was 'Jock' King.

Part of the market garden at the Tunnel Top on Hungry Haugh, was eventually replaced with the

council estates of Greenwich and Langley Gardens, the poplar trees were felled and by 2009 only 'Jock' King's rhubarb patch and strawberry field remained undeveloped. By that time the land had become known locally as the former Shaftoe Trust School headmaster Edward Waite's 'Strawberry Field', where you could pick your own fruit, or school pupils would pick it for you.



On October 6th, 1962 a village fire at Bookless's Gardens, behind Ratcliffe Road, caused much local excitement. The village siren was sounded from Hexham Fire Station at three o' clock and it wasn't until five o' clock that the blaze in a timber hut, used as a piggery and for stabling and storage, was under control.

The cause of the fire was never determined.

In 2022, it seems that it won't be long before fading memories are all that are left of Bookless's or 'Jock' King's Market Gardens, or more recently, Edward Waite's strawberry fields. Fortunately, thanks to Elva Mason (nee Porteous) I can call upon memories from my Haydon News archives, of someone whose great grandfather and grandfather were the two men who were responsible for the cultivation of Hungry Haugh in the early twentieth century, and beyond

JOCK KING'S GARDENS
by ELVA MASON (nee Porteous)

It was with interest that I read an article in the June 2009 Haydon News, In particular the reference made to Jock King's gardens. The said Jock King being my grandfather.

I have vivid memories of the market garden and the old sheds which included the Nissan huts where 'Pop', as he was known to me, reared a few pigs; the 'dock' where the wagon was loaded with produce, and the sheds; being made up of three sections, a weighing area, a central section dedicated to the maintenance of vehicles from tractors to rotavators, and finally, to the east, a storage area for hay.

The huge tomato greenhouses were another place

where I was allowed to help. Pop would send me around 'tickling' the flowers with a little paint brush or a pheasant's feather. This, I was led to believe, was an essential part of the growing process, although I now distinctly have my doubts; it was more likely a means of keeping me out of mischief. Nevertheless I was rewarded with the first tiny ripe fruits, which to this day are still the best tomatoes I have ever tasted.

In October it was all hands on deck for tatty picking week, but come the winter months I stayed well clear of 'the Gardens', as it was too cold!

Throughout the year we, as a family, were nourished by the fresh and, I believe, organic produce which the fertile soil yielded, but at Christmas there was an extra special perk of having a Pop who managed the market garden. The wagon would bring an orange box full of special treats; dates, figs and tangerines, and etc. Today with food so readily available out of season, that special magic is somehow lost: or, perhaps childhood memories play tricks.

I would also like to share the fact that my Pop's father managed the gardens before him. The family came from Oldhamstocks, near Dunbar in East Lothian and they came to Haydon Bridge when my Great Grandfather was appointed by Mr Bookless. Thomas King had initially a small stake in the gardens but sold this back to the family.

Pop and his father planted the row of sixty poplar trees along the eastern perimeter of the gardens, and these were a landmark from almost everywhere in the village for so many years. When they were planted, all but six grew; but these were replaced and the row grew strong and tall for more than seventy years. I wonder if anyone in the village has a picture of those trees?

It is with joy that I have driven along the new section of the A69, and I would like to congratulate the folks of Haydon Bridge on getting their by-pass.

I remember talk of plans for the construction, way back in 1959 when the fields to the south of the A69, where Innerhaugh Mews is today and which were also part of the market gardens, were measured up. The end result then was the widening of the road and eventually the building of the new bridge.

So, more than 50 years on; success at last!

And finally, thank you to The Haydon News for bringing back such happy memories of my childhood.

Thanks to Elva, we have these personal memories of her grand and great grand fathers' market garden.

GOD SAVE THE KING



**WERE YOU ONE OF
THE
HAYDON BRIDGE
BROWNIES
WHO MET
PRINCE CHARLES
(KING CHARLES III)
IN 1988
AT
HAYDON BRIDGE
STATION
ON HIS WAY TO
ALLENHEADS
HERITAGE CENTRE?**

R.G. TAIT & SONS

On the 16th of December, 1921, William Tait bought a field and allotments extending to 1.371 acres, to the rear of Victoria Terrace in Haydon Bridge.

This land soon became known as 'Tait's Yard' and was home to a haulage business that provided employment for more than 100 local people and others over a period of 70 years. We are fortunate this month to be able to call on William's great grandson David Tait's extensive research, to share with our readers the history of what became an essential part of our Haydon Bridge scene for so many years, thanks to this entrepreneurial family, and their business.

I'll let David take up the story:

The Tait family and the story of their Haydon Bridge connection, starts with the 1901 census which shows that the family lived at Willington Quay, where my great grandfather William was sixteen years old and a ship rivet heater; he was one of thirteen children, four of whom died in childhood. By 1911, two of William's brothers were working in a shipyard, one was a rivet heater and the other a rivet catcher and in my mind I can picture the two brothers working together. And now you know why I drink 'Rivet Catcher' when I'm in the General Havelock!

By 1911, my great granddad William Tait was a coal hewer, living in Acomb with his wife and two children — one of whom was my grandfather Robert Graham Tait; the R.G. Tait behind the well known business name.

I understand that when he lived at Acomb and then Haydon Bridge, William was an engineer at Haydon Bridge pit and his son Robert Graham also worked there. It is likely that the Tait father and son were working at the Lucy Drift, where ancient workings were exploited in the twentieth century beyond the Whinstone dyke and near to West Mill Hills, and the later Mid Tyne Colliery workings to the south of the Whin Dyke and the Lucy Drift - just north of today's 'Springfield'. *(Part 6 of the Coombes/Telford History of Langley Barony provides further information on coal and lead mining at Haydon Bridge. ISBN:978-0-9576531-6-0)*

In November, 1921, my great grandfather William Tait received a valuation of £663 for the land to the south of Victoria Terrace, and on December 16th, 1921 he bought the field and allotments.

How my great grandfather William went from a humble coal hewer in 1911 to an owner of valuable land at Haydon Bridge in 1921, I cannot explain. It is likely, however, that he had an understanding and helpful bank manager and, certainly, he was blessed with an entrepreneurial spirit as David Kay, my dad's cousin, was in his 90s when he told me: "I can

remember Tait's yard when it was a market garden where people could buy fruit and veg. David Kay could also remember my great grandfather William having a horse and cart, which he kept in the yard and used for deliveries.

Having bought the field and allotments at Victoria Terrace, William Tait and my grandfather, his son Robbie, set about building a garage with a pit for vehicle inspection and maintenance. All my life this was known as, 'the old garage'. This old garage was in fact, the wooden building that great granddad William had worked in at the Haydon Bridge pit. William and Robbie took the building down and re-built it in the yard, and then built brick walls around it. I have been told that the bricks used were from a house that the Tait family used to live in at the old tip, close to the original coal mine at West Mill Hills. When I started my research in 2010, the roof and walls and even the window frames of the 90 year old garage were still intact, and my uncle Billy and Teddy Thompson told me several times: "The roof's still as good as the day it was put up and completely waterproof to this day."

The sign shown at the commencement of this article (**R.G. Tait & Sons**) was on the north gable of the old garage, facing Ratcliffe Road. The sign would be seen by everyone who entered the yard and it will be remembered by older readers of The Haydon News.

I managed to save the sign in 2010, just before the old garage was knocked down and new houses were built on the yard. The sign was repainted and now hangs on an internal wall as a feature in my home.

The older Haydon News readers mentioned above will also remember my grandad Robbie Tait, who married Jinny Brown in the September quarter of 1923. They lived together at 31 Ratcliffe Road (now a flower bed) before moving to 19 Hordley Acres when the estate was built. Robbie will be remembered on the streets of Haydon Bridge in his cattle wagon accompanied by his dog.

Sadly, my sister Melba and I have no clear memories of our granddad Robbie Tait, other than him sitting in a chair unable to talk having had a stroke; apparently brought on by multiple bee stings, received while moving bee hives in the cattle wagon in the 1960s.

I have heard several stories about my granddad Robbie, but, any further memories about him from Haydon News readers would be very welcome.

When my dad, Douglas Tait, left Shaftoe Trust School (circa 1945/46), his mother Jinny had arranged a secure apprenticeship for him with Cecil Telford, long established joiners in the village. Douglas had other

ideas, however, all he wanted was: 'To be on the wagons', something he had longed for all his young life. This desire would be no surprise to those who knew Doug, as my sister tells me that our dad was, unofficially, part of granddad's haulage business even before leaving school. He would wait at the end of the 'old' bridge and jump into the cab with one of the drivers who was passing; and skip school.

So, my dad Doug joined his grandfather William and father Robbie in a haulage business that showed remarkable growth from a single wagon, during the next few years. Doug's two brothers Billy and Bobby were in the army when Doug started work, they both having served in World War II, once they were demobbed, however, they both joined the haulage business, making it a truly family affair.

In the early to mid 1940s, the business in Haydon Bridge played its part in the war effort, when army wagons used the old garage and its inspection pit for maintenance and repairs. By that time, William and Robbie were employing drivers and operating trucks from the yard, while my dad Douglas was spending every spare minute there as a young boy, learning the trade.

In 1952, William Tait died. William had bought the land south of Victoria Terrace thirty years earlier, and he lived at 4 Innerhaugh, Haydon Bridge with his wife Mary Elizabeth. William's last will, dated March 20th, 1952, left furniture and household goods to his wife and the freehold land, being a field and a garage, to his son Robert Graham Tait of 31 Ratcliffe Road; my grandad and the R.G. Tait who continued the haulage business in his name.

Circa 1955, lifelong Haydon Bridge man Dent Oliver joined the family business after serving in the RAF. Dent told me that when he joined the firm, all three brothers, Billy, Bobby and Doug, were involved and some of Billy's army payout (after leaving the forces) was used to expand the business.

Dent had a very unusual job 'interview', which perhaps sums up the uncomplicated development of the R.G. Tait haulage business in the 1950s.

With Billy, one of the partners, as a passenger, Dent had to drive an empty truck to ICI at Prudhoe, load up and drive it back to Haydon Bridge. Dent remembers coming out of ICI and facing up the steep hill that would lead him to the main road and home. Dent asked my uncle Billy:

"What do I do here?"

"Just drive the ***** thing", Was Billy's reply.

Which Dent did, and passed the 'interview' and was still working for Tait's until 1978. **To be continued**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GENERAL HAVELOCK

Say "Goodbye" to lockdown

OAP's COMPLIMENTARY CHRISTMAS LUNCH
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14th 2022

Names to Gary and Jo at the General Havelock please

NEW YEAR'S EVE

AT

THE GENERAL HAVELOCK

FIZZ and QUIZ



Haydon View Nursing Home
Christmas Fair
Saturday 17th December
10am till 2pm
Haydon Bridge Community Center

Free entry
Refreshments available
All money raised is going towards
residents activities and
entertainment.



Haydon View Christmas Fair

We are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday December 17th from 10am till 2pm in the community centre. Our lovely mum Margaret has vascular dementia and lives at Haydon View. We decided we'd like to raise some funds on behalf of the residents so they can have some days out and entertainment throughout the year. The wonderful carers do a fantastic job looking after our relatives and we hope everyone will join us to support them on the day. We have some fantastic traders who are really talented and will have some lovely gifts and crafts for you to browse, there will be a cake stall, refreshments, lucky squares and lots of festive fun. All money raised will go to the residents' entertainment fund.

For more information find us on Facebook at CH Event or our website www.chevent.co.uk



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Tracey Taylor
Paintings
November 2022

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Never have I sat in front of a canvas wondering what to paint. It's more likely to be: 'How can I paint all that in my head in one lifetime?'

I paint in my sleep, in the shower, watching T.V. I see inspiration everywhere and want to capture it on paper. I wake and frantically write my dream work art down lest I forget. Needless to say I have many notebooks.

I love to experiment, trying new techniques, colour palettes and styles to bring my ideas to life. I haven't even scratched the surface but at the Forge you can get a glimpse of what I have achieved so far. My thoughts, dreams and emotions cast into existence forever.

I almost quit on this exhibition before it started. It has been a goal of mine for a long time, still my demons got the better of me. The emotions can be overwhelming when you inject so much of yourself into your craft as I have for years now and cluster them all together for everyone to see. Fear, doubt, crisis of credibility to name but a few. The Forge team (family) have been instrumental in helping me through the head talk and have encouraged me to reach for my dreams.

If my exhibition inspires one person to open the door to their dreams/aspirations Then I will deem this exhibition a success.

Tracey Taylor

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“All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin and therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words: *Ich bin ein Berliner.*”

John F. Kennedy 1963.

One of the most memorable school trips I undertook during the late 1980s was to Berlin as a serving officer in the CCF. The journey itself was both long and remarkable. After travelling by ferry from Sheerness to Vlissingen, Captain Porter (who also conveniently was Head of German) led myself and a group of 15 cadets by train to Braunschweig, where we were billeted overnight in military accommodation. The following day we were transported by minibus to the railway station and boarded the British Military Train, known as The Berliner, which would take us all the way through what was then East Germany to West Berlin.

At the Potsdam Conference after Germany's surrender in 1945, the defeated country was divided into four sections administered by UK, US, France and USSR. Berlin was in the middle of the USSR region and was also split into four districts. With the advent of the Cold War, the region administered by the Russians became the German Democratic Republic, otherwise known as East Germany or DDR, in 1949 shortly after the allies declared the Federal Republic of Germany, commonly known as West Germany. This left Berlin very isolated and the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961, ostensibly to prevent mass migration from East to West, made it even more so. Two access routes were established through East Germany, one by road and one by rail, on the condition that both were used on a daily basis.

The journey was far from straightforward. The train left Braunschweig pulled by a West German diesel locomotive and soon crossed the border, fortified by barbed wire fences, dog runs, minefields and watch towers. We stopped at the first station in East Germany, Marienborn. Russian soldiers, accompanied by noisy Alsatians, immediately stepped forward and placed long wooden chocks, like broom handles, under the door handles. We were told that this was to prevent anyone getting in rather than us getting out! The Officer Commanding and Train Conducting Warrant Officer alighted the train and presented the documents of all on board to a Soviet Army Officer. Interestingly, they both refused to return the salute of the Russian on the grounds that the British army did not recognise the presence of Russians in East Germany. All documents were taken away for 'processing' and the locomotive was subjected to a thorough search before being uncoupled and sent back to Braunschweig, replaced by an East German locomotive. During this hiatus, we were served with drinks and the first course of our meal – all western propaganda, of course! Meanwhile, the soldiers continued to pace up and down the platform until the documents were returned, chocks removed and we began our slow journey through East Germany.

Food and drink continued to be served throughout the journey as we passed row upon row of Soviet tanks, their guns pointed menacingly towards the railway line, and large numbers of tanks, armoured vehicles and even aircraft out on manoeuvres, doubtless planned to coincide with the passing of the train. We were forbidden from using cameras and binoculars during the journey; there was an East German guard present in every carriage who never once let his concentration waver from his observational duties.

When the train eventually drew into Potsdam, we bade farewell to the East German locomotive and welcomed its West German equivalent to complete our journey. The guards alighted and we slowly entered the 'Corridor' at Griebnitzsee where we were afforded our first glimpse of the Wall. The heavy security was even more in evidence, with armed guards clearly visible in control towers and patrolling the open areas between dog runs and barbed wire fences as far as the eye could see.

The Berliner terminated at Charlottenburg Station in the British Sector of West Berlin. At the entrance to the station, we were met by a minibus and whisked off to our hosts for the week, the King's Own Scottish Borderers. In addition to the usual activities associated with army camps, several cultural visits had been planned, including a visit to Spandau Prison (at the time, Rudolf Hess was still alive and was the only inmate!), the Checkpoint Charlie Museum which documented many of the hugely inventive methods employed by Germans wishing to defect to the West and an ascent to the 126 meter high observation deck of the Funkturm, a former broadcasting tower. Not to mention, of course, an expedition through Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin.

And finally: when you transport something by car it's called a shipment but when you transport something by ship it's called a cargo. Confusing?!

Going by the amount of time that Averil I have spent waiting to join the endless queues of traffic on the A69, I suspect that many of you have spent tedious amounts of time this summer trying to get to your holiday destinations. When you have a young family on board this can prove to be a nerve-stretching experience. A friend manages to maintain his sanity by avoiding I-Spy games, as he inevitably ends up refereeing heated arguments, but has found that Knock-Knock can keep the peace for quite lengthy periods. I have been offered "Knock-Knock whose there? Cargo. Cargo who? Beep beep." You must be able to do better than this!!!!

The warm summer weather continued into **September** with daytime maximum temperatures exceeding 20 degC over each of the first five days – the warmest was 24.3 degC on the 5th.

Atmospheric pressure began to fall slowly from the 6th and remained relatively low until the 16th. Weak frontal systems brought occasional showers, some of which were very heavy and were accompanied by thunder on the 6th. The last of the heavier showers fell overnight on the 8th/9th. Winds were generally light easterlies but became more variable and fresher as they backed to a more northerly direction.

For much of the remainder of the month a cooler polar airstream brought about a marked fall in temperature, introducing a marked autumnal by shift in the weather. A brief ridge of high pressure between the 19th and 21st brought a brief return to a warmer south-westerly airstream but by the 23rd polar air resumed control. Fortunately, the cloud cover and a freshening wind were sufficient to reduce the risk of any early autumnal nocturnal frost. The weather's final blow on the last day of the month came in the form of an active cyclonic storm which moved in very swiftly from the west. For a period of 3-4 hours during the afternoon of the 30th the wind exceeded 50 mph with squally gusts of more than 60 mph. Fortunately the conditions eased late afternoon, so damage was only moderate and tended to be restricted to small branches.

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
September	17.6	+1.0	9.4	+1.1	72.5	114%

Gladys was in her local one evening when one of the regulars, Jimmy, sneezed violently sending his false teeth flying and dashing them to piece on the tile floor. He moaned that it would take ages to have a new set made but his mate Billy insisted that he shouldn't worry and that his brother would be able to supply a new set. Sure enough, the next day, Billy brought in the next new set of teeth and they fitted Jimmy perfectly.

"Wow," said Jimmy, " your brother must be a brilliant dentist."

"No," replied Billy, "he is actually an undertaker !!"

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Churches Working Together

Methodist Church 10.30 am

- 6 Nov Rev. Jenny Porterpryde Communion Service
13 Nov Remembrance Service at St. Cuthberts **10.15 am**
20 Nov Tom Dodds
27 Nov 1st Sunday in Advent Rev. Marie Beard
Communion Service
4 Dec 2nd Sunday in Advent Envoy Eunice Blakey
Salvation Army (Toy Service)

Informal Worship on Wednesdays (fortnightly) 2nd and 16th November

Please note that **Meeting Place** meets at the **Methodist Church** on **Tuesdays only** 10 am - 12 noon
Why not call in for coffee or tea and a friendly chat - everyone is most welcome.

.....

St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church Sunday Services 10.30 am (note time of Remembrance Service)

- 6 Nov Service of Eucharist Rev. Janet Jackson
13 Nov Service of Remembrance **10.15 am**
Followed by service at War Memorial
Rev. Gill Alexander
20 Nov Service of Eucharist Rev. Michael Jackson
27 Nov Service of Eucharist Rev. Nigel and Rev. Mary Warner

.....

All Hallows Henshaw (please note the time as listed)

- 6 Nov Benefice Communion 10 am All Hallows, Henshaw
13 Nov Remembrance and Communion Service All Hallows 10.00 am (War Memorial 11 am)
20 Nov Holy Communion All Hallows, Henshaw 11.00 am Rev. Steve Wright
27 Nov Advent Sunday Morning Worship 11.00 am Anne Galbraith and Carol Adams

.....

Catholic Church Services

- St. John of Beverley** Haydon Bridge 9.00 am Sunday
St. Oswald's Bellingham 11.00 am Sunday
St. Wilfred's Haltwhistle 9.30 am Thursday
St Mary's Hexham **Public Mass and Live Stream**
(please check St. Mary's website)

CLERGY LETTER: (Continued on next column)

A reflection on the healing of the 10 lepers

The gospel tells of Jesus' cure of ten lepers while he

and his disciples were still on their long journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Near a spot where the Jewish area of Galilee bordered the very non-Jewish area of Samaria, ten lepers approached him. Given the terror that this disease caused, they had to keep their distance, so they had to call out to him, "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!" He immediately told them, "Show yourselves to the priests." This was an official means of being declared free of the disease, so they would have been relieved. Of the ten, only one returned to Jesus; he shouted praise of God, threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan – an enemy, in the sight of most Jews. Jesus commented that this 'foreigner' was the only one to praise God for the cure. Jesus told him, "Your faith has saved you."

I suggest we draw two ideas from the story of the ten lepers. The first is that saying "Thank you" – and meaning it - can be difficult both for the person saying it, and for the person to whom it is said. When we thank someone, it means we are acknowledging that we are in their debt, however small the matter may be – as when a door has been held open. Some people hate 'being helped' – they feel the whole thing to be an attack on their self-sufficiency or independence, so they find saying 'Thank you' embarrassing. On the other hand, when we have done a good turn for someone, if their thanks are too profuse, it is us who feel embarrassed. Most do not like too much fuss

The second idea is more spiritual. The Samaritan in the gospel recognised that something special had been done to him and therefore felt to give thanks. "Holy Eucharist" literally means "special thanksgiving". In our society, I suspect that we often take too much for granted, and could do with a deeper sense of gratitude. Those of us who have had operations – emergency or pre-booked ("elective") – are grateful to the surgeons and medical staff, and the NHS system that lets us access their services. Others have a comfortable lifestyle. I know they have had to work hard for this, but there are millions, here and elsewhere, who work equally hard, yet are barely able to survive. Perhaps we could all see participating in the Eucharist (or other services) as our way of thanking God for the lives we can lead, despite the current cost-of-living & energy problems.

Taken from a reflection by Fr Jim Dunne, retired priest residing at St Oswalds Bellingham



Haydon Bridge Nature Club

**Haydon Bridge Nature Club
Programme of Speakers 2022**

**Meetings held at: The Methodist Hall,
Church Street, Haydon Bridge NE47 6JG
to start at 7.15 pm**

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE TO ORIGINAL PRORAMME

Date Topic and Name of Speaker

17th Nov Wildlife Crime and Heritage Issues
Lee Davison

24th Nov Yorkshire Dales with a bit of Geology
David Hughes

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR BREAK

Commence again 2nd February 2023

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The Lily Pond

by
William Tait

Tucked in among the dead bracken above the woodland pool, the dog fox lay watching as the keeper tipped corn from a bag along the water's edge, and a red billed moorhen quickly threaded its way through the weed-beds in alarm at the sudden disturbance of its home. A few potatoes were thrown into the water and then the man was gone. It was mid-winter and he had been feeding up the tarn in readiness for the duck shoot.

That night, as mallards came in to roost, the dog fox waited. He too hunted the margins of the pool, but with his natural cunning and craftiness there was no need for baiting in his case. Time and patience rewarded him well, but if in later months the tarn failed to produce a duck, then he knew the pheasant pens above the tarn would always offer a meal.

I often go to this beautiful pool, known to most locals as the 'Lily Pond', set like a jewel amidst the pine, oak, larch, silver birch and rhododendrons in the National Trust woodland at Ridley Hall.

At one time, heron used to nest in tall Scots pines by the margin of the pool, and in the warmth of a still spring morning all those years ago I'd watch from the cover of the trees as the birds fed their young.

Today the herons are still to be seen, but one has to know where to look to enjoy intimate observation of old 'lank', the heron, for the woodland beyond the pool is vast.

Unbelievable green are the mosses and vegetation at this place where beauty lingers always. Leaving behind the stress and strain of a fast world, I often go there in winter to walk the many paths.

In March to April the pool is alive with the musical croaking of frogs and toads as they return to spawn, adding yet again another act to be observed in the woodland scene.

I came to love this secluded pool in my younger days and now grown, grey and older, I still visit for a while and meditate.

When the wild roses are scenting the hedgerows and foxgloves nod, I love to sit under the oak tree when the first water lilies have opened their waxen blooms and dragon flies zoom to and fro over the broad, flat leaf, reflected in the water as they dart from one pond to another, the air heavy with the perfume of pine and pungent water mint. The endless hum of insects among the trees add relaxation to the beauty

of the day.

As April gave way to May, I would creep silently away from the pool towards the cascading burn a mile away and there, in the deep gorge, I would sit hidden close to the water fall, and observe the sun painting the distant hills a rosy pink. Suddenly the deep silence would be broken by the bickering of a curlew, and a fox would steal over the wet rocks a limp mallard hanging from his jaws. He halted briefly by a rock and the roots of a rowan tree which had crashed into the burn and looked carefully around, his ears pricked.

His amber eyes glinted as he looked my way. He dropped his prey on a moss-covered rock, gave a short shrill bark, and headed off towards the pheasant pens. Somewhere in the vastness of the rock, his vixen lay with her litter of cubs.

Bill Tait died in 1998 and his writing was shared across Tynedale through the Hexham Courant. The Haydon News was given permission by Bill's late wife Jean to publish her husband's work.

Why don't you visit the Lily Pond/Tarn by following the John Martin Trail on the south side of the river

OR

Park your car and take a short walk west across the meadow into Morralee Wood from Morralee Banks

**Community Energy Survey
HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR
Community Energy Survey???**

**RESPONSE DEADLINE IS 14th NOVEMBER
DO IT NOW PLEASE**

The Community Energy survey was circulated to households in Haydon Bridge (not outlying areas of the Parish) with the October Haydon News.

It is part of an initiative to shift Haydon Bridge from fossil fuel to renewable energy.

You can either complete the paper version
or
preferably, complete it online at:
nordheat.org.uk/survey

Thank You

Making Our Streets More Accessible:

The other day I met a young man outside the fish and chip shop on John Martin Street and we started chatting, as happens so easily in Haydon Bridge.

I only moved here recently and my friends back in Brighton laugh when I rave about the friendliness of people here. When the young man said he was thinking of moving here, of course I encouraged him, thinking of the welcome I've had myself.

I did think though that getting around here would not be as easy for him as it is for me. He was using a wheelchair and I thought back to when a friend visited me from Brighton to see how I was settling in. She loved Haydon Bridge and totally understood my enthusiasm. It was wonderful to share, but my heart was often in my mouth when she had to take her wheelchair onto the road in dangerous places because the pavements were blocked by vehicles or there were no dropped kerbs at vital places.

It is obvious that thought **has** been given to access, particularly in the main shopping area, unfortunately, quite a few times vehicles were parked across dropped kerbs, provided where she should have been able to cross. More than once we politely asked drivers to move their vehicle so that she could cross the road and some just hadn't realised what they'd done, but some were less than polite or even walked off, saying "I'll only be a minute", leaving us waiting.

But, she'd still like to come back!

When I said I'd try to get together with people to walk around the village to spot the snags and make suggestions, perhaps to the parish council, her face lit up. So I'm hoping no one will take offence at these thoughts from a newbie.

It's so easy not to realise how difficult things can be for other people if we haven't had their day to day experiences. I had to use a mobility scooter a few years ago, and I'm sorry to say I hadn't remembered what it can be like, that is, until my friend visited me. Of course, it's not only in Haydon Bridge that there are access problems, they exist in many places, but a few changes could transform the day to day experience of someone like the young man I'd met, if he does come to live here.

We'll soon be joined by new residents moving into their flats for assisted living at Anchor Court on John Martin Street, and I'm guessing mobility issues may arise for some as they negotiate the streets in their new home. For instance, you could get to the fish

and chip shop and our lovely new coffee house on Shaftoe Street in a wheelchair from Anchor Court, or you could go over the pedestrian bridge to other shops, but to go along John Martin Street to catch a bus or get to the Haydonian Social Club, you'd have to take your life in your hands in the road at a junction or at a corner with often fast moving vehicles.

I'd love to join anyone else who is interested in walking around the village to see how we could make it more accessible. This could be a good time, as we think about how to attract more visitors to the village. Some of them may have mobility issues as well as money to spend here! And, as the village develops more attractions, they will inevitably bring more vehicles into the village. Pavements can become very congested with parked cars and vans, making it impossible for someone in a wheelchair to pass, or enjoy walking along chatting to friends in a normal way. So maybe we could also think about how to encourage considerate parking.

Anyway, I'm open to exploring any access issues people may bring and if anyone would like to join me in thinking about this, you can contact me on:

janerumba36@yahoo.com

Thank You.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS
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**Our September quiz on the 27th raised £250.00
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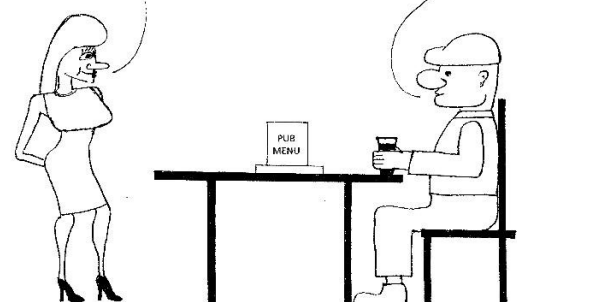
**Our next quiz followed on Tuesday
October 25th (Newcastle Helping Street Friends)
and after that the quizzes will be on:
November 22nd (Tynedale Hospice at Home) and
December 13th (Salvation Army Christmas Appeal)**

**Nominations for future quizzes are welcome.
Contact: John Harrison johnandaveril@aol.com**

RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY BINN

It cost me £1 to blow my tyres up at the service station today, Raydon, last time it was only 50p.

That's what's called inflation, Dusty.





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St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church

Pippa Exham 01434 684 239

Gill Valentine 07711 110 850

Henshaw Church

Anne Galbraith 01434 684 302

Councillor Contacts

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01434 684 329

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Jo Thompson 01434 684376

Health and Care

Haydon Bridge and Allendale
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New children's clothing (available to order in)

Coal buckets alongside hotmax logs and kindling.

Calming products for cats and dogs ready for

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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.