



# THE HAYDON NEWS JUNE 2015



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Editor: Steve Ford  
Next copy deadline June 22nd 2015

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The editorial policy of the Haydon News is the  
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ity is delegated to the editors. Our intention is  
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Any complaints concerning editorial policy  
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sary.

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lished. A *nom-de-plume* may be used if the Edi-  
tors know the author's name and address.

# ADOXOGRAPHY



“Slut spurt!”

An air-headed ditz rampaging through The Metro Centre with a credit card was the first image that sprang to my mind when I encountered the above expression. In fact, it is Danish for ‘closing down sale’ - so there is a retail connection.

The book in which I encountered the phrase is: ‘The Year of Living Danishly’ by Helen Russell (available at the only decent bookshop in Tynedale — Cogito). It is a highly readable account of a formerly London based journalist’s experience of living in the world’s happiest country, Denmark.

Russell’s account does create an impression of herself as a bit of a wide eyed and clueless metropolitan exquisite but she redeems herself with the range of her observations and a pleasing turn of phrase.

So what are the ten leading factors that go to make up the world’s happiest country and how applicable are they to the rest of us? Can we be more happy by being more Danish?

1/ **Trust** - the nature of Danish society is such that they are able to trust each other and the state apparatus. Trust breeds trust too.

2/ **Hygge** - the cosiness and comfort that can come from the simplest things. Warmth, company, small treats, soft lighting, food, drink, conversation, etc...

3/ **Use your body** - walk, run, jump, swim, cycle, dance, sex...whatever. Get the endorphins going every day.

4/ **Environmental aesthetics** - make and keep the places where you live and work beautiful. Simply keeping everything in good, clean order is a start but art and design play a part too.

5/ **Less choice** - an excess of choice can be a burden. Simplify your choices and lose your stress.

6/ **Be proud** - of the community that you call home and its achievements. Celebrate the successes and join in. Get the flags and bunting out, sing together...

7/ **Value family** - make regular time for family togetherness. Alternatively, cultivate a proxy family of close kindred spirits.

8/ **Equal respect for equal work** - gender and the nature of the work done does not matter - all contributions matter and must be valued equally.

9/ **Play** - making and doing, playing for its own sake. Build something, cook something, write something... Creative, active leisure is important.

10/ **Share** - sharing makes you happier. Whether it is just the time of day in passing, or a cake and coffee or a trip or a task - it builds up community and promotes happiness.

Life in Denmark has its smattering of darker themes too. The divorce rate is high but you must ask whether the prolongation of relationships that have run their course is the best approach. The regulations about flying flags are eccentrically costly. The bodies of the minks bred for the fur trade are used to make diesel fuel. Vegetarianism is rare. You wouldn’t believe what 41% of Danes claim to have tried!

Average working week is 34 hours. Income tax is up to 56% but this is regarded as the price of a civilised caring society and well worth it. The Danes trust their government to use the funds wisely — could there be a greater contrast with the UK?

The Danes, being the happiest nation on earth, must be on to something and I am sure that we and others can learn from them.

Not to be outdone by their Scandiwegian neighbours, the Swedes also have a national cultural phenomenon worthy of study: *Lagom*, a Swedish word with no direct English equivalent but meaning something like “just the right amount”. According to the dictionary *lagom* means “enough, sufficient, adequate, just right”. *Lagom* is also widely used as “in moderation, in balance, optimal, suitable and average”.

The archetypical Swedish proverb “*Lagom är bäst*” literally “*Lagom is best*” can be translated as “There is virtue in moderation.” *Lagom* is also said to describe the Swedish national psyche, one of consensus and equality.

At times a smug chauvinist insularity can be detected in our national discourse, which I feel is a great pity. There are valid alternative views and ways of doing things and they deserve appraisal. Nicking good ideas from other people has much to recommend it. Not least, it leapfrogs the invention and development phase that can absorb so much time and treasure.

Let’s be more outward looking and join the future as soon as possible.

Steve Ford

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

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**DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND EVERYONE'S CONTROL, THIS MONTH'S PARISH COUNCIL NOTES WILL APPEAR NEXT MONTH. APOLOGIES TO ANY WHO ARE INCOMMODOED BY THIS.**

**THE COMPANY THAT PRINTS THE MAGAZINE IS CHANGING BOTH OWNERSHIP AND LOCATION. ALL BEING WELL, APART FROM THIS MONTH'S PC NOTES SLIPPING A MONTH, THERE WILL BE NO OTHER OUTWARD SIGN OF THE CHANGE.**

## Community Centre Regular Activities

Lots of different activities. Try something new.  
Make new friends. Have fun.

### MONDAY

Dance Club, 7.30-10pm      Audrey Philips,  
684452  
[george@vallum.plus.com](mailto:george@vallum.plus.com)

### TUESDAY

Pilates – 9.15am                      Lorna,  
07747 842364  
Karate – 6.30pm                      David Beales,  
07561153485  
[david.beales2@btinternet.com](mailto:david.beales2@btinternet.com)

### WEDNESDAY

Yoga 10am (term time)      Alicia Lester,  
[aliciafearon@btinternet.com](mailto:aliciafearon@btinternet.com)  
Yoga 7pm  
Art classes (bi monthly)      Barbara Wardle,  
688886  
[bbarawardle2011@btinternet.com](mailto:bbarawardle2011@btinternet.com)  
Mother's Union 7.30pm      Anne Brunton  
(As arranged)                      344557

### THURSDAY

Youth Club 6-8.30pm      Amey Henry  
01434 603582  
[Amey.Henry@nothumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Amey.Henry@nothumberland.gov.uk)  
Bowls Club 7.30pm (Sept-April)  
Joseph Tulip,  
688817  
[joseph.tulip@cnmedia.co.uk](mailto:joseph.tulip@cnmedia.co.uk)  
Parish Council 7.30pm (4th Thursday, monthly)

### FRIDAY

RNLI - Bridge Afternoon  
(As arranged - next 23rd October)

### SATURDAY

Coffee morning, 10am  
Various groups and organisations.

### SUNDAY

Hornby Model Railways Association 10am  
(May 10<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>)  
Grant Robinson, 01661 844843  
[grant.robinson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grant.robinson@tiscali.co.uk)

### NEW ACTIVITIES ALWAYS WELCOME.

Contact: **Valerie Bell 01434 684705**  
[valerie@hexhammorris.com](mailto:valerie@hexhammorris.com)



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**It seems that my Notes recalling ‘The Home Front’, at Haydon Bridge during the Great War have been quite well received. That being the case, I have decided to develop those recollections further during the next few issues, with Haydon Bridge ‘Home Front’ memories during World War II.** (My First World War Notes are continued on page 8.)

The Second World War (1939-1945) is generally said to have begun on September 1st 1939 with the invasion of Poland by Germany, and the declaration of war on Germany on Sunday, September 3rd by France and the United Kingdom.

**Evacuees:** Plans for evacuation of children from Newcastle and Gateshead had been made in advance of the proclamation of war and the first contingent of almost 4,000 children were brought into Hexham station on Friday September 1st 1939. The children were medically examined, provided with rations and sent on buses, or in cars offered by volunteers, to various parts of the district, including Haydon parish.

Evacuation arrangements at Haydon Bridge went smoothly under the supervision of Mrs J.D. Weir of ‘Highfield’, on the North Bank, with help from the school headmaster Mr Walker, and Haydon Bridge W.I. and, generally, the children were given a warm welcome to the parish. It was reported, however, that in some cases householders, ‘refused to give shelter to some children taken to their homes’ and, ‘some of the older evacuees were inclined to give more trouble than was necessary to those offering them shelter’ - not a surprising response, it seems to me, they having been moved at a moment’s notice from their homes and families to completely new surroundings; but on the other hand, it is a shame to read that not all residents were welcoming.

**Cricket Averages:** Haydon Bridge finished the 1939 cricket season in fourth position in the West Tyne League, with 19 points out of a possible 32.

<b>Batting</b>	<b>Innings</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Average</b>
N. Kirsopp	11	185	16.71
N.L. Brown	13	189	14.53
J. Whitfield	13	177	13.61
C. Brooks	11	130	11.71
C. Bates	11	125	11.36
<b>Bowling</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wickets</b>	<b>Per Wkt</b>
W. Cooper	164	27	6.7
J. Taylor	281	32	8.7
G. Brown	381	34	11.2
K. Brown	75	6	12.4

Season’s Record: Played 16, Won 7, Lost 4, Drawn 5.

**Haydon Bridge AFC:** Our football club’s prospects for the 1939/40 season were bright, the club having signed on 19 players including Haydonians: Jack Leathard (Capt) and Alec Bates - both ex Northern League players - Lloyd Brown, Ronnie Routledge, Eddie Moffat, Eddie Mack, Nevin Kirsopp and the English schoolboy international Eddie Brown.

The club secretary Oscar Wardle welcomed support from George Anderson, Haydon Bridge born and Aberdeen FC Director, who promised a new set of strips, George Hunter of Bush Farm, a new set of goalposts, and player Eddie Mack and his father who provided a ball and a wicket gate for the new field.

**Waiting for Hitler:** At their monthly meeting on Thursday September 8th 1939, councillors expressed concern that the electric and gas poles in the district would be a danger during any blackout. Mr William Rutherford proposed that the various authorities be asked to have the poles and standards painted white.

A number of soldiers stationed in the parish were offered to help the farmers with their harvest as it had to be brought in with the least possible delay.

Volunteers were requested, to fill sand bags. Residents were informed that gas masks had to be carried always and by everyone.

An appeal was to be made for blood donors. It was announced that gifts of nightdresses and pyjamas would be welcome at Hexham Hospital.

It was reported that owing to the large number of evacuees in the village, the bridge had become increasingly dangerous and the County Council was requested to construct a footpath on the east side of the bridge roadway.

**Light Ale:** PC Scott, our local constable, was quick off the mark to ensure the blackout was observed in Haydon Bridge. On September 19th 1939, two of our publicans were the first cases heard at Hexham courts under the new restrictions and both were fined 10/-.

William Wiles pleaded not guilty to failing to screen the internal lighting at the Haydon Hotel at 11.30pm, blaming some of his visitors. PC Scott pointed out that the occupier was responsible for screening the lights, not the customers.

William Ward of the Scotch Arms was summoned for a similar offence that occurred on the same night. PC Scott, on duty at 9.50pm on the bridge, saw a light coming from the bar of the public house and he said, ‘it was visible for a considerable distance’.

*No free drink for PC Scott then!!*

**Bypassed:** Objections were expressed in Haydon Bridge that plans for a new road as part of the

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Sunderland to Carlisle trunk road would not be  
proceeded with due to the war.

**Carry on playing:** In spite of the anticipated storm  
at home and abroad, Haydon Bridge residents did  
make efforts to retain an air of normality for as long  
as possible and our football club agreed to take part  
in the 'War Time West Tyne League', along with  
Hexham, Acomb, Bardon Mill, Eltringham and  
Matfen. Also, Northumberland FA had decided that  
the Minor Cup would be played as normal in  
1939/40 and Haydon Bridge were drawn away in the  
first round to Allendale Wanderers.

In the event, Allendale went through to the next  
round, Haydon Bridge 'Robins' being unable to field  
a team.

**Call Up:** Young men aged 20-22 years had to  
register for call-up on Saturday, October 28th 1939.

**Soldier Killed:** The first Haydon Bridge death  
attributed to the war could not be blamed directly on  
Adolph. Harry Mayers, from Wigan, was a soldier  
stationed in our parish when, walking down the  
Langley road with others from his regiment for a  
night out in Haydon Bridge on Saturday October  
28th, he was run over from behind by a motor cycle  
despatch rider and received fatal injuries.

The inquest at Haydon Bridge heard that the soldiers  
were walking three abreast just beyond a bend in the  
Langley road, when the impact took place.

Doctor Richard Bell said that death was due to shock  
and multiple injuries and the coroner pronounced the  
death as accidental, remarking that it was one of the  
unfortunate results of the blackout as the motorcycle  
lights were dimmed.

**Crackers:** Determined not to allow the blackout  
restrictions spoil their annual Guy Fawkes' events on  
November 5th, residents were requesting indoor  
fireworks from shop keepers, and buying Christmas  
crackers that contained indoor firework novelties.

**Y.M.C.A:** The former Wesleyan Methodist Church  
on Ratcliffe Road was full to capacity on Monday,  
November 6th, when it was officially dedicated and  
handed over as a Y.M.C.A. canteen for the troops  
billeted in Haydon Bridge. Mr and Mrs Tait, the  
owners of the building, had generously offered its  
use, with the first month free of charge.

**George Randle Waugh,** a 57 year old railway  
ganger of 'Sunnybrae', Pool Bank, Haydon Bridge,  
was a regular and experienced cyclist. Mr Waugh  
was accidental killed in November 1939, however,  
when he fell from his bicycle after hitting the branch  
of a tree lying on the road near Allerwash.  
Mr Waugh's body was found by motor driver  
Thomas Murray Teasdale of the Oddfellows Hall.



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**Nor Any Drop To Drink:** On Saturday, November 18th 1939, Haydon Bridge was without water for fourteen hours and this added to a dispute that had rumbled on since the provision of the supply in the early part of the century, when ratepayers who had private supplies and were living outside the village objected to paying for a scheme from which they didn't benefit. The daily consumption of clean water per person had been calculated at 25 gallons, and the parish council informed the water attendant, Thomas Snowball, that the Elrington reservoir supply of 40,000 gallons was insufficient for a place the size of Haydon Bridge as a supply of 60,000 gallons was required.

**I continue my reports of activity on 'The Home Front', at Haydon Bridge during the Great War. Previous recollections, to May 1917, are written in my Notes in the July 2014 to May 2015, issues of The Haydon News.**

**June 1917** got off to a bad start with two Haydon parish deaths. On 3rd June, 62 year old Jane McGurk wife of Michael, of Shaftoe Street; and on the 4th of June, Hannah Dodd, wife of John Dodd, of Castle Farm, Langley in her 61st year.

**Two Courses:** Lessons to promote a 'food economy' campaign were started in the cookery room at Shaftoe Trust School. The courses were run by Miss White, on Monday nights and Thursday afternoons.

**John Curry:** It was June 23rd 1917 before it was reported officially in the village that John had died; 'on the 14th of November 1916 or since'. John was the only son of John and Elizabeth Curry of Peelwell Buildings and had worked at the Bookless & Co market garden at Haydon Bridge.

Two others from our parish who had lost their lives in the war since October/November 1916 were:

**John James Armstrong**, son of John Armstrong, and **Christopher Law**, one of eleven children of John and Elizabeth Law of Langley.

**Second Lieutenant John Archbold** of Staward Hall, was killed in action on June 19th 1917, and **William Batey**, who had worked at Barcombe pit and had been wounded on June 7th, also died on June 19th, in hospital.

**Visitors:** On a happier note, the Hexham Courant of June 30th 1917 reported 'a large influx of visitors to Haydon Bridge during Race Week'. Accommodation was full, apparently, and there were many camping parties at both Haydon Bridge and Langley. All the visitors 'thoroughly enjoyed themselves in spite of two or three thunderstorms that somewhat marred a fine week'. *And in spite of the dreadful news from abroad, presumably!*

**Trapped:** A serious accident befell Wm Sparke of Ratcliffe Road on July 4th 1917. William was tree felling at New Alston when a tree fell on him. Once the tree was removed, William was taken home in a pony and trap and was attended on by Dr. Murray.

**Quarter Master Sergeant J. Curry** was at home in Haydon Bridge in early July, before going into an Officers' training college with a view to receiving a commission. Sergeant Curry was the eldest of four brothers, all of whom were in the army. The second eldest in the family, Lieut. Charles Curry, who was a leading jockey in Belgium before the outbreak of war, lost his entire stud when Belgium was invaded.

**Corporal Jack Birnie:** Mr and Mrs George Birnie of Haydon Bridge received a letter on July 17th 1917 informing them that their son, Corporal Jack Birnie, had died of wounds sustained from an enemy shell on July 13th.

John was one of ten children of George and Frances Birnie (nee Thompson) and his father and brothers, George, Thomas and Michael were also also serving. John's cousin, John Murray Birnie, had died on September 29th 1916.

#### **ELEANOR MARY (MRS) PARKER**

**A chance meeting in the General Havelock in April brought back memories of a former licensee who ruled there - Eleanor Mary Parker.**

Eleanor Mary was known to most of her customers as 'Mrs Parker', a formality befitting her standing as a lady with managerial responsibility in a community where members of the male population dominated positions of authority. (Or was it simply that the lady in question had the power, with a raised finger, to refuse grown men their favourite tipple and send them packing if their behaviour didn't suit her, that saw her customers treat her with such reverence?)

Tony and Christine Wood had enjoyed a meal in the General Havelock, when today's owners, Joanna and Gary Thompson, introduced us, and it was a delight to meet our Haydon Bridge visitors as Christine (nee Parker) is the great granddaughter of the former licensee, Mrs Parker.

I'll let Christine's husband Tony take up the story:

By email

Dear Dennis,

My wife, Christine, is the great granddaughter of Eleanor Mary Parker (nee Armstrong) who ran the General Havelock Inn from 1937 to about 1960, and I have information that may interest you and your readers. When I mentioned this family connection to Jo Thompson at the General Havelock, she knew of Mrs Parker so I guess her reputation lives on.



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Christine and I know 'Mrs Parker' as Nana Parker, her son was Roland (Ronnie) and his eldest son is Ken, my wife Christine's father. Ken stayed with Nana Parker in World War II, and when first married in 1953. Nana Parker died at Hexham General Hospital on July 3rd 1962 aged seventy seven years and was, by then, living in 11 Strother Close.

Nana Parker was the daughter of Thomas Armstrong of 'Hotbank' farm and his young servant girl Eliza McWilliams and, certainly, had an interesting life.

Thomas Armstrong was the last of the Armstrong family at 'Hotbank' and by 1891 he was shepherd at High Green Dyke, Allendale. Ironically, his brother Robert had left the farm about 1865 but had returned to 'Hotbank' by 1891 where he was a shepherd.

Thomas's father and Eleanor Mary's grand parents, Robert Armstrong (1794-1859) and his wife Eleanor Lowes (1798-1880), were farmers at 'Hotbank' for about sixty years.

I hope this family story is of interest and would be grateful for your thoughts and any information or stories that may fill some gaps.

Best regards,  
Tony Wood.

**Mrs Parker** our former licensee had separated from her husband John Parker, who was licensee at 'The Anchor' public house at Whittonstall until August 1923. According to the research done by Tony and Christine Wood, Mrs Parker trained with Newcastle Breweries at the 'Fox and Hounds' in Bardon Mill, and was granted a licence in her own name at the 'Three Horse Shoes' Melkridge in December 1925, before her name went above the door at the General Havelock Inn in 1937.

### Do you remember Mrs Parker?

*I will continue this interesting story of our former licensee and Haydon Bridge resident in a future issue; in the meantime, my story and the research being undertaken by Tony and Christine Wood would be much enhanced with your memories or knowledge of Eleanor Mary Parker at Haydon Bridge; and the Armstrong, Lowes and McWilliam families at 'Hotbank'.*

*I would welcome your contributions, however small, to add to the research.*

dennistelford636@btinternet.com  
or telephone 01434 684636.



**Mrs Parker (standing) at the General Havelock in 1952 (Can anyone name the lady sitting?)**

**THE  
HAYDON BRIDGE  
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**Part 15  
1943 to 1945**

**My Haydon Bridge 'Store' history Parts 1 to 14, from 1875 to 1942, can be found in the February 2014 to May 2015 issues of the Haydon News.**

**In 1943, and another year of war, the staff at the Haydon Bridge Co-operative Society were:**

**John Wm. Melvin (Manager); Joseph Longstaff (Branch and Asst Manager); John Bates (Butcher Manager); Miss Lee (Drapery Manageress).**

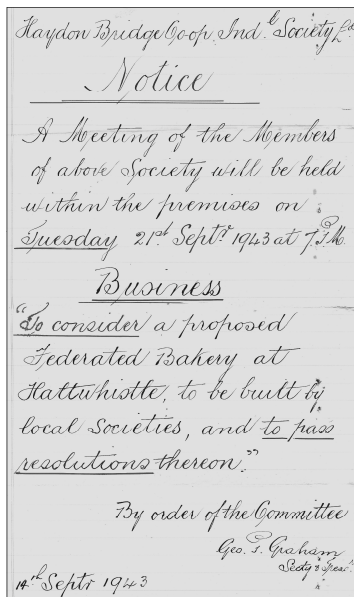
**Jack Swallow; S. Adamson; J. Chicken; Norman Heslop; Maurice Armstrong; Marjorie Spark (Branch Asst.); Joan Curry; Elizabeth Philipson; Mrs Elliott; Muriel Armstrong; Alma Telford; Miss N.M Ridley.**

Norman Heslop was called up for the military in July 1943 and Mr. Smith from Bardon Mill filled his post temporarily until Mr Hugh Brown was appointed as a butcher. Johnny Bates' call up was deferred, however, as the committee argued successfully that they couldn't do without a manager for the butchery department. At this time, Master Armstrong was asked to work in the store butcher's shop to help out.

**In August 1943, the 'Haltwhistle Co-operative Group' was formed, 'to further the principle of mutual benefit', the Co-operatives in the group were: Fourstones, Haydon Bridge, Allendale, Whitfield, Nenthead, Alston and Haltwhistle and District.**

The first major project undertaken by the group was to build their own bakery. Although land at Hordley Acres in Haydon Bridge was considered, eventually a site of 10¾ acres was purchased at Haltwhistle for £1,200 where it was planned to join forces with other societies and supplement bakery provision with boot and shoe repairs, furnishings, motor repairs and funeral undertakings.

Meanwhile, it was back down to earth at the Haydon Bridge Store where a customer complained that the butter was 'unfit for use'; the staff were accused of 'preferential treatment' when it came to the sale of apples, potatoes and bacon; and resident Mrs Daisy Thompson said the butcher's liver 'wasn't fit to eat'!



The committee chairman asked the meeting if, in the circumstances, they knew of any 'under the counter trading going on'.

During the war years, dealing with increased direct costs in the face of reduced income was, perhaps, the committee's most difficult undertaking. One of the largest items of expenditure was turning out to be the cost of motor transport, with fuel at 2/1½d per gallon and the regular servicing the vehicles required.

This item on the balance sheet wasn't helped by the many accidents employees had when driving their vans and lorries, and the repairs that needed to be done as a result. At various times, the early Store vehicles crashed into walls or overturned on the Military Road, at Morrilee Banks, Willimoteswick, Hill House and Plunderheath - to name just five - and, in October 1943, a wagon being driven through the Store arch got out of control and was 'stopped by the wall opposite the Society premises'. The damage to the vehicle was assessed at £35 by Mr Scudamore, and Mr Veitch, the builder, estimated repairs to Miss Todd's wall at £13-10s-6d, 'including 12/- for the cost of a teapot' that had been damaged!

I have been told, by those who were there, that the staff in 1943 found great hilarity in this whole event.

It is clear from my research, and the Society balance sheets, that the Store's vans and lorries were for ever backwards and forwards to Mr Scudamore's Anchor Garage for repairs.

In a further effort to defray expenses during the war years, it was decided that deliveries of meat would not be made to anyone residing within one mile of the Store, and the errand boy's duties would cease.

**SHEILA ELIZABETH ELLIOT**

The first lorry purchased for the Co-op was in 1923 but, unless someone knows differently, the first serious road incident involving a fatality was on Tuesday May 5th 1931 at 6.45 in the evening, when the butchery manager at the time, C.M. Armour, was returning from West Wharmley to Haydon Bridge in the butcher's van, alongside him as a passenger was John William Melvin the Store manager.

Mr Armour was driving along John Martin Street at about eight miles an hour when Sheila Elizabeth Elliott (2 years 8 months) was one of a number of children playing on the doorstep of her home on the street at Elliott's Buildings. The little girl ran out onto the road in front of the van and, although Mr Armour immediately swerved and applied the brake, she was run down and died the next morning due to shock following concussion.

Sheila had no fractures, only grazing to her face and arm. A jury in the Town Hall, investigating the accident, exonerated the driver in a sad case that left our village folk in deep shock.



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In January 1944, former employee Ozzie Moore informed the committee that he would be discharged from the army having failed to fulfil the necessary physical requirements. Ozzie was given his old job back 'serving behind the grocery counter' and his work was commended, 'other than being a bit shaky on the step ladders'.

In February and March 1944, Miss N.M. Ridley and Miss Philipson's employments were terminated, due to overstaffing and decreasing sales and, by April, Mr Chicken had also left the Store and was replaced as the 'traveller' by Maurice Armstrong. Not for long, however, as Maurice was called up for military service on Wednesday June 7th and Mr Chicken and Mr Smith of Bardon Mill both returned to the Store on a part time basis.

By August 1944, Charles Curry was the traveller, but only until garage proprietor Mr Watson had taught his daughter, Joan Curry, to drive, after which she took over the traveller's job, although the committee were informed that the roads in the district were 'in a very bad state and quite unfit to travel over'.

**In December 1944, George W. Nattrass replaced J.W. Coats as president of the Haydon Bridge Society.**

Gross profit **in the £** in each department for the six months to April 1944 and to October 1944, and shown at the year end, was:

Dept.	April	October
Grocery & hardware	2/11½d	2/7½d
Branch (Ratcliffe Rd.)	3/7d	3/8¼d
Butcher's	no figure	5/4d
Neighbouring Soc. Avg. comparison	3/8	3/6d
Drapery: No figures available but termed 'satisfactory'. Dividend was 2/1d in £		

**In March 1945, John Bates resigned as butchery manager, having secured a position elsewhere after eleven years as the Haydon Bridge manager.** Although Mr R. Calder of Greenside accepted the manager's post he resigned after a month, unhappy with the wage offered and the fact that the only house available was Miss Scott's on Alexander Terrace at 11/- a week. In May 1945, Mr Weymes of Stonecroft was appointed to the department and Mr Hugh Brown was informed that he would be the new butchery manager. Mr Smith, a temporary member of staff, left the Store after an altercation with Mr Brown, but he informed the committee that if they needed him again they would find him, 'in the Fox and Hounds public house at Bardon Mill'. The half year dividend was increased to 2/3d in £.

**On May 8th 1945, the Second World War ended with Germany's surrender and in June an eighth war bonus was paid to staff.** *Continued on page 12*

## HAYDON BRIDGE WAR MEMORIAL by Pam and Ken Linge

We continue our series of articles on those individuals who died in the Great War. The biographies are published chronologically and the forty ninth casualty, in 1918, was **Edward John Brown**

### (49) Edward John Brown



Photograph courtesy of Haydon Bridge Community Centre

Edward served as Sergeant, 200009, 1/4th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. He died on 27th May 1918, aged 30. He was reported to have been killed by a shell shortly after becoming a prisoner-of-war.

Born in Warden, Edward was the eldest of five children (all sons) of Jacob and Bessie Brown (nee Boyd) of New Alston. Jacob was a stonebreaker.

Edward was employed at Barcombe Colliery, he married Blanche Margaret Brown and they had one child.

As a pre-war Territorial he was mobilised on 5th August 1914 and went to France in 20th April 1915.



All five brothers served; his younger brother, **Private William Robson Brown**, 1st Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers had died 21 days earlier aged 28. His story appeared as number 46 in this series.

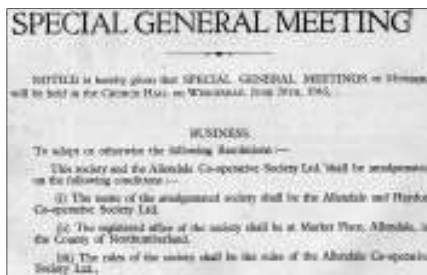


Edward has no known grave and is commemorated on one of the panels on the Soissons Memorial, France.

**If you have any information relating to Edward John Brown, or any of those individuals on the Haydon Bridge Memorial, then please contact Pam & Ken Linge at: Drystone, Heugh House Lane, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6HJ, phone (01434) 684050 or email: pam\_ken.linge@btinternet.com.**

**Wednesday, June 20th 1945, was a significant day in the life of the Haydon Bridge Co-operative Society. The Store committee had sent a circular to all members, within which they proposed an amalgamation with the Allendale Co-operative and Provident Society Ltd. - to make savings in administrative and distribution costs and in buying for a larger unit; to turn over stock more quickly; and to provide new departments and services for an expected increase in membership.**

A meeting was held in the Church Hall to vote on the issue and the motion was proposed by the Society president George Natrass, and seconded by George Briggs. In spite of guest speakers from the CWS directorate and the Co-operative Union speaking in favour of the proposal, the tellers who counted the show of hands found only 28 members in favour



of the proposal and 81 against and, therefore, the Haydon Bridge Society remained independent.

In view of the decision taken by the members, and the lack of confidence shown in the committee, the president George Natrass and committee members J.W. Coats and T. Wilson, resigned. In November 1945, J. Elwick and J. Moffatt also resigned from the

committee. M.J. Adamson, who said he hadn't agreed with the amalgamation proposal in the first place, was appointed the new Society president; not for long however. **In December 1945, an election saw George Briggs returned as president of the Society with a comfortable majority.**

By the end of 1945, the 'Haltwhistle Co-operative Group' (see page 10) had been renamed, 'South Tyne Co-operative Services Ltd.' and the Haydon Bridge Society had invested £1,668 in the project. It seems that the provision of a bakery at Haltwhistle had not been the success hoped for and it was taken over by Carrick's caterers. The South Tyne Co-op Services group continued to operate, however, in the interests of mutual co-operation.

As far as our Haydon Bridge Society was concerned, the traumas of 1945, and especially the fall out from the resounding vote in favour of remaining as an independent society against the committee's wishes, left the committee depleted in numbers. Committee members taking the Society into 1946 were: George Briggs, J. Adamson, J.T. Armstrong, Edward Raine, J.E. Ridley and a new member, J. Leathard.

**The year ended with Jack Swallow, who had been with the Society for twenty six years, retiring. Jack was given an honorarium of £26; £1 for each year worked.**

To be continued next month

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*HB Playgroup is a member of Pre-School Learning Alliance.*

**For more information on the above sessions or an informal chat please contact Kelly Richardson 07732260415**

## **HAYDON BRIDGE TINY TOTS**

*TINY TOTS - from birth to three years*

Tiny Tots runs on Tuesday mornings from 9.15 'til 11.00 (term time only) at Haydon Bridge Fire Station.

The sessions offer a chance for babies/toddlers, parents and carers to meet, play and try crafts. Followed by a snack and a drink, music or story time.

Cost per session is £1.50.

**For more information on the above sessions or an informal chat please contact:  
Kelly Richardson 07732260415  
or Nicola Grint on 07879999289**

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### Haydonian Social Club Darts Team

Haydonian Social Club darts team had a very successful season competing in the Haltwhistle & District darts Division two.

Winning the League and Bell cup. Two more trophies were won on finals/presentation night held at the comrades club in Haltwhistle Saturday 2nd May.

Winning the division two cup final against the railway trains and also James Brown & Graeme Pigg winning the doubles final.

Liam Scudamore won best singles average for the season.

Team captain Paul Makepeace would like to thank all the team, Jimmy & Julie Carruthers & all the staff at the Haydonian Social Club for a brilliant season.

### HALTWHISTLE GOLF CLUB

#### THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Calling all girls! There is a Special Event for girls and ladies on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at Haltwhistle Golf Club.

Anyone over 14 can come along from 6pm, and have refreshments and a chat with players while hearing about keeping fit in the fresh air. Golf is a game where you can play locally at any time, on a spectacular course. Give it a try – have a go at golf.

Just turn up at the club, Wallend, Greenhead, CA8 7HN (on the B6318 Greenhead to Gilsland Road). Or telephone 016977 47367.

Thursdays from 18<sup>th</sup> June there will be beginners coaching, subject to demand. There will be special rates with, girls of 14 to 26 being funded by Sportivate, a project to introduce young people to sport. This will be at 6pm, with older ladies at 7pm subject to sufficient interest.

Junior boys can still come along and join. Their £25 membership gives weekly coaching sessions and the chance to play at the course all year.

Adults can join the club on a 3 month trial membership, to see if they like the sport, for just £80.

Call the club on 016977 47367.

*Donella Rozario*

## CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

### CLERGY MESSAGE FROM:

*Rev. Dr. Benjamin Carter*

It is just over six months since I came to be Vicar here. It has been a wonderful time for us all at the Vicarage; but one thing it has not been is quiet.

Arriving in October meant that I have gone through all the highlights of the Church year in double-quick time. After only a few weeks of beginning it was Remembrance Sunday, then Advent and Christmas. After a quick break we were into Lent and then Holy Week and Easter. With the Feasts of Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity over the last few weeks we have traced the full story of the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ which lies at the heart of the Christian faith.

There is a danger therefore that the coming months might seem a little low, a little dull in comparison to all these highlights. The "Green" Sundays after Trinity (we call them "Green" because that is the colour we use in Church for these Sundays) can seem like an after thought. This is not helped by their Church name for this season of "Ordinary Time" which seems to contrast them with the extra-Ordinary Time of the great festivals of the Christian Year.

However there is another way to look at this time stretching before us. Like our calendar year or our agricultural year this is a time to watch things grow. A wonderful way of telling Bible stories called *Godly Play* calls these weeks and months the "green growing-time". Certainly in the life of your Parish Church that is the case. Across the two Parishes I am Vicar it is wonderful to see things growing all the time: people growing in faith with sixteen people following our *Pilgrim Course* and a dozen or so other people looking to begin regular Bible study.

## WHO AND WHERE

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

**Rev. Dr. Benjamin Carter**  
with St. Cuthberts Anglican Church  
The Vicarage, Station Yard  
Tel. 01434 688196

**Deacon Anne Taylor**  
with the Methodist Congregation  
Woodville, Redesmouth Road, Bellingham  
Tel: 01434 220283

**Father Leo Pyle**  
with St John's Catholic Church  
St John's Presbytery, North Bank  
Tel. 01434 684265

Ideas and new initiatives growing up meaning that my life, far from quieting down, is filling up with new ideas and new possibilities. I am sure that my friends from the other Churches could tell similar stories.

As the summer begins to stretch out before us it is tempting to see this as an empty time. But it is perhaps more fruitful to think of it as a growing-time: a time to discover new things, to take on a new challenge, to grow individually and collectively in a new way. I certainly hope and pray that the coming month will be a fruitful time, and that this time, far from being ordinary, will be a growing-time for you and all who you love.

With love, your Vicar,

Benjamin

### CHRISTIAN AID 2015 HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION

This year from our village we raised the marvellous sum of - to be confirmed next month

Many thanks to all who gave of their time to help with this worthy cause.



**METHODIST  
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**7 June**

10am Morning Worship  
Deacon Anne Taylor  
6pm Evening Worship  
Rev. Jenny Wilkes

**14 June**

10am Morning Worship  
Reader's Service  
6pm Communion Worship  
Rev. Maureen Lloyd

**21 June**

10am Morning Worship  
Roger Bland  
6pm Evening Worship  
Bob McAlpin

**28 June**

10am Morning Worship  
Roger Anthony  
6pm Evening Worship  
Ian Warburton

**5 July**

10am Morning Worship  
Rev. John Howard  
6pm Evening Worship  
Rev. David Goodall

**ANGLICAN SERVICES**

**7 June**

**Henshaw**  
9 30am Parish Eucharist BCP  
**St. Cuthberts**  
11am Parish Eucharist BCP  
**Haydon Old Church**  
6pm Evening Worship

**14 June**

**Henshaw**  
9 30am Parish Eucharist  
**St. Cuthberts**  
11am Parish Eucharist

**21 June**

**Beltingham**  
9 30am Parish Eucharist  
and Baptism

**St. Cuthberts**

11am Parish Eucharist

**28 June**

**Beltingham**  
10am *Joint Eucharist*  
Haydon Old Church  
5pm Evening Worship

**ROMAN CATHOLIC  
SERVICES**

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am  
Mass each Sunday at 11.00am at  
Haltwhistle

Mass on weekdays (except Mon-  
days) at 10.00am  
either St John's or Haltwhistle.

**THE MEETING PLACE**

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
Come and Bring your friends for  
Tea, Coffee and Biscuits

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
10am – 12 noon  
**A Warm welcome to All**

**Messy Church**

**10th June**

**3.30 pm at the  
Methodist Church**

come along and  
bring your friends  
(under 8yrs must be accompanied  
by an adult)

**Methodist  
Church**

Fundraising event for

**McMillan Cancer Care Support**

Tuesday 7th July 7.30pm  
An illustrated talk entitled

**'My Icelandic Cruise'**

given by

**Ann Cooper**

from Ponteland

Refreshments will be served

**All donations to McMillan Cancer**

**Exploring the Bible**

There will be a meeting on  
**Thursday 4 June at 7.30pm**  
**in Westwood**

for anyone interested in taking part in  
regular monthly Bible study. If you are  
interested or would like to know more  
please contact The Vicar.

The Rev'd. Dr. Benjamin Carter  
Vicar of the Benefice of Haydon Bridge  
& Beltingham with Henshaw

The Vicarage  
Station Yard  
Haydon Bridge  
Northumberland  
NE47 6LL

**01434 688 196**  
**07985 412 542**

# NOTICES & WHAT'S ON?

## HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

HBUAFC hold their monthly meeting on the first **Monday** of every month at **7.30pm** in the Lounge of the **Anchor Hotel** where representatives of every football team in the village are invited to attend.

This meeting is also open to members of the public.

## WEST TYNEDALE JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 5yrs-12yrs

TAG/CONTACT RUGBY

MEET AT HAYDON BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
ON SUNDAYS 10.30am- 12.00noon

Contact Dave on 07810 336 537

or [dave.thornhill@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dave.thornhill@tiscali.co.uk) or the website  
[www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtynedalejuniors](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtynedalejuniors).

ALL WELCOME.

## HAYDON BRIDGE DANCE CLUB

### SEQUENCE DANCING



EVERY MONDAY  
7.30 to 10.00pm  
Haydon Bridge  
Community Centre

Only £1.50 inc. tea &  
biscuits

DANCING IS FOR FUN

Ask for details at:

## VICTIM SUPPORT

*Working for  
victims of crime.*

If you are a victim of crime, we can offer support in practical and emotional ways. Just a phone call away.

Call *Leanne* at:  
01661830770

82, Front St. Prudhoe.  
NE42 5PU

Or

0167082234 (Bedlington)

## HAYDON BRIDGE LOCAL ARTISTS' GROUP

# HAYDON ART CLUB

Open to all, first session free. Meets fortnightly at  
HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

June 10th and 24th

Alternate Wednesdays, 6.30pm-9.15pm

For details/enquiries

please contact Barbara on 01434 688 886

## HAYDON BRIDGE JUDO CLUB

Keep Fit, Have Fun! Young or Old.

Tuesdays at HB High School

Juniors: 6pm - 7pm Seniors: 7pm - 9pm

BJA Qualified Coaches

Contact Michael on: 01 434 684 783

## WHIST DRIVES Langley Village Hall

Fortnightly on  
Saturdays  
at 7.00pm.

£1.00 entrance  
(Everyone welcome)

## Haydon Bridge & Allendale Medical Practice

Monday to Friday: The Health Centre is open continuously  
from 8.00am until 6.00pm

(except for the afternoon of the **fourth** Wednesday of every month)

Doctors consult between: 8.00am and 11.00am  
3.00pm and 5.30pm

All phone calls for appointments and visits,  
including 'out of hours': 01434 684 216

All phone calls for dispensing or prescriptions: 01434 688351

E-mail address: [Admin@GP-A84045.NHS.UK](mailto:Admin@GP-A84045.NHS.UK)

Website [www.haydonbridgesurgery.co.uk](http://www.haydonbridgesurgery.co.uk)

## CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

Programme of Charity Fund-Raising Quizzes at the  
General Havelock, Haydon Bridge.

All Quizzes start at 8.15 pm £1.50 per person

Refreshments, 'Beer Question' and Raffle

June 16th

Haydon Bridge Parish Church

**\*\*Queenie Quiz\*\***

July 14th

Anthony Nolan Trust

Quizmaster

John Harrison ([johnandaveril@aol.com](mailto:johnandaveril@aol.com))

## Advance Notice For Local Artists

This year's exhibition will be from  
**June 21st till June 27th.**

All local artists are invited  
to show their work .

Contact Robert on 684486 for more info.

# SHAFTOE SINGERS

(used to be The Shaftoe Chorale)

**7.30pm Friday evenings**

- term times only

Very wide ranging repertoire.

All voices welcome — experienced or not.

**Methodist Church Hall**

## HEAR TO HELP

*Anne Shilton, Action on Hearing Loss (previously RNID)*  
01670 513606 [heartohelp.northoftyne@hearingloss.org.uk](mailto:heartohelp.northoftyne@hearingloss.org.uk).

Following dates to be confirmed, depending upon  
continued project funding:

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 12 noon - 1.00 pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 12 noon - 1.00 pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 12 noon - 1.00 pm

All sessions at the Haydon Bridge Health Centre.

## THE BRIDGE LIBRARY & TOURIST INFORMATION POINT

Telephone 01434 688658

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY: 9.00am-12 noon

TUESDAY: 1.00pm-4.00pm

WEDNESDAY: 1.00pm-4.00pm

FRIDAY: 4.00pm-6.30pm

SATURDAY: 9.30am-12.30am

Coffee and tea available

## In Denmark 53% of the population is involved in some sort of community activity.

There's plenty happening in Haydon parish and Tynedale.  
Why not give a few things a try, meet new people and get involved.  
There's interesting times and people out there and you can be part of it too.

### HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

a great venue for:

Club activities

Meetings

Celebrations

Parties

Concerts

Plays

To make a booking contact Valerie on  
**01434 684705**

### HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2015

All walks start from the given meeting place at 6.30 pm. prompt unless stated different. If in doubt of a walk taking place due to bad weather, please confirm with the walks leader or walks programme secretary Cynthia Bradley on 01434 684622. Please come properly equipped with hiking boots and waterproofs and car share where possible. Thank you.

**Maps Ordnance Survey, Explorer OL43, Land ranger 87**

**June 4<sup>th</sup>.** Ceri Gibson 688432 6.45.pm.

**"Haltwhistle Burn"** Meet at Cawfields Quarry Car Park Circular 2 styles and farm yards. 5miles Tyne River Trust Conservation Walk

**June 18<sup>th</sup>.** Cynthia Bradley 684622

**"Monks Wood"** Meet Quarry House, near the road junction at Keenley Well. GR NY792565

Circular. Pasture, lower edge of wood runs parallel for just over 1 mile with the river West Allen. Final stretch moor, top road gives views across the valley. 4 miles

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Anne Carter 684856 6.45.pm.

**"Crintle Dykes"** Meet on Stanegate. GR 785670

Circular fell walk. 3-4 miles  
Beautiful wild flowers/ Geology.

### Hexham Beacon Club

Programme-

3<sup>rd</sup> June Joys of emigration (Part 1)

10<sup>th</sup> June (No meeting)

17<sup>th</sup> June Wandering in the New World  
(Part 2)

On Wednesdays 10-30 to 12-00 at  
Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Hexham

## JOYCE'S QUIZ

At the Haydonian Social Club  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 8.30pm  
Quiz Host: Joyce

## HAYDON BRIDGE CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Carpet Bowls Club is urgently seeking new members.

Beginners are welcome, any age, any ability, men or women.

The Club's summer practice sessions started on 14th May. Sessions are held fortnightly in The Haydon Bridge Community Centre at 7pm.

If you would like to come along you can be sure of a warm welcome from this friendly and sociable group.

**For further details contact;**

**Sandra Brough 01434 684372**

**Or**

**Ian Mckirkle 01434 684579**

## ADVANCE NOTICE FRUIT & VEG SHOW

August 29th 2015

at The General Havelock, Haydon Bridge

All entries by 12. Judging at 1pm

Categories in next issue -- Preserves /cakes /veg/ etc.

**"Kevin Roberts" singing from 9pm**

All produce auctioned at 10pm

Proceeds to charity.

Put this date in your diary all you great British bakers

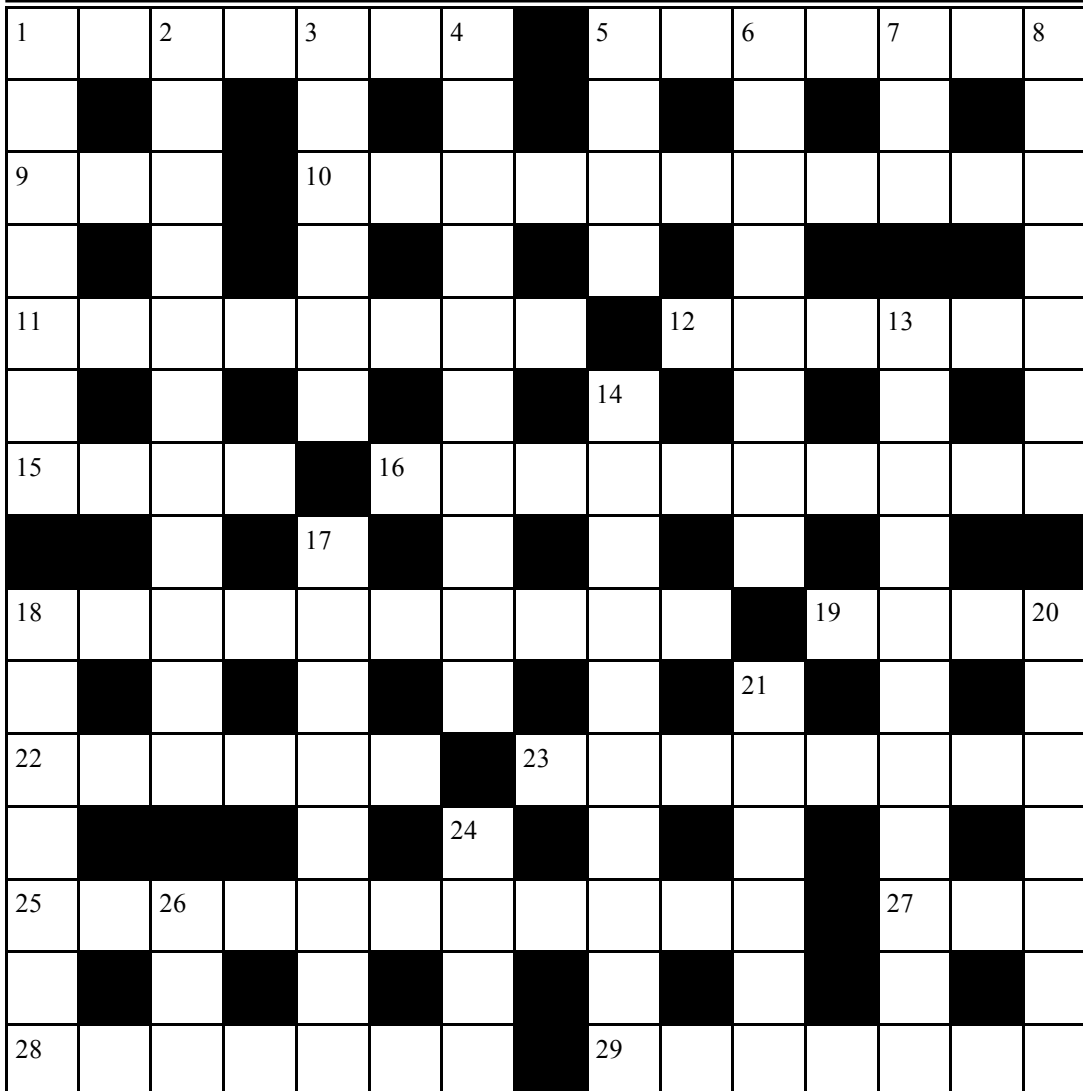
# THE HAYDONIAN CRUCIVERBALIST

June 2015

£10 PRIZE EVERY MONTH!

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....



**MAY'S  
WINNER:**

**Joyce Waugh**

**NUMBER  
OF ENTRIES:**

**12**

**10 correct**

Please drop answers  
off at Claire's or  
post to the editor.

**ACROSS**

- 1 A leg up, say, for fifty in 'er consort (7)
- 5 At centre of repeated phrase, pinch an inch here (7)
- 9 Frodo's talking tree out to catch fish (3)
- 10 Private mixed up with Doris (no ecstasy though) on this comment site (4,6)
- 11 Laughter back in Illinois irrigating its lands (8)
- 12 After best before, keep quiet, pin down the basic (6)
- 15 see 4 down
- 16 Run publicity on the preacher? (10)
- 18 Reap credit? We'd all rather pay this rate (5,5)
- 19 Shout of exuberation lost direction for ring (4)
- 22 Sounds spacious but is really cold and damp (6)
- 23 No Old English note replaced between ourselves (3,2,3)
- 25 Taken in by rust about rear end (5,6)
- 27 Floral decoration of the Pleiades (3)
- 28 Developed plan involving eggs ... (7)
- 29 ... in principle they're back in, but not in us (7)

**DOWN**

- 1 Carlo very loudly leads church (7)
- 2 Grill and bury alternative back in front of entrance (11)
- 3 Stop press – invert thanks in case (6)
- 4 & 15 Amphibian not to be kissed by princess? (6,4,4)
- 5 Seemly sounding stuff on bones (4)
- 6 Joint where birds of a feather may come together (8)
- 7 Greek cries of joy (3)
- 8 Pass on ancestor (7)
- 13 Wherewithal with which to fill up your Chevy perhaps (11)
- 14 Sid's up and happy as Larry? Oh no he isn't (10)
- 17 Spot Esme cut in tree (8)
- 18 Clear of hour in vessel (7)
- 20 No discount at this old petrol pump (7)
- 21 Liberty, maybe, eshrined in law without time (6)
- 24 Pitt's nail (4)
- 26 Starts date of that year? (3)



After months of mentioning our new flashing speed limit sign in the Parish Council notes, it has finally arrived. I had to wait all of ten seconds for a passing motorist to trigger it for this photo but it is definitely working - brakes were applied very sharply! The sign was paid for out of Cllr. Alan Sharp's official funds.



### Debs Mobile Hairdressing Services.

After a number of years working in work based learning and with 30 years' experience in hairdressing, I have decided to set up my mobile hairdressing services to the local community. I have a wealth of experience in all hairdressing services which includes cutting, colouring, perming and creatively styling hair.

My visit to your home will be professional and friendly. A consultation will cover the correct choice of service and, best of all, once the service is complete, you will have no mess to tidy up providing styling products, towels and vacuum.

Offering elite packages -

*How to create your style - this is especially important to many clients as often they do not know how to get the look they want.*

*Showing simple techniques.*

*Party packages for older girls, tips on how to use products and techniques to keep your hair healthy.*

*Prom packages, offering hair and makeup with a qualified beauty therapist (trials would be advisable prior to the day).*

For further details contact;

- Deb's home 01434684890
- mobile 07889261360
- email [deburgess@yahoo.com](mailto:deburgess@yahoo.com)
- Facebook: Debs Mobile Hairdressing.

### May's answers.

1	C	L	A	U	S	T	4	R	O	5	P	H	O	6	B	7	I	A																				
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### Unintentional Pun of the Month:

I went into the Haydon Bridge butcher to buy ingredients for my sophisticated 'Chicken & Potato One Pot' recipe.

**Me:** Hello. Do you have any chicken wings?

**Butcher:** No sorry. Completely sold out. They've been flying off the shelves all week.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We don't get out much nowadays (apart from the Co-op and Claire's of course) so here in Whaletrouser Towers, gathering round the TV with a warm Horlicks passes for enthralling entertainment. That and watching the bin men trying to reverse their wagon out of our tight cul-de-sac each Monday lunchtime.

The refuse collection competes for our attention with the drama series 'Doctors' on BBC1, so it's lucky I can multi-task.

Our current daily thrill is Professional Masterchef. Or "Food Porn" as it's known in the Shires. I realise there's nothing Masterchef can teach me but I watch it anyway just to make sure they're doing it right. We've been rooting for Danny from Newcastle.

He's only 24 bless and the poor lad constantly looks like a rabbit caught in the headlights. Monica Galetti - one of the judges and senior Chef at Le Gavroche - is from Samoa but still has English as a first language. Which is more than can be said for Danny. Monica stares uncomprehending at him whenever he speaks in his broad Geordie brogue. And this despite her working for the hard-to-understand Frenchman Michel Roux. Who ironically used to host Professional Masterchef until an unsavoury row over some potatoes led to the BBC bidding him Au-revoir. And Bon jour to his replacement, Marcus Waring.

"Wheyayeman!" Danny replied as Monica asked him if he was nervous. She couldn't tell if that was a 'Yes' or the name of his starter.

And what a starter! Squab Pigeon on a bed of Chanterelles mushrooms peppered with sea herbs and Friséé. I must have a look in the Co-op for those ingredients so I can make it myself. I always thought Friséé was a miniature poodle but this is no time to be squeamish. If a recipe calls for fluffy canine puppies who am I to argue?

Danny got more and more nervous as the series progressed. His hands were shaking so much that the blender lay on the bench - unplugged and unnecessary. Monica asked him why he was all a-tremble.

"Eeeh ah divvent knaaa pet!" cried Danny which Monica interpreted as a medical ailment and immediately called the BBC nurse to fetch some ointment. She was worried he'd been foraging for the sea herbs in North Shields' mud flats and caught something off one of the lasses in Whitley Bay instead.

Danny was voted out in the penultimate round which meant the three remaining competitors headed to San Sebastian in Spain without him. It's probably just as well. I don't think he's ever been further afield than Pelaw and they wouldn't understand a word he was saying anyway.

The finalists were to spend two days cooking at the renowned Máguritz - run by Señor Andoni and voted the 4th best restaurant in the world. Although interestingly enough when I checked on Trip Advisor it was also voted 5th best in the local hamlet! That must be some village. God knows what was number one. Probably McDonald's, if Trip Advisor's much criticised reputation is anything to go by.

Over in San Sebastian, Food Porn was to reach new heights. Apparently many thousands of international chefs apply annually for one of only 30 job placements. Set on a hilltop amidst beautiful greenery, the restaurant proved a Mecca for diners who will happily travel the globe just to pay €158 for a meal.

That doesn't include drinks of course; a bottle of Lambrini and a couple of cans of Special Brew could easily double that amount.

Despite being a world-class chef myself, even I am humble enough to realise there are still things I could learn on the gourmet front. I watched with interest and took notes. The bin-men had already been that day so I feared no distraction.

First the cameras zoomed in on the table decorations. Crisp cloud-white cloths and napery were of course de rigueur. Then bang in the middle were two halves of a large broken plate artistically positioned. Genius! Nothing gets thrown away in this place. No sooner does the poor overworked dishwasher drop a plate when the Maître d sweeps it up and plonks it on the table as a focal point. Masterstroke.

I made a note to self that I must try it next time we have an accident in the kitchen. The broken shards will immediately find a new home as a culinary centrepiece. Flowers? They're so last year.

The motto in Máguritz is that food should never look like, er, food. Nor taste like it. Which is very fortunate as my husband says mine doesn't either.

So first up was soft smoked meringue with raw squid. If you're of a delicate disposition look away now. The starter arrived looking like someone had already eaten it. And thrown it up once they encountered the uncooked fish. It was placed in the middle of what can only be described as a miniature dog bowl. Clearly it must have belonged to the Friséé who, sadly, no longer had any use for it.

If you should order this and find a hair dear reader then please understand it's part of the meal. Don't complain otherwise you'll just look like a Geordie Philistine and may be shown the door.

As the last course came into view the narrator told us this was 'Poached Lily with Soil and Herbs'. All edible. I congratulated myself on having those very elements in our back garden here in Haydon Bridge. Ok it's winter so no lilies. The pansies will have to do

instead. Soil? Too easy - pass me a shovel. As for herbs, we haven't lived here long and I can only go by what the previous occupants planted. There are some dodgy looking specimens by the bins which could be parsley. This meal would practically make itself.

I gathered it all in, ready to outdo and outshine Máguritz. As I showed my husband what he was having for his tea he dropped the plates he was holding and they crashed to the floor. Clever man! We would now enjoy a magnificent meal AND an avant-garde table decoration in homage to le patron Señor Andoni.

Or win-win as we say here in our own Michelin-starred Whaletrouser Towers.

*Euphemia Escoffier Blumenthal.*

### **Let's twitch again!**

In our March edition the Nature Club challenged you to find out how many of the birds from our 50-year old list could still be spotted around the village, and perhaps add some new varieties to the list. Excited twitchers have already reported 6 extra varieties, Nuthatch, Red Kite, Heron, Kingfisher, Buzzard and Siskin within a 5 mile radius of the village.

Now is the time for you to return your completed "Spring" form to the Bridge and pick up a blank one to record Summer visitors. Take it with you next time you go for a walk or look outside and tick off each variety you spot. Add any new ones in the blank spaces. Each season we will publish the list of what has been seen.

At the Bridge you can also pick up free colourful illustrated checklists for children to use. We will have books and information cards at the Bridge to help the whole family identify our feathered friends. The RSPB website has loads of activities for kids and an interactive bird identifier too. We are hoping to run some special bird-themed events for children during the summer.

Each season the Nature Club will suggest which varieties will most likely be seen in different locations. Many birds live here all year long, others are visitors. In Summer in the garden there are likely to be Swallows and Swifts. By the river you might be able to spot a Common Sandpiper or Oystercatcher. Meanwhile up on the fells Grouse and all sorts of Owls should be about, and Coots may be seen on the ponds.

Not sure where to walk and watch? The Bridge has free Family Quiz trail leaflets to guide you round the village, as well as free maps for the John Martin Heritage trail. 50p will get you a guide to other local walks and we have reference books that cover walking in the whole of Northumberland.

Give birdwatching a go - all ages can do it, either out in the open air or even from a window, it is free and it is a great excuse to get out for some exercise!

*Haydon Bridge Nature Club*

## **Glendale Pool and Parties!**



North Road, Haltwhistle, NE49 9ND

**SWIM in the private, indoor heated pool  
(Private Hire)**

*PARTY in the pool  
EAT in The Lodge and  
PLAY in The Glen;*

*our wooded garden with large climbing frame, picnic area  
and beautiful valley views.*

To book call Julie on

**01434 320711 or 0797 169 1631**

More information at [glendaleleisure.co.uk](http://glendaleleisure.co.uk)

## **GARY CUNNINGHAM**

*Professional decorator.*

**30 years experience**

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email: [gary@tynedaledecorator.co.uk](mailto:gary@tynedaledecorator.co.uk)

*'Quality doesn't cost, it pays'*

## **PAUL BROWN**

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**ALL TYPES OF CERAMIC, PORCELAIN**

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## **FRESH FISH**

**FROM SHORE TO YOUR DOOR**

**DAVID GERRARD, FISH MERCHANT**

**WILL BE IN HAYDON BRIDGE, CHURCH STREET**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY from 12.00noon-12.30pm**

**Cod, Haddock, Sole, Bass, Monkfish, Scallops, Fishcakes,  
Salmon, Kippers, Smoked Haddock, other fish available.**

**SMALL OR LARGE ORDERS**

**CALL 07900 584289 or 01333 730791**

**EMAIL: [gerrard549@btinternet.com](mailto:gerrard549@btinternet.com)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CERT & STREET TRADING LICENCE HELD.**

**MAKE FISH YOUR MAIN DISH**

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PROPANE or BUTANE**

Delivery if required.

Call or phone.

**POPLARS CARAVAN  
PARK**

Haydon Bridge

**Tel: 01434 684427**

**HAYDON VIEW**

**Residential Care Home**  
North Bank, Haydon Bridge

*Long Term Residential Care  
Respite/Holiday/Day Care*  
For more information please contact:

**Chris or Audrey Kay**

**Tel 01434 684465**

## Letter to the editor

Dear Editor

I am glad to hear that Dan Dowling does not allow racism to go unchallenged in Haydon Bridge, a position I believe the overwhelming majority of the village's residents wholeheartedly support.

For this reason I feel compelled to respond to his recent article.

Dan refers to a racist incident that occurred in one of the village's pubs 4 years ago during the London riots. From his account, the incident sounds utterly abhorrent, ignorant and unacceptable. I respect and applaud him for challenging the views the "locals" expressed.

I find it peculiar, however, that he believes Haydon Bridge to be an exceptional environment where racism can apparently flourish. Like Dan, I work all over the country and I am not naive enough to think racism has been eradicated in any town, city or village I have visited. Sadly, bigoted, racist and homophobic people exist in all walks of life, across all parts of the country, thankfully as a small minority of society. Does this mean we should accept the fact? Of course not; we should continue to challenge prejudice wherever we find it but Haydon Bridge certainly doesn't have a monopoly on racism.

Dan may not have heard "foul or antiquated bile" in Rothbury's pubs but I would draw his attention to a report in the Newcastle Journal from 16 June 2014 regarding "racist, homophobic and Nazi" graffiti daubed on two of Rothbury's play parks:

(<http://www.thejournal.co.uk/news/north-east-news/rothbury-residents-outraged-vandals-target-7277043>).

This illustrates my point that nowhere is immune from the beliefs or actions of a prejudiced few and to single out Haydon Bridge as a special case is, I believe, incorrect.

I find it sad that Dan is "too scared" to arrange for his colleagues from other faiths and races to visit our village. Is he basing this on the incident he describes or on a generalised perception? Does he really fear that the majority of people will be anything less than welcoming to his colleagues? If so, perhaps it would be wise to examine his own prejudices about "insiders" in the village to establish whether his fear is justified.

Having lived in Haydon Bridge for most of my life, and in Tynedale for all of it, I probably fit his label of an "insider." As such I object to his comment that racism is part of the "insider job description." His language suggests that racism is fundamental to being an "insider" from the village and it doesn't recognise that the racism he has witnessed is representative of the few, not the many.

I'm sure Dan and I would agree on a lot, and I do support his condemnation of racism; I just ask that he chooses his words more carefully in future when discussing such an emotive subject that many people feel so passionately about.

Yours sincerely

Claire Batey.

## An open letter to all the residents of Haydon Bridge about our High School.

Dear All

Our High School is having a rough time. I do not know or understand much about the reasons why or what needs to be done about it. What I do know is that the High School is hugely important to our village and so I think it might be a good time to let those currently discussing its future know just how we feel about it.

For me as the parent of four former pupils it is the place where my children learnt a great deal more than their three R's and gained much more than exam results. They gained self-confidence and learn kindness and developed a sense of community. It is what roots them in this village and connects them to this community. All our children being educated together in this small and friendly school is so important if we want Haydon Bridge and in fact our whole catchment area, to keep its sense of community. What the children gain there is much more important than Ofsted rated results. Even if you are not a parent the school is a really important part of our village. It gives business to our shops, jobs to many, and a liveliness we would miss far more than the litter!

So whether you are a pupil or a parent - past, present or future, whether you are a shop-keeper, an employee, or just a resident who goes to classes or clubs at the school, uses the tennis courts or fields, attended some of the great shows they have put on, or simply enjoys the life the school brings to the village and the sense of community it fosters, I urge you to write, e mail or otherwise let them know that we want our great little school strong and healthy and vibrant for the future.

Lets speak up now, before they ask, because often that happens when the decision is pretty much made. It is, it would seem, a real possibility we could lose our school.

So please write to the Board of Governors, care of the school or send it via e mail -

[www.haydonbridgehigh.co.uk](http://www.haydonbridgehigh.co.uk) - and then send a copy to Andrew Johnson, Director of Education, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth. NE61 2EF or e mail him - [andy.johnson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:andy.johnson@northumberland.gov.uk) - .

Send another copy to Guy Opperman - [guy.opperman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:guy.opperman.mp@parliament.uk)

and one to the Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan - [nicky.morgan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nicky.morgan.mp@parliament.uk).

The decision is being taken by an Independent Educational Board or IEB, none of the members of which appear to come from Haydon Bridge, or if they do we don't know who they are, so we really need to make sure they know how important the school is to us.

Please, please write even if you only write to one of the above. Don't let us leave it till it is too late. Decisions will be made very soon.

Thank you

*Genevieve Stone*  
*11 Belmont Gardens, Haydon Bridge.*



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## Carpet Bowls Club

ANOTHER rollercoaster season has come to an end for Haydon Bridge Carpet Bowls Club. Matches against other clubs from across the Tyne Valley and beyond have yielded more good results than bad. Notable performances include the 65-55 victory at Slaggyford, with a relatively new-look Haydon Bridge team starting to take shape, through practice, dedication, and natural ability. It's difficult to believe that about half of the current members have only been playing for two-and-a-half seasons, having joined in January 2013, such is the way they have adapted, settled-in, and excelled on the carpets.

More recently, the club has welcomed three newcomers who have instantly taken to the club, both socially, and in competition. This season has also seen several members enjoy participation in singles, doubles, triples and rinks tournaments at Longbenton. Whilst the competitive spirit of players has ensured a more winning mentality in recent months, the friendly nature of the club has made it the place to be for anyone seeking a night out.

The club's regular coffee morning, on the third Saturday of every month at the community centre, from 10am, has been a resounding success. Complementing this is an annual large-scale raffle, which has raised funds for local causes, such as the Health Centre, the Bridge Library, the Community Centre, and the Get It Together Society.

The club is an all-year-round organisation. During the season, which runs from September to April, it plays matches against teams from the likes of Falstone, Lambley, Catton, Slaggyford, Bellingham, Slaley and more, both home and away. Club nights, which are for practice, and enjoying tea and biscuits, take place at the Community Centre, the club's home since it was founded almost 30 years ago. During the summer months, club nights take place once a fortnight, on Thursday nights, from 7pm.

The club is currently a hive of activity, with members of all ages mixing and contributing to a friendly atmosphere. New blood is always welcome. That can be anyone of any age. You may have a love of sport, a competitive edge, or simply be looking to meet new people whilst taking part in a social activity. Bowling offers all of the above, as well as opportunities to travel to other communities, and the chance to be part of a long-established village group.

**Anyone who would like to get involved should contact:**

**Ian McKirdle on 684 579**

**Sandra Brough on 684 372.**

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## Haydonian Social Club

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# FAMILY PRIZE BINGO

**+ CHAIR BINGO**

**At Haydonian Social Club**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

\*\*\*

**Eyes down 7.30pm.**

\*\*\*

(Prize donations much appreciated)

Come along and enjoy a friendly night of fun!

**Everyone welcome.**

## “Les Petits Loups”

and the children of the French club in Haydon Bridge invite children( 2-10 y) and adults to their end of year performance based on Eric Carle’s book

*Please call to let me know, how many people are coming to the event so we can organise the room.  
Refreshments available!*

**« LA CHENILLE QUI FAIT DES TROUS »**



**Place:** Methodist Church, Haydon Bridge

**When:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**Time:** 4.20 pm- 4.40 pm

**Register by 30<sup>th</sup> June, for a free entrance on**  
[lespetitsloups@btinternet.com](mailto:lespetitsloups@btinternet.com)

or call Lydia Mills on 07958053479.

Merci!

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 Do have a.....  
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 You'll wonder where the yellow went.....  
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 Live well for less.....  
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 From shore to your door.....  
 Have a break have a.....  
 Should have gone to.....  
 Together we can change lives.....  
 The secret to perfect cake.....

*Ed. No prizes for this one, it's just for fun. High scores might suggest a need for more exercise!*

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# HAYDON BRIDGE FESTIVAL

## SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2 PM



### TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT

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### SUPPORTING CHARITIES

Defibrillator Fund   Stay Strong STU   Cure Parkinsons Trust



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/HaydonBridgeFestival

## **Haydon Bridge Festival – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 from 2pm**

The Haydon Bridge Beer Festival had become a successful annual event in the village. Providing an event attended by all ages for a relaxed day of good music and real ales. Sadly, this year the previous organisers decided against continuing with the event and it looked as though there would be no festival.

The Haydon Bridge United Football Club decided that the event was too important to lose from the village calendar. The club formed a small 3 person committee, independent from the football club to explore the possibility of retaining the Festival event in some form. It became quickly apparent that there was an overwhelming level of support in the village for the festival to continue and plans were quickly put in to place.

The main purpose of the festival is to raise money for good causes, in our first year of running the festival we have picked 3 causes as our primary beneficiaries.

### **Defibrillator Fund**



*Everyone will have read about the incident during a football match in Haydon Bridge earlier in the year. A player collapsed and experienced cardiac arrest on the pitch and would have died without the assistance provided by members of the Haydon Bridge United coaching staff and the essential life saving equipment fortunately available.*

*The defibrillator used that day was there purely by chance, without it the outcome would have been very different. The football club will use profits from this year's festival to purchase a defibrillator, which will be secured to the outside of the football club's pavilion.*

### **Stay Strong Stu**



*The Aim of the Stay Strong Stu campaign is jointly to raise awareness of Brain Tumours and to empower our communities to help fight such an illness – whilst also providing practical support to Stu.*

*Stu Ridley is a 25 year old farmer from Northumberland whose life is centred on rugby, farming, family and friends. The youngest of three rugby playing brothers, he grew up in West Northumberland where he attended Haydon Bridge High School.*

*Stu is an exceptional 'personality' and his attitude in the face of a life-threatening illness is testimony to his drive and determination, backed up by a very positive approach to people and life!*

### **Cure Parkinson's Trust**



*The Cure Parkinson's Trust is a patient led charity which funds research that will have an impact on the lives of the 10 million people living with Parkinson's, with the hope of an eventual cure for the condition. We fund trials into potential new treatments to slow, halt or reverse Parkinson's. Their mission is to obliterate Parkinson's once and for all.*

*The Cure Parkinson's Trust was founded in 2005 by four people with Parkinson's: Sir Richard Nichols, Air Vice Marshal Michael Dicken, Sir David Jones and Tom Isaacs. Their specific aim was to raise money to fund and facilitate research into finding a cure for Parkinson's. They dared to believe that a cure could be found.*

### **Festival Details**

The festival will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 from 2pm onwards and will host several local bands and locally sourced drinks and food, more information can be found from:

[www.haydonbridgefestival.co.uk](http://www.haydonbridgefestival.co.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/haydonbridgefestival>

Tickets are priced at £10 and are available from:

Claire's Newsagents  
The Anchor Hotel  
The General Havelock  
The Railway

Each ticket ensures entry into the Festival, a commemorative glass and two drinks tokens. Entry is free to children under 16 years old between 2pm - 7pm. All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Entertainment on the day is scheduled as follows:

15:00 - 16:00 - Positive Vibes Choir  
16:00 - 16:30 - Jill Wilkinson  
16:30 - 17:30 - The Streetmartins  
17:30 - 19:30 - The Tyne Valley Big Band  
19:30 - 20:30 - Blind Buffalo  
20:30 - 21:30 - The Promise  
21:30 - 23:30 - The Pikey Beatz

## A word from **Our Man in the Languedoc**



Bonjour à tous!

With the secondary shocks of the post-election earthquake still being felt in the UK you might have thought that the whole event passed us by in down here in our sleepy enclaves. Not a bit of it!

In the weeks leading up to the 7th of May friends' Facebook pages were awash with political posts, all of them reflecting the deeply held convictions and fervent hopes of the authors. When the result became obvious some of those posts turned positively vitriolic, I can tell you! All of which suggests that "it matters"!

And so it does.

My own (highly suspect!) opinion poll indicates that more than half of our ex-pat friends and acquaintances took the trouble to vote. These days it has become more straightforward to register online from abroad. Our applications for a postal vote were acknowledged swiftly. The ballot papers arrived in good time for us to return them by post. However, quite a few of us entrusted our envelopes to friends making trips back to the UK so that they could be deposited in a good old red pillar box! After all, during the month of May, you never quite know when the French service sector - from teachers and postal workers to air traffic controllers - will decide to go on strike.

May is indeed the favoured month for activists to attempt to bring about disruption because up to four, yes **four**, public holidays can fall during its thirty one days. All those opportunities for mayhem!

What is even more of a downer is that whenever a "jour férié" (Bank Holiday) falls on a Thursday (as a large number of religious festivals do, e.g. Ascension) French workers throughout the country gleefully seize the opportunity to take the Friday off as well. This unofficial "arrangement" is known as "un pont" (bridge) and it neatly enables an employee to have four consecutive days on holiday. In effect it means that the country more or less comes to a standstill as far as business is concerned. Even the supermarkets close.

Every year on the 8th of May the French have a public holiday to celebrate Victory in Europe Day. This year, on the 70th anniversary, much was made of the event in the UK, and rightly so.



In France, however, this annual commemoration goes to the very soul of the nation. It represents the lifting of the yoke of German oppression and the liberation of their beloved "patrie" from five long years of occupation. In every village a respectful act of remembrance takes place at the war memorial, the Tricolore carried by one of the now dwindling band of "anciens combattants". The Last Post is sounded, the Marseillaise is sung and a letter from the Ministry of Defence is read aloud by every mayor to those assembled. I never fail to be moved by the emotion of these poignant moments and the memories they evoke.



So, whatever political "battles" have been fought lately, let us put them into context and be thankful that our two countries continue to live in peace as we have done for more than two generations.

For this month's tasty French morsel I've elected to share with you a couple of excerpts from one of our regional newspapers. They illustrate the French take on the General Election. No mistakes to look for this time. (A gold star to those of you who correctly spotted that the word "connus" in the last article should have been spelled "connues"!).

**Bonne traduction!**

**Laurent Sieur d'Arques**

*En mai 2015, les Britanniques ont élu les “MP” qui siégeront à la Chambre des communes jusqu’en 2020. Les élections ont été “historiques”, dans la mesure où le Parti Nationaliste Ecossais est devenu le troisième parti britannique en termes de sièges, après avoir raflé 56 des 59 circonscriptions écossaises.*

*Avant l’élection tous les instituts de sondage et toute la presse prévoyait des lendemains de tractations difficiles, pour former un nouveau gouvernement de coalition. En l’occurrence, à la grande surprise, voire la stupéfaction générale, le parti Conservateur a réussi contre toute attente à décrocher une majorité absolue des sièges, lui permettant pour la première fois en 18 ans de former tout seul le nouveau gouvernement, sans besoin de coalition.*

*Au final, les électeurs britanniques ont jugé David Cameron sur les résultats accomplis depuis 2010, qui ont placé la Grande Bretagne à la première place des grands pays industrialisés en matière de croissance et de réduction de chômage. En 2015 les électeurs britanniques lui ont accordé leur confiance; mais les enjeux des cinq ans à venir seront de taille.*



**Richard produces these faster than I can print them. So this month we'll have two to catch up a bit. Ed.**



## The Bridge and Visitor Information Point

### Bird Survey:

Your Spring Bird survey sheets should be almost completed by now so, when they are, bring them along to the Bridge and hand them in or post them through the letter box. In order to cover any summer birds (and late arrivals) pick up another sheet from the librarians’ desk. Remember there are children’s bird surveys to fill in too.

### Children’s Crafts:

Owing to Whit Bank holiday falling at the same time as school half term, you will have noticed that there was no Craft event for the children on the Monday: the library being closed. It was a blip and we shall ensure that next year, if we can’t hold a Crafts session on the Monday, we shall meet instead on the Tuesday afternoon.

In the meantime, there will be two Children’s Crafts during the summer holidays, the first being Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 10am until 11am.

### Summer Reading Challenge:

Working alongside “The Guinness Book of Records”, the theme for the Summer Reading Challenge 2015 is Record Breakers!

Record Breakers will bring together the worlds of fact and fiction, to challenge young readers to explore some astonishing real-life achievements and world records featured in The Guinness World Records Books as part of their Summer Reading Challenge 2015.

As always, young readers will collect stickers as they go. They will discover weird, wonderful and wacky records from around the world in six different categories: 1. Cool Tech, 2. Way to Go, 3. The Big Stuff, 4. Animal Magic, 5. People, Power and Action! and 6. Adventure!

The Guinness World Records, as we know, are about inspiring, celebrating achievement and personal best, which is exactly what the annual Summer Reading Challenge does too. Appealing strongly to boys and girls alike, the Record Breakers theme will also help encourage information skills; engage reluctant readers and inspire wider reading.

During the long summer break, at a time when their reading can really “dip”, children aged 4-11 years are encouraged to read six books, by the Summer Reading Challenge. They can read whatever they like: fact books, joke books, picture books, short stories, long stories-just as long as they are borrowed from the library. More next month ...

### Artist in Residence:

Bill Nicholson and Sally Gill have a combined exhibition in the Bridge until July - two very different artistic styles!

Happy reading ...

## Set fares

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Haydon bridge - Haltwhistle £20  
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## The Haydon Hundred 2015

On Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> the Haydon Hundred will celebrate its third running, bringing cyclists from near and far to the village. The event seems to be gaining in popularity as much for its testing but scenic route as for its friendly and welcoming atmosphere and renowned flapjacks. It certainly brings Church Street to life as a host of gaudily clad athletes descend upon the library first thing in the morning to register and be off, hopefully to return for rest and relaxation in and around the village in the afternoon.

As well as providing vital funds which help keep The Bridge Community Library open, the event helps to raise the profile of the village and show off what we have to offer. We can't really measure it, but observers say that they are spotting more and more cyclists coming back later in the year to explore further.

And this year the Haydon Hundred just got a lot more testing with the addition of the 140km Sky rider route. The original 100km route is still running and tests the mettle of entrants as they head over Hadrian's Wall to the high hills of the North Pennines. Now the Sky rider adds an extra loop to this route, covering five of the six highest roads in England in one fell swoop. From the Nenthead feed station it climbs over into the Tees and then Wear valleys, crossing four of the country's highest summits before rejoining the 100km route to cross the third. Evidence so far is that around half of this year's entrants are happy to take on the challenge, while of course there are still the options of the 100km and 60km routes for those who prefer a less strenuous day.

The Haydon Hundred is a true village event. While it may attract people from afar, it depends on local input to make it work, with village institutions, businesses and individuals all contributing to make the day a success. Entrants can park at the High School, get refreshed at the Methodist Chapel, and when their day is done take their food vouchers to local shops and pubs to help them refuel. Add to that the hardy volunteers who are prepared to spend their day standing at a feed station or a remote road junction and of course the culinary wizards who make the famous flapjack and we have a true example of everyone pulling together to help make the Haydon Hundred the success it has become.

We can always find a job for a few extra volunteers too, so if you are able to help on the day please leave your details at The Bridge and the organisers would be most grateful.

Here's to another great event. Don't forget to mark the date in your diary, and if you fancy some exercise, start at [www.haydonhundred.co.uk](http://www.haydonhundred.co.uk)



**Still smiling.  
Even on cobbles!**



## The M Word

“Oh my God, you look like a whale-fish!” The crude depiction of my shape was delivered with a friendly smile by my then work colleague. I bit my lip and with a practised grin. I mumbled something non-committal in reply. In actual fact I could hardly contain myself with joy at being likened to a gigantic sea mammal.

I was heavily pregnant and the one thing I had learnt during the previous eight months was that becoming a mum meant becoming a free-for-all object of jokes and intrusive comments. Can you imagine what would happen if you compared a fat person to a hundred-ton cetacean? Yet, expectant women have to weather such “jokes” and more on daily basis. Hahaha, of course, I am so big I must be expecting twins. No problem, go ahead and touch my tummy. You would probably be sued for sexual harassment if you did it to anyone else, but a pregnant woman is a public property. Certainly you have a full entitlement to your opinion on what my child is going to be like as you flawlessly determined with your X-ray vision, like Superman.

I naively thought that once I had my baby that would be the end of it. Wrong. From now on you are going to be judged and measured by your children and your success to feed them and teach them various skills. I have no right to be a woman, let alone an attractive one, I am just this nurse, nanny and mummy. That’s all I am. No one is going to look at me and say: didn’t she work hard to achieve this or that in her life? You are no longer a human being, you are a mother and the expectations of society are unrealistically high.

If you don’t manage to emerge from your front door every day looking at least like the Duchess of Cambridge after her very public royal birth, you are deemed a failure. Gosh, she has let herself go! Never mind you don’t have cooks, nannies and a team of stylists behind you. You get up at five, your fifteen month old needs breakfast and a play time. Then the two and a half year old wakes up. You chase him around the house trying to get him dressed, brush his teeth and convince him that he definitely needs shoes for walking in the street. He thinks it’s a hilarious game. Once you have sweated for an hour in this way, the time is up and you must dash out of the door. You have not combed your hair but sadly the “bed” style does not give you the looks of Bridget Bardot or Claudia Schiffer. You have not had any shower, possibly one bite of a toast; no make-up and huge dark bags under your eyes tell a story of constant sleep deprivation. You feel like you have aged ten years in the past twenty months.

Your baby has not hit all the development targets at the time he should have? Failed. There is nothing wrong with your child, he is just a bit late. But if you are looking for understanding, advice and support, think again. “Oh my God, your child can’t do so and so!” an unnamed competitive mother comments in the all-knowing tone, as if her own children aged two could play Rachmaninov on the piano, were listed as young Olympic hopes for four-hundred meters hurdle, were fluent in French, Mandarin and knew what an improper integral is. Failed, failed, failed!

Your two-year old has a temper tantrum in the street. You know that toddlers are not rational human beings. You know that the only way to deal with it is to walk on, watching carefully that indeed the distressed child gets up and follows you. Your journey from the shop takes thus forty minutes. You pass an older man at the bus stop. He rolls his eyes and says something about giving your son a good hiding. The toddler screams more. A year later, your boy does not have as many meltdowns, and if he does, they don’t last long. He gets up quickly and grabs my hand precisely because I have never given him “a good hiding”; he trusts me and he is learning that he gets only the positive attention. For that I have had to endure twelve months of feeling like a bad mother. Can’t I possibly control my child?

No PhD? No six figure salary and high-flying career? Oh, and isn’t it a pity that you have yet another boy. Fail, fail, fail! So next time you see a mum of two boys or two girls, or any mum indeed, please take another look. Maybe you will see a loving parent with healthy children. It should be enough.

*Natalie Nera*

### Jo’s poem

Thank you Thank you do we ever say thank you?  
Shop workers who smile & give you their time  
Volunteer workers for hard work & rhyme

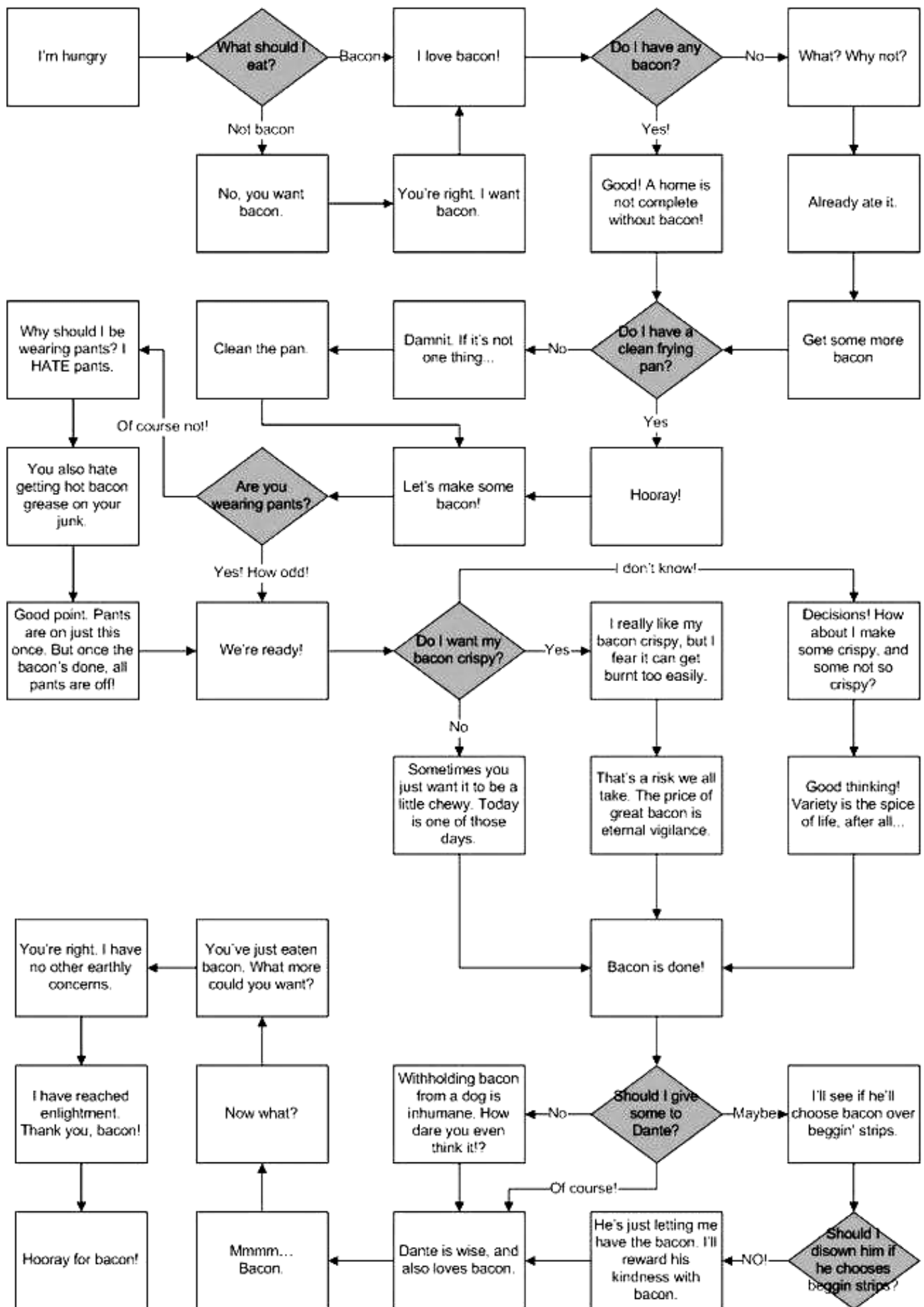
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The handy man "Paul" & the chip shop gravy  
All fundraisers /groups/the bridge & bowling club  
For doing your bit and being part of the hub  
Sparkies/joiners/mechanics & dress makers  
Builders/sport clubs/carers all partakers

To everyone who'll share a smile  
& chat away time for "awhile"  
Music makers/bike brakers  
For goodness sakers

Thank you Thank you do we ever say thank you?

# "Bacon is made to be loved, not understood." - Oscar Wilde



Attrib: Chris Lott

