



# THE HAYDON NEWS

On line: [www.haydon-news.co.uk](http://www.haydon-news.co.uk) Editor: Steve Ford

**March 2015**

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The editorial policy of the Haydon News is the responsibility of the Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge, although day to day responsibility is delegated to the editors. 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 Chairman of the Friends of Haydon Bridge, and will be considered by and receive a formal response from the Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge. Complaints other than those made above will not be entertained. The Editors reserve 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Anonymous letters/articles will NOT be published.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 writer's name and address.

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# ADOXOGRAPHY



Photo: Aron Mazel

Do please join in with the bird survey on the back page this month. In the last fifty years there will have been many changes. It is important to have up to date information.

Browsing the shelves of magazines in Claire's Newsagent the other day I was surprised and delighted to find a copy of Charlie Hebdo - the Paris based magazine many of whose staff were murdered recently. In response to my exclamation of surprise and delight, and by way of explanation, Claire observed, with a touching modesty, that the magazine was there 'Because we are very good!' She is right, of course, and she went on the report that she had sold a largish quantity of them. Francophones in Haydon Bridge may not be so rare after all.

We are all Europeans now, if not world citizens. Perhaps the time has come to include some foreign language content in The Haydon News. The British are notoriously slack about learning and using other languages and so I invite all readers with skills in another language to consider writing a few paragraphs in that language for publication. This could be on any subject of their choosing with a view to stimulating interest in language skills amongst others.

For balance - if anyone can write convincingly consistently in broad Geordie that would be a very welcome addition to The Haydon News too.

Some subtle updating of the Church pages may occur in the coming months as new ideas are tried out. Currently we have The Church of England, Roman Catholicism and Methodism represented every month — these faiths almost certainly represent the overwhelming majority of the observant.

Quakers, Buddhists, Wiccans, Bahá'ís, Rastafarians, Zoroastrians, Mormons and Humanists are active locally. I do not know any local Hindus, Sikhs, Jews or Muslims but I would be amazed if they were unrepresented in the population.

Let us not forget the atheists and agnostics - this is an equal opportunities publication, at least in the sense that everyone has an equal opportunity to submit articles for the editor's consideration.

Contributions to the Church pages, or independent items, from persons of all faiths, philosophical positions and none are welcome.

This month and next we are including a half page each from all of the candidates in the May 2015 General Election. Here is the email that I sent to all of them - UKIP, Conservative, Labour, LibDem and Green:

*In the run up to May I wish to publish items from all the candidates in the Hexham constituency. March and April are the months in question, when I can be sure that publication and distribution will occur before the election – I cannot be entirely sure about May itself.*

*For March I would like you to do 400 words of your own choosing. For April I would like you to answer in 400 words: **How will the residents of Haydon parish benefit from voting for my party?***

*Deadlines are Feb 20<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> respectively.*

*This email is being sent to all candidates or agents of whom I am aware – UKIP, Conservative, Labour, LibDem and Green. If any others appear they will be included.*

*Position in the paper will be randomly assigned. I will publish EXACTLY what is sent and if it over runs the allotted space there will be an opportunity for you to edit it.*

*If a candidate does not submit any material a blank space will be published.*

Get everyone in your household who is eligible to vote to get themselves registered NOW!

## NO VOTE = NO VOICE!

Yelling at the TV is ineffective and very ageing.

It is interesting to speculate what sort of a vote the SNP would get in some of the most northerly English constituencies...

Turning out an elderly relative's house can be a surprising experience. Lately we have found a photograph of the temporary battlefield grave of a great grand uncle (I think that is the right term) whose portrait had hung on the wall for decades. Now we can put the two together for posterity.

No such luck, I'm afraid, for the ancient bottle of pineapple balls we found. The label showed a very melancholy fruit!

Steve Ford

# **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

## **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Esmond Faulks (chairman)	
Mrs. E Charlton (Vice Chair)	684505
Mrs. V Fletcher	688872
Mrs. I Burrows	<a href="mailto:ideburrows@tiscali.co.uk">ideburrows@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Mr. E Brown	684084
Mrs. J Thompson	684376
Ms. L. Thompson	<a href="mailto:ljtceramics@gmail.com">ljtceramics@gmail.com</a>
Mr. S Walker	684488
Mr. J Ridley	<a href="mailto:jmr@orangehome.co.uk">jmr@orangehome.co.uk</a>
Mr. D Robson	<a href="mailto:daver1949x@gmail.com">daver1949x@gmail.com</a>
Mr. D Thornhill	07810 336 537
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	Mrs. C. McGivern 07543 912 113
<b>County Councillor:</b>	Cllr. Alan Sharp
320167(home)	320363(work) 07759 665200(mob.)

A meeting of Haydon Parish Council was held on 26th February at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

### **Public Participation and matters arising**

Praised was heaped upon the Tynedale Grange development in Haltwhistle, a collection of warden monitored small flats for older residents. ISOS was reported to be the developer in question. The need for a similar development in Haydon Bridge was acknowledged widely in the meeting and the sentiment appeared to favour further investigation of the possibility - if a suitable piece of ground could be identified.

Thanks was express to the County Council for the recent alteration to kerbs and lines in the Park Stile area. Further changes are sought.

The alterations to the bus shelter by Martins Close have been set in hand.

The difficulties being experienced by Haydon Bridge High School were subject to a very lengthy discussion. The Governor's side of the story had not been told to the public - indeed The Courant and Journal have both failed to make provision for a right of reply from the Governors.

It was felt by the member of the public speaking that the role of Guy Opperman MP had been overstated.

The number and scale of the inaccuracies in the media to date was reported to be very great. The problems have been long standing. There have been conflicting views held by the numerous parties to the situation. The sequence of events in question is hugely complicated. Gross injustices have been perpetrated. Correct procedures have been flouted. A recovery plan is now in action whose aim is to get HBHS into the top 20% of UK schools in 3 years.

A detailed presentation of the situation will be published in The Haydon News soon.

The Whittis Hill hedge has now been formally taken 'neath the wing of NCC.

The gift of a willow tree remains under consideration.

The post for the flashing speed sign is up. The sign can now be purchased and installed.

Contrary to last month's report - the responsibility for the public conveniences does NOT rest with the Parish Council. (*Ed apologises for any inconvenience caused*) The costs claimed for maintaining the facility was a cause of surprise.

The Millenium Tree plaque is in hand.

A 'faculty' (an ecclesiastical planning permission) is being applied for in connection with the installation of flood lighting for the church.

The 'slow' signs near Watsons Garage were reported to be achieving some success.

### **NCC**

The white line opposite the co-op is now in place and already the police have been summoned to deal with an offending car. The need for double yellows opposite the entrance to Church Street was acknowledged.

Additional lighting at The Showfield is being considered. Drains near The Club are to be unblocked. Work on the A69 to Standalone section is to be chased.

Problems with surface water drainage on the Allerwash road were noted and likewise near Carts Bog. Repairs to the road edge near the sawmill remain outstanding.

Future alterations in the planning procedures have been prompted by a recent report to the NCC. It is hoped that pressure may be brought to bear such that parish based advice is more closely acted upon. A response to the Core Strategy document is to be drafted.

### **Highways**

Richard Snowdon's report is still in preparation. A developing hole in North Bank was reported. The wall opposite Heugh House Lane is damaged - repair is the responsibility of the farmer.

The road surface over the New Bridge requires attention.

### Lighting

A light near The Haydon Hotel requires repair.

### Planning

1/ Heugh House West extension - no comment.  
2/ Moralee Fell transmitter alterations - no comment.

### Accounts

Agreed

### Correspondence

An invitation to protest the developments in local hospital provision has been received. It was felt that was a matter for personal decision. More information was also required before reaching conclusions.

### Audit

Excellent documentation has been produced to warm commendation.

### Parish Projects

Many have volunteered to provide help with the Luncheon Club idea but few takers have yet appeared. The absence of details such as price was felt to be a possible deterrent and so work will continue to develop the idea further.

No grave digger has yet been appointed. An advert may be considered. Potential interested parties will be contacted.

### AOB

Lauren Langton will address the PC next month on the Tynedale Community Bank proposal.

St. Cuthberts has received a grant for providing advice and similar services in the community. The idea of a path through the graveyard to the riverside has been broached.

Members of the public seeing dog faeces being left in any public place are advised to make a note of the time, place and a description of the dog and owner in order to pass the information to the Dog Warden. The handful of delinquent owners who are responsible may respond to some fines.

Bags of dog faeces being left hanging in bushes is totally unacceptable. **PUT THEM IN THE BINS PROVIDED!**

**Next meeting: March 26th 2015.**

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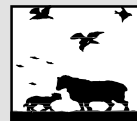
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**I continue my reports of activity on 'The Home Front', at Haydon Bridge during the Great War. Previous recollections are recorded in the July 2014 to February 2015, issues of The Haydon News.**

**Brothers' deaths:** At the end of September 1916, news reached our village of the death of two brothers Private Edgar Kirton (7th September) and Lance Corporal Mathew Kirton (11th September) sons of Thomas Kirton, formerly managing director of the Haydon Bridge Whinstone Quarry. The brothers were serving with the Canadian Infantry in France. Another brother, Thomas, also served. The family lived in Haydon Bridge for many years, emigrating to Edmonton in Canada in 1909.



Thomas Kirton's Whinstone Quarry at West Mill Hills, on the site once occupied by the Mid Tyne Colliery. The abandoned quarry served as a 20c village refuse tip.

**John Murray Birnie:** Notification was also sent to Robert Birnie of Station Gates, Haydon Bridge that his son John had been dangerously wounded in the right leg and arm. Private Birnie was the personal servant to his commanding officer Col B.D. Gibson. He had been wounded in the shoulder shortly after going to France in April 1915 and was invalided home, but returned to France in September 1915. John, aged twenty years, died from his injuries in a military hospital on September 29th 1916.

**Better news** was received in Haydon Bridge from two other Haydonians wounded in September 1916.

Firstly, another letter from **Sergeant Thomas 'Tot' Thompson**, from a Canadian hospital in France to his mother - Mrs Harkness of John Martin Street - and published in the Hexham Courant. (See also November 2014 HN)

I am going on well and hope to be in England soon. Don't fret about my wound it's just through the flesh part of the hand and is not serious. I expect you would see in the papers about the gallant charge of our lads. You should have seen the Germans run

when they came up against the Northumberlands' bayonets. Those who did not run threw up their hands and came over shouting "Mercy camrad" but we gave them small mercy. I am having a good time in hospital among the Canadians. The nurses and doctors are very good to us and it's just like being at home. *Tot was moved, afterwards, to a Glasgow hospital.*

And: Jacob Brown of New Alston received news from his son **Sergeant Edward John Brown** that he had been wounded in action and was in hospital in France. Edward, an old volunteer and territorial, went out to France with the 1st draft of the Battalion. He had much hard service and was particularly skilled in bomb throwing. Although his period of service expired while he was at the Front, Edward immediately rejoined his Battalion and, 'cheerily returned to the trenches'.

Edward recovered from his injuries, but sadly his luck ran out in 1918, when the thirty year old was reportedly killed by a shell shortly after becoming a prisoner of war.

---

**The Somme:** It is almost impossible to imagine how those at home in our parish reacted to the news from the Front when they learned that nine of our boys had been killed in September 1916.

23 year old Norman Charlton of Pagecroft; 27 year old Benjamin Cuffe, an employee at Langley Barony Fireclay works; 20 year old James Edward Robinson who worked as a platelayer at the station; and John Pearson Hutchinson, born at West Mill Hills and for several years delivered milk from Davidson's dairy before taking employment at the railway station. John was described as doing everything with a smile on his face and when returning home on the death of his mother said: "It's a grand war. Fighting is much better than farming."

All these young men lost their lives on September 15th and, without known graves, are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

23 year old Thomas Sowerby, who worked in the mines at Settlingstones, also died on the 15th; 23 year old Joseph Robinson, a farm worker at Low Hall, died on the 16th; and John Murray Birnie, as previously mentioned, on the 29th September.

Each of these deaths, along with the Kirton brothers, made September 1916 the worst month of the war in terms of Haydonians making the ultimate sacrifice.

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*The 'Friends of Haydon Bridge' has remembered those who died in the First World War, through the remarkable work undertaken by Pam and Ken Linge and the publication of their biographies of our war*

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dead in *The Haydon News*. In September 2014 my wife, Betty, and I visited the battlefields of Belgium and Northern France to search for the graves and / or memorial names of those from our parish who lost their lives there. Following in the footsteps of young Haydonians who fought for our freedom - through Flanders, the Ypres Salient, Vimy and the Somme - proved to be a sobering, and yet unforgettable, pilgrimage and one I can strongly recommend.

**Lamentable:** While our young men were fighting for our freedom in Belgium and France, at home our younger boys were getting up to no good! Our new vicar the Rev Walter H. Ainger, who replaced the Rev Heneage Mandell on July 5th 1916, experienced a disappointing start to his life in the parish when, in October, two Haydon Bridge youths were charged with stealing two bicycle saddles, a tool bag, carrier, bell and cycle pedals from the coach house at the vicarage. (*The vicarage in those days was, sensibly, next door to the Church.*) P.C. Walton had noticed that the boys' accessories were different to the make of their bicycles. The articles were valued at £1 and the chairman of the bench said it was lamentable that two lads of such an age should get into trouble of that kind. The boys were told to pay costs of 9/10d, were bound over in surety of £5 and the property was returned to its rightful owner.

*My guess is that this early admonishment served its purpose, as I know that at least one of the boys grew to be a lovely man and a fine member of our parish.*

**Gift Sale:** On November 2nd 1916, a YMCA gift sale at Haydon Bridge raised £97-19s-6d; with amounts raised in voluntary contributions, contests and entertainments bringing the total to £202-5s-8d. some of the gifts that were given towards the sale are fascinating: Robt Ridley of Elfoot gave a lamb; Ralph Pickering, a young pig; W.M. Turner, a banjo; G. Walton, a stuffed albatross in a case and a two wheeled trap; C.T. Mailing, a mechanical organ; W.S. Walton, a canary in a case; Wm Cowle, five stones of best flour; Messrs T. Clemitson & Son, a new breech loading gun. There were many more gifts, including numerous rabbits, hares, chickens and cockerels, provided by over one hundred and fifty residents of the parish.

**Relics:** Exhibited in the Post Office window at Haydon Bridge in November 1916 were war relics that created much interest, being two German helmets that had been picked up on the Somme. The relics were exhibited to encourage enrolment in a new detachment of the 1st Battalion, Northumberland Volunteers Regiment. Following a meeting in the Town Hall, twenty of our young men enrolled, one of whom was named as the parish Vicar.

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**MM:** News reached Haydon Bridge in December 1916 that Lance Corporal John W. Ridley, the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ridley of Station Cottages, and twenty two year old John W. Johnstone of Church Street who was in the signalling section of the Royal Engineers, had both been awarded **Military Medals**.

**The School Board Man:** Agnes Weightman of Temple Houses was summoned for failing to send her child James to school between September and December 1916. The father of the 12 year old was in the army and their seven children were described as being 'sadly neglected'. Agnes had a free cottage and 31 shillings each week from the Government and when the chairman of the Bench told her: "You are better off than if you were with your husband." Agnes replied: "Do you know the price of food?"

Mathew Desnap of Elrington was another who fell foul of the School Board Man, for failing to send his son David to school. David's mother appeared to answer the charge and said her son was off school because she couldn't afford clogs for him. The chairman was unsympathetic and she was fined 7/6d.

**Rev Edward Kershaw:** The year ended with the sad news that our 32 year old former Congregational Minister had died of dysentery in active service.

To be continued in April

## THE BLACKSMITH'S AT WHITECHAPEL

By email.  
October 2014

Dear Editors,

*Around the years 1947 to 1956, my parents used to take me to stay at Jim and Maggie Armstrong's cottage and smithy at Holme Cottage, Whitechapel. The friendship was probably due to my father being stationed at Ridley Hall during World War II where, I think, Maggie worked. I found your website while researching my family history and would be grateful if you could help me with any information about the Armstrong's Whitechapel family or have any images of the cottage and blacksmith's shop.*

Thank you, John Abbiss.

**In publishing this background to the Livingston /Armstrong family of Whitechapel, I am indebted to William Veitch's genealogy research skills.**

At Haydon Bridge on November 29th 1930, thirty five year old James Armstrong married Margaret Elspeth Livingston. James and Margaret lived at the Blacksmith's Shop (Holme Cottage) at Whitechapel, Haydon Bridge, where James was the blacksmith.

**Older folk in the parish will recall the Whitechapel blacksmith's being called 'Livingston's Smithy'.**

**This is the reason why:**

**David Livingston** was born at Kirkandrews on Esk

on March 11th 1860, the illegitimate son of Elspeth Livingston.

In 1861 David was with the family at 'Mosshouse', Solport, Stapleton - David's grandfather, David Livingston (68) an agricultural worker, his wife Elizabeth (54), daughters Elspeth (28) and Margaret (23) both unmarried agricultural labourers, plus grandson **David** (1) and niece Ann Graham (10 months). By 1871, living at 'Mosshouse', Solport were Margaret Livingston (31), now a farmer of 6 acres, and with her was her nephew **David Livingston** (11).

Ten years later, in 1881, the same **David Livingston**, now a blacksmith, turns up at 'Lipwood', Haydon Bridge and is lodging at 'Holme Cottage', with Ann Coulson (67) a retired housekeeper, Mary Coulson (35) her niece, and Henry Easton (24) who is also a blacksmith, from Gilsland.

On November 10th 1894, **David Livingston**, the 35 year old blacksmith of 'Holme Cottage', married 28 year old **Maria Smith** of 'Lipwood House'. Maria was the daughter of William Smith, a farmer.

In 1901 **David** and **Maria** were living at 'Water House', Lipwood, Haydon Bridge with their 4 month old daughter **Margaret Elspeth**. Living with them was 20 year old blacksmith Christopher Eggleston plus a visitor, Thomas Smith (25) from Haltwhistle.

By 1911 they were living in Holme Cottage (5 rooms): David Livingston (51) blacksmith, his wife Maria (44), daughters **Margaret Elspeth** (9) and Winifred Jane (7). They also had boarders; Thomas Gilhespy (17) a blacksmith's apprentice, and Edward Dodd (20) a keeper and rabbit catcher on a private estate.

**At Haydon Bridge on November 29th 1930, Margaret Elspeth Livingston (Maggie) married a blacksmith, 35 year old James Armstrong (Jim).**

**And that is how, 'Livingston's Smithy', as it was known to our earlier residents, came to be called, 'Armstrong's Blacksmith's Shop'.**



Livingston's Smithy

**The location of Armstrong's Blacksmith's Shop was given various addresses: Whitechapel, Lipwood, and Waterhouse**



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### Part 12

**My Haydon Bridge 'Store' history, Parts 1 to 11  
from 1875 to 1936, can be found in the February  
2014 to February 2015 issues of the Haydon  
News.**

I left you last month in 1937, staff wages and terms of employment having been re-negotiated following discussions between the Society and NUDAW. It was also agreed that the Store grocery department would close for a half day on a Thursday and the butcher's shop a half day on a Saturday.

In August 1937, Mr Cooper's estimate of £6-17s-6d, for painting the front of the Shaftoe Street premises, was accepted and Mr Scudamore agreed to undertake the monthly servicing - greasing and oiling - of the Co-op's lorry and van for 1/6d for each vehicle. (*Yes Martin and Simon! One shilling and sixpence.*)

In November, it was agreed to purchase a two ton flat bodied Bedford truck for £254-10s-0d, from Mr Scudamore, with an allowance of £26 for the old truck; although, damage to the old truck reduced this trade in allowance by £3.

In 1938, employee J.W. Brown was appointed motor driver for the Store at a wage of £3-1s-0d a week less 10%. It seems that the Co-op Store committee had negotiated with the Union of Distributive and Allied Workers a 10% reduction on Nationally agreed wages for all their workers, 'because the Haydon Bridge Co-op was in a rural area'.

In April 1938, I came across in my research the first indication that all was not well with our international relationships, when it was agreed to place a Co-op banner in the Store window 'against handling goods from Germany, Japan and Italy'.

Further business was negotiated with Mr Scudamore in June 1938, when his estimate of £208-1s-0d and a part exchange allowance of £10 was accepted for a new van to replace the Society's existing vehicle. During the absence of employee driver J.W. Brown, Mr Scudamore agreed to drive the van for the Store at a rate of 1/6d per hour. By August of the same year, another van, painted in the Society colours, had been bought for £120 from the same supplier. A 7hp Austin, 'for travelling to outbye areas'.

Mr Swallow had come under scrutiny earlier in the year due to his erratic driving of the motor vehicle and now the driver Johnny Brown was in trouble, having been 'seen in the lorry accompanied by his young lady'. The committee agreed that any repeat of this would lead to instant dismissal.

Towards the end of the year, the Society decided on

a superannuation scheme for members and, also, the employees had their working hours reduced from 48 to 44 each week. This meant the Store opening half an hour later, at 8.30am, and employees being given a ¾ hour tea break.

Alec Rodger resigned his position as an employee from November 1938 and he was replaced by Master Ronald Lowdon and, after much discussion as to whether to appoint a boy or a girl, Miss W. Dockray of New Alston was also appointed.

**Towards the end of 1938, further concerns with regard to our international relations led to the Store manager providing information regarding precautions to be taken by employees in case of gas attacks.**

In spite of these international concerns, staff humour - which was always prevalent between employees and customers in my experience - was undiminished, and when Mrs Bowman of Temple Houses called at the Store butchery department and asked for some liver, the apprentice Edmund Charlton asked her: "Do you want it fat or lean?" Edmund's humorous retort was not to Mrs Bowman's liking, however, and the Store committee received a complaint from her. Johnny Bates, the butchery manager, and his apprentice were hauled in front of the committee to answer the charge. As a result, master Charlton was told: "That type of joke must cease."

Within a month, Edmund made a request in writing to terminate his apprenticeship, having received an engagement at Blyth Co-operative Butchers - maybe the customers weren't so easily offended there - and on February 17th 1939, Norman Heslop was appointed butchery apprentice at Haydon Bridge.

**A true social history is incomplete without the memories of those who can add their personal knowledge of the period. In this regard, 2014 was a sad year when we lost two former Co-op employees, Maurice Armstrong and Edmund Charlton, who were both more than happy to share their experiences with me.**

I was fortunate to share many stories with Edmund before his death. He loved The Haydon News, was a contributor in its early years and was one of its most enthusiastic and complimentary readers. I know that Edmund would be very pleased that I am recalling some of his memories, in my Historical Notes.

**One such recollection concerned the horse owned by the Co-operative Store to pull the delivery cart, when Edmund was an apprentice there.**

"Coming to the end of its tether, the Store horse was put out to grass at Bounderlands and members of the Store committee went to buy a new horse and paid thirty seven guineas for what they thought would be a first class servant. The horse they bought had been

badly treated and had a badly worn back, but this wasn't recognisable as the skin had grown over it. They'd bought 'a pig - or a horse - in a poke'.

Another problem was that the grass the horse ate couldn't be digested properly, so it ended up as a grass ball in the horse's stomach and couldn't be passed. The answer to this problem was deemed to be a feed of whisky and Jack Swallow, who looked after the horse from Saturday afternoon to Monday morning, was sent to Mrs McDougall's Supply Store on Church Street to get a bottle of whisky for the horse. On the Monday morning when the staff went to work, they found the horse lying dead in the stable up the back of the Store yard ... and Jack, lying near it, stoned out of his mind."

Edmund, or Charles Charlton, as he was known in his later years in Hexham's Carntyne Residential Home, loved to reminisce!

---

I will continue my Haydon Bridge Co-op history next month

---

### **MORE ... LARKIN AT HAYDON BRIDGE**

My memories of Monica Jones and Philip Larkin at Haydon Bridge, and the subsequent plaque unveiling and event at the General Havelock, has attracted publicity at home and abroad and will lead to further welcome visits from Larkin aficionados, to our parish. One visitor to the unveiling event was Philip Pullen, Regional Liaison Officer for The Larkin Society. Philip was especially kind in his praise for our 'Dearest Bun ...' publication and the event itself. Having made a return trip of three hundred miles, he told me: 'It was worth every mile to be present at such a marvellous occasion.'

Philip is busy preparing a publication of his own and it will record Larkin's letters to and from his mother Eva, of which there are hundreds.

This is correspondence I haven't had sight of, and I am most grateful that Philip has been willing to record for me, some of the references to Haydon Bridge he has come across in the letters.

It is thanks to Philip Pullen, that I am able to share with you a selection of items from correspondence in the Eva Larkin collection.

---

### **25th September 1967.**

Relieved when Philip rang from Haydon Bridge to say he'd arrived safely, Eva wrote: 'I was interested to read all about the Bellingham agricultural show. I seem to remember you going to it - or some similar show - last year.'

*(Thanks to a meeting in the General Havelock in November with David Howitt, a gentleman who was acquainted with Philip Larkin when they were both employed at Hull University, I can confirm that Philip and Monica did go to the Bellingham Show on more than one occasion. It is also of interest, and it*



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*is new information as far as I'm aware, that when Philip visited Monica at Haydon Bridge he attended fetes at Featherstone Castle, where the programme, like Bellingham Show, included Cumberland and Westmoreland Wrestling, a sport that Philip greatly enjoyed because of its old time traditions.)*

### 1st January 1970.

Philip wishes Eva a happy new year and comments on it feeling extraordinary to be writing '1970'.

[Drawing of a seal ringing in the new year]

He describes the snowy journey up to Hexham.

### 4th January 1970.

Philip refers to his visit to Haydon Bridge over New Year and he says he had fewer Christmas cards than last year - 'I'm slowly choking people off.' Another description of the drive to Hexham / Haydon Bridge.

### 8th May 1972.

Philip is safely back in Hull. He hopes the doctor can discover the bug that is upsetting Eva. Urges her to eat. 'Monica was very pleased to see you. I told her that it was a good deed for her 50th birthday!' Philip gave Monica a picture by John Martin, the painter who was born in Haydon Bridge.

*John Martin's significance in Haydon Bridge had, clearly, not passed Philip and Monica by and, as far as I know, this is the first time a reference to Philip's present of a John Martin painting to Monica for her 50th birthday has been published.*

*Unfortunately, I can add very little to the story other than to recall a burglary at 105 Newland Park (Philip and Monica's Hull home) in 1988.*

In response to my research, James Booth - Literary Advisor to the Philip Larkin Society and author of 'Philip Larkin: Life, Art and Love' (Pub Bloomsbury 2014) writes:

... As to the John Martin painting I've drawn a blank. The inventory I made when we cleared Monica's house after her death lists everything, including a number of pictures, but nothing by John Martin. However, I have a recollection that there was a burglary at the house. I seem to remember that valuable things were taken, including a picture or two.

A further response, from Philip Pullen, reads:

... Philip gave Monica the John Martin painting in May 1972, (they had visited Haydon Bridge in the same month). Jean Hartley's autobiography dates the burglary at Newland Park as being January 1988. when a painting by T.F. Marshall was stolen, 'along with other valuable property'. Is that what happened to the 'Martin'? (Note! Jean Hartley published Philip Larkin's first volume of poems in 1955, 'The Less Deceived' and remained his lifelong friend.)

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 sixth casualty, in 1918, was **William Robson Brown**

### (46) William Robson Brown



Photograph courtesy of Haydon Bridge Community Centre

As well as having his name on the War Memorial William is also commemorated on the Reredos in St. Cuthbert's, the organ in the Methodist Church and the Shaftoe Trust School Memorial.

William served as Private, 20880, 1st Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He died on 6th May 1918, aged 28. Born in Warden, one of five children (all sons) of Jacob and Bessie Brown (nee Boyd) of New Alston. William's father, Jacob, was a stonebreaker. William was employed at the Whinstone Quarry, he enlisted at Hexham.



William is buried in grave II.C.57 in Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension.



All five brothers served, the eldest, **Sergeant Edward John Brown**, 1/4th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, died 21 days later, aged 30. His story appears later as number 49 in the series.

**If you have any information relating to William Robson 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.**

Continued from page 11

So, what happened to Monica Jones' 50th birthday present from Philip will remain a mystery. Unless further clues can be found in Monica's letters.

#### 22nd August 1972.

Philip tells Eva he's arrived at Monica's house in Haydon Bridge. He describes the drive up and what they had for supper; 'smoked sausage (boiled) & cabbage & raspberries. Very nice'. Philip expressed alarm at the sight of a rat.

#### 27th August 1973.

Philip is staying at Haydon Bridge with Monica and describes activities. Children causing problems by clambering onto the roof of her kitchen - 'Beastly children!!'. 'Haydon Bridge is much dirtier than Hull: everyone burns coal, & my collar is black. Just like Leigh!' 'In the north people have a fire on all through the summer.'

#### 20th September 1975.

Philip describes the journey down from St Andrews and tells of how he dislikes staying in hotels for too long - misses home comforts. He goes on to describe a Haydon Bridge show he and Monica went to. [Drawing of two rabbits drinking carrot wine] He is worrying about the state the garden will be in when he gets home.

*Which show did Philip and Monica go to at Haydon*

*Bridge in September 1975, I wonder?*

**My thanks are due to James Booth and Philip Pullen, for their help in the preparation of this article.**

### CORRESPONDENCE

By email.

September 2014

Hello Dennis,

I have just read 'Monica 'Dearest Bun ...'' and found it really interesting. I have a soft spot for Haydon Bridge, hence my interest in Monica Jones and Philip Larkin.

Many years ago I worked in the signal box on the station at Haydon Bridge. A great colleague and friend of mine from that time was a fellow signalman called Eric Armstrong whom I think was Haydon Bridge born and bred. He looked after me when I was learning the job and making the long trek from my home in Newcastle by public transport. Each time I pass through on the A69 nowadays, I remember Eric with a lot of gratitude.

I have happy memories of my time working there and I am fascinated to find that Philip and Monica may have been boarding or alighting from trains at the station when I was there.

Thanks, and congratulations on an excellent book.  
Neil Finlay.

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

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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.

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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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## Nectarworks - AONB Partnership

With help from the North Pennines AONB Partnership's Nectarworks Project Haydon Parish Council and Shaftoe Trust Primary School are joining forces to create a place that will be perfect for pollinators. The Parish Council have arranged for an unused section of the cemetery opposite the school to become a wildflower meadow. Working with Mandy Oliver from the North Pennines AONB Partnership's Nectarworks Project, children from the school will be planting wildflower seeds and will grow them on until they are ready to plant out in the new meadow later this summer. This should make the new meadow even more attractive to bumblebees, butterflies, hoverflies and other pollinating insects by providing them with source of much needed nectar and pollen. Local gardeners, including the school, should also benefit from heavier and better crops of fruit and vegetables.

All over the UK, wildflowers and bumblebees are disappearing from our countryside. If they do disappear, many of our favourite foods will become more difficult to produce and hence more expensive. Apples, pears, strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries, peas, beans and onions, to name but a few, all rely on bumblebees and other insect pollinators to set seed and produce the fruit and vegetables that we love to eat.

The good news is that everyone can help build a better and brighter future for bumblebees.

Plant up your garden, backyard or even a window sill with a succession of bee-friendly plants that will flower from early spring until late summer. This will ensure that there is plenty of nectar and pollen available in your garden even if there is less around in the surrounding countryside. If you're not sure what to grow, take a look at our leaflet "Gardening for bumblebees. Top tips for the North Pennines" available from the Nectarworks pages of the North Pennines AONB Partnership's website,

[www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)

Or you can request a garden survey and one of our trained volunteers will come out, identify the species bumblebees already visiting your garden (there are at least 11 different species found in the North Pennines) and look for bee-friendly plants. We'll then send you a pack that is full of information about bumblebees and advice on how you can make your garden perfect for pollinators.

**For more information or to request a survey, contact Mandy Oliver, Nectarworks Community Officer, North Pennines AONB Partnership.**

**Tel: 01388 528801.**

**Email: [mandy@northpenninesaonb.org.uk](mailto:mandy@northpenninesaonb.org.uk)**

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### CLERGY MESSAGE FROM:

**Rev. Benjamin Carter**

Every time I switch on the TV I seem to be offered a way of getting a new life. Either I'm told that a new gadget will make me happier, or there's a programme offering a new life or a new home. Perhaps worst of all are the glossy adverts encouraging me to claim this, or borrow that, so that all my troubles will miraculously go away.

In a time when life is stretched and difficult for so many of us finding a new life, whatever it might be, is a very attractive thing indeed. The problem is that all around us these offers suggest it will be magically sorted out if we just have one new thing, a new something, to create this new life. But then I turn on the TV again, and find I'm being offered yet another new thing I didn't know I needed to get a new life.

Through the story of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter – which we are travelling through in all our Churches this time of year – God offers us something radically and amazingly different from anything the world around us has to offer.

At this time of year we don't just remember something which happened to a man called Jesus two-thousand years ago. In the Holy Week and Easter story we are reminded again and again how God lives for us and with us, and how God calls us to live with each other.

Unlike the sales-pitch we get from the world around us, God is not trying to give us a new life by selling us something we didn't know we needed. Instead God is calling us to transform our lives and our world with the things we already have: God, and each other.

The first thing we have to transform our lives is the God shown to us in Jesus. Many people might have forgotten about God, but God has not forgotten about us. The Holy Week and Easter story, which begins on Palm Sunday, shows us that however much we might give up on God, God will never, ever, give up on us.

The second thing we have is each other. In this story God invites us to follow day by day Jesus' example of living for others – serving others, championing the poor, sacrificing ourselves for one another.

In this story Jesus shows us that the way to transform our lives is not by owning something new that we might want, but by being a community which serves and loves one another, as God loves us.

### **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  
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Jesus invites us all to find new life in what we already have, in God and in one another. The invitation is open to all, so in this season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter come and find the new life God offers every one of us!

With love and best wishes, your Vicar,

**Benjamin**



## METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

### 1 March

10.00am Morning Worship  
Norman Fullard  
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### 8 March

10.00am Morning Communion  
Rev. Mary Elliot  
6.00pm Local Arrangements

### 15 March

10.00am Family Service  
Local Arrangements  
6.00pm Evening Worship  
Rev. Tony Buglass

### 22 March

10.00am Morning Worship  
Andrea Mayland  
6.00pm Café Style Worship  
Deacon Anne Taylor

### 29 March

#### Palm Sunday

10.00am Tara Goodall  
6.00pm Evening Worship  
Rev. Gilbert Hall

Rev Les Hann

## Methodist Church

Women's World Day of Prayer  
**Friday 6th March**  
**2.00 pm**  
Led by  
Deacon Anne Taylor  
Followed by refreshments  
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### Churches Together Lent Course - The BBC Passion

All are welcome to come to this 6 week course as we learn more about the story of Holy Week and Easter using the 2008 BBC series the Passion.

The course is running at The Methodist Church every Tuesday evening at 7pm until 24th March.

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES

### 1 March

9.30am **Henshaw**  
Parish Eucharist BCP  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist BCP  
3.00pm **Old Haydon**  
Evening Worship

### 8 March

9.30am **Henshaw**  
Parish Eucharist  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist

### 15 March

9.30am **Henshaw**  
Parish Eucharist  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist

### 22nd March

9.30am **Henshaw**  
Parish Eucharist  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
Parish Eucharist

### 29th March Palm Sunday

10.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
**Joint Eucharist**

### Messy Church

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## SERVICES FOR EASTER WEEK

### 31st March

7.00pm **St. John's**  
(Stations of the Cross)

### 2nd April

7.30pm **St. Cuthberts**  
(Maundy Thursday Service)

### 3rd April Good Friday

11.00am **Methodist Ch.**  
(Service of Reflection)  
12.00noon **St. Cuthberts**  
(Service for Good Friday)  
3.00pm **St. John's**  
(Celebration of the Passion)

4th April **St. John's**  
(Easter Vigil Mass)

### 5th April EASTER SUNDAY

9.30am **St. John's**  
10.00am **Methodist Church**  
11.00am **St. Cuthberts**  
6.00 pm **Old Haydon**  
**United Village Service**

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# 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)

## SPECIAL REQUEST

Will whoever is taking the Co-op trolleys and leaving them around the village please think of the effect this has on other members of the community.

The trolleys are there for everybody's use. Besides which the Co-op is likely to treat the removal of a trolley as theft.

If you find one, please return it. If you know who is taking them please consider asking the person to return them or report the theft to the police or Co-op.

**Thank you.**

## 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)

## NATURE CLUB WINTER PROGRAMME

Meetings held at the Methodist Hall at 7.15pm.

### March 5<sup>th</sup>

Alasdair Mitchell

BASC and Rearing Deer in Haltwhistle

### March 19<sup>th</sup>

David Raeburn Images of Nepal.

A Summer walks programme will be arranged to cover April - September 2015. Copies will be available at the 19<sup>th</sup> March meeting.

All enquiries to: The Hon. Secretary Robert Ford  
28 Strother Close, Haydon Bridge. Tel No 684486

## 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)

## 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

## HEAR TO HELP

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

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

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon - 1.00 pm

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.

## 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

February 10th	Great North Air Ambulance
March 10th	Breast Cancer Campaign <b>**Queenie Quiz**</b>
April 14th	Get it Together Society: Fireworks Fund
May 12th	Haydon Bridge Health Centre
June 16th	Haydon Bridge Parish Church <b>**Queenie Quiz**</b>
July 14th	Anthony Nolan Trust

**Quizmaster**

**John Harrison (johnandaveril@aol.com)**

## 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

## GENERAL HAVELOCK

We are serving lunches on

### Easter Monday

Special 2 course

### for £12.50

## Hexham Beacon Club

Programme-

4 <sup>th</sup> March	A G M.
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Droving.
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Tyneside in the 1830.
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Volunteering with National Parks.
1 <sup>st</sup> April	The Orient Express

On Wednesdays 10-30 to 12-00 at

**Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Hexham**

## Community Centre Regular Activities

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

### MONDAY

Zumba 6.15pm	Shelley Murray, 07824449731 <a href="mailto:shelley.m@josiesdragonfly.org">shelley.m@josiesdragonfly.org</a>
Dance Club, 7.30-10pm	Audrey Philips, 684452 <a href="mailto:george@vallum.plus.com">george@vallum.plus.com</a>

### TUESDAY

Pilates – 9.15am	Lorna, 07747 842364
Karate – 6.15pm	David Beales, 07561153485 <a href="mailto:david.beales2@btinternet.com">david.beales2@btinternet.com</a>

### WEDNESDAY

Yoga 10am	Alicia Lester, <a href="mailto:aliciafearon@btinternet.com">aliciafearon@btinternet.com</a>
Pilates - 6.30pm	Lorna, 07747 842364
Art classes (bi monthly)	Barbara Wardle, 688886 <a href="mailto:bbarawardle2011@btinternet.com">bbarawardle2011@btinternet.com</a>

### THURSDAY

Chairobics 11.30am	Lorna, 07747 842364
Irish Dance 4.15pm	Kathleen Hannon, 0191 2648240 <a href="mailto:kmhannon@btinternet.com">kmhannon@btinternet.com</a>
Youth Club 6-8.30pm	Amev Henry 01434 603582 <a href="mailto:Amev.Henry@nothumberland.gov.uk">Amev.Henry@nothumberland.gov.uk</a>
Bowls Club 7.30pm (Sept-April)	Joseph Tulip, 688817 <a href="mailto:joseph.tulip@cnmedia.co.uk">joseph.tulip@cnmedia.co.uk</a>
Parish Council 7.30pm (monthly)	

### FRIDAY

Karate – 6.15pm	David Beales, 07561153485 <a href="mailto:david.beales2@btinternet.com">david.beales2@btinternet.com</a>
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### SATURDAY

Coffee morning, 10am  
Various groups and organisations.

### SUNDAY

Hornby Model Railways Association 10am	Grant Robinson, 01661 844843 <a href="mailto:grant.robinson@tiscali.co.uk">grant.robinson@tiscali.co.uk</a>
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### NEW ACTIVITIES ALWAYS WELCOME.

Contact: **Valerie Bell 01434 684705**

[valerie@hexhammorris.com](mailto:valerie@hexhammorris.com)

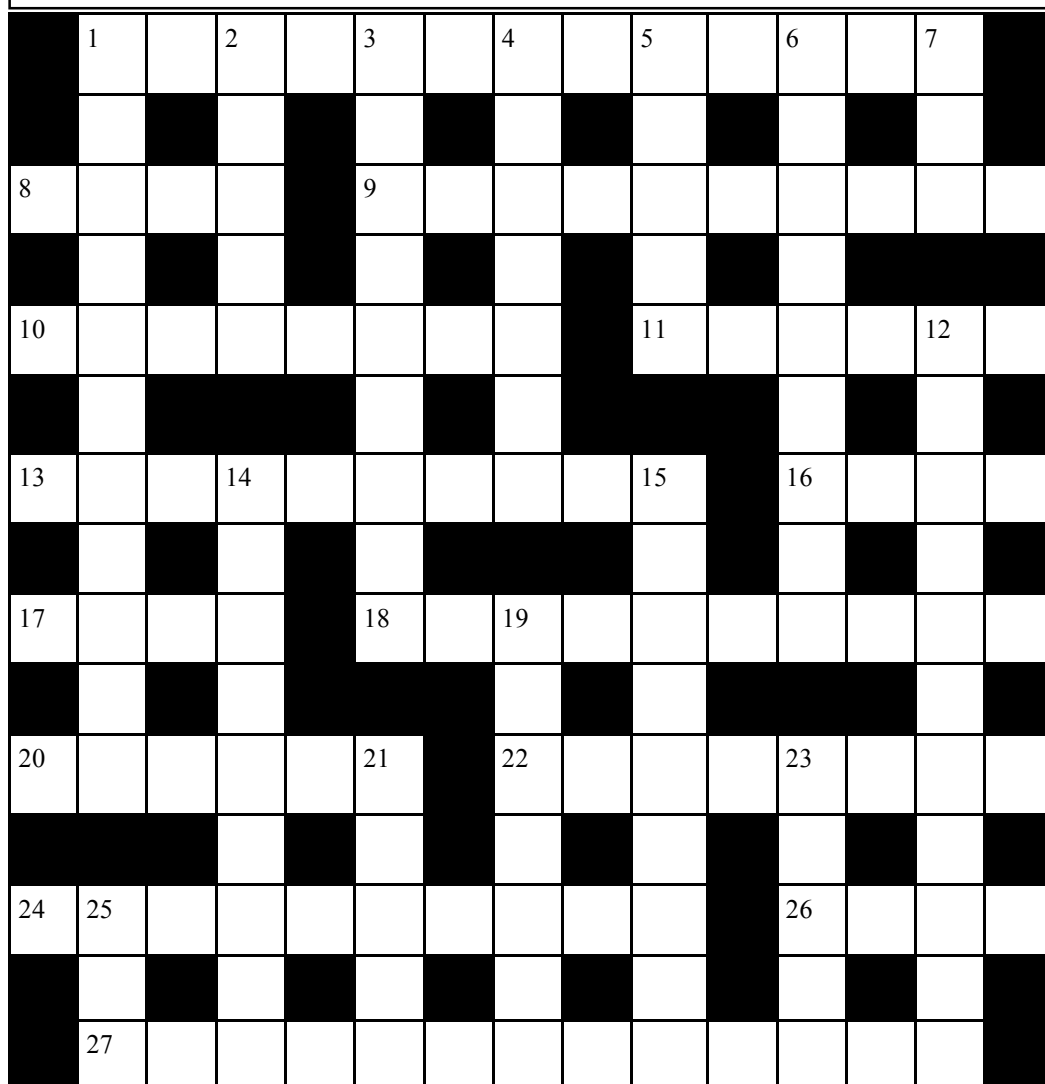
# THE HAYDONIAN CRUCIVERBALIST

March 2015

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ADDRESS.....



*Entries in before  
20th March.*

*Please hand in your  
entry to Claire's  
Newsagent or post  
to the editors — see  
page 2.*

## ACROSS

- 1 After Spain, take it easy before volcano erupts – letters await (5,8)  
 8 Brother with one of Italian liveliness (4)  
 9 Is the wet blue Med all over this mobile plant? (10)  
 10 Pass sound after which he'll put it in order (8)  
 11 Heartless block of shares leave one dreaming (6)  
 13 German I included in French chemist, pot-pourri maker (10)  
 16 Bird heard to go off (4)  
 17 Not much food for an assembly (4)  
 18 Cynical after sun God may be broadcast (10)  
 20 Ringer overcharged writer of cautionary tales (6)  
 22 Lies sped around in a skid (8)

- 24 Coleopteral drummer? (5,5)  
 26 Wax for a stone (4)  
 27 She clasped Ena out at the battle (13)
- ## DOWN
- 1 Lease prison out but put your mark on it (11)  
 2 Glare left after boat (5)  
 3 Mobility aid of the landed (6,3)  
 4 Plant in Cartmel mitre extant (not I) (3,4)  
 5 No lid on Dettol, it's out for rent (2,3)  
 6 & 19 Cry foul, pest – rather local discomfort (9,7)  
 7 Poetic before Jane was heard (3)  
 12 Sure, if I can, might get put away (11)  
 14 Test a glue mixture in lessons (9)  
 15 Fraternity in deer back to be sorted again(9)  
 19 see 6 down  
 21 Copper on time measuring flow (5)  
 23 Screen off Northern Rock debris  
 25 Force the Spanish off a spirit (3)

## Who are we?

The Mothers' Union is an international organisation of over 4 million Christians in 81 countries. It started from small beginnings in 1876 when a vicar's wife, Mary Sumner, of Old Alresford, near Winchester saw the need for mothers of all social classes to meet to provide support, friendship and education.

She set up the first meeting in the Rectory but was so paralysed by fear, her husband had to take the meeting and invite all the ladies to come the next week! In 1885 she was at the Portsmouth Church Congress Women's meeting when the 1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Newcastle, Rev'd Ernest Wilberforce, was to give the address. Finding he had little to say to the women he invited Mary to address the Congress. It takes little imagination to know how she must have felt but she gave a passionate address about national morality and the importance of women's vocation, as mothers, to change the nation for the better. Some of the women present went back to their own Parishes to found Mothers meetings along the lines of Mary Sumner's. The Bishop of Winchester, Rev'd Edward Browne,

declared that the Mothers' Union should become a Diocesan organisation, as it is today. Newcastle Diocese was one of the first 5 Diocese to start a Mothers' Union in the UK and it then grew rapidly. Queen Victoria in her Diamond Jubilee year (1897) became Patron as the Queen is today. Mary Sumner visited Hexham in 1913, at the age of 84, and addressed a full house. She died in 1921, and her date of death, 9<sup>th</sup> August, in the Liturgical calendar of the Church of England. Membership is open to all, male or female; any Christians of any denomination are welcome.

## What do we do?

The Mothers' Union is, for the sake of convenience, organised on 5 levels, **World, Provincial, Diocesan, Deanery and Branch** (us!).

Our Branch is Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw, shortened to Haydon Bridge. We have 23 members and more would be welcome! We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month, except August and December. We have a Speaker, on a variety of subjects, Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter will talk to us on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Our meetings start with a short service then a brief business meeting, to keep you up to date! The Speaker and refreshments follow. On a June afternoon we are welcoming Monkseaton MU to join us in Bardon Mill Village Hall where we will be able to visit the Pottery, have tea and conversation ending in an evening Service. We are in the very privileged position of having our own Branch Chaplain, Rev'd Dr John Harrison and not all Branches have one.

On Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, the day before Mothering Sunday, we have a fundraising Coffee morning and much more, books, cakes bric a brac. This raises funds for mothers worldwide in a less fortunate position than us. Mary Sumner House in London runs an information service, conference rooms and a catalogue, cards gifts etc.

Membership entitles you to a Worldwide MU magazine and further subscription to another excellent magazine, Families First. Mrs Patsy Linton started Beltingham and Henshaw before Mrs Enid Garrow started Mothers' Union in Haydon Bridge in 1987. I have no documentation of when they merged. We are a friendly group; a monthly stall generates funds for projects. We support 60-80-30 Women's refuge and information centre in Hexham amongst other MU related projects.

**If anyone would like more information please contact Mrs Margaret Marshall or me, Mrs Anne Brunton 344557. Secretary, Haydon Bridge MU.**

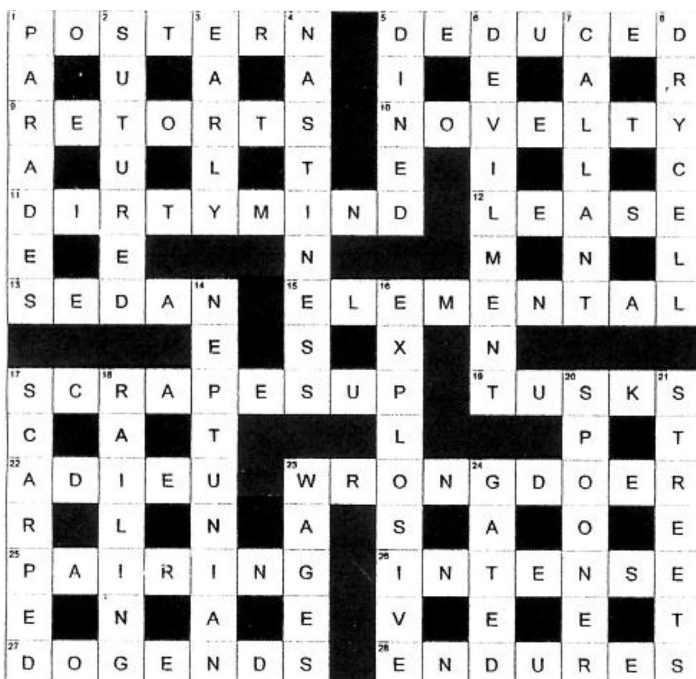
## ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY'S CROSSWORD

### LAST MONTH'S WINNER:

Anne Plastow

### NUMBER OF ENTRIES:

5



## **NOTES ON A SCANDAL**

It said yesterday in the paper that reading some juicy gossip about your favourite celebrity can cause the heartbeat to quicken and give you a temporary high.

Whaaaaaaat???

Obviously this wasn't in the Guardi-ograph newspapers - who have far more important things to write about - but still.

As one who has about as much interest in Kim Kardashian's gravity-defying backside as I do in how to split the atom, I cannot believe it's true.

But it must be if the raft of gossip magazines in the Co-op is anything to go by. Dozens and dozens of them. How they have any new news to report week in week out is a complete mystery. So of course they either lie (no! Newspapers twisting the truth? Surely not! Hold the front page!!) or they give readers a little juicy titbit (no pun intended - honest guv) to lure 'em in.

Take the other day. Splashed all over the cover of one was the pneumatic top half of Jordan - sorry Katie Price. She was called Jordan but considered the name too lightweight for a woman of her, erm, frightening intellect. No more Page 3 our Pricey. She's now a novelist, businesswoman, blog-mogul and ardent campaigner. Do keep up readers - this is important.

The tag-line screamed "KATIE'S NEW BREASTS SHOCK!!!"

Who cares? And more importantly where are her old ones? We could use them here in Haydon Bridge as sandbags when it rains. Forget the Thames Barrier - until now one of the world's largest movable flood defences. Jordan's embonpoint could single-handedly protect the whole of Northumberland from an unexpected downpour.

And without labouring another point, Kim Kardashian's derriere could prevent even the fiercest tsunami from ever reaching the shore if she only parks it on the beach.

Incidentally it's funny how the French have exactly the right word for luscious female body bits!

If I have little interest in celebrities I am no match for my husband. He hasn't the first clue who any of them are. The line-up on 'Strictly' has him completely baffled although he did eventually recognise Anne Widdecombe when she twirled down the BBC stairs. Her sparkly dress and Dorothy's red shoes from the Wizard of Oz made him look twice in saddened disbelief.

If even the saintly Anne Widdecombe succumbs to the lure of the spotlight the world must be a sorry place indeed.

"I'm A Celebrity Get Me...." also thoroughly perplexes him. He has never heard of a single bug-eating contestant. And don't get me started on Big Brother. He thought it was a documentary about George Orwell and sat down eager to learn more about the great man. He did briefly wonder what Davina McColl was doing on the screen - not a woman normally associated with iconic authors - then stared confused when a troop of Z-listers littered the red carpet courtesy of Endemol.

But put a picture of the Manchester United Team 1958 in front of him and he can name each one. I am forced to watch all matches as he describes the players' tackles, fouls, free kicks, penalties and transfer fees. Yawn.

Now I really must dash. This week's Heat Magazine is due out and Claire said she'd keep me a copy ....

**Euphemia Whaletrouser**

## **Registering a different 'Brand' of Politics**

If you believe his critics, erstwhile comedian and Hollywood heartthrob Russell Brand has, in his most recent 'booky wooky', called on citizens to boycott elections. He counters that what he actually argued for is that you should only vote for a Party you really believe in. Our later day Lothario rejects as self-defeating the horrible choice that many make of choosing the least worst option to keep the party you really detest out. Pragmatist/cynic versus principled/hopeless idealist versus refusnik. Whatever side of the argument you fall on you won't have a genuine choice if you are not registered to vote.

Alarming, recent changes in the electoral registration law has led to a significant drop in the number of registered young voters, particularly first time voters. Those of you who have moved home recently should also check your right to vote is in place.

Everyone is now responsible for ensuring they are on the register - no 'head of households' filling the forms in for everyone anymore

The good news is you can now register to vote on line at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) and as long as you have some details like your date of birth and national insurance number at hand it should be plain sailing, shouldn't it? Any problems contact the electoral registration officer at Northumberland County Council.

Then you can make real choice between 'votey votey' and 'none of the above'.

**Don Price - Chesterwood**

## Weldon's Words

Grammar snobs love to remind anyone who will listen: you should NEVER end a sentence with a preposition! Luckily for those poor, persecuted prepositions, that the rule isn't so hard and fast anymore.

Here are a few preposition guidelines:

### Don't end a sentence with a preposition:

1. In formal writing:

**Incorrect:** 'Who is the accusation referring to?'

**Correct:** 'About whom is the accusation referring?'

In emails, text messages and notes to friends, ending a sentence with a preposition is informal and accepted. However, if you're writing a research paper or submitting a business proposal, using formal language is your best option. In those cases, avoid ending sentences with a preposition.

2. If something is missing:

**Incorrect:** 'She walked down the street briskly, her coat buttoned against the cold and a scarf wrapped around.'

The preposition 'around' is missing an object. So let's try that again:

**Correct:** 'She walked down the street briskly, her coat buttoned against the cold and a scarf wrapped around her face.'

### It's OK to end a sentence with a preposition:

1. In informal writing or conversation:

**Correct:** 'To whom should I give a bloody nose?'

**Also correct:** 'Who should I give a bloody nose to?'

Unless you're a time traveller from another era, you'll probably use the second sentence when speaking. Informal language is generally accepted in conversation and will likely allow your conversation to flow more smoothly, since your friends won't be distracted by your perfectly precise sentence construction.

2. If the preposition is part of an informal phrase:

**Correct:** Five excited puppies are almost too many to put up with.

**Also correct:** A good plate of spaghetti should not be so hard to come by.

Both 'put up with' and 'hard to come by' are commonly accepted informal phrases, and it's OK to end sentences with them. Note, however, that you should avoid these phrases in formal writing.

**Mark Weldon**

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## Brendan Healy

In the early nineties I went to Belarus when it was part of the communist Soviet Union. We arrived in Moscow having travelled on the scariest plane I've ever been on. Not because it was clapped out, quite the opposite. Horror of horrors, it was brand new, untried and untested. After we had taken off from Heathrow the Captain announced. "Welcome to the maiden flight of this Boeing 767."

Did you know that you aren't allowed off the plane once it is in the air and also did you know that they are allowed to restrain you in your seat.

I found out subsequently that this wasn't the first time it had been up but had been through a series of test flights and stuff. You'd think the Captain might have mentioned that.

I have a feeling that they always flew the newest planes into Moscow just to show off, to say 'Things are brilliant in the west!'

I was playing piano and keyboards with the group 'Lindisfarne' at the time, and the band had been invited to do a charity gig for the children of Chernobyl following that awful disaster at the nuclear power plant.

I travelled into Moscow sitting next to Alan Hull, who was thoroughly mortified at the dreadful state of this communist country. His huge disappointment prompted him to write the song 'Mother Russia' ..... 'your sons have left you crying in the rain'.

When we got to Red Square we met some of the other groups, I remember 'China Crisis' and 'Echo and the Bunnymen.' We were shown around by a guide who told us that the architect of St. Basil's Cathedral (the wonderful multi-domed building we always see in movies) was blinded by Ivan the Terrible so that he could never re-create the building again. I wonder whether Ivan might have had the same inclination if he met the architect of the Sage?

Subsequently we flew to Belarus with Aeroflot, the Soviet airline. I would have preferred to be on a 767's test flight. The thing about Aeroflot is that they always took off exactly on time whether they had finished servicing it or not!

On arrival at our hotel the foyer was full of burly men in shabby mismatched suits. I thought it was a convention of dodgy but hard-looking salesman. These were our bodyguards. Apparently we had to have them as we could easily have been robbed or mugged, since the locals thought all westerners were filthy rich.

As it transpired, compared to them, we were. They had nothing. (Also their government was terrified that something might happen to us as they had never had a charity concert like this before.) Stevie Cunningham, who played bass at the time, had forgotten his razor so we went shopping. He saw a Bic disposable in a glass case in the department store and asked the translator if he could get a packet of them. After a brief discussion with the salesman we discovered that the razor was the only one in the store. Not a packet of six, but one!

We were there at the time of Perestroika and Glasnost, when the Soviet Union had begun to break up, and although it is a cliché it made me realise how good we had things at home.

The bodyguards had been drafted from all over the Union, whether they wanted to come or not, and without pay. There were Olympic boxers and wrestlers and my bodyguard, Mechtel, was a champion kick boxer.

We were watching it on TV one night. What a violent sport! They had helmets on and used their heads as weapons. Mechtel was pointing at the telly and then at himself. I mimed ... 'Is that what you do?' He nodded with a big grin and then pointed at the telly and said 'Musleem, Musleem.' It was then I noticed the head judge at the table in the contest was Musleem, Mechtel's brother who was standing just behind me. They were dead hard, these lads.

When I left I tipped Mechtel about thirty five pounds for the week. It was all I had. He burst into tears and started to jabber at the translator.

Apparently I had tipped him the equivalent to two months' wages and he would love to come home with me and be my bodyguard for £17.50 a month.

We didn't really know we were born.



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## Documentary Film in Production in Haydon Bridge

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." Pericles (495 BC – 429 BC), Ancient Greek politician, general and statesman.

"What we leave behind is not as important as how we've lived." Captain Jean-Luc Picard (1994) Star Trek – The Next Generation.

Haydon Bridge based filmmaker George Cooper is looking to produce a documentary film delving into the lives of ordinary people in the North East. We would like to interview people and have them reflect on the statement 'you are what you leave behind'.

Is there life after death? Are we consigned to become mere dust and ashes; scattered to the winds of space and time or is there something else beyond this life? What is it that you will leave behind in this world?

How would you like to be remembered? What real or virtual items would you leave behind and why?

It is my intention over the next few months to shoot a documentary based around a series interviews asking people asking the above questions. The film will be shot by an experienced, professional team in broadcast quality with the intention being to send the finished article to film festivals around the globe.

We are interested in interviewing people of all ages and from all walks of life. Of course, no prior experience in TV or Film is required, just an enquiring and thoughtful mind.

If you are interested in appearing in the film, would like more information or if you are interested in helping with the production of the film, please do get in touch; I would be delighted to hear from you.

**Please e-mail us at:**

**[hello@wearewhatweleavebehind.com](mailto:hello@wearewhatweleavebehind.com)**

**More information can be found at:**

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## Tynedale's next Dementia Friendly Community?

### The Dementia Challenge

850,000 people are living with dementia in the UK, including an estimated 4,850 people in Northumberland. Nationally, there are projected to be 1 million people with dementia by 2020 (including an increase of 21% in Northumberland) and dementia currently costs the UK economy £26 billion annually.

Despite the scale of the challenge, too many people aren't living well with dementia. Two thirds of people living with dementia live in the community and a third of those people live alone.

Research from Alzheimer's Society highlights that, though there are excellent examples of communities coming together to tackle dementia, many people with the condition do not feel part of their local area and have stopped doing the things they enjoy:

35% of people with dementia get out of the house less than once a week, and shockingly, 10% of people leave home once a month or less.

People with dementia most often give up activities such as shopping, exercise and using public transport.

63% of people with dementia surveyed didn't want to try new things.

### What is a Dementia Friendly community?

The good news is that an overwhelming 97% of UK adults believe people with dementia have something to offer their communities and three-quarters of those surveyed think supporting people with dementia to be part of the community helps to reduce stigma around the condition.

Dementia Friendly Communities harnesses this goodwill to create towns, villages and cities across England that work together locally to achieve a real positive impact on the lives of people with dementia. Communities such as Corbridge are already taking the lead, with others set to follow suit.

A dementia friendly community encourages individuals and organisations from all sectors, backgrounds and ages to come together and look at ways to make their local area more dementia friendly. Across England, schools, churches, GPs' surgeries, traders, bus companies, community groups, banks, supermarkets, and housing providers, to name but a few, are signed-up.

### What action can dementia friendly communities take?

Most communities wouldn't consider themselves "dementia unfriendly" to begin with and often there is lots of work going on already that deserves recognition. By forming a local alliance, groups can bring together existing work and build on this to deliver what works best for their community.

Dementia friendly actions can be big or small and could include:

- *Dementia Friends information sessions for local residents, schools, traders, etc... which raise awareness and understanding of what it's like to live with dementia.*
- *Offering local activities that are tailored for people with dementia to take part in.*
- *Making the local environment more dementia friendly, through signage, room layout decoration and use of colour.*

These are just a few examples of what Dementia Friendly Communities do and there are no limits on what can be done if communities want to get on board.

If you are interested in making Haydon Bridge dementia-friendly, get in touch with:

Claire Batey

([claire.batey@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:claire.batey@alzheimers.org.uk))

Amy Syron-Mallenby

([amy.syron-mallenby@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:amy.syron-mallenby@alzheimers.org.uk))

at Alzheimer's Society and we will be happy to support you!



## Peculiarities of Life

For some people, a mile-stone birthday is an excuse to throw a big party and get drunk. The last time I was keen to celebrate a big birthday was when I turned ten. The reason for that was the misguided pride of being a big girl. As far as I remember I have always been the big, grown-up girl, big sister in the family. It's a common and dubious privilege of the eldest sibling to be denied the right to be little as soon as their younger brothers or sisters arrive.

Well, I am no longer ten and I am about to embrace my mile-stone birthday very quietly and without a bang. Firstly, I am not a drinker. Secondly, I am quite a shy person who avoids work parties and other opportunities to go wild, at nearly any cost. And thirdly, there is this peculiarity of life. Do I really have a reason to celebrate when I feel eighteen but the mirror tells me a different story?

I used to look much younger than my calendar age. I remember being turned away for a film rated as 15 plus when I was 25 only because I left my ID at home. Then standing outside the cinema, I was desperately trying to sell my ticket while enduring nasty looks of the ticket lady who even gestured to me to say: "I've caught you! Liar!" Ironically, under her steel gaze, a group of heavily made up school girls slipped through. I guessed they must have been only 13 or 14. I could see them giggling victoriously as they disappeared behind the heavy wooden door.

The other time I went with my friend to a presentation of a miraculous new cosmetic range that should keep you forever young. I respectfully turned down the magic in the pot after I was patronisingly addressed by the presenter with the following line: "Well, you are still very young but when you actually turn fifteen, you should start using day creams regularly." I was 26.

What am I complaining about? It's fabulous to look incredibly young when you are an actress but not when you try to be taken seriously as a professional journalist. I have lost count of the times I agreed to interview someone over the phone and then, when meeting them in person, they were looking around me with a confused expression in their eyes trying to find the real author of the articles. Surely THIS cannot be the person who wrote them!

The only time my overly young looks served me well was when, during my newspaper career, I accidentally stumbled across a criminal network that was arranging sales of academic titles in my country to the people who never attended any university but wanted to have extra letters in front or after their names on their business cards.

I was actually tricked into meeting the man, thinking that we would be speaking about something else and that he was someone else.

Thus, I walked into it unprepared and then sat in front of the gangster who threateningly put a gun on the table and talked to me, demanding that I would write a report exonerating a dangerous convicted killer, in exchange for information on illegal trade in titles.

I did not dare to move and am sure that I got out there alive only because he thought I was just a little girl. I tried to pursue it a bit but hit a dead end. In all honesty, I did not feel brave enough to tackle the mafia single-handedly. Besides, like criminal investigators, serious journalists cannot publish their findings unless they have them confirmed from two independent sources and have some hard evidence to back up the claims.

Ten years later, the scandal eventually broke out. It still makes me angry - it devalues the hard work of anyone who sweated over essays, books and thesis to complete their degree, potentially producing a "doctor" who has never seen a book on anatomy. A dangerous thing done by dangerous people.

Life throws peculiar things at you and it's a wonder how much one can pack into a relatively short space of time. I am surprised at it - Velvet Revolution, living in four different countries, two books, two children... And when looking at my reflection this morning, pulling out my first grey hairs in sudden outburst of vanity, I wonder how it all happened and how this eighteen year old girl who wanted to change the world into a better place woke up one morning in someone else's body and four decades on her shoulders. Yet, it still feels like I am standing at the beginning of something new and incredibly exciting ahead.

Life is beautiful.

Natalie Nera

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## A VIEW FROM UP THERE .....

*John Harrison*

Although there are a few signs of spring making a start, we are still far from being free from the grip of winter. But as our thoughts turn to warmer times ahead, perhaps we are also beginning to plan our holidays, in which case I offer the following salutary tale – a man and his wife were travelling in rural France when they decided to call at the local inn in a small village for some lunch. On the menu was the French version of scrambled eggs, which they decided to order. After an enjoyable meal they asked for the bill, which was the equivalent of £50. Incensed by what was deemed to be an outrageous sum for such a modest meal, the man confronted the hotelier and asked “This is very expensive, is there a shortage of eggs around here?” “Mais non monsieur” came the reply, “but there is a scarcity of tourists”.

January was a typical winter month, and was slightly colder and slightly wetter than normal. The most notable characteristic was variability in the weather, which was driven by a succession of Atlantic depressions. These also brought strong winds which frequently reached gale force. The weather remained mild for the first two weeks with the daytime temperature exceeding 10.0 degC on three occasions. It was very wet on the first day but then remained relatively dry for 5 days. From the 7th – 12th the weather was very windy and rather wet, the wind reaching gale force at times.

In the rear of depressions north-westerly winds imported cold polar air which brought hail then snow on the 13th, thus beginning a lengthy spell of cold weather which lasted until the end of the month. Snow was lying on the mornings of 14th – 20th but was relatively shallow. Further snow on the 28th fell in a strengthening north-westerly breeze and although snow amounts were relatively small (9 cm) drifting caused problems on local roads with some sizeable drifts forming in exposed areas.

A late evening journey back from Haydon Bridge to Plunderheath on the 28th was not an experience that I care to repeat.

Drifting is related closely to wind strength which is in turn dictated by exposure, so snow accumulation was very localised nature, with places only short distances apart experiencing very different snow conditions. Minor roads in the Haydon Bridge area remained partially blocked by snow at the end of the month with no obvious attempt having been made to clear them. Clearing night skies resulted in some sharp localised frosts, falling to -4.9 degC by the morning of the 30th.

One of the best features of January is that, on average, it is the coldest month of the year over the northern half of Britain, while in the south it tends to be coldest in February, because of closer proximity to the cold European landmass to the east. So in theory the temperature in February in Tynedale is likely to be on a rising curve. You heard it here first !!

### Monthly Weather Summary (Haydon Bridge : Height 162m asl)

Month	Average Maximum Temperature (Daytime) Deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Average Minimum Temperature (Night-time) Deg C	Relative to long-term average degC	Rainfall mm	Percentage of long-term average
January 2015	5.7	-0.1	1.1	-0.2	88.1	107

And finally Gladys tells me of a friend of hers, Iris, who had recently opened her weekly order from Mr. Jones the local butcher and had found the meat to be not of the usual high quality. So she went down to the shop with the offending meat. “I’m sorry Bill, but while I have always been satisfied with your meat, this just isn’t up to your usual standard” she said. “Please don’t apologise”, he replied, “if you were to deliver anything to my home which I found to be unsatisfactory, I would certainly return it to you”. With a wry smile on her face Iris had replied “As the local midwife, I think that would be difficult.”

## UKIP

There is a perception among voters that politicians cause more problems than they solve and that they are an unnecessary and expensive nuisance.

UKIP agrees - we would like to see fewer politicians both locally and nationally.

Less government, less interference, light touch politics.

We want to restore the public's trust in MPs.

That is why UKIP will not operate a whip system where MPs and Councillors are told by their party how to vote.

We will always act in the best interest of our constituents.

How we will do this is through direct democracy. Some decisions are too important to be left to politicians.

Our membership of the EU is a classic example.

With the exception of UKIP and the Conservatives the other parties feel that it is too big a decision to be left to the ordinary people so they won't let you have a referendum.

Frankly they don't know any better than you or I. They just refuse to listen to your concerns and carry on ignoring your views.

UKIP does not have all the answers, neither does any of the other parties.

Where we differ is that we are not beholden to big business or the trade unions. We are not as concerned about what is right or left as we are about what is right or wrong. We owe no one any favours. We will always do what is best for Great Britain.

So what do we stand for?

Contrary to what the press and our political opponents will say about us we are not a single issue party.

The economy, the NHS, education, defence, immigration, foreign aid and energy. We have a comprehensive manifesto which covers all aspects of government.

We will have a referendum on our membership of the EU as soon as possible.

If the vote is in favour of leaving we will start the exit process immediately.

Then once again decisions will be made in Westminster by our MPs on our behalf.

The other parties will tell you that a vote for UKIP is a wasted vote.

Nonsense. If you vote UKIP you get UKIP. That is how democracy works. If enough people vote for UKIP, UKIP will win. It is not complicated.

The country is ready for change. With your support we can provide that change.

That is the true value of real democracy and it is priceless.

**David Nicholson UKIP PPC**

## LIB DEMS

The Liberal Democrats have chosen Jeff Reid to be their candidate in the forthcoming General Election. Many of you will know him from his days as Leader of Northumberland County Council, which he led for 5 years. During that time he kept the council tax at the same level for four years.

Under Jeff's leadership, the Liberal Democrats invested in affordable housing schemes in rural Northumberland and the new hospital facility at Haltwhistle.

The coalition government has had to make some difficult decisions to put the country back on the track to recovery.

There is still a long way to go but the Liberal Democrats in government have delivered a tax cut for the lowest paid, introduced the triple lock to secure decent increases for pensioners and brought in the pupil premium, which has helped children from the poorest backgrounds get a better start.

Jeff said, "I am pleased to have the opportunity to represent the people of the Hexham constituency. The Liberal Democrats have a good story to tell. I have over 30 years' experience in local government. I will be out and about across the constituency over the next few weeks but if anyone would like me to attend any specific meetings you can contact me at:

jeff4hexham@hotmail.com

or by post to Hexham Lib Dems, 22 Station Close, Riding Mill, Hexham NE44 6HE

"I am proud of our national manifesto, which focuses on 5 key areas:

Opportunity for every child – guarantee education funding from nursery to 19 and qualified teachers in every class.

Fair taxes – cut your taxes by an additional £400 by raising the tax-free allowance to £12,500

Quality health care for all – Invest £8bn to improve our NHS and guarantee equal care for mental health.

Prosperity for all – balance the budget fairly and invest to build a high skill, low carbon economy

Protection of the environment – protect nature and fight climate change"

Jeff is married, with 5 children/step-children and has 7 grandchildren. "We enjoy travelling around the country, spending time with our children and grandchildren. I also enjoy walking and Northumberland is the best place in the world for providing a variety of country and coast in which to walk and relax."

**Jeff Reid Liberal Democrat PPC**

## GREENS

I am immensely proud to have been selected as the Green Party's candidate for Hexham in this year's General Election. Never has there been a more desperate need for an alternative to the narrative of austerity, misery and environmental irresponsibility of this Coalition Government.

I am permanently resident in Hexham itself and have been a secondary school teacher since 2003. I passionately believe in the need to defend all public services against an aggressive agenda of privatisation perpetrated by those with vested interests. Our local schools and health services must be protected against the worst excesses of ideologically driven austerity.

My motivation for standing is rooted in my upbringing. I grew up as the son of a miner from the North East who was made redundant in the 1980s. My family was plunged into poverty and my parents struggled to make ends meet. This has guided almost all of the directions my life has taken since, from my decision to become a teacher to my activism with my trade union, the NASUWT.

I am also spurred on by a deep love for Hexham and the wider area. We are incredibly lucky to live here – we must fight relentlessly and unapologetically against any attempt to put at risk the ecological stability of *our* landscape for financial profit, particularly through fracking.



I recognise the difficulties faced by many fellow inhabitants of Tynedale in simply getting from A to B. The Green Party is committed to improving public transport through public ownership and supports local planning initiatives from communities to determine their own transport needs, bringing *real* democratic decision making to our area.

The people of Hexham have suffered as a result of this government's ideological austerity agenda. Rural poverty blights the lives of many and has seen ever more families turning to Tynedale Food Bank for help. This is a disgrace in 2015.

Talking to people in Hexham, it is clear that there is an appetite for policies that put people and the planet first. The Green Party offers hope for fairness, equality and stability on a sustainable planet.

I would be honoured to represent the people of Hexham in the House of Commons. I would work tirelessly to ensure that our voice is heard loud and clear for the common good.

**Lee Williscroft-Ferris Green Party PPC**

### CONSERVATIVE

I hope that local people in Haydon Bridge will support me for two reasons: I have tried to be a good constituency MP, representing local people and fighting for a better future for Tynedale, disagreeing with the Coalition government where I think Westminster has got it wrong.

But I also hope you will support me because slowly but surely the Coalition government are turning this country around from a near bankrupt nation, into a country with more jobs, apprenticeships and a better future for us locally.

When elected in 2010 I wanted to bring jobs and revitalise the economy in our local area. In Haydon Bridge and across Northumberland we are starting to reap the rewards. The latest employment figures show that, this year, we have got off to a great start; over 30,000 more people in work in the North East than this time last year.

Apprenticeships are pivotal to a strong economy as they help get young people into work. I was the first MP to hire, train and retain an apprentice. Jade, from Prudhoe, started with me as an apprentice office manager and is now qualified and still working with me today.

A stronger economy is needed to address the historic low funding for Northumberland schools, compared to urban areas. I have made it my mission to get Tynedale a fairer funding deal for all our schools. This April we will receive a Fairer Funding top up of an extra £10.6 million for schools in Northumberland. This means that Haydon Bridge High will see core funding increase by £170,000 and Haydon Bridge Primary increase by £19,222. This is the first stage in a long rebalancing of school funding. I am also doing all I can to help Haydon Bridge High School through its present difficulties following the recent Ofsted.

This election is a referendum on how well this government have done in turning the country around and our long term economic plan for the future. We have the economic plan to provide more jobs and apprenticeships, and gives us the means to support the NHS we all love, whilst addressing the financial needs of our schools.

But this election is also a verdict on whether you think I have been a good constituency MP. I have tried to do things differently, and take your voice in Tynedale to Westminster. I hope I can count on your support.

**Guy Opperman**

**Conservative Party PPC**

### LABOUR

I am honoured to be standing as your Labour candidate at the upcoming General Election. It really is going to be close and it's a fight for the kind of society we want to be part of. I was in Haydon Bridge listening to voters two weeks ago; many expressed concerns about local and national issues and agreed that we need a change of government.

There is concern about Education. Much of the discussion we hear is about structures; politicians on all sides have been guilty of arguing about if schools should be free schools, high schools, supported by the LEA or be an academy. However, when listening to concerns from parents, I hear that they are less concerned about structures - most simply want a great local school, staffed by committed, well-qualified teachers, which provides good outcomes for all young people. If elected I will refocus the debate away from structures and back on what matters most; the students.

My promises to Haydon Bridge:

- When I'm not in parliament I will be visible in your community. I was born and brought up in the North East. I have a young family and I understand the challenges people face in these tough economic times.
- I will defend our NHS. The effects of wasting £3 billion on a top-down reorganisation are being felt locally. Services in Hexham are under threat. I will vote to reverse privatisation and Labour will invest in our NHS.
- I understand concerns about immigration. I will vote to support a new law to prevent employers undercutting wages by exploiting migrant workers. Labour will ban agencies from recruiting exclusively from abroad.
- I will support family life. A Labour government will give 25 hours per week of free childcare to working parents of 4 years olds and provide childcare for older children from 8am to 6pm in local schools.
- I believe in building a fair society. The benefits of the so-called recovery are not being felt equally across the country. Cuts to council budgets have been disproportionate and have, in effect, redistributed wealth from the North to the South. We will build an economy that works for all, and not just a few at the top.

This election is incredibly important for the future of our local area. Only Labour will safeguard local NHS services, reduce class sizes and reinvest in the future of our young people.

**Liam Carr**

**Labour Party PPC**

## Its Not Too Late To Start.....

Ok go on then I admit it! It was one of my new years resolutions as your pharmacist in the village to communicate more frequently with you. I wanted to ensure I was fulfilling my professional obligation to help you as a resident of the area to be informed about your health and the effect the choices you make every day can affect it.

What better way to do this than the Haydon News I hear you all cry. And those were my thoughts exactly. Unfortunately I like many of you have been a bit late making progress with my resolutions. However its not too late to start. As I write this February is coming towards an end. There is still ten months of the year to make a positive impact so here I go. This is my first Haydon News article of the year. What steps can you take today to move towards your goals?

For those of you who would like to stop smoking it is No Smoking Day on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March.



### **Planning Ahead Is Key to Success**

Write down the reasons why you want to achieve your goal. If it is stopping smoking think of the benefits of stopping whether they be health, social or financial. Think ahead to how you are going to handle the difficult times. There will be times when things will be hard and it will be easier to give in. How are you going to overcome these challenges? The more thought through on these things you can be the more likely you are to succeed.

### **Tell People Your Goals**

If people know what you are trying to achieve they can help you along the way. If there are people who you think may hinder you give yourself a bit of space from them. As much as anything else the public declaration can spur you on when things are tough. You don't want to be seen as failing.

### **Praise Your Progress**

Celebrate every step you make towards your goal. If you have decided to stop smoking every hour, day and week you go without a cigarette is something to celebrate. Save the money you would have spent on cigarettes for a treat for you or your family

### **NHS Stop Smoking Programme Available at the Pharmacy**

The most proven way to stop smoking is with the help of an NHS stop smoking advisor give us a call to arrange an appointment today on 01434 684354.

**Tom McCullough      Haydon Bridge Pharmacy**

## **Kielder hatchery and the Tyne's recovery**

In the late 1970s work started to build Kielder reservoir high up the North Tyne. The building of this reservoir meant the North Tyne lost 10 miles of river and most of the salmon and sea trout's spawning areas and prevented salmon and sea trout from using the Kielder burn to spawn also.

The water authority had two choices, the first was to build a 172 foot fish ladder to allow the fish into the giant dam, this option caused concern as, unlike the Scottish rivers Tay and Tummel who have a constant supply of early fresh fish who are fit and strong enough to negotiate a fish pass, the Tyne system has its major fish run in the autumn, when the fish have not eaten at sea for months and would have lost body mass and power to negotiate such a fish pass. Also as most of the upper reaches of the North Tyne under the giant lake were sea trout spawning areas the salmon would have been forced to try and lay eggs in unnatural areas.

The second option was a hatchery. The cost of a fish pass was in the region of £1 million pounds whereas the hatchery option was in the region of £365,000.

The fish pass was also not guaranteed to work so the hatchery was deemed a safer and cheaper option. It was agreed that the hatchery must put over 150,000 young salmon into the North Tyne system on a yearly basis in the early days.

The hatchery was built at the top of the lake near the Kielder burn. This burn flows into Kielder reservoir and the water supply would always be natural, this gave the young salmon in the hatchery the very best start in life as they require a constant supply of fresh water over the 20 egg troughs and rearing tanks which are indoors and the 4 holding tanks outside. Each tank has its own diverted water supply from the Kielder burn which flows back into the burn after the process, this means none of the tanks and troughs can contaminate each other.

The late Peter Gray was given the role of hatchery manager and his work was instrumental in bringing the Tyne back to life. If you remember, not a single rod caught salmon was recorded in 1959 and now the Tyne is regarded as the finest salmon fishing river in England. People doubted his work saying the cleaning of the estuary and the industrial areas of the Tyne were the reason the salmon returned but if you look at salmon rivers all over the UK most returns of salmon running the rivers are showing huge declines, whereas the Tyne goes from strength to strength due to the annual process of releasing hatchery reared fish back into the head waters of the North and South Tyne.

The process of rearing salmon is...briefly:

Adult male and female fish are electro netted (stunned) in the upper North and South Tyne usually in late October /early November and transported to the hatchery. These female fish are stripped of their eggs at the hatchery and ripe males are used to fertilise the eggs.

The process is complicated. Water temperature is key to eggs becoming ova. The eggs are checked regularly as one dead egg easily attracts fungus and can contaminate the whole tray.

With a maintained water temperature it takes roughly 56 days for the eggs to hatch. Peter Gray states in his book (Swimming against the Tide: Restoring salmon to the Tyne) that a lot of mistakes were made in the early years. Young salmon were released back into the rivers too early, when the rivers were too cold. This meant, as the water was so cold, microscopic river life, that the young fry fed on, were not in great supply so the young fish basically starved to death.

A later release showed a much better survival rate, once river life became more abundant for the fry to live on.

The young fry were released into the Kielder burn. Here they fattened up and became smolts. These smolts have a desire to return to sea to follow the life cycle of their parents. As they head down the Kielder burn they are caught before the hatchery in a smolt trap. They are then examined and measured, some tagged, fin clipped and released below the dam. These fish return to the sea whence they will return to the Tyne system to spawn in future years in the head waters of their birth.

Fin clipped salmon have been rod caught below the dam at Falstone a few years later after release, proving the hatchery really does work and proving all the doubters wrong.

From 1978, to his retirement in 2005, Peter Gray was responsible for the release of 10 million young fish back into the rivers of northern England.

Peter Gray became a consultant on hatchery work even after his retirement and did talks about his work to angling groups all over the world and became a consultant in fish conservation stocking.

The Kielder hatchery goes from strength to strength and now has a visitor centre open from 10-4 pm from April to September where the salmon's life cycle is explained (free entry).

Surely must be worth a visit!

**Oldredshrimp**



At our January meeting we voted whether we should have the fireworks again to celebrate New Year. The answer was a resounding YES so plans are already in action to make it happen again!! We'll use the same firework company again; they commented that it was one of the best venues they'd ever done. We need to raise about £2000 so please support any events that we organise throughout the year.

The next event will be the Easter Eggstravaganza in the Community Centre on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 10am-12noon. There'll be egg painting, Easter bonnet making, Easter basket creating, chocolate crispies, hot dogs, an Easter egg hunt and lots more. Watch out for posters nearer the time and details will be sent out via the school in your children's school-bag.

We're planning another 'Songs From Stage and Screen' in St Cuthbert's in July – if you or anyone you know would like to be part of it please contact me on the number below.

It was brilliant to see some new faces at our recent meetings. Some new blood is just what we need to keep the Get It Together Society focused. There's always room for more so please come along on the first Monday of the month at 8pm in the Havelock.

**Pauline Wallis**  
**The Get It Together Society**  
**Tel: 01434 684061**



**Having got dropped kerbs and 'No Parking' white lines organised on Ratcliffe Road to allow him safe access to the Cop, our resident mobility scooter mounted Enforcer is threatening to take photographs of the cars of delinquent motorists to forward to the constabulary and to leave terse messages stuck to their cars.**

## The Bridge and Visitor Information Point

### Half term crafts:



On the Monday of half term, an eager group of children attended the Crafts session. It's a time to meet friends; be creative and even the hardworking parents get a chance to chat. This session built on the theme for National Libraries Day so it was all things Harry Potter. There was a lot of colouring in of characters from the stories and of the Hogwarts House Shields as well as making a broomstick bookmark. An extra, this time, was a hunt around the Bridge to find hidden items connected with the Harry Potter books in order to work out the mystery word! As always, the hour ended with refreshments and a time to relax.

### Children's Corner:

The new display in the Children's Corner is to celebrate World Book Day on 5<sup>th</sup> March. World Book Day in the UK is always the first Thursday in March and is a time to encourage children's love of books and reading. In school, each child always receives a £1 book voucher to buy one of the World Book Day's special editions or to put towards the price for a book they have wanted to read.

Our display shows a range of book ideas from tiny tots to young teens, all of which can be ordered, to borrow free of charge, from the Bridge.

### Bookstart members:

Parents of Bookstart members (0-4 year olds) will be pleased to know that we now have a small box on the front desk to house Bookstart passports so that you do not need to keep them at home (and then forget to bring them with you-imagine a smile here). If you have lost the passport, we can provide an alternative. Each time your child borrows books from the Bridge or takes part in a holiday Craft session, they earn another stamp towards their next certificate.

### Public computers:

Recently, both of the computers have been upgraded especially in their range of choices for Archive material, for example, there are editions of some newspapers from earlier days available on line now. In general, after a few rocky months, both computers are working smoothly again.

### General note:

At the end of each month, we can request books that we would like to see in the library. These can be more books by authors that you have enjoyed already or books that you have heard of or read about and would like to read. Let us know when you are visiting the Bridge. We will make a note and do our best to accommodate your wishes.

Happy reading ...

## Haydon Bridge Carpet Bowls Club



The club has presented a cheque for £150 to the Get It Together Society. It follows the club's successful Christmas coffee morning and raffle, which took place at the Community Centre, in December.

The Get It Together Society's Jo Thompson and Pauline Wallis attended a recent bowls night, where they were presented with the cheque by bowls club chairman, Michael Rumney.

The bowls club's monthly coffee mornings have been a tremendous success, generating support not only from members, but from the wider community. Anyone who would like to try a game of bowls should contact club secretary, Joseph Tulip, on

**07534 214 365.**

## **An Introduction to Tynedale Community Bank**

Tynedale Community Bank (TCB) has been launched as a local credit union offering savings and loans.

Many people in our area are struggling to make ends meet and TCB has been created to help by providing savings plans and to give people a real alternative to expensive ways of lending such as payday loans and doorstep lenders.

TCB is a sister bank of the highly successful and well established Prince Bishops Community Bank (PBCB) based in County Durham. PBCB and TCB operate as trading arms of Prince Bishops Credit Union which is a not-for-profit organisation, owned and run by the people who use it.

We are looking for individuals, groups and businesses based in Tynedale to support this initiative by saving and/or lending from the bank. Whether you have funds to deposit, wish to save regularly for a particular purpose (e.g. holiday or Christmas) or need to borrow funds, by becoming a member, you are supporting lending to local people.

Deposits are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

### **Example of a practical way you can use TCB – Oil Account**

If you are an oil user, you have less choice than most about who supplies your energy, what price you pay and how you pay for it. Taking full advantage of any “dips” in oil prices can be difficult if the funds necessary are not readily available.

TCB’s Oil Account can provide what is effectively a “Pay As You Go” scheme but without the restrictions of being tied to one oil supplier.

Use the account to save regularly and to pay for your oil when you get a delivery.

The account can also be used to provide a low cost, temporary credit facility if you needed it e.g. perhaps you would like to fill your tank during the summer months when prices have been traditionally lower but don’t have quite enough to pay outright?

This account brings oil users closer to what electricity and mains gas consumers enjoy already i.e. their annual energy consumption spread over equal monthly instalments, making budgeting easier. An added benefit is that the financial control stays with the consumer instead of the oil supplier.

**If you would like more information on becoming a depositor, regular saver or lender, contact Lauren Langton in the first instance:**

**by emailing [laurenlangton@me.com](mailto:laurenlangton@me.com)  
or by ringing 07791 874862.**

## **Haydon Bridge Nature Club challenges you to get twitching!**

50 years ago local birdwatchers recorded sightings of nearly 100 varieties within a 5 mile radius of the village. They were recorded in a 1965 WI scrapbook recently rediscovered at the Bridge, along with many other snapshots of life in the village back then.

The Nature Club now challenges you to find out how many of these birds can still be spotted around the village – and perhaps add some new varieties to the list.

The original list is printed for you on the back of this edition of the Haydon News. Take it with you next time you go for a walk and tick off each variety you spot. Add any new ones in the blank spaces. Return your completed “Spring” form to the Bridge by the end of May, and pick up a new one to record our “Summer” visitors.

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, like Robins and Dunnocks, others are just passing through. In Spring in the garden there are likely to be all sorts of finches and Blue tits, Great tits and Coal tits. By the river you might be able to spot Gooseanders and Kingfishers. Meanwhile up on the fells Lapwing and Curlew 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**

**TURNOVER TO THE BACK  
PAGE FOR THE LIST OF BIRDS.**

Variety	When?	Where?
Little Grebe		
Mallard Duck		
Teal		
Shoveller Duck		
Mute Swan		
Kestrel		
Red Grouse		
Black Grouse		
Partridge		
Quail		
Pheasant		
Waterhen		
Coot		
Oystercatcher		
Lapwing		
Ringed Plover		
Golden Plover		
Snipe		
Woodcock		
Curlew		
Common Sandpiper		
Redshank		
Dunlin		
Black-headed Gull		
Common Tern		
Stock Dove		
Wood Pigeon		
Tawny Owl		
Little Owl		
Long-eared Owl		
Swift		
Green Woodpecker		
Gt Sp Woodpecker		
Skylark		
Swallow		
House Martin		
Sand Martin		
Carrion Crow		
Rook		
Jackdaw		
Magpie		
Jay		
Tufted Duck		
Pochard		
Gooseander		
Sparrow Hawk		
Merlin		

Variety	When?	Where?
Great Tit		
Blue Tit		
Coal Tit		
Marsh Tit		
Long-tailed Tit		
Tree Creeper		
Wren		
Mistle thrush		
Blackbird		
Wheatear		
Whinchat		
Redstart		
Robin		
Grasshopper Warbler		
Sedge Warbler		
Blackcap Warbler		
Garden Warbler		
Whitethroat Warbler		
Willow Warbler		
Chiffchaff		
Wood Warbler		
Goldcrest		
Dipper		
Spotted Flycatcher		
Pied Flycatcher		
Dunnock		
Meadow Pipit		
Tree Pipit		
Grey Wagtail		
Yellow Wagtail		
Pied Wagtail		
Starling		
Greenfinch		
Goldfinch		
Linnet		
Lesser Redpoll		
Bullfinch		
Chaffinch		
Yellowhammer		
Reed Bunting		
House Sparrow		
Tree Sparrow		
Corncrake		
Barn Owl		
Short-eared Owl		
Willow Tit		
Corn Bunting		