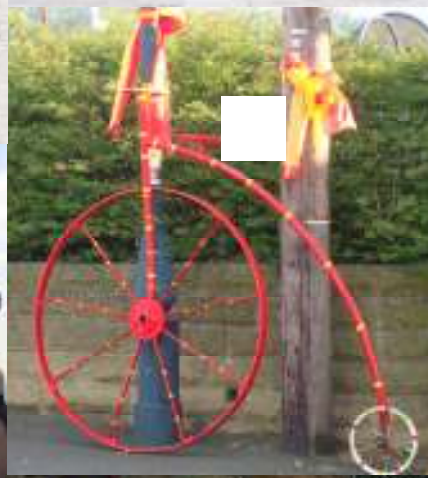


# The Haydon News

WELCOME TOUR OF BRITAIN

SEE PAGES 24 AND 28 FOR A REPORT ON THE TOUR OF BRITAIN



October 2015





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The deadline is always 48 hours before the next Parish Council meeting.

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Steve Ford (Chairman and Editor) Pauline Wallis (vice chair) Peter Parker (treasurer and diarist) Pat Hirst, Sheila Adams. Marcus Byron, John Wallis

### EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE HAYDON NEWS.

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.

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# ADOXOGRAPHY



For 2016 Haydon Bridge has its own calendar and it is on sale now! Take a look at the back cover of this Haydon News for a representative page from the calendar. The theme is: THEN AND NOW. It contains a selection of twelve pictures from the village archives seen alongside 2015 views of the same locations.

It costs only £5.00 and is available from Claire's Newsagent or "The Bridge" Library or it can be ordered through The Anchor Hotel, The General Havelock Inn, the Parish Church or the Methodist Church. It will make an ideal gift for friends and family in the months ahead and, of course, for Christmas.

**Talking of Christmas - if you want something advertised in the Haydon News in time for Christmas then I need to have the item before 20th October, so that it can go into the November edition! The edition published in the first week in December may be too late for you to gain maximum benefit.**

The enormous efforts that so many people made for the Tour of Britain paid off handsomely. I have never seen such a village wide result in terms of people engaged in a project and decorations prepared. Well done to everyone involved.

The policeman on the front cover may have been the same one who amused the crowds at the New Alston junction by pretending to peddle his motorbike up the last few yards of the hill. The jaunty angle that he has on our cover is certainly reminis-

cent of the hilltop performance that raised such a loud cheer and much laughter.

Dennis' mention of the boy killed by a train in the village highlights the very welcome but long overdue installation of a bridge over the railway and its essential contribution to public safety. The story in pictures, of the installation, is on page 31, courtesy of Maureen Robson.

This month we have two pictures taken by drones over the village. It would be fascinating to have more pictures in the future from this angle but I would remind whoever is using the machines that there are important issues about privacy to be considered. Only very large bribes, paid in unmarked, non-consecutive, used fivers will ensure the publication of the most salacious and compromising pictures!

Lately I have come across a number of cannabis plants growing locally. For the reassurance of the constabulary I should point out that these arise from birdseed - the plants are devoid of recreational value, I am told... This does, however, prompt me to pass on a little snippet of information that was passed to me by an impeccable source:

*Washington State recently passed two laws. They legalized gay marriage and legalized marijuana. The fact that gay marriage and marijuana were legalized on the same day makes perfect Biblical sense. Leviticus 20:13 says: "If a man lies with another man they should be stoned". Apparently we just hadn't interpreted it correctly before!*

On a more rural note: Did you read the one about the late Lord Montague? He was once asked why the badger bill had not received enough support to pass, whereas decriminalising homosexual acts had. "Not many badgers in the House of Lords," he replied.

*Steve Ford*

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# PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

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A meeting of the Haydon Bridge Parish Council was held in the Community centre at 7.30pm on 24th September 2015.

Mr. Ray Wealleans from NCC attended to outline options available for the future provision of a public convenience in the village. The options offered seem to include winter (November 1st to Good Friday) closing if NCC is to retain overall responsibility, with the hope that pubs, clubs and The Bridge would mop up the winter demand - if those are the *mots justes*. Or the Parish Council could be given £2,000 per annum by NCC to make suitable provision for daily opening, closing and cleaning. Under this second scenario NCC would retain responsibility for repairs, testing, utilities and rates.

It was noted that the actual ownership of the property in question is unclear.

The consensus of opinion appeared to favour the second option and further evaluation will be made before a final decision is taken.

### **Public Participation**

A contingent of concerned Governors from Shaftoe School were in attendance. They expressed the very strongly felt concern of the whole school community about the relentlessly persistent fouling with dog faeces of the Green play area above the school. The school pays for the regular mowing of the area and yet, because of the fouling and associated public health problems, they are unable to make proper use of the area.

The main problem is the presence of the public footpath through the area that gives access for both responsible and irresponsible dog owners alike.

Solutions proposed include asking the responsible dog owners to report the actions of the irresponsible ones - including a clear description of offending owners and dogs. Fencing, photographing, CCTV and regular patrols were also mooted. Whilst it was noted that photographs may be of little use in court, they may be of use for publication on Haydon Matters on Facebook or in the Haydon News.

The dog warden seems to attend only in response to reports and therefore the more reports that are made, the more frequent will be his patrols.

Signage and dog bin provision has been put in place already. It was noted that the children themselves had made

notices but that they had been destroyed in a bonfire on the picnic table.

The possibility of total prohibition of dogs in the area was raised as was the considerable effort and expense involved in effective fencing and its maintenance.

A second issue raised was the absence of a pedestrian crossing for the children at the south end of the old bridge - by the chippie. Children are being encouraged to walk to school, rather than be driven. The installation of a proper crossing with zigzag approaches would also go a long way to relieving the parking problems too.

A further item from a member of the public concerned the problems arising from possibly over zealous parking regulation enforcement at the west end of the village, by the crossing. Legal advice had been sought by the local residents but NCC had failed to respond to a solicitor's letter. A notice stating 'Residents parking only' or similar was sought. Cllr. Sharp agreed to investigate and, hopefully, set up a meeting with the an NCC officer(s).

The last item from the floor was warm congratulations to all involved in the Tour of Britain preparations with the added early warning that on 11th and 12th June 2016 the Queen's official birthday is slated to be celebrated throughout the Empire and Dominions, including Haydon Bridge. Planning for the event ought to start forthwith.

### **Declarations of Interest**

were sought.

### **Previous Minutes**

were agreed.

### **NCC**

Cllr. Sharp reported that the drains on the North Bank had been dealt with.

The LED light installation in Haydon Bridge for 2017 is still on track.

The applications for the Community Chest funding had been sparse and further applications will be welcome. The next meeting for decisions to be made will be in January 2016.

Haydon Bridge has had a very high level of broadband fibre uptake.

The Shaftoe Street parking consultation will take place soon and progress toward a decision is being made - especially when the possibility of a crossing by the chippie is taken into account.

Modifications to the Park Stile marking had been made but the signage remained to be done.

Cllr. Sharp expressed his thanks for all the efforts that has gone into the Tour of Britain event.

Dog bin fixings at various locations have yet to be finished.

The former problem of the bins by The Anchor seem to have been overcome.

### **Highways**

The local transport priorities are now as follows:

1. The slip road at the Alston turning on the A69 remains problematic, though the prospect of A69 dualling may well postpone any changes indefinitely.



2. A complete continuous cycle path from Haydon Bridge to Hexham, using the old road where possible, is desired. A feasibility study is the next step. Sustrans should be involved if possible.

3. Access to the Spa Well needs improvement.

The new bridge over the railway is in place and in use. The former public footpath now requires reinstatement.

### Lighting

Nil

### Planning

A 10kw ground mounted solar photovoltaic array is proposed in the field to the north of The Carts Bog. No objection.

### Accounts

Agreed.

£700.00 per annum to be donated to the Haydon News in exchange for favourable coverage of the activities of the ineffably wise and strikingly handsome Parish Councilors.

### Correspondence

The church yard flag received favourable comment.

A most diverting monologue on the hazards of amateur horology at high altitude and the painful lessons learned by the, now much wiser, tyro held the council spell bound for several minutes. Suffice it to say that, despite everything, the church clock now works and the bruising will subside in the coming weeks. And he styles himself 'super genius' too!

### Parish Projects.

Bad weather hampered The Haydon Hundred somewhat but the event is attracting much interest and favourable comment. It will be repeated in 2016. Wider community involvement in the future is sought. The Allen Valley Velos are gaining in membership rapidly.

### AOB.

Whilst plans for the church illuminations continue apace and an initial response from the diocese has been received, the aspiration of the PCC and Vicar to alter the area around the church into a form of community garden may bring a pause to progress. It being felt that telescoping the two projects into one would be likely to yield a better, more polished result and retain the energy and enthusiasm of those involved.

It is proposed to continue providing the hanging baskets around the community for as long as possible.

Poppy season will be upon us very soon and it is hoped that as many people as possible will remember to donate.

The Patient Participation Group has held a meeting. Enhanced liaison with the Parish Council is suggested.

No further mention of Innerhaugh development has been heard.

The section 106 on Tait's Yard has been revoked against the objections of the Parish Council.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Community Centre on October 22nd 2015 at 7.30pm.**

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**I continue my reports of activity on 'The Home Front', at Haydon Bridge, during the Great War; from January 1918.**

**Previous accounts, from the day war broke out on August 4th 1914 to December 1917, are written in my Historical Notes in the July 2014 to August 2015 issues of The Haydon News.**

**John William Johnstone R.E.**, son of William Pearson Johnstone and Alice Johnstone (nee Dixon) of Church Street, was presented with the Military Medal - gained in 1916 - in the Town Hall on 19th January 1918.

A collection was taken at the event and handed over to Sapper Johnstone.

John's decoration was recorded as the fifth MM awarded in the village to date, for bravery in battle.

Sadly, John lost his life on April 12th 1918 at the age of 24 years.

**Rowdy Haydonians:** Apparently, not all public functions in Haydon Bridge Town Hall were treated with respect, as our parish councillors were asked in January 1918 to do something to stop the rowdiness that often occurred. Mr Beattie said it was scandalous the way a section of the local community conducted themselves at the back of the hall during concerts and, on occasions, it was "more like a beer garden than a concert, with both men and women involved".

**Dancing the Night Away:** The Haydon Detachment of the 4th Battalion Northumberland Volunteer Regiment held its first social function in the Town Hall on Friday, February 8th 1918. The event included a whist drive, supper and dance. One hundred and seventy six people attended the whist drive, in which they could win donated prizes including: a Doulton rose bowl, a silver headed Malacca cane, a Japanese casket, a safety razor, and a calf skin letter case. (*Our younger readers might have to ask their parents what a 'letter' is!*) Miss A. Cowing and Mrs Caris won the ladies prizes and the men's prizes were won by J.W. Milburn and J. Liddell. Following the supper, all the men present above military age were asked to join the Volunteer Regiment, in which they could enjoy the shooting at the excellent Haydon Bridge military range at the Lees.

Over two hundred and fifty people danced the night away, from 10.00pm until 3.00 o'clock in the morning.

**Ladies in the Game:** A novel football match, played on February 23rd 1918 at Haydon Park and organised by the Haydon Bridge Leek Club, raised £24 for the Soldiers' Welfare Fund. The game was between the Elswick Ladies Munition Workers and a selected team of local ex Haydon Bridge AFC men over military age, who played with their left arms tied behind their backs.

Apparently, there was some nice play by the ladies, who won by 4 goals to 3, and a large number of spectators watched the game.

A dance followed the football, but, there is no report as to whether either the men or the ladies had their late night activities limited by having their hands tied!

**A Lot of Bull:** On Friday March 8th 1918, R.O. Blaney of Land Ends won third prize at Gateshead auction mart for shorthorn bulls over twenty months; the bull was sold for 47 guineas. He also won third prize in the fourteen to twenty months category and sold the bull for 40 guineas.

**Doctor's Release:** In March 1918, a request was made to release Haydon Bridge's Doctor Routledge from the army, owing to the illness of Haydon Parish's only other doctor, Doctor Murray.

**Rationing:** Supplies of tea, butter, margarine, bacon and cheese could only be obtained by production of a Hexham RDC Food Control Committee 'food card', from March 11th 1918.

Tea: 1oz per head per week. Butter or margarine: 4ozs. Bacon and cheese: 4 ozs. (Supplies of bacon were so low it was impossible to supply 4 ozs to everyone.)

Registration of customers for meat was also in operation: 1lb per head for adults; ½lb per head for children.

#### **The new footbridge over the railway at Pasture Well is 97 years too late for William.**

On Monday March 25th 1918, thirteen year old William Scott and ten year old Robert Alexander Rodger walked to Chesterwood from Innerhaugh after school, going on a message for butter milk. Returning to the village by the Pasture Well cinder path, they reached the foot crossing over the railway just as a goods' train was approaching from the east. As soon as the goods' train had passed, William started to cross the line, unaware of the approach of the 5.30pm passenger train in the opposite direction and, tragically, he was struck by the engine of the 5.30.

William was killed instantly while his young friend looked on. Robert ran to Innerhaugh to tell Robert Rodger, his father, who went to the Pasture Well crossing immediately and found William's mangled body that was then taken to the Haydon Bridge station.

At the inquest in the Haydon Bridge Town Hall, on Wednesday March 27th, the jury agreed that the boys were not trespassing as there was access over a stile onto the railway and a public footpath, and William's death was a pure accident. The members of the jury gave their fees towards a wreath for the deceased.



The Pasture Well crossing, replaced by a footbridge in July 2015

**I will return to the 1914 - 1918 'Home Front' at Haydon Bridge, in the November issue of The Haydon News.**





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## MRS ELEANOR MARY PARKER (AND OTHERS)

My article in June's Haydon News, following a chance meeting with Christine Wood (nee Parker) - the great granddaughter of our former General Havelock landlady - has created quite an interest.

You may recollect from my earlier June 2015 references to Mrs Parker, that she was born the daughter of Thomas Armstrong of Hot Bank, within sight of the Roman Wall, and there is much to interest local residents in her family history there. Even though it is just outside our parish boundary, those living at Hot Bank Farm have had a close connection with Haydon Bridge and parish over many years. (For example: I can be sure I am not the only one from Shaftoe Trust School to have had a secret fancy for the bonny Pattinson girls from Hot Bank, but be either too young or too shy to tell them!)

Mrs Parker's grandfather, Robert Armstrong (1794-1859), was a yeoman farmer who owned land at Hot Bank and Long Syke, including the estates of William Armstrong (1768-1837) of Bogg House. Robert married Eleanor Lowes (1798-1880) in 1823 and had inherited Bogg House in 1837. Eleanor was the daughter of John Lowes (1756-1843). In 1859, Robert left his estates to his two eldest sons, Robert and Isaac but, by 1871, the brothers had left Hot Bank leaving their seventy two year old widowed mother to run the 900 acre farm, together with three of her sons including Thomas, Mary's father.

In 1881, Thomas was the only Armstrong at Hot Bank and, aged forty four years, he was farming 500 acres rather than the original 900 acres. Thomas was not alone in the house. He had a 'farm servant', and a housekeeper seventeen year old Irish girl Eliza McWilliams, whose parents lived at Prudham where her father worked as a quarryman. Thomas married Eliza in 1883 and Eleanor Mary was born in 1884.

By 1891, Thomas had left Hot Bank Farm and his brother Robert had returned. This move meant that Mary was raised at High Green Dyke, Allendale and High Plains near Broomley; from where she married John Parker and had a son, Thomas Roland (Ronnie) whose eldest son Ken is the father of my correspondent, Christine Wood.

After twenty years as tenants at The Anchor public house at Whittonstall, and on John's return from the Great War, in 1923 John and Mary separated and left The Anchor. From this time, Mary Parker made her own way in life, remaining in the licensing trade and running her own pubs with much success. It is no surprise that Christine Wood is proud of her determined ancestor, who trained with Newcastle Breweries at the Fox and Hounds hostelry in Bardon Mill, after leaving Whittonstall, before taking over at the Three Horse Shoes in Melkridge with her own name above the door, and then, moved to the General Havelock Inn where she ruled the roost for over twenty years. It is thanks to the research undertaken by Christine and her husband Tony that I have been able to put this short history together.

My own memories of Mrs Parker are limited, although I enjoyed a drink during her time as landlady, I was more likely to be found in the Grapes and the Robin Hood at Hexham and the Red lion at Haltwhistle, before going on

to an alcohol free knees-up at Len and Molly Heppell's or Haltwhistle Church hall. In Haydon Bridge you would find me at Charlie and May Brown's Scotch Arms Hotel. Charlie had a juke box in the room overlooking the Tyne and that was a big attraction for those of my age in the 1950s and early 60s, Charlie looked after us youngsters so well during his time in the Scotch Arms and I for one will never ever forget his kindness.

The Havelock, meanwhile, attracted an older clientele, including those who played in the Haydon Bridge Silver Band and practiced in the back room of the pub.

There are many, of course, who do remember Mrs Parker well as the General Havelock licensee,

For example: I spent a very pleasant hour with Norman and Deanna Bell recently, in their cosy house on Shaftoe Terrace, when Norman recalled his memories of Mrs Parker's time at the Havelock.

For as long as I can remember, Norman Bell has been one of the finest fishermen in our parish and every year for thirty three years, he and Deanna have flown to Canada to fish off Vancouver Island. Norman's early career after leaving Shaftoe Trust School is also of special interest to those researching our parish's social history. After he worked at the Food Store with Henry Burrows, Norman moved to Langley Barony and worked in the glazing house with Jackie Heslop. I am guessing, that Norman is one of only two or three still alive who worked at Langley Barony. Norman spent much of his working life with Newman's, the Hexham builders, and in those days the General Havelock was very much a working man's pub.

As a regular drinker there in the 1950s, Norman's abiding memory of Mrs Parker is that: "She sat at the end of the bar next to the till, brandishing her walking stick. Oh aye, she was in charge all right. And she made sure your drink was paid for before it was given to you," Norman told me.

Norman Forster, former Haydonian and a regular reader of The Haydon News On Line, is eighty three years old and now lives at Alnwick but has clear memories of our parish during his time here.

Norman lived in the original Innerhaugh Buildings with his brother Alan, father Joe and mother Janet, before moving to number 22 Strothers Close. I can distinctly remember the sound of Norman's highland pipes being played at the tunnel top:

"I thought it was wise to play them well away from the village", Norman told me during a recent phone call.

Norman was conscripted into the army in 1952 where he was an official piper, on the Northumbrian pipes, for his C/O in the Fusiliers. It was when he was stationed with the men of the Black Watch 'Royal Highland Regiment' in Kenya that Norman was inspired to play the Highland pipes; although it was India where the pipes the strident notes of which I can recall reverberating down the valley from the tunnel top, were made. Norman continued to play the pipes, and the accordion, and formed his own dance band, playing on at least one occasion at Langley Castle. In 1962 Norman joined the police force and served at Haworth, Gosforth, and Alnmouth in the north east of the county, where he has spent his retirement with

his wife Sheila and close to their two children.

Norman Forster's recollection of Mrs Parker is as a schoolboy, however, and I was surprised when he told me: "I used to work for Mrs Parker as a little lad. She had quite a business running a franchise for United buses, collecting and delivering parcels, when she was at the Havelock. After school, I would take parcels left at the Havelock for delivery and put them on the service bus. Any parcels that arrived on the bus for Haydon Bridge residents or businesses, I would take to the pub where people would go and collect them. Mrs Parker had a very good business as well as running the pub, as almost every bus carried a parcel for someone at Haydon Bridge."

It seems that Mrs Parker's second, 'parcel', business was successful competition for the post office opposite.

"Yes, Mrs Parker had a good head for business" Norman told me, "And even though I didn't drink until I went into the army, so didn't frequent the Havelock pub, I knew her as a domineering lady who didn't stand any nonsense."

Finally, for now, a story about Mrs Parker, related by ex fireman Ken Tulip - yet to be corroborated but probably true as Ken is well versed in local social history during his lifetime - is that the Haydon Bridge fire brigade were once called to the General Havelock .... to rescue Mrs Parker, who had got stuck in the bath! Maybe, it will be best if I 'tiptoe' round that story until I have it confirmed, however!



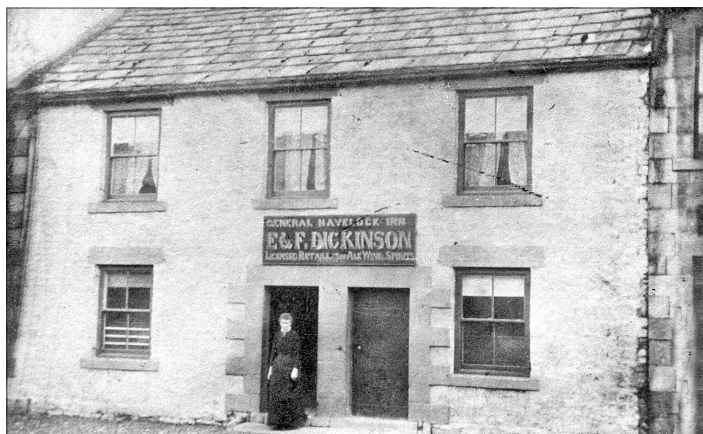
Mrs Eleanor Mary Parker of the General Havelock (right) with grandson Ken and Mrs Vipond who lived through the arch next to the Havelock. (1952)

Ken is the father of Christine Wood, my correspondent.

Ken Parker stayed at the General Havelock with his grandmother during World War II, and when he was married in 1953.

Maybe you remember Ken?

**Christine Wood, Mrs Parker's great granddaughter, is understandably proud of her ancestor's successful business career following the break-up of her marriage, and how she made a significant contribution to life in Haydon Bridge. I am grateful to Christine and her husband Tony for giving me access to the results of their family tree research.**



An early view of the General Havelock; before Mrs Parker's time.



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**Playgroup runs on Monday and Friday mornings**

**from 9.15 to 11.15 (term time only)**

**at Haydon Bridge Fire Station**

The sessions give children a chance to learn through play and to experience lots of different activities.

Playgroup is lead by a fully qualified Playgroup Leader & assistant(s). **Cost per session is £6.00**

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

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

**or Nicola Grint on 07879999289**

**THE HOME FRONT : 1939 - 1945**

**My earlier notes of the Second World War 'Home Front' at Haydon Bridge were published in the July and August issues of The Haydon News.**

**Railway Tagedy:** On March 22nd 1940, fifty two year old Thomas Crowe of Park Stile, Haydon Bridge, a track worker for the London and North Eastern Railway, was found dead with dreadful injuries on the line near the Border Counties Bridge at Hexham. It seems that he was oiling points on the length and was struck by the 8.20am goods train from Hexham to Redesmouth. Before the first war, Thomas had played football for Haydon Bridge and he was a member of the Reading Room committee and an expert billiard player. Thomas's racing pigeons had brought him distinction and he also bred bantams, dogs and a valuable strain of black and Dutch rabbits. Thomas was a much sought after judge at northern shows.

**Michael Pigg:** Eighty one year old Michael had been a farmer all his life and, for sixty years prior to his death in March 1940, had farmed at Chesterwood. Michael's son Tommy was to carry on the business at Chesterwood while another son, William, was a popular huntsman to the Haydon Hounds. *(The Pigg family continue to farm at Chesterwood today, 135 years after Michael moved there.)*

**The Methodist Sunday School Anniversary** attracted a large congregation at Haydon Bridge Central Methodist Church on Good Friday March 22nd 1940. *(Did you, your relatives, or your friends take part in the concert provided by the children?)* Heather Campbell, Marlene Birnie, Jill Rogan, Cinthia Wylie, Kathleen Robinson, Vera Bowman, Audrey Milburn, Eileen Cooper, Audrey Thompson, Evelyn Veitch, Mollie Gibson, Alfie Kent, Olga Hudson, John Milburn, Gladys Veitch, Violet Birnie, Kathleen Burrows, Sheila Birnie, Doreen Gibson, Edna Brown, Pauline Hudson, Ridley Coats, Margaret Burrows, Maureen Armstrong and Arnold Robinson. The children's singing was accompanied by Miss Kirton and Miss Hetherington.

**Air Raid Warning:** At a meeting of councillors on April 11th 1940, it was pointed out that over one hundred men and women from Haydon Parish had joined the A.R.P. services (Air Raid Precautions - renamed later as the Civil Defence Service.) and yet Haydon Bridge did not have a method of summoning the wardens in the event of an air raid. Chief air raid warden, Edward Kirsopp, said all the wardens in the district were aware of their duties but there could be no effective communication without a siren. J.W. Melvin described the existing air raid alarm - a bell on a post at the end of the bridge - as an eyesore and pressed for its removal. *(My dad used to tell me there was many a false alarm when a strong wind blew. The wind blown bell would ring on its pole and those wardens living nearby would rush out to make their preparations for directing the rescue services!)*

**Parish Council Chairman:** W.W. Ridley was appointed chairman of the parish council in succession to the late William Rutherford.

**I will return to the 1939 - 1945 'Home Front' in November.**

## 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 fifty second casualty, in 1918, was **Robert George Irwin**

### (52) Robert George Irwin



Photograph courtesy of Haydon Bridge Community Centre

Robert served as Private, 143242, 17th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. He died on 30th June 1918, aged 25. He was on duty in the front line and was killed by a bomb dropped from an enemy aeroplane.

Born in Cumberland he was one of eleven children of John and Margaret Irwin (nee Bell). After farming in Cumberland John came to Haydon Bridge where he worked in a local quarry.

Robert was employed at the Whinstone Quarry and he enlisted at Penrith. He served in the Westmoreland and Cumberland Yeomanry and the Border Regiment before transferring to the Machine Gun Corps. He went to France on 11th July 1915.



Robert is buried in grave II.A.5 in Toutencourt Communal Cemetery.

As well as having his name on the War Memorial, Robert is also commemorated on the Reredos in St. Cuthbert's.

**If you have any information relating to Robert George Irwin, or any of those individuals on the Haydon Bridge Memorial, then please contact Pam & Ken Linge at: Drystones, Heugh House Lane, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6HJ, phone (01434) 684050 or email: [pam\\_ken.linge@btinternet.com](mailto:pam_ken.linge@btinternet.com).**

### HAYDON BRIDGE METHODIST YOUTH CLUB : 1946

In August 1945, the former Wesleyan Chapel on Ratcliffe Road - on the site of today's Community Centre - became known as 'Wesley Hall' when the Wesleyans, or Central Methodists, merged with the Elmfield Methodists on Church Street - on the site of today's Methodist Chapel - and, in September it was agreed that, 'in the interest of the work of God', the Central premises on Ratcliffe Road should be adopted for Sunday School and youth activities.

By June 1946, after the war time soldiers who had commandeered it as a billet had left, the cook house at the rear had been dismantled and the pulpit and pews had been sold for £60, the building became the home of a youth club where the youngsters of the village met under the auspices of the Methodist Church. The first youth club committee members included John and David Corbett, Stephen Westall, Jeff Reynolds, Laurence Mitchell, Ralph Pickering, Ken Osselton and the misses Audrey Elliot, Evelyn Thompson, Margaret Watson, Olga Hudson, Sheila Todd and Theresa Humble. A new member, Rene Lax, was added to a 'girls committee' in 1950.

I will return to the 1940/50s Haydon Bridge Youth Club in a future issue and would welcome memories from any of our readers who can add to the story. In the meantime, thank you to Mary Moore (nee Tait) for this 1946/47 photograph of the Haydon Bridge Youth Club members, and thanks also to Mrs Rene Armstrong for help in naming the young Haydonians in the photograph. *Can anyone confirm/add to the names?*

### A Group of Haydon Bridge Methodist Youth Club Members 1946/47



**Back row left to right: John Corbett, Eric Scudamore, Wilf Thompson, William Tait, Roland Lowes, ??????**

**Second row: Nichol Mews, Doris Thompson, Joan Glenwright, ??????, John Graham.**

**Third row: Nancy Brown, Mary Stokoe, Theresa Humble.**

**Front Row: Margaret Ransome, Ken Osselton, Amy Stokoe.**

#### YOUR HISTORICAL NOTES

**Help me keep alive the memories of people, places and events in Haydon Parish. If you have stories, photographs, etc., you are happy to have published and/or archived. You can send me your contributions:**

**[dennistelford636@btinternet.com](mailto:dennistelford636@btinternet.com)**



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## HAYDON BRIDGE TINY TOTS

**TINY TOTS - from birth to three years**

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

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

Cost per session is £1.50.

For more information on the above sessions or an informal chat please contact:

**Kelly Richardson 07732260415**

**or Nicola Grint on 07879999289**

## The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre

The biggest ever UK National Park construction project gets underway here in Northumberland. This month has seen The Sill reach a significant landmark as the £14.8m project moves forward into the construction phase. At a meeting on Wednesday, Northumberland National Park Authority Members agreed cost proposals put forward by Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd, the project's appointed building contractors. Work at the Once Brewed site is set to begin on the 21st September.

Stuart Evans Sill Project Director said 'The construction company and all the supporting professional design team are based in the North East. This large capital project will provide a welcome boost to the local economy'.

Temporary National Park visitor information and other facilities, including hot drinks, will be provided from Walltown from now, as well as the Twice Brewed Inn from the end of September. Visitors to Twice Brewed will be able to access National Park tourist information, along with local crafts and produce previously sold at Once Brewed. There will also be trial activities and events hosted at nearby Walltown during the construction period.

A significant element of the trial activities are funded by the Arts Council. These include:

The acclaimed poet Simon Armitage who is currently writing new work highlighting little known but magical spots in the Park. These are made even more magical by only being available when you visit the place the poems are about via a Smartphone app!

Two textile artists have been chosen to further their creative skills. Lindsay Duncanson works from her Newcastle studio and will be inspired by the valleys and Cheviot Hills in north Northumberland, whilst London based Zac Jones will begin a 2 month residency on Hadrian's Wall in October.

To accompany an exhibition of Kim Lewis children's book illustrations at Bellingham Heritage Centre (20th September-1st November) local school children will be treated to storytelling and book creation workshops from an artist in residence.

Finally an additional 'yet to be chosen' artist in residence will be working at the Park throughout the winter months.

If anyone one is interested in more exhibition details or perhaps joining organised workshops with some of the artists please email [mandy.roberts@nnpa.org.uk](mailto:mandy.roberts@nnpa.org.uk)

**Our next Sill Community Open Meeting is going to be held at Twice Brewed Inn on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 6 pm. We will discuss the practical building plan and plans for future events and activities.**

### RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID



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*Michael Haggie BA(Arch), Dip Arch. RIBA*

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## South Tynedale Railway Preservation Society

### The Beginning.

The STRPS runs trains through Northumberland and Cumbria and is on part of the Haltwhistle to Alston line which was the last surviving passenger branch line in rural North East England until it closed in May 1976. The history of the line is well documented, but how the Society was born and how it has survived through changing fortunes is a story which is built not only on narrow gauge track but on hard work, commitment and a passion for the area and its diverse and interesting history.

The line was opened first for goods and then for passengers in 1852 and provided a 40 minute trip initially for two weekday returns. By 1863 the frequency began to increase until the depopulation of the area began.

Alston Station is a 30 minute drive from Haydon Bridge and its, Grade II listed, house is the first thing you see as you arrive. The imposing Tudoresque structure fronts what was a standard gauge line which was surrounded by the goods shed (also grade II listed), a stone yard and gas works, a carriage siding to the west and several sidings either side of the platform.

Prior to 1951 a turntable enabled the terminus to operate. The station had a train shed roof supported on the station house building which covered the platform and two tracks. There was a busy goods operation which covered such diverse elements as livestock, ore, lime, coal and furniture. The line had a fair bit to climb as Alston is set some 1000 ft above sea level and along its length it crossed the South Tyne river three times.

The first real threat of closure came in 1959 but it was documented that the road network in the area was not suitable to replace the trains and so it lived on. Economies were started until in September 1965, goods services ceased. In 1966 further economies made signal box closures possible which in turn enabled the removal of crossing gates.

In 1970 the line was again proposed for closure and finally in January 1973 it was announced that the services would cease.

The formal consent to the closure of the Alston branch in January 1973 brought with it a common goal to preserve it and, on 3rd April 1973, the South Tynedale Railway Preservation Society was formed. The original intention was to purchase the line intact from British Rail, and the South Tynedale Railway Company was set up for this purpose. However, the last standard gauge train ran in May 1976 and, although negotiations between the Company and British Rail continued, by September the track had been lifted between Haltwhistle and Lambley.

A less ambitious scheme to retain the 1½ miles from Gilderdale to Alston was then pursued, but it proved impossible to raise the £40,800 required by BR before the deadline of 30th April 1977 was reached. Negotiations between the Company and B.R. were then terminated, although the Society made it clear it would still like to acquire part of the trackbed.

At the AGM of the Society on 2nd July 1977, the decision to build a narrow gauge line was taken. The County Councils had been given first options to purchase the trackbed and so negotiations started with both Cumbria and Northumberland County Councils for agreements to enable the construction of a two-foot gauge line northwards from Alston. *Heather Palmer*



*TE Dismantling*



*Last Train*

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## CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

### CLERGY MESSAGE FROM:

Rev. Benjamin Carter

From my study window in Haydon Bridge I can see across the railway track to fields which work their way uphill to a knot of trees which hides the mysteries of Haydon Old Church.

Just under a year ago, as we were moving into the Vicarage, the largest of these fields was being ploughed and sown with seed. Over the year that has passed I have seen the seeds sprout into fresh green shoots, then growing into strong grass, and then maturing into golden sheaves, to then be harvested, bailed, and set up in store for the winter ahead. By the time you will read this letter I imagine that the field will once again have been ploughed waiting for this timeless cycle to begin again.

This time of year we naturally think of harvest, of the fruits and abundance of God's gift to us in creation. But more than this the changing of the seasons, which we seem to experience most clearly in the passing of summer into autumn, reminds us of the changing seasons of life. The Church year, through its seasons, moves through its different colours and moods to both remind and reassure of us of God's presence through the changing seasons of the year as well as the changing seasons of life.

Against the inevitability of this change we learn two things. The first is that we have lots of different "pictures of God" to help us experience God's presence in our lives: God's promise in the season of Advent; God's new light at Christmas; God's new birth at Easter and so on. The changing seasons of the Church's year are there, in part, to encourage our imaginations to find God in all the changing seasons of life.

The second is that in all this change, one constant remains: God. In the service of Compline, or Night prayer, we pray that "we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness." In our prayer we remember the constancy of God's presence with us whatever the time, whatever the season of the year. This truth, in turn, presents a call to God's Church. The call is for the Church to remain constant, to remain present, to be there for everyone through all the seasons of the year, and all the seasons of life.

with love, your Vicar

**Benjamin**

### **Puppet Show August 2015**

Our very talented local family 'The Bells' gave an entertaining Puppet Show in the Methodist Church which was enjoyed by young and old alike. Special thanks to them and also to the refreshment ladies.

We hope to have the Puppets back with us before Christmas.

### WHO AND WHERE

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

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

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

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

### Praise Party Picnic

During the summer holidays we held a fun afternoon in the grounds of St. Cuthberts Church. The weather was kind, everyone enjoyed the games and singing, special thanks to Doris for the face painting and parachute games which were both a big hit.

There was an abundance of food for everyone, many thanks to all who had donated items. Lots of people came to support this afternoon and we hope to do something similar next year under the new name of 'Big Church Picnic'.

Grateful thanks to Benjamin for allowing us to use his grounds which were perfect, to Kevin for setting up the sound system, to younger mother Lisa, Victoria and Kelly for their help and input and also to Claire and Jackie from the Newagents for their generosity in supplying the juice/paper cups/plates etc.



### METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

<b>4 October</b>	10am	Morning Worship Sandra Martin
	6pm	Local Arrangements
<b>11 October</b>	10am	Family Harvest Deacon Anne Taylor
	6pm	Harvest Service Led by Acomb Choir
<b>18 October</b>	10am	Communion Worship Rev. Jenny Pryde
	6pm	Communion Worship Rev. Marian Olsen
<b>25 October</b>	10am	Morning Worship J. Histon
	6pm	Readers Service
<b>1 November</b>	10am	Morning Worship Mark Knowles
	6.00am	Local Arrangements

### Next Police Surgery

**1st October 10 - 11am**

### ANGLICAN SERVICES

<b>4 October</b>		
<b>Beltingham</b>	9.30am	Parish Eucharist BCP
<b>Haydon Bridge</b>	11.00am	Parish Eucharist BCP
<b>11 October</b>		
<b>Henshaw</b>	9.30am	Parish Eucharist (Harvest)
<b>Haydon Bridge</b>	11.00am	Parish Eucharist
<b>18 October</b>		
<b>Henshaw</b>	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
<b>Haydon Bridge</b>	11.00am	Parish Eucharist
<b>25 October</b>		
<b>Beltingham</b>	10.00am	Joint Eucharist
<b>Old Haydon</b>	3.00pm	Evening Worship
<b>1 November</b>	<b>All Saints Day</b>	
<b>Beltingham</b>	9.30am	Parish Eucharist and Baptism
<b>Haydon Bridge</b>	11.00am	Parish Eucharist BCP
<b>Henshaw</b>	4.00pm	All Souls Service
<b>Haydon Bridge</b>	6.00pm	All Souls Service

### ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am  
 Mass each Sunday at 11.00am at Haltwhistle  
 Mass on weekdays (except Mondays) at 10.00am either St John's or Haltwhistle.

## Messy Church

14th October 3.30 to 5.45pm  
 at the Methodist Church  
*All children welcome under 8's to be  
 accompanied by an adult*

## Matchstick Model of the Methodist Chapel, Church Street, Haydon Bridge

It's in the past, but lots of ex-youth club members should remember that many years ago there was a matchstick model made by the youth club of the Methodist Chapel on Church Street, Haydon Bridge.

At the time all the youth club members took part in building it in the hall of the old chapel. The old chapel was demolished and a new chapel was built in its place, but tucked away on a top shelf of the present chapel was the model. It had suffered damaged and was in a bit of a sorry state. Some of the matchsticks had come unstuck, the sweet wrappers used for stained glass windows had also come adrift and the battery powered light that used to light up the inside of the windows had lost the will to work. So off it has now gone to that great resting place in the recycle bin.

As there are a lot of club members that will remember making the model, John Gibson was asked to take photos of it to be hung on the chapel wall. This is not just a reminder of what the old chapel looked like but also a reminder to the 40-45 year old ex-members who made the youth club such a great club.



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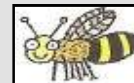
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**Former student teachers of Ridley Hall meet for reunion  
21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 there.**

A gathering of about 40 people from all over the UK came together within the lovely surroundings of Ridley Hall recently for a reunion. Two delegates came from France The furthest traveller came from Vancouver Island in Canada! The group comprised former student teachers posted to Ridley Hall for a year of training when it was an annexe of Northern Counties College of Education in Newcastle in the late 60's and early 70's. Initial training took place between 1967 and 1976, just prior to the hall being used by Haydon Bridge High School as a boarding annexe for pupils.

The group of former student teachers, mostly retired, enjoyed two evenings with organised quizzes in the Bowes Hotel at Bardon Mill. Whilst at Ridley Hall over four decades ago , many would venture not just to the Bowes Hotel, but also to the General Havelock Inn and the Bridge Hotel in Haydon Bridge, where the main attractions were folk evenings.

A group of about 12 spent the morning of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July walking Hadrian's Wall from Steel Rigg car park to Housesteads, following what is considered to be the most strenuous section and the most iconic. Later, after lunch, there was an opportunity to take in the natural beauty of the footpaths in Allen banks. Great appreciation was felt for the National Trust who own and maintain this area and have recently overseen the restoration of the "wobbly bridge". Some of those attending had contributed funds to the National Trust's appeal and took delight in being able to cross the Allen, without wading through its brown muddy waters or having to go via Plankey Mill.

The staff at Ridley Hall were excellent in ensuring that we all enjoyed ourselves and that we were able to appreciate just what a wonderful environment this is for learning. We sincerely hope that the outcome of the recent Ofsted Inspection at Haydon Bridge High School does not have implications for the continued use of the Hall and its facilities for those pupils who regularly board here. We learned that when the Hall is not being utilised by the 'boarders', it is hired to over 70 different groups and is fully booked up at all weekends from now to the end of 2016. We were fortunate and privileged to be included as "one of those 70!" and the magnificent gardens and grounds as well as all the excellent facilities inside Ridley Hall were available for everyone to appreciate and enjoy.

Hopefully we all may wish to return to an occasion like this again in suitable time at this same venue;- one where we all held cherished memories and still have great affection for.

It is a most amazing place for learning and has a positive and great impact upon all who experience what there is on offer. In addition it is extremely well catered for by a small but dedicated team of committed local staff members who run Ridley Hall.

Colin Milner  
(Ridley Hall former student teacher's reunion organiser)

**A few words from our man in the Languedoc August 2015**  
**Bonjour à tous et à toutes!**

It's high summer here as I write, the time when most of us who live here all year round are happily renewing ties with family and friends who have made the long journey down to south-west France to spend time with us.

Yesterday two of our close chums in the village invited us to a late lunch so we could catch up with their children and grandchildren. Needless to say, a convivial time was had by all! At home that evening I totted up the number of guests who were actually staying in their home. It turned out there were five families comprising four married couples, seven grandchildren and a dog! Fifteen people in total. For a fortnight. Such numbers are not the norm, it's fair to say, but at this time of year it's a good job that we can spend many sunny hours each day outdoors. No wonder that come the end of the school holidays most of us are pooled!

Many of those who are visiting have chosen to drive down. They often have stories to tell about incidents *en route*. Hardly surprising given the differences between the road cultures of our two countries. So I thought that this month I would share some thoughts on driving in France. I suspect that, like many of you, I have been scarred by the memory of sitting in a queue at a ferry terminal waiting to board. Have I read the latest information concerning safety requirements and changes to traffic laws? Not wanting to fall foul of the authorities I am easy prey for the lurking AA and RAC men. Two warning triangles, a couple of luminous jackets and a breathalyser kit all find their way back into the car. (In case you didn't know it is obligatory to carry all the above when driving on French roads). Taking great care to drive on the right as you speed down the *autoroute* - muttering under your breath that in France you are obliged to pay for this privilege - you forget that when you arrive at the long queue for the *gare de péage* the toll machines are situated unhelpfully on the passenger side. It then dawns on you that in your haste to purchase the safety equipment you didn't remember to buy any euros. The wretched machine won't necessarily accept an English credit card. And behind, your vehicle is causing



a log-jam of hot and impatient drivers all of them eager to get on their *klaxon* to let you know what they think of the incompetence of this *Monsieur Rosbif!*....Does any of this sound vaguely familiar?

Fortunately, living in France for any length of time puts paid to most of these issues. There are, however, other dangers to be faced when using the roads on a day-to-day basis. I have long believed that inside the psyche of a healthy chunk of French drivers is a strong desire to emulate the feats of a successful Formula 1 ace like Alain



Prost. Staying behind a slower moving car, especially one carrying foreign plates, is just not an option for the wannabe *pilote*. This leads inevitably to what many consider to be the most dangerous current hazard on French roads: tailgating.

Sadly, it is rife and hugely intimidating. And don't think for a moment that it is only the preserve of young men. Young women, too, are a menace, especially those who are late for work or their next appointment. Safe overtaking is a skill most French drivers seem never to have been taught. When you are next on an *autoroute* notice how the French drive right up to the lorry in front before they unpredictably swoop out to the left. On single lane D roads this practice can have serious consequences. The single continuous white line in the middle of



the road (equivalent to a double white line in the UK) is often ignored completely, so overwhelmed is a foolhardy driver by the desire to see an open road ahead. As the *pièce de résistance* prepare yourselves, dear readers, for the “mad half hour” - *la demie-heure de folie* - as I call it, which takes place on French roads unfailingly every weekday from 11:45 am onwards. Visitors often forget that our Gallic cousins are creatures of culinary habit. The lunchtime break between 12 and 2pm is sacrosanct. Nothing will dissuade Pierre from having his nose in the trough one minute after midday. Consequently there is madness on the roads at this time in the unholy scramble to reach the family table or the restaurant. Woe betide the driver who unwittingly comes between Pierre and his *rognons d'agneau!*

On the 1st July this year the French government brought in a whole raft of new traffic laws. They are designed to slow the rate at which accidents and deaths are occurring. The timing was appropriate. The months of July and August see the French set off by car to their holiday destinations, often on a coast and usually involving long weekend car journeys. “Black Saturday” this year fell on the 1st August when the motorway system in

certain areas was unable to cope with the volume of traffic. Those setting out and those coming home.

A website called *Bison Futé* has been set up by the transport ministry to encourage drivers to take secondary routes and to give them up to the minute traffic information. Another excellent website for English car travellers is *aboutfrance.com*. Well worth consulting before you cross *La Manche*.

Just in case you are tempted not to take them seriously I can tell you that the new laws are being keenly applied. A couple of weeks ago, near Toulouse, a French woman driver was pulled over for a routine check by the gendarmes. All her documents were in order; she was quite fit to drive; her car had no defects: yet she was fined €90 on the spot and acquired three points on her licence. The reason? She was driving in flip-flops!

I thought it would be fun to show you a summary of the new regulations in diagrammatic form. It will also serve as your translation exercise for this month! Ladies, be sure to look up the verb *se maquiller* if you don't know it already!

Bonne route!

Laurent

## Habitacle d'un véhicule : Attention à la réglementation !!

### L'HABITACLE D'UNE VOITURE, UN ESPACE TRÈS RÉGLEMENTÉ

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amende maximale et retrait de points

**Interdiction selon l'interprétation des forces de l'ordre**  
(article R.412-6 du Code de la route) 75 € d'amende et pas de points retirés

- Regarder un écran non destiné à l'aide à la conduite (DVD)  
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3 points
- Se maquiller, même à l'arrêt dans les bouchons
- Manipuler un téléphone  
135 € d'amende  
3 points
- Utiliser une oreillette ou un casque audio (à partir du 1<sup>er</sup> juillet)  
135 € d'amende  
3 points
- Avoir plus de 0,5 g d'alcool par litre de sang (0,2 g pour les conducteurs novices)  
4 500 € d'amende  
6 points
- Ne pas porter sa ceinture  
135 € d'amende  
3 points
- Ecouter de la musique trop fort de telle sorte qu'elle empêche d'entendre les bruits de la circulation...  
... et de nuit, fenêtre ouverte, le conducteur peut être verbalisé pour tapage nocturne
- Fumer une cigarette avec un mineur à bord (en cours d'examen au Parlement)  
68 € d'amende
- Manger un sandwich
- Etre sous l'emprise de stupéfiants  
4 500 € d'amende  
6 points
- Fouiller dans la boîte à gants

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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

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## 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)

## GENERAL HAVELOCK

Film & food night 30th Oct

Christmas menus available

20% off all village bookings

Christmas puddings for sale end of November

## Police Surgery

at the Methodist Church

Every five weeks our local police hold a 'surgery' in the Methodist Church during Meeting Place

(as advertised elsewhere in the Haydon News).

*They are available to answer anyone's questions/queries from 10-11 am.*

## HAYDON BRIDGE LOCAL ARTISTS' GROUP

### HAYDON ART CLUB

Open to all, first session free.

Meets fortnightly at

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

6.30 - 9.15pm

14th & 28th Oct.

## HAYDON BRIDGE JUDO CLUB

Keep Fit, Have Fun! Young or Old.

Tuesdays at HB High School

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

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## WHIST DRIVES

Langley Village Hall

Fortnightly on

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£1.00 entrance

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**7.30pm Friday evenings**

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Very wide ranging repertoire.

All voices welcome — experienced or not.

**Methodist Church Hall**

## Hexham Beacon Club

Programme-

7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Postcards of WW1
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Members-'My First Job'
21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Unsung Wartime Heroes
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Ocean Nomads
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Durham Cathedral

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

## 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

## DOG POO - Official

Northumberland County Council operates a zero tolerance policy when it comes to dog fouling. Anyone failing to clean up after their dog will be issued a fixed penalty notice of £75. If the fixed penalty notice is not paid within 14 days or anyone who is found to be a repeat offender, abusive or obstructive the case will be referred straight to the magistrates court for prosecution and the offender can be fined up to £1000. Anyone wishing to report a problem with dog fouling can do so by contacting Northumberland County Council on 0345 300 3400 or completing our online form at [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

## **CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS**

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

All Quizzes start at 8.15 pm £1.50 per person  
Refreshments, 'Beer Question' and Raffle

-----Summer Break-----  
*Assuming we get a summer*

Oct. 20th

RNLI

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### **Trying to sort out a problem?**

The Citizens Advice service provides free, confidential information and advice on a wide range of subjects including debt, benefits, housing, and employment problems. You can get help in a number of ways:

By telephoning: Northumberland Adviceline on **03444 111 444** Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm

By calling into one of our drop-in sessions at:

#### **Hexham office**

Community Centre, Gilesgate, Hexham. NE46 3NP  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am to 2pm

#### **Prudhoe office**

Spetchells Centre Prudhoe NE42 5AA  
Tuesday & Thursday, 10am to 2pm

#### **Haltwhistle office**

Masonic Hall. Greenholme Rd, Haltwhistle NE49 9DL  
Thursdays 10am to 2pm

**We have specialist debt and welfare benefits  
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[www:citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)**

## **HEAR TO HELP**

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

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

**All sessions at the Haydon Bridge Health Centre.**

## **Haydonian Social Club**

**Family Prize Bingo + Chair Bingo**  
**Saturday 10th Oct 2015**  
**Eyes Down 7.30pm**  
**Friendly Night of fun**

## **HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED A.F.C.**

Nominations are requested for the

## **Edward Waite Trophy**

**Awarded for exceptional contribution to sport.**  
**(Any sport – no age restriction)**

**Nominees must reside within the Haydon Parish**

Please pass any nominations to:

**Club Secretary - Paula Collis**

Or E-Mail to: [paulacollis4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulacollis4@hotmail.co.uk)

**No later 15th October 2015**

## **Haydon Bridge Nature Club**

**Meetings held at the Methodist Hall,  
Haydon Bridge at 7.15pm. Talks are open to all.**  
**Members FOC Non-members £4**  
**For details contact Robert Ford on 01434 684486**

Oct 8th WORK OF THE WOODLAND TRUST  
Mr. & Mrs. Dodd

Oct 22nd BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION  
Jonathan Wallace

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

# **THIS YEAR'S ART & CRAFT FAIR**

**SATURDAY**  
**14th NOVEMBER**  
**10 am - 2 pm**  
**TO BOOK A TABLE PHONE 688886**

## **HAYDON BRIDGE FISH & CHIP SHOP**

John Martin Street, Haydon Bridge.

**LUNCHTIME, TEATIME & EVENINGS**

Monday		5.00 - 9.00
Tuesday	CLOSED FOR ALL OF THE DAY	
Wednesday	11.30 - 1.30	5.00 - 9.00
Thursday	11.30 - 1.30	5.00 - 9.00
Friday	11.30 - 1.30	4.30 - 9.00
Saturday	11.30 - 1.30	4.30 - 8.00

**Tel: 01434 684 289**

## LOST IN TRANSLATION

Having been raised by a German mother and English father I am bilingual. For me it is completely normal, yet people often ask if I ever get confused. Or mixed up. The answer is of course no. Never. It's simply impossible.

That's not to say that confusion can never occur. Some words are very familiar but with totally different meanings.

Take for instance the very useful word 'Lager'. Here in Britain it's a refreshing pale beer. There it's a place, spot or site.

The name of the Hamburg-born designer Karl Lagerfeld quite literally translates into Carl Spotfield - not nearly as glamorous! Would Carl Spotfield have enjoyed such an illustrious career at Chanel, Paris? I doubt it.

And talking of glamour, the luxury car-maker Rolls Royce found it wasn't selling many of its Silver Mist models in Germany. The reason being that 'Mist' over there means 'rubbish' or 'manure pile'. Who wants to glide along serenely in a Rolls Royce branded Silver Dung Heap?

My sister Sylvia teaches English to businesspeople very near Karl Lagerfeld's home in Hamburg. One time when she came to visit me, the local school where we lived in Northumberland asked if she could conduct a lesson with a junior class - as their usual teacher was ill. It would only be for 30 minutes and the kids might even learn something.

Thinking it would make a welcome change, she agreed to step in. And the 7 year-olds quickly formed a circle around her chair in wonderment at this new foreign woman from overseas - Frau Richter. Sylvia decided it would be easier and more fun to discuss simple things as none of the pupils had ever spoken the language before. All eagerly raised their hands clamouring to find out the German word for different animals, verbs, pets, jobs and other everyday objects.

So it was that the kids learned the words Kaninchen (rabbit) Schildkröte (tortoise) and the rather torturous Schornsteinfeger for chimney sweep. They also learned that all German nouns have a capital letter.

Everything was going swimmingly as the class laughed and giggled its way through the unfamiliar words and tongue-twisters. But all too soon the lesson began its rapid descent downhill as inevitably words came up which were never going to translate well.

A sweet-faced young boy at the back shouted:

"Please miss! How do you say 'Fox' in German." Another asked: "How do you say 'I ate my dinner in McDonald's' ". Sylvia, without thinking, shouted back "FUCHS! Fuchs is fox." The 'CH' in this case is pronounced 'CK'. To make matters far worse she told them that to eat is 'Essen'. The past tense (ate) is 'Aß'. Pronounced 'aass' or 'arse'.

It's the reason British football commentators on TV always dread the name 'FOX' coming up - and begin to sweat whenever they read it on the back of a German player's shirt. Praying he will never score.

As one the class gasped and reddened. None more so than my sister when the children shouted en masse: "Ooh! Miss! That's swearing!". When the furore had eventually calmed down my sister invited the kids to join a few short words together and complete a whole sentence. Whereupon she would give a translation.

No one spoke and she figured they were still in shock from the previous 'Fox' incident. As was she. So she gently coaxed them by saying:

"Let's see. Ah yes! Imagine you're on holiday in Germany and there's an emergency. Something's happened and you need to tell someone in a different language. Now. What do you think it could be? Hmmm?"

The children thought for a while then young Jordan raised his hand: "Miss. How would you say 'Help! Help! My shoes are on fire!'"

In her best Joyce Grenfell voice Sylvia said "Thank you Jordan but I don't think you'll be needing that phrase on holiday. Anyone else?"

"OK Miss" Jordan replied mischievously: "How about 'The fox ate my shoes. Before they went on fire' "

At that moment the bell signalling the end of lessons chimed loud and long. Frau Filter gathered her things and shot out of the school with ne'er a backward glance. The next flight home could not come soon enough.

*Marita Berndt*

## Get It Together Society

The Get It Together Society have been very busy over the summer but our main emphasis now that the Autumn is upon us is fundraising for the New Years Eve Fireworks.

The cyclists have been and gone (in a flash), and the TV coverage was not as good as it could have been but the village did it self proud. The village has been covered in Red and yellow bunting, bikes and bows, well done to every one who got involved. Members of the Get It Together Society were busy helping out with the decorations, painting bikes and displaying them around the village, well done Kevin, John and Pauline.

On Saturday 19th, the Haydonian Social Club rocked with the sounds of the 70s with Steven Todd in charge of the Disco and Bob and Emma performing live. Thank you to every one who came along to support us and who got into the swing of it by dressing up. Shirley won the prize for the best costume, and many spot prizes were awarded for the very enthusiastic dance routines.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out on New Years Eve, especially with marshalling whilst the fireworks are being set up and during the evening to prevent any one crossing the old bridge, as the fireworks will be a real hazard!

If you would like to be part of our team on the day please contact Pauline Wallis on 01434 684061.

'Our next meeting is on Monday 5th October, 8pm at the Havelock.' We are always happy to welcome new members and volunteers.

*Karen Lumsden*





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## Letter from Burma

In 1942 Japan invaded and occupied Burma and trained a local militia to help them who called themselves the Burma Independence Army (BIA). Later the BIA transforms itself into the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) and thereafter *resisted* Japanese rule! In 1945 with help from the AFPFL, led by one Aung San, Britain liberates Burma from Japanese occupation. Aung San was openly anti-British and is credited with negotiating Independence but one year before it was granted in 1948 Aung San and six members of his interim government were assassinated by political opponents. A British Army Officer was later convicted of providing arms to the assassins. Aung San is looked on to this day as the Architect of Modern Burma and is considered a National hero. It is doubtful though whether he would like to see his country of today.

After Independence one Ne Win came to prominence first leading an incompetent civilian government then after the military coup of 1962 also emerged as leader. He was destined to run the country for 26 years until 1987, when it was getting "too hot in the kitchen". There was rioting and protests nation-wide which came to a head on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1988 with riots in Rangoon, known thereafter as the 8888 uprising, from which Aung San's daughter Aung San Suu Kyi came to prominence.

After the military coup in 1962 Ne Win added Bogyoke (General) to the front of his name and pursued "The Burmese way to Socialism". His government nationalized the economy and pursued a policy of *autarky*, which involved the economic isolation of his country from the world. An ubiquitous black market and rampant smuggling supplied certain the needs of the people, while Central Government slid slowly and surely into bankruptcy. *Autarky* also involved expelling foreigners and restricting visits by foreigners to three days, this was extended to one week in 1972. Even foreign aid organizations were banned; the only humanitarian aid permitted was on an inter-governmental basis and this rule applies to this day.

One of the drastic steps Ne Win took was regarding the currency: In 1963, he issued a decree that the 50 and 100 kyat (chat) notes would cease to be legal tender, alleging that they were subject to hoarding by black-marketeers and were also used to finance the various insurgencies. Though limited compensation was offered, this wiped out people's savings overnight. In 1987 reportedly on the recommendation of an astrologer that the number nine was auspicious Ne Win again ordered the withdrawal of several large denomination kyat notes while issuing new denominations of 45 and 90 kyats. Both 45 and 90 are divisible by nine, and their numerals add up to nine, this crippled the Burmese economy further still. This financial idiocy and heavy-handed political oppression caused many in the educated workforce to emigrate.

All Burma's modern rulers have consulted soothsayers and propitiated supernatural forces. For example, the country's independence from Britain on 4 January 1948 was formally declared at 4:20am, the time considered most favourable by local astrologers. Ne Win it is also said would walk backwards over bridges to ward off evil spirits, and bathed in dolphin's blood to extend his life to the age of 90. Another regime heavyweight Than Shwe is reliably reputed to be even more superstitious than his predecessors. His lucky number was 11 so a few years ago when it was time to pass sentence on some dissidents he gave them 65 years. The decision to build a new capital at Nay Pyi Taw, and the precise time in 2005 for the government's transfer from Rangoon, were reportedly based on advice from his astrologers.

It is firmly believed that their attachment to 'primitive' and 'dangerous' superstitions has been a major factor in the country's ruin, and thus the terrible plight of the Burmese people. They are frequently accused of making decisions not on the basis of rational calculations, but on the advice of astrologers, numerologists and magicians.

Anti-regime activists too have used magic to pursue political ends. For example, in 2007 one Thai-based dissident group launched a global 'panties for peace' campaign, in which supporters were encouraged to send women's underwear to Burmese Embassies, in the hope that contact with such garments would weaken the regime's *hpoun*, or spiritual power. The generals may indeed subscribe to this belief. It is widely rumoured that, before a foreign envoy visits Burma, an article of female underwear or a piece of a pregnant woman's Lungyi (Sarong) is hidden in the ceiling of the visitor's hotel suite, to weaken their *hpoun* and thus their negotiating position.

The general populous are superstitious too, they do not use family names instead date of birth, day of the week, the weather at the time could all figure in their birth name. Most Burmese have an astrological chart drawn up at birth and many consult fortune tellers to guide their daily lives. It is also common for Burmese to change their names several times in their life if the stars and signs say so. Natural phenomena such as earthquakes and cyclones, or the collapse of a pagoda, are interpreted as omens or signs of celestial disfavour. However the main *disbeliever* of this celestial nonsense is the refined, Oxford educated and devoutly Buddhist opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

At the time of Independence Burma was considered the "richest" country in SE Asia. It took 14 years of a fuddling civilian government plus about the same time of a corrupt, repressive military regime to make it the poorest. In 1987 the UN classified Burma as a "Least Developed Country" Not that the military or their families or their cronies are poor at all!

*Seamus Android*  
*Part 2 next month*

### Tour of Britain—a different view.

So that was the day the Tour of Britain came to Haydon Bridge! A video posted on Facebook shortly afterwards shows the riders coming down the hill from Langley and entering the village. The entire peloton flashed by in nine seconds. "Nine seconds! All that anticipation and preparation and standing there for ages to get a decent spot and it was all done in nine seconds?"

Yes, I suppose it was. But that wasn't the point.

Yes there was one particular (unnamed) killjoy in the village who seemed to think that the entire event had been organised for his own personal inconvenience and maybe a few people did have to park their cars away from their houses and use those funny little appendages that hang down from their hips for what they were intended but this really was an event that had the entire village pulling together in an unprecedented manner. It was also an example of how social media; normally the perfect vehicle for the promulgation of ignorance and the glorification of the vacuous and inane; could be utilised to great effect in coordinating activities

A professional cycle race can be a one day event such as the early season classics or last for 3 weeks, covering 2 to 3000 km with only two rest days, such as Le Tour de France. They are free to attend, take place on ordinary (closed) roads and allow the public unprecedented access to some of the strongest and fittest sportsmen on the planet. A surge in interest in cycling has seen the Grand Tours shown live on two prime television channels and it is estimated that over 1 million people stood on the slopes of Mont Ventoux in the 2013 Tour de France. The Tour of Britain sits in between these two extremes, being an eight day circuit of the country (after all we are only a tiny little island) but it is growing in stature year by year as evidenced by the attendance of some of the great names in world cycling at this year's event.

Initially the small-scale map of the route of Stage 5 seemed to indicate that the cyclists would leave Hexham to the north, meet up with the Military Road near Chollerford and then head out westwards. It was therefore a huge and extremely pleasant surprise, when the confirmed route was eventually announced, to see that not only would the race go right through the middle



of our little village but that we would be hosting a Skoda “King of the Mountains” summit at the top of North Bank as well

By way of explanation: a cycle race is contested by a number of professional teams although the overall winner of the “general classification” is always an individual. Each team has a team leader with teammates to support him. They do so by controlling the pace of the race and by acting as a windbreak so that their team leader expends less energy, saving himself for an attack elsewhere in the race. In order to involve the other riders, each day’s stage of racing is classed as an individual competitive race with the daily winner generally being either a sprinter who outpaces the others on a flat finish, a climber who can outmuscle the others on a steep hill or a rider who breaks away from the main field (known as “the peloton”) and heads off on his own or with a few fellow competitors. Along the way there are checkpoints where points are awarded to the first few riders across them. These can be on flat stretches where “Sprint” points are awarded or at the top of hills where “mountain” points are awarded. Each day the leader in these competitions wears a distinctive jersey and at the end of the race the riders with the most points in each competition wins a prize with the winner over the the mountain stages being known as “King of the Mountains”.

With live coverage on national television of the last 2 to 3 hours of each day’s racing together with an edited highlights programme of one hour in each evening, the Tour of Britain offered the region a huge shop window in which to show itself off. Whatever one’s opinion of Northumberland County Council’s operations might be, it was determined to use this opportunity to showcase all that Northumberland has to offer as a destination for cyclists and to try and attract custom into the area on the days themselves. It was however the local communities themselves that really took the event to heart.

Even though Haydon Bridge would not benefit from the live television coverage, coming too early in the race, we expected that the King of the Mountains climb would certainly appear in the highlights programme but above all else we simply wanted to make an effort to have the village as welcoming as possible and for many people along the route to get involved and to come out on the day and cheer the cyclists through.

Meetings were convened to decide on a co-ordinated approach: the village’s businesses, churches, schools, cycling community and the parish council were all involved. Initial reservations about road closures and parking restrictions were soon forgotten as thoughts turned to more important items such as bunting, banners and balloons! Following on from the success of the Tour de France in Yorkshire, the call went out to decorate the route with old bicycles, painted in Northumberland County’s colours of yellow and red. Ideas were tossed in and then tossed out again. A field full of red and yellow dyed sheep was an option but unfortunately the sheep could not agree which would be red and which would be yellow so that was discounted. As time passed, old bicycles kept turning up: from scrapyards, from charities, from the county council and from people’s back gardens, working parties were set up so that they could be painted, banners were sourced and printed, vast quantities of red and yellow plastic were ordered to make up a giant flag and many pairs of curtains turned up to be made into decorations.

As the day approached red and yellow bicycles started to appear, sprouting like mushrooms overnight, one on the bridge railings, one on a lamppost, more on the bridge railings, outside the library and even suspended by wires from people’s windows. Every village has its idiot and Haydon Bridge’s made an appearance: trying to rip one of the bicycles off the bridge railings and throwing it in the river. Fortunately that bike was recovered and the idiot retreated to its hole somewhere never to be seen again! Bunting sprouted from windows, drainpipes and guttering; front gardens suddenly started sprouting red and yellow flowers, lawns were cut and weeds disappeared from the pavements; railings and fences acquired ribbons and local cycling clubs started arranging rides out to Haydon Bridge to watch the cyclists ascend North bank.

*Simon Walker  
Part 2 next month*

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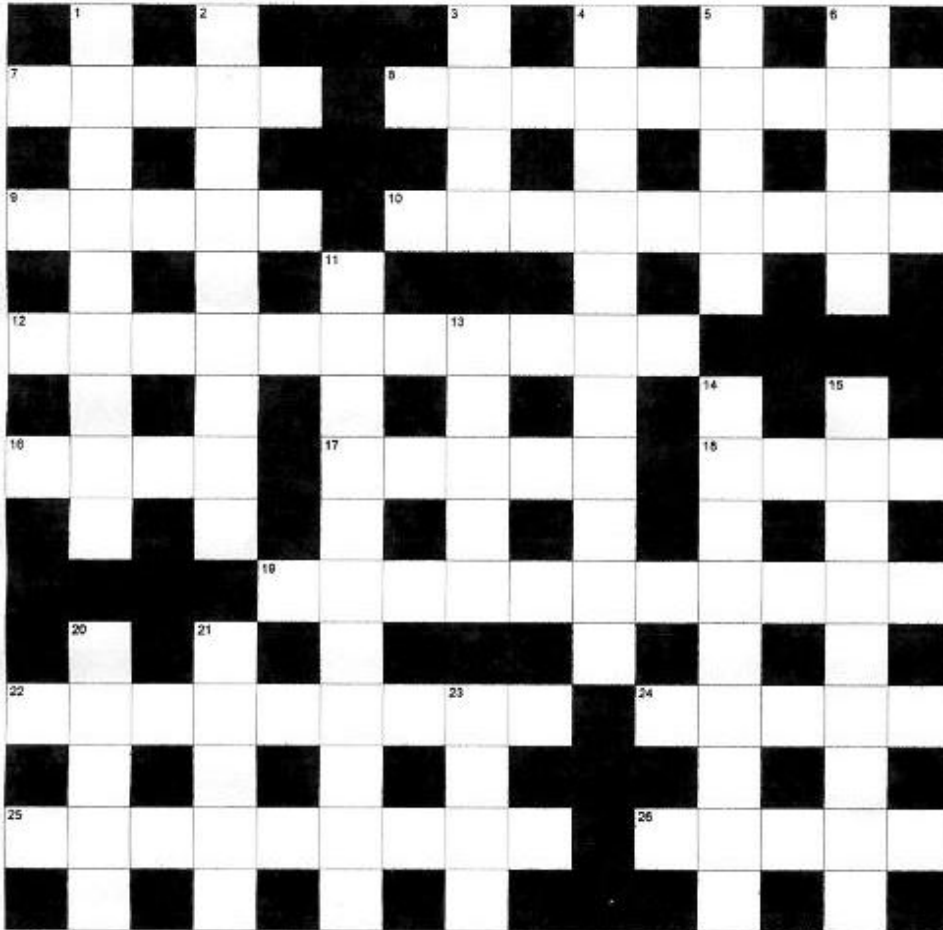
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## Down

1. Brer Olson never wins (4,5)
2. Where to lie in wait (9)
3. Left winger at less than a gallop (4)
4. Burying ones agreement (11)
5. Drink or blow comic character (5)
6. Corn god makes loose stones (5)
11. It's not attractive for international body asking if he's out (11)
13. The first lady member makes a joint (5)
14. Bed is real and wanted badly (9)
15. American leaving school transport (9)
20. Sounds as if he will want to make dough (5)
21. Instruct how cheat works (5)
23. Talk of a bird (4)

## Across

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 7. Heaths are for rent (5)                          | 22. Trace line and weave together (9)                |
| 8. Speak my church (9)                              | 24. Spare parts analyse a sentence (5)               |
| 9. So teachers turn and inform the police (5)       | 25. Lancashire city chap can include the varsity (9) |
| 10. Holy man was sick for longer (9)                | 26. Blooming machinery (5)                           |
| 12. Think carefully and draw together (11)          |  |
| 16. Tribe added ornament (4)                        |  |
| 17. Quiet, droopy, wooden (5)                       |  |
| 18. Three orientals quietly put to the sword (4)    |  |
| 19. Aphoristic nursing shelter promises to pay (11) |  |

## AUGUST'S ANSWERS

ACROSS	DOWN
1. SINBAD	2. INTUBATE
5. STRINGER	3. BUM STEER
9. STUMPS UP	4. DISSONANT
10. ENSUED	5. SUPERNATURALIST
11. ABATTOIR	6. IGNORED
12. ORISON	7. GRUESOME
13. EMANATED	8. RIDING UP
15. PEAR	14. EXCREMENT
17. KELP	15. PLETHORA
19. ETRUSCAN	16. ABALONES
20. TILLER	17. KNEADING
21. ADELAIDE	18. LANDSEER
22. OWNING	19. ELEANOR
23. ITEMISED	
24. ABSTRACT	
25. TIGERS	

**Please drop answers off at Claire's by 20th October. (or post them to the editor).**

**AUGUST'S WINNER**  
**Bernard Burrowes**

**NUMBER OF ENTRIES**  
**11                      9 correct**

## Re-viewed & Re-read

Have you ever read a book or seen a film that the critics raved about but you just don't get it? Or the other way round – they say it's bad and you love it? You are certainly not alone.

That's exactly how I felt when I finally saw the film *An Education* (2009) about two months ago. I am not a critic; I don't go to fashionable bars in London where over cocktails everybody agrees on everything. My opinion is formulated purely by watching many films over the years, old and new, from a wide spectrum of cultures and themes. And the advantage of getting to see something late means I am not influenced by the mood of the moment or what was perceived as "cool" six years ago.

Just to remind everyone, this is the very film that made Carey Mulligan a huge star. It got three Oscar nominations as well as winning a plethora of prizes nationally and internationally. However, I was hugely disappointed with the story. My first problem is that anyone over twenty-five would know from the initial five minutes when the main character Jenny (played by Mulligan) meets a much older man, how it is going to end. It's no surprise that it turns out he is married and he has done it before.

My other issue was that the story was not character-driven. All the players are really passive: they let things happen and observe rather than getting involved, participate or interact. It's also hard to believe that parents in the early sixties would practically push their sixteen-year old daughter with academic aspirations in bed with an older man. And then you witness Jenny discover her lover is a conman who makes his fortune by stealing from unsuspecting, probably older people. She is upset for the whole twenty seconds, then turns around and everything is all right – she is happy to enjoy the flash lifestyle from stolen money. At that moment I lost sympathy with the girl, in fact I thought she was a horrible human being who deserved to be slapped in the face.

So with a predictable plot and flat, unlikeable characters, there is in my opinion a very little reason to watch the film at all.

In contrast, the Irish film *Calvarly* (2014) was a pleasant surprise for me. I did not know about it until a friend lent me a DVD with it. It addresses a difficult issue of abuse in Catholic Church in an excellent way that makes you glued to the screen. Perhaps the theme was the reason why – although critically acclaimed – the response was less enthusiastic than to a coming-of-age story I mentioned above. It certainly deserved more public attention and more prizes than it received.

The plot is tight and neat, firmly placed within the framework of seven days. Viewers are kept guessing whether the death threat (revenge to the Church for abuse in childhood) given by a parishioner to Father James, played by amazing Brendan Gleeson, would be actually carried out. Is it real? Is it a stupid prank?

Meantime, a human drama develops where just about everyone is troubled and broken: the wealthy Michael, cheating Veronica, cynical surgeon or Father's suicidal daughter Fiona (played by one of the most underrated actresses of her generation Kelly Reilly). There is a resolution, logical, yet surprising; there is also black humour as well as hope, understanding and pity.

It's one of the rare films that – like with great books -, you can watch over again, discovering new layers each time.

*Natalie Nera*

*Next: a short story by a Nobel Prize Winner and a Scandinavian crime novel.*

**Opinions about books, films, TV, radio (or anything) are always welcome. Ed**

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## Haydon Bridge Shows Its True Colours In Support Of The Yellow Jersey

Haydon Bridge is now quite used to welcoming hundreds of cyclists in a day thanks to the annual Haydon Hundred event, so why should we get all excited about a mere 120 or so? Well, because of course these were elite cyclists competing in the Tour of Britain, our nation's most prestigious stage race and including among their number the Manx Missile Mark Cavendish and Britain's Tour de France winner and only cycling knight Sir Bradley Wiggins. September 10<sup>th</sup> was the date set for the Tour to make a rare visit to the Tyne Valley, and Haydon Bridge was selected as the day's first section of the King of the Mountains competition on a stage which was to culminate in a thrilling hilltop finish at Hartside and decide the eventual winner of the Tour.

All towns and villages along the route were encouraged to decorate themselves in the Northumberland colours of red and yellow, and then left to their own devices to coordinate their response. What followed was an example of true community spirit triumphing over minimal guidance. Without any sign of official direction or supervision the citizens of Haydon Bridge began to meet and organise the transformation of the village into a corridor of bunting and bikes to channel its celebrity visitors and their entourage towards the ascent of the North Bank. In a Hitchcockian progression, the first signs were a couple of bikes perched forlornly on the Bridge End, rapidly multiplying over the days to be found in every nook, cranny and shop window beside the road, and joined by appropriately-coloured bunting, flags, balloons, curtains and any other suitable material which could be begged, borrowed or even purchased. A little investigation would have revealed that the bikes were coming from communal paint-spraying sessions in Scudamore's old garage and that a fire engine seemed to be draping the bunting along the street, but it is impossible to list everyone who took part in the whole transformation. And when a giant Northumberland flag appeared in the Tofts field, we were ready to welcome the Tour.

The day duly arrived with agreeable and mostly sunny weather, and long before the Tour's arrival time of 11:45 people were out and about in the village and stationing themselves in good viewpoints ready to cheer on the riders. It was evident that many of these had come from further afield to view the day's first competitive climb, and together with every villager who could make it ensured that the route was lined with enthusiastic crowds ready to cheer on the riders when they passed through. Many had come on their own bikes, and for these there was an added attraction.

The organisers of our own Haydon Hundred had organised a timed hill climb for local cyclists to ride the section ahead of the Tour and compare their times with the professionals. It is fair to say that some accomplished this faster than others, but results were to reveal that the fastest did the ride only 30 seconds down on the pros. It also attracted the attention of Tyne Tees Television who put their rivals in the media to shame by doing a good piece on that evening's local news.

And then the race. Spectators were given the chance to rehearse their cheering and photography as a breakaway group of five riders powered through the village six minutes ahead of the main field. Then a little bit of drama; with the race running behind schedule, would the riders miss the gap and be caught at the level crossing by the train due to arrive at any minute? The answer was no, as the peloton snaked round the corner by the Railway, along Church Street and up the North Bank in the nick of time. The barriers duly descended to trap the team cars, making for a few minutes of great agitation for the backup staff.

Everyone in the village will have their own memories of the occasion, and this article can only hope to capture a little of the atmosphere on the day. There is much much more to relive, and you can do so by looking at the many postings on the Haydon Bridge Matters Facebook page, or perhaps just by taking on the challenge of the ride up to New Alston, which will be with us long after Sir Bradley has hung up his Lycra for good.

### **SPECIAL REQUEST**

***Ian Foster is, at the request of The Development Trust, putting together a collection of video and still images of the event. Would everyone who has any please send them to him as soon as possible***

***Thanks***

***Ian Foster [fossil.ian@btinternet.com]***

Yes - you're right. There are two articles about TOB but I liked them both so much I thought "Why not!" Ed.

## CHARITY QUIZZES AT THE GENERAL HAVELOCK

Between September 2014 and July 2015 the regular monthly charity quizzes at the General Havelock raised in excess of £1750 to support a number of local and national charities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have come along to the quizzes, those who have generously donated raffle prizes, and, not least, Jo and Gary Thompson and staff who have been wonderful hosts. The average number of people attending has been consistently between 50 and 60 but there's always room for more. Do please feel welcome to come along – the next quiz is on October 20th and is a fundraiser for the RNLI. You don't have to be a regular quizzier – the emphasis is on having a relaxed and enjoyable evening.

**John Harrison and Queenie**

### RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID





## Tynedale recollections

To be truthful, my first view of the district is something I can hardly recall since it happened when I was a child, travelling with my family along the A69 to Carlisle on our way to Scotland. I remember going through Bardon Mill and getting stuck in traffic in its narrow street in the days long before the by-pass that now keeps the roar of traffic well away from its quiet main street.

My first proper memory is from 1992, when shortly after accepting an offer of a job, I came to see where my own family of five might make its home. At the time, I was training hard, well OK hardly, for a charity run in Liverpool where we were living. I got up the morning after our arrival in Hexham and pulling on shorts and shoes, threw myself out of our caravan, hoping desperately that none of the regular holiday makers would see my pathetic attempts to emulate Steve Cram. It was only just getting light, fulfilling my urge for invisibility. There were mists coming off the River Tyne as I ran alongside it. What I noticed first were the rabbits, hundreds of them, more than I had ever seen anywhere before, laying in the gloom like a collection of lazy garden gnomes on the green at the grandly named Tynedale Country Park. They seemed equally surprised to see a jogger in the half light and sat motionless as I approached, before resuming normal rabbit behaviour and scattering panic-stricken in all directions. At the time I thought this scene to be cute, but this was before I realised that rabbits are conspiring to lower Tynedale by a few feet when eventually all of their warrens collapse simultaneously. At that moment though, they helped to make me warm towards Tynedale.

I was still thinking 'bunny heaven', when I almost ran into two dark figures that loomed out of the mists. Like the rabbits I was momentarily stunned. Both halves of my fight or flight instinct failed to kick in. The hard and knobbly legs I wanted to hide from public gaze, now turned to useless jelly. The two hooded figures said nothing, and just stood towering over me. I was sure that they meant me no good, especially as they wielded vicious looking clubs. I had the momentary comfort of realising that I had nothing on me they could mug me for. This was immediately replaced with the fear that this might just make them angrier. I mean, how desperate must local thugs be to wait all night for a victim to come along that rarely used path. When they discovered my shorts pockets contained nothing of value, they would fly into a rage and use their long handled clubs to beat me to a pulp.

Long handled clubs. Hexham's villains were not the poor back street muggers I recognised from living in cities like Liverpool, London and Marseilles. Clearly they were a rare form of market town hoodlum, wealthy enough to be able to afford golf clubs as weapons. I heard the whistle as one of them swung his club towards me and I felt the air part as something flew past inches from my ear. "Sorry lad", one of them called out. "Didn't see you there". He looked as shocked as I was.

Then I realised, these were not muggers, they were golfers. Yet they couldn't be, not in the near dark conditions we were in. "What on earth are you doing?", I yelled. "You almost killed me". They both came close and I could see how sheepish they looked. "Sorry about that lad. We can't afford the green fees, so we come out before anyone else gets here", one explained. "We didn't hear you coming, honest". I laughed with relief. We spent a few seconds discussing the exorbitant costs of following middle class pursuits and then parted, them to follow a day-glo ball in the dark and me to enjoy the solitude of the short distance jogger. I was now thoroughly convinced that Tynedale would be a great place to bring up a family. Two months later we moved into a chalet at Tyne Green Leisure and began the process of seeing Tynedale as our home.

*The Very Reverend Unseemly Kneetrembler*

## Brendan Healy

When I worked in the theatre I did spend a lot of time on the road. At one time I stayed in Mrs. Lovesy's (her real name) theatrical boarding house in Sparkhill Birmingham a regular haunt of the jobbing actor. I've never been so cold in my life. The heating was on a meter and I never had any change at three o'clock in the morning when the brass monkey woke me up asking for it.

I was also woken up one night with some fellah banging furiously on the door. When I answered he was apoplectic "Are you the dancer from the Hippodrome who's having sexual intercourse with my wife!" (That's not *exactly* what he said) "No," said I, "I'm an actor from the Alexandra who's not."

I spent much of my time in theatrical digs and met some great landladies. In Cambridge I used to stay with Yvonne Whibley and her daughter. Yvonne then in her eighties was an ex Soubrette. Soubrette's used to travel the country in the early 20th century to perform often at a different theatres every week. She told me that they often used to meet up at train stations in the night before continuing their journeys. When they went to their digs the price was usually for full board with or often without cruet so they had to take their own salt and pepper if they could afford it.

It must have intrigued her that you can have as many little packets as you want at fast food places.

I recently worked with Paul Zerdin one of the best ventrillim ..... ventricali ... ventrilokwists I've ever seen. His dummy Sam is a right naughty boy but the highlight of the show is when he straps a false mouth on a member of the audience. He then proceeds to 'work' the mouth remotely and give them a girly cartoon voice. People always say "Can you see his lips move?" The answer is, I've never even looked. He could have had flubbery Mick Jagers flapping in the wind but my concentration was fully on the brilliant dummies. I think we only watch vent's lips when they bore us.

Look up Paul's performance on the Royal Variety Show 2009 the ending is nothing short of brilliant.

One really good after dinner speaker I worked with was John Inverdale the sports commentator who has been in trouble because he said, on the telly, that some tennis player was ugly. He would probably have been in trouble if he'd said she was beautiful because then she would have thought he was taking the mickey 'cos she's ugly. You can't win nowadays can you.

Anyhoo, he told a great story about one of my heroines Karren Brady who is advisor to Lord Sugar and also Small Business Ambassador to the government.

She was appointed as Managing Director of Birmingham City F.C. at the age of twenty three (Yes, twenty three, it's not a misprint.) As she met the squad on the first match day one of the players said "In that top I can see your \*\*\*\*." (Place your own word here with respect to a woman's upper front bits and be grown up about it even though he wasn't.) To which she replied ... "I do hope your eyesight is good enough to see them from Crewe because that's who I'm selling you to." And .... she did.

Love her.

## On everything human

„This war is like a huge flood. It will take everything in its way, whether it is a healthy beautiful tree or a rotten apple.“ The legend has it that the wise words were spoken by my Great Grandmother, a matriarch of a large family during the tumultuous World War Two. She advised her eight offsprings to brace themselves for the worst.

I believe that we live in such times again; times that test our human nature and ultimately show whether we are who we think and claim we are. With tides of refugees and various more or less hysterical debates on a wide range of topics from EU membership, immigration to rape or sexism, it is interesting, exhilarating as well as confusing and terrifying.

I could not help noticing that the good people of press - after building up the whole human touch story of the tragic three-year old boy Aylan who drowned alongside his mother and older brother trying to escape their home city of Kobane ruined by the war, - now suddenly destroy the image by depicting the Father as a people's smuggler. He might be, who knows, but does it really change the horror of what happened?

Besides, looking back at our own recent European history, it has been documented that people do what they do purely to survive, including smuggling, trading at the black market, and quite often those are not the worst offences against morality and ethics one could commit in such a situation. I look at Aylan and see my own son. I look at myself and question what kind of person I would be in similar circumstances. The scary but honest answer is that I don't know.

In another corner of a recent debate is an unfortunate case of a complete censorship in a discussion about rape. The rock star Chrissie Hynde was publically bullied for suggesting that her misfortune of getting raped at 21 was partly her own responsibility. She was shouted down as enemy number one, completely overlooking the fact that she was a rape victim herself. Moreover, she was patronised by others nodding in a false-sympathetic tone that the poor woman did not know what she was saying because of being traumatised. The hysterical reaction was not dissimilar to the comments made several years ago by the TV presenter Judy Finnigan.

The problem with this predicament is that it prevents any open discussion about rape, which we badly need, yet we can't have at the moment when even intelligent, mature women in public eye are prevented from raising any questions without being screamed at. Our discourse has to be about perveted men with stockings over their heads in darkened alleys as well as the grey area of rape. Of course, rape is about violence, not about sex.

However, if sex without consent is also rape, what does it mean? An unconscious woman can't consent; obviously a woman who says no, does not consent. But what about a woman who goes to bed with someone voluntarily but wakes up next morning, claiming she can't remember anything? And yes, I have seen people who appear fine on the night, if not somewhat tipsy, but are completely blacked out the following day. In practical terms, do people need to carry consent forms and breathelysers to avoid any misunderstandings?

We need to open and analyse all these issues otherwise we are creating the world in which our daughters have a false sense of security, when actually it isn't all right to get drunk senseless, lie in the ditch in your underwear and expect nothing will happen to you. The same way you would take sensible precautions by locking your front


door or not giving your bank details to a stranger, young women have to learn to take care of themselves, which they can't if we are not allowed to talk about it. Young men, on the other hand, have to understand precisely where the boundaries are and how to recognise what is acceptable and what is not.

Meanwhile, when the time comes I am intending to give my children these two pieces of advice I was once given by my own father: always leave the bar with the same people you came in with and always be your own priority. They have served me well enough. They helped me survive a few tricky situations in my youth; that - and the knowledge that if you don't want sex with a man, stay dressed and walk away. Whether my kids will take my advice, is another matter.

I would like to finish more cheerfully but I have not slipped on a banana peel lately. Sorry. Next time. Until then, no matter what let's keep smiling! *Natalie Nera*

## THE HAYDONIAN LEEK, VEGETABLE, FLOWER AND INDUSTRIAL SHOW

The Annual Leek, Vegetable, Flower and Industrial Show was held at the Haydonian Social Club on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Entries were down on last years show (due to poor garden weather), but there was still a good variety of produce to auction off at night in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance, when a total of £150 was raised. The Trophies this year went to joint winners of the Vegetable Section being Gary Cunningham and Brian Burrows. The Flower section trophy was won by Michael Dickinson, and his wife Anne Dickinson won the Industrial section Trophy. There were some lovely entries of Animals Made From Fruit And Vegetables in the children section. Thank you to everyone who entered and attended the Club during the show day. A vocalist was provided for the evening entertainment, which everyone seemed to enjoy. *Ida Burrows*

*Photos opposite* 

Haydonian Social Club

# PIZZAS

# Available

£3-00 each

6pm to 10-30pm

Evening special

Pizza & Pint £5-00

6pm to 8-30pm

# To order call

# 684383

**Haydonian Social Club  
Vegetable Flower & Industrial Show**



Alan Barker



M. Dickinson

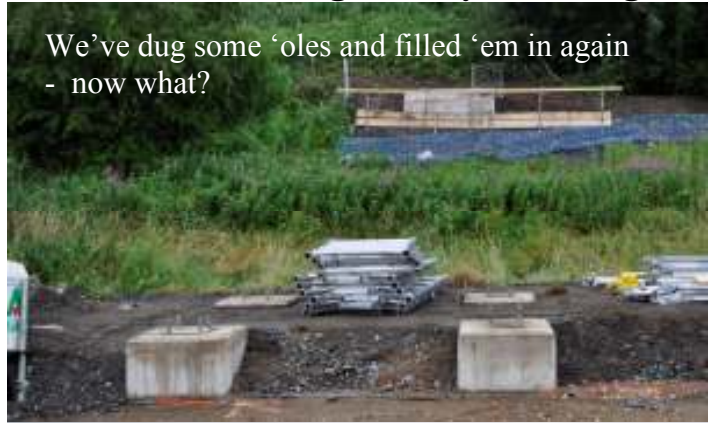


Children's Section



Children's Section

**Another new bridge in Haydon Bridge!**



We've dug some 'oles and filled 'em in again - now what?



It's huge. Where d'yer want it Hinny?



Hup!



To me!  
To you!  
Back a bit!  
Ooooops!



Looking good.

Photos: Maureen Robson





## Haydon Bridge Annual Duck Race

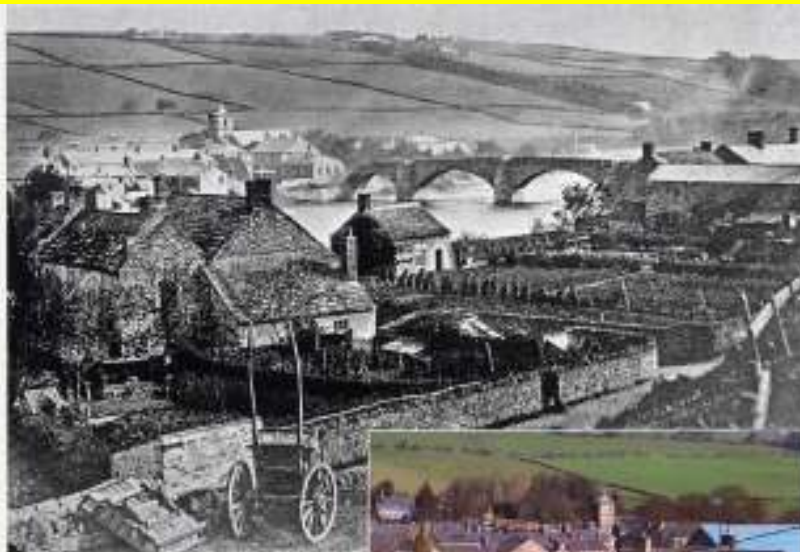
Sunday 30th August

On behalf of the **Cricket Club and Playgroup** committees a big Thank You to everyone that has helped and supported us in making this annual event possible. We would especially like to thank **Steve and Lindsay from the Anchor Hotel and the Haydonian Social Club**. We managed to raise a wonderful £2,600 for the Haydon Cricket Club and playgroup.

1st £200 Hannah Marriott. 2nd meal for two at Langley Castle Adam Boyd. 3rd free eye test and glasses worth £125 from specsavers Sarah Lill. 4th two club enclosure entries at Hexham racecourse Hope Thorburn. 5th two hours driving tuition with Emma Wilson, Kev Charlton.

# HAYDON BRIDGE 2016 CALENDAR

## THEN AND NOW



May 2016

Village from Pink Stile



A selection of twelve pictures from the village archives seen alongside 2015 views of the same locations.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Bank Holiday	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Bank Holiday	31				