

The Haydon News

April 2016



THE HAYDON NEWS

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ADOXOGRAPHY

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On behalf of The Haydon News and the parish community at large I would like to offer our warmest appreciation for the years of painstaking diligence that Pam and Ken Linge have invested in their investigation and documentation of the lives and deaths of those named from World War 1 on the War Memorial. They have performed a valuable service for us all and created a lasting and fitting documentary about those who paid for the errors and hubris of others with their lives. Their last item appears in this edition.

A century ago thousands were dying every day in the most appallingly grisly circumstances in northern Europe. It is very difficult, even impossible, for us now to put ourselves into the mindset of a public who experienced reports of such mass slaughter on a daily basis and where almost everyone in the UK had been directly personally acquainted with someone who had been killed.

I dare to hope that at some point in the future we might see a similar documentation of those from our community who lost their lives in military actions after WW1.

Whilst we are talking about Europe: You may have noticed that a referendum is in the offing. I propose to publish in the HN, starting this month, as wide a variety of views on the subject as I can bribe/coerce/blackmail/cajole people into writing. If you have a view - send it along. Anyone care to offer their views about how many middle eastern refugees Haydon Bridge could absorb?

Tangentially, I am mounting a personal campaign for the restoration of public flogging for those who use incorrectly formed plural nouns. Where there is to be more than one referendum (Heaven forbid!) a person of refined sensibilities will always use the correct plural form, which is referenda. That same person of refined sensibilities will also refer, where appropriate, to stadia, addenda, antennae, curricula, enemata, errata, indices, matrices, memoranda, nebulae, opera (plural of opus), symposia, vortices... Fist-biting pedantry is a virtue - damn it!

There's a lot more to The Women's Institute than 'jam and Jerusalem' and Calendar Girls! See page 21. All women over 18 are warmly invited to two exploratory meetings aimed at establishing new groups of the WI. I

urge all the women in the parish to consider joining - give it a go. What could go wrong? You can always decline the calendar photo shoots.

Many people, especially the elderly, are plagued by unsolicited mail. This often takes the form of 'You have won £1million - all you have to do to claim your prize is...'. Or they are offering to sell you vastly over priced tat and once they have you on their hook you can't stop the rubbish arriving. **YOU WILL NEVER, EVER HAVE WON A SINGLE BRASS FARTHING!** Never give your bank details to such people or they will drain your account. I know, I have seen it happen. Never send money - you'll never see it again. The people who run these unscrupulous scams don't care tuppence who they hurt, they just want to steal your money. If you or someone you know has got caught up in this sort of stuff then get help to stop it without delay. Friends, family, neighbours, councillors, solicitors, bank managers, social workers, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Samaritans — there's loads of people who can help. When our relatives have been affected we have stuck labels over the address saying: "RETURN TO SENDER. ADDRESSEE DECEASED" and then chucked them back in the post. That soon stops 'em, 'cos they have to pay for the returns.

Just as we go to press it has been announced that our Fire Station is to close. This is a heavy blow to the retained firemen, to our community and, perhaps most of all, to those whose rescue will now be delayed by who knows how many minutes. Yet another service is leaving the rural areas and retreating to the urban centres.

The Courant says the saving is estimated at £51,000. When set against the total NCC budget, this is very small beer indeed. Each household should ask itself "How much more would we be prepared to pay in rates to improve and develop services?" Most would contribute I suspect but, if I have understood correctly, NCC is not allowed by statute to charge more. You have to ask why local democracy is not allowed to operate properly. If a community elects Councillors who institute their manifesto commitments and then levy local tax to pay for them, where's the problem? Westminster does not know better than the locals what is needed. *Steve Ford*

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

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

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A meeting of the Haydon Parish Council was held on 24th March 2016 at 7.30pm in The Community Centre.

Cllr. Glen Sanderson, Northumberland National Park Authority Chairman of the Board, was present to introduce himself, being new to the post, and to outline the National Park's present situation. He is making his way around all of the local parish councils and aspires to remain in close touch with them and the communities they represent. Close liaison with communities extends to the NP having planning as part of its remit and a desire to support local endeavours where possible. PC representatives are welcome to speak at planning meetings. Feedback is always welcome.

He reported that the new National Landscape Centre would open in 2017 and that Northumberland had just been voted National Park of the Year.

The NP's budget has been capped for 4 years, having previously been slashed by 40%. Rory Stewart MP has been very supportive.

Northumberland National Park is home to a World Heritage Site (the Wall), the cleanest rivers, the darkest skies and is England's last great wilderness.

The Hadrian Wall bus service is currently subsidised but it is hoped that in the years ahead, with an increase in tourist numbers, the service may even be enhanced or the opportunity for private providers may become more favourable - and might include a link between HB and the Wall.

The Sill project steelwork should be erected soon and when it is complete the centre should become a major attraction for tourists to the area with obvious benefits for the local economy. Local residents are urged to take maximum advantage of these changes by providing goods and services to the visitors.

On 20th April a meeting is due to be held at Bardon Mill to which all are invited to discuss the future of the NP and the area more generally.

Public Participation

The imminent closure of our fire station was a leading topic. Thanks were offered on behalf of the firemen to the PC and the community more widely for the support that had been forthcoming.

At present it is anticipated that all work at the station will cease on October 3rd 2016. Redeployment, redundancy, retirement and other transitional arrangements are being set in hand for the crew.

The view was trenchantly expressed that the consultation leading up to the decision was a charade and that the whole episode was a *fait accompli* before the procedure began. The false figures used by NCC to support the decision, the wilful disregard of the documentation prepared by councillors - NCC councillors never even saw a copy before the meetings - and the point blank refusal to allow our representatives to be heard at the key meeting all pointed to the possibility of maladministration having occurred. Referral to the local government ombudsman is being considered.

That the closure of the HB fire station was a political decision entirely consistent with the long established withdrawal of services from the north and west of the county toward the south and east seems irrefutable.

En passant, the chief fire officer has now retired and a further £600,00 is due to be stripped from the service shortly.

Getting local TV and radio involved was discussed.

The PC's attention was drawn to an initiative of the Association of British Insurers called FloodRe. Those who are or might be affected by flooding and the associated difficulties with insurance claims or premiums are advised to examine the website to see if they could benefit from the services offered.

Apologies were noted.

Declarations of Interest were sought.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Flooding.

The flood plan is developing and further meetings are anticipated. The suggestion was made that the huge accumulations of flood detritus on the river banks may be predisposing to more problems. Those residents whose property includes riparian rights may wish to take steps to forestall future problems or liabilities that might be incurred by neglect of their portion of the river bank.

The EA and NCC have said that they are under no obligation to pass on Met Office warnings about storms.

The woods at Allenbanks are closed to all comers still. The National Trust is to be asked about plans for summer opening of the area.

Pressure is to be maintained on Road Link about the problems at Spa Well.

NCC

The problems about charges relating to the public toilets have been sorted out.

The tree pruning at The Bridge, which was promised for December 2015, seems to be dependent on permission from Network Rail. A local tree surgeon has offered to do the work for a very modest fee. NCC is going to be invited to pay rather than wait any longer.

The litter bin by the club now has an agreed location but

the bin at the west end, whilst in place, is not yet satisfactorily fixed.

More potholes have been repaired and more remain to be done. Drains by the club remain to be properly cleared.

Highways

The footpath at The Dene is going to be sorted out.

Lighting

Nil

Planning

There are said to be asbestos related risks connected with an application for planning permission from Shaftoe Trust.

Accounts agreed.

Correspondence

The PC has been approached with a view to the future financing of the HB Calendar. The PC's ability to reclaim VAT is advantageous and the project is clearly of benefit to the parish.

It is recommended that the PC should register an interest in a right to buy the firestation, though the potential risks of asbestos presence were noted. Possible future uses were briefly considered.

Parish Projects

Development Trust - The Haydon Hundred is at a very advanced stage of planning and preparation.

The Queen's Birthday almost coincides with the cycling event and it is anticipated that the street decorations will be very welcome for both.

The Bridge - nothing new to report.

The proposed bus stop on Ratcliffe Road has been the cause of a 'kerfuffle' on Facebook. The language becoming so heated that the postings have been discontinued. It has been determined that authority for the siting and design of a shelter rests with NCC and the Highway Authority. It is up to the PC to decide how best to proceed.

The inappropriate parking of cars on the bus stop bay is to be referred to the enforcement officer for remedial action.

Concerns about the potential for rampant drug consumption and untrammelled concupiscence in the proposed shelter were felt to be somewhat overstated. Chairman Faulks offered the latest figures on unplanned pregnancy in the UK's teenagers as a hopeful sign - the rates are at their lowest for decades.

Being thus encouraged the council elected to proceed with further steps toward a well considered erection.

AOB

Cllr. Walker has the PC's investment strategy well in hand.

The growing litter problem around the parish was noted and a well advertised clean up event was proposed. The establishment of a litter bin at the East end layby was recommended.

A Firemen's Party is to be planned.

Next meeting: Langley Village Hall 28th April at 7.30pm.

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HAYDON PARISH 'HOME FRONT' : 1939 - 1945

My earlier Notes of the Second World War 'Home Front' in Haydon Parish, to December 1940, were published in the June 2015 to March 2016 issues of The Haydon News.

Red Cross: £52-10s-11½d had been raised in Haydon Bridge from August 1940 to December 1940 in aid of the Red Cross.

YMCA: Jock King, Joe Longstaff, George Robinson, Tommy Shields, and Matt Smith (Sec.) formed a sub-committee of the Haydon Bridge YMCA to raise money to fund gifts to be sent to local servicemen.

No Shelter: In January 1941, W.W. Ridley, headmaster at Shaftoe Trust School, informed the Parish Council that repeated efforts to obtain air raid shelters for pupils at the school had failed and he gave no hope of shelters being provided by the County Council in the near future.

Lip Service: It was reported on January 25th 1941, that John Arthur Blakey, a Hexham Urban Council plumber from Haydon Bridge, had kissed Frances McGinley while working at the house in which she was a housekeeper in Hexham. Mr. Blakey was fined £2 with £3-10s costs.

Fire Fighting: Edward Kirsopp, the parish's chief air raid warden, informed the parish councillors on Thursday, 6th February 1941, that between two hundred and fifty and three hundred parish residents had been trained as fire fighters. Most businesses were equipped for fire fighting incendiary bombs, and fire fighting squads had also been arranged at schools in the parish. Fire fighting skills' demonstrations had been very successful and another was being held on Saturday, 8th February for the district north of the railway.

Boar'd Stiff: Farmer George Robb, of West Land Ends Farm, was fined £2 in March 1941 for failing to keep a boar pig in isolation in accordance with its licence, after P.C. Scott had seen the boar loose in a field. When asked by the magistrates why he had allowed the boar to be in the field with the sows, Mr Robb replied: 'It was a bit stiff and needed the exercise.' (*Well it would, wouldn't it!*)

Performing on a Sunday: Haydon Bridge's Town Hall Cinema was informed that it would have to pay a 'charity contribution' of £7-10s for Sunday performances. This was an increase of 80% on the previous contribution.

Collectors in Haydon parish, in 1941, for the National Children's Homes and Orphanages were Miss Sanderson, Eva Robinson and Mrs Hamilton.

Golden Wedding: A popular Tynedale farming couple celebrated their Golden Wedding on March 27th 1941. Married at Gateshead in 1891, Mr and Mrs J.W.Harrison moved from Stonecroft Farm to Esp Hill Farm on their retirement in 1937. The Harrison name was associated with Esp Hill and the Tofts for many years and the family link continues through Betty Hargreaves (nee Harrison) at

Tofts Farm in 2016.

The farms of Esp Hill and Tofts have dominated the horizon above Haydon Bridge for over four hundred and fifty years; both being recorded in Hall & Humberston's 'Survey of Langley Barony' undertaken in the year 1570.



Not a feature of Esp Hill farm since 1570, of course, but this imposing rust red farm building has been a significant man made landmark on our northern landscape throughout my lifetime and I will be sad to see its demise when, eventually, it succumbs to the elements or new developments.

Taking the Collection: Three Haydon Bridge schoolboys pleaded guilty at Hexham Juvenile Court on Monday, April 7th 1941, to breaking and entering St Cuthbert's Old Church and stealing one shilling and fourpence from the offertory box. The boys were bound over for two years in their mothers' surety of £1 and ordered to pay ten shillings each in costs.

Spending the Collection: Haydon Parish expenditure for the year to April 1941 was £83-14s-7d, leaving a balance of £7-3s-9d. (*In 2014-15, our parish expenditure was around £36,000*)

Haydon Bridge Central Methodists held their Sunday School Anniversary on Sunday, April 13th 1941. (*The Central Methodist Church was on the site of the 2016 Community Centre.*) Maybe you, your family or friends were taking part!

Heather Campbell, Maureen Armstrong, Evelyn Veitch, Kathleen Burrows, Roger and Margaret Sutcliffe, Joan Cooper, Margaret Philipson, Dennis Spooner, Cynthia Wylie, Vera Bowman, Marlene Birnie, Gladys Veitch, Eileen Cooper, Audrey Milburn, Audrey Thompson, Isabel Heslop, Alfie Kent, Mollie Gibson, Irene Wilson, Sheila Birnie, Edna Brown, Olga and Pauline Hudson, Hetty Bates, Marjory Wood, Austin Ridley, Kathleen Robinson, Joan Milburn, Doreen Heslop, John Gibson, Margaret Burrows, Pat Ridley, Mary Betts, John Graham, Stella Young, Joyce Hopper, Doreen Gibson and Violet Birnie. Musical accompaniment was by Miss Kirton and Miss Hetherington and the children were coached by Mrs Birnie and Miss Alma Telford.

World War II Deaths: News of the first casualties of the War with parish connections was greeted with great sadness in March 1941. **Joseph Charlton Wylie RN** (23) was one of 106 men killed when HMS Exmoor was torpedoed on Tuesday February 25th 1941; and **Thomas Gilmore RAF** died on Friday 14th March 1941 aged 21.

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A Dying Trade: It was reported that the Haydon Bridge hearse had been used only three times in 1940 and that eleven shillings and sixpence had been paid for its use. *The Parish Council had had custody of the hearse since December 1908, but, after not being used at all in 1945-46 and only a single use in each of 1946-47 and 1947-48, the hearse sub-committee was wound up in April 1950.*

Hector Philipson: On May 17th 1941, the funeral of Leading Aircraftman Joseph Hector Philipson, who lived at 2 Whittis Hill, was held in Haydon Bridge. Hector was an RAF volunteer in 1940; he was a village footballer and a member of the Floral Society. Hector (29) worked at Langley Barony and was trade union secretary on behalf of the employees there. The deceased was brought to Haydon Bridge station by train in a coffin supplied by the Air Ministry.



The account from Hector Philipson's funeral makes interesting reading seventy five years later.	Hire of hearse:	£2 - 00 - 00
	Hire of coach:	15 - 00
	Burial fees:	£1 - 04 - 00
	Notice in papers:	05 - 08½
	Undertaker's fees:	10 - 00
	Total	£4 - 14 - 08½

Haydon Bridge Elmfield Methodists held their Sunday School Anniversary on Sunday, May 18th 1941. *(The Elmfield Church of 1941 was on the site of the Methodist Chapel today.)* If you weren't at the Central Methodist Anniversary in April (See page 6), maybe you were at the Elmfield Church in May.

Doris Noble, Joy Sleeman, Lawrence Mitchell, Gwennie Heslop, Emily Veitch, Jean Maughan, Evelyn Thompson, Connie Turner, Pat Sloan, Margaret Ransome, Margaret Watson, Amy Stokoe, Hermione Icton, William Veitch, Maureen Harrison, Margaret Walker, Moira McMullen, Marlene Turnbull, Audrey Bonny, Edna Smith, Dennis Oliver, Aileen Hill, Mary Stokoe, Lila Rain, John Oliver, Noel Oliver, Joyce Holmes, Edna Rogan, Rene Lax, Nora Beckwith, Jean Rogan, Eric Turnbull, Ann Brown, Lena Clegg, Mary Stokoe, Roland Brown. Accompaniment was by Dorothy Todd and Winnie Pearson and the young pupils were coached by Miss Telfer and Miss Stokoe.

Thought For The ~~Day~~ Month

I wonder whether readers of The Haydon News born in, let's say, the early 1960s and beyond, are surprised to find that in earlier decades, almost every child in the parish went to Sunday School. We may have yawned through a few sermons of course, but for most it was worth it for the joy in singing the mission hymns; anniversaries and festivals; Christmas parties; Sunday School trips to Whitley Bay and Sillioth - and a lovely book presented annually for good attendance.

Looking through the names, and reflecting on the lives of many of those who attended the two Chapels in 1941, it occurs to me that listening to the Bible stories and recalling the morals of the parables, might just have shaped the lives of those wonderful Haydonians.

I will continue the WWII 'Home Front' notes in May

HAYDON PARISH 'HOME FRONT' 1914 - 1919

Although most of the fighting in the Great War ended following the signing of the armistice on November 11th 1918, the war didn't end officially until the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28th 1919.

I am, therefore, continuing my Notes on the Great War 'Home Front', throughout 1919.

Duty Ore: The Anchor Inn was the venue for the sale of 823 bings of lead ore on January 14th, 1919. The mineral belonged to the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty and had been raised from their lead mines on Alston Moor. The ore was their share/portion of the produce of the mines due to them as Lords of the Manor and sold at auction for four pounds nineteen shillings per bing. (1 bing = 8 cwts)

War Memorial: In last month's Historical Notes (March) I recorded the first Parish Council proposals for a War Memorial in Haydon Bridge. There followed a public meeting on Thursday, February 8th 1919 in the Town Hall and, with the Rev W. Ainger in the chair, four proposals were discussed:

Rev R.S. Wright proposed a public park and recreation ground on land owned by the Admiralty and occupied by Mr King's gardens, at the west end of the village below the tunnel top and adjoining the main road. This was deemed to offer an opportunity for developing the physique and improving the health of our young people.

Mr M. Waugh advocated a cottage hospital as a memorial and gave details of the Alston Hospital and the Charlotte Straker Hospital at Corbridge.

Mr W.M. Turner said both proposals were "exceedingly good objects" but they were for the living and to his mind the best memorial would be one to benefit widows and dependants of those who had fallen in the War and, in this regard, Mrs Bates had offered one and a half acres of land where ten cottages and gardens could be built at a cost of £3,000 to £4,500.

Mr Cooper put forward the erection of a monument upon a site in the village as being an appropriate memorial.

Following the public discussions, a committee was appointed to consider the schemes.

James King: On Wednesday February 18th 1919, our residents mourned the death of sixty two year old James King. James had been chairman of the Haydon Bridge Industrial and Co-operative Society for a while, but was best known as manger for Bookless' Market Gardens at the west end of the village.

James King had moved to the village from Berwickshire and the west end (Bookless') gardens were forever known locally as 'Jock King's Gardens'.

Sanitary Inspector Reports: 'My attention was called to three quarters of frozen beef at the slaughter houses of Frank Storey, butcher (*Ratcliffe Road*) and the Haydon Bridge Co-operative Society (*Shaftoe Street*).

After inspecting the three quarters, which weighed 27½ stones, I had no hesitation in condemning it as unfit for human food and these were sent back to the consignors and a fresh consignment was provided.'

The Answer Lies in the Soil: Under the auspices of the Haydon Bridge Leek Society, four lectures on soil and manuring, the cultivation of peas, beans, root crops and greens, and growing fruit and strawberries, were provided free for those with small gardens in March 1919.

I will continue the WWI 'Home Front' notes in May

WINIFRED CARRICK

Elsewhere in this month's Haydon News, we publish a short biography of Winifred Carrick, the final biography prepared by Pam and Ken Linge of those in our parish who fell during the Great War.

The fascinating story of the Carrick family in Haydon Bridge's social history was written in my Haydon News Historical Notes of July 2010, ending with the interment of Edith Jane Carrick in our cemetery above Alexandra Terrace in 1942. Winifred Carrick, the subject of Pam and Ken's biography this month, was Edith's older sister and the daughter of Thomas Carrick (Died March 10th 1911) and Annie Carrick (Died October 27th 1906).

Almost six years on from my original article, It occurs to me that twenty nine year old Winifred's place on our village War Memorial is deserving of further explanation.

Winifred Carrick was a nurse during the First World War, serving in France before being relocated to the Military Hospital in Bethnal Green in 1917. She was described as being industrious, but of a highly-strung nature. In May 1919, she resigned from her post and expressed her fears to the Matron that she was going to suffer a nervous breakdown. In June 1919, Winifred was admitted to the North-Eastern Hospital at Tottenham suffering from measles and appeared to have made a full recovery. On June 24th, however, Winifred went for a walk in the hospital grounds and was later seen by two children who witnessed her tragic death when she threw herself under an approaching train, on lines at the back of the hospital.

Ernest Mathew Oubridge, Winifred's uncle from Haydon Bridge, told the inquest that her father and mother were both dead, although she had two sisters and a step mother living. There had been no sign of insanity and as a trustee of her father's trust, he knew there was no need for her to work for a living. The inquest on Winifred recorded a verdict of 'suicide while of unsound mind.'

It was reported locally, that, despite the stigma attached to suicide, her family were so well thought of in Haydon Bridge that her name was recorded on the First World War Memorial as, 'a casualty of War'.

And so, Winifred Carrick became the last casualty of the Great War whose name was engraved on our memorial.



The Carrick family headstone in Haydon Bridge's Alexandra Terrace cemetery

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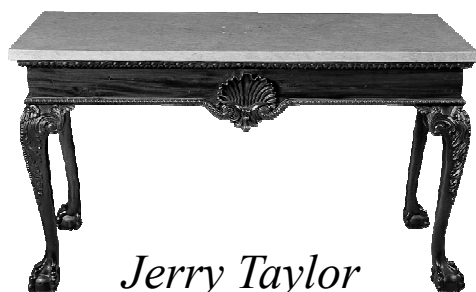
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or call into one of the sessions at the fire station.

BAKT-EN-HOR

In the Haydon News' of September and November 2004 and June 2009, I introduced you to the exhibits with a Haydon Bridge connection that are housed at the Great North Museum in Newcastle - the 'Bewick Swan', the 'Vertigo Alpestris' Alpine Whorl Shell, and 'Bakt-en-Hor' the museum's famous three thousand year old Egyptian mummy. (See haydon-news.co.uk enter the site, click on 'back numbers'/ 2000 - 2009 and search.)

Thanks to further research by Haydon Bridge resident Aron Mazel, I can add to the fascinating story of the museum's Egyptian mummy, this month.

Bakt-en-Hor was the first mummy to come to Newcastle and was presented by Thomas Coates Esq., of 'Lipwood House', Haydon Bridge, to the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society in 1821. Thomas Coates was a surgeon working in India, who travelled home overland. He purchased the mummy at Gournou, the burial place of ancient Thebes (the modern city of Luxor) the capital of Upper Egypt, from an old Arab by whom it was dug from its sepulchre.

When the Hancock Museum opened in 1884, the Natural History Society purchased the collections of the 'Newcastle Museum' at the Lit & Phil; including Bacht-en-Hor.



Bacht-en-Hor has never been unwrapped and remains in her layers of plastered linen moulded to the shape of the body. The cartonnage is beautifully painted with scenes from the 'Book of the Dead' - described initially as 'hieroglyphics and emblematical devices of animals, and adapted to the human form with a face significant of a high state of civilisation'. The mummy was contained in a separate wooden coffin of Egyptian Sycamore, about two inches in thickness and covered with resin, making the inscription barely legible. It dates to the 21st-22nd Dynasties (about 1069-715 BC).

Initial opinion (1827) was: 'the deceased was probably a person of rank' and it was reported as written here:

It is impossible to do justice, in description, to the beauty and elegance of this valuable piece of antiquity. The freshness of the colouring is that of yesterday, though executed 3,000 years ago, and but for an acquaintance with its history, it would be difficult to dispossess one's self of the belief of its being re-painted and re-varnished only of late. It is, perhaps, one of the most perfect mummies, if not the very most so, ever dug up.

Two others, also very perfect, were in the possession of the Arab at the time when Mr Coates purchased this. They were intended for the Kings of France and Bavaria. How interesting to the philosopher and divine in this

piece of antiquity, which involves considerations of a date equal to that of the Bible, and not without the possibility of its containing the mortal remains of some personage there noted!

The inscription on the cartonnage was first translated in 1823 (Newcastle magazine 1824, Vol 3, p.92). A more recent translation by John Taylor, assistant keeper of ancient Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum reads as follows:

‘An offering which the king gives to Re-Harakhty, chief of the gods [to] Atum, lord of the two lands, [and to] Osiris, Foremost of the Westerners, so that he may give offerings and provisions to the Osiris, the Lady of the House, Baket-en-her, daughter of the God’s father Nakhtefmut, justified.’

In 2009, the exhibit from Thomas Coates of Haydon Bridge gained world wide publicity when it underwent a full CT scan at Newcastle General Hospital, inside the linen and plaster inner coffin, and experts were able to determine that the mummy was a woman, five feet in height and had a full set of teeth, including wisdom teeth; it is thought a substance found on her teeth may have been painted on as a cosmetic exercise after her face was damaged during embalming. There were no signs of arthritis or of bone disease, suggesting she was between twenty one and thirty five years old when she died.

Remarkably, Bakt-en-Hor was not the only mummy purchased and presented to the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society by a Haydon Bridge resident
More about that, and about Thomas Coates, next month.



Bakt-en-Hor : Thanks to the Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne

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Buried Treasure

Noo then! Yous'll mind on that Aah went ti Lunnun last yeor ti see thi kween an whan Aah got back hyem, Aah waas that full o mesel wor lass tellt is ti gan inti thi gardin an dee sum diggin ti bring mesel back doon tiv orth.

Waad yuh beleev it? Me, a VIP, howkin i thi clarts?

Onyroad, theor Aah waas, howkin a bit space ti plant wor beans an onions an stuff. Bye! It waas hard work! Theor waas styens, an aall sorts o ket!

An then, Aah howks up this geet pile o clarts an metal. Aah banged it aboot a bit ti git thi maist on it off, like, an then Aah saa coins in amang aall thi clarts, so Aah shooted fer wor lass ti cum an giv is a bit hand.

"Hey up!" shu says, shaain is one. "These isn't yor modern coins, yuh knaa. This isna thi Kween's heed, cos shu's not got a beord, has shu?"

"Aye, yor reet theor" Aah says, but Aah thowt Aah'd seen thi fyec on thi coin afore, so Aah slipped one iti me breeks, an Aah kept keekin at it ti see if'n Aah cud put a nyem ti thi fyec.

Then Aah seen summat stickin oot a thi grund wheor thi coins had been.

"Waat's yon?" Aah says.

"It looks like a byen" shu says.

"Is't animal, vegetable or mineral?" Aah says.

"Aah divvent knaa" shu says. "Yuh'll hatta phone yon clivvor folks at Vindolanda. They'll knaa whaat ti dee". So that's whaat wuh did.

Whey, the waas that excited bi me findins, the dug aall ower thi gardin an the fund mair coins, an byens, an bits a claes, an gulleys an stuff. The waas diggin fer weeks, but it waas nee bother at aall, cos it ment Aah didn't hatta dee it. Then the led it aall off ti Vindolanda ti resarch it.

Aah thowt nee mair aboot it fer a while, cos wuh had plants ti put i thi grund, an weedin ti dee. Yous knaas whaat it's like whan yuh've got a gardin, divvent yuh? But Aah kept keekin at that coin Aah'd fund, tryin ti aloos whe's fyec it waas. An then, one mornin as Aah waas shavin, it hit is. Thi fyec on thi coin was the syem as thi one i thi mirror! "Bugger me!" Aah says, an wor lass axed is whaat waas wrang, like. So Aah tellt hor. "It's tekkin yuh a lang time ti jaloos it" shu says, deed calm like.

Aah gov hor a leuk, an axed hor whaat shu ment.

"Whey" shu says. "Aah may as weel tell yuh noo that yor haaff way theor.

Yuh'll mind on that Aah'd cut yor hair thi day wuh fund thi coins, an sum a thi lowsens must hev fallen on thi byens, cos whan the got ivvorything back ti Vindolanda, the cudent jaloos wheor thi hairs had cum frae, so the rang is up an axed is fer a sample a yor hair, an whan the tested it, the fund it waas varry like thi DNA frae thi byens."

"Gerraway!" Aah says. "How di yuh knaa that?"

"Aah got a letter frae them thi day," shu says, "tellin is aal aboot it. The sayd thi byens waas frae thi last king a Northumbria, an the rekkon yor related."

"Gerraway!" Aah says agyen. "Waat for did yuh say nowt tiv is?"

Shu sayd shu haddent tellt is cos whan Aah'd went ti see thi Kween last yeor, Aah'd been that full a mesel eftorwaards that shu jist knaad Aah'd be a reet pain i thi arse if'n Aah'd knaan Aah waas ganna be thi next king a Northumbria!

Whey, yuh cud a dunshed is doon wiv a stotty.

Waad yuh beleev it?

Me!

Thi next king a Northumbria!

Peter Arnold

Tynedale Community Bank

The Tynedale Community Bank provides a local community based bank for affordable loans and secure savings. Fully regulated by the FCA, we are a professional but friendly and approachable organisation which exists to provide a local service, not to make a profit.

Our key aims are:-

encouraging regular savings for adults and children
providing affordable loans tailored to your circumstances (including to those vulnerable to high interest lenders e.g. pay day lenders and loan sharks)

We are on course to build a solid, sustainable model of a locally based, not for profit financial alternative in our communities. Since our formal launch on 6th November 2015, at Hexham Abbey, led by the Archbishop of York, we have made great strides and seen the Bank's membership (70 and counting) grow in respect of both savings and loans. We have already topped £150k in deposits, largely driven by people just wanting to put their money to some good use! (Note that all savings up to £70,000 are fully protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.)

We have granted several loans for various purposes right across society and have just received our first application to repay a door step lender loan. We have been successful in recruiting several volunteers who have come forward to help us promote and run this new initiative; I am delighted to say they are really enjoying the experience. We are also about to embark on a national initiative called "LifeSavers", working with the Youth Enterprise to set up savings clubs in schools and help children and their parents learn about money.

In essence, we have facilitated the expansion of an under-utilised credit union model in Tynedale, reinvigorated for today's world and unique challenges but nonetheless which is focused on helping local people to help themselves and their communities, rather than making a huge profit

We have 2 Information Points up and running in Hexham and Allendale. Several more are in the pipeline (including Haydon Bridge, Bellingham and Prudhoe/West Wylam) but we would welcome people getting involved from any area of Northumberland, in order to deliver services more widely.

For further information, to become a member or to get involved as a volunteer, please call in to meet us at one of our Information Points:-

HEXHAM - The Parish Centre (situated at the back of Hexham Abbey) on Tuesday's from 9am – 12pm

ALLEN VALLEYS – Fawside office, Allendale Village Hall, Monday to Friday 10am – 1pm

CONTACT DETAILS: We can be contacted during normal office hours, Monday to Friday by calling 01207 284851 or by emailing info@tynedalecommunitybank.org.uk

Mark I'Anson

CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

CLERGY MESSAGE

Deacon Anne Taylor

By the time you read this, Easter as it is very early this year, will have been and gone.

The eggs and all they represent will have been eaten. Some say the egg represents the tomb which Jesus was laid in after his death, some say the egg represents the stone that was rolled away from the front of the tomb and some say the egg represents the new life that Jesus' death and resurrection offers us. For some, Easter means chocolate, bunnies and Spring, I wonder if asked, how many people could actually tell us why we have eggs at Easter and what as a Church we are celebrating?

The passage for Easter Sunday this year was from John's Gospel, Chapter 20, verses 1 to 18. It is about Mary Magdalene going to the tomb early on the Sunday morning where Jesus' body had been laid, but on reaching the tomb she saw that the huge stone had been rolled away. She runs back to tell the other disciples and then returns to the tomb herself. She is met by two men dressed in white, (Angels), who ask her why is she crying? 'Because they have taken Jesus away and I don't know where they have put him' is her reply.

Then she turns around and sees the risen Jesus but doesn't at first realise it is him. Jesus asks her 'women why are you crying, who is it you are looking for?'

Thinking he was the gardener, she asks him where have they put Jesus? Jesus then says her name 'Mary' and she knows at once it is Jesus. Jesus Christ risen from the dead just like he said he would. Jesus tells her to go and tell the others that she has met with the risen Lord Jesus.

The words that really struck me from that passage were 'Who is it you're looking for?'

If all you are looking for at Easter is chocolate eggs, and bunnies then you have missed the point. You will have failed to see the real meaning of Easter. If you are looking for the risen Lord Jesus Christ and realise that he did rise from the dead, then your life could be very different.

Over the next few weeks, the Churches will be telling the Resurrection stories, stories of Jesus' appearances to his disciples and others after he had risen from the dead.

Many came to believe in Jesus and went on to tell others just as Mary did.

So as a Church, we have much to celebrate at Easter, it's why we meet in the first place!

Deacon Anne.

**Services in the Benefice of Haydon Bridge
and Beltingham with Henshaw.**

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

April 2016

Easter 2:

Sunday 3 April, 2016

9.30am: Parish Eucharist (BCP), St Cuthbert's Beltingham
11am: Parish Eucharist with Storybook Church, St Cuthbert's
Haydon Bridge

Easter 3:

Sunday April 10 April 2016

9.30am: Parish Eucharist with Storybook Church, All Hallows',
Henshaw followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting
11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

Easter 4:

Sunday 17 April 2016

9.30am: Parish Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw
11am: Parish Eucharist (BCP), St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge
followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Easter 5:

Sunday 24 April 2016

10am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge
5pm: Evening Worship, Haydon Old Church

Saturday 30 April

10.30am: Messy Church, All Hallows' Henshaw

Easter 6:

Sunday 1 May 2016

9.30am: Parish Eucharist (BCP), St Cuthbert's, Beltingham
11am: Parish Eucharist with Storybook Church, St Cuthbert's
Haydon Bridge

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

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

3 April

10am Morning Worship
Brenda Mearns
6pm Evening Worship
Bob McAlpin

10 April

10am Morning Worship
Ruth Johnson
6pm Evening Worship
Rev. John Harrison

17 April

10am Morning Worship
Bob Cooper
6pm Communion Worship
Rev. Tony Buglass

24 April

10am **Joint Service** with
St. Cuthberts Parish Church
6pm **United Service**
Sparty Lea Church

1 May

10am Morning Worship
Deacon Anne Taylor
6pm Evening Worship
Norman Fullard

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

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Mass each Sunday at 11.00am at Haltwhistle

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

**ADVANCE NOTICE
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

15th –21st May

Thanks in advance to all who have already offered
their help for the House to House collections.

If anyone else feels they could help please contact

Deborah: 07990928976



A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

Are you curious about what Church is about?

Would you like to find out more about Christianity and
the life of the Church?

Would you like to be Baptised or Confirmed?

For 6 weeks in the late Spring The Vicar will be running
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questions and many more.

These will be suitable for anyone from 10 to 100!

If you would like to take up this offer please contact
Benjamin on: 688196 or revbenjaminccarter@gmail.com

St Cuthbert's Kneeler Project

*We are delighted to say that we have now raised the £2000 needed to
proceed with the Kneeler Project. We are commissioning the designs
and hope the stitches and embroiderers will be able to get to work in
the late spring. Many thanks to all who donated so generously.*

THE MEETING PLACE

THE METHODIST CHURCH
Come and Bring your friends for
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Tuesdays & Thursdays
10am – 12 noon

A Warm welcome to All

Messy Church

13th April 3.30 pm

IN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Come along and bring your friends

*All children welcome under 8's to be
accompanied by an adult.*

HAYDON BRIDGE WAR MEMORIAL by Pam and Ken Linge

This month, we end our series of articles on those individuals who died in the Great War. The biographies have been published chronologically and the series ends with

Winifred Eliza Carrick

The fifty seventh casualty, in 1919.

(57) Winifred Eliza Carrick



Winifred was a Nurse in the Voluntary Aid Detachment ("V.A.D."). She died on 24th June 1919, aged 29.

Born in Haydon Bridge, she was the eldest of at least four children of Thomas and Annie Carrick (nee Butterwith).

She had served in France and afterwards was a nurse at the Bethnal Green Military Hospital in London.

At the time of her death, Winifred was in hospital being treated for German Measles.

One afternoon she left the hospital grounds and threw herself in front of a train.



As well as having her name on the War Memorial, Winifred is commemorated on the Reredos in St. Cuthbert's, the Shaftoe School Memorial and on the family gravestone in Haydon Bridge Churchyard Extension.

If you have any information relating to Winifred Eliza Carrick any of those individuals commemorated 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.

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Shaftoe Trust School invades Cogito Books

Last week the children at school enjoyed celebrating World Book Day with several brilliant events. A trip to Cogito Book shop in Hexham where they all spent their book vouchers, a visit to Hexham Library and our "Whole Shaftoe Bedtime story event" for 120 children. They all arrived in PJ's for stories in our "pop up bedrooms", with hot chocolate and cookies. These are part of an ongoing push to promote a love of books / reading for pleasure!

Victoria Binovec

Aydon Class teacher.



Haydonian Social Club

Family Prize Bingo
Saturday 9th April

Eyes down 7-30pm

B

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South Tynedale Railway – Out of Season

It always seems that running no services from Christmas to just before Easter will give us plenty of free time. Well not quite. So I thought you might be interested to hear some of what we get up to 'out of season'.

January activities start with dismantling Santa Displays which are quite big and heavy and need special storage to ensure they are fit for future years. All retail and catering areas are given deep cleans (after all we need to maintain our 5-star food hygiene rating). We actually have extensive cleaning regimes year round but still like to deep clean when we have down time. Menus are then reworked for next season. Sourcing our local products and supporting the local economy is important to us. We check on the latest retail products, attend trade fairs and purchase for the shop to deliver fresh and attractive lines.

This year I have new external signage being designed and delivered for the site in line with our Discovery Centre signage. Site meetings, artistic sign off and checking every facet of visuals becomes routine for a little while.



Work with those coach companies who bring us visitors, accommodation providers and tourist information centres is ramped up as we deliver the new season offerings for them. We are planning a familiarisation visit in April to showcase our new site changes and the invitations have gone out.

Our youth group is being relaunched this year where we have some exciting projects on offer for children from 11 years upwards. We are also working with our local schools in the area to deliver another employability scheme which we piloted last year.

Towards the end of the summer term 2016, a six-week primary/secondary transition course will also be delivered at Samuel King's School (Alston) for all current Y6 pupils (n = 13). The course will take place one afternoon a week as a joint enterprise with the STR. The focus will be upon STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and the context will be Signalling and Communications on the railways. The course will include field visits and practical work at the school, which will be based upon the construction of an SM32 scale operations training model of the Alston station limits, from stop blocks to OTW (one train working) section.

Since Christmas I have also been completing an overhaul of our policies and procedures which are essential for any business but especially important for the regulated ones

such as ours.

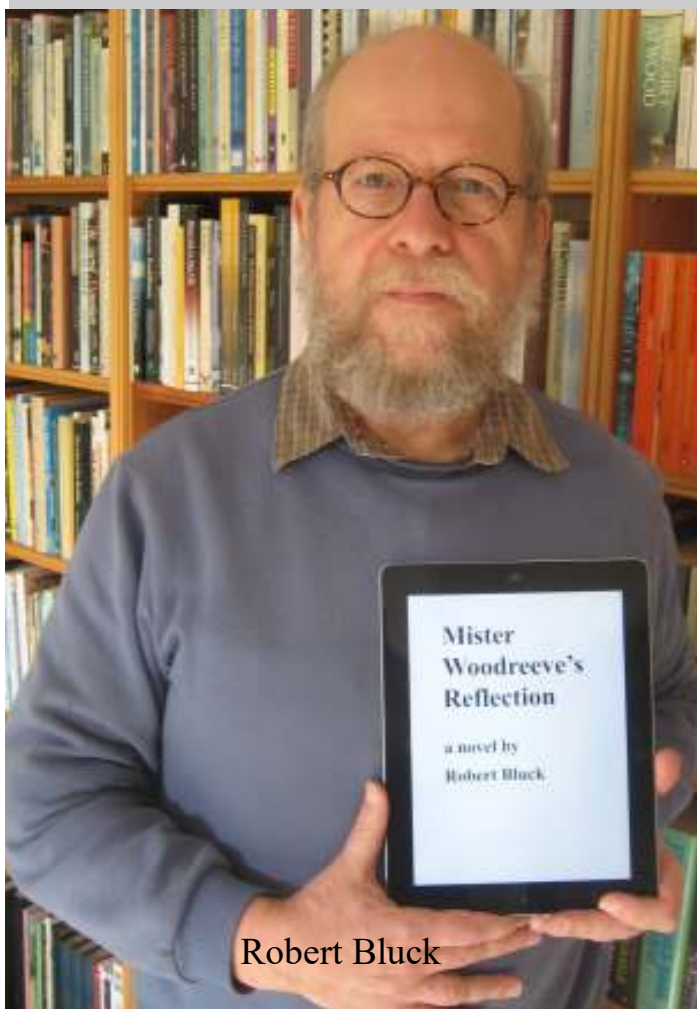
We have been producing the in house magazine 'Tynedalesman' which all members receive and it is also membership renewals time so our mail outs are quite busy.

For those of you in the know, our staging date for the new stakeholder pensions arrived during February and work before that focussed on setting up the right scheme and how we administer that.

In IT matters, we have a 'shared drive' holding our business files and all instructions on how to manage the site (in case they decide to give me the boot). I am currently moving that extensive database to 'in cloud' to ensure ease of access for the future.

In the meantime, we are replacing sections of rail and track, renewing fencing, refreshing our picnic areas, sprucing up our coaches, servicing our loco's and moving on with our planned capital project works. New season training is delivered during March so down time is never quiet here at the STR.

*Heather Palmer
General Manager*



Robert Black

A Local Literary Mystery

Forty miles or so west of Newcastle, between Hexham and Haltwhistle, a river flows through a wooded valley into the South Tyne at the edge of a village. The village looks a lot like Haydon Bridge – and a bit like Bardon Mill – and you may begin to recognise a stretch of the river, or even particular houses. But then the river flows south instead of north, the village grows or shrinks – los-

ing a church or gaining a railway station – and the houses change shape or appear in quite different places.

This is an imagined corner of a real part of Northumberland. It forms the main setting for my novel *Mister Woodreeve's Reflection* – a literary mystery with a hint of the supernatural running through it. When teenage daughter Emma Forster and her troubled family find Matthew the Woodreeve, their meeting sets off events which will transform all their lives.

As Emma crosses a footbridge, on the day after a summer storm, she sees something impossible, a man walking unharmed out of the churning river. By now she knows enough to keep it to herself. But who is the reclusive Matthew, and why is Emma drawn to him? Soon they are all hiding things from each other. There seems to be a hidden world – magical or dangerous – only a hair's breadth away from everyday Northumberland. Will the Forsters remain trapped in the past, or will they be brave enough to share these secrets – and solve the puzzle Mister Woodreeve sets them?

The *Hexham Courant* was kind enough to describe *Mister Woodreeve's Reflection* as a 'spine-tingling mystery novel'. And it has found an unusual publisher! After completing the writing, I tried conventional publishers without success – very familiar for new authors – and was starting to investigate self-publishing, when a friend introduced me to Unbound Books. They plan to publish the novel as an ebook at first, supported by crowdfunding. This is an online version of the well-tried 'subscriptions in advance' model used by Dickens and others in the nineteenth century (in this case with a full refund if the target is not reached in 90 days).

I am now working on the next local literary project, setting the history of my mother's family in its social context. She was born in Wylam, where her father William Henry Waugh was a railway clerk, and her mother's family were drapers in Newcastle in the 1860s (Burgess and Darnell, just down the street from the original Bainbridges). My wife and I are incomers of course, as we only moved here in 2002 after ten years in Hexham. Yes, the novel has scenes in Hexham too – or rather a fictional Hexham.

To find out more about *Mister Woodreeve's Reflection*, please visit the Unbound website at <https://unbound.co.uk/books/mister-woodreeves-reflection> where you will find a short video, the first chapter to read, and details of how to support the project. I'm hoping to build up a network of supporters who want to find out what happens to Emma and Mister Woodreeve. If the ebook is successful a printed version will follow.

There's a weekly blog on my Facebook page with details of the writing of the novel and updates on the funding process.

Robert Bluck

'THE BRIDGE'

(No, NOT the Swedish/Danish TV drama series!)

Can you answer any of the following?

What's small, has adjacent free parking and is just next door to Haydon Bridge railway station?

Where can I get free access to a computer as well as free WiFi?

Where can I get some reasonably priced photocopying done?

Where can I get a cup of coffee or tea in a relaxed, comfortable and intimate venue?

Where can I get a friendly and helpful library information service from a local community volunteer?

Where is there a visitor information point where I can pick up local walking and cycling information leaflets, get advice about places to stay and visit, go to the toilet and shelter from the rain?

Where can I take my children to find a treasury of books just for them?

Where can I go to find out about local history?

Where can I go to view photos and archives from Haydon Parish?

Where can I go to look at and/or buy pictures by local artists from the area?

Where, in the summer, can I get or donate fresh local produce?

Where can I go to pick up cheap second hand books?

Where can I borrow a jigsaw puzzle to while away a wet winter, or summer, day?

And finally, where can I go to borrow, order and return library books to and from any library in the county without leaving Haydon Parish?

Answers? At 'The Bridge' of course - otherwise known as Haydon Bridge Community Library and Visitor Information Point

If you haven't already, then why don't you come along and see for yourself! 'The Bridge' is a small, single storey, stone built building on Church Street next to the railway station.



Contact telephone number is: 01434 688658

Opening hours are:

Monday	09.00 - 12.00
Tuesday	13.00 - 16.00
Wednesday	13.00 - 16.00
Friday	16.00 - 18.30
Saturday	09.30 - 12.30

Sonja Bailes



There was a great turnout for the Easter Eggstravaganza on March 19th. Lots of messy activities that resulted in some amazing Easter bonnets, baskets, eggs, noise makers and chocolate crispies. We ended the morning by parading through the village with our banner to Shaftoe Green where the Easter Bunny had left lots of chocolate eggs. Thank you all for coming and thank you to all the helpers.

There was a meeting to start planning the Queen's 90th Birthday Street Party but it was very poorly attended – only 7 people turned up. Hopefully this doesn't mean that no-one wants it!! The Diamond Jubilee party was such a success – we really would like to do it again but we need support. It will be on Sunday June 12th 1.30pm – 5pm on Church Street. We need volunteers to organise food, drinks, tables, chairs, entertainment etc. If you want to offer help or have any ideas for the day please contact me or come along to the next meeting.

The plan is to make the Queen's Birthday into a weekend of celebration so there'll be something happening on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. Watch out in the May edition of The Haydon News for more details.

We're constantly looking for new committee members – our numbers are much diminished so we need more people to organise events. Please consider joining us.

Pauline Wallis
The Get It Together Society
Tel: 01434 684061



Easter Eggstravaganza



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McGONAGALL MAYHEM

The Haydon Bridge Branch of the McGonagall Appreciation Society held their night of mayhem in recognition of the poet and tragedian hailed as the writer of the worst - or the best - poetry written in the English language in the General Havelock Inn. ("No. His poetry wasn't written in the General Havelock Inn.")

Topaz was often the butt of jokes during his lifetime (1827-1902) and the wonderful contrarian evening in the General Havelock celebrated his life in appropriate fashion. Flat cap, muffler and nicky tams were essential attire in which to enjoy Gary and Joanna's hospitality with Drambuie, Coffee, Pudding, Cow Pie, and Soup as a starter – in that order.

A McGonagall Night organised by Tom Hodgson for February 29th every year, but taking place only once every fourth year, ensures that his name will be remembered for a very, very, very long time. (Topaz McGonagall that is, not Tom Hodgson – although, I'm sure Tom's will be as well.)

Photograph shows suitably clad McGonagalldonians, Tom Hodgson, Dennis Telford, John Henderson, John Irving and (no that's not McGonagall) Tom Buist, with Gary and Joanna. During the evening, glasses were drained freely in memory of Dennis Gillert, our late lamented High Heidyen Tragedian.

**Forget UBER dahling.
So last year.
Try Canine Cabbies instead.**



2016

HAYDON NEWS YOUNG PERSON'S COMPETITION

A very generous reader has donated a

£25.00

**Waterstones Gift Card
for use as a prize in a competition.**

The theme for the competition is:

SUMMER IS COMING!

**The competition is open to all
under the age of 16 on 1st April 2016.**

**Entries can be in the form of drawings,
paintings, photography, sculpture, pottery,
woodwork, metalwork, poetry or prose.**

**Entries to be presented to the editor or any
member of the editorial committee
BEFORE 1st May 2016.**

Judges will be announced soon.

GOOD LUCK!



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those cold winter days.**



**6 Church Street, Haydon Bridge
01434 684248**

Tracy Pringle

*Reiki, Chakra Dance Guided relaxation 1:1 sessions
Angel & Fairy Card Readings*

My book link: Letters from the heart <http://littlefil.es/62RY>

People buying my book and deciding to try another of my services can bring the book to their appointment, as proof of purchase, and I will sign it and give them a 25 % off their session.

My contact number, with answer machine, is 01434 230164

The chakra dancing is ready to start now from the week of January 4th, a 7 week course is £52.50. Book in advance as it is very popular! We have already had a couple of taster sessions. This can also be booked as a 1-1 or as a group one-off workshop. People can ring me for details I have a hall already for a class at:

Stonehaugh Tuesday 6.30 - 8 Allendale Wednesday 6.30 - 8
Riding Mill Thursday 7.00- 8.30 Hexham Friday 5.30 -7

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

April 19th

Northumberland NP

Mountain Rescue

May 17th

Dementia UK

June 21st

Henshaw Playgroup

****Queenie Quiz****

July 19th

**Open to requests from
local charities**

Quizmaster

John Harrison (johnandaveril@aol.com)

CLAIRE'S NEWSAGENTS

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Northumberland

Alison Rees
Domestic Fuel Adviser
Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau
Hexham Office
The Community Centre
Gilesgate
Hexham
NE46 3NP

Tel: 01434 606770
Mobile: 07510652737
Email: fueladvice@northumbriancab.cabnet.org.uk

You can call Northumberland Adviceline on 03444 111 444 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm to speak confidentially about the matter or find your nearest CAB at www.citizensadvice.org.uk
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 adviser to help you. Help also available at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

FIFTY SHADES OF RED

Our lovely library was open yesterday so I went in. I was followed by a pensioner who was well into her 80's. The elderly volunteers who manned the counter obviously knew her well and asked how she was. She replied:

"Not good. I ordered a vibrator some time ago and it's finally arriving next week. So I popped into the Fire Station and asked if they could send a nice young man round to fit it in and check that it works properly. You can't be too careful at my age."

God knows I'm broad-minded but I almost dropped my books in shock. As the old lady left an assistant saw my near catatonic state and said:

"Perhaps I'd better explain. Ada is registered deaf. So she needs a special alarm which vibrates instead of ringing to warn if there's smoke in the house. This needs to be professionally installed by the Fire Brigade."

Phew. Thank goodness she cleared that up.

Marita

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Two exploratory meetings are going to be held for new Women's Institutes in the Northumberland area.

The first is for a new WI in the West end of Hexham. The exploratory meeting is to be held in the Hexham Golf Club, NE46 3RZ (the 'top' one, Spital Park, off the B6531, turn into Spital Lane). Date is Monday 18th April, at 7.30pm, and all women over the age of 18 are welcome.

Second one is at Newton and Bywell Community Hall, Newton, NE34 7UL, on Monday 25th April, at 7.30pm, and again, all ladies over the age of 18 will be very welcome.

The WI is the fastest growing, most exciting, women's organisation today, and this is the chance to help start up new, vibrant branches. It's bright and lively, fun, friendly and informative – as well as being great for meeting new friends and enjoying time out from being mothers, daughters, sisters, workers...it's relaxing 'me' time.

I do hope some of the Haydon Bridge ladies might like to come along the road to something new....let's hope!

Moira Bengtson,

WI Adviser, Northumberland Federation of Women's Institutes

Contacts for any other info needed as:

tel. 01434 344015

moiraWI@outlook.com

CAN YOU HELP?

Looking for Photographs of my Reay Ancestors

I am looking for photographs of a few of the children of Joseph Reay and Hannah Charlton as follows:

1. Margaret Reay born 16 July 1862 at Haydon Bridge married Joseph Fleming Heslop on the 2nd of June 1884 and after he passed away she married Thomas Skelton June 1902. Margaret (nee Reay) Skelton passed away 1918 at Haltwhistle.

2. Alice Reay born 1864 at Haydon Bridge married Edward Turnbull on the 19th of January 1889 at Newcastle Upon Tyne and passed away in December of 1891 at Newcastle Upon Tyne.

3. Joseph Reay was born 1865 in Haydon Bridge and died on the 3rd of January 1888 at Haydon Bridge,

4. William John Reay was born 1871 at Haydon Bridge and was married in 1899 at Teesdale, Durham, Yorkshire to Annie Kirtley. He died at 14 Westgate Road Faverdale, Darlington died 8 January 1946. Probate Durham 27 Feb to William Kirtley Reay, factory manager, and Harold Reay, railway clerk, Effects 670 pounds 9s 4d

I have photographs of Mary Hannah, Annie Marie and Amy Louisa Reay and am aware that two other children died very young or at birth being Charlton and Emma Jane Reay.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Aandeg Skelly

crow@tbaytel.net

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 or the website
www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtyndalejuniors.

ALL WELCOME.

HAYDON BRIDGE DANCE CLUB

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7.30pm Friday evenings

- term times only

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All voices welcome — experienced or not.

Methodist Church Hall

Hexham Beacon Club

Programme-

6th April Saltwell Park

13th April The Hospital of St John

20th April Mr Grainger's Market

27th April **Converting a Castle**

4th May How to be a Roman Emperor

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

ADVANCE NOTICE

TO ALL LOCAL ARTISTS
THIS YEAR'S ART EXHIBITION
WILL BE JUNE 19th - 25th.

EVERY LOCAL ARTIST
WILL BE WELCOMED

PHONE BARBARA ON 688886
FOR MORE INFO.

HAYDON BRIDGE LOCAL ARTISTS' GROUP

HAYDON ART CLUB

Open to all, first session free.

Meets 6.30 - 9.15pm every other Wednesday at

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

April 13th & 27th. May 11th & 25th. June 8th & 22nd.

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
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All phone calls for appointments and visits,
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All phone calls for dispensing or prescriptions: **01434 688351**

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WHIST DRIVES Langley Village Hall

Fortnightly on
Saturdays
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£1.00 entrance
(Everyone welcome)

GENERAL HAVELOCK

Easter Monday

we are open for food from 11.30am.

29th April

@ 7.30 "FILM & FOOD "night

cost £8

Film "LUNCHBOX"

A lovely story about foodies!



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Fit strong locks to doors, windows and gates. Especially to windows on the ground floor level or with access from a flat roof. Fitting a door entry monitor is a great deterrent.

Secure ladders and garden furniture so they can not be used as climbing aids.

Drumlanrig Castle and Haydon Bridge

“What’s the connection?” you ask.

On the 28th May there is a day trip for all, organised by the Haydon Bridge Nature Club, to Drumlanrig Castle and Gardens, Dumfries and Galloway.

The cost of the trip and a guided tour is £20, a £10 deposit will secure your place. Places are limited so please contact Barbara on 688886 today to avoid disappointment.

The 2015/16 winter talks season of the club ended on 17th March with a superb talk by John Ellis, Head Gardener of Wallington Hall. During the summer two outings have been arranged for members: the first on 14th May to Hexhamshire Woodland Walk, Dipton Mill (contact Barbara 688886) and the second on 21st May to Wallington Hall (contact Ben 688608).

The programme of fortnightly summer walks is now available. Please look out for posters which highlight route, meeting place and time, and contact person. Everyone is welcome on the walks just contact the organiser to book. The 2016/17 winter talks programme start up again in September on alternate Thursdays at 7.15pm in the Methodist Chapel. Why not join us for a taster session before becoming a fully-fledged member.

Averil Harrison

Haydonian Social Club Helps the Community.

Christmas time as usual was a very expensive time for the family purse. One of the last things on the list of priorities is paying for a baby sitter.

Some parents would rather sit in the house and watch television, rather than pay a baby sitter about £30-00 which is quite understandable.

On New Years Eve the Haydonian club came to the rescuer, so families could break away from the TV and join in with others in the community. On New Years Eve the club put on Family Prize Bingo.

Apart from the fun of winning a prize at the bingo, there were games and party food to see them through to the start of the fire works display on the bridge. So it was a good family night to finish off the festivities, not only by people from the village as some of the families were from Newbrough, Allendale and other areas.

To carry on through the year with this type of Family Night Out, it has been suggested to have Family Beetle Drive nights along with the Prize Bingo Nights this year.

This type of support brings families and community together.

Don't miss out on a free central heating system!

Northumberland County Council is urging residents living in Northumberland to see if they are eligible for a free central heating system, subject to eligibility and survey. Northumberland County Council, part of Warm Up North, a partnership with eight other North East local authorities and British Gas, has been awarded funding to install free central heating into qualifying properties.

To qualify, the applicant must be a private homeowner or have a private landlord in one of the nine North East local authority areas; Northumberland County Council, Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, South Tyneside Council, Sunderland City Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council. They must also meet the below criteria:

1. *The household has a gross total income of less than £26,000, including any benefits. Applicants may still qualify if they receive certain income-related benefits. Visit Warm Up North at www.warmupnorth.com/chf for the full list of these qualifying income-related benefits, or call them on 0800 294 8073*.*

AND one of the following

2. i) *The property does not have, and never has had, a central heating system. If the property has electric storage heaters, electric room heaters, solid fuel fires and single gas fires it may qualify as they do not count as central heating systems.*
ii) *The main method of heating the property is the use of solid fuels [1] and it only has a partial, solid fuel-fired, central heating system. By partial, we mean that one or more of the habitable rooms [2] are not connected to the home's main heating system.*
iii) *The property uses electric storage heaters.*

AND

3. *Northumberland County Council want to install new central heating systems where they will make the most difference, particularly to the energy efficiency rating of homes. For the property to qualify, the installation of a new central heating system must improve the energy rating. This will be determined by a Warm Up North surveyor at the whole house assessment stage.*

If the survey reveals a gas central heating system is not suitable for the property, an oil boiler or an air source heat pump will be installed into qualifying properties.

Residents who think they may qualify for the scheme can find more information by visiting **www.warmupnorth.com/chf** or by calling

Warm Up North free on 0800 294 8073*.

Twenty projects nationwide were awarded funding totaling £25 million, as part of the Central Heating Fund scheme which will improve the energy efficiency of more than 7,000 households across England.

Community Action Northumberland, Union Enterprise Building, Front St, Pegswood, Morpeth NE61 6RG Company No.7805401 Charity No.1144604 Tel 01670 517178 Email: info@ca-north.org.uk

Various Late Night Thoughts

I wake up with a bang in my head and instantly open my eyes. It's one in the morning: sleep seems to have become a distant land. My head is buzzing with thoughts and anxiety that just don't go away.

The day before I received a long letter from an old friend from childhood. She is worried about another war in Europe. So am I. Perhaps differently from British people who constantly wonder what the club called European Union is good for, I can feel the frosty wind blowing from Kremlin, whose masters are testing if they can destabilise Europe with even more desperate refugees. And if they do, then the way is open to invade and annex all those naughty countries that twenty or twenty-five years ago decided to say bye-bye to Soviet rule and hello to democracy. They are already in the Ukraine running a terrible and hugely underreported war.

It's my worry about the future of my sons, what world they are going to live in, that does not let me sleep. Perhaps it was the picture of a mother desperately clutching her baby on the news that made me feel that way. Perhaps I am that mother.

As I try to resolve some serious existential issues that grow bigger and scarier with the elongating shadows of the darkness, I decide to go downstairs and watch a film on my laptop.

I make a fatal mistake, though, - I check my email. In it there is an irresistible invite from my country. I am expected to give a poetry reading at a literary festival in a town near Prague this summer. I should be honoured, but I am not. For a sheer pleasure of facing potential readers, I ought to pay my own travel expenses, accommodation, food and expect nothing but a handshake and a cup of coffee. A wreath of laurel leaves on my head would be nice, too.

It seems to be an international problem for many writers and artists alike as I have noticed lately in an ongoing debate in the UK media. A plethora of reputable British authors have raised their voices over a non-existent or laughingly low pay for writers at the festivals, which they are subsequently boycotting this year.

It looks like many people don't think that writing or painting is a proper job that should pay bills. It possibly stems from the

perpetuated myth of a Bohemian creator in circa 1900 who pours out work out of pure inspiration with no perspiration; he also lives on a sip of morning dew with mighty whiffs of opium and poison from a green fairy. A mere well-done pat on a shoulder is the one thing that any artist needs in order to continue their pity existence.

Surely I am going to destroy someone's dreams of free loving Bohemians by confessing a boring truth: most artists, writers, poets, musicians work incredibly hard and hone their craft for years before getting any recognition. Talent is cheap; there are so many talented people around, most of which despite their best efforts won't make it to the elusive realms of fame. Apart from a bit of luck, it requires resilience, self-motivation, and work, work, work in your own home office or studio. To achieve anything at all, you certainly can't be in a state of permanent intoxication. And those few who were shining stars renowned for their talent as well as substance abuse, died usually very young. When Rimbaud lived his hardest, he was not only past his best, he could not write at all. Amy Winehouse was insanely gifted as a singer, song-writer and performer, yet when she was battling her addiction, she could not do what she loved most - music.

Creative people naturally gravitate towards each other so we become friends, we know each other. Surprise, surprise! We are all middle-class, educated, married or in stable relationships, mostly with children; we celebrate our birthdays, wedding anniversaries, we clean our houses and cook our dinners; admittedly that's not interesting at all. To attract attention it would be better if I was able to display a pile of broken bricks that would represent my inner existential turmoil - the one I am feeling now during my insomniac episode would do nicely.

With a sigh I decide to reply to the email that promises me exposure in exchange of my presence at the above-mentioned literary festival. I politely decline, not only because the only exposure I can think of at the moment is the one where you die of cold. If you think it's arrogant of me, try this one: next time your plumber comes to fix your boiler, offer him a good word with your neighbours instead of money.

Natalie Nera



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Brendan Healy

Grump warning! Those dead annoying 'Let's have fun for charity' people have got a new one. They are now using up the names of the months. The cleverly entitled 'Movember' is now the month when you can try growing a moustache, without feeling like a plonker, by explaining that it's all for charity.

Not a bad fund raising plan, as fund raising plans go, but this one excludes all women. Apart from the Russians, the Germans and some of the members of a club in South Shields who used to commandeer the front table whenever I performed there. It works this way. You get people to sponsor you to grow a moustache and the money they give you goes to your charity. One major flaw here is that the moustache thing is thoroughly unnecessary. Just do whatever mad thing you fancy and then justify it by saying it's for charity. You can even tell little porky pies to back up your fetish..."Yes I am wearing an eye patch and a wooden leg, did you not know it's Piratember, me hearty?"

Stoptober. That's more like it. It has the word stop, that's the smoking bit, and it even sounds like the month. Bet the 'Let's have fun people' are grinding their teeth at their brilliant Movember being sunk by such directness.

So, Movember is a waste of time and Stoptober is boring and whoever thought of Soberember can sod off!

Charities have a real tough time raising money but it would be nice to have some of the months to ourselves. I'm having Fairybrewery (when Tinkerbell spends thirty days on the lash) Youmay (Weh Hey!) and D'youlie the month when everyone has to tell the truth. Hey Presto, the end of politics!

Here's a small beef of mine, (regular readers are starting to see why I wanted to write this column) one should never have the nerve to ask to be sponsored to go for a night out, have a party or even go on your holidays but some cheeky beggars do and some do all three at once.

Jocinda would like to invite all her friends for a night out to plan a £20 per head party, with a view to finding sponsors (£50 per person) for her forthcoming trek to Muckypeachew with a few of her friends. All profits to local charities. Profits will be after expenses and we have minimised these by never travelling first class and never ever staying 5 star.'

Here's mine...

'Brendan and his mates are all going to Las Vegas for the month of Piratember, where they will all be gambling a lot in the hope of raising loads of money. If they do really well they are happy to donate some of their winnings to any charity of your choosing. Please send donations of £100 upwards, not forgetting to include which casino game you would like the boys to have a go at on behalf of your charity. All you have to do is grow a moustache while we are away and the silliest will win £25.'

When I was a kid we all learnt a rhyme to remember the days of the month.

I never thought that February was clearly expressed so I

taught my kids this slightly re-written version.

(Best rapped in a Geordie or Jamaican accent to the rhythm of 'We Will Rock You' by Queen.)

30 days has September

April, June, and November

Aal the rest has 31

'part from February.

He have 28 most da time but
every four years he have 29!

(All errors in tenses are deliberate. I think.)

This, the last of Brendan's articles to hand for the moment, is published in affectionate memory of a fellow parish resident, with Stephanie's kind permission.



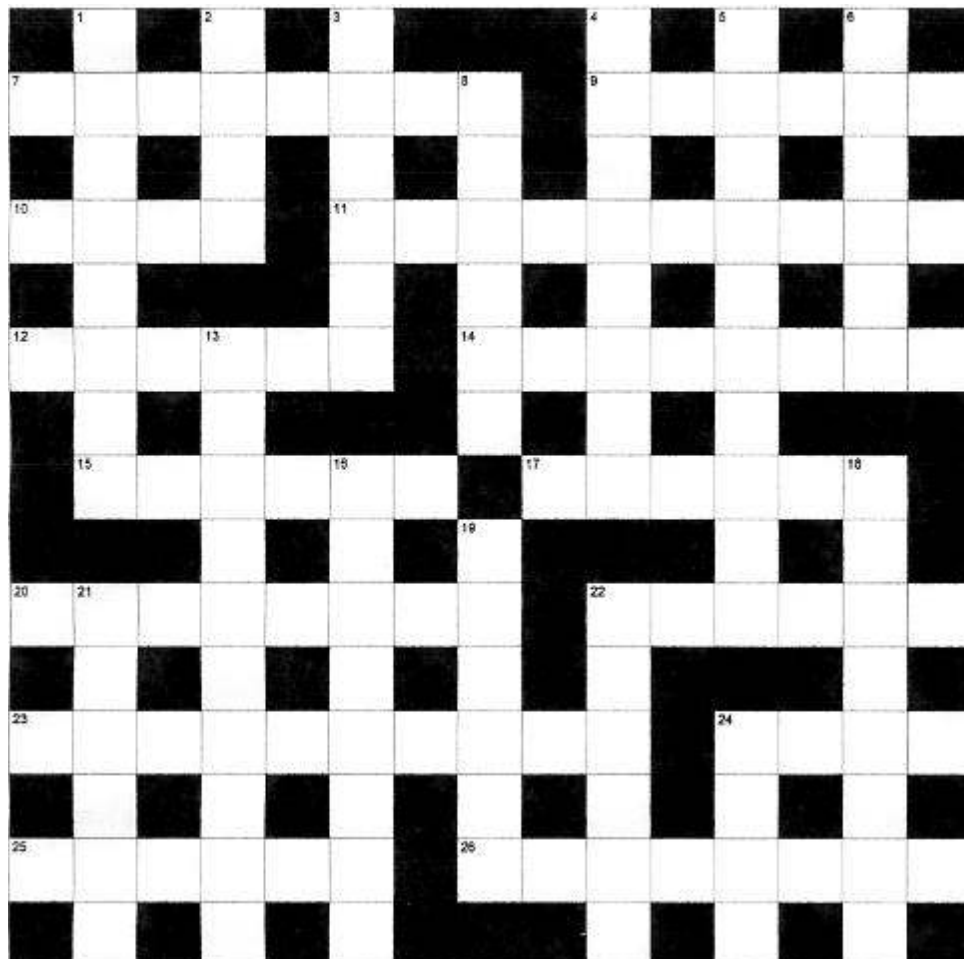
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Across

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7. To have made offspring is daft here (8) | 17. Tried to ring the chief at times (6) |
| 9. Speak louder than word ? (6) | 20. These players appear to like imprisonment (8) |
| 10. In a brothel, personal assistance (4) | 22. When a tabloid is taken ? Just the opposite (6) |
| 11. Her matings make you wake in fear (10) | 23. Cephalod beak sharpener (10) |
| 12. Stiffening for frayed maps (6) | 24. Stuck up righteous person (4) |
| 14. Anger and a drink make us furious (8) | 25. Rower's caress (6) |
| 15. See five in front of a cathedral, its beautiful (6) | 26. Circular and so on beaten up (8) |

Down

1. 7's responsibility (8)
2. Very smart becoming an emporium (4)
3. Soak with veterinary medicine (6)
4. Streamed into command (8)
5. Sounds as though most of the disciples got lost, only two left to remove the bends (10)
6. Whisky in a vessel with three points (6)
8. Australian miner ? (6)
13. Disclosure of the last book (10)
16. Pays attention to fifty one weapons trained on the queen (8)
18. Cashed in investments, understood (8)
19. Balaam's ass is terribly willing to help (6)
21. Celebrates unknowns lute performance (6)
22. Train a group of whales (6)
24. Worthless pop music (4)

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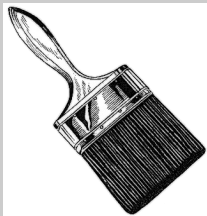
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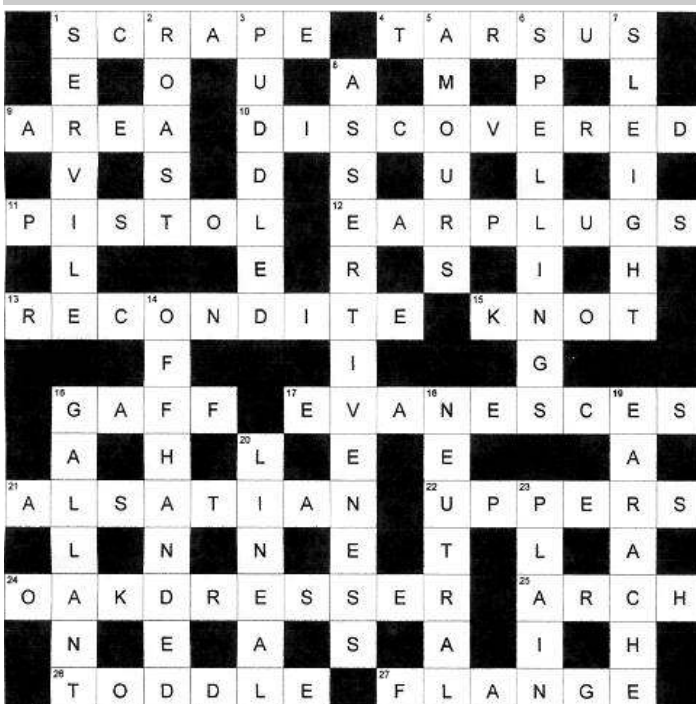
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EUROPE – IN or OUT INDEPENDENCE & GOOD GOVERNANCE

In 1975 I was a politically engaged young financial director and eagerly voted to remain in what was then previously known colloquially as the 'Common Market', or the then European Economic Community (EEC). We had joined in 1973. The UK economy was in serious trouble, had been for years, and was managing decline not economic growth. We thought we were joining a group of near nations which would help us to recover by means of increased trade across tariff free borders. Between 1957 and today this cooperation between European nations has developed and the EEC has grown from six to 28 nations.

It is now known as the European Community, where 19 nations share a common currency, the Euro, but we do not, along with eight other members of the EC. The Euro as a concept must inevitably fail without political, fiscal (i.e. taxation) and budgetary union amongst its users, which is why they are now moving strongly towards this. But should these preconditions be achieved the tensions between the more and less wealthy nations will be immense when transfers of resources from the former to latter prove necessary to maintain some kind of unity between them. Indeed, these tensions are already apparent, especially in Germany.

It is now abundantly clear that even from the very beginning the intention of the founding European politicians was 'ever closer union' but this was buried in the small print of the Treaties. (They feared a recurrence of the two world wars and were prepared to do almost anything to avoid this.) When we voted in 1975 to remain in the 'Common Market' we were assured there would be no new policies adopted without the consent of the British parliament. We most definitely did not vote to join a political union of nations involving the substantial surrender of sovereignty, via successive treaties, to an emerging federal state controlled by unelected 'commissioners' and bureaucrats. This is why UK MEPs have little democratic relevance in this country: they contribute little meaningful to our lives and constitute just part of a talking shop in the EC.

The EC now has an annual budget of nearly £110 billion of which the UK contributes a net £8 billion. At no time during the last 21 years has the European Court of Auditors been able to say that these monies were all properly or wisely spent, representing good value for money for tax payers' funds. For example, for 2014 – the latest year for which accounts are publicly available – it was estimated that nearly £6 billion could not be properly accounted for. Over the years, senior EC auditors who tried to highlight this corruption were hounded out of their jobs, with one ex UK politician having a particularly close involvement in not supporting such whistleblowing attempts.

The EU governance is profoundly undemocratic despite all its apparent checks and balances. In a body of 28 nations it is unavoidable that backroom negotiations and deals are done out of sight of voters by apparatchiks (commissioners and bureaucrats) none of whom have been democratically elected. Decisions are taken by qualified majority voting amongst participating nations. In nearly all occasions, this results in the UK failing to persuade others what is best for Europe as a whole. Yes, there is a European Parliament (run at vast expense to us all) but it has little effective role in strategic decision making.

The zeitgeist is all for cooperation. You will hear this from some politicians, historians, economists, business men, geographers, sociologists, philosophers, criminologists, etc and, of course, theologians! They insist that surrendering national autonomy, and watering down national political control, is the only way to achieve such cooperation; the only effective way, for example, for nations to avoid war, mitigate the detrimental effects of climate change, and protect our safety and security from criminals and rogue states.

This is, of course, demonstrably wrong. For example, it is NATO, that has kept the peace in Europe since 1949 and not the EU or EC; and not all members of NATO are members of the EC, especially the USA. As an institution the EC has little effective war making capability. World trade takes place all around the globe between all countries the vast majority of whom do not belong to the EC. They trade amongst themselves as well as with the EC. The whole world is addressing

the effects of climate change and not just the EC. In fact, the world cooperates in many different areas quite effectively without all countries having to belong to some grand political federation; and they do so, for example, via the United Nations, the World Bank, The World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund, over the use of the seas and the air ways, and through many more 'nation' based entities. The 'five eyes' – the UK, The USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand – cooperate closely on matters of national and world wide security. The point being that this cooperation is effective and has not and does not require nations to surrender their political independence to a central state. Yes, they do have to compromise and do not get all their own way all of the time but crucially they do retain their independence.

It is impossible to ignore the issue of immigration into the UK, particularly from within Europe. There is an existential crisis just now of peoples flowing from the south to the north and the east to the west. Not all of these refugees and economic migrants wish us well and we need to realise that once accepted and established in Europe they will eventually have the right to travel freely across borders including into the UK as citizens of the European countries in which they eventually settle. And under current EC rules there is nothing the UK can do to stop this. Far from membership of the EC enhancing our internal security, this threat will increase from such uncontrollable migration. We need to take back control of our borders to better protect ourselves from those who would do us harm and also to prevent the build-up of significant pressures on our social capital (schools, hospitals, housing, etc) as well as on jobs. The UK just cannot afford to balloon its population to 75 million or more in the next few years.

There are many reasons for folks to want to come to the UK not the least of them being our relatively successful economy. Just look at the number of new jobs being created with approaching half of them being taken by immigrants from Europe. The commitment to improving the minimum wage will only increase this attraction even were the UK to reduce some of its other attractions, for example benefits.

I believe our economic future is a positive one barring another world-wide financial collapse; and this would be enhanced still further if we were unfettered by EC rules, and free to trade at will with the rest of the world both outside and within Europe. Our economy is too large and dynamic for Europe to ignore us or treat us badly – not wise at all on their part. The suggested loss of trade, jobs and inward investment if we were to vote no is just part of 'project fear'; for example, 70 percent of our trade is with the rest of the world. In the medium to long run, this would not be a rational response for businesses to take.

Many of the politicians, bankers, businessmen, scribblers and economic pundits now forecasting dire economic consequences, should the UK vote out, were the same folks who said the same thing would happen if we did not join the Euro immediately. Thank goodness we did not! And we should not forget similar noises were made following the so called 'humiliation' of the UK's ejection from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1993. There then followed 19 years of uninterrupted growth for the UK Economy. These forecasters were wrong on both occasions and they are wrong now!

Meanwhile, nearly all of Europe – even Germany – is showing increasing signs of economic sclerosis hamstrung as they are by the straight jacket of the Euro, one single rate of interest, and their myriad of rules and regulations. The weaker European southern nations are forced into unbearable austerity just so that they can remain within the EC/Euro budget rules required by this common currency. They are unable to set their individual interest rates and national budgets and thus their populations must continue to suffer these deprivations until they can prove once again that they are 'good' economic Europeans. These increasing economic tensions and the possible collapse of the Schengen agreement – perhaps even the possible collapse of the EC concept as a whole – do not bode well for Europe. Hence the rise of extremist political parties of the left and the right is not a short term phenomenon. We should have no part of any of this.

So, let us vote no to staying within the EC, be brave and strike out again with independence and seize back control of our gov-

ernance, our borders and our courts as we had for centuries before we joined the 'Common Market'. We can still cooperate with Europe on all kinds of matters, including trade and security, but I firmly believe that the risks of staying in far outweigh those of leaving. Europe may again have need for us to be strong and independent so that we might once again come to their aid should their scheme go pear-shaped.

Peter Henriksen

WHY ARE WE "STRONGER IN" THE EUROPEAN UNION?

Most discussions about the EU referendum begin with what's best for us, what may or may not be in the interests of the UK and each of us as voters. But I want to start in a different place and ask how the rest of the European Union sees us.

In the referendum campaign, one thing has surprised me. It's how much goodwill there is towards the UK in Europe. Despite the long wrangling to which the EU leaders were subjected by the Prime Minister at the recent summit, it's clear that the vast majority of our partner-states view Brexit not just with sadness but with alarm. I had expected that with a gun held at their head by us Brits (as it must have seemed to the others sitting round the table), we would be shown the door. But no. We should notice this fund of respect, even real affection, for Britain, and not exploit it or hurl it back in the faces of our European partners by voting ourselves out when they have conceded quite a lot.

It's very important to see through some of the myths about our EU membership. Despite what you may hear from some, our political integrity and self-determination as a nation are secure. We are not going to be absorbed into some European super-state, a favourite Eurosceptic fantasy. Our difficulties in relation to migrants and their dependants is recognised. Our financial institutions are safe from foreign interference. There have had to be compromises. But that's what happens when grown-ups negotiate about anything.

Let me be the first to acknowledge that the EU is not a perfect organisation. I am sorry that the summit didn't grasp the opportunity to look at how the EU's cumbersome decision-making processes could become more transparent, democratic and accountable, for instance by giving more power to our elected representatives (MEPs) in the European Parliament.

But I have an uneasy conscience about Britain being a 'special case' within the EU. Why should it be? Why is Britain more special than our twenty-seven partner nations? It goes with the rhetoric of 'I'm going to get what's best for Britain and I won't come out with anything less'. But what about what's best for Europe as a community of peoples, especially its poorer members? Or what's best for the human family for whom the EU can do so much good? Or what's best for the planet facing so many natural and man-made threats? We are always stronger when we act with others than alone. A Christian social justice urges us to love our neighbour and never to neglect him or her. As John F Kennedy might have said, "Ask not what the EU can do for you. Ask what you can do for it."

A lot of people don't like the word "union". It smacks of losing our identity, being swallowed up, giving away our power to others. But to me it's a good word. In every other community I belong to, the idea that people should draw closer together is regarded as desirable if not essential. That's how partnership, collaboration, reconciliation, peace and progress happen. It's precisely why the original six nations got together amid the ashes of World War 2 to build a common European home. That was a real miracle when its leading nations, France and Germany, had been at war with each other for centuries. Peace across our continent has been a major achievement of the EU, all because we have grown together.

And our own United Kingdom is precisely an example of how successful a 'union' can be among four very different peoples. (And that hasn't been around for very long as things go, a mere 300 years since the Act of Union in 1707.) The UK works because of devolved powers that make sure that 'united' doesn't mean 'absorbed'. I don't see how we can favour one kind of union (the UK) but not the other (the EU). Both exist to enable us to flourish. We are "better together". Both depend on

"pooled sovereignty" which is necessary if we are to coexist in harmony. But that's not giving up our power, simply deploying it in a different way and as a result of choice, not coercion.

We need to recognise the nature of the world we now live in, and not exist in some fondly imagined past. There's too much nostalgia around in some of the Brexit rhetoric I've heard. These days the nation state is not the absolute autonomous entity it was. Global institutions are in the ascendant. Transnational financial and trading organisations are far bigger than nations and don't respect boundaries. Neither do terrorists and cyber-criminals. The world's conflicts are not now mostly being fought along old national lines; security has to be understood in more complex ways. Climate change will not be addressed by nations on their own. We need more partnerships and associations like the EU, not fewer.

It's an important principle of human life that "it is not good to be alone", either as individuals or as societies. Our vision should be for a world in which barriers are broken down and bridges built. If we do not do this, we are increasingly at risk. That's why it's not simply a case of what's in our own interests that matters. It's how we pursue the common good. That's what the EU fundamentally exists for. It's why I shall vote to stay in.

Michael Sadgrove

Tynedale Happy IN Europe Meeting with Stronger IN Campaign

"I find it offensive to be asked to vote in something like an extremely important referendum unless I am provided with enough information on which to base a decision," is more and more common a complaint as we pass the 100 days mark before the EU referendum. And we do seem to be hearing very little other than unproven rhetorical statements from prominent figures via the media.

But a considerable number of local people in Tynedale have real experience of both how the EU works for the people of all its member countries and what it has done for the people of Tynedale. Rural communities, people running small businesses, people working in the arts, and many others have seen for themselves the benefits*. They have come together to form the Tynedale Happy IN Europe group, with the aim of helping voters to understand more of the facts about our involvement in Europe so that they can choose which way to cast their vote in an informed way.

The group is hoping to provide as much of that missing information as possible over the next few weeks throughout the towns and villages of this large constituency - and now invites supporters to join in the fun by emailing ruth@bramfitt.co.uk or wendybond@btinternet.com

The group has liaised with the North East branch of the Stronger IN national campaign and hopes to work locally with the political parties' EU campaigners. There are immediate plans for street stalls in Hexham and Haltwhistle and an Action meeting to finalise details of the best ways to disseminate all the information we are collecting - this will be held on 2nd April from 11 to 12.30 in the Hexham Community Centre with as many activists from all sides as possible!

Look out for us at a Saturday street stall, come to our European Ceilidh in Hexham on 27th May or invite us to come and talk to a group of people who want to find out more! We promise to avoid all rhetorical flourishes - the facts speak for themselves!

* Gilsland village hall, Bardonia Mill village hall, the Campaign to Open Gilsland Station, Haydon Bridge Tourism Gateway & Library, Claire's Newsagents, Haltwhistle Music & Arts festival, Greenhead farmers' market, the ADAPT bus in the South Tyne valley ... are a few of those beneficiaries of EU money in the last 5 years!

Wendy Bond

The Green's view of the referendum.

The economic arguments for the UK's place in the European Union are well rehearsed. 1 in 10 British jobs is directly linked to our membership of the European single market. The EU is the destination for over 50% of our exports.

In the Green Party's view, the impending referendum is about so much more than economics. It goes to the very core of the kind of country we aspire to be. On offer are two diametrically opposed visions for Britain's future identity. The first is an outward-looking, collaborationist vision, while the opposite is the image of an aloof island nation cut off from its neighbours both physically *and* psychologically.

However, a pro-EU stance does not equate to an unequivocal endorsement of how Brussels operates right now, no more than those that voted 'No' to Scottish independence did so in the misguided belief that Westminster is a democratic utopia. We, too, want to see radical change to the way the EU operates, although our vision for Europe is far removed from that of Cameron and co. We passionately believe in an EU with citizens and the planet at its core, where nation states collaborate to ensure environmental protections, workers' rights and social justice for all.

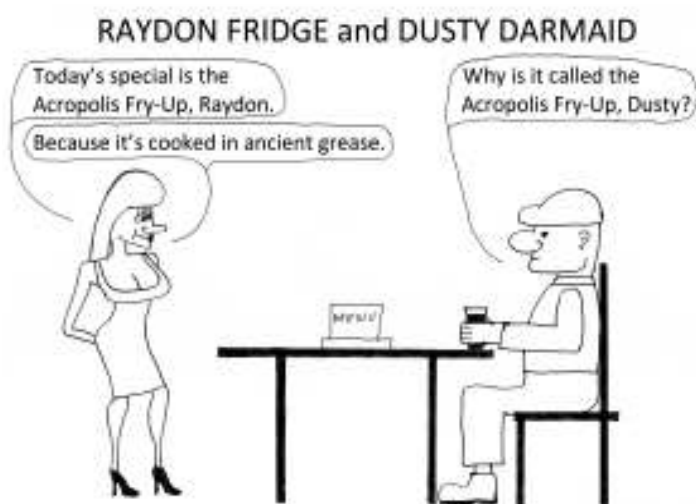
Across Europe, people are beginning to reject the narrative of austerity and division. Even in Greece, certainly the greatest victim of the current domination of centre-right politics in Europe, there is no convincing evidence of popular support for 'Grexit'. On the contrary, even SYRIZA's posters feature the slogan 'Yes to Europe, No to Austerity'.

The bottom line is this; if the UK feels that we are sidelined at the European Union, that is because we conduct ourselves like a stropky child; haughty, detached and often downright contemptuous. We find ourselves in the absurd situation whereby in the 2009-14 parliament, UKIP, who now hold 22 of the UK's 73 seats in the European Parliament, ranked 76th out of 76 for attendance, took part in just 61% of votes, and had three of the six lowest attending MEPs. Imagine how much more we could influence the agenda were we to have more progressive MEPs like the Green Party's Molly Scott Cato, Keith Taylor and Jean Lambert fighting for the right causes and actually *being there* to represent our interests.

In simply jumping ship, we would effectively be throwing in the towel and saying that we see no future for progressive politics in Europe. If that is the case, then we might as well all surrender to the neoliberal consensus right now. An EU of progressive parties and politics *is* possible but it starts with winning the arguments in individual nation states.

Self-imposed isolation is not the solution. Let's get off the sidelines and be the change we want to see in the EU, change for the common good.

Lee Williscroft-Ferris



The Haydon Hundred Returns

Haydon Bridge goes cycling mad again – or does it?

Nobody can help but notice that cycling seems to be becoming more popular in recent years, both nationally and locally. Once upon a time cyclists were spotted but rarely on our roads, whereas now Haydon Bridge is an important staging post on the routes of cyclists from near and far, and the village and its surroundings have also spawned a devout band of local riders keen to enjoy the activity among our local scenery. And while enthusiasm has been gradually gaining momentum, we surely peaked last September when the giants of the sport swept through our streets on the Tour of Britain. Haydon Bridge did itself proud that day, with every house and street corner bedecked in bunting and our famous red and yellow bicycles joining with throngs of spectators to cheer the race through.

That has all gone quiet now, but rumour has it that the bicycles are due to return to mark the start of the fourth running of our very own cycle event, the Haydon Hundred. While a modest affair by the standards of the Tour, the Haydon Hundred has without doubt helped introduce the area to the cycling fraternity, who return to the village both to participate every June but also at other times to ride the scenic roads to which they were introduced back in 2013. It has certainly helped put our village on the cycling map, and we hope this year to attract yet more to sample everything we have to offer.

This year's event will once again include the 140km Sky rider route, introduced last year to provide a new challenge to our regular riders. It is aptly named, covering as it does five of the six highest roads in the country which have never before been combined into a single event. The 100km Classic Route, testing enough in its own right, should attract the greatest number of riders, while returning this year by popular demand is the 60km Challenge Route which offers a shorter alternative. Since the event started it seems to have experienced every type of weather available, with strong winds last year making the Sky rider a true challenge, so this year we are hopeful that we return to the brilliant sunshine which greeted the first running.

So, please don't forget the Haydon Hundred will take place on Saturday 4th June 2016 from 8am. We hope to have our Tour of Britain bikes out to decorate the start, and all the other features such as the famous flapjacks and hog roast will be in place, so do come out to cheer on the competitors or have a go yourself. You can enter via the event website <http://www.haydonhundred.co.uk> which also has much more information about the routes. All proceeds from the event go towards supporting the Development Trust and helping keep the Bridge Library open, and it is entirely run by volunteers. **We can never get enough of these, so if you would like to help please leave your details at the Bridge or contact us at info@haydonhundred.co.uk**

We look forward to seeing you at the Haydon Hundred on the 4th of June.

Ian Foster

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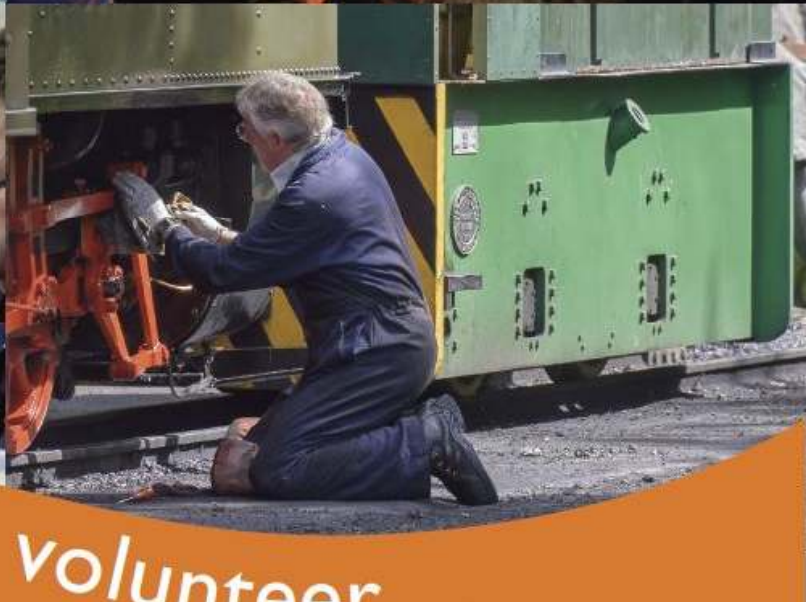
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