

# The Haydon News

## March 2016

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# ADOXOGRAPHY



There's no two ways about it. Brendan is going to be a big miss. His family and friends, this community, the north east community, the wider national community and the entertainment industry - we are all going to feel the difference now that he is no longer amongst us. I am confident that I speak for very many people when I say that I am glad to have been around at the same time as him.

We often met around the parish. He would stop for a chat - his little camper van completely blocking the road. His wide field of experience, sharp insights, ready wit and fund of stories made him a great conversationalist.

The Haydon News has been privileged to be able to print some of his articles. Stephanie has very kindly consented to the continued publication of that which he had already sent in and, maybe, others may be found in the future.

Slowly, a recovery is underway after the floods. We can only hope that there is a great deal going on in the background, as very little seems to be happening on the ground. The scale of the civil engineering works required is great and extends the full length of the Tyne Valley. At least the trains are running again but the massive landslips that have occurred in the heavy rain are highly likely to occur in other places.

New building in the village is often a cause of anguish. The range of objections is well rehearsed but something that is rarely heard is a critique of the designs. In 2008 only 10% of the national housing stock achieved bands A - C for energy efficiency. This is grim. Stated the other way about, 90% of the national housing stock is a positive liability for owners, occupiers and the environment, at least as far as energy consumption goes.

Buildings that are one or more hundreds of years old may have charm, visual amenity or historic interest but that does not lessen their unsuitability for habitation in the 21st century. Just because a thing is old does not mean it is good. Sentiment is impairing sense and judgement.

Haydon Bridge has few good modern designs to its credit. It has a growing number of new houses that, no doubt,

meet the current crop of lamentably low standards for new builds but they cannot be described as truly inspiring designs, embodying innovative architecture and materials. Consequently, it was with much interest that I viewed the design of the new house destined for the site next to Maresfield on the North Bank. Very interesting.

In Berlin a house has been erected that generates all its own energy requirements, with enough to spare to run a car, from sunlight. An Aktivhaus. Locally, at East Steel Farm, an award winning Passivhaus has been built within the last couple of years that will have a truly tiny energy requirement. These houses show what can be achieved now, what needs to be achieved and how much better most people's lives would be if we could free ourselves from our obsession with preserving everything that is old.

Building in flood prone areas, like ours, invites radical innovation. We may not need to go so far as having floating houses but we can certainly build flood-resistant or -tolerant houses. A program of replacement of old housing has much to commend it. We need to start to look favourably on the demolition of buildings that are centuries beyond their expected useful lives and begin to live in our new, strangely and dangerously metamorphosing world, rather than cleaving to the past.

The next few months are destined to be singularly unedifying politically. All the vested interests will be lobbying fit to bust. The ambitious, the blowhards, the obsessively prejudiced, the bar room pundits, the swivel eyed fruitcakes - the entire menagerie that constitutes the more vocal element in society, will be in full cry.

The decision about European membership matters - a lot! Don't take anyone's word for anything, make up your own mind. Research the answers yourself, from reliable and impartial sources. Don't just consider your lifetime, look into the distant future - decades hence. What does the world look like then? Think really hard. Above all else you must vote. Get registered to vote now, especially if you are young because it is your future we are deciding.

*Steve Ford*

**NEXT DEADLINE: Third Wednesday of each month**

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

# PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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<b>County Councillor:</b>	Cllr. Alan Sharp
320167(home)	320363(work) 07759 665200(mob.)

A meeting of the Haydon Parish Council was held in The Community Centre on 24th February 2016.

### Public Participation

The council's attention was drawn to the new planning application for the paddock below Belmont. The absence of action by the developer in compliance with an earlier enforcement order was noted as was the undertaking by NCC to visit the site to ascertain the current situation.

On this occasion the proposal is for three dwellings, in contrast to NCC's recommendation for two. NCC's earlier declaration that the west end of the site constituted a 'strategic green space' was recalled. It is not currently clear whether the access along the private road from the health centre car park formed any part of the new application.

### Apologies

Sought.

### Declarations of interest

Sought

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Approved

### Flooding

It is reported that a flood plan is in the process of being composed. Co-ordination with neighbouring communities is taking place. The flood fund has reached about £12K, part of which may fund the purchase of sand bags. Those who have added their names to the list of volunteers are to be asked what roles they are able or willing to fulfil.

Surveys of the stone banks in the river appear to be taking place. It has been rumoured that an EA report will be prepared by early March. Areas of responsibility are uncertain, as between EA, NW, NCC and possibly others.

The presence of dangerously deep holes in the river bed has been noted and concern expressed for children who play in and around the river in summer. A

pipe lying exposed in the river bank has been reported and the situation reviewed by NW.

The meeting that Guy Opperman MP arranged was generally regarded as a positive contribution. The need for a Tynedale-wide response, rather than a parochial one, was emphasised.

It is understood that NCC had received prior warning of the risk of flooding but no word seems to have seeped down to parish level. It was hoped that in future the earliest possible warning would be given.

### NCC

Cllr. Sharp noted the need to keep chasing the EA for HB's needs.

The recent distribution of £8.5K from the Community Chest netted the parish £6.5K. The GITS reapplication garnered £1.5K.

The litter bin at the west end of the estate is in place.

Cllr. Sharp is continuing to chase the funding for the public toilets.

Parking opposite The Showfield remains problematic at times and the risk of a serious accident is clear. Potential solutions are being sought.

Work continues to keep the road drains around the parish operational.

The Fire Station Review was considered in full council on Wednesday. It will return to the Scrutiny Committee in March with all the responses to date. After which the cabinet will make its deliberations. On 6th April the full council will again consider the topic.

The potential savings to be made by closing the HB station seem to Cllr. Sharp to be tiny compared with the undoubted value to the community of the station. Cllr. Sharp expressed his thanks to all those in the community who had contributed to the review.

### Highways

The wall opposite The Club seems to be collapsing and is fenced off.

A particularly large pothole was reported about twenty metres south of Standalone Cottage. Others in the road to Newbrough were also reported. There have been punctures. Cllr. Sharp will expedite repairs.

A problem with the installation of a litter bin outside The Club was reported. A site visit to assess potential solutions was proposed.

The very overdue pollarding of the trees by The Bridge was raised. Cllr. Sharp will chase the relevant department.

### Lighting

A substantial degree of corrosion to the metal lamp standard on Shaftoe Street, possibly related to exces-



sive exposure to dog urine, was noted. A survey of the pole by the relevant utility was recommended.

The light at the Land Ends Road and Langley Road junction is so sited as to cause uneven illumination. Raising the height of the lamp was recommended as at least a partial solution.

### **Planning**

Entrance to Brockenheugh Hall - no objection.

Extension 7 Station Cottages - no objections.

3 new dwellings below Belmont - Objections on the grounds of the site being under water in December, difficult access, loss of strategic green space and the potential presence of amphibians.

2 Stublick Cottages remodel and extend - no objections.

### **Accounts**

Approved.

### **Correspondence**

The Core Strategy is progressing.

Peter Fletcher asked that the PC should nominate 2 members to serve on the board of the Shaftoe Trust. Laura Gilhespy and Esmond Faulks were renominated to serve a further four year term.

### **AOB**

The path to the north of the new railway footbridge is a clarty mess. NCC to be invited to deal with it.

This year's hanging baskets: A number of options for providers were discussed and the PC agreed to fund their provision with some help from local businesses.

GITS have agreed to manage the Queen's Birthday Street Party. The necessary road closures, public liability insurance, public contributions of food, a community birthday cake and Union Jack bunting were discussed.

The apparently deficient gritting and subsequent multiple traffic accidents on 15th February was discussed. A particular combination of timing and rainfall was noted to have diluted the normal gritting effect.

The potential for liability arising from the missing drain covers outside the Community Centre was raised. It was reported that theft and recurrent vandalism were to blame for the situation but renewed efforts would be made to remedy the situation. The PC may prove willing to contribute to the costs.

Mr. Peter Carruthers of The Showfield registered his general opposition to the potential new developments on The Showfield and recommended the creation of slip roads from the Langley Road up onto the A69 as a means of reducing traffic past The Showfield and school. Monitoring of the problems on this stretch of road by the camera van was considered.

Next meeting: 7.30pm 24 3 16 Community Centre.

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**HAYDON PARISH 'HOME FRONT' : 1939 - 1945**

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

**Military Weddings:** Two military weddings took place in Haydon Bridge in October 1940, when Private Peter Spooner married Miss Evelyn Thompson; and Sergeant William Horace Powell of London married Elizabeth Margaret Robinson of Ratcliffe Road.

**'Light' Dyke:** An eagle eyed constable spied a bonfire set by Fred Dixon, a woodman of 8 Smith's Terrace, who was burning wood cuttings at the Black Dyke plantation Haydon Bridge and, as a result, Mr Dixon was fined ten shillings for 'allowing a light to be displayed in the open'.

**On Tow:** In October 1940, the Hexham Rural District Council purchased a car to tow the Haydon Bridge trailer pump that had been provided in August. It was agreed to keep the car at the Haydon Bridge fire station.

**The funerals of two well known characters took place in Haydon Bridge in November 1940:**

**John Thompson**, aged seventy two years, was the third son of the late Francis Thompson. He was a member of St Cuthbert's Church, the Reading Room, the thriving Haydon Bridge branch of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB), a keen gardener and successful leek grower, and an active member of the local football and cricket clubs.

**Robert Armstrong** aged 77 years, died at his home on Sunday, November 10th. Robert had worked in the mines at Settlingstones and lived with his wife Dorothy (Dot) in an interesting cottage alongside the river on the South Side. Officially 'Riverside Cottage', readers may recall the dwelling as 'The Lighthouse'. Bob and Dot had six children and their two sons, Tommy and Robin, lived their lives in Haydon Bridge and will be remembered fondly by our older residents. Bob and Dot's grandson, Dennis, is a popular member of our community today.

**Traffic Signals:** In November 1940, it was agreed to erect the first robotic traffic lights in Hexham and District at each end of the bridge at Haydon Bridge. A kerbed footpath five foot wide would be laid on the west side of the bridge and a kerb stone adjacent to the east parapet. This would make the carriageway ten feet wide. The lights would ensure that at any given time there would be one way traffic only across the bridge.

When the new trunk road scheme, which provided for a new bridge at Haydon Bridge, had been held up due to the war, the Haydon Parish Council had recommended that traffic lights be provided for the bridge.

Not all our readers will remember the traffic lights, so, this is what they looked like.



South Side



North Side

'Home Front' continued on page 7



The now demolished Riverside Cottage, known locally as 'The Lighthouse', the home of the Armstrong family, is shown in the centre/foreground. To its left (east) is the field that became the council estate named Martin's Close after our famous Victorian painter. On the south boundary of this field is 'The Blue house', demolished to make way for the new bridge. Further to the east is Temple Houses or Pandon. South of 'The Blue House' rises Whittis Hill and the field to the west of the road is Broadstone Close, where the 1930s John Martin Street houses and - south and above - the 1940s council houses of Whittis Crescent, were built. The original stone built Smith's Terrace houses overlook Broadstone and John Martin Street.



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'Home Front' 1939 - 1945 continued from page 6:

**And More Funerals:** Two further deaths in November and December 1940 and worthy of mention were those of **George William Watson** aged sixty years of 16 Ratcliffe Road, who had tenant farmed over twenty years at East Haydon Farm before going to West Haydon Farm from where he retired in 1937. George was also chairman of the Farmers' Ball committee for twenty years.

**Hannah Armstrong**, aged eighty years, at 'The Hollies', Belmont Gardens. Mrs Armstrong was one of the oldest members of the Central Methodist Church in Haydon Bridge (*On the site of today's Community Centre*) and her husband, the late J.W.F. Armstrong, had been a Sunday School superintendent. Older residents will recall that the Armstrong family continued to support Methodism during the twentieth century, through the commitment of sons Ted and Stan and granddaughter Maureen.

**Church Street Dump:** In December 1940, The Haydon Parish Council noted that salvage depots in the village were being abused and all kinds of rubbish was being left there; even old furniture, and tins which hadn't been cleaned. The dumps were reported as becoming 'a harbourage for rats', especially the one on Church Street.

**Ready for Action:** Edward Kirsopp, the chief air raid warden, reported to the council that there were twenty three stirrup pumps and private pumps available for fire fighting in the parish: three at Langley; one each at Elrington and Chesterwood; two at Brokenheugh; six between Chesterwood and the station gates; six between the station gates and Ratcliffe Road; and four on the South Side. (*As a 'South Sider' from February 1941, I wonder if this allocation was completely fair!*) Mr Kirsopp agreed to form groups of three persons as fire fighting parties.

### More 'Home Front' reports next month.

#### MULCASTER FAMILY HEADSTONE

Following my article in the November 2015 HN, on the Mulcaster family and their connection with Langley and Blagill smelt mills, and thanks to HN reader and regular correspondent William Veitch, I can add to the 5 lines - illegible in 2015 - at the foot of the Mulcaster headstone situated on the east wall in St Cuthbert's Church Yard.



To the memory of James Mulcaster of LANGLEY LEAD MILLS who departed this life Feb 16th 1805 aged 84 years & of Hannah his wife died April 16th 1795 aged 74 years. Also John son of the above who perished in a storm Nov 7 1825 aged 74 years. Of Susannah his wife who died July 17 1780 aged 28 years and of Frances his second wife who died Dec 18 1796 aged 28 years. Also of Margaret daughter of the said John & Susannah who died April 5 1783 aged 5 years. Of Thomas their son who departed this life July 6 1807 aged 27 years. Also of Margaret daughter of the said John & Frances Mulcaster who died March 18 1807 aged 11 years. Also Betty wife of James son of the said John & Susannah Mulcaster who died April 8 1840 aged 65 years. Of Sarah daughter of the said James & Betty Mulcaster who died March 9 1809 in infancy of John Wallis son of the same who departed this life January 15 1855 aged 22 years also of James husband of the said Betty Mulcaster who died ??? aged ???

William tells me one of his ancestors was a Mulcaster, and that James, recorded on the headstone as having died in February 1805, married his wife Hannah (nee Holms) on July 4th 1748.

## 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 will, therefore, continue my Notes on the 'Home Front', from December 1918.**

**Crossing the Line:** Seventeen year old Joseph Philipson of Cruelsyke, was carrying cans of milk on the Railway Company's barrow-crossing at Haydon Bridge station, from the south side to the north side platform, on Monday December 23rd 1918, when he was hit by a goods train going east. Joseph was knocked down and sustained an extensive head wound as well as serious injuries to both legs. He was attended by Dr Murray and transferred to Newcastle RVI.

**Election:** Of 1,034 voters on the Haydon Parish register in 1918, sixty five per cent of those available voted, with Miss Telfer, an active Liberal worker, the first to cast her vote. Unfortunately for Miss Telfer, the Liberal party came third in the post war election in Tynedale to Capt. Douglas Clifton Brown of the Unionist Coalition, who was elected by a 3,395 majority over Labour.

**Reading Room Committee:** In February's issue, I made reference to the importance of the Reading Room in the social life of our village. A committee of high powered residents - comprising a vicar, doctor, academics, self employed businessmen and retailers - elected as officers to oversee the Reading/News Room's affairs in 1919, its seventy eighth year of operation, emphasises the point. President: Rev W. Ainger; Vice President: W.S. Walton; Treasurer: M. Waugh; Caretaker and Secretary: George T. Brown. Committee: Dr. Murray, R.S. Walker, George Cowing, J.G. Clemitson, E. Henderson, G.P. Graham and F. Storey. Billiard Committee: W.H. Urwin, G. Kindred, J. Irwin, Frank Thompson and Frank Storey.

**A Christmas Billiard Handicap** was held at the Reading Room on December 28th 1918, in front of a packed first floor room. The finalists were J.S. Moore and G. Brown, the Reading Room caretaker and secretary. J.S. Moore won a close game, with Frank Storey 3rd and W. Milburn fourth.

**Freedom of the Town (Hall):** More than two hundred and eighty residents attended a Public Ball in the Town Hall on New Year's Day 1919, on behalf of the Parish Soldiers' Welfare Association. Soldiers of the parish home on leave were admitted free to the dance.

**The Big Stink:** In January 1919, the Sanitary Inspector received a complaint that the farmer at Light Birks was depositing farmyard manure only forty four yards from the house to the east, in a direct line of the dwelling house when the wind was blowing from the east. The farmer was advised to put his manure in another part of the field.

**A Man Wanted:** At the Shaftoe Trust School governors' meeting in January 1919, it was pointed out that the school was very much in need of a man on the staff.

Continued on page 9

## 'SPANISH FLU' 1918 - 1919

As 1918 came to a close our councillors, while recording their appreciation of the 'self sacrificing service rendered by Dr. Murray', made special efforts to get a second Haydon Bridge doctor, Dr Routledge, released from the army to help deal with the widespread influenza epidemic across the district.

*It is thought that the flu virus, nicknamed 'Spanish Flu' as the first reported cases were in Spain, was spread by soldiers returning home from the trenches in northern France and the outbreak hit the UK in a series of waves, with its peak at the end of WW1. During 1918/19, over 50 million people died worldwide and the death toll in Britain was 228,000.*

Closer inspection of our parish burial records suggests that Dr. Routledge was, indeed, needed at home. Clearly not all of the deaths in Haydon over the November 1918 - March 1919 period were due to flu; it must be significant, however, that over the period up to November 1918 and after March 1919 the average number of burials here was three or four per month, whereas during the height of the epidemic, thirty nine bodies were interred at Haydon Bridge. Further examination of their death certificates would show which residents succumbed to the epidemic; in the meantime, not being privy to that information, I will remember all those buried in Haydon Bridge during this sad time for the parish, many of whom may/were likely to have succumbed to the influenza virus.

William Mason 48 years, Haydon. Mary Ashman 18, HB. Thos Jackson infant, New Alston. Alex Paxton 80, Mill Hills Fell. Emma Reid 24 years. Nicholas Reid 27 and Elizabeth Reid 18, all from Chesterwood. Andrew Rutherford 53 years, Brokenheugh. Pieter Cornelious Dommershuizen 85, 'Hadrian' The Bungalows. \* See below Edward Batey 16, Brokenheugh. Hannah Kirton 51, Alexandra Tc. Mary Elizabeth Gibson 16, HB. Robert David Little 34, HB. Elizabeth Carrick 37, Hexham. Margaret Stobbart 50, Langley. Thomas Oswald Rowell 35, HB. Jasper Crowe 69, Shaftoe St. Ellen Rumney 26, New Alston. Mary Jane Dickinson 59, Harlowfield. Margaret Thompson 40 and John Thompson 22, both of Altonside. Beatrice Ashman infant, Park Stile. Thomas Harle infant, Ratcliffe Rd. Elizabeth Tenner 55, Newc'l. Margaret Elliot 43, HB. Alice Todd 66, HB. William Wilkinson Chester 61, High Lipwood. Thos Greenwood Heslop 81, HB. Dora Gustard Burdell 10, HB. James King 63, HB. Thora Weightman infant, HB. Margaret Johnson 64, infirmery. Tamar Kinnear 77, Castle Lodge Langley. Elizabeth 72 and James 66 Alexander, HB. James Knox 73, Selwood. Joseph Allen Dodds infant, High Lipwood. Johnson Hetherington 52, Haltwhistle. Sarah Scholick 74, HB. *(There will be parish residents who, for various reasons, are not included in this list but who also died in the 1918-1919 Influenza epidemic.)*

*\* Pieter Dommerson (Dommershuizen) 1834 - 1918 was a talented artist from Utrecht who moved to Brigwood, Haydon Bridge with his wife Anna and daughter Amy, sometime before 1918. The family lived at 'Hadrian', The Bungalows (Today's Brigwood.) before Pieter died on November 18th 1918, during the influenza outbreak. Anna had died the previous March. I would welcome any further information on this family.*



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**Nicola Grint 07879999289**

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

Since war broke out, the school had lost Mr Southern and Mr Morrison from the staff, so, vacancies for head and assistant masters were to be published in order to give teachers serving in HM Forces an opportunity to apply.

**Black Streets:** At their meeting on January 16th 1919, the parish council chairman drew the attention of the councillors to the deplorable condition of the 'back streets of Belmont and The Bungalows' (Brigwood).

**Ordination:** The Rev James Bennetts was ordained the newly appointed Pastor of the Congregational Church at Haydon Bridge. The pastorage was vacant due to the resignation of Rev G.W. Swann, through whose efforts the church had been erected in 1863.

**War Memorial:** The first proposals for a War Memorial at Haydon Bridge were made on January 16th 1919. The proposed schemes, to be put to the public at a meeting on February 8th, were: a cottage hospital; a block of houses for widows of the fallen; a recreation ground. Whichever scheme chosen would include an obelisk.

**To be continued next month**

**As always, I am delighted to publish memories sent to me by those with a Haydon Parish connection and this month a regular contributor to The Haydon News, William Veitch, recalls junior football in the district in the 1940s.**

### **JUNIOR FOOTBALL 70 YEARS AGO**

**by William Veitch**

It is good to see junior football flourishing in the West Tyne area, despite the apparent decline of Saturday afternoon football. (Is Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United - the entertainers - to blame for this?) Seventy years ago things were rather different - for a start, Sunday football was illegal. In the late 1940s there was no organised junior football; indeed, even senior football was only just beginning to be re-established as players returned from the war.

As teenagers we would organise our own soccer matches, and this usually involved someone cycling to a nearby village (usually, Haltwhistle or Newbrough) to issue a challenge for the following Saturday. One team had to wear white shirts and the other team coloured shirts - often multi coloured ones! You had to provide all your own kit, including the ball. When you were the home team you also had to find somewhere to strip, although, it could involve changing on the field itself if nowhere else could be found. Sometimes we used the Band Room behind the General Havelock Inn. If a match couldn't be arranged it often ended as North of the River v South of the River - usually with no referee, resulting in some very serious stuff at times.

Fortunately, we were always allowed to use the (Shaftoe Trust) school playing field, although I often wonder whether the school actually knew about this. Travelling to away matches usually meant using the local bus service - or your bicycle. We had to fend for ourselves.

However, out of this background evolved a local Youth

Club League which enabled matters to become rather more organised. Later, Eddie Waite lent a guiding hand which yielded the added benefit of allowing us to use the school cloakroom as changing rooms (convenient for the pitch) but also to borrow either the school football shirts or those of West Northumberland Schoolboys. At last we all looked the same from the waist up, even if the shorts

and socks were a variety of colours. Later, we were told that we could have a set of shirts of our own provided we could supply the clothing coupons.

*For the benefit of the younger readers ... all clothing was rationed (as was virtually everything else - food, sweets etc.) and you couldn't even buy a handkerchief without the requisite coupons.*

#### Haydon Bridge Youth Club : Circa 1947 (On the Shaftoe Trust School field.)



**Back Row l to r:** Leslie Wallace (Haltwhistle), Brian Edgar (Allendale), David Corbett, Denis Duffy, Norman Forster, Roland Lowes.

**Front Row l to r:** Michael Walker (Allendale), Len Wilkinson, Arnold Robinson, William Veitch. (Thanks to William for the photograph)

There followed a concentrated effort by team members to 'cadge' enough precious coupons from anyone who could be persuaded to part with them, which was not an easy task as they were scarce. Eventually enough coupons were obtained and we became the proud possessors of our own set of shirts - black and white stripes, naturally - although shorts and socks remained very much a mixed bag.

Other teams in the league were Acomb, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Newbrough, St. Mary's, Sinderhope and Nenthead.

Among my team mates were: Norman Forster, Roland Lowes, Ken Osleton, Matt Reed, Alan Peel, Denis Duffy, Eric Turnbull, Len Wilkinson, Arnold Robinson, David Armstrong, Derek Beavers, and David Brown (apologies to anyone omitted - it was 70 years ago after all!). Sadly, some of these team mates are no longer with us.

**William Veitch**

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## **WARNING !**

This small and gentle village of ours can lull people into a false sense of tranquility with no hint of lurking danger.

But yesterday it was almost a very different story.

I returned home from Hexham and drove down Langley Gardens. I'd dropped a friend off around the corner so I was doing 15mph maximum. Suddenly a little girl shot out of her house and ran across the road straight in front of me to get to the playground. My bumper missed her by mere millimetres.

We can thank my car's recently serviced brakes and the slow speed for the fact that nothing worse happened. Apart from that I'm still in shock.

**Parents PLEASE tell your children to stop and look before crossing the road. Any road. Even the quiet ones. Otherwise it could end up very badly. The playground will still be there two minutes later. Your child on the other hand may not.**

## **TAKE UP A NEW SPORT** **FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 6.30PM**

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**[admin@haltwhistlegolf.co.uk](mailto:admin@haltwhistlegolf.co.uk)**

**tel: 016977 47367**

## **CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER**

### **CLERGY MESSAGE**

#### **Father Leo Pyle**

'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them' Jesus is charged with a scandalous love for sinners - indiscriminate table-fellowship. Jesus' defence is telling the parable of the Prodigal Son.

We look at the Prodigal Son and see everyman, the grass is always greener in the next field! We all try it on in some way, pack our bags, fly the nest and the Lord gives us space. New found liberty persuades us that we have cracked it! No more old fashioned familiar of religious constraints.

Our oh so subtle self-indulgence is a kind of reckless debauchery, even though it does not seem that dramatic.

But the good times do not last - dispirited, disillusioned, we suffer a kind of starvation when we know it does not have to be like this. The very thought of what we have thrown away stops us in our tracks and very soon we are on our way back with guilt clinging to us like a second skin. Such is the way with our 'Prodigal' self.

But the Lord is a 'looking out for us'. A 'scanning the horizon' Lord in expectation of our return. Sensitive to our first glimmer of response, convention goes! We are swept up by a 'running to us' Lord, clasped and kissed tenderly. We are accepted unconditionally, no questions asked, no promises extracted from us about being good. Even our apologies are cut short by the Lord's insistence that we receive only the best - by the Lord's insistence that we celebrate. 'This son/daughter of mine' says the Lord 'was dead and has come back to life, he was lost and now is found'

The joy of the Lord has an intensity which is bewildering - it is the flip side of the Lord's scandalous love for sinners.

Despite all this, there is an elder son in us - the elder son in us refuses to allow us to forgive ourselves, it is the proud perfectionist in us which is totally lacking the Lord's generosity. The elder son in us refuses to celebrate, cannot accept our self as the Lord accepts us which is unconditionally.

The elder son in us would reduce the Lord to our standards of forgiveness and acceptance. The elder son in us is in fact consumed with self pity, the elder son in us is a legalist, responding to law but not to the demands of love.

These demands of love are the only demands in the new creation and are the only criteria in the dispensation ushered in by Christ the Lord.

The Christ who in every age will always be charged with scandalous love for sinners!

Father Leo Pyle

#### **St Cuthbert's Church Summer Fete**

As part of the weekend of celebrations to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday we are planning to resurrect the Church Fete which was, for many years, a regular event in the life of the community.

The Church Summer Fete will be in the Church grounds on Saturday 11 June. We would love as many people and groups from the community to be involved and so if you would like to be part of this, have a stall, or just find out more please contact either:

Pat Hirst. [pat.hirst@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.hirst@btinternet.com)

Vicar 688198

[revbenjaminccarter@gmail.com](mailto:revbenjaminccarter@gmail.com)

We are also having a preliminary meeting on Thursday 17 March at 2pm in the Church vestry which anyone is welcome to.

## **St. John's Catholic Church** **Women's World Day** **of Prayer**

**Friday 4th March 2.00 pm**

Followed by refreshments

**All Ladies Welcome**

### **THE MEETING PLACE**

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## **Messy Church** **9th March 3.30 pm**

**IN COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
Come along and bring your friends

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

**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

**Mothering Sunday:**

**Sunday 6 March 2016**

9.30am: Parish Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw (BCP)

11am: Parish Eucharist and Storybook Church, St  
Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

**Lent 5 (Passion Sunday):**

**Sunday 13 March 2016**

9.30: Parish Eucharist and Storybook Church, All Hal-  
lows' Henshaw

11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

**Palm Sunday:**

**Sunday 20 March 2016**

10am: Joint Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw

**Tuesday of Holy Week:**

**Tuesday 22 March 2016**

6pm: Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw

**Wednesday of Holy Week:**

**Wednesday 23 March 2016**

11am: Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw

**Maundy Thursday:**

**Thursday 24 March 2016**

7.30am: Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

**Good Friday:**

**Friday 25 March 2016**

12noon: Good Friday Service, St Cuthbert's Haydon  
Bridge

2pm: Good Friday Service, All Hallows' Henshaw

**Holy Saturday:**

**Saturday 26 March 2016**

10.30am: Messy Church, All Hallows' Henshaw

**Easter Day:**

**Sunday 27 March 2016:**

7am: Easter Vigil, Haydon Old Church

9.30am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Beltingham

11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

**ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES**

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

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St John's or Haltwhistle.

**METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES**

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

**6 March**

10.00am

Family Service

Deacon Anne Taylor

6.00pm

Evening Worship

Matt Barrick

**13 March**

10.00am

Morning Worship

Andrea Mayland

6.00pm

Communion Worship

Rev. Carla Quenet

**20 March Palm Sunday**

10.00am

Readers Service

Christine Thompson

6.00pm

Evening Worship

Superintendent

Tom Quenet

**27 March Easter Day**

10.00am

Communion Worship

Rev. Gilbert Hall

6.00pm

Easter Praise Service

Jackie Males and

friends from Hexham

Community Church

**3 April**

10.00am

Morning Worship

Brenda Mearns

6.00pm

Evening Worship

Bob McAlpin

**Lent Course**

This five week course based on 'The Psalms' con-  
tinues at the Methodist Church on Tuesday eve-  
nings 7.30 to 8.30 pm until 15th. All welcome.

**EXTRA SERVICES FOR EASTER WEEK**

**22nd March**

7.00pm

**St. John's**

(Stations of the Cross)

**24th March**

7.30pm

**St. Cuthberts**

(Maundy Thursday Service)

**25th March Good Friday**

12.00 noon

**St. Cuthberts**

(Service for Good Friday)

3.00pm

**St. John's**

(Celebration of the Passion of the Lord)

**26th March**

7.30pm

**St. John's**

Easter Vigil Mass



## HAYDON BRIDGE WAR MEMORIAL by Pam and Ken Linge

We continue our series of articles on those individuals who died in the Great War. The biographies are published chronologically and the fifty sixth casualty, in 1918, was  
**Isaac William Veitch Douglas**

### (56) Isaac William Veitch Douglas



Photograph courtesy of  
Haydon Bridge Community Centre

Isaac served as Private, 69743, 12/13th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. He died on 5th December 1918, aged 19.

Born in Haydon Bridge he was the youngest of six children of Isaac and Esther Douglas (nee Veitch). Isaac (Snr.) was a farmer at Cubstocks.

Isaac enlisted at Newcastle-upon-Tyne and went to France in April 1918.

He was posted as missing on 27th May 1918 and later reported as a prisoner-of-war. He died while still in the Limburg POW Camp.

As well as having his name on the War Memorial Isaac is also commemorated on the Reredos in St. Cuthbert's, the organ in the Methodist Church, the Shaftoe School Memorial and on the family gravestone in Haydon Bridge Churchyard Extension.

Isaac is buried in  
grave III.L.15. in  
Niederzwehren  
Cemetery.



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

### Haydon Bridge Oil Buying Co-operative.

The Co-operative has been running steadily since 2011. We place orders quarterly and there are currently 209 households on the spreadsheet. Running the system takes about 8 - 10 hours per quarter. The person running the system never handles any money at all.

After five years I would like to find a volunteer prepared to take on this job. Support and training is offered - but it is actually very simple indeed!

Give me a ring on 688922 if interested.

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If interested, come and have a look and try an offer. 688922

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### Qualification criteria (1-5)

**1** You are a private homeowner, or have a private landlord if you rent.

**AND**

**2** Your household has a gross total income of less than £26,000, including any benefits.

You may still qualify if you receive certain income-related benefits.

Visit [www.warmupnorth.com/chf](http://www.warmupnorth.com/chf) for the full list of these qualifying income-related benefits, or call us on **0800 294 8073\*** to discuss.

**AND**

**3** You live in one of the nine Warm Up North areas (see back page).

**AND one of the following**

**4** ☐ Your home does not have, and never has had, a central heating system. If you have electric storage heaters, electric room heaters, solid fuel fires and single gas fires, you may qualify as they do not count as central heating systems.

☐ The main method of heating your home is the use of solid fuels [1] and you only have a partial, solid fuel-fired, central heating system. By partial, we mean that one or more of your habitable rooms [2] are not connected to the home's main heating system.

☐ Your home uses electric storage heaters.

**AND**

**5** We want to install new central heating systems where they will make the most difference, particularly to the energy efficiency rating of homes. For you to qualify, the installation of a new central heating system must improve the energy rating of your home.

**Find out if you qualify by calling 0800 294 8073\***

## How this funding could help you

If your home qualifies, you may get the below for free:

- ☐ An 'A' rated British Gas approved gas boiler.
- ☐ In off gas areas, an 'A' rated British Gas approved, oil boiler or an air source heat pump will be installed.
- ☐ Radiators throughout your home.
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- ☐ A twelve month Homecare Central Heating Care™ warranty from British Gas – this will cover the gas boiler only. Other warranties will apply for the other central heating systems. We will let you know.

## What happens next?

If you qualify, one of our energy assessors will come out and survey your home to check eligibility and help us work out the best type of heating system for your property. Our surveyors will then discuss these options in detail with you and explain what system could be installed.

If you rent privately we require your landlord to complete the landlord permission form before a survey can take place. Landlord permission forms can be downloaded from our website.

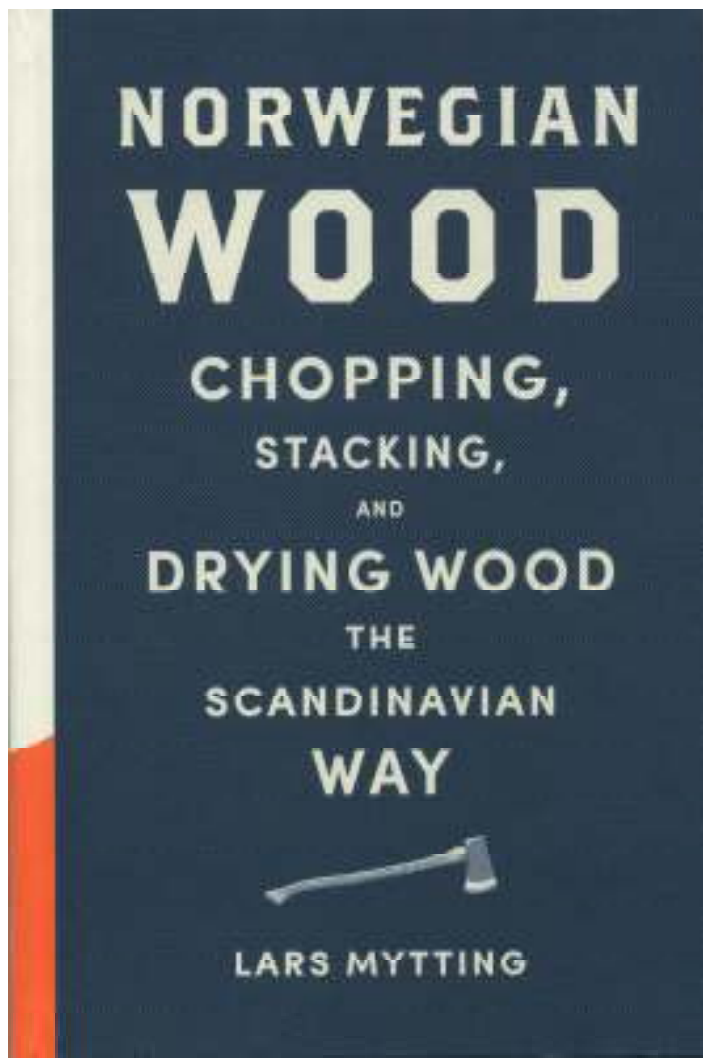
### To find out if you qualify and to arrange a survey

Please call free on **0800 294 8073\***  
Lines open Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

Text phone **18001 0800 072 8626**

Or visit: **www.warmupnorth.com/chf**





## BOOK REVIEW (or what I got for Christmas)

Norwegian Wood. Chopping, Stacking and Drying Wood the Scandinavian Way.

Lars Mytting

Published by Maclehose Press.

ISBN 978-0-85705-255-1

Here is a book that is immediately appealing - it feels good and inspiring in the hand. The quality of the paper and binding imparts a sensation of solidity, reliability and comfort. It is those qualities that run through the text too. When it is minus 40 centigrade outside, the brass monkeys have died of despair and there is only your wood pile between you and the elements... Firewood really matters.

Firewood enjoys a central role in Scandinavian life and a huge heritage of skill and lore has accreted around its growing, harvesting, storing and use. It is this body of knowledge that this book outlines in quite fascinating detail. It is easy to see how the book has become such a massive best seller in its home territory and around the world. The style of writing is homely, authoritative and didactic all at once and yet unpretentious and easily assimilated. It is lavishly illustrated throughout. An image that is particularly striking is one of Hakaniemi Square, Helsinki in the early 1940s when stacks of firewood covered an area a mile long by a couple of hundred yards across and sixteen feet deep. These are probably the largest firewood stacks ever built anywhere.

The best time to fell trees is late winter, before the sap has begun to rise and the wood is about as dry as it is going to get. In Scandinavia the variety of tree species is more limited than in the UK but birch, conifer, maple, ash, beech and oak constitute the bulk of the firewood. The moisture content is key to successful wood heating, even though the density of the wood may vary quite widely. Lowering the moisture content depends on the careful construction of your stack. A bit like dry stone walling, the detail of the construction and the care employed make the difference between a cold miserable winter and the sort we would all rather have. Young women are, apparently quite seriously, advised to view the woodpiles of their suitors before choosing a husband. Upright solid pile = upright solid man. (Stop sniggering!) A lot of wood = foresight and loyal. Old and new wood together = may be stolen. No woodpile = no husband.

Beside the practical necessity of making woodpiles, many of a more creative bent create beautiful, if short lived, abstract or representational *objets d'art*.

The tools of the trade... I had no idea how many different kinds of axe there are. In the same way that British men are apt to stand in pubs, drinking beer, telling lies and talking round objects about sport, the Scandinavians are even more partisan about their make of axe or chainsaw.

A paragraph that has particularly stayed with me is the author's description of the typical Scandinavian man's idealised self image - full protective lumberjack clothing, a chainsaw in one hand, an axe in the other and his hunting rifle slung across his back. I can see myself now...

Steve Ford



**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 @ 8pm**



**Haydon Bridge Community Centre**

**Tickets available from**

**<http://faustusband.com/gigs/>**

**Refreshments available**

**Tel - 01434 684705**

**for further information**





## Lagos to Langley

Lagos and Langley may not be the most obvious locations in the world to share a connection, being 4,500 miles apart and on different continents, however for the past two months the team at Langley Furniture Works have been busy creating a piece of specialist joinery that will see the two tied together for the foreseeable future. In terms of windows that is.

St Paul's Church in the wonderfully named district of 'Breadfruit' near Lagos, Nigeria is undertaking a restoration project, part of which is the conservation of their centrepiece 120 year old Gothic stained glass window. Lacking the specialist skills in Nigeria, the church has tapped into it's network and connected with three specialist companies in the North East of England to take on the project. Artcetera and Wadds are looking after the stained glass and glazing whilst Geoff Jackson's company Langley Furniture Works has taken on the prestigious task of creating the timber frame for the window.

"I spent a week in the busy, chaotic streets of Lagos, working with the locals and measuring up this magnificent window. It was quite something. A real feat of artistic engineering in its time, but as the decades have rolled on you can see where it's been repaired, the repairs have repairs and the metal frame that it was seated in just wasn't appropriate for the job. We have carefully developed a more appropriate solution using specialist timber that is very resistant to humidity as well as joinery techniques that will see the window through another hundred years".

The window is due to be shipped out to Africa early this springtime, after which the team will be back to work using those same specialist skills on windows, doors and furniture a little closer to home.

For more information visit:  
[www.LangleyFurnitureWorks.co.uk](http://www.LangleyFurnitureWorks.co.uk)



## South Tynedale Railway – The transformation phase

I am happy to say that we had a wonderful Santa season and I hope that those of you who came thoroughly enjoyed the events. Now with that as a dim and distant memory, we have completed work on the redesign of our accessible Discovery Centre.

We wanted to make our vision a reality and so we worked with an extremely talented local team to do just that. They helped us deliver our ideas and create an exciting new space which will provide an added attraction for all visitors to the Railway.

The project took a very basic unit and replaced it with a contemporary and visually stunning space which tells the history of what is now the South Tynedale Railway Heritage Attraction. The memories shared with us from volunteers as far back as before the Society was first formed, are now showcased within this lovely Discovery Centre which is free to our visitors. We will continue to add to this attraction as we reorganise our Society archives in the coming years.

The glazed entrance leads you to the story of "The trials and triumphs of a rural railway". The history of the area; the rise, fall then rise again of the railway, along with the work of the South Tynedale Railway Preservation Society which is presented in very user friendly format along with an impressive range of photographs and artefacts.

The geology of the area defined what is now here and this is also showcased in a central glazed unit along with photographs and film in the small media room.



The Discovery Centre will be open to the public weekdays 10 am to 4pm from 1<sup>st</sup> February and 7 days a week during our operating season (unless booked for a private event).

It will also play host to local educational visits and some of the activities of our new youth group.

Next month I will tell you about our Heritage Skills Workshops which we are developing.

*Heather Palmer.  
 General Manager. STRPS.*

**FANCY VOLUNTEERING AT THE SOUTH TYNEDALE RAILWAY? TAKE A LOOK AT THE BACK PAGE - LOOKS LIKE MASSES OF FUN!**

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## *The General Havelock Inn*

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email: [generalhavelock@aol.com](mailto:generalhavelock@aol.com)  
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Haydon Bridge. NE47 6ER

Opening times:

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Sun	11.30 - 4.00	5.15 - 12.00

OAP's meals half price on Tuesdays  
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**Last Friday of the month  
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## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT.



To Daisy and Martin Ford-Downes  
on 16th February 2016  
a daughter

**Iris Anne**

6lb 12oz after two hours!

At St. Johns Hospital,  
Livingston, West Lothian. Scotland.

*The editor, henceforth to be known as Pop, has exercised his editorial prerogative to publish this announcement but all similar birth, marriage and death notices are welcome about current or past parish residents.*



## Aydon Class "Victorian Day"

Held on the 11th February. All the children dressed as children from the Victorian times and enjoyed having a Victorian lesson, exploring artefacts and making syllabub. A great big thank you to the parents for helping to organise costumes.

*Victoria Binovec  
Aydon Class teacher*



# 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!





## Ofsted Registered DAY NURSERY

For children  
from birth to 5 years.

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## JOBSON'S ANIMAL HEALTH

**Dont forget your wild bird friends  
these colder months, we have a variety  
of bird feed and feeders.**

**Keep yourself warm with our hats,  
gloves and socks.**

**Come in to view our range of water-  
proofs for both adults and children.**

**Ginger essence still available for  
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

March 15th

Breast Cancer Campaign

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

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](mailto:johnandaveril@aol.com))

## CLAIRE'S NEWSAGENTS

11, Church Street Tel: 01 434 684 303

Mon - Sat: 6.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday: 6.00am - 1.00pm

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## Are you over sixty years of age?

Do you know what benefits you can get?  
e.g.. Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction, Pension Credit etc.

We can help you find out and help you apply.

## Which Benefit?

**Attendance Allowance** is for people who are 65 or over and need help with personal care or supervision to keep them safe. There are two rates; £82.30 per week for people who need help day **and** night or £55.10 for people who need help day **or** night.

**Personal Independence Payment** is for people under 65 who need help looking after themselves or who find it difficult to walk or get around. It is paid at a range of rates from £21.80 to £139.75 weekly.

**Carer's Allowance** is for people who care (for 35 hours or more per week) for someone who gets Attendance Allowance or certain components of Personal Independence Payment. Carer's allowance is paid at the rate of £62.10 per week.

**Pension Credit** is for people who are over 60 and on a low income. It makes their weekly income up to £151.20 for a single person and £230.85 for a couple (but this can be more in certain circumstances). Savings don't always prevent you from getting the benefit, but it may affect the amount you can receive. There may be an extra amount for those 65 or over with modest savings or income.

**Housing Benefit** helps people pay their rent and **Council Tax Reduction** helps people pay their Council Tax.

**Never assume you are not entitled to benefit! We can help you find out what you are entitled to.**

*Amounts correct at April 2015*

**Contact your local Citizens Advice on  
03444 111 444 to discuss**

**Or call into Haltwhistle office on  
Thursday 10am to 2pm**

**Hexham office on  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10am to 2pm**

**Prudhoe office on  
Tuesday & Thursday 10am to 2pm**

## A resident's letter to her MP and NCC. Have you written your's yet?

Dear Sirs,

I live very close to the A69, a major UK international through route. Every day I see rapid response vehicles using this route with sirens sounding and/or lights flashing, among them fire engines.

Fire engines attend many of the collisions on this major route, and if, as is proposed, fire crews with their paramedic expertise will attend emergencies when ambulances are not available, the Haydon Bridge fire station will become even more important. In the recent floods, and those previously, the Haydon Bridge fire crew worked tirelessly to help flood victims and prevent further flooding in Haydon Bridge, what would have happened if the Community Fire Station did not exist and access to Haydon Bridge was impassible as happened a few years ago,?

Maybe lives would have been lost and many more properties would have been flooded and livelihoods lost. A further point in favour of the retention of Haydon Bridge Fire Station is the railway line which travels through the centre of the village. This is not just a passenger line, many freight trains use this line, including those transporting chemicals, fuel, nuclear materials (maybe even weapons) and other dangerous substances. If there was a major incident in, or close to Haydon Bridge, the Community Fire Crew would be able to attend rapidly and perhaps stop an incident getting totally out of hand, and save lives more quickly than one that has to come from further away, particularly in bad weather.

I am totally in favour of retaining Haydon Bridge Community Fire Station, particularly as four staffing posts have been removed from Berwick and Hexham, and I hope that Northumberland County Council will very carefully review their proposed cuts. Surely people's lives come before spending huge sums of money on the proposed moving of the Northumberland County Council's offices even further away from South West Northumberland and Haydon Bridge?

I would ask that the NCC take into consideration the views of the community they are supposed to look after.

Kind regards,  
*Name and address supplied.*

**The more people that write the better. We need to keep the pressure on. Remember the Law of the Decibel!**

# NOTICES & WHAT'S ON?

## HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

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

This meeting is also open to members of the public.

## WEST TYNEDALE JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 5yrs-12yrs

TAG/CONTACT RUGBY

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

Contact Dave on 07810 336 537  
or [dave.thornhill@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dave.thornhill@tiscali.co.uk) or the website  
[www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtyndalejuniors](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtyndalejuniors).

**ALL WELCOME.**

## HAYDON BRIDGE DANCE CLUB

### SEQUENCE DANCING

EVERY MONDAY

7.30 to 10.00pm

Haydon Bridge

Community Centre



Only £1.50 inc. tea & biscuits

DANCING IS FOR FUN

Ask for details at:

01434 684 452

## VICTIM SUPPORT

*Working for  
victims of crime.*

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

Call **Leanne** at:

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82, Front St. Prudhoe.

NE42 5PU

Or

0167082234 (Bedlington)

## SHAFTOE SINGERS

(used to be The Shaftoe Chorale)

**7.30pm Friday evenings**

- term times only

**Very wide ranging repertoire.**

**All voices welcome — experienced or not.**

**Methodist Church Hall**

## Hexham Beacon Club

Programme-

2<sup>nd</sup> March - AGM

9<sup>th</sup> March - Mysteries of Medieval Art

16<sup>th</sup> March - William Armstrong

23<sup>rd</sup> March - 2 Old Ladies go to War

6<sup>th</sup> April - Saltwell Park

On Wednesdays 10-30 to 12-00 at

Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Hexham

## Haydon Bridge Nature Club

Meetings held at the Methodist Hall,

Haydon Bridge at 7.15pm. Talks are open to all.

Members FOC Non-members £4

**For details contact Robert Ford on 01434 684486**

March 17th

WALLINGTON WALLED

GARDEN

John Ellis

## 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**

March 2nd, 16th & 30th. 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  
3.00pm and 5.30pm**

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

All phone calls for dispensing or prescriptions: **01434 688351**

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

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

## HAYDON BRIDGE JUDO CLUB

**Keep Fit, Have Fun! Young or Old.**

**Tuesdays at HB High School**

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

**BJA Qualified Coaches**

**Contact Michael on: 01 434 684 783**

## WHIST DRIVES Langley Village Hall

Fortnightly on  
Saturdays  
at 7.00pm.

£1.00 entrance  
(Everyone welcome)

## 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.**

## METHODIST CHAPEL

## Police Surgery

for March is

Thursday 24th 10-11 am



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Make sure your outside lighting is in good working order and that light shines onto your back and front door ways. If possible light up Parking, Garage and shed doorway. Consider Dusk to Dawn lighting. Keep hedges and trees trimmed back. Thieves do not like to be seen.



## **Brendan Healy - An appreciation**

*Brendan Healy, who died at his home in Haydon Bridge on February 18th, has had a remarkably diverse and highly successful career on stage and screen, as well as his work as a writer, composer and producer of many pantomimes and musical theatre events.*

*He has worked with many national and international stars over the decades, to the delight of both children and adults.*

*The Haydon News has been privileged to publish a number of his articles in recent years and we offer our thanks to him for his contribution to our community. We also extend to Stephanie and his other family members our deepest sympathy and offer our support during these difficult sad days.*

## **Brendan Healy - Who is rather partial to a caviar toastie.**

I like going to London. I used to hate it, but nowadays I only go for a short time (Freudian slip) and I really quite enjoy it.

Like most big cities, it's an awful place to be if you haven't got any money, and I remember several occasions when the rush hour tubes were cancelled and I had to walk all the way from the Phoenix Theatre in the West End to my digs in Balham. On the up-side, these walks really helped me to learn the layout of our capital, rather than popping down one gopher hole and popping up another and not having a clue where said holes are in relationship to each other. If you do have to go to London, have a walk. There are some lovely parks and there are surprises around many corners, not all of them muggers.

Nowadays, I love the cab ride from King's Cross Station into the city just so I can watch the great diversity of people going about their business, picking pockets. Some of them are so good they make the Artful Dodger look like he's all thumbs. The journey always makes me very comfortable in the knowledge that I'll be back in Northumberland the very next day.

When I was in my late thirties I had to go to London to audition for 'The Bill.' I hated going but they would never audition us thickies at home in Georgieland because they were fabulous TV Casting Darlings from The City. The train was too expensive, uncomfortable and smelly and I was half-starved because I'd slept in and missed breakfast. In those days the wise train caterer would do toast by the slice at a reasonable price, rather than the full breakfast which cost about the same as the British Space Programme. It gave us, the poor, a chance to eat. I suspect it might have been a perk for the badly-paid catering staff but I'm sure that can't be right.

On the other hand, if my suspicions are correct then I have one thing to say to you people... thank you. I'd spent all my money and I'd travelled all day, so imagine my deep joy when I went into the casting office to pick up the script and the first thing I read was: 'A twenty-year old Geordie is up a ladder.' I was fifteen years older than this and, I have to say, I looked twenty-five years older, so I was furious and felt obliged to confront the fabulous TV Casting Darlings. "Why have you brought me all the way

down here, you pathetic dimwits, if I had a hot poker now you" .... etc. etc. They said that things could change and that the description of the character was not necessarily set in stone. Cobblers, say I. Later in the script, a policeman asks the twenty-year year old Geordie his date of birth, can't get more set in stone than that can you? What a bunch of doorknobs.

One great joy of that day was that as I was leaving I bumped into Ronnie Johnson. Equity name Sammy, best known as 'Stick' in Spender. We do a concert every two years in his memory but I'll talk about 'Sunday for Sammy' when we do the show next February. He was up for the same part as I was. He also must have made his feelings clear as he was also thrown out. We sat on a kerb and chewed the fat for an hour or so, making the whole trip worth while.

On my way home I was walking up the platform at King's Cross when a door opened and a bloke leaned out. "Where are you going?" It was my pal Maurice Johnson (no relationship to Ronnie/ Sammy.) "Going up to the cattle car, Maurice, to plot harm to casting directors." "Get in, sit here and keep your head down." Maurice was the head caterer on the train and to say he looked after me was an understatement. I had a cheese and caviar toastie, a white truffle sausage sandwich, a bottle of Dom Perignon Shampoo, and 2 Cuban cigars while sitting in my First Class seat.

OK, the details may be a little hazy but I do remember that out of the blue I had the best train journey of my life, making up for a thoroughly wasted day.

Maurice has a firm now, 'Gig-a-Bite' who cater for the biggest bands in the world and all their entourages and crew when they are on tour. His business is doing great and all I can say is - Good things come to good people.

I think it's completely daft to say that you are going *up* to London. I know it's our capital city and they say that we should go up to it, as it is higher in status than where we are, but I think that's wrong on at least two levels...

Maps are printed with North at the top so we must go *down* to London and 2) status is cobblers. Surely the status of a place can only be measured by where you want to be, so from the north I would definitely go *down* to London.

Imagine this meeting:

"What we need is a reality-TV game show where someone off the telly, who people don't like, has to eat really gross stuff, and when they throw up in their own mouth, if they don't swallow it again they lose and we starve them and their friends."

"Don't be daft, Jocinda, the 'European Court of Not Torturing Humans' will never let you get away with it."

"Ah but, we'll get them to sign something which will say, 'We the undersigned don't mind being tortured as long as we get famous.'"

And 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here' was born.

*This article and the one that follows next month are published with the permission of Stephanie Healy.*

**An ode  
to our indispensable Fire and Rescue Service**  
*(sung to the tune of John Brown's Body)*

I'm sure we're all aware of plans to close the fire station,  
with letters and petitions we're gonna change this situa-  
tion,  
and when we do, we're gonna have a massive celebration,  
'coz we will not give in.

*Keep, oh keep the fire station,  
keep, oh keep the fire station,  
keep oh keep the fire station,  
and let's all battle on.*

The lads are up all hours of the day and of the night,  
they're tackling floods and fires, helping people in a  
plight,  
so let's all stand together to win this unfair fight,  
and we will not give in.

*Keep, oh keep the fire station...*

They rescue stranded people, and even cats in trees,  
small children and their parents and also OAPs  
anyone who needs help, they will listen to their pleas,  
and we will not give in.

*Keep, oh keep the fire station...*

They go to schools to warn them of the dangers that are  
near,  
of fast cars, vans and railways, and that kids should be  
aware

of striking matches in the home when parents are not  
there,

so we must battle on.

*Keep, oh keep the fire station...*

They'll give you pumps and sandbags, and even lend a  
hand

to make sure that when you're flooded, you're taken to  
dry land,

so remember this won't happen if the station is un-  
manned,

so keep the good work up.

*Keep, oh keep the fire station...*

On practice nights they put up flags and bunting on the  
posts

while still on call in case they're needed somewhere by  
the coast(!)

'cos we know they are reliable when it matters most,  
so don't let's all give in.

*Keep, oh keep the fire station...*

They'll fit a smoke alarm whenever they are free,  
control a garden fire and never ask a fee,  
(but perhaps a chocolate biscuit and a cup of tea)  
but that's not much to ask.

*Keep, oh keep the fire station...*

When the river's rising and you don't know what to do.

just hope that Hexham station is not flooded too,

'cos if it is, it's likely that same fate will befall you,

so keep your fingers crossed

*Keoo, oh keep the fire station...*

When next in desperation you are calling nine nine nine,



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service to  
meet our  
customers  
needs.



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can be tailored to suit your needs.  
Call, Text or Email for more details  
and to find out about our special offers.



Part of the Trowell Enterprise Group

 @TrowallFirewood

just hope that ANY engine still gets to you on time,  
and that our village welfare isn't on the line,  
so keep the pressure on.

*Keep, oh keep the fire station,  
these proposals are mistaken,  
it's our safety and salvation  
we need our fire station.*

**By Hey Nonny Mouse**

BE MINE.....

You'd have to be Helen Keller to not notice the shelves in Tesco Hexham groaning under the weight of Valentine paraphernalia - which started just as Christmas ended.

Plastic flowers, anything with a heart on and furlongs of chocolates & bubbly festooned the aisles. Pink, pink and more pink as far as the eye could see.

I did idly wonder what would become of all the leftovers, today, February 15th. I imagined an army of staff frantically clearing the shelves after the clock struck midnight.

As I went in-store this morning I need wonder no more. Some bright spark in marketing had removed the ten foot high VALENTINE sign and simply replaced it with one saying MOTHER'S DAY!

Genius.

Marita

## FOOD ANAGRAMS

Unscramble the jumbled letters to find various foods.

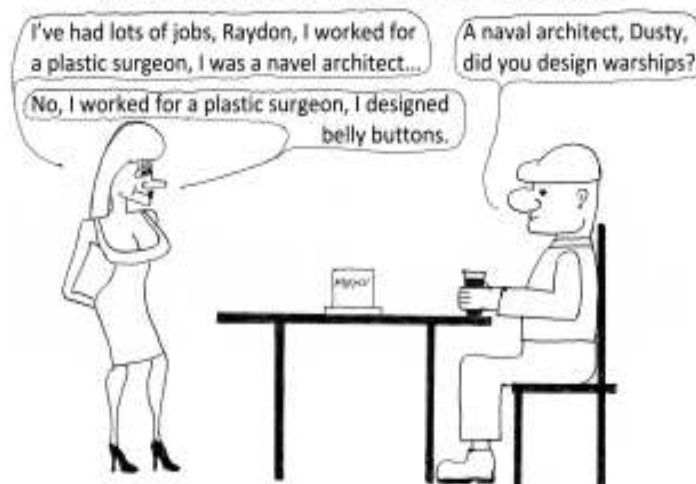
1. NOCTOCU
2. LQIAU
3. SGIHGA
4. BUANEIGER
5. GANTNIREE
6. FEETFO LEPAP
7. MMAALLRSHOW
8. NNNIOF CHKDADO
9. WOCH MENI
10. ELORETIFORP
11. ELORITIFORPJAPSACKLF
12. SACNALRIHE THOOTP
13. PECER ZUSTEET
14. SOBRLET
15. LAPNOGUSHM CNULH
16. CAEPH LAMBE
17. TGATERUBBN
18. RARUHBB MUMRECL
19. HOREKISRY DINGDUP
20. EBRACBUE RAPES SBRI

The nine letters below spell adhesives. How many words of four letters or more can you make out of the nine letters given? Only use each letter once. We have found 85, can you improve on that number?

## ADHESIVES

Answers to these two quizzes can be found on page 27.

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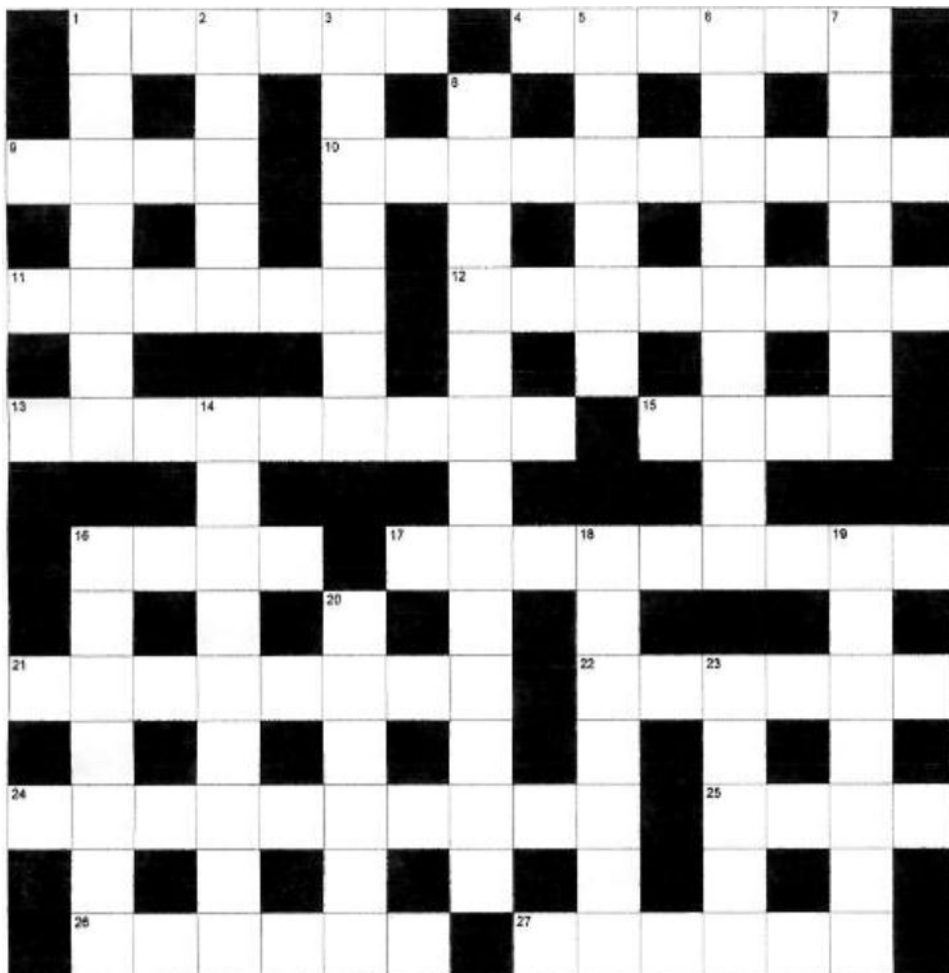
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March 2016

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ADDRESS.....



## Down

1. Creeps in the direction of silver (7)
2. Lady Astor had this every Sunday (5)
3. Mixed clay and sand and converted iron (7)
5. Loves a mouser without a point (6)
6. Sings with a measure of quiet while taking the place of others (9)
7. Crafty hand sounds as if he is on the roof (7)
8. Positively maintaining a headland (13)
14. Took no notice when gone bad gave over (3-6)
16. Brave American girl worker (7)
18. On neither side (7)
19. Listener in pain (7)
20. Is the headline allowed to be straight (6)
23. Straightforward grassland (5)

## Across

1. Scratch a bit east of it (6)
4. Saul covers us in pitch (6)
9. Concerns motoring group and measures the ground (4)
10. Found the underworld roofed over (10)
11. Friend of Falstaff's weapon (6)
12. Stops noise and avoid 19 (8)
13. Concerned noticed about learned (9)
15. Granny is reef gone wrong (4)
16. To hook is a mistake (4)
17. In a sense cave vanishes (9)
21. Capone's at Scottie dog (8)
22. Down on these gives a lift (6)
24. Wood finisher or furniture (3,7)
25. Roguish chief (4)
26. Baby has no right to walk (6)
27. The Spanish fascist group hasn't a raised edge (6)

Please drop answers off at Claire's by  
24th March (or post them to the editor)

### FEBRUARY'S WINNER

Doreen Dodd

### NUMBER OF ENTRIES

5 (3 correct)

### FEBRUARY'S ANSWERS

#### ACROSS

1. CHASTE
4. CATACOMB
9. NOVICES
11. CARAFES
12. TANGO
13. AMENDMENT
14. BRAVEHEART
16. UTAH
19. ELAN
20. SMOOTHNESS
22. SUGARSNAP
23. MADAM
25. ROSSINI
26. ECHELON
27. SUCKERED

#### DOWN

1. CONSTABLE
2. ALVIN
3. TICKOVER
5. ARC DE TRIOM-PHE
6. ABRADE
7. OFF-CENTRE
8. BESET
10. STATESMANLIKE
15. ANALGESIC
17. HUSH MONEY
18. WHIM WHAM
21. URSINE
22. SIRES
24. DOLED



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Saturday	11.30 - 1.30 4.30 - 8.00

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COCONUT 1.  
QUAIL 2.  
HAGGIS 3.  
AUBERGINE 4.  
TANGERINE 5.  
TOFFEE APPLE 6.  
MARSHMALLOW 7.  
FINNON HADDOCK 8.  
CHOW MIEN 9.  
PROFITEROLE 10.  
FLAPJACK 11.  
LANCASHIRE HOTPOT 12.  
CREPE SUZETTE 13.  
LOBSTER 14.  
PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH 15.  
PEACH MELBA 16.  
BATTENBERG 17.  
RHUBARB CRUMBLE 18.  
YORKSHIRE PUDDING 19.  
BARBECUE SPARE RIBS 20.

Ides 1.  
Visa 2.  
Aside 3.  
Avid 4.  
Devise 5.  
Diva 6.  
Have 7.  
Heave 8.  
Hide 9.  
Hies 10.  
Eases 11.  
Saved 12.  
Shades 13.  
Sheave 14.  
Shield 15.  
Seeds 16.  
Sieve 17.  
Vase 18.  
Visas 19.

Shad 1.  
Shed 2.  
Seaside 3.  
Sides 4.  
Ideas 5.  
Shave 6.  
Sheaves 7.  
Seas 8.  
Side 9.  
Idea 10.  
Vied 11.  
Advies 12.  
Aides 13.  
Dais 14.  
Dish 15.  
Vases 16.  
Advise 17.  
Hides 18.  
Heed 19.  
Hissed 20.

Head 1.  
Heaves 2.  
Hiss 3.  
Hives 4.  
Eves 5.  
Sash 6.  
Heave 7.  
Sheaves 8.  
Seas 9.  
Side 10.  
Evades 11.  
Saves 12.  
Shads 13.  
Sheaves 14.  
Vied 15.  
Advies 16.  
Aides 17.  
Dais 18.  
Dish 19.  
Vases 20.

Adhesive 1.  
Asides 2.  
Dash 3.  
Devises 4.  
Diseases 5.  
Haves 6.  
Heave 7.  
Hides 8.  
Hived 9.  
Evades 10.  
Saves 11.  
Shads 12.  
Sheaves 13.  
Sheaves 14.  
Vied 15.  
Advies 16.  
Aides 17.  
Dais 18.  
Dish 19.  
Vases 20.

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## Some answers from Guy Opperman MP.

Editor's note - Afficionados of Facebook may recall that I posed some questions to our MP in the aftermath of the flooding. Here they are again:

*1/ When the Thames Valley flooded £297million was made available. Yorkshire is to receive £40million for this year's problems. Locally some funding seems to be being made available thorough registered charities – if I have understood correctly – but only very small amounts. Tynedale ought to have a major capital grant to get on top of the existing and future problems. What about it?*

*2/ Consider also the current state infrastructure investment per head of population (from Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute):*

London	£5,305
North West	£1946
Yorks and Humberside	£851
North East	£414

*Are Londoners 13 times more important than us peasants in the “desolate and under populated” north? When will the north east get an equitable share of available resources?*

*3/ Our treeless uplands are manmade, highly unnatural and contribute a great deal to the flooding problem. What is more important – shooting for the few or less flooding for the many? A five year compulsory reforestation program for all bona fide non-agricultural land above, say, 250 metres is easy and quick to legislate for and grants or other arrangements could be made to defray costs.*

*4/ By how much has central government funding to Local Authorities (especially Northumberland) decreased since 2010? How does this compare with other areas? Can you provide figures for the whole of England please?*

*5/ With the necessary political will and proper funding from London the necessary civil engineering works on the Tyne (fixed maximum flow dams at several points) could be accomplished within a couple of years. We are facing an emergency situation and we know that conditions are going to worsen. What about it?*

*6/ Dredging is unlikely to be as helpful as many suspect. On the other hand it will have some effect, we have an offer to do the whole thing for free and it will be a worthwhile experiment. To not even give it a go seems excessively perverse. Will the authorities in question relent and at least give it a try? They can always thumb their noses at the community afterwards, if that would make them feel better, if their predictions are shown to be correct.*

I have now had a reply from Dan Brown, who works for Mr. Opperman:

*1/5 -Every effort is being made to ensure that Northumberland gets its fair share of flood relief money. Guy has had meetings with Ministers both at DEFRA and DfT to ensure that the necessary funds are secured to make certain that damaged infrastructure is properly repaired. Guy will continue to make this a top priority.*

This was recently confirmed in the Courant: <http://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/news/County-will-get-a-fair-deal-on-flood-funding-d7e8528f-db01-49d2-af57-038cede039c8-ds>

*3/ Our treeless uplands are manmade, highly unnatural and contribute a great deal to the flooding problem. What*

is more important – shooting for the few or less flooding for the many? A five year compulsory reforestation program for all bona fide non-agricultural land above, say, 250 metres is easy and quick to legislate for and grants or other arrangements could be made to defray costs.

The causes of upland deforestation are various, and depend greatly on the unique history of a location. Much original deforestation occurred due to farming pressures, and to some extent this continues to be the case. However, the total forested area of the UK is actually on the increase, with 3.15 million hectares classified as woodland, representing 13 per cent of the total land area. Between 2014-15 this has increased by 10,000 hectares. This also compares favourably historically, as only 4.7 per cent of land was classified as woodland, just over a century ago in 1905.

We do not yet know the exact causes and intervening factors of the recent floods in great enough detail, to single out particular issues, and the actions that are required to take going forward. It would seem most logical to take a local approach, in planning for future events, and this would rule nothing out: from better or different flood barriers and defences, river dredging, and of course a review of forestry and peatland restoration. However, it is likely that the best response will be a local one, and we should wait for further analysis of the recent floods, before making concrete decisions on the best course of action to take.

*4/ By how much has central government funding to Local Authorities (especially Northumberland) decreased since 2010? How does this compare with other areas? Can you provide figures for the whole of England please?*

It is difficult to compare 2010 with the current situation because the functions funded by government grant change over time. There is the added complication that the system of financing local authorities through the local government finance settlement changed significantly in 2013/14.

With that in mind total Central government grants for local government have shifted from £108.18 billion in 2010-11 to £92.1 billion 2015-16.

Northumberland receives various grants to fund its activity. This includes new grants such as the Public Health Grant from 2013/14 and funding for new changes to social services brought in by the Social Care Act 2014.

The funding from the local government settlement changes each year. Specifically, this had moved from £146.79 million in 2010/11 to £139 million in 2014/15 - unfortunately updated adjusted figures are not yet available for 2015/16.

*6. Dredging is unlikely to be as helpful as many suspect. On the other hand it will have some effect, we have an offer to do the whole thing for free and it will be a worthwhile experiment. To not even give it a go seems excessively perverse. Will the authorities in question relent and at least give it a try? They can always thumb their noses at the community afterwards, if that would make them feel better, if their predictions are shown to be correct.*

Dredging has taken place on the river Tyne previously

between 1955 and 1985.

The graph below shows all flood events over 800 cumecs on the river Tyne. It is clear that there were more frequent floods up until the mid 80s so dredging during that time certainly did not solve the flooding problem.

In fact, up until 1982 there were an average of 1.65 flood events (>800 cumecs) every year but since 1982 there has been less than 1 flood event per year on average. That is not to suggest that stopping dredging has reduced the flood occurrences but there is something that changed in 1982 – Kielder Reservoir became operational.

After the flooding in Somerset and along the Thames (which flooded a much smaller number of properties than occurred in December in Cumbria and on the Tyne), demands were made for rivers to be dredged so that the floods could be contained within banks rather than spreading out on floodplains where property has been built. Dredging or ‘land drainage’ as it was then called was an integral part of water management in the 1950s to 1970s and although it was effective in some respects it was counterproductive in others. The Tyne is a good example.

After World War II river beds were widely used to extract gravel for building purposes and the Tyne and South Tyne were mined at a large number of sites significantly reducing the bed level through much of the river. This was effectively the same as dredging. For a time this extraction was encouraged by the then water organisation the Northumberland and Tyne River Board as a cheap way to reduce flooding. However the extraction had a number of unwanted impacts:

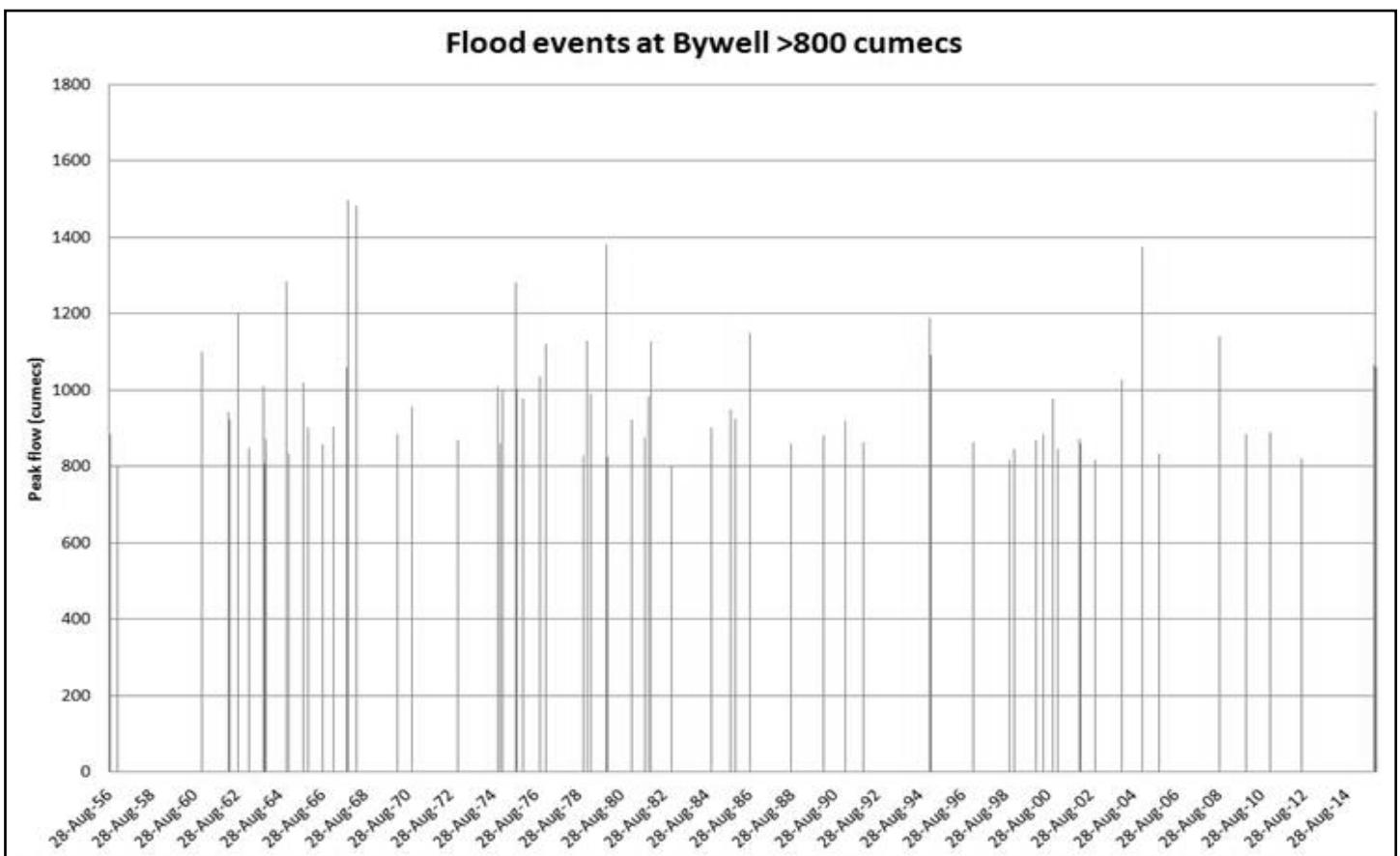
1. Although restrictions were placed on the location of the extraction especially with respect to bridges and other structures, the river adjusted upstream and downstream

from the extraction sites and lowered the bed level in places by 2 metres or more. A prime example is at Hexham bridge where the water was level upstream and downstream from the bridge until after World War II but there is now a downstream fall of several metres which has endangered the stability of the bridge (with associated costs) and the easy movement of migrating salmon. There are other examples on the Tyne which I have outlined in a chapter in my book Tyne and Tide.

2. Dredging and especially, when combined with straightening the river, prevents water from spreading out on its natural floodplain and therefore conveys a much larger amount of water downstream where flood risk can be seriously increased. Such effects were noted particularly in Ireland where extensive dredging was carried out under the Arterial Drainage Act 1945. A study of 12 rivers where such works had been carried out showed an increase in flood peak discharge on average by 60% and the speed of onset much increased. These were perhaps extreme examples but they show the potential for dredging to be counterproductive.

3. In some cases notably in parts of the Somerset Levels flooding was the result of very high groundwater levels consequent on persistent high inflows. Attempts to drain such areas by dredging might be said to be equivalent to dredging in the North Sea!

4. In rivers with a mobile gravel bed such as the Tyne, any local reduction of bed level may quickly be undone in the next flood as the river adjusts to its natural slope. Repeated dredging may prove costly as well as ineffective. Dredging may improve conditions at one location but it may cause serious detriment to other locations downstream. Careful consideration is needed on a site by site basis to assess the viability of dredging as a means of reducing flood risk.





## The Spring Thing

As I celebrated yet another year on this planet, feeling cheerfully twenty, I realised I am definitely not twenty and have not been for a very long time. There were three things that reminded me of the unstoppable ticking of Tempus - one was actually talking to a twenty-year old. The second was a brief glance in the mirror in the morning that showed a face of a middle-aged woman I did not recognize and third was a series of snaps from the family gathering, none of which was exactly flattering. Or as they say, women have only three ages: teenage years, youth and "you look good" age.

With a sigh I have to embrace this year's spring and my life's late summer. I genuinely can't wait for March and am going to celebrate the International Women's Day. It comes two days after this year's Mother's Day - on the 8th of March however, to me it's more important because it includes all women. It also reminds us of many countries where women can't get education, are married off by force at a tender age of fourteen or fifteen and might end up in jail or worse for displeasing their husband. In our Western world, it is an opportunity to discuss issues modern women have to deal with: many of us face poverty in old age because we took a career break to raise children.

However, there is more reason to feel joy in March as it is also a reading month. The importance of books and education, being able to distinguish what is what is perhaps bigger today than in the past twenty years. After all, Johann Amos Comenius, who lived in the 17th century and is sometimes dubbed "a teacher of nations", and "Father of modern education" for his then radical reforms of schools around Europe, believed in the power of education. He believed that through universal education (pansophia) the mankind will reach universal peace (panharmonia). In his honour many countries celebrate International Teachers' Day on the 28th of March.

Apart from the idealistic view of the world, he came up with then unheard of methods of teaching, such as suggesting that children should start learning from what they know and then introduce the unknown. They should start from the simple, progressing to the more complex later. In times where schools were bleak places of corporal punishment and memorizing endless Latin texts nobody could understand, writing in his Great Didactica, that "children should be showered with love" and "material should be adapted to their ability to learn" sounded dangerously revolutionary.

So when I see primroses, daffodils and rays of sunshine of early spring I will smile and raise my imaginary glass to all women, mothers, writers, readers and teachers. And yes, I am only twenty after all - in a body of life experience.

Natalie Nera



We're having an  
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*Watch out for posters with more details.*

The Get It Together Society has just been awarded £3000 from Northumberland County Council's Community Chest to purchase something that will benefit the community and make future events less reliant on the weather. We're very excited about it and should have it in time for the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations in June.

Speaking of the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.....there will be celebrations on

St Cuthbert's Church and the GITS have already started on a few ideas but we're going to need lots of help to organise it. There'll be a meeting in the near future where we'll be able to share ideas so we can make it a weekend for us all to remember! Look out for posters and announcements on the Get It Together Society and Haydon Bridge Matters facebook pages.

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

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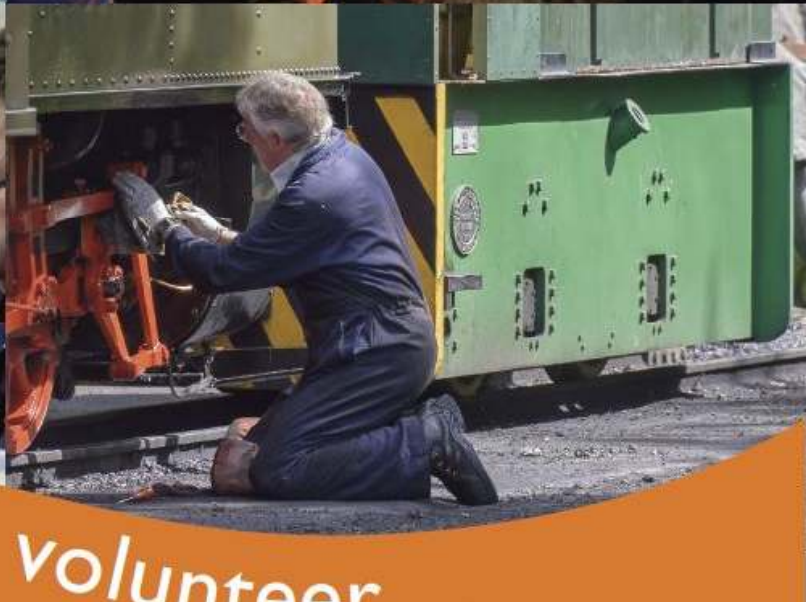
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