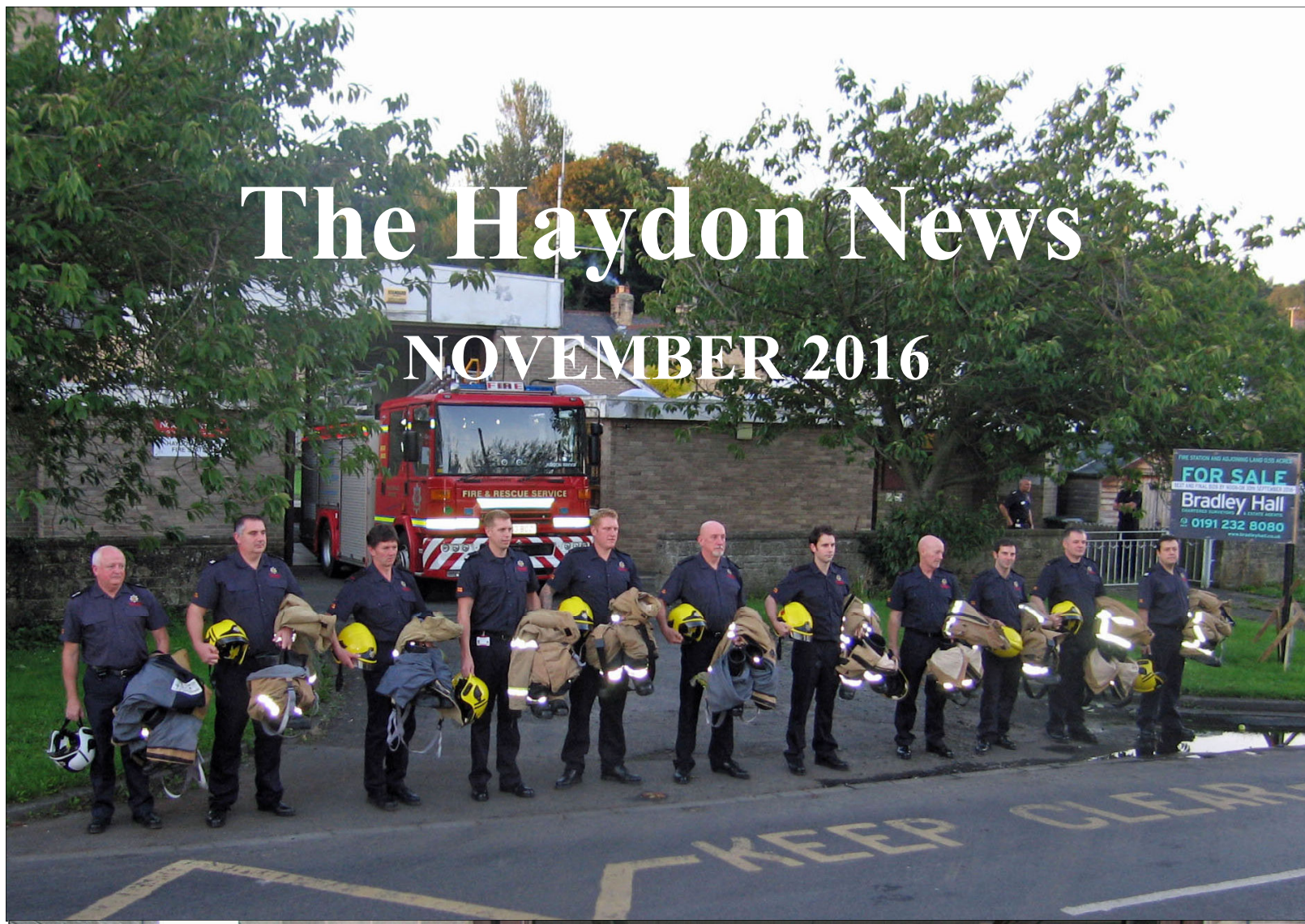


# The Haydon News

## NOVEMBER 2016







It has over the past 20 years been a privilege and a pleasure to have served with all past and present crew members from Haydon Bridge Fire Station and could I also pass on the thanks from all the crew to Haydon Parish Council and all who tried tirelessly to try and save the station.

*Michael Lowdon (Watch Manager)*

SEE PAGE 11 FOR AN ARTICLE

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The loss of the fire station is a major blow to the parish and the surrounding area. That there will be a cost (property damage, injuries and lives lost) is inevitable, despite the fact that the remaining fire stations in West Northumberland will do their utmost to fill the gap. I have not met anyone who was convinced by much of what was offered to the community in the various meetings about the closure. We owe it to the future to keep the situation under review and campaign for improved services when we have figures to back up the demands. This could be a role for the parish council in the years ahead.

The Haydon News very gratefully acknowledges the diligent and brave service that generations of local firemen have given to the community.

Thank you from us all.

The measures to limit the bank erosion by the joiner's workshop look to have been completed. The measures to support the railway line still seem to be being worked on. It is going to be interesting to observe the results in the months and years ahead. I and many others are going to be particularly interested to see the effect of the gravel removal. Who was right?

main traffic flow should be diverted up the A689 to the existing junction with the M6 by Kingstown Industrial Estate.

There is something ominously familiar about the sequence of events that seems to be engulfing our local schools (and other public services) one after another. Make life difficult for them in a variety of ways, declare them failures and then privatise them. It is far too early to say what the long term outcome will be but education and health are important parts of the foundation of any decent society. Let us hope for success whilst maintaining a healthy measure of scepticism and a beady eye on where the funding goes in these austere times.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the funds of The Haydon News. It really does help a lot. We are always happy to attract new advertisers too.

The residents or the Environment Agency and Tyne River Trust. Has anyone opened a book on the result yet and if so what odds are being offered?

We are all going to miss Mabel Renney. She has been so active in the community and such a warm influence. A real asset, Thanks Mabel. (Obits.. Page 19&15)

It's becoming something of a challenge to get along the A69 without encountering a major accident these days. Some of the lunatic driving that is in evidence is breathtaking. May I take this opportunity to make a polite request to agricultural equipment drivers to pull over into a layby when there is more than a handful of cars behind them. It would help a lot. We know that young Opperman is making representations in London to get the A69 dualled and I hope that he is successful. The result that I anticipate is a partial dualling only. Ideally, west of Brampton, the

## DEPUTY EDITOR REQUIRED

There is nothing excessively difficult about putting together each edition of The Haydon News, now that the new format has become more or less settled. It takes perhaps 20-25 hours per month, distributed over a couple of weeks and does not require a high level of computer skill.

Your current editor is starting to suffer from cabin fever as he cannot go away for more than a week or two, at most, for ten months of the year. For a retired old loony that is a bit of a bummer.

Is there anyone, or a small group of people, out there who would be willing to do the occasional month or two? Do be in touch if interested. Ta!

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The editorial policy of the Haydon News is the responsibility of the Committee, although day to day responsibility is delegated to the editor. 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 and will be considered by and receive a formal response from the Committee. 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 27th October 2016 in The Community Centre at 7.30pm.

### **Apologies**

Were received

### **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman declared an interest in the planning item connected with installation of oil heating at Shaftoe Terrace.

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

Were agreed.

from planning has yet to be received. The feeling of the meeting was that this was unlikely to be a problem.

A concerned resident had raised several points at the eleventh hour: These concerned land ownership, mineral rights ownership, the desirability of having a professional hydrological view, potential damage to the foundations of the old bridge and the presence and sufficiency of insurance cover in the event of some unforeseen liability arising. Each point was considered in detail and answers satisfactory to the council were forthcoming.

The view was expressed that the problem had come into existence with the building of the new bridge and the angle to the abutments to the flow may have something to do with the deposition of the gravel, as the water is forced to change direction.

Salmon spawning will be watched for. With luck the work will be completed during the first half of November and will necessitate the passage of 200 lorry loads of material.

### **NCC**

The Community Chest has given £2,160 to the Development Trust as a contribution to the cost of landscaping adjacent to The Bridge library.

The trees by The Bridge will be pollarded in November.

**Public participation** - taken out of order by agreement

The report from the meetings connected with two issues raised at the previous meeting were discussed - the Church Street junction and the Woodhall Mill junction.

For the Church Street/Ratcliffe Road junction: The installation of double yellow lines on both sides of the road for some distance around the junction was agreed without difficulty.

The removal of the bollard and island is complicated by the need to relocate the signs. This is not, apparently, an insurmountable problem. The council agreed that the removal is of the highest importance and that further evaluation be made, proposals submitted and pressure maintained to bring about the desired outcome.

The Woodhall Mill junction proposals were more problematic and generally felt to be insufficient. Rumble strips and other traffic calming measures were offered where a speed limit was desired. The local influx of young children was felt to add urgency to the matter. A speed triggered sign was discussed. Further evaluation will take place.

**Flooding**

The permit for the gravel removal has been granted and a site meeting to discuss details is in hand. A late potential complication that had been raised was the possible need for planning permission and a reply

Mrs. Oliver's hedge has now been dealt with.

The Church Street drains have been dealt with, though the fence at the junction with Ratcliffe Road has yet to be repaired.

The tree pruning to the west of the village has yet to be done. The standard of grass cutting around the village is much improved.

The perpetually vexed question of the skate park money may be approaching a climax.

That the drain behind The Chapel needs attention was noted.

**Highways**

The Road Link report on the A69 was received. The east end junction was agreed to be the priority on both safety grounds and because much traffic was being diverted through the village. A slip road for traffic leaving the west bound carriageway is needed in the estimation of the council but not Road Link. Vehicle activated speed warning signs were discussed but doubts were expressed about their efficacy.

It was proposed that a letter be composed to Road Link, Highways England and Guy Opperman MP inviting them all to a site meeting.

A 'Keep Clear' sign has been erected in Shaftoe



Street. A hand rail on the footpath leading up from the Allendale road was reported to be in a dangerous condition.

Seats on the road to East Land Ends Road and the road to Threepwood are to be spruced up and have plaques affixed expressing the gratitude of the village firemen for the support offered by the community over recent months.

#### **Lighting**

An entire lamp standard to was reported missing outside the pensioner's bungalows on Strothers Close. A replacement will be requested.

#### **Planning**

16 Belmont Gardens - no objections.  
Shaftoe Terrace - no objections.

#### **Accounts**

Agreed

#### **Correspondence**

The wild flower meadow at the cemetery is to be re-seeded next year.

An invitation to a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner in either Morpeth or Berwick was greeted with a modified rapture.

#### **Parish Projects**

The landscaping adjacent to The Bridge is proceeding. A recent jigsaw sale was a great success but

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there are still more available. Book sales are going to be arranged.

Drawings of the proposed Ratcliffe Road bus stop have been circulated.

ISOS is happy to agree to the parking suggestion at the back of the Community Centre but will not fund it. Their community funding arm is to be approached. A site meeting is proposed to establish what is to be done.

#### **AOB**

A bin in the layby at the east end of the village is to be provided.

Next meeting: 24 11 16 at 7.30pm.

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## HISTORICAL NOTES OF HAYDON BRIDGE

Dennis Telford

### HAYDON BRIDGE FIRE BRIGADE Part 5

**In my Historical Notes June to October 2016, I have followed the story of the Haydon Bridge Fire Brigade from its early days as the parish's independent fire fighting unit of the late 19c, through to 1963.**

Being a 'retained' fireman was a calling that was taken very seriously by those who volunteered for the role. There was, and no doubt still is today, a sense of pride in accepting responsibility for the safety of others. That is not to say that the financial incentives weren't a welcome boost to the family budget. In my case, during my early years in the brigade, £52 a year for two hours training every Monday night and one guinea for each call out.

As mentioned earlier, (Part 4, October HN) the hot sparks spewed out onto railway embankments, by coal burning steam trains travelling the Newcastle and Carlisle line, were a common cause of fires in my younger days and, as a result, a source of regular income for a local fireman. When the steam trains were replaced by diesels, the grass embankments were no longer set alight on a regular basis and the fireman's workload and income was similarly reduced ... until, that is, a large factory manufacturing chipboard and combining a lethal mix of saw dust, wood chips, chemicals and high temperatures, was built at Hexham. Airscrew Weyroc was soon to replace our burning railway embankments as a continual call out - and regular income - for our retained fire fighters.

The first Weyroc incident for the Haydon Bridge firemen

little did we know that it would be six o'clock the next evening before we were to return to our home fire station. Haydon Bridge firemen joined another nine units from Northumberland, Cumberland, Newcastle and Gateshead to tackle the blaze at Smith & Walton Ltd's Hadrian Paint Works at Haltwhistle. At the height of the blaze, and before it was brought under control, drums of oil, resin, spirit and paint exploded like bombs every few minutes; some of them flying through the air and landing around us as we fought to control the fire. The flames from the blaze were leaping over one hundred feet into the air and it was said that smoke from the inferno could be seen up to twenty miles away. William Wallace, Richard Pape, John Bell and Hugh Skelton were the only employees in the factory when the outbreak was discovered and, after raising the alarm at twenty past two in the morning, they ran for their lives out of the buildings.

Once the ten fire brigades arrived, we were able to save the main manufacturing plant, the works offices, four tanks of highly volatile linseed oil and white spirit, and the 'Olympic Hall' - So called because of its internal décor, fashioned from luxury fittings and furniture of the RMS Olympic, sister ship and identical to the Titanic. (And, incidentally, a hall where my generation of young lads met many a Halty lass in the Bradford Barn Dance!)

The Smith & Walton fire in 1966 was, maybe, the most dangerous incident undertaken by the Haydon Bridge fire brigade and having experienced it myself as a fireman, I am grateful, but find it remarkable, that the event was dealt with without death or injury.

Les Ridley had joined the fire service in May 1963 and,

seems to have been in July 1964, from which date the Haydon Bridge brigade made regular trips down the A69 to tackle a fire there, or to 'stand by' at the Hexham fire station on Allendale Road while the full time Hexham brigade tackled the blaze.

During my five and a half years as a retained fireman with the Haydon Bridge brigade, it is the variety of call outs and support for other brigades that have left a lasting impression. A 'village fire brigade' doesn't tell the full story of the service by any means and that was, perhaps, the main concern and reason that local efforts to retain our brigade received genuine support from neighbouring parishes after Northumberland County Council saw fit to leave our locality without adequate cover.

Outside the parish, floods at Newbrough Lodge in 1964 and at Newbrough Park in November 1965, an eight hour event at Newbiggin House Farm, Blanchland in August 1964, death on our roads due to traffic accidents, and a seven hour call out to Beaufront Castle in January 1966 - when our lives were in danger as sand, used as sound proofing in traditional construction and packed between the first floor joists, fell onto those of us fighting the fire from below when the floor above collapsed - have all left their mark; but none more so than the call out at half past two in the morning on Thursday, June 2nd 1966 to Smith & Walton's varnish works at Haltwhistle.

When the Haydon Bridge fire alarms were sounded at two thirty four on the morning of Thursday, June 2nd 1966,

although he left in December 1964, it seems to have been another four years before the next recruit was appointed when Keith Kirsopp joined in July 1967. Jim Carruthers was another who joined in 1967 (September) and Jim went on to have a most successful career as a retained and eventually a full time member of the service. Our local fire service now had a full complement of twelve firemen again, fireman Telford having left the brigade in May 1967, following a change in his full time career.

By this time, the new Haydon Bridge Fire Station on California Gardens was operational and, in spite of its modern facilities, I was sad to leave the John Martin Street base that had provided a homely and welcoming atmosphere for so many years. The fire station on Station Road seemed cold and formal by comparison.

The fire siren that Edward Kirsopp had fought so hard for in the brigade's early days, had eventually been provided some time after our Haydon Bridge brigade moved to its John Martin Street home and it was this siren that gave warning to all our residents, as well as the firemen, that an incident had occurred. As children, we would drop everything we were doing when the siren sounded, and run to the fire station to watch Geordie Thompson and his crew screech out of the gates onto John Martin Street, the fire engine bells ringing as a warning to all to stand clear or risk serious injury. We were always eager to find out where the fire was, so we could follow on our bikes, and

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in answer to our pleading for information, the stock reply was always; "The fire's at Langley Dam." ... As far as I can recall, the fires were never at "Langley Dam"!

The Haydon Bridge fire siren continued to summon our firemen and inquisitive onlookers until around 1968; even though firemen had had call bells installed in their homes for night call outs from the early/mid 1960s.

When Eric Armstrong joined our fire service in 1971, replacing Laurie Thompson whose last attendance had been in May, there were twelve Haydon Bridge firemen available for action until Jack Shiel left in September 1972, followed by Tommy Ord in February 1973 after over twenty one year's of service.

Dennis Bradley joined the Haydon Bridge fire service in May 1973, Keith Kirsopp left the retained service in April 1974 and in June of that year Peter Charlton and Frank Eales joined. Following one week's training, Tommy Clark was enrolled in the service in January 1975.

1975 to 1978 were significant years for our fire brigade, in that a number of established part time firemen left after each one had served for many years:

Lloyd Brown had kept the fire service attendance and call out records diligently from 1959 until his last attendance on February 10th 1975.

Jackie Boyd left after more than 23 years service, on June 16th 1975.

Leading Fireman Maurice Armstrong left on May 17th 1976 after around 30 years service.

Horace Powell left on October 4th 1976 after 17 years.

Dave Jeans, who had been promoted to Leading Fireman in 1960, left on November 11th 1977 after 22 years.

Sub Officer Robin Armstrong left on October 30th 1978 after around 30 years in the service and 17 years as S/O.



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Others who left the part time service in the 1970s were: Jim Carruthers in August 1975, to continue his career as a full time fireman, Peter Charlton in September 1975, while Jimmy Brew who had joined in November 1975, resigned in April 1978. Other new members who joined during this period were: Ken Tulip and Alec Sim (June 1975), Ricky Armstrong (November 11th 1975), John Kanes (November 24th 1975) and Malcom Round (1976).

Promoted within our local fire service during the 1970s were: Alan Ord, to Leading Fireman in June 1976, Eric Armstrong, to Leading Fireman in January 1978, and Dennis Bradley to Leading Fireman in November 1978. In October 1978, L/Fm Alan Ord was made up to Sub Officer.

Appointed in June and December 1979 respectively, Geoff Oldham and David Wright joined the Haydon Bridge fire service to take the unit into the 1980s along with S/O Alan Ord, L/Fm Eric Armstrong, L/Fm Dennis Bradley, and firemen Frank Eales, Tommy Clark, John Kane, Malcom Round, Alec Sim, and Ricky Armstrong (although, Ricky resigned in January 1980).

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Please share your personal memories of our local fire service, to add to the brigade history, as a fireman or with a knowledge of those who were. **email:** [dennistelford636@btinternet.com](mailto:dennistelford636@btinternet.com)



## HAYDON PARISH 'HOME FRONT' 1914 - 1919

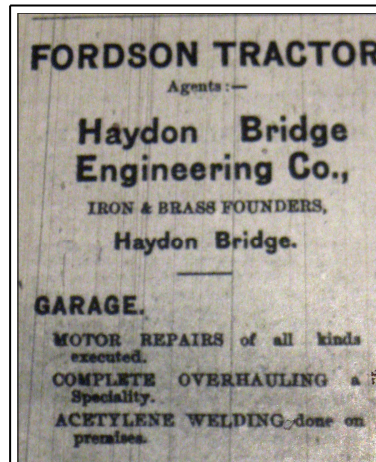
**In October's issue I recalled our Haydon Parish 'Peace Day' celebrations. This month I continue my look back at events in Haydon Parish, from July 1919, following the war.**

**Lime Trees:** At the Parish Council meeting in July 1919, W.S. Walton of The Dene recalled that the two Lime trees that had been planted many years previously on Ratcliffe Road, on the approach to the bridge, had been provided by Thomas Carrick and John Davidson, the chairman and vice chairman of the first Haydon Parish Council formed on December 4th 1894. It was agreed that an inscription be placed on each tree to commemorate the donors' benevolence; and hope was expressed that 'a belt of trees' would be planted in the future to further decorate Ratcliffe Road. (*'Radcliffe Boulevard', perhaps!*)

Although Ratcliffe Road was never adorned with the 'belt of trees' envisaged in 1919, and only one Lime remains in 2016, a picturesque line of Poplars, running south and north, west of Hordley Acre House and towards Pasture Well railway foot crossing, was for many years the first sight of our village for those who approached from the west. This feature was removed when the new estates of Langley Gardens and Greenwich Gardens were built.

---

**Hooligans:** It seems that the sacrifices of our young men during the Great War had not led to an appreciation of the facilities and relative peace we enjoyed at home, as it was reported in July 1919 that numerous seats, stiles and fences in the parish had been wilfully damaged. The stile from Broom Hill House to the Dene and Peel Well (*It will al-*



An August 1919 Hexham Courant advertisement is a reminder of the early life of 'Old Foundry Court', twelve apartments opened in Church Street in 2006 by Brendan Healy.

Early industry on the site was the Haydon Bridge Ironworks, opened in 1843, where extensive engineering operations were carried out by Coaltas, Dodsworth Co. Our older readers will also recall George Thompson's blacksmith's shop on the site - George was also Sub Officer in the Haydon Bridge Fire Service for

many years - and many more will remember Johnny Heslop's garage, before it was demolished for the 2005/2006 development.

---

In 1997, when the 1863 Methodist Chapel next door to the dilapidated old foundry/Johnny's garage was demolished, I was moved to put pen to paper:

### THE PLACE NEXT DOOR

Some cheps went doon te Hexham,  
Te see the coouncil man,  
He listened te them with good grace,  
As they telt him of their plan.

"Noo there's a building that we knaa,  
It's seldom used of late,  
On the left hand side on Church Street,  
Just afore the station gate."

"The slates are coming off the roof,

ways *be known to me as Peel Well*) was broken to pieces, the fence by the side of the footpath in the Spring Woods had been destroyed, and there was scarcely a seat in the vicinity of the village that hadn't suffered damage, especially those behind Esp Hill where all were broken or destroyed. In addition, six stiles were required over fences on the Chesterwood to Standalone footpath, two handrails were needed on the bridge over the Honeycrook Burn and on the Whinnetly footpath there were two stiles required, to replace those broken. It was agreed that, 'hooliganism in the district was becoming intolerable'.

---

**The Independent Order of Rechabites** held their first ever Gala at Haydon Bridge, on Saturday, July 26th 1919 when the promotion of total abstinence was combined with great pleasure - *the opposite to a 'Beer Festival', I suppose*. It was hoped that parents would encourage their children to join the Rechabites, the largest temperance society in the world. Two hundred and fifty children formed a procession from the station yard and paraded around the village led by the Haydon Bridge Silver Band. Tea was provided in the Town Hall and children's sports included skipping, three legged, egg and spoon and flat races; together with a tug of war.

---

**Comrades of the Great War:** A meeting held on August 20th 1919 agreed to the formation of a Haydon Bridge branch of the Comrades. Forty ex-servicemen enrolled as members and by September, the branch had one hundred members with Capt Maitland Turner chairman and Mr George Natrass as secretary.

---

The plaster off the waa'l,  
The stone work is si auld ye knaa,  
It surely soon will faa'l."

The cooncil man was filled with glee;  
"Aa knaa this place ye mean,  
Aa've been te Haydon Bridge mesel  
And this building aa hev seen."

"Aa'm sure the plan that ye hev got,  
Is an answer te me prayer,  
Te mek Church Street a finer place  
For aa'l the people there."

"Cos when this eyesore is removed,  
In the place where it hes been,  
The bairns can hev a park te play,  
Or mebees a bowling green."

The job was done; the cooncil came,  
Imagine their surprise,  
Johnny's garage still wes there,  
Right afore their eyes.

But just next door, a fine auld church,  
Removed that afternoon.

The council man said:

"Lord save me! They've pulled the wrang yen doon!"

**Showing Again:** The first Haydon Bridge Flower Show following the Great War was held on the first Saturday in September, as was the show's tradition. The classes included: Products of the Plough - well supported by local

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farmers, apparently 'attracted by the substantial rewards offered'; Garden Produce; Needlework; Crochet Work; A Tray Cloth; Quilted Quilts; Worked Cushions; Hand Made Shawls; Night Dresses and Men's Socks; Fretwork; Dressed Walking Sticks; Hooked and Stobbed Hearth Rugs; Cut Flowers; Baking; Bread Making and Dairy Produce; and Shaftoe School Children's Handwriting. There was also included: children's sports, a dog trial, wrestling, quoits, a tug-of-war, and a guessing the weight of the sheep competition. All while the Emma Colliery Band gave an open air concert.

---

**In The Family:** In September 1919, Edward Davidson was replaced on the Parish Council by John Wardle. John had come to Haydon Bridge from Durham in 1917 as an official of The Haydon Bridge Coal Company, at Whitechapel Colliery. As so often has been the case in recent years, overseeing our parish affairs was in the hands of 'incomers' rather than those born and bred in the parish. I'm pleased to say, however, that John Wardle's granddaughter continues her family's commitment to our parish's well being, as a fully fledged 'Haydonian' parish councillor, to this day.

---

*It may be that the Mr Edward Davidson, who resigned his position on the Haydon Parish Council in September 1919, (see above) did so in the knowledge that he had been re-elected Secretary of the English Arboricultural Society and his workload in that capacity was about to grow substantially. (See page 10)*

**I will continue my look back at the year 1919 in  
December's issue of The Haydon News.**

## ANTIQUE RESTORATION & CABINET MAKER



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**Nicola Grint 07879999289**

or call into one of the sessions at The Community Centre

**For now, I will add to my Notes on the Second World War 'Home Front', from April 1942.**

**Food for Thought:** In April 1942, Governors of Shaftoe Trust School agreed to contribute £250 towards the cost of converting a classroom, to provide a canteen catering for two hundred and fifty pupils at the school.

**Bin Man:** A tender of £220 was accepted by the Sanitary Committee of Hexham Rural District Council in April 1942, from R.W. Brown (Bob Brown) of 13 Innerhaugh Buildings, for scavenging work at Haydon Bridge.

**Council Officers:** W.H. Davison of Lough Green was appointed chairman of the parish council for 1942/43. His vice chairman was John Davison (Jnr) of Peelwell Farm.

**More Food for Thought:** In response to a request from the Northumberland Gardens and Produce Assoc., Mr J. Turnbull, local secretary of the village California Gardens Allotments Association, agreed to ask more people if they were willing to take over gardens and allotments; and to encourage 'good gardening and allotment holding'.

**Health Service:** At a meeting of the Haydon Bridge Nursing Association, Dr Richard Bell reported that during the year, the nurse had made three thousand and fifty three home visits to patients in the parish. Donations to the Association included; from Haydon Bridge Golf Club (£12-9s-6d) and Haydon Bridge Agricultural Soc.(£5)

**John Spark:** One of Haydon Bridge's best known and respected men died, following an operation, on Saturday,



May 23rd 1942. A well known businessman, (*In the property on Ratcliffe Road where our Co-op continues to trade in 2016*) he was elected to the Parish Council in 1928 and appointed chairman in 1937. A governor of Shaftoe Trust School, John was a Captain in the Haydon Bridge, National Fire Service. (*See my Historical Notes HN July 2016*) The Central Methodist Church was too small to accommodate all the mourners wishing to pay their respects. The underbearers were NFS colleagues: T. Snowball, R. Tait, J. Leathard and R. Armstrong.

#### 1942 'Home Front' Notes to be continued

##### ... From Little Acorns Grow

I cannot let my earlier reference (on page 9) to Edward Davidson pass without recalling the significant - but, I suspect, little known in our parish today - part played and influence this Haydon Bridge family had in the formation, development and administration of what is now the Royal Forestry Society; the Society having originally been awarded King Edward II's Royal Patronage in 1905 as the Royal English Arboricultural Society, .

This story, and our parish's connection, has its beginnings at a meeting of those interested in forestry, on January 10th 1882, in 2 Alemouth Road, Hexham; the house of Messrs. Jos. Robson & Son, owners of a rose nursery and tree, shrub and seed nurseries at Hexham. This meeting had been convened following earlier informal discussions that resulted in a letter being circulated by Henry Clark of Blenkinsopp, Haltwhistle to local land owners, foresters and land agents. In his capacity as agent for Greenwich Hospital's northern estates, John Davidson of Haydon Bridge attended the meeting with nine other interested

Edward was followed as secretary of the society by his brother, John Edward Davidson, who remained in the position until 1935, during which time, in 1931, the society was renamed The Royal English Forestry Society, and in 1932 had celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a reception at the National History Museum in London.

Today, the Royal Forestry Society has 4,000 members world wide, making a commitment to 'inspire passion and excellence in woodland management through education and sharing', a belief which has been at its heart since its formation at Hexham in 1882.

The birth, and development of the English Arboricultural Society to the Royal Forestry Society of today is very much part of our heritage, having been administered from the estate office on the North Bank, Haydon Bridge, with three of the Haydon Bridge Davidson family, acting as influential officers for fifty three of the Society's most formative years. ... Fascinating, don't you think?

##### My References:

Hexham Courant and Hexham Library.

A Forestry Centenary by N.D.G. James - Pub. Blackwell.

Hexham Historian. No 20 October 2010. (J. Holland)

Haydon News (Historical Notes). November 2010.



local gentlemen. A second meeting was held in Hexham Town Hall On February 7th 1882, when it was confirmed that the new organisation would be known as the English Arboricultural Society, and Haydon Bridge resident John Davidson was appointed secretary; a position that was confirmed at the full inaugural meeting of the Society at Carlisle on May 6th 1882.

From 1882, the English Arboricultural Society was run from John Davidson's estate office at Haydon Bridge; a property at the east end of Belmont, with an interesting history. Built in 1818 as a place of worship for the non-conformist Independent Free Church, it was soon too small for the increasing 19th century congregations and a new chapel capable of holding over two hundred and fifty worshippers was built on the opposite side of the North Bank in 1863, at a cost of £700. John Davidson and his family eventually occupied the original chapel as Estate, House and Property Agents and Fire & Life Insurance Agents and they hosted the bank, 'Hodgkin, Barnett, Pease, Spence & Co.' which by 1910 had become a branch of Lloyds Bank. In later years the building was converted into a single home, 'Garden House' and today, as numbers 7 and 9 North Bank. John Davidson was also owner of the village's 'Belmont Temperance Hotel'.

John Davidson was a respected secretary for the (Royal) English Arboricultural Society until 1907 - overseeing the Royal Patronage in 1905 - when his son Edward, who had been his assistant from 1893, took over and held the post until his death in March 1929. In 1924, Edward was a leading official in organising the combined English and Scottish Arboricultural Societies' display for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in April of that year.



In this house on the 10th January 1882 the owner, John Robson, a nurseryman of Hexham, along with Henry Clark and other colleagues, founded the 'English Arboricultural Society'. The Society became The Royal Forestry Society with H.M. the Queen as Patron. It now has 4,000 members across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and twenty-five other countries worldwide.

This Plaque, provided by the Hexham Town Council, the Hexham Civic Society and the N.E. Division of the R.F.S., was unveiled by Viscount Allendale on the 8th May 2009.



**Top Left:** John Davidson, Haydon Bridge resident and the first secretary of the Royal English Forestry Society, from 1882 to 1907.

**Top Right:** A 2009 Commemorative Plaque at 2 Alemouth Road, Hexham.

**Bottom:** John Davidson's 'Belmont Temperance Hotel'.

### COVER NOTE

Over 100 years' fire fighting provision in Haydon Parish came to an end on October 4th, when Northumberland County Council closed Haydon Bridge Fire Station and the building was put up for sale. The eleven strong crew assembled for the final time and are seen together on our front cover this month:

M.I. Lowdon (Watch Manager), P. Makepeace (Crew Manager), R. Hines (Crew Manager), S. Todd (Crew Manager), S. Elliott, A. Batey, M. Kammeier, D. Nelson, J. Storey, J. Scudamore and S. Hornby.

### FINAL 'CALL OUT'

**Northumberland county councillors closed Haydon Bridge Fire Station in October, in spite of widespread opposition.** The views of those with vast local and regional knowledge, personal experience and expertise; and opposition to closure from local councillors, adjacent fire crews and the fire brigades' union, were dismissed by county councillors following a 'consultation' period that included an extensive petition against the closure, and three packed public meetings during which the figures provided by the county council supporting their case were hotly disputed. ('Legitimate concerns over figures and information used by the county council in support of its closure proposal.' *As described in the Hexham Courant of 15-01-2016.*)

It is remarkable that, with so much opposition from those with expert knowledge, county councillors chose to close Haydon Bridge Fire Station. - Or, is it so 'remarkable', given that this community facility is one of a number abandoned in West Northumberland while millions of pounds continue to be lavished on projects in the south

- R.I.P. Haydon Bridge Fire Service. You have served us brilliantly for years. Thank you all. Stay safe Haydon Bridge. *Kathryn Lowdon.*

- Seems a very foolish decision. The average house fire will be well advanced before help arrives and even worse for the outlying properties. *William Howard.*

- It is so sad! The NCC will live to regret this decision. Thanks to all the guys in our village Fire Brigade for their wonderful work to keep everyone safe, not just in our village, but in the Tynedale area. You will be a miss to your other comrades at other stations too. Well done to you all. Sad to see you go. *Ida Burrows.*

- Sad day for village, a big thank you to all fire fighters past and present. *Tula Thompson.*

- Short sighted stupidity. This decision will come back and bite NCC where it hurts. A big thank you to all our wonderful Haydon Bridge Fire Service - you proved your worth a million times over. A very sad day. *Pauline Johnson Wallis.*

- Very sad day, it should never have had to close! Thanks to you all. *Cynthia Bradley.*

- Very Sad Day for Haydon Bridge. Thank you all. *Marlene Wilkinson.*

- Thank you to every single fireman who has served this village, you are a credit and deserve our heartfelt thanks. *Samantha Rees.*

- A big thank you to all Haydon Bridge fire fighters past and present for their service. Good luck to you all and thank you. *Julie Clark.*

- It's disgraceful they are closing the fire station. Still can't believe NCC's short sightedness. *Caroline*

and east of the county?

It is to his great credit, that county ward councillor Alan Sharp has been one of the severest critics of the local authority's unconvincing case for closure:

'Never in my thirty years as a councillor have I known a situation where everybody is dead against a proposal like this. It is heartless and disgraceful. It's madness to suggest we close Haydon Bridge's fire station.' (*Hexham Courant* 8-01-2016).

The final word here, following the closure, is with Watch Manager of the brigade since 2005, Michael Lowdon:

'It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served the community with all past and present crew members from Haydon Bridge Fire Station over the past 20 years.'

Michael also expressed his thanks, on behalf of all the crew, to the Parish Council and to the many campaigners who worked tirelessly to try and save the fire station.

Sadly, it seems that there was never likely to be a change of heart, no matter how strong and well presented was the opposition's case during the 'consultation' period.

#### **END OF AN ERA**

Those of you who frequent social media have written your own headlines in response to Northumberland County Council closing Haydon Bridge Fire Station on October 4th 2016.

**See column on the right**

*Armstrong.*

- I have travelled to Newcastle on four weekdays in the last week and seen four major accidents on separate days. It is nonsense to close Haydon Bridge Fire Station. *David Robson.*

- NCC you should hang your head in shame, closing your fire station in Haydon Bridge. Our fire service was not only serving fires! Floods and many A69 road accidents as well. *Alison O'Riordan.*

- Many thanks for the absolutely sterling job the Fire Service did during last year's floods. Well done lads, your commitment and dedication have not gone unnoticed by your community; just so sorry we weren't able to keep the fire station in Haydon Bridge up and running. NCC should hold their heads in shame. *Julia Quigley.*

- The Haydon Bridge crew have served not only our village but the whole of the western region with great dedication, even after the closure was confirmed they have continued to respond to countless call outs which confirms what we all know, they are a fantastic team who took pride in serving our community. *Eileen Charlton.*

- Utter Madness to close Haydon Bridge Fire Station. *Hilary Carter.*

**Note! My history of Haydon Bridge Fire Service continues with Part 5, on page 6.**



## CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

### CLERGY MESSAGE

#### From Deacon Anne Taylor

November perhaps more than any other time of year, is associated with remembrance. The late autumn, leaves fallen, branches now bare, all life seems laid to rest, makes a natural time for reflection and remembering.

1st November in some denominations has long been marked as 'All Saints Day' when Christians, still alive, celebrate their brothers and sisters who have 'gone to glory'. It is about remembering ordinary men and women whose Christian discipleship has inspired subsequent generations. Those who have strived to follow Christ's example in this world.

*'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us'* Hebrews 12:1

In some denominations, All Saints Day is followed on 2nd November by All Souls Day, which is an important day of prayer and remembrance focused on all the faithful departed and though a solemn occasion, the mood is one of hopeful rejoicing of the things to come.

November can be a time when the pain of bereavement is keenly felt, the dark nights and mornings, waiting for the light to come.

**Services in the Benefice of Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw.**  
**Rev. Dr. Benjamin Carter.** St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church  
The Vicarage, Station Yard Tel. 01434 688196

#### November Services St Cuthbert's Church

##### **2 November**

11am: BCP Holy Communion  
6.30pm: All Souls Day Service

##### **13 November**

10.15am: Remembrance Sunday Service in St Cuthbert's  
10.50am: Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

##### **16 November**

11am: Parish Eucharist

##### **23 November**

11am: Parish Eucharist

##### **30 November**

10am: Joint Eucharist  
3pm: Advent Carol Service (in the Old Church)

#### November Service in Beltingham with Henshaw

##### **2 November**

9.30am: BCP Holy Communion (in Henshaw)  
4pm: All Souls' Day Service (in Henshaw)

##### **13 November**

10am: Remembrance Sunday Service (in Henshaw) and then concluding at the Bardon Mill War Memorial

##### **16 November**

9.30am: Parish Eucharist (in Henshaw)

##### **23 November**

9.30am: Parish Eucharist (in Beltingham)

##### **30 November**

But for most people, remembrance is associated with those men and women who have died as a result of war, those whom we have known and whose memory we treasure and those we never knew yet we want to acknowledge the price they paid.

*‘At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them’*

This year some of the Churches in the North Tyne area are knitting poppies and displaying them outside the Churches, even if we counted the number of stitches knitted, it would not be enough to recognise the great loss of life!

Yet as the month moves on, there is the hope of the light to come, we move from darkness to light. Sunday 27th November is Advent Sunday when in the Church, we remember the light of Christ coming into the world.

*‘The people walking in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned’.* Isaiah 9:2

(Jesus the Saviour of the world in whom we continue to put our hope and trust).

May the God of love, bless us all as we continue to move forward.

*Deacon Anne Taylor*

10am: Joint Eucharist (in Haydon Bridge)

## **Messy Church**

Wednesday 9th November 3.30 pm to 5.45 pm  
New children always welcome  
(Under 8's to be accompanied by an Adult)  
at the Methodist Church.  
Come along and bring your friends

**HAYDON OLD CHURCH  
ADVENT CAROL SERVICE  
Sunday 27th November 3pm  
All Welcome**

*Advance notice*  
*Methodist Church Christmas Fayre  
Saturday 3rd Dec. 2pm  
Usual Stalls, Teas, Visit from Santa  
All welcome Come along and join us*

**ADVANCE NOTICE**  
**STREET NATIVITY**  
10th December (11.15 am onwards)  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
(During St. Cuthberts Coffee Morning)  
Do come and join us

**ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES**

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

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am

Mass each Sunday at 11.00am at Haltwhistle

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

**METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES**

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

**6 November**

|      |                                       |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 10am | Morning Worship<br>Deacon Anne Taylor |
| 6pm  | Evening Worship<br>Supt. Paul Dunstan |

**13 November**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 10.15am | United Service<br>at St. Cuthbert's Church  |
| 10.50am | War Memorial<br>Act of Remembrance<br><i>followed by refreshments in the Methodist Church</i> |
| 6.00pm  | Evening Service<br>Graham Wilson  |

**20 November**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| 10am   | Communion Worship<br>Rev. Mike Wilkinson |
| 6.00pm | Evening Worship                          |



**27 November**

10am

Morning Worship

Joan Histon

3pm

**Advent Carols**

*Haydon Old Church*

**METHODIST CHURCH**  
**QUIZ NIGHT**

*Pie and Pea Supper*

Tuesday 22nd November

Commencing 7.15 pm

QuizMaster: Rev. J. Harrison

**Christmas Puppet Show**

With the very talented Bell family.

**Sunday 27th November**

**2.30 pm in the Methodist Church.**

As usual, all are very welcome. Entry will be free  
and light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Come along and bring neighbours and friends



**THE HARVEST CROSS**

Photo: John Gibson

The ladies pictured who created this beautiful Harvest Cross are left to  
right Christine Thompson Patsy Gibson Deacon Anne Taylor Ethel Mason





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## *Christmas Tree Lights.*



*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at  
4.00pm*

*Meet on Old Bridge.*

*Shaftoe Trust Primary School*

*Children will lead the Sing-a-long*

### *Switch On*

*Singing will continue at the War  
Memorial on Church Street.*

*Food and drinks on Church Street*

*Please come along and meet  
Santa*



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Photo: Ian Foster - using Maureen Robson's drone.

## A TROUBLESOME JUNCTION.

This junction, between Church Street and Ratcliffe Road is a problem, even after the diversion of the A69, especially for the drivers of long vehicles. The problem is chiefly to do with people parking thoughtlessly on and around the junction. An additional hazard is the bollard and its associated island.

Following a discussion in the Parish Council and a meeting on site with the responsible officer from NCC it has been proposed that double yellow lines will be introduced covering BOTH SIDES of the road from No. 1 Ratcliffe Road to the turning to the back of Jobsons and back up Church Street as far as The Railway's front door. The bollard and island will disappear entirely.

This will allow buses and lorries to negotiate the corner more easily and increase the field of view up and down the road - improving safety. In the picture above, the grey/blue van parked closest to the camera would attract a parking ticket.

### Mabel Renney

2nd February 1941 – 6th October 2016

*A single golden thread woven through the fabric of the village.*

Mabel was a stalwart of the village. Nothing was ever too much trouble; shopping for the elderly, visiting those in need, making sure that friends and neighbours were ok and always with plenty of chat and a smile. She loved going into Hexham to buy bits and pieces - not for herself - always for others. She had a heart of gold. She was kind, funny, generous and totally reliable. She'll be sadly missed by so many.

Here are just a few of the lovely things people said about Mabel on Haydon Bridge Matters facebook page

"Mabel has always put others before herself, often shopping for the elderly"

"Sad news, she will be missed, always put others first"

"She truly had a heart of gold"

"Mabel will be really missed as she was such a helpful lady"

"Mabel was such a kind person, always busy helping other people"

"She will have her wings now for all the good things she has done for people over the years"

"Mabel was so kind to people and always helping others"

"Will miss Mabel very much, she would do anything to help people & so kind"

### RIP Mabel

*Pauline Wallis*





# Haydon Bridge United AFC

## *Season 2016/17 – October Update*

Haydon Bridge United definitely aren't a club that stands still! This month we have added 3 new coaches to our ranks with Ben Bates, Tony Sowerby and Aaron Hawkins successfully completing their FA Level 1 course. We also have a new FA Level 2 coach at the club with Dan MacMillan completing his course earlier this month. Congratulations to you all. We have also added an Under 8's team to our setup and completed upgrades to the Senior/Under 15s pitch with the installation of our new barriers. Thanks to everyone involved in continuing to improve our facilities and further develop our ability to provide



grass roots football in the village.

**Events—Quiz Night**



matched game with some good defensive play from Kristian Parker. Man of the Match was awarded Charles Younger who set up the goals scored by both Luke Scorer and Noah White.



Our next match saw the Under 10s at home against Kingston Park Warriors. A tough game with a couple of near misses following a fantastic mazy run from Tom Taylor, some good midfield play by Ryan Brown, Robert Harri-

We are hosting a Quiz Night at the Haydonian Social Club on Saturday 26th November, doors open at 7.30pm with the quiz starting at 8pm. Entry is £2 per person, with a maximum of 6 people per team. Hope to see you all there.

### **Our Teams**

#### ***Development Squad/Under 8's***

We currently have around 20 children regularly attending training with the development squad on our 3G pitch. With the success of the squad we have entered a team to play in the Tynedale Mini Soccer League. Our first matches were played on Saturday 22nd October, away at Hexham, in challenging conditions, the team had a great debut in the league with 7 goals and some great performances, especially from Geordie Thirlaway scoring 5 goals!

#### ***Under 9's***

A busy month for the team playing matches against Hexham Dynamo, Throckley, Prudhoe Blizzards, Allendale and a 6 team tournament at Allendale. The team are playing some great football and developing their playing style, with some great flowing football. Led by Captain Daniel Barrett the team are enjoying a great start to the season. Another 15 goals have been scored and some great performances, with man of the match awards over the month going to Alex Hanlon, Daniel Alderson and Jake Tulip.

#### ***Under 10's***

The Under 10's started their season at home against Kingston Park Gladiators. Man of the Match was awarded to our Goalkeeper, James Sowerby, making 24 saves! Our second game was played away at Prudhoe an evenly

son and Molly Fletcher. Man of the match was awarded to James Sowerby. Next we played Hexham Sporting with Wilf Daykin taking to his new role as Team Captain well, some clever midfield play by Noah White earned him Man Of the Match on the day.

#### ***Under 13's***

*Another great month for the Under 13's team.*

Playing away at Dudley and Weetslade, the team were 4-2 down at half time, but a great second half performance saw the team come back to win 7-4. Goals from Jamie Connor 4, Kian McKinnel 1, Will Thornhill 1, Jordan Reynolds 1. MOTM Niall Buchanan

Our next game was an away match at Wideopen Warriors, another great performance with the team winning 11-1. Goals from Kian McKinnel 4, Brandon Bland 3, Niall Milburn 1, Shay Dickinson 1, Jordan Reynolds 1, Will Thornhill 1, MOTM Niall Buchanan

Another fantastic game followed the following week with a 14-1 at Home v North Shields Whites. Goals from Jamie Connor 4, Niall Buchanan 3, Brandon Bland 2, Shay Dickinson 2, Niall Milburn 2, Kian McKinnel 1. MOTM Niall Buchanan.

The Shiremoor Press NFA U13 Cup was next up for the team. A closely fought game in extremely wet conditions, thank goodness it didn't go to extra time. The team progressed to the next round winning 3-2 away to Blyth Rangers Deportivo. Goal Scorers Jamie Connor 2, Jay Jay Mackay 1, MOTM Niall Buchanan. Well Done!!

Back to league duty and an away trip to Alnwick Town. Coming back from 2 goals behind, the team went on to



win 5-2. Goalscorers Jamie Connor 2, Shay Dickinson 2, Will Thornhill 1, MOTM Jamie Connor

### ***Under 14's***

The month started with a hard fought victory winning 3-2 against Red House Farm, with goals for James Percival (2) and Cameron Robson. Battling MOTM award for Ben Doughty.

The following week the team suffered a 5-1 defeat to Montagu. Harry Crowe the goal scorer. Followed by defeat away at West Denton. MOTM performances from Ben Doughty in both games.

The team then just missed out on progressing to the next round of the Goals Newcastle Colts Cup after a pulsating tie away at Montagu Blues from division one. We took the lead in the first half through Aaron Davidson's goal. An end to end game saw Montagu come back with 2 goals after the break and that's how the game ended despite intense pressure from our guys right upto the final whistle. A great game played in the right spirit and attitude by both teams. We'll done to Matthew Koranteng who picked up the MOTM award for a solid performance.

We were back in league action playing an exciting 3-3 draw at home to North Shields. The game ebbed and flowed with 2 well matched teams, Bridge holding a slim 3-2 lead at the break thanks to goals from James Percival (2) and Harry Crowe. Both teams struck the cross bar as they continued to battle for a victory, Shields drawing level part way through the second half. Matthew Scott pulling off some great saves to keep the scores level and earning him the MOTM award.

We were back to winning ways the following week with a 6-0 home win against Blyth. Goals from Ethan Dickinson assisted by Liam Oliver, Two from Ewan Wishart with one assisted by Owen White, Steven Heslop assisted by Liam Oliver, Owen White and Liam Oliver assisted by Ethan Dickinson. MOTM for a tireless performance in mid field Joey Robson.

### ***The Club***

Continuing our introduction of those involved behind the scenes, this month we focus on **Dent Oliver**.



Dent has been involved with the club for an astonishing SEVEN decades!! Firstly as a Player, then as Groundsman, Manager, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman, President and Trustee. Dent was also part of the triumvirate that had the foresight to purchase Low Hall Park in the 1970's giving us both security and a wonderful place in which to play football. Dent has dedicated his life to the club, and it is little wonder that he is known as 'Mr Haydon Bridge United'.



**Under 14's in action against North Shields at Low Hall Park**

### ***Under 15's***

The u15s travelled to Blackfyne with both teams unbeaten so far this season. An evenly matched game ended in a 2-2 draw with goals from Owen White assisted by Ethan Dickinson and Tom Anderson assisted by Steven Heslop. MOTM Nathan Hassett.

The following week we were away at North Shields coming away with all 3 points after our best performance of the season so far. Goals from Ethan Dickinson, Ewan Wishart and Owen White hatrick. MOTM Steven Heslop at centre back. Great game lads.

Another away trip this time to West Denton saw the team suffer their first league defeat of the season losing 4-3. Goals from Ewan Wishart assisted by Ethan Dickinson, Ethan Dickinson (2) with one assisted by Joey Robson. MOTM Ethan Dickinson.

For more info and contact information check out:

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

[www.facebook.com/haydonbridgeunited/](https://www.facebook.com/haydonbridgeunited/)

**Haydon Bridge United FC**  
**Quiz Night**  
*Haydonian Social Club*  
**Saturday 26th November**

Doors open 7.30pm, Quiz starts at 8pm  
£2 entry per team member, maximum of 6 people  
per team



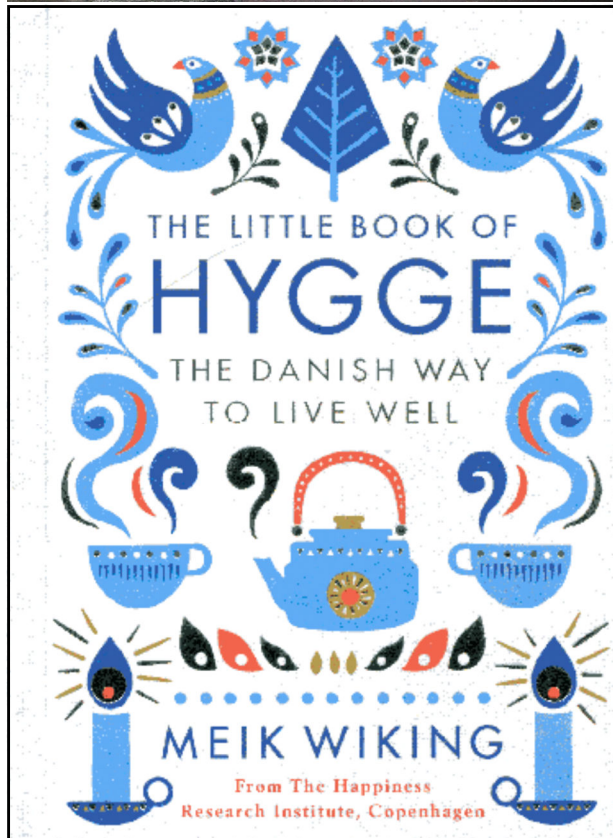
Huge Widgets in Haydon Bridge - transformers on the way to Fourstones.







These huge transformers will be used to connect the developing wind farms to the national grid.



#### Stocking filler 1

Here's a book to inspire you.

Denmark is often said to be the happiest nation on earth and this book is written by the CEO of The Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen.

Hygge (pronounced hyoooguh—at least approximately) is cosiness or *gemütlichkeit* and consists of warmth, soft lights, candles, calm, coffee, chocolate, cakes, candy, harmony, good company, conversation, sharing, comfort and shelter, amongst other things. What's not to like?

*Penguin Life. ISBN: 978-0-241-28391-2*

#### Stocking filler 2

Worried about Brexit? Don't be!

It's as nothing compared to what's going on globally. Economics is often tagged as 'the dismal science'. This book, by a well regarded academic, takes a moderately technical look at the world economy and makes an attempt to describe and explain the past, present and possible futures. When discussing the 'three minute warning' in the 60's the advice was to 'put your head between your legs and kiss your backside\* Goodbye!' It's that time...

*Financial Times Publishing ISBN: 978-1-292-123380-6*

\* alternative words are available in the Viz Profanisaurus



Haydon  
LOCAL ARTISTS



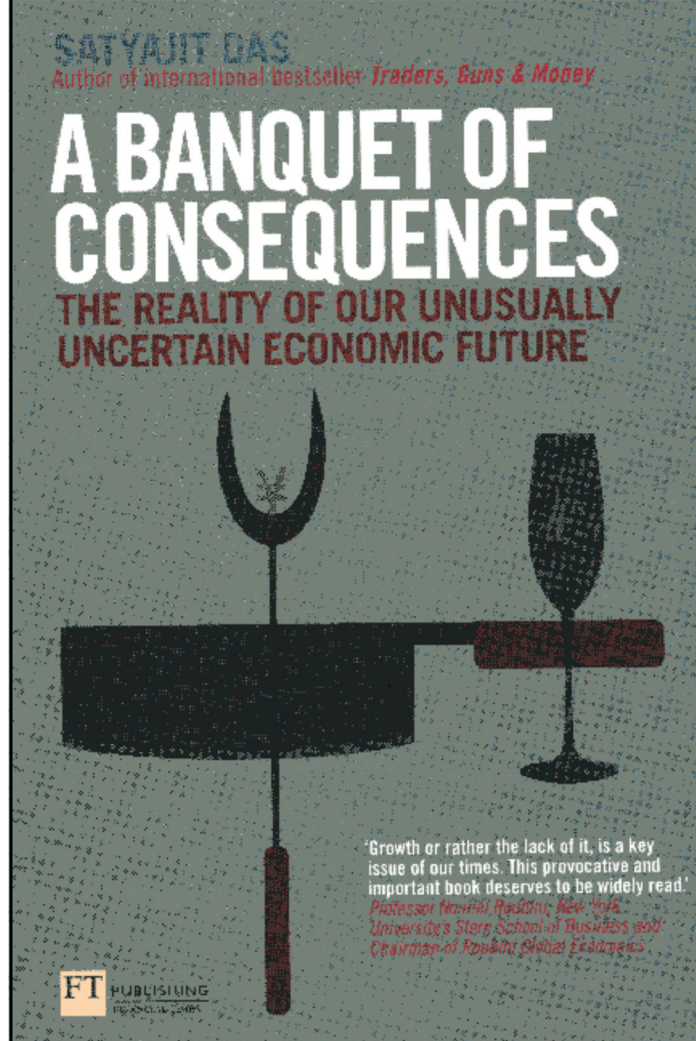
# Christmas Art and Craft Fair

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 10am—2pm

**Admission Free**

Xmas Shopping on your doorstep!!

**Refreshments and Raffle**



It is with great sadness that Haydon News records the death of Mabel Renney at the Freeman Hospital on Thursday October 6th. The lady with the jingling purse was well-known throughout the village where she had lived for very many years.

Mabel loved buying stuff on the off-chance that it would prove to be useful – it would inevitably end up in the hands of someone in need. Indeed most of her life was spent doing good works around the village in one way or another – always in the same cheery spirit. Mabel would make sure that folk remained in caring contact with others. In many ways her life enshrined the caring principles of the good neighbour brought to life by the story of the Good Samaritan. Mabel was as a golden thread running through the fabric of this village of ours – and she was precious.

Mabel has gone from amongst us and what is left here on earth are our memories of her – things we have done together, jokes we have shared, those things which make up the life of a village community. She will live on in our hearts and minds; no-one can take that away from us. So let's celebrate and give thanks for what Mabel gave to this world in her special way.

*John Harrison*



# **CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS AT THE GENERAL HAVELOCK, HAYDON BRIDGE**

**All quizzes start at 8.15 pm - cost is £1.50 per person**

**In addition to the Quiz, the evening includes the famous 'Beer Question',**

**Refreshments and a Raffle    Team size from 2 to 8.**

**The quizzes have raised £1954 so far during 2016 (up to October).**

## **Programme for 2016/2017**

**November 15<sup>th</sup>    "Guide Dogs"**

**December 13<sup>th</sup>    "Josie's Dragonfly Trust"    **Queenie Quiz****

**January 24<sup>th</sup> 2017    "Haydon Bridge Parish Church"**

**Bids are invited for any registered charity for any of the monthly slots in 2017. The first four slots in 2017 have now been provisionally allocated. Bids for quizzes April onwards to John Harrison via the General Havelock or on [Johnandaveril@aol.com](mailto:Johnandaveril@aol.com).**



## **HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB**



### **TALKS DURING NOVEMBER**

**10<sup>TH</sup> DIVING THE WORLD BY ESTELLE ZAUNER-MAUGHAN**

**24<sup>TH</sup> IMAGES OF THE ISLAND OF BALI BY DAVID RAEBURN**

**7.15 PM AT HAYDON BRIDGE METHODIST CHAPEL**

**INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS**

**MEMBERS FREE**

**VISITORS £4.00**

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**HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB MEETS FORTNIGHTLY BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND MARCH  
AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL IN CHURCH STREET: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS £20.**

## A VIEW FROM UP THERE ....

*John Harrison*

I see that the potholes are returning to our roads, which reminds me of a somewhat ancient joke. Two lumps of tarmac were boasting how hard they were – “We’re really hard; we’ve been part of the M1” they told everyone. Just then a weedy piece of tarmac came in, and both of the M1 lumps dived for cover under a table. After the weedy piece had left, the M1 lumps were challenged “We thought you said that you were toughest tarmac around”. “Not with that stuff around” they replied, “that’s from a cycle path”. (From *The Laugh Lab*)

No they don’t improve !!!!

And neither did the summer, although we did have some spells of genuinely warm weather. As we moved into September, summer lingered for a while, but autumn switched in quite dramatically. On the whole, the month was warmer than average, especially at night. There were spells of dry sunny weather mixed in with occasionally heavy rain accompanied by strong winds.

The first three days were cloudy and dull with the 3<sup>rd</sup> being particularly wet from late morning onwards (24.5mm). With pressure rising, conditions turned drier on the 4<sup>th</sup> and with air reaching the UK from the south, daytime temperatures exceeded 20 degC between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, rising to 24.5 degC on the 7<sup>th</sup>. However, conditions became unpleasantly muggy and the overnight temperature 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> fell to only 16.4 degC, the second warmest night of the year. A cold front brought in cooler, air from the west on the 8<sup>th</sup> so the next few days were much fresher. Warm tropical air paid a return visit on the 11<sup>th</sup> and lingered until the 15<sup>th</sup>. Daytime temperatures again exceeded 20 degC but with the air very humid, thunderstorms occurred on 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, a cold front imported fresher conditions from the west on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the days up to the 21<sup>st</sup> were fresh with some lengthy sunny spells. By the 21<sup>st</sup> average temperatures were almost 3 degC above the long-term average. But at the Equinox it was as if someone had thrown a switch and we were suddenly launched into autumn, as the weather became blustery and much cooler for

and we were suddenly launched in to autumn as the weather became blustery and much cooler for the remainder of the month, which appeared to initiate leaf-fall.

A not infrequent feature of the weather map over western Europe at this time of year is the “*Blocking High*”. An area of high pressure (anticyclone) becomes established over Scandinavia, which serves to restrict the eastwards movement of active Atlantic weather systems across the UK. This results in relatively light winds from a generally easterly direction. Rainfall amounts are usually slight and, as the atmosphere is very stable, the weather can be very dull with a low cloud base and drizzle. The effect of a blocking high on air temperatures is seasonal but in autumn the risk of frost increases if the low cloud clears. Being slow-moving, weather patterns can become persistent and blocking highs can lead to, for example, long spells of ‘Siberian’ conditions during the winter.

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

| Month     | Average Maximum Temperature (Daytime) Deg C | Relative to long-term average degC | Average Minimum Temperature (Night-time) Deg C | Relative to long-term average degC | Rainfall mm | Percentage of long-term average |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| September | 18.3  | +1.7                               | 11.1   | +2.8                               | 83.0        | 130                             |

And finally, Gladys shared this joke with me the other day. It came from a clergyman so should be OK. “The Lord said unto John ‘come forth and receive the gift of eternal life’. Sadly John only came fifth so all he won was a toaster.”

# NOTICES & WHAT'S ON?

## HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

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

## WEST TYNEDALE JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

*FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 5yrs-12yrs*

TAG/CONTACT RUGBY

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

Contact Dave on 07810 336 537

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

**ALL WELCOME.**

## 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**

## Computer Club

*(Beginners Welcome)*

**Catton Chapel Tuesdays 2-4pm**

Why not come and join a group of people who would like to improve their digital skills by sharing knowledge between friends.

*(Free entry but donations for heating and refreshments 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:**

**01661830770**

**82, Front St. Prudhoe.**

**NE42 5PU**

**Or**

**0167082234 (Bedlington)**

## **CHESS CLUB**

at the

**Haydonian Social Club**

**NEW PLAYERS WELCOME**

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**  
November 2nd, 16th and 30th.

**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**

Website **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)

**REGULAR VILLAGE**  
**COFFEE MORNINGS**

**Tuesday 10-12am**

**Methodist Chapel**

**Thursday 10-12am**

**Methodist Chapel**

**Saturday 10am**

**Community Centre**

*A different local organisation each week.*

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

*IF ANYONE KNOWS OF ADDITIONAL COFFEE MORNINGS PLEASE LET ME KNOW.*

**Haydon Art Club**

The winter craft fair will be on

**November 12th. 10 am - 2 pm.**

at the Community Centre

To book a table phone Barbara on 688886.



**Safe and Secure 24™**

**Beat the Burglars best practice Security Tips**

Mark your property with your postcode and house number or name. Marking kits can be easily bought. You can register your property on the free web based registration service [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) which is supported by Northumbria Police.



## **WOVEN STORIES**

### **(Edit & Doodle Collaborative Arts)**

A recently formed collaborative arts group based in Haydon Bridge is launching an artistic project, *Woven Stories*. The project started as an idea between poet and writer Natalie Nera and visual artists Imogen Mitchell and Victoria Holt to create artworks inspired by Natalie's poems, with a view to exhibiting these artworks and poems together. The idea has now grown and more artists have been invited to contribute to the project. The ethos of the art group is to be fully inclusive and to help foster creative and artistic activities in the local community. With this in mind, the group is on the lookout for more writers and visual artists who might be interested in creating work(s) for inclusion. The ultimate goal is to put on an exhibition in Hexham and create a companion publication of the written and visual art works.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Natalie at [natalienera@yahoo.com](mailto:natalienera@yahoo.com).

# **POLICE**

At The Methodist Chapel coffee morning every five weeks an opportunity to chat to two police officers.

E mail for these ladies is:

[Yvonne.Clement.8526@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Yvonne.Clement.8526@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)

Tel 101 Ask for 8526

## **Humoresque**

These days there're not many things to laugh about when you switch on the news. At least that's how I am feeling at the moment. Too much doom and gloom, too many dreadful news items, one domestic drama after another and then you get bombarded by the slapstick comedy called presidential elections in one unnamed overseas country with an unnamed candidate who probably reaches for a nuclear button every time he hears the word "humour".

Incidentally, just about every survey around the globe shows that every nation somehow believe themselves to be unique because unlike anyone else in the universe they have a great sense of humour. Because no one else laughs, right? Apart from other apes, monkeys and your dog. And let's not forget dolphins, they laugh a lot, especially since they spend their lives on perpetual holidays, swimming in the sea and eating fish.

It may be surprising to hear that in the survey conducted by the social network Badoo in 2011, Britain, - the country of Three Men In The Boat and Jeeves -, came in the fourth place as the LEAST funny nation in the world, right after Germany, Russia and Turkey. I know absolutely nothing about Turkish jokes but I know quite a bit about all the other ones: German humour is probably one of the most underrated in the world. It doesn't always translate well but they do have a quirky sense of absurd and love Good Soldier Svejk, for which I simply have to love them. Russian humour is a survival strategy; it's verbal, quick witted, topical and bitter sweet. Of course, it somehow simultaneously manages to drown in a pronounced melancholy that is as wide as the river Volga which you are trying to cross being weighed down by a mighty muzhik's beard. And as to the British humour –

The dates for the next Police surgeries are; 10-11am

**17<sup>th</sup> November**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> December.**

## GENERAL HAVELOCK

### Christmas advance notice

OAP lunch and sing-a-long in December.

*Date to be confirmed.*

Christmas hampers available from December  
- includes Christmas pudding /piccalilli/porkpie /  
gingers snaps for 8 people £27

19th December @ 7.30 film and food night  
"Christmas in Connecticut "

## Hexham Beacon Club

### Programme-

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Tales of my Travels           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov  | Laughter is the Best Medicine |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | Battling Liners               |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Hexham Racecourse             |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov | The Longest Battle            |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Start from Here               |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | Tyneside in Print             |

On Wednesdays 10-30 to 12-00 at

where do I begin? Long story short, I spent a year watching episodes of The Black Adder over and over again. One whole year of my life. That's truly sad.

What this above mentioned five-year old survey tells us, though, is that there is no point raising one's voice at that bloke from the Netherlands, slowing down one's speech and reducing one's vocabulary to about three words just because he didn't get a pun, involving a triple meaning of some obscure word, or that the American is not stupid just because he doesn't catch the reference to the TV show everybody used to watch in England back in 1979. Humour, for some reason, doesn't like travelling in time and space. It usually stays firmly rooted in its country, county or even village, century or a decade. Perhaps that lies behind the reason why one of the most successfully British TV comedy exports is Mr Bean, nonverbal and childish and not say Monty Python.

I have read, I have studied, yet, the list of my failures to engage successfully in any real life jokey conversation in the UK would probably make a tome as thick as Great Expectations. My "English" humour is more accidental and usually ends up with my embarrassment or humiliation, or both.

Once I was caught in the corner of the pub in a debate about car washing services. I was quietly contemplating how to disappear without being rude because I couldn't think of anything more boring than hearing about this Polish automobile washing place where you get serviced quickly by five blokes. Unfortunately, someone asked me what I thought of the matter, to which I politely answered that it must be nice to get serviced by five men. As soon as it came out of my mouth, I knew it was all wrong. I turned bright red, mumbled something about not quite

understanding the question because of my English, and I hastily made my way to the toilets.

On another occasion, as practically a non-drinker, I was challenged to a drinking game, which I kindly refused pointing out that it would be impossible because the table, at which the game was taking place, was too small and we wouldn't all be able to fit underneath. I don't know why people were laughing. I was simply thinking ahead.

When a female acquaintance made an observation one January day that it was very cold, I added: "Yes, it's exactly like in August." To my astonishment, she found my reply amusing. Guys, I am being deadly serious here.

Besides, only children are really funny. And kittens. And those overpaid comedy stars of the telly. It's preposterous to think of humour as a universally human self-defence against madness of this world, a way of coping with stresses of our lives.

So please can I gently place my aging, tired face into a giant cream cake and laugh now? Strictly in private.

*Natalie Nera*



As part of the campaign, the Hospice is hosting three Light up a Life church services where there is an opportunity for quiet reflection to remember those who have died. These services are open to everyone of all faiths, whether they have experienced the services of Tynedale Hospice at Home or not and you don't have to have made a donation to attend.

The Light up a Life services are taking place at:

Hexham Abbey – Saturday 3 December at 4pm

St Mary's Church, Ponteland – Sunday, 4 December at 4pm

Prudhoe Methodist Church – Saturday, 10 December at 4pm

To dedicate a light in memory of someone special, or to find out more, please call 01434 600 388 or email [www.tynedalehospice.com](http://www.tynedalehospice.com)

Tynedale Hospice at Home needs you!

Have you got spare time on your hands? Do you want to do something that is satisfying and rewarding in your local community? Then why not become a Tynedale Hospice at Home volunteer?

Tynedale Hospice at Home provides high quality palliative care to people with life limiting illnesses, family and bereavement support, and patient transport services to people in the Tynedale, West Northumberland and Ponteland areas.

Volunteers are needed to help with a range of fundraising activities to support the valuable services it provides. No matter how much time you have - whether it's just an hour a week or the odd day here or there, and we have a whole range of opportunities available.

No special qualifications are needed - just your enthusi-



Light up a Life and remember someone special.

With the festive season nearly upon us, Tynedale Hospice at Home has launched its annual Light up a Life campaign.

Light up a Life invites people to remember a loved one who has died by making a donation in their memory. In return for a donation – no matter how large or small – you will receive a card with your loved one's name (s) inside and a memory star to write your own message on, this can be brought to one of the Hospice's dedicated Light up a Life services or used to hang on your own Christmas tree at home.

Laura Elliott, Fundraising Manager for Tynedale Hospice at Home, said: "Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for people who have lost someone they love and Light up a Life is all about providing the opportunity for people to remember that special person or people."

asm and desire to support a worthwhile cause.

To find out more, call Cathy Bates on 01434 610 911 or email [cathy@tynedalehospice.com](mailto:cathy@tynedalehospice.com). To find out more about Tynedale Hospice at Home visit [www.tynedalehospice.com](http://www.tynedalehospice.com)

#### CONTACTS

For further information, please contact Nicci Westgarth or Laura Elliott.

T: 01434 611 9xx/910; E: [nicci@tynedalehospice.com](mailto:nicci@tynedalehospice.com); [laura@tynedalehospice.com](mailto:laura@tynedalehospice.com)

*Tynedale Hospice at Home is a Company Limited by Guarantee, and a registered charity. Established in 1993. The aim of Tynedale Hospice at Home is to enhance the development and delivery of high quality end of life and palliative care in the local community. Tynedale Hospice at Home is required to meet the service specifications of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).*

*Tynedale Hospice at Home provides professionally led, palliative and end of life home nursing services, delivered by experienced nurses and trained healthcare support workers.*

*It provides pre and post bereavement adult and children's support services with qualified staff and trained volunteers.*

*Tynedale Hospice at Home's transport service drives patients to and from hospital appointments using volunteer drivers and their own vehicles.*

*Tynedale Hospice at Home was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2015.*

*It leases three premises in Hexham, with a shop in Ponte-*

*land. The operation of the shops are supported by over 80 volunteers.*

[www.tynedalehospice.com](http://www.tynedalehospice.com)  
[www.facebook.com/tynedalehospice](https://www.facebook.com/tynedalehospice)  
[Twitter.com/tynedalehospice](https://twitter.com/tynedalehospice)

### **THE DAY THE HAIRY BIKERS CAME TO DINNER**

Simon King (one half of the cooking duo) and I go back a long way. A very long way.

Which is hard to believe given I'm still 28 and he's thirty years older, but nonetheless.

Back in the days before we moved to Haydon Bridge, I owned a successful Lettings Agency in Newcastle, with two shops on the Quayside. I handled over two hundred apartments in the city centre and our tenants included stars from tv and movies as well as businessmen and women relocating to the North with their companies. These would need a home for six months or so, whereas the Celebrities only wanted an apartment for the short time they were filming here. Or appearing in theatre on Grey Street.

One day saw the Oscar winner Cate Blanchett popping in (as she was filming for the movie Elizabeth with Richard Attenborough) then the Crankies (headline act in the Pantomime at the Theatre Royal) and Bobby Davro (a different Panto). Who would ever believe they all lived in the

would go in search of one. Or ask me if I knew where there were any. And so an old decrepit stone sheep shelter behind Rothbury doubled up as a poor family's house in one well-known novel. Or a Georgian country mansion would make a perfect landowner's residence. Providing of course that there were no modern additions such as double-glazing or satellite dishes! Not many of those in The Fifteen Streets.

Our friend Rami owned a huge warehouse behind the Central Station which was often used as an old work-house or orphanage in the films. It was ideal as it hadn't really changed in over a hundred years. The fact that it sits on an ancient cobbled lane made it even more ideal - if you look closely you'll see this lane coming up time and again in many of the scenes. Usually with ragged waifs and ne'er-do-wells begging for scraps on the corners and lines of tatty washing running between the buildings.

And so the day came when Simon popped into my shop as I was enjoying a coffee. "Two sugars in mine pet!" he said as he plonked himself down.

I thought he'd come by for one of his many chats, but no. This time he said he was looking for a kitchen to film a particular scene from The Cinder Path starring Catherine Zeta Jones. The kitchen, he said, had to be large enough for an entire crew to stand in, plus the actors and of course all the cameras. It had to be light so it needed good windows - preferably large. He'd searched high and low but could he find one? No.

He remembered that the kitchen in our house near Ponteland was very big and asked if he could have another look to maybe measure it out - adding that the rates of pay were excellent. So that clinched it!

He came over but unfortunately the kitchen had changed

ent Panto), who would ever believe they all lived in the same apartment block during the same week. Not in the same flat obviously. Now that would be a blockbuster movie! I did wonder if Australian born Blanchett would understand the Scottish husband and wife who created the Crankies but hey, that's showbiz!

Other luminaries who rented our flats included Sir Richard Todd, Sir Edward Fox, Alvin Stardust and Joan Collins' favourite ex husband, Anthony Newley. Who, by the way, wrote the lyrics to the James Bond theme tune 'Goldfinger' with his partner Leslie Bricusse.

The list of Celebrities who came to my door goes on and on. But all had one thing in common: they wanted to stay in an apartment rather than a hotel and mine was at that time, the only company who offered luxury accommodation by the week. And whose properties were fully equipped down to the last plump pillow. In fact, Cate Blanchett borrowed my juice extractor for her low-calorie diet, and has yet to return it! I imagine it's still sitting in her kitchen in Hollywood today - squeezing juice each morning.

And talking of kitchens, the TV company who produced all the movies based on the wonderful Catherine Cookson's books had my number on speed-dial, knowing I would be able to fix the cast and crew up with gorgeous flats for the many months they spent filming in and around Newcastle and Northumberland. And knowing nothing would be too much trouble. Especially as their stars could be proper little divas!

Simon King was then the Locations Manager for the production company. It was his job to scour and scout the area to find suitable historical streets, shops, houses and sites in which to film. If one of Catherine Cookson's books called for a run-down Victoriana hovel then Simon

since he last saw it. It was now even bigger but with very modern German units and appliances. Nowhere in Catherine Cookson's many novels does she write about sleek continental kitchens with Miele ovens, so sadly Simon had to give it a miss.

However, fast forward a few years, and another television company knocked on my door asking if they could use our home for a furniture advert. Seemingly the floor to ceiling glass walls and wonderful views of the trees outside lent themselves perfectly to the range of modern sofas being advertised. The pay they offered for two days filming was eye-watering and they even offered to install a team of cleaners afterwards to make sure it looked the same as when they'd arrived.

Who could say no? Not me that's for sure. We moved out and the cameras moved in.

A month later our young son pointed at the tv and said: "That looks a bit like our house Mum!". It certainly did. And it certainly was!

So if anyone knocks on your door to ask if they can use it for filming you know what to say. And if it's the Hairy Bikers they can cook you a meal at the same time. What's not to love?

*Marita*



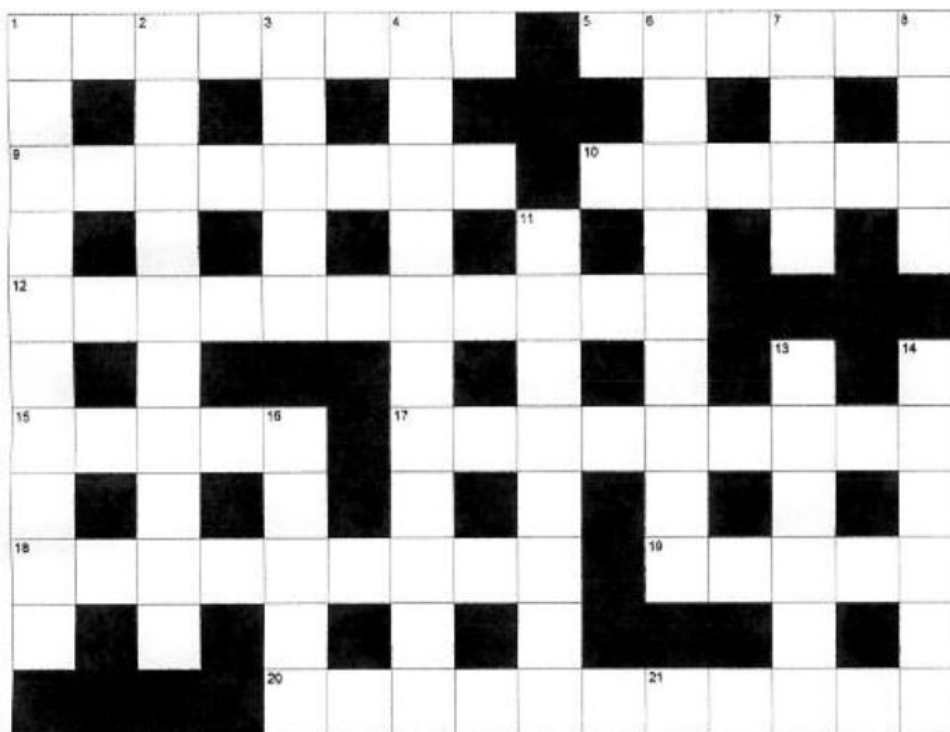
# THE HAYDONIAN CRUCIVERBALIST

November 2016

£10 PRIZE EVERY MONTH!

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....



## Down

1. Moved from office and went back in the race (4,1,5)
2. Genuine racquet game (4,6)
3. Go inside a tent erected here (5)
4. First day of the sales ? (6,6)
6. Musical embellishment which a girl set down (5,4)
7. Tea chest holds selected ones (4)
8. Mrs. Lot's season (4)



- 11. Clover is past but keeps me going (5,7)
- 13. Sounds as if the foundations are at the top (10)
- 14. Chosen and planned at turning (10)
- 16. To steal rope is a bit of a bloomer (4,5)
- 21. Nude I digest (5)
- 22. Practise fighting among furious partisans (4)
- 23. Divide in two and share out with 7 (4)

## OCTOBER'S WINNER

**NUMBER OF ENTRIES**

7 (six correct)

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## OCTOBER'S ANSWERS

### ACROSS

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8. NOVELTY
9. ADMIRAL
11. EXTREME
12. SEAPORT
13. SKEWS
14. DISPERSAL
16. NORTHERLY
19. CITED
21. BUCKDEN
23. ASUNDER
24. ETCHING
25. TRIPOLI
26. PERSEVERANCE

### DOWN

1. BUVETTE
2. ILLNESS
3. LAY READER
4. ADAMS
5. TIMBALE
6. NARROWS
7. UNREASONABLE
10. LITTLE DORRIT
15. SPYMASTER
17. RECYCLE
18. HADDIES
19. CAUTION
20. TADPOLE
22. NEGEV

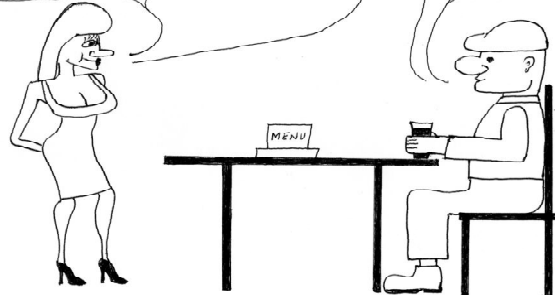
## RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID

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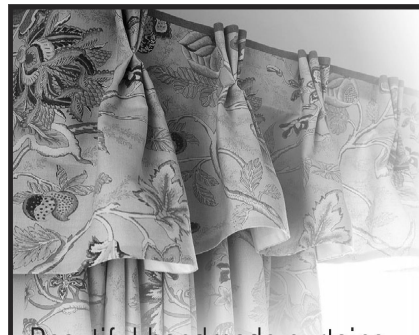
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## **Brendan Healy**

### **Who is and always will be 7 years old.**

When I was seven years old the most awful thing happened. I was invited to a friend's house to play and when I got there I found out it was his birthday party. Horror of horrors, I was the only one who wasn't dressed up and worse still, I hadn't brought a present. An event like this can scar you for life and even now, fifty years later, I can't go to a party unless I have a pre-wrapped Action Man in the boot of the car. As it happens, that particular childhood party turned out to be brilliant. I can remember enjoying the jelly much more than usual because I felt like I shouldn't really be there. Hang on a sec, maybe I hadn't been invited all along, maybe I wasn't one of his bestest friends and maybe I had turned up on the wrong day and they didn't have the heart to turn me away.

Now I'm going to need therapy.

After tea, we all went off to the 'Flora Robson Playhouse' in Jesmond, Newcastle (sadly long since demolished) to see 'Dick Whittington', the pantomime. I was so completely engrossed in the story that, at the end, I screamed at the top of my lungs for the cat to get all the rats. Nobody else shouted, just me. Thinking back, this was one of the most traumatic days of my life.

My granny, the fabulously-named Molly Maguire, used to book a box at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, for the whole family every year and I remember at panto one year, the ventriloquist asked me to hold the coat of the tiny invisible man on his hand. He asked me if there really was a tiny invisible man there and I said 'Yes' and everyone in the theatre roared, laughing at me. Apparently this ruined his gag. I was meant to say no and then he would have said, 'So, if he's not there, how are you holding his coat?' The thing is, I didn't want to spoil the poor man's act. He probably had a family to feed.

These early experiences of theatre, and particularly panto-

year old Julia Sawalha who greeted the German character in the play with the simple but brilliant line, 'Morgan.' One more word on actors and boredom. There are times when misbehaving can go a little too far. A pal of mine, who must remain nameless, was in the original production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar.' One day, being bored, he took a ventriloquist's dummy to The Last Supper. Not only did it make Jesus laugh at a highly inappropriate moment, but it also meant that there were 13 disciples, which spoiled the story a bit. He got fired.

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These early experiences, however, in particular, pantomime, must have struck a chord with me because up to now in my adult life, I have been involved in 23 pantomimes, either as music director, actor, writer, producer or as director and they have been some of the happiest times of my life, especially since I met my wife when she was Cinderella and I was her dad, Baron Hardup.

The eagle-eyed will have spotted, at the top of the page, that I am associated with 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Tyne Theatre this December. This is produced by Newcastle Panto Ltd. of which I am a founder member. Although I haven't been heavily involved with the production this year, it still holds true to what I think are the core values of panto. Don't be rude, get the comedians on and don't let the princess sing, make sure the dame is obviously a bloke and, the most important, make all ages laugh. Watching your grandparents laugh is one of the most joyful things in this world when you are a kid, probably only to be outdone by the joy you feel when you watch your grandchildren laugh. This is what panto should do.

We are spoilt for choice in our region. We can see glitzy, exciting, special effect pantos and we can see traditional, fun, home-grown shows. Everything is there to suit every pocket and we should all go. It's a massive part of our culture and our heritage. You don't have to take kids, organise a bus trip from work or the Students' Union.

I always used to give the same speech to the cast at panto time. 'No matter how many shows we do, no matter how tired and bored we may be, we have a duty to the 7-year old Brendans out there to make it brand new and exciting every time, because for them, it's real.'

Actors do get bored when they are doing a long run of a show but there are ways to keep things alive. We once had to mention the name of any make of car without the audience being aware. The winner that day was the 17-



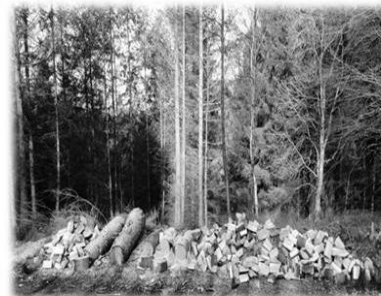
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## 1<sup>ST</sup> HAYDON BRIDGE SCOUT GROUP

Roger Hills, Group Chairman  
Mobile: 07973 825414  
E-mail: [roger.hills@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.hills@btinternet.com)

After nearly forty years in scouting the long serving Scout Leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Haydon Bridge Scout Group has announced his retirement. We all wish him well and thank him for his stalwart service which has literally seen generations of youngsters through their scouting years.

We hope that he will retain contacts with scouting as a senior adviser at District level and in the meantime we are continuing the scouting tradition at Haydon Bridge with the Scout Troop being run by a small group of volunteers.

We are always looking for additional assistance and

## Community Centre Regular Activities

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### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

Youth Club 6-8.30pm      Amey Henry  
01434 603582

would welcome involvement from any parent, former scout or youth leader in helping us continue to provide an exciting and challenging programme for the Troop which is growing in numbers, fuelled by the reputation of its varied activities and supported by an active Cub Pack.

If you would be interested in helping in any way, with your time, expertise or resources please would you contact Roger Hills, Group Chairman at the above address for an informal initial conversation?

The Scout Troop meets weekly on Wednesday evenings 7 -9pm during school term time at the scout hut in the grounds of the Haydon Bridge Catholic Church, St John of Beverley on North Bank.

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Joseph Tulip,  
688817

[joseph.tulip@cnmedia.co.uk](mailto:joseph.tulip@cnmedia.co.uk)

Parish Council 7.30pm (4th Thursday, monthly)

### **FRIDAY**

RNLI - Bridge Afternoon

### **SATURDAY**

Coffee morning, 10am

Various groups and organisations.

### **SUNDAY**

Hornby Model Railways Association 10am

Grant Robinson, 01661 844843

[grant.robinson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grant.robinson@tiscali.co.uk)

### **NEW ACTIVITIES ALWAYS WELCOME.**

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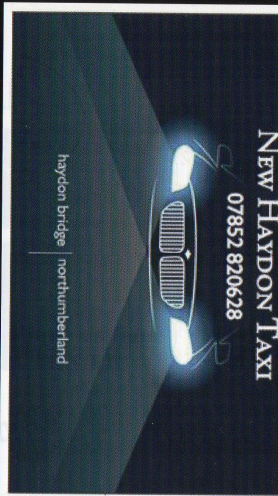
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### RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID

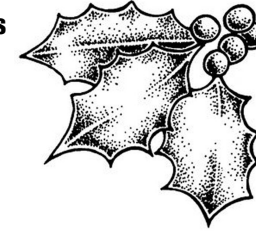
I get a mention in the Haydon News' review of the village  
talent show, Dusty. It says: "Raydon Fridge is a rap artist."

That's a Steve Ford typo, Raydon, he's  
left out the first "C."



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**February  
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|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         | 1         | 2        | 3      | 4        |
| 5      | 6      | 7       | 8         | 9        | 10     | 11       |
| 12     | 13     | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17     | 18       |
| 19     | 20     | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| 26     | 27     | 28      |           |          |        |          |

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The Bridge, St Cuthbert's Church, The Chapel**

Thanks to: Eileen Charlton, Ian Foster (compiler), John Gibson (new photographs), John Harrison (printing organiser), Dennis Telford (old and new photographs), the Parish Council. All proceeds to village causes.

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