

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN

Flood Wardens

Lead Flood Warden

1. Brigwood & Innerhaugh
 2. Radcliffe Rd
 3. Church St & North Bank
 4. Martins Close, Rocksprings Cres & Temple Houses
 5. Shaftoe St, Martin St & bankside between bridges
 6. Lands End Rd & Caravan Park
- Lipwood (not on the map but you know where you are!)

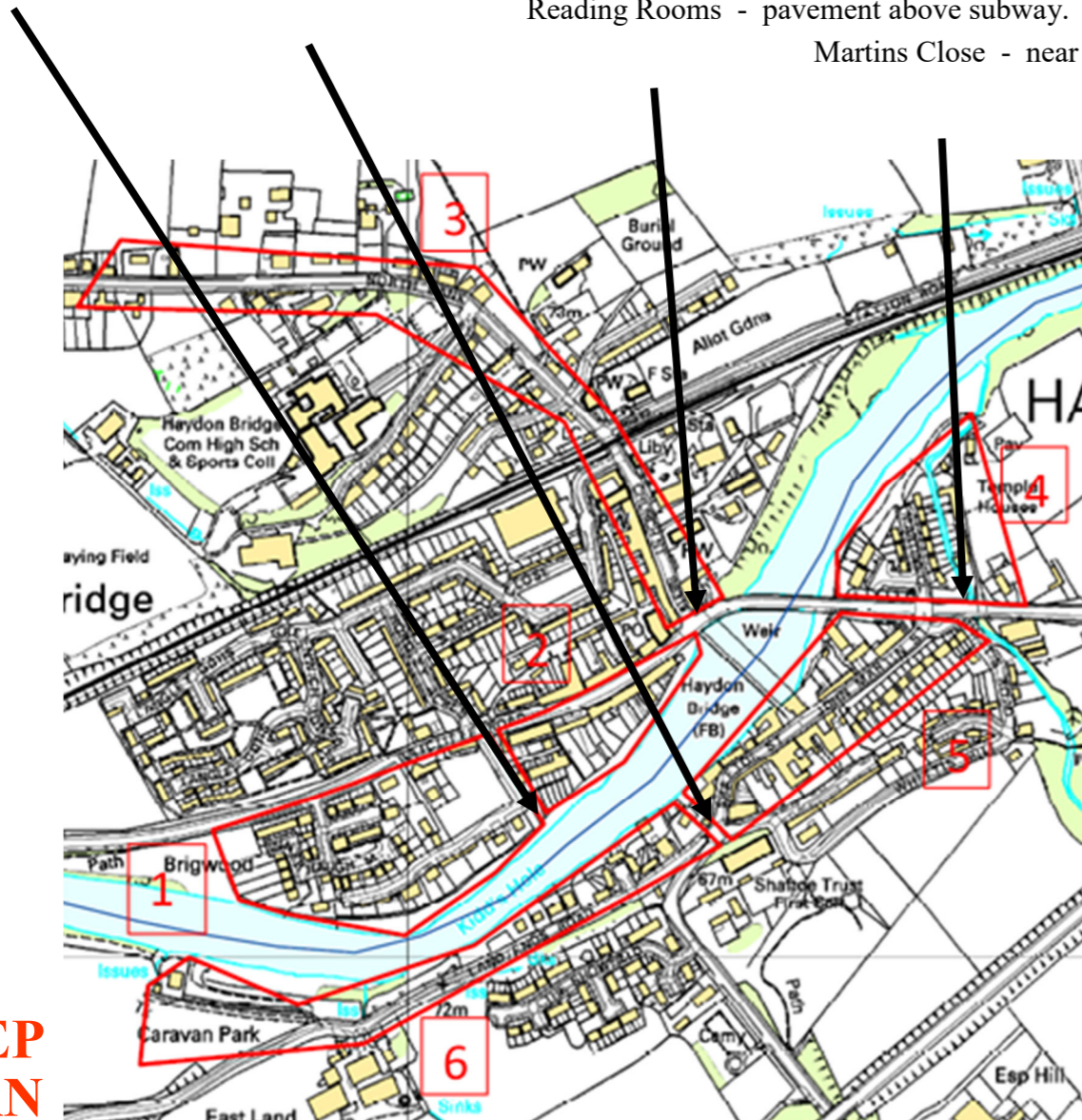
Jon Alder
 Jason Fiori
 Steven Clarke
 Craig Tulip
 Jamie Eales
 Barbara Cawley
 Richard Hines
 Jackie Robson

Important telephone numbers:

Northumberland County Council Civil Emergency 01670 627599
 Fire Service Control 01670 627599
 ISOS Housing 0300 300 1505 24/7 line

Sand bin locations

- Brigwood - near EA monitor.
 Haydon Social Club - by railings
 Reading Rooms - pavement above subway.
 Martins Close - near entrance



**KEEP
PLAN**

THIS

HANDY FOR THE NEXT FLOOD.

The Haydon News

FEBRUARY 2017



Photo: Aron Mazel

THE HAYDON NEWS

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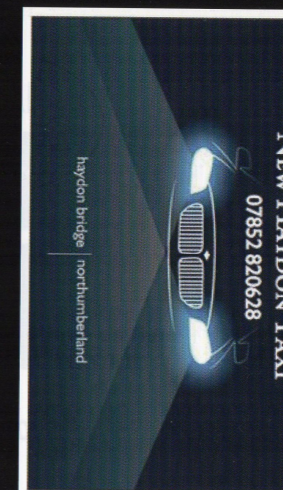
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Due to an over whelming response and need for my services for the elderly, I am pleased to announce I'm adding an extra day. I am now available on a Monday too. Thank you everybody for your support. It's very much appreciated. Karen x

B

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Happy New Year

For the third year running Haydon Bridge said farewell to the old year and welcomed the New Year with a magnificent fireworks display.

Just before the main event at midnight, a separate firework went off – this was to honour our wonderful fire crew in the village and a small way to say a massive thank you to all of them for their wonderful, dedicated service over the years. You're a huge miss.

It was wonderful to see so many people out enjoying the event despite the wet weather. From 3pm the old bridge was closed so that the fireworks team could set up the display safely while it was still daylight. Thank you to everyone for being so understanding about this – it really is essential, the police insist on it and it's not too far to walk around over the new bridge.

A huge thank you to the army of marshalls who took it in turns to stand either end of the bridge, explaining why you weren't able to cross. It was very cold and wet but worth it. Thanks also go to those who served refreshments, sold glow sticks and those who went round with collection buckets. We've made a decent start to the fund for next year but due to the horrible weather not as good as last year so if anyone didn't throw a few coins [or notes] into the buckets then please feel free to donate to one of the GITS.

At midnight our competition winners from Shaftoe Trust Primary School pressed the plunger that started the wonderful fireworks display that brought in 2017.



There was a lot of organising throughout year to make this event safe and successful. Appreciation to everyone involved - the Get It Together Society, Reaction Fireworks, the long list of volunteers, the Parish Council, Northumberland County Council [several depts.], English Heritage, Northumbria Police, Shaftoe Trust Primary School, the Co-op, everyone who came along and enjoyed it and everyone who donated. Thanks also to The Havelock, The Railway, The Anchor, The Haydonian and Flip'n'Fast who all helped everyone to have a great night. Apologies to anyone I've missed. Roll on next year.

Our next event will be the Easter Eggstravaganza at the Community Centre on Saturday 8th April. We need a few volunteers who enjoy making things and don't mind getting messy with paint and glue! Call me on the number below. Watch out for posters with more details.

We meet on the first Monday of each month in the Havelock at 8pm. Meetings are very informal. We'd love you to join us.

Pauline Wallis
The Get It Together Society
Tel: 01434 684061



ADOXOGRAPHY

An application flooded in! And now it's official. It's not 'fake news'. It has nothing to do with Brexit or Trump. The most handsome man in the parish is Brian Alderson - because he has volunteered to be Deputy Editor of The Haydon News. I am very grateful to him and look forward to seeing his influence in the years ahead.

One of the innovations that he hopes to introduce is a new email address to which we can both have access and to which, in future, ALL correspondence to The Haydon News should be sent. We'll let you know in due course.

Ann Rooke has now launched herself upon the oil buying co-operative with a recent round robin email explaining her taking up of the reins. Do encourage friends, relatives and neighbours to join in. Recent political events around the globe point to an almost certain dramatic increase in oil prices in the next few years and it is when the prices are high that the co-op is best able to negotiate good discounts for large bulk purchases. (fuel@haydon-bridge.co.uk)

Pat Hirst has done it again! She has co-ordinated the production and distribution of excellent village calendars for 2017. There's a mere handful left that need buying. The proceeds from the project are to be distributed as per her letter within. A strong vote of thanks to her!

How many of us will live to see the A69 dualled? The project is pencilled in for 2040, which almost certainly means the second half of the century - if ever. For a number of years I have harboured the desire to continue sending raspberries, masquerading as letters, to the press in my dotage, with the aim of signing my last one - Steve Ford (aged 103¾) or whatever - a second childhood indeed. Perhaps that final letter will be to bemoan the sonic booms of the self-driving electric cars flashing down the vale on our new, and now 3 lanes both ways, motorway.

Ridley Hall is up for sale - £1.6million. Haydon Bridge High School is a huge asset to the community and has a fascinating history. It has served thousands of pupils well. Being one of the few state schools with a boarding wing and a farm made its appeal, in an area such as ours, very clear. What is to become of it? It's nature and structure clearly does not fit well with commercial providers for whom local solutions to local problems are anathema. The buildings need replacing, ideally, as do QEHS's, as I understand it. Fitting all of HBHS' students into the existing QEHS looks like a non-runner to me. Would a whole new campus in Hexham's west end help? Transport would be a significant factor for students from out bye, as it is at present, but not unmanageable. There is a very strong whiff of

local and national politics about the whole situation and there are manoeuvrings in public and behind the scenes. Let's hope that the central importance of the students and their education is not lost in the melee.

The continuing saga of the gravel in the river prompted me to listen again to a copy of a talk by Blaster Bates in which, confronted by a growing island in a river and erosion on both banks, he resolved the whole problem in a few seconds with a couple of hundredweight of dynamite. Lackaday - I fear the reglazing expenses for the village centre properties precludes such an experiment. Back to plan A - eventually. Dave Robson deserves everyone's warmest thanks for his very hard work on the problem.

May I urge all parish residents to visit and contribute to 'Haydon Bridge Matters', our parish Facebook page. There's a great deal going on locally and this page is an ideal way of spreading the word and getting involved.

The Old Bridge Christmas trees, lights and fireworks (see front cover) have been a great success again. Kevin Moore, Janet Johnson, Jo Thompson, Karen Lumsden, Anne Suddes, Pat Hirst, Brian Howard, Doris Wardle, John and Pauline Wallis have done it beautifully.

A touching item has arrived from Malta:

Sir

I thought it interesting and deserving to bring to your attention the following article from Malta which mentions Haydon Bridge native Alan Ralph Curry receiving Malta's Honorary Medal for Service to the Republic.
<http://www.tvn.com.mt/en/news/hospice-movement-life-cycle-founder-honoured-with-medal-for-service-to-the-republic/>

You might mention it an article on your newspaper. His family, especially his terminally ill sister Helen would be most proud of him as would his friends and the whole village.

The undersigned is a friend of Mr. Curry and someone whose life he saved 10 years ago, an act for which he can never get enough thanks.

Tim Peco thimaga@gmail.com

Steve Ford

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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.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

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Mr. D Robson	daver1949x@gmail.com
Mr. D Thornhill	07810 336 537
Parish Clerk	Mrs. C. McGovern 07543 912 113
County Councillor:	Cllr. Alan Sharp
320167(home)	320363(work) 07759 665200(mob.)

A meeting of the Haydon Parish Council was held on 15 12 16 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Public participation

A letter to parents from the local authority asking for a return of control of the Haydon Bridge High School to its purview was reported. An amalgamation of HBHS and QE in Hexham is also being bruited about and there is talk of new premises on the western approaches to Hexham. The motives of the many parties involved in the affair, the legal basis of the various proposals and the status of the putative plans remain obscure.

FOI requests are proposed to discover more detail. Very high levels of concern and indignation were reported to the council.

Apologies

Were received.

Declarations of interest

Were invited.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Were confirmed.

Matters arising

Despite investigation the ownership of the lane behind the Community Centre remains unknown. All candidates for ownership have distanced themselves from it. The owners of the properties abutting the road may be invited to consider making a contribution to the upkeep.

The perpetual mystery of the Skate board park money remains unresolved.

NCC

Cllr. Sharp was not present.

Highways

A meeting involving Councillors, NCC, RoadLink, the MoT and Police has occurred at which concerns about the local element of the A69 were discussed. Speeding and junction safety were uppermost in the exchanges. Speed sensitive warning signs, which can also log traffic data, were suggested.

In fine, the law of the decibel rules. If the various bodies concerned with traffic management (as above + Guy Opperman) are deluged with enough complaints, then action will be more likely. Every resident in the parish is urged to write as often as possible, describing difficulties encountered, near misses and, obviously, accidents. Phone calls, emails and letters are all good - the more, the merrier.

A69 dualling is pencilled in for 2040 (*sic*).

A69 flooding and the precarious state of the Spa Well area were also discussed.

Lighting

A light by the Community Centre is out.

Planning

West Haydon Cottage extension - no objections.

Accounts

Agreed.

Correspondence

None of note.

Parish Projects

Flooding - the sand bins are *in situ* and filled. The plan and warden details will appear in The Haydon News shortly.

The gravel extraction permit's arrival coincided with an email demanding a further mass of information which has been provided.

The removal of trees from the gravel heaps, as at Corbridge, should be undertaken at Lipwood in the hope that this may mobilise the gravel when the river rises.

Development Trust - The parish Christmas trees should all be in place soon.

Northumberland Day is to be 28th May 2017. It is essential to start planning events now.

The bus shelter is installed opposite the Community Centre.

The fireman's plaques on the parish wayside seats are to hand.

AOB

The broken windows in the old Co-op building in Shaftoe Street were remarked. Also the continuing concerns about the commercial size waste bins at The Anchor. Cllr. Charlton has undertaken to intercede.

A swing in the picnic area needs replacing.

Satisfaction was expressed with the efforts of the Parish Council during 2016.

Next Meeting: 26th January 2017 at 7.30pm

A meeting of the Haydon Parish Council was held on 26th Jan 2017 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Public participation

Problems with cars parked thoughtlessly around the Church Street and Ratcliffe Road junction are again causing problems for pedestrians and long vehicles. Cllr. Sharp reported that he had had a tantrum at the NCC in connection with the delay in sorting out the problem. The signage is the main

What Happened to all the Stones?

Around 11,000 people walk end to end along Hadrian's Wall every year and several hundred thousand others walk along bits of it.

They come in all shapes, sizes, ages and nationalities. Some of them even run. Some geniuses manage to unscramble the public transport timetables sufficiently to spend time at the various Roman sites. Others "do" it in 5 or 6 days often in aid of a good cause. For some it is their first experience of "wilderness" and woe betide them if they have the wrong footwear. Indeed for quite a few the abiding memory is of blisters and aching calves. Most are exhilarated by the scenery, the emptiness and the clean air.

Hardly any of these visitors are aware of the many small communities and their inhabitants down in the valleys below or of any of the history that has taken place during the intervening centuries since that last Roman consumed the last dormouse!

They have missed a lot!

In June last year, a conference on the afterlife of the Wall, "Reading the Wall", was held at Newcastle University - archaeology is now reaching in new directions. I wrote a short paper on the fate of the stones missing from the Wall.

It then occurred to me that the story of the stones was in a way the story of our area, of all the changes that have happened since the days when men from all corners of the Roman Empire populated it. This might be a way to interest readers in the people who lived and worked here, as many of them have, for a variety of reasons, laid hands on those Wall stones!

The little book *What Happened to all the Stones?* is the result. It is a beginning - readers have already told me of lots of new clues to follow, and I am all too aware of massive gaps in my knowledge. I would really like to know more of Mr. Henry Tulip and the house he built, for example!

What I hope is that it sparks some interest in our local history and the people whose lives have been spent in this far from easy terrain and makes people ask questions and search for answers. I shall certainly be continuing to gather information myself.

I really enjoyed making the acquaintance of the remarkable residents and visitors from the past that I came across - and piecing together the stories I had absorbed over the last forty-odd years during which I have had the privilege of living close to the Wall in one of those small communities nestling just below it!

I hope my readers enjoy meeting them, too.

Wendy Bond
Greenhead

4% interest on your current account

Yes that caught our attention too! This was the offer being made by the Co-operative Wholesale Society in July 1921 in a leaflet found in a bundle of old very dirty papers donated to the Bridge for the village archives.

We will be working through them over the coming months, producing displays of glimpses into local life 100 years ago - we already have sugar rations, lighting, furniture, corsets - available from the local Co-op.

But back to the leaflet, an invitation to a meeting reads...

THE CONTROL of CAPITAL by CO-OPERATORS

The meeting to which you are invited by the accompanying circular letter is for the purpose of discussing the necessity of raising more capital for this Co-operative Society and the Co-operative Movement generally.

Money used as Capital is Economic Power, which is known to be stronger than Political Power. All history shows that the class which possesses an abundance of the Economic Power of Capital gains power and status in the community. That lesson is plain. It means that working men and women should, through co-operation, become possessors of Economic Power. They must control much larger sums of Capital if they would really make their influence felt in their native land.

It is only of recent years that this fact has begun to grip the imagination of the earning classes. Hitherto they have given their most earnest attention to the raising of money wages, often to find any apparent benefit lost owing to increases in the actual cost of living. The truer method of advance is to gain control of Capital, and become better situated to control the manufacture and prices of goods.

In response to this greater ideal much progress is being made by the Co-operative Movement, which has increased its capital by £20,000,000 in two years.

How capital can be increased in every Society will the subject for discussion to be introduced by

Mr. F. C. Crowther (C.W.S. Financial Propaganda Department)

He will deal with the activities of the C.W.S. Bank, explain what Capital is and why it is wanted; urge the desirability of our own Society appealing for and securing more Capital, and outline a scheme of propaganda for the purpose.

You are earnestly requested to attend and take part in the discussion.

Doesn't sound much like the Co-op Bank of today, does it? The original leaflet and others will be in the Bridge when we unearth them. There will be more to follow I am sure.

Carole Price

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE (or any less colourful heading of your choosing)

We like a clutter-free house here at Berndt Towers so I took a load of cardboard boxes to the Waste Depot in Hexham last week. On what was probably the coldest day of the year.

The council workmen were gathered round, desperately rubbing their hands to keep warm against the bitter wind. Which prompted a brainwave - I said:

"Hey guys! What you need is one of those old-fashioned braziers to keep you warm. You know the open fires? Where they used to roast chestnuts at Christmas time".

The first workman looked across at me, a pained expression on his frozen face. He said, "I'm not roasting *my* chestnuts on an open fire hinny. Christmas or not".

Marita

NB. These Parish Council Notes are NOT the formal records of the meetings. They have no status other than that of notes taken by a member of the public in attendance.

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cause of delay with removing the bollard and island but the double yellow lines should be appearing soon. Pressure will be maintained about the island. The possibility of a zebra crossing was aired. PC Yvonne Clements has been invited to witness the problem first hand.

The estimate for repairs to the flag pole are to hand - £236. Concern was expressed at the possibility of tampering having occurred. The necessary works are to be set in hand.

Apologies

Chairman Esmond Faulks.

Declarations of interest

Were invited.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Were confirmed.

Matters arising

The picnic area is in need of repair but not until the gravel is removed. The EA seem to have acknowledged responsibility. Signage to the area is in hand. The presence of broken glass was reported.

The removal of vegetation from the gravel islands in the Tyne is pencilled in for 2017/18 which should help to keep the gravel on the move. Cllr. Sharp is going the chase the planning permission for the gravel removal. The EA survey of the gravel has arrived and been forwarded to Thompsons for their consideration.

Blocked drains need to be reported.

NCC

Cllr. Sharp reported that Threepwood Road requires extensive repair.

The trees by The Bridge have now been pollarded but other adjacent trees still require attention.

The hedge west beyond Innerhaugh has now been trimmed.

The bin at the Low Hall layby should appear soon.

Cllr. Sharp reported that he had remonstrated sharply with NCC officers about not being consulted about developments in connection with the High School. The sale of Ridley Hall has been arranged by the owners from whom NCC leased it but the boarders have secure accommodation until July. Bright Tribe do not want the Hall. NCC will continue to bear responsibility for ensuring that a boarding option exists for students more than a hour and a quarter distant. Though problems are reported with some of Bright Tribes other establishments, there are also reports of improvements. It has been bruited about that schools now need to have 2,000 pupils to be viable and that a sum of £46million appears in the budget for developments in the west of Northumberland but nobody seems sure of its destination. The Regional Schools Commissioner was noted to be both in overall charge of developments and remarkable chiefly for her lack of visibility and contactability. The IEB, the successor to the erstwhile governors are to be removed prior to Bright Tribes' advent. It was resolved to ask the chief actors in the drama to attend for a local meeting to explain the situation.

Highways

Plans for the repairs to the area around the Spa Well are in hand.

Road markings at Shaftoe Mews were discussed.

The frontage of the old shop in Shaftoe Street is to be repaired.

Lighting

A light on Strothers Close is out.

Planning

West Moralee Cottage extensions - no objections.

Stublick chalets - no objections.

Accounts

Agreed.

Correspondence

None of note.

Parish Projects

Haydon Hundred is on 10th June.

Northumberland Day is on 28th May. Planning locally is by GITS, starting with a meeting on 6th Feb to be followed by a public meeting later. A Reivers Pageant is planned at The Castle on the Saturday before.

The Lions Centenary occurs this year and suggestions are being canvassed for suitable projects to mark the occasion. Riverside access was proposed.

Application is to be made for the parking behind the Community Centre. Cllr. Sharp will contribute to the costs. The advice of the planning office will also be sought.

AOB

There are several willow trees down by the north side of the river which need clearing.

This year's provision for hanging baskets was discussed.

The street name signs between Hordley Acres and Strothers Close still needs repair.


Discussions were held with the grave digger about provision of future graves and the diversion of one of the existing paths to allow better use of the space available. The subsidence of some recent graves is attributable to the use of wickerwork coffins.

Next Meeting: 23rd February 2017 at 7.30pm.

RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID

Do you fancy coming to the Haydonian Club tonight, Raydon? It's Tuesday and the pool is free on Tuesday nights.

I'd love to, Dusty, but I can't. I don't have any swimming trunks.



HAYDON BRIDGE FIRE BRIGADE
Part 7

In my Historical Notes June to December 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 1990.

Haydon Bridge had its own fire brigade from 1912. The details are sparse, but, I do know that in August 1911, our parish councillors had agreed to buy a hose and 'a fire extinguishing appliance' that could be carried in a hand-cart. (See my Historical Notes HN June 2016)

The Captain of the Haydon Bridge Fire Service in 1912 was **Mr Veitch**; and others who have undertaken this role with various titles, over the years that followed, have been:

Mr Waugh: from 1920 until at least 1928 and possibly later.

Mr Tom Snowball: who was Captain in 1934 and probably a few years earlier than this.

John Spark: Captain of the Haydon Bridge Auxiliary Fire Service at the outbreak of war.

Edward Kirsopp: who supported John Spark, in his role as Chief Air Raid Precautions Warden and, eventually, took command of the fire service.

George Thompson: Sub Officer from the end of World War II until August 1959.

Robin Armstrong: Sub Officer from September 1959 to October 1978.

Alan Ord: Sub Officer from November 1978 to October 1992.

Ken Tulip: Sub Officer from October 1992 to March 2001.

James Brown: Sub Officer from March 2001 to February 2005.

David Harris: ('Acting up' i.e. Undertook Sub Officer's responsibilities from February 2005 to April 2005.)

Michael Lowdon: Sub Officer and eventually, Watch Manager, from April 2005 to the brigade's close on October 4th 2016.

The Haydon Bridge fire fighters who took the brigade into the 1990s were: Sub officer Alan Ord; Lfm Ken Tulip; Lfm Joseph Brown; Fm Frank Eales, John Kanés, Tommy Clark, Malcolm Round, Paul Elliott, Thomas Stephenson, Colin Banks, Gordon Liddle, Michael Phillips and Maurice Robson.

By July 1991, Sarah Fletcher was attending Monday training sessions of the fire service as a junior cadet and was joined in September 1991 by Daniel Clarke and in September 1992 by Robert Steele. Sarah continued attending until July 1992, Daniel until November 1992 and Robert until August 1993.

Frank Eales' last attendance was in December 1991 and Ian Coulson joined the brigade in July 1992.

In October 1992, Ken Tulip was promoted to Sub officer, Alan Ord having retired on October 12th after thirty three years service; fourteen of those as Sub officer.

HAYDON BRIDGE FIRE BRIGADE : 1992



Back Row l to r: Maurice Robson, Ken Tulip, Alan Ord, Josie Brown.
Front Row l to r: Bobby Cram (Hexham), Andy Nixon (Hexham), John Kanés.



Back Row l to r: Gordon Liddle, Colin Banks, Ian Coulson, Michael Phillips, Paul Elliott.
Front Row l to r: Tommy Clark, Michael Johnson, Charlie Watt (Hexham), Quentin Foster (Hexham), Robert Steele (Cadet), Miss Sarah Fletcher (Cadet).

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RAYDON FRIDGE and DUSTY DARMAID

Have you decided, Raydon?
Poached? The menu says the salmon is oven baked.

I'll have the poached salmon, Dusty.
I saw the chef acting very suspiciously down by the river bank last night. That salmon is definitely poached.

Please drop answers off at Claire's by 20th Feb (or post to the editor)

DECEMBER'S WINNER
Philida Irving

NUMBER OF ENTRIES
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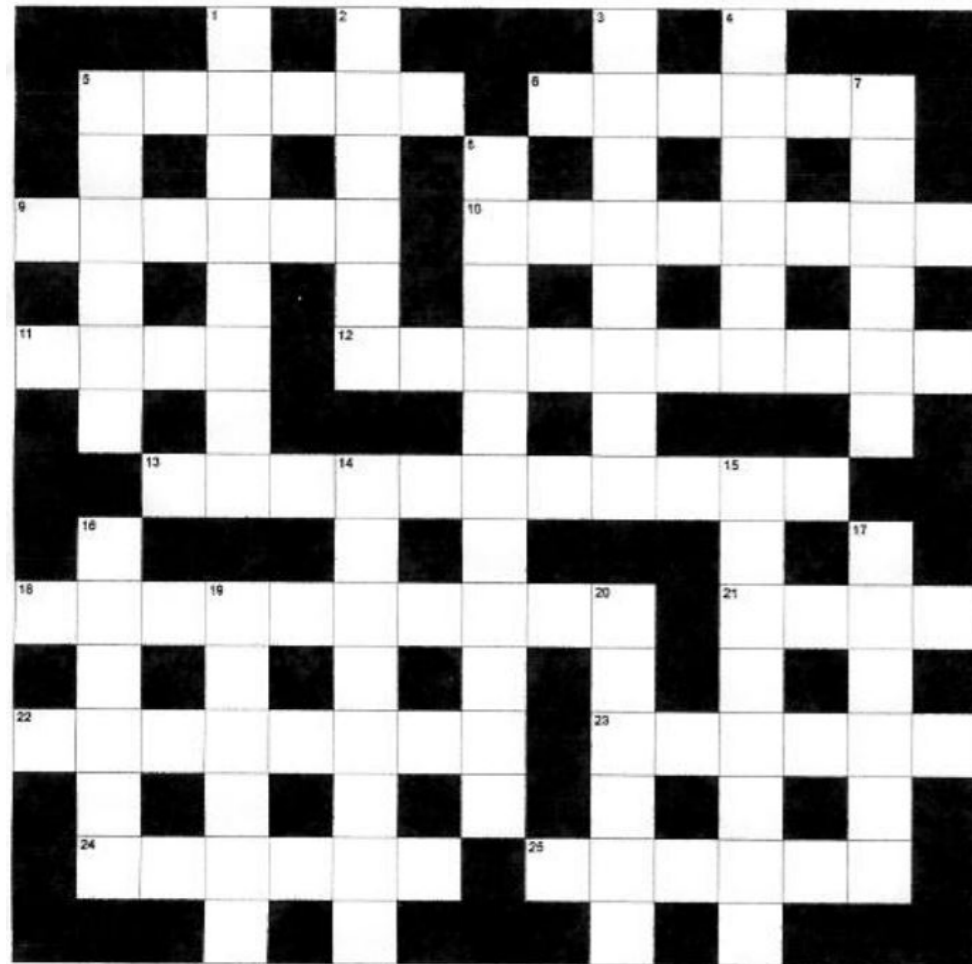
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Across

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5. Thrasher improved when fifty replaced the junction (6) | 13. Show it is not mastered (11) |
| 6. Pin an old cottage dweller together (6) | 18. Oblique hints about unions need (10) |
| 9. Customer called Patrick Reagen shortly (6) | 21. Winds Indian cloth (4) |
| 10. Talk about copies and publish again (8) | 22. Starts round of course (5,3) |
| 11. Looks carefully into Tories candidates (4) | 23. Fiery weapon in a palm tree (6) |
| 12. Strip away five hundred and one pieces of ceremonial dress (10) | 24. A book by Ellery Queen without the Queen is exciting (6) |
| | 25. Puts a gloss essentially into failed bets (6) |

Down

1. Malmsey drowned him out (8)
2. Directions to dean to take solid food (6)
3. In the company of a thousand model Bach (8)
4. The Old Bailey in a Roman villa (6)
5. Diverge from the local bank (6)
7. Change key about the melody (6)
8. Solemn pop group fill the cemetery (11)
14. To nearly be about is to be so decorated (8)
15. A monk traps pit in a mess (8)
16. Positively maintain its sin (6)
17. Fishes for goblins (6)
19. International certainty, just the opposite (6)
20. Oldest service of the Royal Navy (6)

DECEMBER'S ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| ACROSS | | |
| 1. FORMIDABLE | 3. MACE | |
| 8. STET | 4. DALLAS | |
| 10. DECALITRES | 5. BETTER AND BETTER | |
| 11. SKIN | 6. EYELET | |
| 13. CATERER | 7. STONEMASON | |
| 15. THEBES | 9. TAKE IT EASY | |
| 16. TEDIUM | 12. PENTAMETER | |
| 17. CATHERINE | 13. CELESTA | |
| 18. INMATE | 14. REDHEAD | |
| 20. RAISIN | 15. TICKING OFF | |
| 21. ANNEXED | 19. ENTIRE | |
| 22. GATE | 20. REARMS | |
| 25. LITTER-LOUT | 23. POLO | |
| 26. FURY | 24. STIR | |
| 27. EARLS COURT | | |
| DOWN | | |
| 2. ODDS | | |

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In January 1993, John Kanes was promoted to Leading Fireman and in March of the same year, Paul Elliott left the brigade. Paul Pender joined the service in June 1993 and on July 12th 1993, James Brown made his first attendance in a retained career that continued until 2005 when he retired as Haydon Bridge's Sub Officer.

David Harris was appointed in April 1994 and in October 1994, Tommy Clark left the brigade after almost twenty years' service. In April 1995, Craig Tulip joined the Haydon Bridge Fire Service and in July of that year, Ian Coulson left the brigade.

When the Haydon Bridge Fire Service was disbanded on October 4th 2016, Michael Lowdon was the brigade's Watch Manager. Michael had joined the Haydon Bridge retained crew as a fireman in October 1996.

Richard Hines made his first attendance as a Haydon Bridge fireman in 1997 (August), as did Paula Kirkup, (September). In March 1998 Scott Elliott was recruited, while John Kanes (June) and Paul Pender (August) left in 1998. In October 1998, Gordon Liddle was made up to Leading Fireman and in June 1999, Ian Rumney was a new recruit.

I couldn't have completed this history of the Haydon Bridge Fire Service without the crew records provided by former Sub Officer Ken Tulip and final Watch Manager Michael Lowdon. Unfortunately, the attendance registers from the year 2000, until 2011, are unavailable and until/unless they reappear, my records of those who served during that period cannot be definitive and I will have to rely on the memories of former firemen who are with us today and are willing to help fill in the gaps. (See below)

I do, however, know who attended a training night at the fire station on Monday, January 10th 2000 and served the Haydon Bridge Fire Service into the Millenium:

Sub Officer Ken Tulip, Leading Fireman James Brown, Leading Fireman Gordon Liddle, Firemen - Joseph Brown, Colin Banks, David Harris, Craig Tulip, Michael Lowdon, Richard Hines, Paula Kirkup, Scott Elliott and Ian Rumney.

My best estimate of those who joined and left our fire service between January 2000 and 2011 is incomplete and I'd like to confirm the names/dates on this list. Please get in touch.

(dennistelford636@btinternet.com)

Recruits between 2000 and 2011: (I think)

David McVay 2001, Stephen Todd 2001, Alan Batey 2002, Kevin Duffy 2003, John Storey 2002, Wesley Davison 2005, Dan Jackson 2006, Shaun Scandle 2006, Michael Johnson 2010, Stephen Kirsopp, Lee Lowdon and Lee McVay.

Firemen leaving between 2000 and 2011: (I think)

Craig Tulip - Feb 2000, to take on a full time fireman's role. Craig returned as a retained fireman in 2003. Ken Tulip - March 2001, Gordon Liddle - May 2003, Joseph Brown - June 2003, James Brown - Feb. 2005, Colin Banks 2004, David Harris 2006, Paula Kirkup 2009, Ian Rumney 2009, Wesley Davison, Kevin Duffy, Scott Elliott, John Humble, David McVay and Sean Scandle.

To be continued

LANGLEY CASTLE : THE END OF AN ERA

It was with sadness that I waived goodbye in December to Anton Phillips and his wife Lynda, as they retired to Spain following Anton's twenty five hugely successful years as General Manager of Dr. and Mrs. Madnick's Langley Castle Restaurant and Hotel. Anton has been a caring and inspirational keeper of our iconic 'Castle', managing the non-to easy undertaking of running and developing a successful business within the confines of a listed building of such special historical and architectural interest. Anton has managed the task admirably and the pride he has shown in his work and our heritage has shone through to all who have known him.

Anton and his staff's achievements are evident through the numerous personal plaudits and local and national awards received. For example:

- North East England Tourism Awards - Best Small Hotel of the Year. 2002, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2014.
- National Runner Up as the Best Small Hotel of the Year 2007, 2011.
- 2 AA Rosettes held since 2009.

Anton is insistent that any success achieved at Langley Castle is as a result of team work, and he gives special thanks to Elaine Robinson, Bob Rutherford and Carla Robinson for standing with him and achieving those successes together.

Anton tells me that he was filled with awe and the hairs on his neck prickled at his first sight of Langley Castle; as they still do today over twenty five years later as he describes to me the castle's "Wow" factor. A word he assures me has been used more than any other by visitors and guests over the years.

As well as his day to day management of Dr. and Mrs. Madnick's restaurant and hotel business, it is clear that Anton's influence will for ever remain an integral part of the fabric of the castle, thanks to his sensitive hand on the additions and renovations that have brought the structure and environs into a 20/21st century working restaurant and hotel since his appointment in July 1991. Including: 1994: The opening of Castle View.

1997: A new kitchen extension on the north wall of the castle, to provide a facility that matched the demands of a top class restaurant.

1998: The refurbishment of Castle View Lodge.

2001: Resurfacing the car park and providing ornamental planting beds.

2002: Repointing the masonry walls of the castle.

2003: Complex reinforcement of the north-west tower.

For over fifty years, the north-west tower was the 'Bell Tower'. (See also, page 9 : *Langley Castle Restored*)

2004: The luxurious development of 'The Tower Room' in the south-west tower and beyond the end of the main staircase. This involved a complicated extension to the staircase to integrate the new with the existing.

2005: Construction of the gazebo at the front of the castle.

2006: Completion of the refurbishment of the chapel in the south-east roof level turret. This chapel was restored originally, by his widow Josephine, as a memorial to Mr. Cadwallader John Bates who died in 1902 and whose planning and research had commenced the remarkable restoration of the fourteenth century Langley Castle.

2009: Final stage in the development of the eight Castle View guest rooms and suites, representing an investment of over £1 million in a grade I listed building on the castle grounds. A project that increased the revenue stream and



"BEST WISHES ANTON and LYNDIA"

enabled further development of the business.

2011: The impressive pavilion was constructed on the west wall of the castle; providing a high quality, modern dining/conference facility. A wonderful combination of ancient and modern.

Each of these new works, has enabled Langley Castle to thrive as a business, while none them have prejudiced its character; it having always been Anton's first priority to enhance the original features wherever possible, rather than to hide them, when undertaking new developments.

But, more than the successes and developments I have recorded above, I write from personal experience when I say that Anton and Lynda have been loyal friends to Haydon Bridge and residents of the parish. Anton has never been happier than when he has been able to provide a service for local people; he has provided employment to many within a fifteen mile radius, offered unquestioning support to individual Haydonians and organisations when asked and, along with Lynda, has being a joy to be with socially. All of which has ensured that Langley Castle and its staff, Anton and Lynda, and Haydon Bridge ... have been a perfect match since 1991.

Anton expresses mixed emotions in leaving Langley and its castle: a pride in what he, Dr. Madnick, and his staff have achieved together; a sadness as he and Lynda leave the wonderful friendships made in over twenty five years; but, an excitement for the new chapter opening in their lives.

I turned the aids this way and that, trying to work out what did what. Extremely difficult without a diagram or explanation. All looked like items of torture, which to the one-handed they probably were. I could hang them in the hall and open Haydon Bridge Dungeon to the foreign tourists. Forget Hadrian's Wall. So last century. Well last two centuries then.

Mind you, one of the products was pretty damn useful for the double handed Mensch too:

Made of plastic silicon it looked like two dog bowls combined. For say a smallish dog. But instead of the base being round, it's conical. So 2 mini upturned dunce caps if you like. Impossible to guess what they were for. A one legged dog perhaps?

Hubby had the benefit of an accompanying leaflet and put me out of my misery. It's for jar lid removal. Of course! D'oh. And blimey, it worked a treat. The cones each had a vice-like grip which you'd never expect from notoriously slippery plastic. Insert item, twist and woosh! the lid came off. Gosh I could play with this all day. I know, I know, must get a hobby.

Next up and I didn't have a blooming clue. Okay here goes. Looked lethal:

A round white disc approx 4cms in diameter with 30+ sharp (very sharp) spikes 3cms high. I reckoned it could come in handy for hiding in the bed of unwelcome guests at Christmas. Put it this way, they'd be off home by Boxing Day. Or in Casualty. Either way you'd have the house back to yourselves.

Nope. I was wrong again. Pity - at this rate the Government won't be using me as a demonstrator any day soon. Which is a shame given my winning personality and magnetic charisma. I'd have amputees rolling in the aisles with laughter at my sparkling wit. Unfortunately they'd carry on rolling if they've only got one leg.

But I digress. Turns out it's for chopping onions.

Well I don't know about you but I need three hands for that. One to hold the knife, the other to hold the onion and a third to wipe away the tears streaming down my face. Besides has the government never heard of ready chopped onions in Tesco? And has no one mentioned trying to peel the pesky things with only one hand in the first place.

No, I reckon the think-tank in Westminster HQ needs to revisit that one. And soon: I put the disc in the cutlery drawer, forgot about it and when I went to get a teaspoon this morning, the blasted thing drew a spurt of blood from my thumb. Lucky it was me. My poor husband would have had no chance putting a plaster on himself with only one hand!

Where's that Lawyers-4-You number when you need it most?

"Yes hello. I've just severed my thumb on an onion impaler and...."

Click.

Enough about me playing with plastic. I need to paint the hall ready for my tourists. Thanks to our new gadgets I've got no problems getting the lid off the tin.

By the way, the NHS care worker is coming back soon with items for the bathroom. Whooo-hoo! *Marita*

Thank you for your support!

Edit & Doodle, a collaborative arts group based in Haydon Bridge, would like to thank everyone who purchased their charity booklet of original poems and illustrations *Traces in the Sand*. We managed to raise £90 for the local charity Refugee Aid Network UK. They are doing an amazing job helping people in the war torn Aleppo, Syria. We are pleased to hear that the charity got their two containers of much needed aid to the people in the besieged city. Your contribution is much appreciated.

The book is on sale all year round either through Amazon for £5.50 (£2.50 in digital format) or you can order it directly from us. Please contact natalienewriter@google.com, via Facebook as Natalie Nera or phone me at 01434 688 174. RAN UK gets all profits from sales of the book..

TRACES IN THE SAND



Poems by Natalie Nera
Illustrations by Victoria Holt

Stopping smoking - cont'd

The Quickmist Mouth Spray is the product that's gained most users in 2016. Its fast action is ideal for those who want a quick hit to relieve cravings. Take care though the Quickmist spray does have a potent taste. I cough just when its sprayed in the air.

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Stopping Smoking is all about making a commitment so why don't you take the first step and book an appointment today 01434 684354.

*Tom McCullough
Pharmacist and Owner Haydon Bridge Pharmacy*

Brendan Healy

Who sings in front of the mirror with a hairbrush. (That's no true. He has never owned a hairbrush.)

When I was a teenager I learned the words to all of Lindisfarne's hits, I knew the Fog On The Tyne album back to front from listening to it endlessly on the family gramophone. I dreamt that one day my dad would let me grow my hair really long, thereby ensuring that I would be a pop star.

Last week I went to see Ray Jackson's Lindisfarne at the City Hall and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, singing along at the top of my voice to all the songs, even the quiet ones, much to the embarrassment of my son Fin, who was with me. I thought I sounded exactly like the original, but he thought of it as the aural equivalent of me dancing at a wedding. One of my favourite songs is Alan Hull's 'Winter Song' and Dave Denholm's performance put the hairs up on the back of my neck. Dave is Alan's son-in-law and he really did justice to the sound and phrasing of the original. Alan once told me that 'Winter Song's lyrics had been used as poetry for O level English literature students to study and analyse. He was, justifiably, very proud of this. (O level has now been superseded by GCSE. In order to pass this new exam you don't have to study or analyse anything, you just have to speak passable English.) At the end of the night, the buzz in the bar was that the show had been just like the old Lindisfarne Christmas Concerts, but, to be honest, I wouldn't know, as I've never been to a Lindisfarne Christmas show before. Well, not in the audience anyway. The first time I ever saw them live was from the back because I was in the band, playing keyboards.

We once went to Hong Kong for the folk festival and there is nothing stranger than performing 'Fog On The Tyne' outside in the blistering afternoon heat, while Simon Cowe tried to photograph a praying mantis sitting on his amp, having two days previously played Butlin's Skegness, with Lonnie Donegan playing another venue on the site.

Such is showbiz.

When I was in the West End of London I was pretty miserable, so every Wednesday after the shows I would meet my mate Peter Straker. Peter is one of the greatest singers I have ever met, check him out on the net and you'll find some amazing performances. Many of his records were produced by his then-boyfriend Freddie Mercury. We would head off to the Xenon night club which had a piano bar, and Peter would swan in past the doormen saying, "I am a guest of the management, my darlings, and will be singing tonight. This is my accompanist." He had such brass neck. You need one when, on occasions, you wear a black dress. As it transpired, the management were very happy to see Peter and he would sing in the piano bar and I would accompany him. As a result of all this we got in for nowt and we drank extortionately expensive drink for nowt.

One Wednesday, as I walked home absolutely pi...slightly the worse for wear, I passed some homeless men sleeping outside a church. Such was my guilt for having a free night I gave them a shout and when they woke up and made their way to the railings, I gave them a few quid. The following week they were already waiting at the railings. "Morning, Brendan, had a good night?" I had made my bed and was happy to lie in it.

The piano bar was frequented by quite a few stars and on one occasion I found myself at the bar, sitting next to the actor Bernard Hill. At that time he was dead famous for being Yosser Hughes in Alan Bleasdale's 'The Boys From The Black Stuff' and I thought he was brilliant. The two of us happened to be in about the same state of drink-happiness so I thought I would talk to him. I used to have a stock phrase when I met famous people I admired, and this was the perfect time to use it. "Mister Hill, I'm Brendan and I think your work is brilliant," I slurred. To which he slurred right back, "You said that last week." And we got drunk. Again. Apparently.

Oh blast. I've just realised I've missed the Sunderland Lions Club dip at Seaburn beach.

That's 39 years straight I've forgotten to go swimming in the North Sea on Boxing Day.

LIVE AID(s)

I won't bore you to death with the details of how my husband lost his arm. I'll save that for another exciting instalment. Suffice to say he became an amputee in the fortnight just before Christmas.

Typical bloke! Anything to get out of carving the turkey.

It's now Week 9 and the fun is just beginning.

I didn't realise what was out there until I got a telephone call from the Government's Department For The One Handed.

I made that title up but you get the idea. It was actually from an NHS care worker who had heard of our recent amputation and wanted to visit us at home with a host of gadgets.

Yayyyy! Who doesn't love a good gadget?

I say 'our' amputation since it affects me too. Oh yes. Goodness me the sacrifices I've had to make! Hubby's been taking way too long with my morning tea and biscuits ever since his operation. Just because he only has one arm doesn't mean our standards have to drop. Yesterday would you believe, he even forgot to put a fresh doily on the side plate for my Wensleydale Cheese & Chive Wholemeal scone which he'd spent all morning baking. With one hand missing it took him five hours of kneading and fifteen minutes in the oven. Slowcoach.

I bet they never have these problems in Downton.

Ever since we moved here he's fancied going for a swim in the crystal clear waters of the Tyne where it flows into Fourstones. Once the weather gets warmer obviously. Say April. Although with only one arm he'll probably end up going round in circles so he'll never leave his starting point. I've told him not to frighten the fish. He certainly won't be catching any unless the salmon are feeling considerate and leap into his mouth.

In the end I was out when the Care Worker came. Would you believe it? The one source of excitement all season and I missed it. I'd driven to Hexham for a Costa coffee and she decided to fetch up at that very moment.

Still, it made for an interesting evening. Once she'd left, Hubby laid all the items out on the kitchen table and made me guess what everything was. Course, he already knew since he'd seen the lady, read the instructions and now wore the one-armed t-shirt.

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Email: jerryte500@googlemail.com

Haydon Bridge Playgroup and Tiny Tots

Monday and Friday - 9.15 to 11.15

Leader plus assistants playgroup

£6.00 per session

Tuesday 9.15 to 11.15

Parents lead baby and toddler

£1.50 per family includes juice and snacks

Further information call

Nicola Grint 07879999289

or call into one of the sessions at The Community Centre

Anton expresses mixed emotions in leaving Langley and its castle: a pride in what he, Dr. Madnick, and his staff have achieved together; a sadness as he and Lynda leave the wonderful friendships made in over twenty five years; but, an excitement for the new chapter opening in their lives.

Anton is content that Langley Castle is in a great position to be able to continue the progress made in past years and recognises the key strength throughout his tenure as being Dr. Madnick's willingness and desire to invest in Langley Castle and be persistent in the pursuit of quality and excellence. His appreciation extends to management and staff for their consistent hard work, local charm and good humour, dedication to Langley, and a unified desire to succeed at the highest standards. And, by no means least, to Lynda, for standing with him through the good times and the few not so good times.

We offer Anton and Lynda and their family our very best wishes in retirement and we are grateful that Dr. Madnick had the foresight to employ Anton in 1991, to develop his business interests at Langley Castle and, especially, to care for our historic gem.

To Dr. and Mrs. Madnick, we offer our best wishes for continued success in the next chapter at Langley Castle.

To continue the Langley Castle theme:

LANGLEY CASTLE RESTORED

I wonder if it was just coincidence that it was the north-west tower of Langley Castle that required complex and expensive reinforcement in 2003 to ensure its stability after glass tell-tales, placed across the structural defects, indicated significant movement in the tower's masonry? (See page 8 column 1) I ask the question, because this tower was for many years, the 'Bell Tower' and it occurs to me that the regular movement of the bell as it rang out across the valley may have had a lasting harmful effect on the ancient structure.

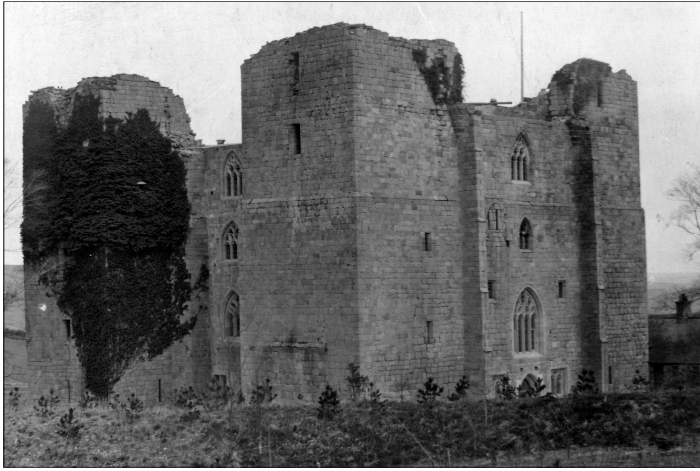
In 1892, the two hundred and thirty four year old bells of St Nicholas's Cathedral in Newcastle were removed and replaced by those of modern manufacture. There was a great deal of consternation in 'toon' with the news that the city fathers were replacing the ancient bells of Saint Nic's with an up to date version. However, St. Nicholas's loss was Langley's gain when Cadwallader John Bates purchased the oldest of the bells, from Taylor & Co of Loughbrough - a company for whose melting pot the bell was destined - and placed it temporarily on the roof of his own 'new castle'. The bell, bearing the coat of arms of the City of Newcastle, was eventually hung in the north-west tower of Langley Castle in the early 1900s, as Mr. Bates' widow Josephine put the finishing touches to the castle's renovations.

The great bell no longer hangs in the north west tower at Langley Castle having, I understand, been removed and re-hung at Ampleforth College in the early 1960s; where the Bates' family had connections.

Langley Castle was built around 1250 by Sir Thomas de Lucy as a fortified tower house, most likely on the site of the original manor house of the Tindal family.

The meaningful early life of the castle was relatively short as, by 1405, the castle was a charred shell; probably, at the hands of King Henry IV's men after Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland and Lord of Langley, plotted against the King.

That the castle at Langley was mightily impressive, even in the ruinous state in which it remained for almost five hundred years, there is no doubt. The Rev John Hodgson, one of Northumberland's greatest historians, gazed on the castle from Sewingshields Crags by the Roman Wall in 1840: 'Langley Castle, while I gaze on it, even at a great distance, seems to bid a stern defiance to the attacks of time, as if determined once again to resume its roof, and hang over its battlements, its flag and pillared canopy of morning smoke.'



Langley Castle : before restoration

A closer view, by Sidney Carr and published in 1909 in the Newcastle Daily Journal, is of greater interest to us, describing, as it does, Langley Castle in the ownership of the Bates' family following Mr Cadwallader John Bates's purchase in 1882 and as the Bates's rebuilding of the castle neared completion.

'This old fortress, having bid the sternest defiance to time, did under its owner, the late Mr Cadwallader John Bates, the historian, resume its roof, upper portions of two of its towers, its floors and windows; while, owing to the energy of his widow, its present owner, the remaining two corner towers have once again received their top stories, and finishing touches have been put to the extensive restoration.

Many who saw the castle's bare walls, when the estate was purchased by Mr Bates from Greenwich Hospital in 1882, thought a restoration impossible, or at any rate that the ruins would be completely spoiled if subjected to one. But now it is completed, all must admit that, while we see a dominating medieval fortress, a comfortable house has been created, combining ancient grandeur with modern luxury.

A greater interest should be shown in Langley Castle as a fourteenth century structure by archaeologists. It remains in plan as built, not having received additions as did most of our other Northern castles. It stands today (1909) a mighty tower, measuring 94ft by 37ft, flanked by four corner towers 14ft square, which rise above the main building.

Langley Castle was built by the Lucys, and has passed through the hands of the Percys, Nevilles and Radcliffes. When re-purchased by Sir Edward Radcliffe of Dilston

Castle in 1632, it still remained a ruin. Upon Edward's descendant, the Earl of Derwentwater, joining the unfortunate insurrection of the Old Pretender, Langley went with his other large properties to the Crown, which made it over to the Greenwich Hospital together with so many other lands owned by the insurgent.

The first work undertaken by Mrs Bates was the erection of the ruined top storey of the south-east tower. This was supposed to have been the chapel of the castle, and has been registered as such for Roman Catholic worship. The fourth, or north-west tower has now been finished and wide interest may be felt in a finishing touch - the oldest bell from St Nicholas's Cathedral just put to the formulated scheme - when we consider with what mixed feeling the populace of Newcastle witnessed the replacing of the old bells of St Nicholas's Cathedral in 1892.'



Langley Castle : two towers Restored



Langley Castle : the Bates' restoration completed with the rebuilding of the North-West 'Bell Tower' and the South-East 'Chapel Tower'

THE HISTORY OF LANGLEY BARONY

There are a few Boxed Sets remaining of my publication

THE HISTORY OF LANGLEY BARONY
7 volumes telling the history of the Parish of Haydon
(I hope to complete Part 8 in 2017)

ONLY £25

available at

Claire's Newsagents and The Bridge Library

Letters to the editor

The second year of the village 'Then and Now' calendars, and it has been even more successful than last year thanks to all the people who have bought them from the various outlets.

Last year we gave the small profits to the Haydon News and the flood fund and this year, we are splitting the £1016 profit between the fireworks fund, the Christmas tree fund, the Haydon News (to fund any future calendars) and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. I hope everyone agrees with our support of all these worthy causes.

The project would not have happened without the help, support, and photographs of the members of the calendar group, and I would like to thank them all, along with the editorial team at the Haydon News, the library, the Have-lock, the churches, and Claire's newsagent for agreeing to sell the calendars on our behalf. Special thanks should go to the parish council, who have given very valuable assistance this year and helped to maximise the profits in support of the village.

All the money we have raised both this year and last has gone back into the community, and I hope that the calendars have brought back happy memories for some of you ...and if you haven't got yours yet, there are still a few in Claire's newsagent and the library!

What will next year bring?

Pat Hirst

I would like to pass my thanks on to Steve Ford for all his work on the Haydon Bridge oil co-operative, and extend a welcome and thank you to Ann Rooke for taking on this task on behalf of all of us. The transition has been seamless, and members have already had a message from Ann, so we know it's in good hands.

For anyone who would like to join the group, you can e-mail fuel@haydonbrigde.co.uk to add your name to the list or find out more.

The next order is early February.

Yours sincerely

Pat Hirst

Haydonian Social Club

Family Prize Bingo
Saturday 11th Feb 2017
Eyes Down 7-30pm
(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.

Regular Activities in the Community Centre

Monday

Playgroup – 9.15am
Nicola Grint. 07879999289
Yoga – 10am
aliciafearon@btinternet.com
Dance Club - 7.30pm
Audrey Phillips. 01434684452
Craft class - 1pm (bi monthly)
Joyce Sim. 01434 684704

Tuesday

Tiny Tots – 9.15am
Nicola Grint. 07879999289

Karate – 6.30pm
David Beales. 07561153485

Wednesday

Yoga - 7pm
aliciafearon@btinternet.com
Art Group - 6.30pm (bi monthly)
Barbara Wardle. 01434 688886

Thursday

Bowls Club - 7.30pm
Sandra Bough. 01434 684372

Parish Council - 7.30pm (4th Thursday)
Eileen Charlton. 01434 684505

Friday

Playgroup – 9.15am
Nicola Grint. 07879999289

Keep Fit – 10am
caroleannprice@hotmail.co.uk

RNLI - Bridge Afternoon - 1pm (as arranged)

Saturday

Coffee mornings - 10am
Various parish organisations.

Sunday

Hornby Model Railways -10am
(Every 2nd Sunday)
grant.robinson@tiscali.co.uk

For new bookings and information:

Valeriebell2@gmail.com

NOTICES & WHAT'S ON?

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

WEST TYNEDALE JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 5yrs-12yrs
 TAG/CONTACT RUGBY
MEET AT HAYDON BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
ON SUNDAYS 10.30am- 12.00noon
 Contact Dave on 07810 336 537
 or dave.thornhill@tiscali.co.uk or the website
www.pitchero.com/clubs/westtyndalejuniors.
ALL WELCOME.

HAYDON BRIDGE DANCE CLUB

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)

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
 Feb 8th and 22nd

Haydon Bridge & Allendale Medical Practice

Monday to Friday: The Health Centre is open continuously
 from 8.00am until 6.00pm
 (except for the afternoon of the **fourth** Wednesday of every month)
 Doctors consult between: **8.00am and 11.00am**
3.00pm and 5.30pm
 All phone calls for appointments and visits,
 including 'out of hours': **01434 684 216**
 All phone calls for dispensing or prescriptions: **01434 688351**
 E-mail address: Admin@GP-A84045.NHS.UK
 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)

GENERAL HAVELOCK

Film & Food nights
 Brooklyn (Oscar nominated Julie Walters) 28th February
 La famille Bélier (2014) 28th March
 Rams (Icelandic comedy of shepherds) 18th April
 Start @ 7.30
 Film £3.50 Film & Food £8.50
 Ring 01434 684376
Jo & Gary would like to thank all volunteers who served & delivered lunches on 13th December 2016. The free o a p Lunch was a great success. Music and song from Sheff & Dennis /Micheal as Santa. Sweets from Claires & biscuits from the Coop. Sausages from Billy Bell. All in all a wonderful day

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.
01434683154
 (Free entry but donations for heating and refreshments welcome)

CHESS CLUB

at the
 Haydonian Social Club
NEW PLAYERS WELCOME
 Phone Dave 01434 344844 (evenings)

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
 Tel 101 Ask for 8526
 The dates for the next Police surgeries are; 10-11am

Hexham Beacon Club

1st Feb - Two Way Family Favorites
 8th Feb - Brazil
 15th Feb - Land of Simmer Din
 22nd Feb - How the East was Won-Nissan
 1st Mar - A G M
 On Wednesdays 10-30 to 12-00 at
 Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Hexham

A Report from the

Haydon Bridge Development Trust

Feedback on the Haydon Bridge Flood Recovery Fund

Following the flooding in Haydon Bridge on the weekend of 6 December 2015 local people began a fund raising campaign for flood victims, starting with a concert and raffle at the Anchor Hotel and a crowd fund appeal. Following this the Haydon Bridge Development Trust has raised additional funds through applications to the government and local charities. This feedback to the local community through the Haydon News explains how much we raised and how the funds have been spent:

- Altogether we raised over £29,000. Through local village fund raising of £3,720 we were able to lever in over £25,000 in additional government and charitable funding.
- We have given out £24,400 in grants, with varying levels of grants to reflect different levels of need (£200, £500, £1200) to 27 individual households, and grants of £1100 each to 2 local businesses).
- Our grant distribution and administrative costs were £33.72, which is only 0.138% of the amount of grant we distributed.
- We have retained £4,655.80 as an emergency fund for future flood victims or for future flood prevention work.

All households we knew were flooded were invited to apply and a notice was also put in the Haydon News asking for applications. A small group of local people led by Rev. Benjamin Carter, and Joanna Thompson from the Parish Council, then made the grant giving decisions, based on the grant criteria for the different levels of grant. A Director of the Development Trust independently reviewed the proposed grants.

We have received very positive feedback from households and businesses who received a grant, and the Haydon Bridge Development Trust would like to pass on its thanks to local people who helped raise money for the fund as well as the people who administered the fund on behalf of the village.

This has been a very successful community initiative – Thank you to everyone involved from the Development Trust.

A copy of the grant usage report that has been sent to funders is available for viewing in the Library.

Ed. This is all very good news. If any of the recipients want to tell their story we would be delighted to publish it.

COUNSELLING

- Home or work problems getting you down?
- Feeling lonely or misunderstood?
- Not sure where you want your life to go anymore?
- Want to talk about something in confidence?

Personal counselling, face2face, email, Skype or phone

Justine Oldfield-Rowell

01434 684522

www.personal-counselling.co.uk
justine@personal-counselling.co.uk

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

a great venue for:

Club activities
Meetings
Celebrations
Parties
Concerts
Plays

To make a booking contact Valerie on
01434 684705

D & J OLIVER ELECTRICAL

ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN
 Tel. 01434 688132
 Mobile 07730 533 348

HAYDON VIEW

Residential Care Home. North Bank, Haydon Bridge.
 Long Term Residential Care/Respite/Holiday/Day Care
 For more information please contact: Chris or Audrey Kay
Tel 01434 684465



CHURCH STREET
TUESDAYS, 1pm-4.30pm
 homemade cakes, pies
 & ready prepared meals.
Tel. 07957 571 885
 for orders, bookings
 & quotations.

SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING SERVICE

A. MacDonald.
 For a competitive quote
 Call **07801 308 006**

CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

CLERGY MESSAGE

From: Father Leo Pyle

In these disintegrating times the cynical question is ‘Where is God?’ And the answer is ‘Share, shelter, clothe and stand by your kinsfolk!’ We are after all, all brothers and sisters, that is what it takes to shine in our world and make God present, the sheltering the sharing, the providing and the loyalty!

And our generosity has healing power, it brings wholeness to our humanity, add integrity and we are into Glory, the Glory of the Lord, the Glory of being all that we are meant to be, in the image and likeness of the Lord.

We are never apart and our solidarity with the Lord relieves mankind and enlightens our humanity. **‘The good man is (indeed) a light in the darkness for the upright’** *(Psalm 111, verse 4)*

This God powered revelation of generosity, healing, integrity and glory is endorsed by the Psalmist with his account of the good person. At once a light, generous, merciful, sharing and honourable, never wavering, always remembered. This good man ‘.. has no fear of evil news, with a firm heart he trusts, trusts in the Lord’ Such a person then is at once steadfast, fearless, open handed, just; in short, a glorious human being, **the salt of the earth!**

Jesus said **‘I am the light of the world ... anyone who follows me will have the light of life’** *(John 8, verse 12)*. This is Jesus, the crucified Christ. A living, loving demonstration of the Spirit *(1 Corinthians 2, verse 5)*.

Jesus is the faith focus and the focus of all our faith, and our faith does not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

We see things in a very different way, whereas one vision sees only persons, places and things, **the faith vision** is of the whole **‘Jesus .. the crucified Christ ... demonstration of the power of the Spirit’** through, with and in the whole creation, rhyme and reason of our existence ... **Salt of the earth and light of the World!**

Hence our vocation is to be salt and light so that all may walk in this truth, share, shelter and provide and not turn away from our own kith and kin.

This is the knowledge, this is the only knowledge we claim, it is about Jesus, our humanity fully realised and only about him as the crucified Christ, given completely for us, to share with us, to shield and shelter and provide for us as we must do for one another.

Father Leo Pyle

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

Fourth Sunday before Lent:

Sunday 5 February 2017

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

Third Sunday before Lent:

Sunday 12 February 2017

9.30am: Parish Eucharist with Storybook Church, All Hallows', Henshaw
11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

Second Sunday before Lent:

Sunday 19 February 2017

9.30am: Parish Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw
11am: Parish Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

Saturday 25 February

10.30am: Messy Church, All Hallows' Henshaw

Sunday next before Lent:

Sunday 26 February 2017

10am: Joint Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 1 March, 2017

7.30pm: Eucharist with Ashing, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

First Sunday of Lent:

Sunday 5 March 2017

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

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Many thanks to all the box holders for donating in their boxes throughout 2016. A total of £304.58 has been collected for The Children's Society which helps to reach and protect young and vulnerable children.

The society helps families trapped in debt, supports young carers and runaways and stops youngsters getting caught up in sexual exploitation.

All the work depends on supporters. If you would like to know more about the box holder scheme, please contact me.

Thank you again to the folk of Haydon Bridge and Bardon Mill who have boxes.

Joyce Armstrong 684-094

Women's World Day of Prayer

St. Cuthberts Church 2pm

Friday 3rd March

All ladies welcome

Refreshments later

A VIEW FROM UP THERE

John Harrison

I have to admit to disliking cats but a roadside sign I came across recently seemed unduly cruel. The large red sign announced in large letters ‘Cats Eyes Removed’. But I continued doggedly along the road before I had a pause to look for blind cats. And we were able to drive on our roads for most of November and December as the promised severe winter seemed unwilling to visit us.

November was wet and breezy during the first half of the month but then relatively dry. It was generally very cold with isolated milder interludes. Pressure remained high for the first two days, which were bright and clear in a freshening north-westerly breeze. Unsettled weather arrived on 3rd which began to draw in cold polar air. Showery precipitation fell as hail on the 6th before the first of the winter's snow arrived late on the 8th, lying to a depth of 1cm by the morning of the 9th. Milder air arrived late on the 9th which heralded a spell of warmer but very wet weather, reminiscent of this time last year. Very heavy rain fell overnight on the 11th/12th which resulted in some local flooding. The following three days were exceptionally mild, reaching 13.4 degC on the 14th. However, cold polar air returned on the 16th in a blustery north-westerly breeze. The 17th to 12th were unsettled with showers some of which fell as sleet or snow, and the snowline on local hills dropped to 250m. Clear night skies resulted in frosts, the temperature falling to -4.9 degC by the morning of the 21st.

Pressure began to rise on the 23rd and the remaining days of the month were dominated by anticyclonic conditions with night frosts, light winds and very little rainfall, most of which fell as drizzle from low cloud.

December was exceptionally variable, but generally mild and relatively dry. It was very windy later in the month. Milder weather continued for the first two days but with a blanket of low cloud brought in by a light easterly breeze came mist and fog and lower daytime temperatures. The cloud cover cleared away on the 4th which resulted in night frosts on the 5th and 6th. Late on the 6th a warm front imported very warm air from the south which resulted in a remarkable rise in temperature – the daytime temperature on the 3rd had hovered close to 3 degC all day, but during the evening it rose to reach 10.0 deg C by midnight and 12.5 degC by early morning on the 7th. The exceptionally mild weather lingered on the 9th, reaching 13.3 degC but it remained cloudy. A cold front brought cooler polar air late on the 9th so the following 10 days were cool, relatively dry, and generally rather dull. The 13th-16th were particularly dull. As pressure began to rise on the 17th a strengthening westerly breeze improved visibility and some brighter intervals developed. There were occasional blustery showers some of which fell as hail on the 22nd. Pressure began to fall as deep Atlantic depressions dominated the weather as Christmas approached. Winds were persistently strong and the 23rd gales were accompanied by heavy rain which caused some local flooding (11.4mm). Between them storms Barbara (23rd) and Conor (25th) brought a mild, wet and very windy Christmas which caused travel disruption and some storm damage. Pressure rose sharply on Boxing Day which resulted in more settled, drier, weather although it remained quite breezy until the end of the month. Daytime temperatures were again exceptionally mild over the last three days of the month. 2016 eventually bowed out with strong wind and rain on New Year's Eve. But we managed to have our fireworks !!!

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
November	7.0	-1.7	1.2	-2.3	80.7	99
December	8.7	+2.7	3.5	+2.3	50.4	60

Just a thought ... the last trump is the biblical sign for the coming apocalypse.

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 6 (optimum 4-5)

The quizzes raised £2388 during 2016

Programme for 2017

February 21st Great North Air Ambulance (Incorporating Queenie's 70th birthday celebration - do try to come along)

March 21st Breast Cancer NOW Queenie 'Wear it Pink' Quiz

April 25th West Tynedale Junior Rugby

If any local charity would like to be supported by the Havelock Charity Quizzes then contact John Harrison (aka Queenie) via the General Havelock or on Johnandaveril@aol.com.



HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB



TALKS DURING FEBRUARY

FEB 9TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (MEMBERS ONLY)

PLUS A SHORT TALK WITH A NORWEGIAN FJORD FOCUS BY HAZEL HUGHES

FEB 23RD MAGNIFICENT MEADOWS

BY NOAMI WHITE OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS

MEMBERS FREE

VISITORS £4.00

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

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

February 5th

10am

Morning Worship

Valerie Anthony

6pm

Communion Worship

Rev. David Goodall

February 12

10am

Morning Worship

Margaret Weatherson

6pm

Evening Worship

Rev. Michael Sadgrove

February 19

10am

Morning Worship

Margery Burgess

6pm

Evening Worship

Deacon Anne Taylor

February 28

10am

Communion Worship

Rev. T. Buglass

6pm

Evening Worship

Rev. Alex Dunstan

March 5

10am

Morning Worship

Tom Dodds

6pm

Evening Worship

Rev. David Goodall

Messy Church Methodist Church

3.30 pm — 5.45 pm

Wednesday 8th February

Come along and bring your friends

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

Coffees

at the Methodist Church

Every Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 12 noon

These sessions are run by local Church members in turn and take place around the Coffee Tables.

Please come in for a friendly chat - tea/coffee/biscuits

Stay as long or as short a time as you wish

A warm welcome is given to everyone.

HAYDON BRIDGE GRAVEL INFORMATION

This document has been received which may be of interest to residents. It is part of a very extensive correspondence that has been conducted in pursuit of the removal of the gravel in the river.

Geomorphology summary

Gravel History

The South Tyne has a history of gravel extraction (1950s - 1970s) to which it is still adjusting and pre 1950 there appeared to be more gravel in the concerned reach than there is today.

This can be seen in the 1920 OS map and 1950 photo. (See old presentation)

Where is the gravel coming from?

There is an abundant supply of gravel in the South Tyne channel (from the underlying gravel deposits laid down in the last ice age) for the river to rework. Bank erosion adds more gravel

to the system. It is not significantly affected by land use adjacent to the South Tyne or its tributaries.

Why is the gravel deposited downstream of the weir in Haydon Bridge?

☐ The channel is over-wide compared to the channel width upstream and downstream. (The channel downstream of Haydon Bridge has actually narrowed in places. The gravel deposition is part of this narrowing tendency.)

☐ The history of past commercial gravel extraction and dredging downstream of the weir has resulted in a step in the long-profile of the river in this location. Gravel deposition is potentially a sign that the river channel is tending to try and create a

more consistent slope over this section by infilling the 'hole' downstream of the weir.

☐ Haydon Bridge weir itself forms a discontinuity in the river bed slope and the local reduction in bed slope observed downstream from the weir may be reducing sediment transport capacity sufficiently to result in significant deposition.

☐ At the larger scale the channel at location of the gravel deposits is modified by the bridge and weir and at the smaller scale the bed level is controlled by the upstream bridge piers. The high points (the exposed gravel bars) occur in the flow shadow of the bridge piers. Also to note is that Rivers do not have a fixed bed elevation over time. If the river is in equilibrium bed level will go up and down over time around a roughly consistent level. When and where a river is adjusting, bed level may get progressively lower or higher. At Haydon Bridge the river seems to trying to adjust to a get to a steady level (by some sediment deposition) but this has been interrupted by dredging in the past.

Reasons why the gravel may not necessarily pose a significant flood risk

☐ The channel width downstream at Haydon Bridge may compensate to a degree for shallower depth.

☐ During large floods it is likely that un-vegetated or partially vegetated gravel would be moved by the flood flows (increasing the capacity of the channel around the time of the flood peak) before renewed sediment deposition occurs as the flood water recede and velocities drop.

☐ Over the course of a flood increases in bed level (deposition) may be compensated for by decreases in bed level (erosion) across the same crosssection of the river.

☐ Despite their apparent height the exposed gravel

bars are drowned out at high flows and have would have a bigger impact in smaller flows.

☐ Velocity patterns vary considerably across the river channel. Where there are bridge piers (like at Haydon Bridge) there may be areas of slower flow within the channel, here flow may be very complex with eddies and other currents – these can create waves and a lot of turbulence. It is likely that some of the gravel high points occur in these areas of slower flow. Removing the gravel does not necessarily help because, the ultimate cause – the bridge pier – is still present, and so the water is still recirculating and slowing down locally, so space created by removing gravel is occupied by recirculating water. (The 1D channel model can't represent this)

☐ The degree to which the removal of the gravel impacts on the flood risk to a particular location (e.g. a property) will depend on its proximity, especially its relative elevation, to the deposits. This is one of the reasons the Joiner's shop is most affected as well as it having a low threshold.

☐ It is not always the case that enlarging a channel reduces flood risk – this is because the increase in channel capacity can reduce the velocity, which then negates the benefit of the increased capacity and water levels increase. Whenever the bed is modified and gravel deposits are removed they will reform. Although the rate depends on the nature of subsequent floods.

Oooops!

Last week walking down towards the football field In the burn at the bottom of Temple Houses was a digger which had tipped over into the burn.

On talking to the digger driver's friend. He told me the driver had his seat belt on and when releasing it he slipped through the open front cab window into the burn. He was taken to hospital with cuts and bruises but returned back to the site were they had been building a wall defence to protect Temple Houses and the football field. After some time a much larger digger was brought onto site to lift it up onto its tracks, then driven to a safe place.



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there who had simply given up hope. It involved running a gauntlet of riot police, standing in rows, tapping their clubs and waving cans of CS gas and hand guns around making it clear they were not reluctant to use them.

After a couple of failed attempts, Mick's superb driving skills and Selim's fierce Arabic diplomacy, we did it.... We were the only ones that fed almost 3000 starving people that day. People who were out of reach of anyone else. Food comprised bags of nuts, tinned fruit, tinned fish, a few other items and thousands of horrid bananas.

We walked deep into the mud pits and found families, soaking wet, shivering and those who had 5-6 to a 2-man tent with small children, we gave them a high quality, dry 6-man tent with sleeping bags. Everyone is withered at



best, many are noticeably ill. Most hide it behind grateful smiles. Kids have red eyes from crying from the hunger, wet and cold, and from the clouds of burning plastic people burn in vain efforts to keep warm, as there was no firewood left. Very quickly, we knew firewood and large tarpaulins were a must for day two. Even us northerners were feeling the cold pretty badly, the rain was cold and there was a biting wind.

(Mick – van hidden a mile away, scoping things out before attempting to get RAN aid into where it's needed most.)

The coaches you see in the background of the shot over Micks' right shoulder, are all lined up, warm, cosy, air conditioned busses. All ready to take anyone who wanted to step into them back to Athens. Many close to severe illness or even death were helped in to the busses. Many others and their kids were determined to stay at the borders in the vain hope they would eventually be allowed to pass, otherwise they'd be staying until someone moves



them or they die. Most thought the busses were going to lead them eventually to Turkey as rumours of the latest way to hide this crisis from the public were hatched. So why don't they go to Turkey - or the first country they reach and seek asylum?

Here's one reason. Turkey is doing full on star jumps at the behest of the EU. They have applied and failed to tap into the mega wealth of the EU for years now. One of the main reasons they are refused, is their terrible human rights record. Think of this in a refugee context. You hear stories of rape, of murder and of rampant racism, with no protection from the state. You have just run for your life and have lost everything, your home, your community, possibly members of your family. No responsible person would risk going to Turkey. Those who I spoke to all said the same thing. We were not safe at home and we are not safe in Turkey. They are right. I have seen Turkish soldiers applying the shoot to kill policies on refugees running to the border from Aleppo. Turkey is also using these people as pawns in a chess game. Demanding billions of euros to alleviate the pressures on Europe's doorstep, holding Europe over a barrel (of oil).

Thursday 10th May

We knew what to expect, which meant we could go deeper into the camp. Again, we were the only ones that far in. Food and tarpaulins, dry clothes for babies and small children, 750kg of firewood, thousands of firefighters and a few footballs and boxes of chocolate smarties. No bananas today. The van was drifting from one side of the road to the other, no matter what, with the huge weight, dry weather tyres and deep puddles. It was still raining; all be it a little bit less than Wednesday. The riot police didn't argue, we quickly made it past the police who were still stopping all other groups, quickly we were surrounded by many hundreds of people. Selim got out, put on his high vis and persuaded a couple of refugees to clear our path through and form a kind of line.

We parked up against the railway fence to give form an alley for distributing aid. The crush was inevitable but again, Mick and Selim made themselves into human shields for as long as they could until the railway fence started to collapse with the crush and we had to hightail it out of there. It started to turn just a bit out of control.

Mick jumped in the van and he and I threw boxes of mini smarties out of the windows which diverted the crush from us long enough to place baby clothes we had bought into mothers' hands who were standing away protecting their infants. The doors of the van were never locked.

Continued next month.

Dan Dowling – Refugee Aid Network - UK

This time last year, I was asked to help a friend build an organisation on the back of a lot of ad-hoc work they had been doing around the refugee situation. I'm not politically motivated, I had just been horrified by the sight of Aylan Kurdi – he was the little boy we all saw washed up dead on the Mediterranean beach. The thing that kept me awake at night after seeing him, was the fact that people are fooled into being scared of the “letting them inside Europe” bit, and seem to have closed the door on suffering. This betrays what I am proud of; being born the son of a nation of generosity to those in need. So I helped build a structure and started the process of registering a charity. Before long – within 6 weeks in fact - we had over 5000 supporters around the north east and beyond, sending us £10 - £20 here and there, doing sponsored knitting sessions above pubs in Newcastle, Zip Wire challenges and many, many more amazing fundraising things. Before long I realised I had got myself into much, much bigger things.

My first trip was to Idomeni. I had no intention in getting involved in the business itself but three were chosen to go and I was one. This was the infamous camp on the Greek/Macedonian border all over the news. We had to go quickly. The cheapest travel options were flights from London to Athens, then Athens to Thessaloniki.

We hired a big van in Thessaloniki, with the intention of sourcing discounted goods from local suppliers, getting items from the most needed lists the big charities and our contacts on the ground had put out.

My journey from Haydon Bridge down to Heathrow was straight forward, there wasn't much point in trying to work Tuesday morning, I was worrying about the trip too much, not about the journey, security, tear gas or baton wielding riot police – but my inability to walk away from kids in real danger. There is not, nor should there be, any justification I could give myself for doing that, yet it was something I would have to face at some point, and did.

I couldn't let this sap my energy. I had a 6 hour drive to Heathrow, a 4 hour flight to Athens, then a 6-hour wait in the airport before the flight to Thessaloniki, which is an hours drive from the border. The waiting didn't help.

I was to meet Mick from Samos and Selim from Edinburgh at 8am at Thessaloniki Airport. It all went smoothly and my flight landed at 7.30am.

The rain that fell on the village last December wasn't even close to the rain I was looking at in Thessaloniki. What was it going to be like in the refugee camp? I wonder if Mick made it from Samos? Was I supposed to meet him in town or here at the airport? What happens if Selim is a pain in the neck? I didn't know him.

Oh well, I had 48 intense hours ahead; time to look for a baldy bloke from Edinburgh. There can't be many in Thessaloniki airport today. With Mick, that was three baldies on a mission, in what is probably one of the hairiest places I have ever been. Not a low profile then.

Selim found me at the airport. He greeted me with a beaming, warm, genuine smile. He's one of the good guys – a veteran of this kind of work, having walked into war zones during temporary cease fires to help victims since the early nineties. Selim doesn't think about why he does it, its instinctive. He would genuinely balk at any attempt anyone made to pat him on the back. He sees it as something we should all just do. Honours and accolades

were made for men like him. I worked out very quickly that on this trip, I was with two massive pillars of strength in Mick and Selim, they were going to achieve well beyond anyone's expectations and do it without any fuss or thoughts of themselves.

8.30am Wednesday Thessaloniki City Centre.

It's raining here in biblical proportions. We went around the shops Mick and his contact from Thessaloniki had visited the day before, and picked up high quality family tents, sleeping bags, food, clothes and other things.

There was virtually nowhere to sit and the large hire van was way over its weight limit. I hate bananas.... No – I really do hate bananas. I'm talking about having panic attacks when I know there is one in the house kind of hate levels. Allergic reactions to them in my childhood bred this fear. Nonetheless, Selim's experience of their value in such situations led us to buying 6 crates of bananas and I had to have most of them on top of me in the already over weight van.

We were down to the Macedonia border at about 10.30 am. First impression was it wasn't as big as I thought it would be. For maybe 10 miles up to the border, there were mini camps of up to about 1000-5000 people, and as you got within 2 miles of the border, lots and lots of sinister looking things were going on as unscrupulous people make fast bucks off starving and desperate refugees who have money left like this guy in the Mercedes.

(En-route to Idomeni camp – traders taking the last of the money from refugees – 20 Euro to charge a mobile phone.)

We had been warned, and Selim bore testament, to the fact that any vehicle carrying aid would probably not get into the heart of the camp. The few that were there, who were giving away stuff were very quickly swamped, and



we saw a number of people pulling up in their vehicles 400 yards from the camp, open their doors and run for cover as the piranhas stripped the bones of their cars.

Those who could partake in such struggles were not our target audience. We wanted to give our stuff to people who weren't fit enough or strong enough to be involved in these mêlées. There were 14,000 people there – mostly kids, who were queuing for half a mile or so to get a single ladle of watery lentil soup and a bun from the Red Cross and the one other German aid agency that had 2 tables and a big pot of something, it was distributing. The other two agencies had a top level security plan, clearly. I'm glad my two colleagues were elite ex-military men!

I had a spare pair of socks and a van full of bananas. That meant the three of us had to adopt a higher risk approach. We wanted to go into the heart of the camp, where nobody else reached. We knew there would be many people

THE NORTH EAST IN TWELVE IMAGES 2 MONKWEARMOUTH

Last month I took you to a remote corner of Northumberland. This month I want to visit a place that at first sight looks like the complete opposite: the dense conurbation at the mouth of the River Wear that we know as the city of Sunderland.

I am fond of the place. My wife's family come from Sun-



derland. We became engaged on the day in May 1973 when the Black Cats won the Cup Final. How could her father refuse me on such an auspicious day? And had they lost, he'd have been past caring anyway. In those days, shipbuilding was still a major industry on Wearside. Now the huge installations are gone, but not the proud memory of North Eastern ships that were famed all over the world. You wouldn't think that the city (as it has been since 1993) is one of the North East's most ancient places. It owes it all to a man named Benedict Biscop, a Northumbrian Saxon monk who came to the north bank of the Wear in 674 to found a monastery. He travelled to Rome no fewer than six times to bring back books and manuscripts and the skills to build in stone, sing plainchant and create stained glass. He went on to found the monastery at Jarrow seven years later. But perhaps his greatest achievement was to introduce the Venerable Bede to this “double monastery” and encourage him in his scholarship. Benedict Biscop is now the city's patron saint.

The mouth of the Wear is well worth a visit. The regeneration of the estuary is impressive and makes an enjoyable riverside walk. On the north bank the National Glass Centre celebrates Sunderland's long history of glass making pioneered by Biscop. Nearby is the Monkwearmouth campus of Sunderland University and – best of all – St

Peter's Church, and the remains of Biscop's monastery.

Not much is left of this great Saxon foundation, but what remains they are! Set in a breezy grassy landscape surrounded by contemporary buildings, you are acutely aware of the contrast between ancient and modern in Sunderland. This to me is one of the delights of the city. The Saxon tower is the jewel in the crown, still standing proud and holding its own against the high rise flats and main roads nearby. Beneath the tower is the church porch through which Bede himself must have walked hundreds of times. It's moving to walk there. When the sun is setting in the west, the Saxon architecture glows with a golden light.

If you've caught the spirit of Bede (and who wouldn't?), then you'll want to visit the twin Saxon church at Jarrow a few miles ago and, of course, Durham Cathedral where his tomb has been since 1022. I have an interest in Durham, having been Dean there for thirteen years. It was a huge privilege to be the guardian of Bede's bones. He is undoubtedly one of the greatest people England has given birth to. And not just England, for Bede saw himself as totally connected to European civilisation, both classical and Christian. Sunderland may have voted decisively for Brexit, but at Monkwearmouth you feel you are at the focus of a profoundly European vision of things.

While you are there, take a walk on the bracing sea front at Roker. If you're lucky, the wind will be in the east and the waves will be hurling themselves furiously against the breakwater that defines the mouth of the Wear. On winter days when it's blowing a gale, you feel the full force of the North Sea at Roker. It may feel like a quintessential



suburb, but there aren't many suburbs in England where the sea is a force to be reckoned with.

A few streets back from the sea front you'll find another great church, St Andrew's Roker. It was built in the early twentieth century and is one of the country's greatest monuments of the Arts and Crafts period. There aren't many modern churches of real distinction but this is one of them. Like Saxon St Peter's, it's another church for Sunderland to be proud of. I've always thought that this city is underrated. Which is why I've put it on my personal list of favourite places in the North East.

Michael Sadgrove

News From The Bridge

NOW THAT THE TREES OUTSIDE HAVE BEEN SO WELL CUT BACK YOU CAN SEE THE OUTSIDE OF OUR LOVELY BUILDING. PLEASE DO COME IN AND SEE WHAT'S AVAILABLE INSIDE. HERE'S JUST A SMALL SELECTION.



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My unexpected journeys

Normally I think that my intellectual level these days is A Very Hungry Caterpillar, an intimate knowledge of which I am able to promptly use in a quiz. The fact that I came to regard The Lego Movie or Asterix and Obelix as the most astute commentary on current affairs, doesn't impress me, let alone the others either.

We were at a party before Christmas and when I was asked what I did for living (people like asking that as if it gave them a better idea about you), I answered: „Oh, I am just at home with the kids.“ My husband turned to me and said: „You undersell yourself a lot.“ I couldn't think of anything to say. I suppose it's because the explanation is complex.

Firstly, it's the whole perception of society. When you are at home with kids, you are on holiday, right? The truth is nothing can fully prepare you for the reality of parenthood: in the first two three years I worked most days between 15 – 18 hours, having to also get up most nights. There was no break, all days merged into one blur. Some days I didn't brush my hair or teeth and there were some weeks when I am sure I didn't shower. I actually can't remember much from that time. I sat some evenings, exhausted with tears in my eyes, feeling that I am not managing at all. I had never worked so hard in my life – and I'd had some demanding jobs before. When my mother came to visit, I actually slept continuously for three days. If my husband and I had to pay someone to do it for me (carer, cleaner, cook and household manager, not to mention being everyone's personal assistant), we would have to „fork out“ anywhere between £40 – 50,000 per year, and that's a modest estimate. Needless to say, it's a luxury we can't afford.

I also somehow produced three books in that time., working mostly late at night or maddeningly early in the morning (like at 3 or 4 a.m.), yet I still wouldn't tell a stranger whom I have just met at the party that it's what I have achieved. It doesn't feel that way. I simply don't think about it whereas I constantly contemplate whether We Are Going On A Bear Hunt or Room On The Broom would be a better choice for our bedtime story tonight or how to cook a nutritious meal on a very limited budget.

A mum I have spoken to at the school gate told me how she feels she isn't managing anything well because she runs her own business, and when she has a spare minute, she rushes to put laundry on or start cooking dinner. „You can't win,“ she concluded. No, you can't.

But perhaps next time I should be better prepared to answer that dreaded question: „What do you do for living?“, which in many people's eyes is the same as asking „who are you?“ My reply should be as follows: „For the past four years I have simultaneously managed two long- term projects They have demanded extended working hours seven days a week with a complete dedication, team work, communication skills, patience and attention to detail. As a director of operations I have successfully met all targets, navigating through an extremely challenging economic environment. I work with my team on the day to day basis, closely co-operating with my counterpart, co-ordinating our actions whenever needed. The expected completion of the said projects is in roughly twenty-years time.“

Natalie Nera

What's New in Stopping Smoking in 2017?

A new year has dawned and for many of you it will start with you saying that '2017 is the year I am going to stop smoking'. So what's different about this year?

The **number one thing that is different is you**. You are older and wiser. You are more sure of the reasons why you need to stop. For some of you it will be **health**. You want to feel like you can breathe and exercise normally.

For some of you it will be **financial**, the cost of smoking keeps climbing. There are more and more things you could do with the money you save whether it be go on an exotic holiday, treat your family to something they really want or even to do up your home the way you want it.

Many of you will now just be **sick of smoking**, sick of the smell, the taste and sick of the feeling of knowing you are addicted to something.

The good news is **that now could be your time to stop smoking**. You may know a friend or family member who has stopped. If they can stop so can you. The average person makes seven attempts before they successfully stop smoking. If you have tried but not been successful don't be disheartened as every time you will have tried you will have learned something. You may have learned what product helped or didn't help. You may have learned which cigarette you will really crave. This all helps us help you plan so that this time you can be successful.

Free Carbon Monoxide Monitoring

Pop into the pharmacy and have a quick breath test to see how much Carbon Monoxide is present in your lungs. This is completely free of charge. Carbon Monoxide from smoke binds to the red blood cells in preference to oxygen. This means that smokers feel more tired and are less able to do exercise. Previously the pharmacy only did carbon monoxide testing on people who were on an NHS stop smoking program with the pharmacy but we want to help as many people as possible stop smoking in 2017. Ask at the pharmacy - you can get a test done in minutes.

Varenicline (Champix)

Although not strictly new this has been the success story of 2016. Smokers who use Champix guided by an NHS stop smoking adviser have the best chance of stopping with over 60% of people who use this success fully stopping smoking.

Vaping

The popularity of vaping and electronic cigarettes continues to grow. The first licensed e-cigarette will likely be hitting our shelves later this year. No one can say that e-cigarettes are safe. There seems to be however a growing body of evidence that they are safer than cigarettes. The best advice is not so smoke at all. Our NHS stop smoking advisers are now trained to help people get off e-cigarettes.

New Nicotine Products

The main new one available is the 6mg gum. This is 50% stronger than the previous strongest gum. It is made by Nicorette and comes in a fruit fusion flavour.

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