

## November 2025

### Welcome

Our Parish is as busy as ever – plenty for everyone! Especially in the run up to Christmas! Have you ever tried a Beetle Drive? I remember going to them as a child and loving it! Go and see how they work on Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Nov at the Methodist Church. There are LOADS of good gigs coming up! Mistletoe will arrive in December at The Bridge Hub Plant and Produce stall; and there's a chance to make Christmassy nature craft along with a bit of bushcraft and a relaxing sound bath during new Tuesday afternoon sessions at The Nurture Project - read on!

**Spread the word:** please tell everyone you know about the Newsletter

**Sign up to receive each edition automatically** just [follow this link](#) to our sign up form

**Large print copy:** you can get a 14pt large print copy at The Bridge Library and Community Hub on Church Street

**To make a donation:** You can donate at The Bridge towards the Newsletter running costs



### What's going on

#### Nights Out

Fri 7 Nov	Churches Together Beetle Drive	Methodist Church 6.00pm
Sat 8 Nov	Singer Kev Roberts	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 9pm
Fri 21 Nov	Charity Quiz in aid of HB fireworks	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 8.30pm
Sat 22 Nov	"Evening of Cool Jazz" to raise funds for St Cuthbert's Church - Steve Foti and the Wingettes	General Havelock 7 <sup>PM</sup> to 9:30 <sup>PM</sup> Tickets £18.50 Inc Food: 01434 684376
Sat 22 Nov	Keith the disco legend - music from the 80s. Fancy dress optional.	The Railway 8pm -midnight
Tue 25 Nov	Charity Quiz Night for Chrysalis Dementia Club	General Havelock 8.15pm
Fri 28 Nov	Monthly Friday Bingo	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 7.45pm
Sat 29 Nov	Haydonian Club bus trip to York markets. Booking essential	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 8.30am
Sat 29 Nov	Christmas Afternoon Teas plus a chance to make a financial donation to our Church funds.	Methodist Church 2.30 pm to 4pm
Sat 6 Dec	Singers Bob & Brian	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 9pm
Wed 10 Dec	Carol Singing at Haydon View	Haydon View 2.30 pm
Tue 16 Dec	Village Carol Singing	6.30 pm to 7.15 pm meet at Time for George
Tue 16 Dec	Christmas Quiz for Salvation Army	General Havelock 8.15pm
Fri 19 Dec	(Black Eye Friday), - Jack Reed singing	Railway 8pm -midnight
Fri 19 Dec	Festive Fun Quiz in aid of Scope	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 8.30pm
Sat 20 Dec	Music Duo 2nd Avenue	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 9pm
Wed 31 Dec	New Year's Eve Free Quiz	General Havelock
Wed 31 Dec	New Year's Eve Party with Keith the legendary DJ	The Railway

#### Weekly Events

Thursdays	HB Carpet Bowls Club: Club Nights – everyone welcome	Community Centre 7pm
Sundays	Bingo	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 7.45pm

**Nature Club** - 7:15pm in the Methodist Church: £4 including tea and biscuits

Thu 6 Nov Butterflies and Moths of North East England by Jonathan Wallace

Thu 20 Nov Asian Lions and Bustards by Gordon Beakes

Thu 4 Dec The Missing Lynx Project: Exploring the return of Eurasian lynx by Faye Whiley

#### Churches

Catholic Church	Sunday services at 9am
Methodist Church	Sunday services at 10:30am
St Cuthbert's Church	Regular Parish Eucharist 11am Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 10am - Benefice Service at St Cuthbert's. With Storybook Church and refreshments after the service. This will replace the usual 11am service

#### Joint Services

9th November 10.15am	Village Remembrance Service St. Cuthberts followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, then Refreshments for all at the Methodist Church afterwards
Sunday 30th Nov 10.30 am	Joint Service Methodists and Anglicans at Methodist Church Plus annual collection of toys/gifts/books for distribution by Hexham Salvation Army Service to be led by Rev. Michael Holland and Jason Wearmouth from Salvation Army – Methodist Church
Sunday 30th Nov 4.30pm	Advent Sunday Processions and Carols St Cuthbert's. A service of readings, hymns and prayers reflecting on the season of Advent.
Sunday 21st December 4pm	Village Carol Service - St Cuthbert's



## The Bridge Library and Community Hub

**Produce Stall:** This raises funds to keep the lights on in the Bridge, so come along and see what is on offer – or look it up on Facebook! We welcome donations of plants and produce too – just leave them at the stall (with a note to say what they are if not obvious) and our volunteers will update the board. Due to the colder weather, we are keeping the houseplants inside overnight, so keep popping in to check what's on offer.

**Around the Bridge building:** We are encouraging people to sit and rest a while or just enjoy walking past, so we would be grateful if dog owners would stop their pets from using the planted areas. Free poo bags are available in the library.

**Open Day – Saturday 4 October:** Our Open Day on Saturday 4 October was scuppered by the storms unfortunately. However, we always have access to the local photo archives, and local crafts and pre-loved books are for sale whenever the library is open.

**All things Xmas - Seasons Greetings!** We have Calendars, Cards, Crafts and Xmas themed knitted Chocolate Orange covers for sale. Get yours now while stocks last!

**Start the New Year with something new:** How about joining us as a volunteer to keep the Bridge open and useful? 3 hours a week is all it takes, drop in and have a word with one of the volunteer teams

**Bonus Ball competition** -for raising funds for operating The Bridge Hub. £1 a week for a chance of winning £30. Numbers are currently available but going fast. Call in and choose one or more!

### HELPING ADULTS IN NORTHUMBERLAND TO LEARN TO READ

Did you know that over 2.4 million adults in England can't read or can barely read? In real terms, this means everyday tasks like paying bills or doing the food shop can be overwhelming. Even visiting the doctor or applying for a job becomes a huge challenge. The good news is that for most adults who struggle, learning to read is well within their capabilities – and it is never too late to learn. That's why we're working towards launching a Read Easy group in Northumberland, to support adults in our local communities who want to improve their reading skills.

We're not ready to start helping people with their reading skills in the Haydon Parish area yet but if you would like to talk to someone locally about being part of the Northumberland Read Easy team, call in to The Bridge and talk to Eunice Dowling, on Tuesdays 1-4pm or to Kate Minto, on Fridays 3-6pm or Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm.

**Advent Stars :** Over Advent, Haydon Bridge Churches Together are encouraging homes, business and other groups in the village to decorate and display a star as a sign of light and hope in the darkness. Star templates will be available in St Cuthbert's if you would like to decorate and display a star in your window, or feel free to use your imagination and creative abilities

### The Weather from John Harrison

Having spent most of 2025 evaporating into the atmosphere, resulting in shortages in water storage and streamflow, water vapour has now decided that it is time to return to earth. Over the first three weeks of September atmospheric pressure remained relatively low, in association with a variable westerly breeze and frequent rain, typical of cyclonic weather systems. This spell of unsettled weather culminated in a wet week between the 14th and 20th with a total of 79mm of a mixture of rain and hail, in association with occasionally strong eddying winds. Surprisingly many water courses were reported as continuing to run low. Anticyclonic weather took centre stage from the 21st, changing the wind direction towards the east. Over the following week there were lengthy sunny periods, light easterly breezes and little or no rainfall. Nocturnal temperatures fell towards freezing, bringing the first autumnal *ground frost* on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mild autumnal weather continued into October with no sign of any further winter frosts. The average night-time temperatures held up at 1.3°C above the seasonal norm but daytime temperatures stayed at the usual seasonal average. There were significant falls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Storm Amy) and 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>, while storm Benjamin (23<sup>rd</sup>) only came north as far as the Yorkshire coast. (Only time will tell whether hurricane Melissa sends us any visiting cards from the Caribbean). Although October is on average the wettest month, under the presence of an extensive anticyclone the days between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> were largely devoid of rain. As the anticyclone moved eastwards into continental Europe Polar air and clearer skies brought ground frosts on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and early fog.

### Opening hours

Monday	9-12	Friday	3-6
Tuesday	1-4	Saturday	9.30-12.30
Wednesday	1-4		
Thursday	CLOSED		

01434 688658

### DO YOU KNOW THAT THE BRIDGE OFFERS?

- With the Northumberland County Council Library Card, The Bridge provides a FULL PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE including, audio and large print books, E books via Borrowbox and Pressreader for newspapers and magazines – ALL AT NO COST
- Children's library area with toys for younger children
- Tourist and visitor information, including walks and cycling leaflets
- Social activities such as knit and natter (Tuesday 1:30-3:30)
- Local archive (see next page)
- Coffee and warm hub
- Computer use
- Book and craft sales and display space for artists
- Office services
- Cycle hub
- Study space
- And more



**About Read Easy UK:** Founded in 2010, Read Easy UK is a national charity. Its approach is:

- Free and accessible with one-to-one support – matching adults with trained volunteer reading coaches
  - Flexible and effective, tailored to individual needs
- To launch our Northumberland group, we are looking for volunteers to join our Management Team, particularly:
- Volunteer Recruiter – to help us find and welcome new volunteers, as reading coaches and for other roles
  - Treasurer – to oversee the group's finances
- Once we're fully up and running, we will also need: Reading Coaches, IT Supporters, Publicity Champions ...and more!
- If **you** would like to help transform lives through reading, please email: [northumberlandleader@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:northumberlandleader@readeasy.org.uk)

## Local Archive

### London Calling: A True World War 2 Story

Harry Watson worked for his dad at Watson's garage on Shaftoe Street where he learnt mechanical and engineering skills. In 1939 Harry joined the army serving in Belgium and France. After Dunkirk he was promoted to sergeant and joined the 9th Durham Light Infantry. Sent to North Africa in 1941, he was captured in 1942 and taken to an Italian prisoner of war camp. Harry decided to build a radio, using his technical knowledge, together with another



prisoner who knew the theoretical principles. Harry told the camp commander that they needed equipment for the camp theatre and then used it to construct a makeshift radio, together with pieces he found - bits of wire, a copper coin, a brass strip he took from a bugle when the bugler wasn't looking - or parts he made himself from a tin can. The radio worked. Harry listened to the BBC and wrote down the news to pass on to a few friends.

The prisoners later moved to a German camp, so Harry made another radio. Very few people knew who had the radio but now the news was circulated to 25,000 prisoners. Harry managed to bring the radio home and it is now in the DLI museum.

*This brief summary of Harry Watson's experience in WW2 is drawn from Dennis Telford's article in his Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge originally published in the Haydon News in July 2001. You can read this in full online at*

<https://haydon-bridge.co.uk/news/the-haydon-news-back-issues/>

## Community Action

### Bridging People with Nature Project – The Nurture Project in partnership with other groups in Haydon Bridge, funded generously by The Royal Countryside Fund

Do you like the new seats and planters on the old bridge and by the bus stop? These were built and installed by a fabulous team of volunteers on a rainy Saturday 20th September. They form part of what will be 'The Bee Friendly Walk'.



### A Story of Haydon Bridge in Pictures – a Trip Down Memory Lane.

It was wonderful to bring so many people together in St Cuthbert's Church at the end of September to share their memories of the place they know and love, including the fire station, shops, railway, sport, views – rare video footage of Haydon Bridge Show and cricket from the 1950's. Generous donations of nearly £2500 will go towards a proposed refurbishment of the vestry at St Cuthbert's, and an extension for much-needed accessible toilets and a servery at the back of church. Many thanks to all who came along to make this so special and to all those who helped in sourcing the photographs.

### Coffee Morning for Breast Cancer Now Raises £1150

On 29<sup>th</sup> October, 14-year-old Liv and her grandad, Charlie Escrit, organised a spectacular coffee morning at Haydon Bridge Community Centre with some amazing prizes and cakes. Well done, what an achievement!

### Food in Haydon Bridge

The Railway - Friday till Tuesday 9am-2pm

The General Havelock – Thursday – Sunday Lunch time 12-2.30pm; Wed – Sat evenings 6.30-8.30pm

Oddfellows Café - Tues 10-3; Wed – Sat 10-4; Sun 10-3. **Closed 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov to 27<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

The Chippy – Fri and Sat 11am -10pm, Mon-Thur 11am – 9pm. Closed Sundays

### New at The Nurture Project in November and December on Tuesdays:

9.30-11.30am – Family sessions – all ages welcome – children accompanied by an adult – bushcraft, nature craft, stories in the yurt, snacks round the fire, play.

12.30 – 2.30, 6 weeks Nov 4th to Dec 9th – adults only – come and try bushcraft, nature crafting and a sound bath – sliding scale of donations, please book:

<https://bookwhen.com/thenurtureprojecticic#focus=ev-sqy1x-20251111123000>

Saturdays: Open to the public to drop in and explore, do nature activities, garden, chat and play. (NOTE – no longer open on Sundays)

## Parish Council Update

As part of continuing work to make it safer for road users and residents:

- Several dropped kerbs have been installed.
- The road has been resurfaced in Greenwich Gardens.
- Better signage has been erected in Temple Houses Lane and to the football club.


The roundabout has also been capped as a traffic calming measure. In the next few weeks we hope to get the trees pruned that are blocking streetlights near the Shaftoe Trust and in the Showfield, around the War Memorial, in the churchyard and on Douglas Gardens.

Further details and contact information are at:

<https://haydon-bridge.co.uk/about/haydon-parish-council/>



## Businesses and Services

<p><b>Beauty Therapist</b> Eden Complementary &amp; Beauty Therapies 07557 977307</p> <p><b>Bingo</b> Haydonian Community Lounge &amp; Bar 01434 684383</p> <p><b>Building &amp; Property Maintenance</b> Brian Howard Properties 01434 688999 07711 033590 <a href="mailto:brianhoward7561@aol.com">brianhoward7561@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Conservatories Made Superior</b> Chris Sim 01434 684704 07916 334154</p> <p><b>E &amp; R builders</b> Brian Ray 07854 043082, Ken Eales 07793 655925</p> <p><b>George Gamble</b> 01434 688804 07710 193144</p> <p><b>Langley Furniture Works</b> 01434 688977 <a href="http://langleyfurnitureworks.co.uk/">http://langleyfurnitureworks.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Graeme Murphy Joinery</b> 07985 482452</p> <p><b>M R Cook Construction</b> 01434 688222 <a href="https://mrcookconstruction.com/">https://mrcookconstruction.com/</a></p> <p><b>RH Joinery</b> Richard Hines 07999 787948</p> <p><b>Stephen Todd Joinery &amp; Glazing</b> 01434 688726 07736 671612</p> <p><b>Steven Elliott Stonemason</b> 07921 726000 <a href="mailto:seoldnew@gmail.com">seoldnew@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><a href="https://amblecoaches.co.uk/">https://amblecoaches.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Coal Merchants</b> Stephen Brooks (formerly W.G. Duffy) 01434 684348</p> <p><b>Confectionery</b> The Petite Sweet Company 07939907360 <a href="http://www.thepetitesweetcompany.co.uk">www.thepetitesweetcompany.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Electricians</b> D &amp; J Oliver Electrical 01434 688132 07730 533348</p> <p><b>Financial Services</b> Foresters Financial 07341 962577</p> <p><b>Food &amp; Drink</b> Anchor Hotel 01434 688121 <a href="http://www.anchorhotelhaydonbridge.com/">http://www.anchorhotelhaydonbridge.com/</a></p> <p><b>Carts Bog Inn</b> 01434 684338 <a href="http://www.cartsbog.co.uk/">http://www.cartsbog.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>General Havelock Inn</b> 01434 684376 <a href="mailto:generalhavelock@aol.com">generalhavelock@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Haydonian Community Lounge &amp; Bar</b> 01434 684383</p> <p><b>Langley Castle Hotel</b> 01434 688888 <a href="https://www.langleycastle.co.uk/en/">https://www.langleycastle.co.uk/en/</a></p> <p><b>Oddfellows Coffee</b> 07904 411054 <a href="mailto:oddfellowscoffee@yahoo.com">oddfellowscoffee@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Railway Hotel</b> 01434 684254 Now open 11-midnight 7 days a week</p> <p><b>Haydon Bridge Fish &amp; Chip Shop</b> 01434 684289</p>	<p><a href="mailto:dbrburgess@yahoo.com">dbrburgess@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>The Barber Bus</b> 07712 609057</p> <p><b>Homeopathy</b> Patricia Haggie 01434 688687 <a href="mailto:pat_haggie@homeopathy-soh.org">pat_haggie@homeopathy-soh.org</a></p> <p><b>Home Care</b> Helping Hands 0333 060 5211 <a href="http://www.helpinghands.co.uk/">http://www.helpinghands.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Locksmith</b> Hexham Locksmith 07485 221076 <a href="http://hexhamlocksmith.co.uk/">http://hexhamlocksmith.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Milkman</b> P &amp; G Phillips <a href="mailto:melketer@btinternet.com">melketer@btinternet.com</a></p> <p><b>Nursery</b> Little Badgers Childcare Ofsted Registered Day Nursery 01434 684446</p> <p><b>Painters and Decorators</b> P Coats 01434 688739 07940 429920</p> <p><b>Gary Cunningham</b> 01434 684041</p> <p><b>Jamie Dunn</b> 01434 688445 07584 192647 <a href="mailto:j.dunnhb@hotmail.co.uk">j.dunnhb@hotmail.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Plumbers and Heating Engineers</b> D C Oil Heating &amp; Plumbing Services 07582 864066</p> <p><b>Haydon Plumbing and Heating</b> Kevin Thompson 07904819998 <a href="mailto:haydonplumbing@hotmail.co.uk">haydonplumbing@hotmail.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>J.P. Westall Ltd</b> 01434 602740 <a href="http://www.jpwestall.com/">http://www.jpwestall.com/</a></p>	<p><b>A Macdonald</b> 01434 684491 07801 308006</p> <p><b>Shotton Waste Services</b> 01434 681219</p> <p><b>Shops</b> Claire's Convenience Store 01434 684303</p> <p><b>Co-op Late Shop and Post Office</b> 01434 684327</p> <p><b>Haydon Bridge Pharmacy</b> 01434 684354 <a href="http://www.haydonbridgepharmacy.co.uk/">http://www.haydonbridgepharmacy.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Taxis</b> Haydon Taxis 01434 671197</p> <p><b>Langley Taxis</b> 01434 684658</p> <p><b>Travel Counsellor</b> Janice Cumberland 07576 202402</p> <p><b>Tiling</b> Paul Brown 01434 684890 07769 537513 <a href="mailto:paulbrowntiling@yahoo.com">paulbrowntiling@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Watch Repairs</b> Mr George's Museum of Time 01434 688055 <a href="http://timeforgeorge.co.uk/">http://timeforgeorge.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Yoga</b> Gill Valentine <a href="https://gillvalentine.co.uk/">https://gillvalentine.co.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>Cashpoint</b> Co-op Late Shop and Post Office 01434 684327</p> <p><b>Cleaning</b> Sparkles Cleaning Charlotte Dunn 07817 807919 01434 688445 <a href="mailto:c.dunnhb@outlook.com">c.dunnhb@outlook.com</a></p> <p><b>Coach Tours and Hire</b> Amble Coaches 07904 412378</p>	<p><b>Garages/Motor Repairs</b> Anchor Garage 01434 684345 07903 049147</p> <p><b>Gas (Calor, Propane, Butane)</b> Poplars Caravan Park Haydon Bridge (delivery if required) 01434 684427</p> <p><b>Hairdresser</b> Debs Mobile Hairdressing 01434 684890 07889 261360</p>	<p><b>Post Office</b> Co-op Late Shop and Post Office 01434 684327</p> <p><b>Residential Care Home</b> Haydon View 01434 684465</p> <p><b>Security</b> Safe and Secure 24 01434 688423 <a href="http://www.safeandsecure24.com/">http://www.safeandsecure24.com/</a></p> <p><b>Septic Tank and Drain Jetting</b></p>	

**To give us feedback or have your business or service listed on the back page email us at: [admin@haydon-bridge.co.uk](mailto:admin@haydon-bridge.co.uk)**

### Haydon Parish Council

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month: Community Centre  
Carole McGivern, Parish Clerk, Tel: 07543 912113.  
Email: [haydonbridgeparish@gmail.com](mailto:haydonbridgeparish@gmail.com)  
David Thornhill Chair: 07810 336537 01434684329  
[dave.thornhill7759@gmail.com](mailto:dave.thornhill7759@gmail.com)  
Brian Howard Vice Chair [Brianhoward7561@aol.com](mailto:Brianhoward7561@aol.com)  
07711033590  
Avril Kirsopp [avril\\_kirsopp@hotmail.com](mailto:avril_kirsopp@hotmail.com) 07866614149  
Kelly Richardson [richardsonkelly00@gmail.com](mailto:richardsonkelly00@gmail.com)  
07732260415  
Tessa Simmonds [tessaloyd@gmail.com](mailto:tessaloyd@gmail.com) 07947008345  
Anne Suddes [suddes62@gmail.com](mailto:suddes62@gmail.com) 07761 908793  
Charlie Morshead  
Louise Alderson  
Sue Jackson  
Caitlin Kendall  
Danielle Webster

### Useful Contacts

**Flood Group:** Lead Flood Warden. John Alder 07587 174552. [boulders1975@gmail.com](mailto:boulders1975@gmail.com)  
**Health Centre:** North Bank, Haydon Bridge, 01434 684216  
**Schools:** Shaftoe Trust Wise Academy 01434 684309 [shaftoe@wiseacademies.co.uk](mailto:shaftoe@wiseacademies.co.uk)  
Haydon Bridge High School 01434 684422 [hbhs@hbhs.co.uk](http://hbhs@hbhs.co.uk)  
**Local Groups meeting at the Haydon Bridge Community Centre:** Valerie Bell 07809 609166  
Yoga – Tuesdays 7.15pm and Qi Gong Thursdays 9:30am. Gill Valentine 07711 110850  
Boot Camp session with Abbie Oldham, tel 07507 118216 Wednesday and Friday 6.30pm-7.30pm £5  
Bowls Club – Thursdays 7.30pm. Joseph Tulip. Tel: 07534 214365  
Keep fit – Fridays 9.45am. Carole Price. Tel: 07939 202930  
Hornby Collectors Assn – 10am 2nd Sundays bi monthly  
Friday Lunch, 12 noon at the Community Centre. Carole Price 07939 202930  
**Ist Haydon Bridge Scout Group:** [Robert.copley@northumberlandscouts.org.uk](mailto:Robert.copley@northumberlandscouts.org.uk)  
Meets at Catholic Church Hall, just off North Bank – Squirrels (4-6) Monday 4.45pm-5.45pm  
Beavers (6-8) Monday 6pm-7pm; Cubs (8-10.5) Tuesday 6pm-7.30pm; Scouts (10.5 to 14.5) Wednesday 6pm-8pm.