

## March 2026

### Welcome

Welcome to the very full March issue of the Haydon Newsletter. There are a lot of entertainment events and Easter related Church Services – see the ‘What’s Going On’ and Churches sections below. And read about how much was raised at the General Havelock quizzes last year. Also, find out in The Bridge section about the county council’s Library Service consultation, how to become a volunteer at The Bridge and how to join the Bonus Ball Lottery.

See the High School and Nurture Project sections for more dates for your diary!

**Sign up to receive each edition automatically** just [follow this link](#) to our sign up form or use the QR code.

**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.



*Join our Newsletter Mailing List!*

### What’s Going On

#### Nights Out

Sat 7 March	Singer Sophie Danielle	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 9pm
Fri 20 March	Charity Quiz for HB Football Club	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 8.30pm
Tue 24 March	Charity Quiz for RNLI	General Havelock 8.15pm
Thu 26 March	Film & Food Night: Agent of Happiness	General Havelock 7.30pm
Fri 27 March	Churches Together Beetle Drive	Methodist Church 6-8pm
Fri 27 March	Friday Bingo Bonanza	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 7.30pm
Sun 5 April	Easter Party	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 1pm
Sat 11 April	Singer Shaun Fenwick	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 9pm
Fri 17 April	Charity Quiz for Crohn’s and Colitis UK	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 8.30pm
Sun 22 April	Derby match on the big screen	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 12 noon
Fri 24 April	Friday Bingo Bonanza	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 7.30pm
Fri 24 April	Music with Meg	General Havelock 7.30pm
Tue 28 April	Charity Quiz: Breast Cancer Now	General Havelock 8.15pm
Thu 30 April	Film and Food night tbc	General Havelock 7.30pm
Sat 2 May	Live Band: Wreckage	Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar 9pm

#### Also Weekly

Thursday 7pm HB Carpet Bowls Club: Club Nights – everyone welcome – Community Centre

Dates are: March 19, April 16 & 30  
May 14

Sundays 7.45pm Bingo: Haydonian Community Lounge & Bar

#### Nature Club

7.15pm in the Methodist Church £4 including tea and biscuits

Thu 12 March Ancient Trees and Woods of the Tyne Valley by Rachel Penn

Thu 26 March The RSPB at Geltsdale by Ian Ryding

#### Churches

Catholic Church	Sunday Mass at 9am (including Easter Sunday 5 April)	✚ Wednesday 11 March 7pm Mass for our Parishes’ Partnership
		✚ Tuesday 31 March 2pm Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Service
		✚ Good Friday 3 April 3pm Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion
Methodist Church	Sunday services at 10:30am contact Rev Michael Holland (01434 683732) or Kathleen Armstrong (07788 988162)	✚ Friday 6 March 2pm World Day of Prayer led by Henshaw Mother’s Union
		✚ Good Friday 3 April 10am followed by 10.45am Churches Together Walk of Witness: War Memorial to Old Bridge for Hymns/Readings/Prayers
		✚ Easter Sunday 5 April 10.30am
		✚ Tuesdays 10-12 Meeting Place teas and coffee
		✚ Alternate Wednesday evenings 7pm informal worship/prayer
St Cuthbert’s Church	Sunday services at 11am (including Easter Sunday 5 April) Look at noticeboard outside the church for upcoming services	✚ Thursday 19 March 6.30pm Vigil Eucharist Patronal Festival
		✚ Palm Sunday 29 March 11am Joint Anglican/Methodist Service
		✚ 30 March/1 April 7.30pm Compline (Night Prayer) and Reflection)
		✚ Thursday 2 April 7pm Liturgy of Maundy
		✚ Good Friday 3 April 10am Good Friday Liturgy



## The Bridge Library and Community Hub

### Opening Hours

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

The Bridge will not be open on Good Friday or Easter Monday.

**Easter Opening and Sales:** We will be here on Saturday 4 April for the sale of knitted Easter items, second-hand books etc. and the provision of tourist information. We have various unique knitted items for sale to enhance chocolate oranges, creme eggs and mini eggs. The bunny and chick covers are always popular so get yours early! All proceeds go towards the Bridge running costs.

**National Year of Reading 2026:** This initiative, named Go All In, is all about inspiring people to read more. Whatever your passion Northumberland Libraries has something for it. Membership is free and we have books, magazines and e-lending for every age and interest. Not been to our library on Church Street? The Bridge is a friendly community space for reading, creativity and connection. You can also Go All In from home by trying our e-books, audiobooks and digital magazines. Explore, discover and read into what you love at your library.

**Council consultation on our libraries:** Our County Council has agreed in its budget to substantially reduce the money available to run our library service. They are now consulting on their proposals for achieving their aims. [Read all about it at this link](#) then make your voice heard in the survey. For example, would you like to see more free activities for children linked to major events (World Cup football, Olympics etc) in the holidays? It's a great way to get children reading about things they are interested in! There will be a **drop-in consultation session at our library on Friday 6 March from 3.30 to 5.30**, please do come along.



[Scan to Consult](#)

Our village library service is already run by volunteers at NO cost to the County Council and now they want some other libraries to do the same. This presupposes that there are enough volunteers willing to come forward. Our experience is that this is not guaranteed and we are always looking for more helpers who can commit to 3 or 4 hours a week to keep the service going, or even to open for longer. If you think you can help, particularly on a Monday morning or Friday afternoon, please call in at the Bridge to discuss options further?

**Going on Holiday?** Have you tried the Borrowbox service? With your free library membership you can borrow e-books, magazines and audiobooks by downloading them onto your device. There are time limits but it's much lighter than carrying books around. If you are staying close to home we have a variety of free leaflets for local attractions in our entrance hall. We also have local walking and cycling guides but we would appreciate donations for them.

**Produce Stall:** We raise money for the Bridge by selling donated plants and produce from our Produce Stall. This has proved very popular since last year's start. If you are sowing seeds, taking cuttings etc please put a few aside for our stall and when the time comes donate any surplus produce too. We have a fine collection of recycled plant pots under the stall,

please feel free to take and use them. The Village Gardening group will be holding our annual Plant Sale at the end of May, please think about donating to that too?

**Bonus Ball:** To ensure we continue to raise funds from the Bonus Ball draw and be fair to all we have decided to abide closely to the rules regarding missed payments. Numbers are available if you don't have one (or two or more!) just call in and sign up.

**Thank you:** A big thank you to Barbara Wardle for all her invaluable contributions over many years as a volunteer at The Bridge, as visitor local information guru, and as a marshal and flapjack supplier for the Haydon Hundred.

**Meeting space to rent:** as well as operating as a Library and community hub, The Bridge is available for community groups to rent: any evening after 6pm; Mondays, Thursdays or Saturdays 1-5pm; Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays 9-12am; and most Sundays. If you are interested in renting session time at The Bridge, email Kate Minto at [admin@haydon-bridge.co.uk](mailto:admin@haydon-bridge.co.uk)

### The Weather from John Harrison

January was an eventful start to 2026. A weak ridge of high pressure and relatively clear skies brought an opening spell of sharp frost at night over the first ten days. Daytime temperatures were generally below the long-term average and were accompanied by intermittent light rain and snow flurries. By the 8th, Storm Goretti was approaching bringing fresh to strong winds and drifting snow to parts of the UK. While snow fell in Haydon Bridge, it had turned to sleet by the 9th and a spell of milder wet weather took control until the 15th. Anticyclonic conditions became established over continental Europe on the 16th which effectively blocked the eastwards passage of cyclonic weather and created a chilly south-easterly airflow which persisted until the end of the month.

Two significant storms, Ingrid and Chandra, invaded the south-west UK which suffered worst with damaging winds, heavy snow and rain, although the North-East escaped the worst conditions. In summary, across most of the British Isles January will go on record as an exceptionally wet, but not particularly cold, winter month.

February was another wet month with almost no days without rain falling. The wind remained in the south-east for a further twelve days while pressure remained high in southern Europe effectively blocking the progress eastwards of Atlantic weather system. The situation changed on the 12th as unsettled conditions made inroads across southern UK bringing sleet and snow in arctic air on higher ground (above 800 feet). The breeze became uncomfortably chilly until the 18th when warmer air arrived from the south and a freshening westerly breeze brought a change towards brighter weather. By the end of the month parts of the UK reached temperatures exceeding 18°C, well above the seasonal norm. Daffodils began to flower later than usual.

### Langley on Tyne WI

If you would like to know what's on, give one of us a call or send us an email: President: Diana Bell 01434 688055 Secretary: Cathie Burke 07986005956 Email: [langleyontynewi@gmail.com](mailto:langleyontynewi@gmail.com)



### Local Archive - Spring is in the Air at California Gardens

The California Gardens allotments on Station Road were created in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The Haydon Bridge Allotment Society is one of our oldest village societies. The first reference to the allotments is in William Lee's Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge. He mentions a violent thunderstorm on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1852 when rain totally flooded California Gardens. The actual date of the creation of the allotments is unknown but the name could be a clue. In 1848 the California Goldrush began. The creation of the allotments around this time suggests a link, perhaps because the new gardeners were also diggers. The land belonged to Greenwich Hospital and still does. In 1879 a draft lease for the allotments shows the annual cost of



the tenancy as £21 and 3 shillings – around £3,200 in today's money. The allotments were an important source of food during the two world wars. In the 1960s 8 plots were lost when the County Council bought some of the land to build a new fire station. After the fire station closed in 2016 Stone Halt was built there.

Did you know? Philip Larkin's poem 'Show Saturday', about the Bellingham Show, immortalises the "allotments reaching down to the railway".

This brief summary of California Gardens is drawn from Dennis Telford's Historical Notes of Haydon Bridge originally published in the Haydon News in May to July 2006. Read these in full online at <https://haydon-bridge.co.uk/news/the-haydon-news-back-issues/>

## Community Action

### HOW MUCH WAS RAISED??? - Charity Quizzes at The General Havelock 2025

John Harrison, the Quizmaster has told us that the total amount raised at the monthly charity quizzes at the General Havelock in 2025 (12 quizzes) was the amazing sum of £2908.75 – WELL DONE THE QUIZ TEAMS and those who have donated raffle prizes. Thanks Jo and Gary. Charities supported during 2025 were: Hexham Pride, Bridge 2 Care, West Tynedale Rugby, Breast Cancer Now, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Teenage Cancer Trust (Freeman Hospital), Guide Dogs, Haydon Bridge GITS, Macmillan Cancer Support, British Heart Foundation, Chrysalis Club Tynedale for people with dementia, Salvation Army)

*The average number of teams per quiz was 11 and average attendance was 46 per quiz*

### Haydon Bridge High School - KS3 Music Project



In conjunction with Queens Hall, Hexham, our KS3 classes are currently working with and learning from musicians. Each class has their own song, and pupils are currently enjoying getting to play new instruments

such as the drums, keyboards, electric and bass guitars. Music ranges from Suzi Quatro to Taylor Swift! The project will culminate in a live performance, where family members and our local community can come and enjoy the show. The provisional date is Thursday 9 April.

On 27 February the local MP Joe Morris visited HBHS. Joe visited classes, spoke with pupils and staff and had a Q&A session with members of the School's Pupil Parliament. Pupils asked Joe about the work he does in the local area and put to him suggestions and concerns that they have as young people in rural Northumberland. A very useful discussion took place and pupils felt empowered to be proactive in leading change in our community.



### Come and visit Nurture Project Community Garden

**Open Saturday mornings from 10-1 and Wednesday afternoons from 3-4.30.** Connect with nature through simple activities, help in the garden (lots of seeds to sow and grass to pull out), just walk around or have a play! All welcome.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April** – Spring Community Event – 10-1 including raffle, food and nature workshops. All welcome.

Look out for **Easter holiday club** for children, bookings coming soon!

**Family Forest School** sessions for all ages with a grown-up – monthly Saturday afternoon – dates to be confirmed. Get in touch if you're interested. [lydia@thenurtureprojectcic.co.uk](mailto:lydia@thenurtureprojectcic.co.uk)

### Parish Council Update

Some recent activities as part of continuing work to make it safer for road users and residents

- The footpath gate at the Anchor hotel has been fixed
- The road sweeper has been around the village
- Trees have been pruned around the light at the bend in the road near the Showfield and on Douglas Gardens
- Any parking penalty notices obtained for parking across the lowered curb outside St Cuthbert's Church will no

longer be enforced as it is not classed as a 'dropped curb'

Further works include:

- The drains in the village are due to be cleared
- A scheme for yellow lines on John Martin Street has been confirmed and will go ahead
- The white lines will be refreshed on Innerhaugh Mews.
- A local community emergency plan is being developed, building on the local flood plan



## Businesses and Services

<b>Beauty Therapist</b> <b>Eden Complementary &amp; Beauty Therapies</b> 07557 977307	<b>Cleaning</b> <b>Sparkles Cleaning</b> Charlotte Dunn 07817 807919 01434 688445 <a href="mailto:c.dunnhb@outlook.com">c.dunnhb@outlook.com</a>	<b>Gardening</b> <b>AJ Gardening Services</b> 07957 400196 <a href="mailto:alistairbarker321@yahoo.co.uk">alistairbarker321@yahoo.co.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:haydonplumbing@hotmail.co.uk">haydonplumbing@hotmail.co.uk</a> <b>J.P. Westall Ltd</b> 01434 602740 <a href="https://www.jpwestall.com/">https://www.jpwestall.com/</a>
<b>Bingo</b> <b>Haydonian Community Lounge &amp; Bar</b> <b>01434 684383</b>	<b>Coach Tours and Hire</b> <b>Amble Coaches</b> 07904 412378 <a href="https://amblecoaches.co.uk/">https://amblecoaches.co.uk/</a>	<b>Garages/Motor Repairs</b> <b>Anchor Garage</b> 01434 684345 07903 049147 <b>Gas (Calor, Propane, Butane)</b>	<b>Post Office</b> <b>Co-op Late Shop and Post Office</b> 01434 684327 <b>Residential Care Home</b> <b>Haydon View</b> 01434 684465
<b>Building, &amp; Property Maintenance</b> <b>Brian Howard Properties</b> 01434 688999 07711 033590 <a href="mailto:brianhoward7561@aol.com">brianhoward7561@aol.com</a>	<b>Coal Merchants</b> <b>Stephen Brooks (formerly W.G. Duffy)</b> 01434 684348	<b>Poplars Caravan Park Haydon Bridge</b> (delivery if required) 01434 684427 <b>Hairdresser</b> <b>Debs Mobile Hairdressing</b> 01434 684890 07889 261360 <a href="mailto:dburgess@yahoo.com">dburgess@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Security</b> <b>Safe and Secure 24</b> 01434 688423 <a href="http://www.safeandsecure24.com/">http://www.safeandsecure24.com/</a>
<b>Conservatories Made Superior</b> Chris Sim 01434 684704 07916 334154	<b>Confectionery</b> <b>The Petite Sweet Company</b> 07939907360 <a href="http://www.thepetitesweetcompany.co.uk">www.thepetitesweetcompany.co.uk</a>	<b>The Barber Bus</b> 07712 609057	<b>Septic Tank and Drain Jetting</b> <b>A Macdonald</b> 01434 684491 07801 308006 <b>Shotton Waste Services</b> 01434 681219
<b>E &amp; R builders</b> Brian Ray 07854 043082, Ken Eales 07793 655925	<b>Electricians</b> <b>D &amp; J Oliver Electrical</b> 01434 688132 07730 533348	<b>Homeopathy</b> <b>Patricia Haggie</b> 01434 688687 <a href="mailto:pat_haggie@homeopathy-soh.org">pat_haggie@homeopathy-soh.org</a>	<b>Shops</b> <b>Claire's Convenience Store</b> 01434 684303 <b>Co-op Late Shop and Post Office</b> 01434 684327 <b>Haydon Bridge Pharmacy</b> 01434 684354 <a href="http://www.haydonbridgepharmacy.co.uk/">http://www.haydonbridgepharmacy.co.uk/</a>
<b>George Gamble</b> 01434 688804 07710 193144	<b>Financial Services</b> <b>Foresters Financial</b> 07341 962577	<b>Home Care</b> <b>Helping Hands</b> 0333 060 5211 <a href="http://www.helpinghands.co.uk/">http://www.helpinghands.co.uk/</a>	<b>Taxis</b> <b>Haydon Taxis</b> 01434 671197 <b>Langley Taxis</b> 01434 684658
<b>James Ritchie Architect</b> 07785 915687 <a href="https://www.jamesritchie.com/">https://www.jamesritchie.com/</a>	<b>Food &amp; Drink</b> <b>Anchor Hotel</b> 01434 688121 <a href="http://www.anchorhotelhaydonbridge.com/">http://www.anchorhotelhaydonbridge.com/</a>	<b>Locksmith</b> <b>Hexham Locksmith</b> 07485 221076 <a href="http://hexhamlocksmith.co.uk/">http://hexhamlocksmith.co.uk/</a>	<b>Travel Counsellor</b> <b>Janice Cumberland</b> 07576 202402
<b>Jamie Eales Plastering &amp; Damp Solutions</b> 07742750463 <a href="mailto:jamie_eales@yahoo.com">jamie_eales@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Carts Bog Inn</b> 01434 684338 <a href="http://www.cartsbog.co.uk/">http://www.cartsbog.co.uk/</a>	<b>Milkman</b> <b>P &amp; G Phillips</b> <a href="mailto:melkelder@btinternet.com">melkelder@btinternet.com</a>	<b>Tiling</b> <b>Paul Brown</b> 01434 684890 07769 537513 <a href="mailto:paulbrowntiling@yahoo.com">paulbrowntiling@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Langley Furniture Works</b> 01434 688977 <a href="http://langleyfurnitureworks.co.uk/">http://langleyfurnitureworks.co.uk/</a>	<b>General Havelock Inn</b> 01434 684376 <a href="mailto:generalhavelock@aol.com">generalhavelock@aol.com</a>	<b>Nursery</b> <b>Little Badgers Childcare</b> Ofsted Registered Day Nursery 01434 684446	<b>Watch Repairs</b> <b>Mr George's Museum of Time</b> 01434 688055 <a href="http://timeforgeorge.co.uk/">http://timeforgeorge.co.uk/</a>
<b>Graeme Murphy Joinery</b> 07985 482452	<b>Haydonian Community Lounge &amp; Bar</b> 01434 684383	<b>Painters and Decorators</b> <b>P Coats</b> 01434 688739 07940 429920	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Gill Valentine</b> <a href="https://gillvalentine.co.uk/">https://gillvalentine.co.uk/</a>
<b>M R Cook Construction</b> 01434 688222 <a href="https://mrcookconstruction.com/">https://mrcookconstruction.com/</a>	<b>Langley Castle Hotel</b> 01434 688888 <a href="https://www.langleycastle.co.uk/en/">https://www.langleycastle.co.uk/en/</a>	<b>Gary Cunningham</b> 01434 684041 <b>Jamie Dunn</b> 01434 688445 07584 192647 <a href="mailto:j.dunnhb@hotmail.co.uk">j.dunnhb@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
<b>RH Joinery</b> Richard Hines 07999 787948	<b>Oddfellows Coffee</b> 07904 411054 <a href="mailto:oddfellowscOFFEE@yahoo.com">oddfellowscOFFEE@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Plumbers and Heating Engineers</b> <b>D C Oil Heating &amp; Plumbing Services</b> 07582 864066	
<b>Stephen Todd Joinery &amp; Glazing</b> 01434 688726 07736 671612	<b>Railway Hotel</b> 01434 684254 Now open 11-midnight 7 days a week	<b>Haydon Plumbing and Heating</b> Kevin Thompson 07904819998	
<b>Steven Elliott Stonemason</b> 07921 726000 <a href="mailto:seoldnew@gmail.com">seoldnew@gmail.com</a>	<b>Haydon Bridge Fish &amp; Chip Shop</b> 01434 684289		
<b>Cashpoint</b> <b>Co-op Late Shop and Post Office</b> 01434 684327			

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 [louise.haydonpc@gmail.com](mailto:louise.haydonpc@gmail.com)  
Sue Jackson [suejackson.hbpc@gmail.com](mailto:suejackson.hbpc@gmail.com)  
Caitlin Kendall  
Danielle Webster [danielle.haydonpc@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.haydonpc@gmail.com)

### Useful Contacts

**Flood Group:** Flood Warden. John Alder 07587 174552 [boulders1975@gmail.com](mailto:boulders1975@gmail.com)  
**Health Centre:** North Bank, Haydon Bridge, 01434 684216  
**Schools:** Shaftoe Trust 01434 684309 [shaftoe@wiseacademies.co.uk](mailto:shaftoe@wiseacademies.co.uk)  
Haydon Bridge High School: 01434 684422 [hbhs@hbhs.co.uk](mailto:hbhs@hbhs.co.uk)  
**Local Groups at Haydon Bridge Community Centre:** Valerie Bell 07809 609166  
Yoga – Tue 7.15pm and Qi Gong Thu 9:30am. Gill Valentine 07711 110850  
Boot Camp with Abbie Oldham, 07507 118216 Wed & Fri 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.