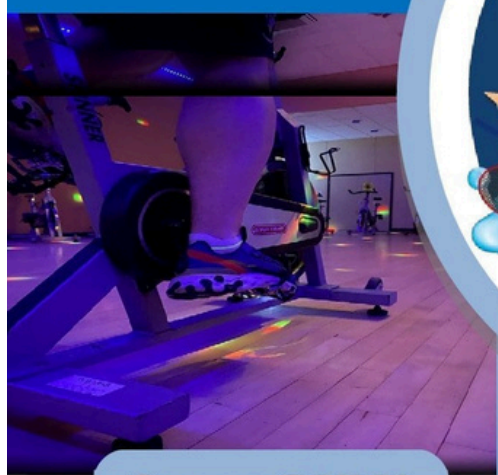


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Contents

4/5	What's on this month
6	Welcome from the Editorial Team
9/10	Haltwhistle Partnership
12	County Council
13	Haltwhistle Town Council
16	Chamber of Trade
17	Local Hero
20/21/22	Parishes by the Wall West
23	View From The Vicarage
24	Methodist Church
25	Hospitable Haltwhistle
26	Culture & Arts
29	Next Generation
31/32/33	Out & About
36	Health Matters
37/38	Hidden History
41	Sports
43	Directory



What's on in September

- 2nd** Lunch Club, 12-2pm, Methodist Church Hall, see p10
- 3rd** Poetry Drop-In, 1:30-3pm, Greenhead Village Hall, Theme - Autumn
- 4th** A Night With Henry VIII - 3 course dinner and show, 6:30pm, Featherstone Castle - £30; proceeds for Comb Hill Park, see posters in town
- 4-10th** Haltwhistle Art Club, 2nd Exhibition, Railway Old Ticket Office
- 6th** Nearly New Sale, 9:30-11:30am, for Henshaw Nursery, Methodist Church Hall
- 9th** Garden Club - Visit to Stanton Hall Nursery and Garden, contact junereed53@icloud.com or 01434 320310
- 10th** Haltwhistle History and Heritage Group - Talk on Featherstone POW Camp, 7:30pm, Comrades Club
- 12th** Harvest Buffet Lunch, 12:30-3:00 pm, Holy Cross Church
- 12th** New Term for Hadrian's Singers, 7pm, Hospital Community Room, free to all ages and abilities
- 14th** Greenhead Farmer's Market, 10-1:30pm, Greenhead Village Hall
- 26th** Harvest Supper, 6:30pm, Greenhead Village Hall, see p21
- 28th** Harvest Festival, 11:00am, St Cuthberts, Greenhead
- 28th** Harvest Festival, 11:00am, All Hallows, Henshaw

Regular Events

Churches Together - Praying Together:

Every Monday, 10:30am, Holy Cross

Haltwhistle Memory Café: First Monday of the month, 2-4pm, Community Room

Greenhead Art Club: Every Monday, 1:30-3pm, Village Hall

A.N.D. Sensory Chillout: Every other Mon, 3:30-5pm, Family Hub

Greenhead W.I.: Every second Monday 7pm, Greenhead Village Hall

Henshaw W.I.: Every Monday 11-3, All Hallows Church Room

Older People's Project: Every Tuesday, 10am-12noon, Drop In, Methodist Church Hall

Stay and Play: Every Tuesday in term time, 1:30-3pm, 0-5 years, Family Hub

Greenhead Craft Group: Alternative Tuesdays, 2pm, Greenhead Village Hall

Family Cafe: First Tuesday, 2-3pm, Drop-In, Free refreshments, Family Hub

Warhammer Club: Every Tuesday, 5-7pm, Bonnie's Cafe

Mothers' Union: Every second Tuesday, 2:15pm, Holy Cross

Bardon Mill Film Night: Every third Tuesday, 4pm in the church room.

Community Gardeners: Every Wednesday, 9.45am-12.30pm, meet behind Pillar Box Cafe

Peep A.N.D.: Every Wednesday, a quieter session for those with additional needs and/or disabilities, 0-5yrs, 10-11, Family Hub

Knit & Natter: Every Wednesday, 2pm, Haltwhistle Library

Craft & Chat: Every Wednesday, 2pm, Holy Cross

Haltwhistle Friendship Group: Every Wednesday, 1-3pm Hospital Community Room

Haltwhistle W.I.: Every 1st Thursday 7:15pm, Comrades Club

Haltwhistle Growing Together: Every Thursday 10am-12noon, Haltwhistle Youth Club

Calico Hinnies: Every 4th Thursday, 1:30-4pm, Greenhead Village Hall

Badminton For All: Every Friday, 10am-12noon, Haltwhistle Leisure Centre

Stay and Play: Term Time Fridays, 10.00am-11.30am (drop in), 0-5yrs, Family Hub

ZigZag Days: Alternate Fridays, from 10am, for info call Sue 07935 259 416

New Hadrian Singers: Every Friday, 7pm, Hospital Community Room

Greenhead Dominos Night: Every Friday, 7pm, Greenhead Village Hall

Haltwhistle Art Club: Every Friday, 10.30-2:30pm, Methodist Church Hall

Breakfast Club: Last Sunday of the Month, Bacon butties, tea and coffee, 9am-1pm, Greenhead Village Hall

From The Editorial Team

This edition of the Herald marks the start of our third year - how time flies. We have had a very successful advertising campaign and huge thanks to all our advertisers. See if you can spot the new adverts!

We are also very grateful to our sponsors, who are supporting us for the third year - the Partnership, the Chamber of Trade, the local churches and the Town and County Councils. We couldn't continue to provide such a good quality magazine, celebrating our town, for free, without their help.

Whilst we are mentioning Northumberland County Council, we welcome a new contribution from our councillor Rachel Mathieson on page 12. It's good to hear what she is trying to achieve for our town. We will be getting updates from Rachel four times a year. See page 12, as well as how to get in touch with Rachel with any ideas or issues you want to raise with her.

So September is here after what has been a lovely long summer, with lots of sun and fun events happening. Read all about the Carnival 2025, who won the prizes and our fabulous duck race launch photo on the back page. Well done Deborah! Could everyone start looking out for pictures of Autumn leaves for October's back page.

Finally, it was lovely to hear about Young and Sweet and all the activities they took part in over the holidays - here's a picture of them all at South Shields - what a perfect blue sky! Lovely to see our next generation getting together for some traditional seaside and fairground fun.



Our next edition will be October so contributions need to be with us by the 20th September at the very latest please, maximum 250 words with a couple of pictures. To send contributions or to contact us email haltwhistleherald@gmail.com



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Haltwhistle Partnership

Former First School

Northumberland County Council has placed the former First School building in Haltwhistle up for sale. Under the Borderlands Growth Deal, there is a valuable opportunity to secure funding for projects that deliver meaningful economic growth for the town.

In response, the Haltwhistle Partnership submitted a proposal to repurpose the building into a multi-use centre, comprising bunkhouse-style visitor accommodation, an events space, and activity areas designed to support and complement the Swimming and Leisure Centre.

Unfortunately, our proposal was rejected. Northumberland County Council has indicated their intention to sell the site to a developer for the provision of social housing. While we acknowledge the need for affordable housing, we believe the only form of social housing appropriate for this location would be an aged care facility. However, no funding is currently available to support such a scheme.

As a result, two significant petitions are currently circulating within the Haltwhistle community, each

proposing a vision for the future of the Former First School site—both rooted in strong community values and priorities.

The first petition, initiated by the Haltwhistle Partnership, advocates for the expansion of the Haltwhistle Swimming and Leisure Centre. This initiative aligns closely with the objectives of the Borderlands Town Investment Plan funding. Having received substantial community support, this petition has now been formally submitted to Northumberland County Council's Petitions Department, and a response is awaited.

A second petition, still gathering signatures, proposes the creation of an aged care facility. Spearheaded by concerned residents Rachel and Terry Christie, this initiative addresses the urgent and growing need for services that support Haltwhistle's older population—an often-overlooked demographic. The Haltwhistle Partnership has expressed full support for this proposal, recognising its importance for the long-term wellbeing of the community. The petition remains available for signing via the Haltwhistle Matters Facebook page.

Haltwhistle Partnership

Regardless of which proposal residents may support, one message is clear: community consultation must be central to any planning decisions made by Northumberland County Council regarding the Former First School site. Ensuring that local voices are heard and respected is vital in shaping a future that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of the Haltwhistle community.

Annual General Meeting

The Haltwhistle Partnership's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to take place this October, with the exact date to be confirmed in the coming weeks. This important event is open to all members of the community, and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

The AGM offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year, as well as to outline the strategic direction and key projects planned for the year ahead. It is also a chance for

attendees to meet the Partnership team, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of how the organisation continues to support local development, wellbeing, and community initiatives.

Whether you're a long-time supporter, a local resident interested in community progress, or someone new to the area looking to get involved, your presence and input are welcome and encouraged.

Details of the confirmed date, time, and venue will be published soon via the Haltwhistle Partnership website, social media channels, and published in the October Haltwhistle Herald. For further information, please contact the Partnership Office on 01434 321242.

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County Council

Message from County Councillor, Rachel Mathieson 1st Quarterly Update

It is mid-August and I've been County Councillor for Haltwhistle for 3.5 months. In my first quarterly report, I've decided to describe my experiences so far, and give you an idea of my role and duties.

It's been a whirlwind time of training (budget, audit, governance, etc) and meetings (Full, Town and Parish Council, new committees, and with constituents and NCC officers). I've spent many hours on the train to Morpeth and back, and have counted my blessings that not once has there been a delay. At my induction on 3 May - one of the proudest moments of my life, I vowed to adhere to the 'Nolan Principles' for public service: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. I take these standards seriously - please hold me to them!

Part of my role is to serve the county, and for this I'm on 4 committees: Family and Children's Services, National Park, Tynedale Community Partnership and West Planning Committee.



However, it is also vital that I establish a cooperative working relationship for the good of Haltwhistle; therefore I am in regular touch with the Town Council, the police and housing authorities. But now I'm impatient for action: there is so much going on in this busy, vibrant town, and I want to be part of it and make a difference. Obviously top of my list is the Working Men's Club, and hopefully next time I can report on some progress.

There was no handover from my predecessor, so please, if there is any unresolved business, or any new concern, do get in touch:

Rachel.Mathieson@northumberland.gov.uk or 07889144321

Town Council

Public Toilets to Receive Long-Awaited Renovation

After much campaigning from councillors, Haltwhistle has finally been included in Northumberland County Council's programme of public toilet refurbishments. For a long time our town was overlooked, but thanks to persistent pressure from Haltwhistle Town Council the public toilets are now scheduled for a full renovation. We are very pleased to see this long-awaited progress for local residents and visitors alike.



New See-Saw for Comb Hill Park

The damaged see-saw in Comb Hill Park, which had sadly been broken beyond repair, has now been replaced. Councillor Keith Teasdale is going one step further by organising a fundraising show to support the costs of this work and ensure our parks remain a welcoming place for families.

Working Man's Club – Still Awaiting Action

The Working Man's Club site continues to be a concern for the town more than two years after the devastating fire. Haltwhistle Town Council has formally requested that Northumberland County Council serve a Section 215 notice on the owners of the site. A Section 215 notice is a legal measure that can be used by local authorities to require land or buildings in a poor state to be cleaned up or repaired when they are considered to be adversely affecting the local community. We hope this action will finally prompt some progress at this long-neglected site. Members of the WMC committee have stated they are hopeful work will commence shortly.

Vandalism in Haltwhistle

There has unfortunately been an outbreak of vandalism in the town in recent weeks. Equipment in Comb Hill Park has been damaged, benches have been broken, and graffiti has appeared in several locations. We urge residents to be vigilant and to report any incidents to the police using the non-emergency number 101. By working together as a community we can help prevent further damage.

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Chamber of Trade

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How lucky are we to live in such a Community spirited, philanthropic town such a Haltwhistle?

For example, for some time now we have had the Chamber of Trade Haltwhistle Town Lights Appeal collection bottles dotted about our stores which steadily get filled with your loose change over the course of the year. Our local Cooperative Store, however, generally return a full bottle every fortnight (or sooner). Thanks to Amanda and her staff, the bottles are prominently on display and readily accessible, and thanks to all of you, they get heavy very quickly.

Additionally, Christine Dover and her wonderful army of willing helpers once again hosted the Christmas Lights Appeal Annual Coffee Afternoon at the Masonic Hall. This highly anticipated event is organised to raise funds to replenish the Town Xmas Lights kitty and returns a 4 figure sum every year, which is an amazing feat for an Afternoon Tea!

It is undoubtedly down to the quality of the lovingly crafted bakes on offer and the outstanding taste of the beverages the volunteers serve up, along with the

excellent Tombola and Raffle prizes donated by residents and businesses alike. This year they raised in excess of a whopping £1360.00 ensuring the longevity of our Lights display way beyond this Christmas.

Finally, for yet another example of how this charitable community pulls together, you need look no further than the Community Shops, where both donating and bargain hunting go hand in hand. There is however a limit to the fine wares that can be displayed for sale in the space available and so the Chamber of Trade has stepped in and teamed up with the Partnership to help organise our first Town Charity Auction, set for 3rd October 2025 at The Comrades Club from 6.00pm. If you pop along on the evening you will be able to register for free, to bid, and you will be presented with your own bid number and paddle. You can then relax with a drink and be enthralled by the entertaining auctioneers patter delivered by our own retired Vicar, Keith Teasdale (of Panto fame) and hopefully walk away with some handpicked treasures for a knock down price. All the proceeds will go to the Town Community Fund which is now in its 2nd year, and available to help with projects which benefit our whole community.

Local Hero

Haltwhistle Celebrates Anne Mitchinson's 90 Remarkable Years

This year, Haltwhistle proudly celebrated the 90th birthday of one of its most cherished residents, Anne Mitchinson — a woman whose heart has been as vibrant as her garden, and whose life has quietly shaped the spirit of our town.

Born in 1935, just before the world was swept into war, Anne has witnessed extraordinary moments in history — from the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II to the moon landing and the digital age. But through every chapter, her unwavering dedication to others has remained her defining story.

Anne is a lifelong fundraiser and one of Haltwhistle's most steadfast community champions. Over the decades, she has supported countless local causes — organizing raffles, bake sales, coffee mornings and charity fairs. Her legendary cakes, always homemade and beautifully decorated, have been the centerpiece of many events. Her efforts have raised thousands for churches, community groups, health charities, and more.



She never misses a year preparing shoeboxes for children in need overseas, filling each one with care and love. Quietly and consistently, she's extended kindness to older members of the community too — checking in on Neighbours, offering help, and always thinking of others.

She is also the proud matriarch of a large and loving family: mother to Terry, Sharon, and Janice, grandmother to eight, and great-grandmother to four.

As her family and friends gather to mark this milestone, Haltwhistle celebrates a woman whose life has been devoted to giving — and who continues to inspire all who know her.

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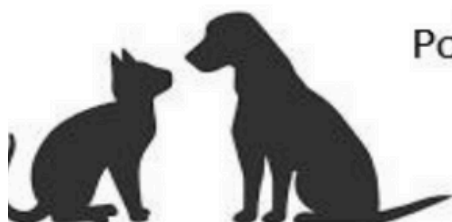


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Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

Goodness, it's September already! And we have been looking ahead and preparing for our Autumn programme. At the end of September there will be harvest festivals in church on the 28th at St. Cuthbert's Church, Greenhead and All Hallow's Church, Henshaw at 11am while in Holy Cross, Haltwhistle it will be the 5th of October at 10am. You are warmly invited to come and give thanks to God for all the blessings we have, giving thanks particularly for the food we have and for all our farmers and their work.

prepare it at home – and if those are your own, then marvel at the gift of God that you can use those hands for all the good things you use them for. What a wonder you are!



Then later in October, when our schools have settled and are squeezing in their harvest thanksgivings we'll be getting geared up for All Saints and All Souls Day, and before you know it we'll be thinking about December and... no! We can't mention that this early even if the shops will probably soon be on it! Time flies but we don't need to waste today by worrying about tomorrow. This month put in the date to visit church and give thanks for your daily bread, and for eggs and beans and courgettes and carrots and fish and chips and the hands that harvest and manufacture them and transport it and make sure it's fresh and healthy for us to eat, not to mention the hands that

Harvest services: 28th at St. Cuthbert's Church Greenhead and All Hallow's Church Henshaw at 11am, Holy Cross Haltwhistle 5th of October at 10am.

From the Registers:

Baptisms -

Henshaw: Cian Craney, Haltwhistle:

Esther Rogan

Weddings -

Beltingham: Robbie and Charlotte Nixon

Greenhead: Alex and Shelly Hearder

Henshaw: Alex and Helen Birkinshaw

Haltwhistle: Sam and Chad Cowan

Funerals – Sean Spark, Mary Ellen

(Nellie) Alderson, Jean Smith

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

St Cuthberts, Greenhead

We had a lovely Cream Teas afternoon in August helping to raise money for our church with perfect weather for it too. We had a steady stream of people coming through the door and the people at table just managing to leave as new folk arrived. Some of the money raised will go on the painters coming in September to make good the damage on the wall caused by some leaks in the roof last year. The roof was repaired but we had to wait at least six months for the walls to dry out – the summer weather certainly helped with that!



As we come to a new term for our school, we're glad that Steve, our vicar, is all fixed up with assembly dates and visits of the school to church this coming term. We would like our school to bring the children over to church more and to help get the children familiar with our heritage there. If you would like to organise a visit with your children and family, do get in touch because although we cannot leave our church open at all times, we do like to welcome visitors. Mick and Angela do a good job of helping with the churchyard but also they often

welcome visitors and unlock the church for them to see it. We so much appreciate their on the spot help there.

We are looking forward to our Harvest Supper on Friday 26th at 6.30pm – tickets from Elsie and Jude.

All Hallows, Henshaw

Our church room is available for community use and one group that comes is Bardon Mill Women's Institute, meeting once a week on a Monday from 11am to 3pm in All Hallows Church Room - bring your own lunch, tea and coffee provided. The meeting is open to any member who would like to come. A few of the group are also members of Henshaw and Beltingham Mothers' Union. Our attendance is varied from 6 to 14 members paying £2 each to cover costs for the hire. Many are knitters, crocheters and sewers but not all. It is a time to meet chat, put the world to rights and do some sort of handicraft. We have one member who sorts out stamps for the Air Ambulance, painstakingly cutting and sorting out stamps from all over the world. The earliest have been, to date 1896! She was given 2 binbags full, enough to last her 50 years! It has proved to be a welcome meeting place for all sorts of reasons companionship and a chance to talk.

On the knitting and crafting side those who live in the Village will have seen our contributions go up on the post boxes for Easter, Halloween, poppies for Remembrance in November and Christmas. Our last combined effort was to knit Easter bunny rabbits for the children of Henshaw Primary School. One of our members sourced a knitting pattern for them and with infinite patience and grace, from her, we managed to accomplish the creation of more than 200. They were well received by the Children and the wider community.

The RVI maternity unit put out a request for premature baby hats, doll size! Within weeks we had enough to supply the RVI and Wishall General Hospital Maternity unit in Scotland. Peoples' Kitchen have asked for knitted or crocheted blankets, they are a work in progress and a sight to behold using up donated wool from other projects. Monday's 11am till 3pm. Do come along and join us.



View From The Vicarage

Canon Steve Wright

People often mistake me for an adult because of my age. It's not my age that bothers me but it's the side effects. I left school behind years ago but I find it interesting that the school terms still have such an effect on our lives. Often when I'm out and about children I see will call out and say hi, knowing me from school assemblies – some have been pleased to be out on holiday but others are looking forward to going back to school and being back with their friends. Church is a good place to make and keep up with friends. You'd be welcome any time if you wanted to try it – the start of a new term for you too maybe 😊.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church of England

First Sunday of September - 10am Group service St Cuthbert's Greenhead

Other Sundays of September -

- 9.30am Holy Cross, Haltwhistle
- 11am St. Cuthbert's, Greenhead
- 11am All Hallows' Henshaw
- Thursdays 10am - a quiet meditative service - Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

Roman Catholic Services

9.30am on Thursdays at St. Wilfrid's Church Haltwhistle

Methodist Services

10.30am on Sundays at Haltwhistle Methodist Church

CONTACTS

Church of England

Revd Canon Steve Wright
Holy Cross Church, Haltwhistle NE49 0AB
01434 320215
<https://parishesbythewall.org.uk/>

Methodist

Revd Marie Beard
Haltwhistle Methodist Church, Westgate, Haltwhistle
01434 632210
www.tynedalemethcircuit.org/churches/haltwhistle.html

Roman Catholic

Father Jeffrey Dodds
St. Wilfred's Catholic Church, Westgate, Haltwhistle
01434 603119
<https://www.stmaryshexham.org.uk/st-wilfrids-haltwhistle/>

Methodist Church

Haltwhistle **Methodist** Church 

September 2025

Services

Sunday 7th

10.30am Rev Marie Beard
(Holy Communion)

Sunday 14th

10.30am Ian Warburton

Sunday 21st

10.30am Jacqui Cameron

Sunday 28th

10.30am Elaine Goy

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Hospitable Haltwhistle

This month we spoke to Cheryl at the Pillar Box Cafe.

HH – You've been running the Cafe for 17 years. What a wonderful achievement. How did it all come about?

Cheryl – *The Pillar Box was already here when we took it over. We had experience in the catering industry and wanted to run a cafe here in my home town.*

HH – Congratulations on winning the Best Cafe in Northumberland in March. An amazing award and now you are Grand Finalists to be the best Cafe in England.

Cheryl – *We are absolutely delighted, especially as the nominations are made anonymously. The awards were held at the Hilton Hotel in Newcastle and we had a fabulous time. The final will be in Birmingham on the 16th November, voting closes on the 14th. Anyone can vote by texting "The Pillar Box Cafe, Haltwhistle" to 07520 634133. A big thank you to everyone who votes for us.*

HH – We all wish you the very best of luck, let's put Haltwhistle and the Pillar Box Cafe on top and everyone get voting! You also do home deliveries and take out orders, what sort of things do you offer?

Cheryl – *Yes we've done that for 14 years and made deliveries all through the Covid pandemic, many people rely on getting good home cooked dinners delivered. We have extended our delivery to include Greenhead, Bardon Mill areas. We have weekly menus which we rotate with a variety of familiar, lovely meals such as mince and dumpling, casseroles, fish and chips.*

HH – If you could make a couple of changes to the Cafe what would they be?

Cheryl – *On a hot day like today (mid August) I'd like to make the kitchen cooler! We have to keep swapping between the kitchen and the cafe to get a break. It's a cute cafe but I would also like it to be bigger.*

HH – Finally, what's your favourite thing about the Pillar Box?

Cheryl – *I have a passion for baking, so when I can combine that with making my customers happy - it's the best!*



Culture & Arts

Field Shelter - Tender Meadows

This summer has seen our first full programme of activities as Field Shelter CIC. We were very grateful to receive a share of the Haltwhistle Community Shops Fund in order to produce this project and deliver a series of hands-on creative workshops at an affordable ticket price for the people of Haltwhistle.

All focused around our beautiful wildflower field, the activities on offer aimed to connect people with its diverse range of life forms through mindful observation, as well as introducing them to new and different creative processes. From using plaster of paris to make detailed botanical casts, to using light-sensitive chemicals to make prints using the power of the sun - there was a wide range of options to choose from.



Some sessions took place at our creative studio, which lies in sight of Hadrian's Wall at the top of Shield Hill - others we held at venues in town; and we were excited to welcome some special guest artists to help run some of the sessions too. Overall attendance was very high, and we received lots of excellent feedback.

We're now looking forward to producing some exciting future projects, and collaborating with more local and national artists and organisations!

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Acro 5-5:50
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Adult tap 6:45-7:30
Clubbercise 7:45 – 8:30

Thurs – Teeny boppers 4-4:30
Mini ballet/tap/mod 4:30-5:20
Junior ballet/tap/mod 5:30-6:20
Street 6:30-7:30
Senior ballet/tap/mod 7:30-8:30

Fri – Junior ballet/tap/mod 5-5:50
Street 6-6:50



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Next Generation

Young & Sweet

Summer holidays are always a favourite time of year for us as we get to do lots of exciting activities which gives us the chance to see a different side of our young people and strengthen our relationships with them.

We have had a fantastic sign up for 2025 summer programme which means we have never stopped over the summer. Our first activity was one of our favourites which is the family trip to South Shields, 60 of us from Haltwhistle enjoyed the sun, chipped in to help each other out and although it was a bit breezy it did not stop the kids having a great day being free and enjoying each other's company.

Members enjoyed a BBQ with all the trimming at youth club and of course a game of hide and seek. Another local activity was soft play at Haltwhistle Leisure Centre, the centre are always very good to us and we appreciate the partnership working.

A mixed age group took part in an outdoor activity residential to Weardale Activity Centre where young people experienced archery tag, rock climbing, river walking, mine exploration, and ghyll scrambling.

The visiting bat onto the girls' floor caused some commotion but a little 'white lie' to say we caught it ensured everyone went to sleep, including the bat.

45 Young people enjoyed a day trip, our first stop was inflatespace (giant bouncy castles, slides and assault course), they are a lot braver than the staff when it comes to jumping on giant balloons! Back on the coach and off to Tynemouth (long sands) which was wonderful. The groups, played, swam, ate and rock pooled, it a very wholesome day and up there with the best.

Lastly, we went to Blackpool Pleasure Beach with the thrill seekers! With only older members attending the trip it is a more chilled out day, for the staff that is, as the young people are busy getting flung about on roller coasters!

We are now busy trying to work out the weekly session times for September, we try and work around other clubs so that young people do not have to choose between local activities. As you can imagine it is like trying to solve an impossible puzzle as our young people have busy diaries. We are looking forward to the new term and welcoming back our regular members along with our new starters.



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Out & About

Haltwhistle Carnival

Haltwhistle Carnival 2025 was a huge success, we had more than 10 floats entered in the parade which is the most for many years. The standard of floats was unbelievable and the judge, Paul Mooney, found it very difficult to judge. It was evident how much time, effort and resource had gone into each and every float. Here are this year's results:

Best Overall

- 🏆 Shrek
- 🥈 Old MacDonald
- 🥉 Mr Men and Little Miss

Large Float

- 🏆 Madagascar
- 🥈 Peter Pan
- 🥉 Kung Fu Panda

Trailer Float

- 🏆 Wicked
- 🥈 Old MacDonald

Small Float

- 🏆 Shrek
- 🥈 Wicked

Community Group

- 🏆 Jurassic Park
- 🥈 50 Years of Halty Pool
- 🥉 Great North Run

Childrens Float

- 🏆 Mr Men and Little Miss
- 🥈 Kung Fu Panda
- 🥉 Madagascar

Most Artistic

- 🏆 Peter Pan
- 🥈 Mr Men and Little Miss
- 🥉 Great North Run

Best Car/Quad

- 🏆 Emerald Train - Wicked

Best Bike or Pram

- 🏆 Hot Air Balloon - Wicked
- 🥈 Onion Carriage - Shrek

Best Walking Group (any group of people walking)

- 🏆 Alien Invaders
- 🥈 Wicked
- 🥉 Old MacDonald

Outstanding Homemade Costume

- 🏆 Turtle - Kung Fu Panda
- 🥈 Scarecrow - Old MacDonald
- 🥉 Mr Nosey - Mr Men and Little Miss

Best Walking Costume

- 🏆 Badger - Old MacDonald
- 🥈 Flying Monkeys - Wicked
- 🥉 Three Blind Mice - Shrek

Best Dressed Collector

- 🏆 Pirates

Most Unique Individual

- 🏆 Baby Dinosaur In the Egg - Jurassic Park



Congratulations to you all 🏆 an outstanding effort from every single person involved.

Out & About



We were lucky enough to have Hannah Lucy Stage School and Naimh Fionbarra School of Dance putting on a show for lots of spectators, the children and young people did their dance schools proud. The Cumberland wrestling was very popular this year with people from organised clubs and novices having the opportunity to join in. The Novice class saw Ross Pattinson claim 1st Prize with Jay Lovell coming a close 2nd. Tom Teasdale presented Jack Pedley with best junior performer and Tom Harrington presented the winner Jack Pringle with the under 10's tankard. Roll on 12th July 2026

The weather was on our side this year which meant locals and visitors were in 'summer mode' resulting in the beer tent being sold out by 4pm, the Keir Weir band helped towards the festival vibe with some banging tunes!



Out & About

Town Twinning

Twinning visit to Valentano July 2025
Haltwhistle Town Twinning members: Catherine Jarvis, Claire Heaviside and Susan Dixon visited our Italian Twinning village of Valentano in Lazio during July this year. Here is their account:

We would like to thank the town mayor, Stefano Bigiotti; the President of Twinning in Valentano, Maria Pia Nuccetelli and Francesco Ricci, President of the Consiglio Comunale plus all the other host families who were incredibly generous with their time and hospitality. Many members of our other twinning village, St. Méen-le-Grand, from Brittany, were there as well.



We were all treated to many wonderful meals during the five day visit along with many cultural highlights and other gastronomic offerings. The first night began at the Cortile d'Amore at Rocca Farnese, Capodimonte, where a group photo was taken.

Amazing visits to Spoleto, Rasiglia on the first day (Tuesday); Castello Ruspoli at Vignanello, Lake Vico and the Farnese Palace at Caprarola (Wednesday) and we then went on to Castilgion del Lago, Trasimeno Lake and Città delle Pieve (Thursday). The highlight of the week was the spectacular Palazzo Farnese... moreover the warm hospitality of the Italians played a major part in this incredibly enjoyable cultural exchange!

We would love to welcome more people to Haltwhistle Town Twinning. Anyone who would like to join our regular get-togethers; our twinning visits to France, Italy plus visits to our wonderful counties of Northumberland and Cumbria when we host a visit, is very much encouraged to come along! Please contact

HaltwhistleTwinning@gmail.com for more information.



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Health Matters

Haltwhistle Medical Group Flu and COVID Autumn/Winter 2025-26

Joint Flu and COVID clinic

Patients aged 75+ and/or Immunosuppressed can have their Flu and COVID vaccinations at the same time. If you wish to have both vaccinations, book via the on-line National Booking System which opens for bookings on 1st September 2025. Use 'Flu and COVID' appointment option, or telephone 119. Clinics will take place at Haltwhistle Fire Station on Monday 6th October 2025 and Tuesday 14th October 2025.

September 2025

- pregnant women
- children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2025
- children in clinical risk groups aged from 6 months to less than 18 years

Pregnant women and parents/guardians of children will receive a text invite to book an appointment early September. The Flu clinics will take place at Haltwhistle Medical Group from Mid-September.

October 2025

- aged 65+
- aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- main carers of an elderly or disabled person(s)
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- social care frontline workers

Eligible Adults with a mobile number will receive a text invite to book an appointment early September. The Flu clinics will take place at Haltwhistle Medical Group in October.

All Haltwhistle Medical Group appointments are bookable via the NHS App or call our Vaccination telephone line (01434 325900) 2pm – 4.30pm Tuesdays—Friday.

Housebound Patients

It is recommended that Housebound patients have Flu and COVID vaccinations at the same time to avoid vaccination delays. Patients will receive a telephone call in September to book.

See our advert on the previous page too for more details on how to book.

Kindly sponsored by the Roman Army Museum



Hidden History

A Gilsland Connection to Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, Clare Andrea (Andy) Neilson Hornby (1944-1982)

Andy was born on 15th September 1944 at the Maternity Hospital, Gilsland, Northumberland. He was the son of Ruth Neilson*, later Ruth Ellis, then 17, and a married Canadian soldier, who sent money for about a year, and then stopped. Andy went to live with Ellis's mother, Berta (a Belgian war refugee) who was, in 1969, found unconscious in a gas-filled room in her flat in Hemel Hempstead. She never fully recovered and did not speak coherently ever again. His step-father, George Johnston Ellis, descended into alcoholism and hanged himself in 1958. Andy, who was 10 at the time of his mother's execution, suffered irreparable psychological damage and took his own life in a Paddington bedsit on 17th June 1982. This was a most tragic and complex family. The judge presiding at the trial of his mother, Sir Cecil Havers, sent money every year for Andy's upkeep, and for Christmas.

Mr Humphreys, the prosecution counsel, paid for Andy's funeral. Ruth Ellis (1926-1955) was the last woman to be executed in Britain. Andy destroyed the marker on her grave at Amersham, St Mary's Cemetery in Buckinghamshire, and it has never been replaced.

* Ruth's father, Arthur Hornby, was a cellist from Manchester who spent much of his time playing on Atlantic cruise liners. Arthur changed his surname to Neilson after the birth of Ruth's elder sister Muriel. Ruth was born Neilson and it was as Neilson that she married George Ellis in Tonbridge, Kent in 1950 - hence Andy was given that surname.



Kindly sponsored by the Roman Army Museum



Hidden History

The Shadow of the Swastika by Valerie M Noon

Sometimes we see our very familiar world from a very different point of view, so it looks like a different place altogether. For us, it's home. What would it look like to an enemy? How would we react to having such people nearby?

Featherstone Castle was a POW camp at the end of WW2. The inmates had come from the very different world of Nazi Germany, some were traumatised to see their homeland defeated, others very glad to see the war brought to an end, but all had scars from the conflict. Valerie's book begins in the early years of Nazi Germany, following a young couple and their struggles to get married in the face of increasing complications by the regime.

We find Manfred years later as a captive, brought to Featherstone, and working through the scars and trauma of his years on the Russian Front. The story of the camp is a fascinating reawakening of an episode of local history forgotten by many and completely unknown to most: what is now a quiet spot

nestling in the South Tyne Valley does have many memories and stories to tell. While most of the characters are fictional, one is real: Herbert Sulzbach was a visitor to the camp, and his researches and memories are part of the rich treasury which Valerie has set out to explore. The book is a good read, taking us into a world we think we knew, and opening up so much recent history and so many people's stories we didn't know. Do read it.



The Haltwhistle History and Heritage Group is holding an evening meeting on the 10th of this month, at 7.30pm, at the Comrades Club big room, by request, for Colin Mill's talk on the POW Camp in Featherstone and the importance of the contribution made by the Camp and the people of the town to the post-war project of rebuilding peace.



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Within the modern section we work on upbeat dance routines, helping fitness levels and getting the blood pumping! During ballet, we use exercises and routines to strengthen and stretch the muscles that we may sometimes forget to use! During tap, we test our skill set with dances that make us think about what our feet are actually having to do, whilst making the correct sounds with our shoes.

Does this all seem a bit out of your skill set? Absolutely not! We work with total beginners and all ages! Each class is tailored to the abilities of those who come along, meaning everyone gets a chance to shine. Why not come along and give us a try!

Some use these classes to improve fitness levels, others enjoy the dancing and a chit chat, but what I can say without a doubt is that everyone comes back because of how much of a lovely group we are!

Clubbercise is when the pace steps up a notch.

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We are returning back to classes from the first Wednesday in September.

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Farm Community Network	07002 32632
OneCall	01670 536400

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



CARNIVAL - DEBORAH WELLS

Share your photo or drawing of life in or around Haltwhistle to haltwhistleherald@gmail.com, and you might be next month's Picture of the Month!

October's theme is 'Autumn Leaves'