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The Haltwhistle Herald

OCTOBER 2025





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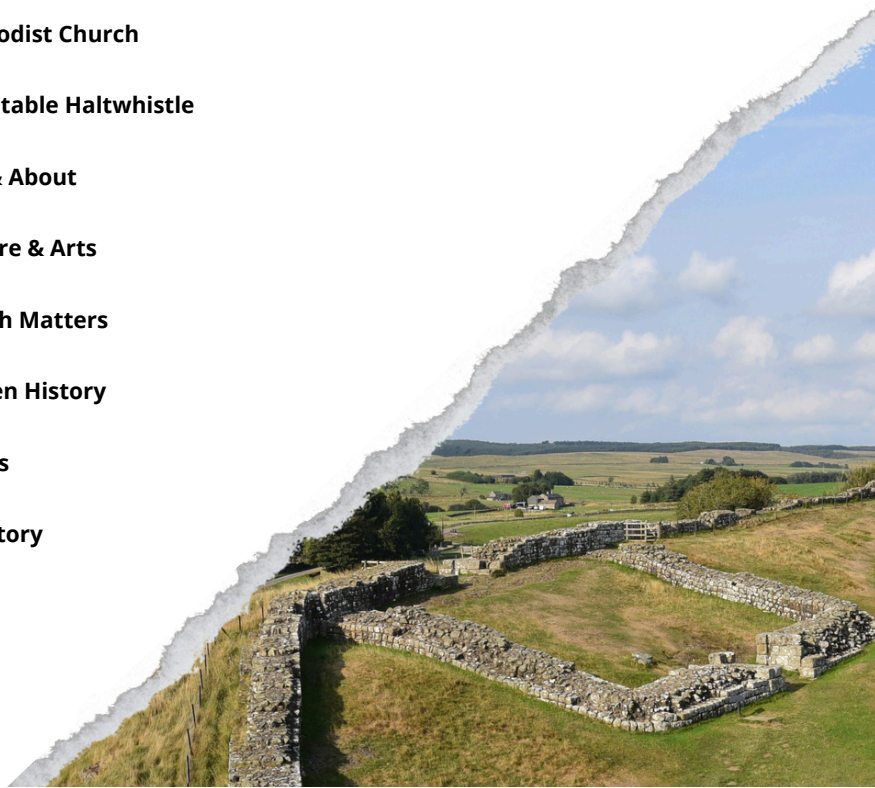
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What's on in October

- 1st** Poetry Group, theme - Work, Greenhead Village Hall, 1:30-3pm
- 3rd** Community Shops Charity Auction, Comrades Club, Registration 6pm
- Auction 7-9pm, see p10
- 4th** Coffee Morning for the Cricket Club, Methodist Church Hall
- 5th** Harvest Festival, 10am, Holy Cross
- 1st** History Group visit to Errington Reay Pottery for a tour and talk. Book a place with Lorna on 07419820749 or haltwhistlehistory@gmail.com
- 11th** Coffee Morning for the Shoebox Appeal. Methodist Church Hall
- 11th** Doctor Jekyll and Hyde, Northumberland Theatre Company, Gilsland Village Hall, £12, 7:30pm, see p7
- 12th** Farmers Market, Greenhead Village Hall, 10-1:30
- 13th** Garden Club AGM, Social and Pot Luck Supper, Comrades Club, 7:30pm
- 15th** Haltwhistle Partnership AGM, Old Booking Hall, Haltwhistle Station, 7pm
- 18th** Coffee Morning, Methodist Church Hall
- 19th** Community Litter Pick, meet in the Market Square at 10am
- 21st & 28th** Women in the Bible Part II, Community Room at Haltwhistle Hospital, 7pm
- 24th** Gareth Davies-Jones; a Troubadour Journey; Lindisfarne to Durham, Gilsland Village Hall, £15, 7:30pm - see p7
- 31st** Halloween Pre-Bonfire Night Fun, 4pm onwards, see p16

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

Welcome to the October edition of the Herald. There's lots to get you into the mood for Hallowe'en with a spooky evening around the town on the 31st, organised by the Chamber of Trade, more details on page 16. There's a play based on Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde at Gilsland village hall on the 11th and if ghost stories are your thing there's the tale of the ghostly bridal party at Featherstone Castle to read in our Hidden History section. Actually, Featherstone features quite heavily this month as there was also a visitation from Henry VIII last month, reviewed on page 30, although not a ghost but our lovely Keith Teasdale, also the hero of the month.

If you know of any local ghost tales or can report of spooky happenings locally do let us know at haltwhistleherald@gmail.com



Our cover picture of the river on an early morning walk was taken by Anthea Rocher and our back page competition for autumn Leaves was sent in by Wendy Bond. Thank you for sending in such beautiful pictures. Come on fellas, you need to compete here with the ladies! Any local views please for the front cover and check out the subject for November's competition, please send to us at the email below.

Finally, Valerie Anthony (aka Valerie M Noon) whose book was reviewed in the September issue, sadly died on 17th August. The book "The Shadow of the Swastika" was the product of more than 30 years of research by Val.

She was a Methodist Local Preacher for 44 years and a keen pacifist. Many of us who knew Val were aware of her ambition to write a book on this topic. We can only pray that, having achieved her aim, she can Rest in Peace.

Our next edition will be November so contributions need to be with us by the 20th October 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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Northumberland Theatre Company
Gilsland Village Hall - Saturday 11th Oct 19:30 - 21:30 £12.00

GARETH DAVIES-JONES

A Troubadour Journey - Lindisfarne to Durham
Friday 24th Oct 19:30 - 21:30 £15.00



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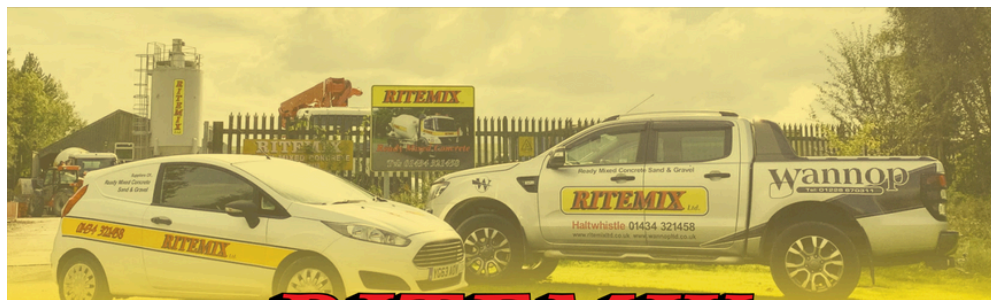
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Haltwhistle Partnership

Community Shops Fund - Now Open for Applications!

Thanks to the continued generosity of local donors and the dedication of our volunteers at the Community Shop and Community Bookshop, the Community Shops Fund is once again open for applications. This vital fund has already made a significant impact in Haltwhistle and the surrounding districts, supporting seventeen community projects and providing grants to eleven young people in previous funding rounds.

Could you or your project benefit? If you have a project that will directly benefit our community, or you're a young person looking to develop a new skill or take part in an opportunity that is financially out of reach, this fund is here to help. Applications are welcomed from both young people and groups with ideas that align with the fund's aim of strengthening the local community and supporting personal development in Haltwhistle and the surrounding districts.

Important Dates

- Application Deadline: 26th October 2025

Don't miss the chance to make your idea a reality!

Application packs are available from:

- The Community Shop
- The Community Bookshop
- The Haltwhistle Partnership Office, Westbourne House, Main Street, Haltwhistle

The Haltwhistle Partnership Website
– www.haltwhistle.org

For more information or to request an application pack, please contact the Haltwhistle Partnership:
Landline: 01434 321242

Mobile: 07307 107436

Let's continue to support local dreams and initiatives. The Community Shops Fund is a testament to what we can achieve together so let's keep the momentum going and make this round just as impactful.



Haltwhistle Community Shops Fund

FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE

for community groups and young people in our area.

Does your group have an initiative or project that could benefit the community of Haltwhistle and its 10 surrounding parishes?

Or are you a young person under 25 with an inspiring idea or ambition?

Applications are now invited for our Autumn 2025 funding round.

APPLY BY 26TH OCTOBER 2025

To apply visit, email or call

haltwhistle.org/communityshopsfund

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Haltwhistle Partnership

Community Shops Charity Auction -

Get Ready to Bid for our Community Shops Fund! The Comrade's Club will generously host the inaugural Community Shops Charity Auction on Friday, 3rd October 2025 — a special evening where your bids can help build a stronger community. This exciting event is held in collaboration with the Haltwhistle Chamber of Trade, further strengthening local partnerships for a great cause.

Event Details:

- Date: Friday 3rd October 2025
- Venue: Comrade's Club, Haltwhistle
- Registration: From 6:00 PM
- Auction Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Expect a vibrant atmosphere as Keith Teasdale takes the stage as Auctioneer, promising an energetic and entertaining evening. A wide selection of items will go under the hammer — many of which have not been previously available in the Community Shops. From vintage treasures and collectables to household items and electrical goods, there's bound to be something for everyone. Every penny raised during the auction will go directly into the Community Shops Fund, supporting future community projects and grant opportunities for local young people.

Whether you're a seasoned bidder or just curious to see what's on offer,

join us for a fun-filled evening in support of local initiatives. Your next great find could also be your way of giving back!

Annual General Meeting

The Haltwhistle Partnership's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 15th October at 7pm in the Old Booking Hall at Haltwhistle Station. We will be showcasing our community projects from 6.30pm and everyone is welcome.

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.

For further information, please contact the Partnership Office on 01434 321242.



Cornhole Sessions

(Bean Bag Throwing, and Air Mail challenge)

Everyone welcome, all ages, tuition given

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Time - 7pm to 9pm

Every Wednesday from 10th Sept 25

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Town Council

Public Toilets

The long-awaited reopening of the town toilets is almost upon us. Renovated by Northumberland County Council, they are due to be open to the public at the time this edition goes to press. From the preview we have had, they are looking much brighter, cleaner, and more welcoming. We know how important these facilities are for residents and visitors alike, so it is encouraging to see the investment made to improve them.

Litter Pick Volunteers

Our monthly litter pick continues to show what can be achieved when local people come together. Once again, volunteers did an excellent job last month, leaving the town looking noticeably tidier. These sessions are open to all, though we ask that children are accompanied by an adult, and they are a great way to spend an hour or two doing something practical for the community. The next litter pick will take place on Sunday 19th October at 10am, meeting in the Market Square. Refreshments will be provided afterwards, and everyone is very welcome.

Fundraising Success

A big thank you goes to Cllr Kevin Teasdale, who recently raised over £2,000 through a very special evening performance. Taking to the stage as Henry VIII, Cllr Teasdale gave a lively dinner performance recounting the king's life and history. The event was well attended, and we are most grateful to everyone who bought tickets and supported the evening. The money raised will go directly back into the community, helping to replace the broken seesaw at Comb Hill Park and funding other repairs to play equipment there.

Wildflower Trial

You may also have noticed new signs in the Pig Market area (the hill behind Sainsbury's). The Town Council is trialling a new management approach here, allowing wildflowers to grow naturally with just two cuts a year, in spring and autumn. This simple change supports biodiversity by providing food and habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators, which are vital to a healthy environment. Wildflower areas not only bring colour and variety to the town but also play an important role in sustaining local ecosystems. We hope residents will enjoy seeing this space develop through the seasons.

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Chamber of Trade

Things that go bump in the night.....

.....and all that Halloween Pre-Bonfire Night fun is just what we have in store on Friday 31st October 2025.

Participating shops and cafes will be keeping their doors open just a little longer on All Hallows Eve to welcome young trick or treaters between 4pm and 6pm.

Children will be able to collect a special spooky stamp from specified venues by following our trail and locating the paranormal pictures hidden within. They may even receive a little treat there too. The youngsters will then be able to swap a fully stamped card for a prize from the Chamber of Trade stall in the Market Square.

Then, at 6.15pm, a ghoulish, ghost story walk will take anyone brave enough to take part, from the square, down along our Main Street. Characters and Storytellers will act out the tale of 4 of Haltwhistle's historic phantoms in frightening and realistic detail. You are invited to join the fun if you dare.

Blank Halloween stamp cards can be collected from the Leisure Centre, the Library, which will also have some spooktacular books on display, and Armstrong Fashion and Bridal.

Watch out for posters and more information on Haltwhistle Matters Facebook and the Visit Haltwhistle Website and Facebook pages.

A brief reminder of the Town Charity Auction being held at the Comrades Club from 6pm on 3rd October 2025. A full report detailing how well the bidding went and how much was raised for the Community Fund will appear in next month's Herald.



Local Hero

Keith Teasdale - retired vicar, active town councillor, panto star

Hello Keith, you're a known character in Haltwhistle, how long have you lived here?
We've had a house here for over 20 years but only lived here full time for last four and a half years since retirement. Both Sandra and I love it here and were happy to retire here. Sasha, our labrador, loves it also especially the long walks in the surrounding countryside. I enjoy helping the local church and the town pantomime and have been in the last two and am directing the panto this year!

What interested you in becoming a town councillor?

Before ordination I worked in local government and gained qualifications in public administration. I was Chaplain to Carlisle City Council as part of my role as Vicar of St Cuthbert's, Carlisle, so when invited to serve on Haltwhistle Town Council I was happy to accept as I love this town and its people and enjoy the discussions as we work together for the good of the town.



You did a fundraising dinner as Henry VIII in Featherstone Castle - how did it go?

I organised the fund-raising dinner for the upkeep of Combe Hill Play park. It is a joy to see families enjoying the facilities there and some of the play equipment needed upgrading. I love history so I once again became Henry VIII for the evening and told the guests his life story. Over 50 attended and it raised over £2,000.

What is your favourite book of the bible?

I love reading in my spare time and enjoy fiction and nonfiction - Charles Dickens, Dan Brown, Agatha Christie, and others. My favourite book in the Bible is the gospel of John because it gives a very personal and human side to Our Lord. Especially the Passion and Death of Jesus.

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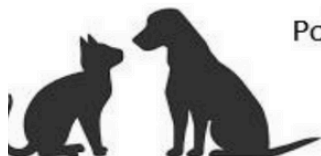


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Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

We begin this month with a Harvest Festival service at 10am on the 5th October – 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.

We have a lot to give thanks for and despite some doom and gloom, there's a lot of good going on. Did you know that the World Food Programme reports that national school meal programmes now serve 466 million children worldwide, up 80 million since 2020, with Africa leading the surge. Low-income countries expanded access by 60%, and now, 99% of funding is coming from national budgets. The rate of maternal mortality for live births fell by 57% between 1985 and 2023, resulting in around 365,000 fewer maternal deaths each year. And the World Bank reports that nearly 100 million fewer children live in extreme poverty than a decade ago, from 507 million in 2014 to 412 million in 2024, despite population growth and setbacks from COVID-19. And the UN thinks that population growth, that was expected to reach a peak in 2085 may reach its peak in the 2050s.

And locally, we give thanks to God for the blessings we have here, including our own retired Rev Keith who did his best Henry VIII impression for the Comb Hill playground, for our church wardens and committee members who keep all our beautiful churches safe, maintained, and visitable, and for all who help our Christian fellowship. If you get the magazine to come too late for the Harvest service, well, you could always come on regular Sunday, or perhaps for our All Saint's/All Souls services on the 2nd November – Henshaw 10am, Haltwhistle 4pm. All welcome.



From the Registers:

Weddings -

Greenhead: David Scott and Amy Robinson

Funerals – Jimmy Nixon, Anne Smith, Alan Benson

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

St Cuthberts, Greenhead

St Cuthbert's Church Greenhead is a small community and because of that there are some church festivals that we don't do in our church but rather we join with Holy Cross, Haltwhistle. One of those festivals is the celebration of All Souls Day when we have a service to remember those known to us who have died. All those we have done funerals for since last year we will remember in the prayers, and it can be a moving and peace giving time for those who have had funerals to attend in the last year or so.

It is possible to add names of those known to you to be remembered in the prayers by telling the welcomers as you arrive who you would like mentioned. This year's service will be at Holy Cross Church on Sunday 2nd November at 4pm, but if that time is difficult we have a similar service at Henshaw on 2nd November at 10am – that Sunday all our churches will join together in Henshaw for the morning service. We have a joint service together on the first Sunday of every month and sometimes they come to us and sometimes we go to them, and it reminds us that the Christian fellowship is bigger than those connected to our own St Cuthbert's Church.



Of course for All Souls Day we remember that the Christian fellowship is even bigger than those who happen still to be alive today – we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, myriads of angels and all the heavenly host and on All Saints Day and All Souls Day we remember how we are part of one great communion and fellowship, all of us alive in presence of God. Come and be part of it 😊. Each Sunday here at 11am, but 2nd November will be 10am Henshaw, 4pm Haltwhistle.

All Hallows, Henshaw

As our churches get ready for the Harvest Festival services, you may be reminded of well known hymns like *We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the ground, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand*. The words were originally written by a German poet, Matthias Claudius in the 18th Century and later translated into English. We now sing it to a well known tune, probably first taught to us in school.

Singing well known hymns is one of the great pleasures of being in church, and we are fortunate on many Sundays to enjoy them accompanied by our regular organist on our fantastic modern organ in Henshaw. When he is not able to play for us, we can programme our modern digital hymnal, an amazing player that has more than 3000 hymn tunes on it. When programming it for a service, it is possible to experiment with different styles of organ – you can even play the hymns as if we were in a great Cathedral.

However flexible the digital player might be, nothing beats “the real thing”. Our modern organ in Henshaw was a gift from a former organist, and using its various stops, so many different sounds and effects are possible. We are sometimes treated to a fanfare, or the pealing of bells, and we always enjoy a “mini recital” before and after the service.

If you are a music lover, or someone who likes to sing, why not join us for our Harvest Service on Sunday 28 September at 11 am at All Hallows', Henshaw, or on Sunday 5th October at Holy Cross Haltwhistle at 10 am. The school harvests both here and in Greenhead are later this month and families connected with the school will have the date. But every Sunday, come and sing! It's good for your health and so you'll enjoy even more Harvests as a result!



View From The Vicarage

Canon Steve Wright

Did you hear about the person who went to church because they had something to ask God, so they lit a candle. But before they said their prayer, they made sure to blow out all the other candles so God could totally focus on them. On All Souls Day we light lots of candles, each one a prayer of many thoughts, and God is big enough to hear them all!

Quitting Social Media is the adult version of running away from home. We all know you do it for attention and you'll be back soon, but God's love and attention are always there. You may feel lost, especially at a time of bereavement, but he knows where you are and cares for you.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church of England

First Sunday of October - 10am Group service Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

Other Sundays of October -

- 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

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

Methodist

Rev'd 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 & Churches Together

Women in the Bible - 'as diverse as women today'

Back by popular demand, our informal and social gatherings to find out more about individual Bible women, their stories and what they can say to us today. This series we will be looking at some key women in the Old Testament and why they may still be relevant.

The first get together will be on Tuesday 21st October in the Community Room at Haltwhistle hospital at 7pm. There will be a small amount of reading and hopefully, lots of talk and discussions. Refreshments will be available.

For more information or to book a free place contact: Annette (07753 911730) annettecorble@gmail.com
All welcome on the day but it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers.



Prayers Together

We meet in Holy Cross
every Monday at 10.30am
(except Bank Holidays)

This is a peaceful time for prayers, spoken and unspoken, on topical events, those in distress, World affairs, our churches and leaders. We give thanks for the many blessings we receive.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Haltwhistle **Methodist** Church 

October 2025

Services

Sunday 5th

10.30am **Rev Marie Beard**
(Harvest Festival)

Sunday 12th

10.30am **Vicky Herod**
(Reader Service)

Sunday 19th

10.30am **Ruth Johnson**

Sunday 26th

10.30am **Rev Marie Beard**
(Holy Communion)

ALL WELCOME

Hospitable Haltwhistle

A Century of Community in Haltwhistle's Comrades Club

HH: Where did it all begin?

The Comrades Club was founded in 1920 as the Haltwhistle & District Comrades of the Great War Social Club & Institute. In the early days, it was little more than what is now the pool room—but even then, it was the beating heart of the town.

HH: How has the club changed over the years?

Plenty! The main bar now occupies what was once a car showroom, a large event room was added about 50 years ago. In 2023, the upstairs Garibaldi Room was given a makeover and is now a wonderful venue for all types of celebrations.

HH: What traditions keep members coming back?

Leek shows, darts, and quoits tournaments are still favourites—proof that some traditions never go out of style.

HH: What makes this club stand out?

Continuity. The club has been family-run for more than 40 years—first by Walter and Carol Eals, and now by their niece, Laura Caisley. That dedication has brought the club numerous awards over the past decade.

HH: What does the club mean to the community—and is there anything you'd change?

The club is a true hub of local life, hosting everything from WI meetings and history groups to pantomime rehearsals. If anything could be added, it would be fun to transform the back area into a beer garden, giving members another place to gather while still keeping tradition at the heart of the club.



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Out & About

Haltwhistle Library – More Than Books

In the centre of town, Haltwhistle Library thrives as part of the Haltwhistle Hub—a welcoming space designed to bring people together. More than just a place for books, the library and hub provide a warm, inclusive environment for meeting, learning, and community connection.

A Space for Everyone

Haltwhistle Hub is built around the idea of creating opportunities:

- A place to meet others
- A venue to take part in activities
- A community hub where you can visit the library

The hub runs a regular programme of events covering health, wellbeing, skills development, and employment advice. At its centre, the library offers free membership, book lending (including e-books and audiobooks), printing, photocopying, scanning, and free Wi-Fi. Visitors can also access computers, digital skills sessions, family history support, children's activities, hobby groups, and book delivery.

Accessible and Welcoming

The Hub is designed for everyone, with Wi-Fi, lift access, accessible toilets, baby change, and parking.

Spaces for Community Use

Rooms for hire include:

- Room 2 (25 people) – tables, chairs, wall-mounted TV (£0–£15/hr)
- Community Room (50 people) – large space with dividing screen (£0–£25/hr)
- Room 4 (5 people) – pod chairs, small table (£0–£15/hr)
- Room 5 (4 people) – two desks (£0–£15/hr)

All rooms include kitchen access, Wi-Fi, and presentation equipment.

More Than a Library

Haltwhistle Library and Hub are a living centre for local life—a place to learn, connect, and grow together.

** Book rooms and find out more: haltwhistle-hub.lemonbooking.com



Out & About

The Black Bull's Aug-toberfest Goes Bonkers for Carnival Fundraising

On 24 August 2025, Haltwhistle's historic Black Bull pub proved once again that it knows how to throw a party with Aug-toberfest & Bonkers Bingo. A gorgeous sunny day (a rare miracle for a bank holiday weekend), the event took over Coronation Park, thanks to the support of Haltwhistle Town Council, all to raise over £2000 for the much-loved Haltwhistle Carnival.

The park was buzzing from start to finish. Hungry crowds lined up for food sizzling hot off the grill, while live music kept toes tapping and a few brave souls dancing like nobody was watching (though plenty were). The raffles brought out competitive streaks, but nothing matched the chaos and comedy of Bonkers Bingo, which had locals and visitors alike shouting, laughing, and celebrating wins.

At the heart of it all was The Black Bull's brilliant team of staff and volunteers. From serving pints to flipping burgers and running games, they worked tirelessly to keep the fun flowing. Their energy, good humour and hard work made the day unforgettable.



The 12th Century Black Bull has always been more than a pub — it's Haltwhistle's social heartbeat, and Aug-toberfest & Bonkers Bingo proved it again, leaving behind full bellies, sore sides from laughing, and stories to share for weeks.

Big cheers to everyone who came along — your support was unreal. Even Martin almost cracked a smile... almost—all while raising vital funds to keep the Carnival spirit alive.



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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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Culture & Arts

I'm 'Enery The Eighth I Am, I Am

Some of us might be old enough to remember the old music hall song, subsequently covered by numerous others, including Herman's Hermits. However, Haltwhistle local (and Town Councillor) Keith Teasdale recently took the song's title seriously by adopting the persona of the famous monarch.

The event was a feast held at Featherstone Castle, courtesy of Ruth and Simon Prinns who generously offered their home for this worthy event. Over the course of the meal over fifty people were royally entertained by Keith, in full Tudor regalia, as he recounted the king's life story between courses. The diners heard about how Henry was an accidental king and, of naturally, learned all about his six wives, with a liberal smattering of asides and historical nuggets.

The event was all in aid of the Comb Hill Playground, a cause dear to Keith's heart. As a result of the evening around £2,000 was raised for new equipment, a fantastic result which included generous donations from Over the Wall Players and Hadrian's Wall Campsite.



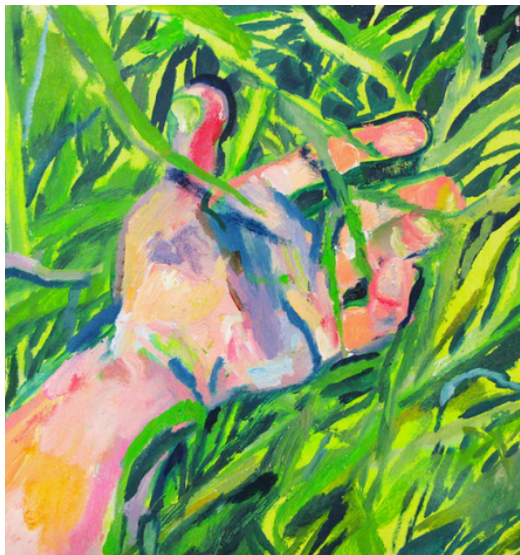
As well as everyone at Featherstone, a big thanks to Karen Ballantyne the caterer, who donated all the food and to Gary Birks for his waiting skills, but the biggest thanks go to Keith, or should we say 'Enery?

So, who was Keith's favourite amongst the wives? It turns out it was Anne of Cleves, and what's more, Keith is preparing a book on this lesser known wife – something for everyone to look forward to (no pressure). As for us in the audience – well, everyone loves an 'Enery!

Culture & Arts

Hadrians Wall Art Trail

This September, FOLK – Hadrian's Wall Art Trail brought a fresh burst of creativity to West Northumberland and East Cumbria. Spread over three weekends, the event drew in over 150 visitors, who followed the trail through three unique venues — The Threshing Barn, Field Shelter, and Abbey Mill — each filled with artworks inspired by local myths, legends, and landscapes.



Merlin Cross - www.merlincross.art

With 25 artists from across the North East and Cumbria, the trail offered a mix of painting, textiles, print, photography, and mixed media. From Roman gods to imagined folk creatures, every piece told a story rooted in the region.

The artworks were carefully matched to each venue, creating three very different but equally engaging exhibitions. The atmosphere was relaxed and welcoming, and with 40% of participating artists making sales of their work, it was a great success for both artists and visitors.



Katie Lock - www.katielock.com



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Health Matters

Can a chiropractor ease your headache?

Some headaches and migraines respond well to chiropractic care.

People are often pleasantly surprised to find that when we address their spinal problems, their headaches clear up as well. Why does that happen? And how can we help?

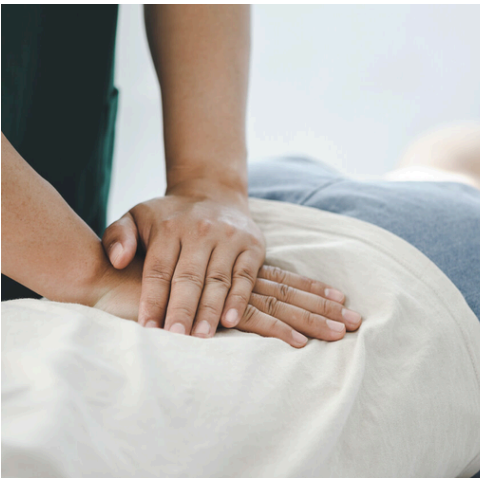
First, we help people to identify if their headaches are being caused by other factors including dehydration, needing a change in glasses prescription, eye strain from computers, diabetes, or sinus problems to name a few.

Then, we help them figure out which kind of headaches they have. The 3 most common are tension-type, migraine, and cervicogenic (neck and posture related). Research has shown that these three headache types can overlap with one another. This might explain the reviews on our testimonials page from grateful migraine sufferers.

We analyse the spine and posture, identifying the joints that are restricted and the nerves and muscles that are under strain. We often find posture problems where the muscles of the neck and shoulders have to work overtime. We then help people to restore the function of their body through chiropractic adjustments, muscle release techniques, exercises, and postural and ergonomic advice. We also help them identify which vitamins and minerals can help reduce headaches.

The body is an integrated mechanism, and when we work to lessen the strain it's under, healing can occur in surprising places. Chiropractic is a natural approach that addresses the cause of the problem.

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Hidden History

The ghost of Featherstone Castle

Featherstone Castle is on the bank of the South Tyne, 3 miles from Haltwhistle. The woods are thought to be haunted by a ghostly cavalcade of knights and ladies and local people report of their dogs and horses being "spooked" in the area.

Hundreds of years ago the Baron of Featherstone had a beautiful daughter, Abigail, whom he adored. The Baron had selected a nobleman of fortune for her husband, but Abigail loved elsewhere - one of the Ridley clan. This was a forbidden love due to an ancient feud between the families.



Despite her protests, the marriage took place and afterwards the bridal party set out to 'ride the bounds' - a traditional procession around the estate boundary. After which there was to be a banquet in celebration.. Abigail's lover, with his friends, hid in the woods and planned to ambush the procession and rescue Abigail.

Back at the castle all was prepared for the banquet, the servants, minstrels and the Baron waited to greet the returning procession. Time passed, it grew dark and the Baron became anxious. He sent out a search party but there was no trace.



Kindly sponsored by the Roman Army Museum



Hidden History

He kept a vigil and at midnight he heard the drawbridge being lowered and noises of the horsemen in the courtyard. The bridal party filed into the hall and took their seats - in total silence. The Baron realised to his horror the white and frozen faces of his daughter and friends were their ghosts and he screamed and fell to the floor in a faint. The ghostly bridal party vanished, the Baron never regained his speech and was paralysed for the rest of his life.

It is believed the ambush turned into a massacre and no-one survived. The blood from the carnage flowed into a hollow stone, still known as 'The Raven's Stone' and on the anniversary, the sound of hoof-beats and jingling harnesses can be clearly heard. The riders keep to their original route, passing straight through any more recent walls and fences.

Do let us know if you have experienced any ghostly incidents here or locally - haltwhistleherald@gmail.com.

Memories of Haltwhistle's WW2 contributions

The History Group has made a start with collecting names and details of the people of Haltwhistle who went to war, served in crucial war work in the UK (mining, farming, armaments, Home Guard etc etc), kept families going, sustained the communities of Haltwhistle and the villages etc. What was life like - it's unimaginable for young people today to think that we had one bath per week - shared with all the family, and 4inches deep - and that the whole country, rich and poor, was eating the same rations, so no one starved or was over weight! Killfrost and the Paint Works were producing vital materials to keep the planes / ships safe and operational. Etc etc.

Please let us know what you remember of the realities of war - or the stories you remember hearing. Not forgetting the people who were so affected by their experiences that they were never able to speak about it...

There is a box for written contributions or requests for a visit so we can help record those memories - in the Library.

Greenhead



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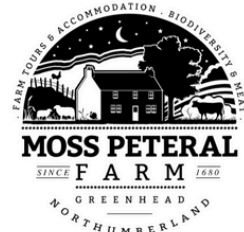
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Sports

Allen Valley Quoits League and Cornhole 2025

Well, we got another good start to the season at the AGM in the Comrades Club, Haltwhistle. 31 teams entered the league, with 4 brand new teams joining us, The Cumberland - Alston, Barrasford B, Queens Head -Gt Whittington, and Hexham Golf Club. This is another new record 38 years since the league started when there were only 5 teams.

Locally, the Milecastle had their first full season on home turf finishing a credible 5th in Div 3 in only their 2nd season. The Wallace Warriors avoided relegation with 2 wins in their last two games to finish 6th in Div 2, one place below the Comrades Club A team!! The Kirkstyle Young Farmers had a great season gaining promotion to Div 3, while the Kirkstyle Rovers narrowly avoided relegation from Div 3 finishing 6th. The Comrades Flyers team were really short of a couple of players and had to unfortunately drop out half way through the season. If anyone fancies playing please contact me and I will give you the details of who to contact for next season, as they do want to enter again.

Finals day was held at Corbridge Cricket Club and a great display of quoiting was viewed by many, what a super turnout. At the end of the raffle draw and presentations, I was thanked by the players for my 35 years running the League and presented with a superb wooden Garden Bench and a drop of the hard stuff!!

A reminder that now the Quoits are finished for the season, we turn our attention to Cornhole at Featherstone Village Hall every Wednesday evening. All are welcome to join in the fun/get some tuition etc. It would be great to get a small local league going with other village halls or sports centres. Get into practice for a national event being held at Haltwhistle Leisure centre on 7th Feb 2026. Anyone can enter, lets give them a good turnout. With Cornhole they say "Anyone can play/Anyone can win" see attached poster for details

That's all for now folks, Richard Macdonald Allen Valley Quoits League Ex Secretary!!
Contact 074848 00632

Sports

Celebrating 50 Years of Haltwhistle's Outdoor Pool

It's no easy task to sum up the history of our outdoor pool in a single article, but here goes.

At the end of June 1975, two unrelated factors came together to create what is now Haltwhistle's beloved open-air swimming pool. First, there was the urgent need for a safe place to swim. Secondly, local rivers were the go-to spot during the summer months but after two tragic drowning incidents in the early 1970s, civic leaders began looking for a purpose-built facility that could offer safety as well as fun.

Around the same time, changes in the economic climate meant the Miners' Welfare building and bowling green at Greencroft were no longer needed for their original purpose, so the trustees donated the land for a new swimming pool and local people contributed to the build of the pool. And so, in 1975, our pool opened its gates.



Over the last 50 years, the site has continued to evolve, with new buildings and features added to meet the needs of our growing community. In 2003, the centre as we know it today was officially opened, bringing modern facilities to this cherished local landmark.



Sports

Since then, tens of thousands of people locals and visitors alike have come through our gates. If you meet someone from Haltwhistle, chances are they learned to swim right here in our outdoor pool.

This past season has been another busy and successful one. We've welcomed swimmers of all ages, offering a full programme of school and private lessons with the same goal we started with back in 1975: to teach vital water safety and swimming skills to everyone.

We've also added some exciting new sessions to the calendar, including Sound Bath (floating meditation), Sunrise Swims, and even Midnight Swims. These unique experiences have been a big hit, and we can't wait to bring them back for the 2026 season.

A special highlight this year was the return of our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) swimming sessions, made possible through generous funding from our local community shop. These sessions are held during quieter times and include extra staffing to support individual needs. The response has been incredibly positive, and we're deeply grateful to the community shop for making such a valuable programme possible.



We're proud of everything we've achieved this year and none of it would be possible without you. To our loyal leisure card holders, members, volunteers, and regular users: thank you. Your continued support and enthusiasm help us grow and keep the pool running strong for everyone to enjoy.

We're already looking ahead to next year and can't wait to welcome you back for another season of swimming in 2026.





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LEISURE

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH



AUTUMN LEAVES - WENDY BOND

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!

November's theme is 'Morning Frost'