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The Haltwhistle Herald

NOVEMBER 2025





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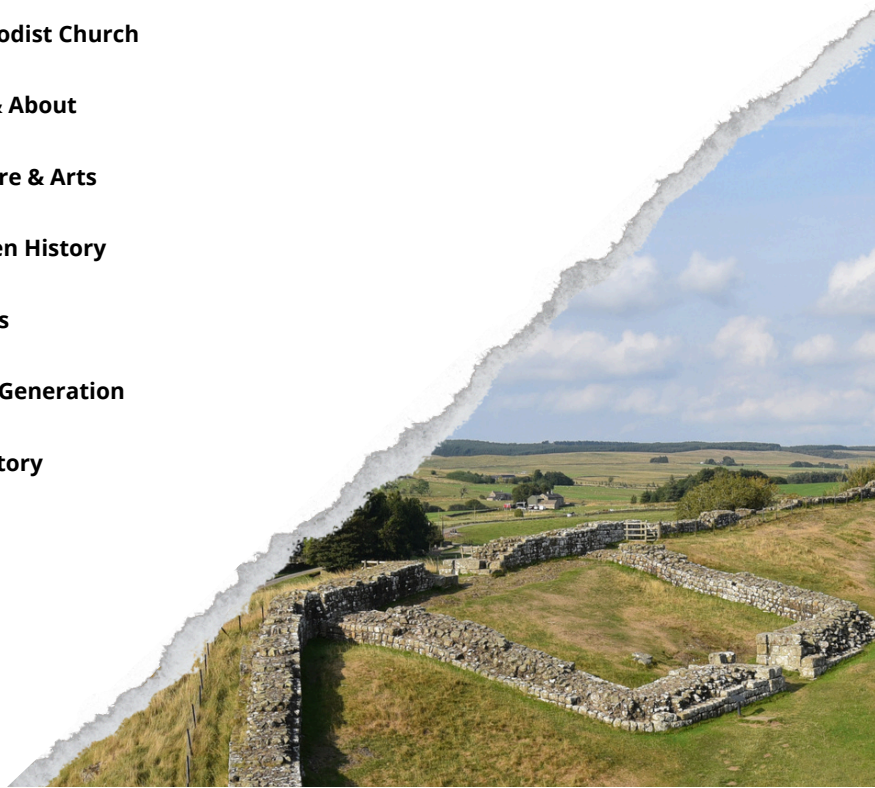
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What's on in November

- 2nd** Memorial Service, Methodist Church Hall, 2:30pm
- 4th** Lunch Club, Methodist Church Hall, 12-2pm
- 5th** Poetry Drop In, Theme - Railways, Greenhead Village Hall, 1:30-3pm Call Annette 07968229767 if you need a lift
- 5th** Warm Welcome Coffee Morning, Methodist Church Hall, 9:30am
- 6th** Memory Cafe, Community Room at Haltwhistle Hospital - brain and body work out with Maureen, call Annette 07968 229767, 2-4pm
- 9th** Remembrance Sunday, Holy Cross, 10am and Greenhead, St Cuthbert's at 10:50
- 9th** Acts of Remembrance, Haltwhistle War Memorial, 10:50 am
- 9th** Greenhead Farmers Market, celebrating 20 years, 10am-1:30pm
- 9th** Craft Fair, Methodist Church Hall 10-4, see p
- 15th** 'Wild' from Black Country Touring, Gilsland Village Hall, 19:30pm see p7
- 16th** Giant Toy Sale, Old Booking Hall, 10am-12noon
- 22nd** Young & Sweet Coffee Morning, Methodist Church Hall, 9:30-11:30
- 28th** Late Night Christmas Shopping, 4-8pm
- 28/29th** Hannah Lucy Stage School Annual Showcase, see p40
- 29th** Coffee Morning for St Wilfrid's, Methodist Church Hall, 9:30-11:30am
- 30th** United Advent Service, St Wilfrids, 4pm

NB: There is no meeting of the History and Heritage Group this month. Look out for our December meeting's details next month, the theme will be the High Street.

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:

Alternate 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

Armchair Warriors

exercise classes, every Thursday 10-11am, Haltwhistle Library Hub

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

November is the month for putting the fire on, drawing the curtains and settling down with a good book or TV series. However, there is still a lot going on in Haltwhistle and the local area.

It is of course, the month of Remembrance, starting with Sunday 2nd when we call to mind the loved ones we have lost, especially those who died in the last year. The following Sunday is Remembrance Sunday and when recalling the sacrifices so many made, take a moment to read two very personal accounts in our Hidden History Section. The Herald is delighted to have played a small part in putting the Norman family in touch with the Royal Netherlands Air Force Association.



At the end of November we will see the wonderful Christmas lights go up once again, making the town look very festive. Don't forget to put the Late Night Shopping event on Friday 28th into your calendars. Many thanks to the Chamber of Trade, the teams of volunteers and all the shops and cafes that make this evening so special and one we look forward to every year.

Finally, a big thank you to all our advertisers and supporters who have ensured that the Herald can keep going for another year. This is not without its challenges as the cost of paper, ink and printing continues to rise at the same time demand for increased copies to be circulated grows. We have space for a few quarter page adverts - do get in touch at our email below if you are interested.

Personal donations can be left at the Book shop, there is a collection pot there, or with the Vicar or a member of the PCC. Many thanks.

Our next edition will be December/January so contributions need to be with us by the 20th November 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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What's On November 2025



GILSLAND LANTERN PARADE

Saturday 6th December

Join in **FREE** community activities during November

VOICES FROM THE WALL

Explore local history, develop stories, and bring them to life in our **FREE** creative workshops for a Sound Walk in 2026.



WILD

Gilsland Village Hall

Saturday 15th Nov 19:30 - 21:30 £15.00

New theatre celebrating what Wild means to us

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS

Enjoy a variety of Christmas workshops including Fused Glass, Christmas Wreath & Willow Swedish Star



Regular Weekly Classes For All Levels

Chair Yoga, Hatha Yoga and Adult Ballet



Funded by UK Government NE Northumberland

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The programme is funded by the UK Government through the NE Shared Prosperity Fund and the North East Combined Authority, as the lead authority.



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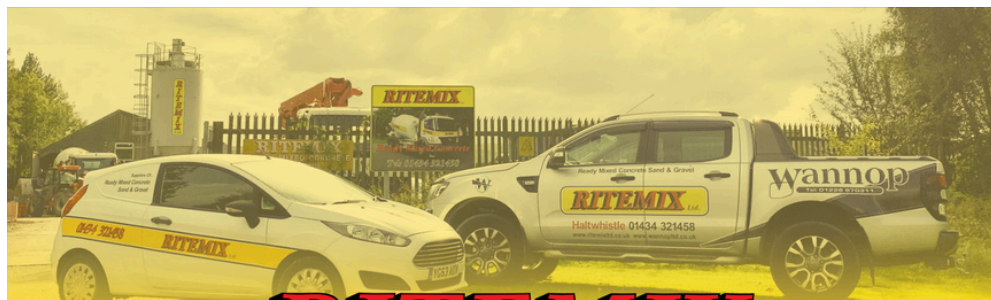
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Haltwhistle Partnership

Community Shops Fund – Autumn Round Update

The Autumn round of the Community Shops Fund closed on 26th October, and we're thrilled to share that applications are now under review. Throughout November, our Grants Panel will carefully assess every submission, with all applicants due to be notified of the outcomes by 30th November.

If you missed this round's deadline — don't worry! The next round of funding will open in the Spring 2026 (date to be announced). This is a fantastic opportunity for local groups who have a project that will directly benefit our community, or for young people looking to develop new skills or take part in experiences that might otherwise be out of reach financially.

The Community Shops Fund exists to empower local ideas and nurture community growth. Every grant awarded is a testament to what can be achieved when we work together. Let's keep the momentum going and make the next round just as inspiring and impactful as the last.

Giant Toy Sale – A Christmas Treat for All Ages!

Get ready for some festive fun! The Community Shops are delighted to announce a Giant Toy Sale, taking place at the Old Booking Office, Haltwhistle Station, on Sunday 16th November, from 10am to 12 noon.

You'll find an amazing selection of toys, soft toys, dolls, games, and jigsaw puzzles — both brand new and high-quality pre-loved treasures. It's the perfect chance to pick up a special Christmas gift for a child you love, or perhaps for someone who's simply young at heart!

Every purchase supports the ongoing work of our Community Shops, helping us give back even more to local projects and people.



Haltwhistle Partnership

Community Shops Charity Auction – Rescheduled for the New Year

Our much-anticipated Community Shops Charity Auction had to be postponed due to bad weather, but don't despair! The event will return early in the new year, and the extra time means we can add even more exciting auction lots for you to bid on.

Every penny raised during the auction goes straight into the Community Shops Fund, directly supporting future community projects and grant opportunities for local young people. A huge thank you goes to The Comrade's Club for their continued support and for kindly hosting the event — even if the weather had other plans!

Twilight Christmas Shopping

Get ready to experience the magic of Christmas in Haltwhistle!

On Friday 28th November, the Community Shops, along with a host of other local businesses and market stalls, will be taking part in a special Late Night Christmas Shopping Evening.

As part of a wonderful Haltwhistle Chamber of Trade initiative, shops across the town will keep their doors open until 8pm, giving everyone the chance to browse, shop, and soak up the festive atmosphere.

This is more than just a shopping event — it's a chance to celebrate the season together. Bring your family and friends, enjoy the twinkling lights and discover unique locally made gifts.

Get Involved or Learn More

If you'd like to know more about any of these projects or events, or if you're interested in getting involved, please contact the Haltwhistle Partnership:

- Landline: 01434 321242
- Mobile: 07307 107436

Together, let's continue to support local dreams, create opportunities, and strengthen our community through the power of partnership.

COFFEE MORNINGS
Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall

DROP - IN

Refreshments
Activities
Raffle

Only £1.50 Entry

FRIENDSHIP AND A WARM WELCOME!

EVERY TUESDAY

10am until 12pm

12pm until 2pm

Can you spare one or two hours a week to help out?
Contact admin@haltwhistle.org for more details
or call 01434 321242

WELCOME

HALTWHISTLE LUNCH CLUB
Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall
The 1st Tuesday of the month

Only £8.50

TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER
TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER
TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

Two courses plus tea & coffee

Food prepared by The Lost Chef

Tickets available from the Tuesday morning 'drop-in', the Community Shop and the Partnership Office.
Bookings taken until the Friday before.

Part of Haltwhistle Partnership's Older People's Project - Proudly supported by Haltwhistle Town Council.



Haltwhistle Annual

Craft Fair

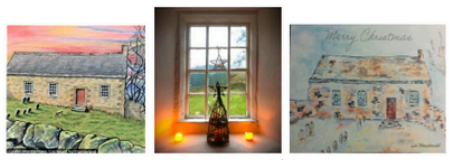
Saturday 8th November
10am - 4pm
Masonic Hall
 Signposted off the A69

A wide variety of quality crafts from
 across the region

Homemade Refreshments available
 throughout the day

Raffle in aid of the Hannah Lucy Stage School in Haltwhistle

Entrance:
 Adults 50p
 Accompanied Children Free



COANWOOD
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2025
 OPEN 11.00 AM TO 3.00 PM
AT THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE
 (BY BURN HOUSE ON THE WHITFIELD ROAD - NE49 0PX)

Free entry but all donations to the meeting house welcome
 Complementary glass of Mulled Wine and Mince Pie

Locally made hand crafted items for something special

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Town Council

Planning Ahead: Exclusive Rights of Burial at Haltwhistle Cemetery

Many people find comfort in making plans for the future, including choosing their final resting place in advance. Haltwhistle Town Council offers the opportunity to purchase Exclusive Rights of Burial at Haltwhistle Cemetery, allowing individuals and families to make thoughtful arrangements ahead of time.

Exclusive Rights of Burial at Haltwhistle Cemetery grant the holder the legal right to use a specific grave space for a period of 99 years. Each grave can accommodate up to two burials and up to six interments of ashes, offering space for family members who wish to be laid to rest together.

For those wishing to have ashes interred only, an Exclusive Right for an ashes plot is also available. This provides the right to a smaller plot within Haltwhistle Cemetery, reserved solely for ashes.

Planning ahead in this way can offer peace of mind and reassurance that arrangements are in place according to your wishes. It can also help to fix costs at today's rates, as fees may increase over time.

Those wishing to plan ahead are warmly invited to contact the Burial

Clerk to make an appointment, enquire further about plots and costs or select a plot within Haltwhistle Cemetery.

Email:

burialclerk@haltwhistletowncouncil.org

Phone: 07818 915171

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Exclusive Rights of Burial?

They are a legal document giving the holder the right to be interred in a specific grave or ashes plot at Haltwhistle Cemetery for 99 years. Ownership of the land itself remains with Haltwhistle Town Council.

Can I reserve a space next to a loved one?

Yes, where space allows, adjoining plots can be reserved to keep family members together.

Can Exclusive Rights be transferred?

Yes. The rights can be transferred to another person, usually a next of kin, through a formal process with the Burial Clerk.

What happens when the 99-year period ends?

The rights can usually be renewed at that time. If they are not renewed, ownership reverts to the Town Council.

Can ashes be placed in an existing grave?

Yes, up to six sets of ashes can be interred in a single grave in addition to two burials.

Chamber of Trade

CHRISTMAS
Late night shopping

STARTS AT 4:00PM
28TH NOVEMBER 2025

Shops & cafes Open late for Christmas shopping

4:00pm -School Choir & Tree Lighting
Festive songs in the Town Square

4:30pm -Santa Arrives!
Plus a lively Irish Dance Display

6:30pm - Hannah Lucy Dance Display
In the Dance Studio

Free Merry-Go-Round Rides
All evening down by the Memorial Hospital

Craft Stalls - Music - Food Trucks
plus your usual bars and cafes
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Out & About

Haltwhistle Craft Fair - Make a day of it in Western Tynedale

The 38th Annual Art & Craft Fair in Haltwhistle is one of the friendliest craft fairs around. Set in the heart of Roman Wall country you can also visit some of the many natural and historic attractions in the area.

The event takes place in the Masonic Hall on Saturday 2nd November, 10.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. The fair is so popular with stallholders that the hall will be full of wonderful stalls.

The fair attracts a wide range of crafts from across the northern region and southern Scotland as well as local producers. Such a wide variety offers something for everyone.



In keeping with the Fair's ethos of promoting our county, the Northumberland Wildlife Trust will also be present. There will be home-made refreshments available all day and a raffle in aid of the Hannah Lucy Stage School, based in Haltwhistle.

The fair is the longest running and one of the largest art and craft fairs to be found within Tynedale and is organised to coincide with Christmas shopping! So come along to admire the local creative talent and buy some locally produced gifts.



Out & About

New owners have vowed to preserve the 1760 Quaker Meeting House in Coanwood

The Quaker Meeting House in Coanwood has been taken over and is now managed by Friends of Friendless Churches, a national charity preserving redundant places of worship.

This historic building, constructed in 1760, is on land provided by Cuthbert Wigham, a farmer from Burn House in Coanwood. All but one of the gravestones carry the names of the Wigham family, who worshipped there for more than 200 years. It was built in a simple Quaker style and serves as a significant piece of history for the local community.

A local supporters group, Friends of Coanwood Quaker Meeting House, aims to support the new owners in maintaining the building, raising funds, and encouraging its use for cultural and social events, and as a quiet place for reflection. David Penn, the chair of the Friends, said he hoped the positive development would inspire others to join the 40 plus members.

The Meeting House is popular with walkers, local residents and those interested in historic buildings. Anyone is welcome to pop in as the

Friends aim to keep this building alive, encouraging more people to appreciate its past and significance. We can now supply a power pack for lighting, computers etc for anyone wishing to hold an event.

On 14th September, 30 Quakers gathered for their annual picnic and meeting and on the 20th the Friends of Coanwood held an open day for visitors as part of the 2025 Heritage Open Days Festival. Those who attended chatted and looked at an historic photo film show by the South Tynedale History Group. Thanks to members who provided refreshments.

More information can be found at www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/church/coanwood-meeting-house/ or

"Friends of Coanwood Quaker Meeting House" Facebook page.

Richard Macdonald - Treasurer, macasrich9@gmail.com tel 074848 00632



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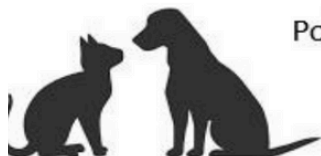


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Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

Remembrance Sunday comes this month – a time for remembering those who fought and lost their lives, but also a time for chivvying ourselves to fight for good in our own day. We have a service in Holy Cross church at 10am and then make our way to the memorial in the park for 10.50am so that we can be ready for the silence at 11am. You are invited to both.

Fighting for good, and building a society that they would have been proud to die for perhaps, is all very noble, but it takes work. There is an amazing heritage in the stones of many of our old buildings. Along with the Black Bull, the Holy Cross Church counts itself as being one of the oldest buildings in the area and the heritage of that building has needed the labour of dedicated folk to keep its witness standing. That comes into focus every five years when we have our five yearly inspection of the fabric and recommendations for its upkeep. We've just had delivery of the most recent inspection. Obviously, it will take some money to carry out the recommendations for the building's preservation, and you might expect me to be asking you for some, but for us, a more urgent need is for people with the patience to

make sure the work is done - to contact contractors for quotes, to coordinate with the vicar so that they don't arrive on the same day as a wedding, and to keep tabs on the paperwork so reports can come to the church committee on what is needed and what is happening. If you think you can help, contact the vicar Steve Wright or Church Warden Sheila Williams (07515 970935) to let us know how you think you can help.



From the Registers:

Funerals – John Alan Benson, Brian Smith, Peggy Henderson, Jim Dixon, Mavis Teasdale

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

St Cuthberts, Greenhead

Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, is a poignant reminder of the costs of war, and we see in the media a lot of what happens when people don't work for peace. In Greenhead we start at the memorial opposite the village hall at 10.50am and move into our church for more prayers and a service. (At Henshaw and Haltwhistle the ceremony starts with a short service at 10am in church, and then we move to the war memorials in time for a few minutes silence there.) You are all welcome at the service.

The members of Greenhead W.I. have been working hard to make sure the poppies look just right. We are very fortunate that our village and surrounding area does seem to work for a good relationship with everyone in the community and we give thanks to God for the blessings we have with each other.

After the Service why not cross over to the Village Hall for the Farmers' Market, celebrating 20 years. Enjoy Howard's bakes, hot drinks and the range of foods and crafts available as well as some excellent conversation!



At the end of that week we have a display in our church by the Calico Hinnies, a crafting group that uses the art of quilting and patchwork to make a whole range of items including quilts, wall hangings, pictures, and handbags. The group has been going for about 20 years and their display will be open on Saturday 15th during the day (refreshments available in the Greenhead Tea Rooms or the hotel), and on Sunday 10am until 2pm with the church service that day being 11am with refreshments afterwards.



All Hallows, Henshaw

As Winter approaches, complaints about a cold church start to be heard. At first it's just whispers in the pews, furtive glances at the churchwarden as they rub their hands together, then as winter tightens its grip, the comments become more direct, "It's cold in here today, is the heating on?" and eventually, "Why can't we just have the heating on all the time?". Of course the church is old, it doesn't have insulation, it's got a high roof and large single glazed windows. There comes a point when the building doesn't get any warmer, no matter how long the heating is on.

It's a big space to heat and as we all know, heating is expensive. Generally speaking we have one service of an hour each week so we have to be realistic about how we spend our limited income. Henshaw church used to be heated by a coal-fired boiler that would have pumped boiling water round the pipes around the base of the walls.

Today we have an oil boiler that heats the same pipes, but it operates with a water temperature of around 70 degrees, so inevitably the heating is less effective. The boiler is old, the manufacturer is long gone, spares are a problem, but replacing it is difficult with the Church of England pursuing a 'green' agenda. After three years of looking into more ecofriendly alternatives, we think we have convinced the authorising authorities that the only way is to continue as we are, so we are on course for a boiler like the existing one but more efficient. In the meantime, we are dependent on our old boiler behaving and our worshippers wrapping up well! What's never in doubt at Henshaw though is the warmth of the welcome! 11am Sundays (except Remembrance Sunday 10am).



View From The Vicarage

Canon Steve Wright

I saw an advert for burial plots, and I thought, 'That's the last thing I need!'. This is a month to remember our mortality, just before the month that focuses on a baby and the new birth that promises. It's good to be prepared for both. All Saints and All Souls days are personal and poignant, Remembrance Sunday is a moving community event, and both can be a motive for getting involved in changing things for the better. Are you going to make something of God's gift of life? It's better to be the oldest at the gym than the youngest in the nursing home.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church of England

First Sunday of November - 10am Group service, Henshaw.

- 2nd Sunday of November –
 - 10am Haltwhistle, Henshaw, 10.50am Greenhead

Other Sundays of November -

- 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



UNITED ADVENT SERVICE

Sunday 30th November
(Advent Sunday)
at 4.00pm
in

St Wilfrid's Church

"Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

EVERYONE WELCOME



Remembrance Sunday
9th November
10.00am at Holy Cross
Service of Remembrance
and
11.00am at War Memorial
Act of Remembrance
and wreath-laying

We gather to share in remembering
the sacrifices of earlier generations in
two World Wars and in more recent conflicts

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Haltwhistle **Methodist Church**



Memorial Service

Sunday, 2nd November
at 2.30pm

A service, led by Rev Marie
Beard, when we remember
friends and loved ones
who have died in the last year,
or in any year.

Followed by light refreshments
Please accept this invitation.

Everyone Welcome

Haltwhistle **Methodist Church**



November 2025

Services

Sunday 2nd

10.30am Christine Thompson (Reader)

2.30pm Memorial Rev Marie Beard

Sunday 9th

10.00am Remembrance at Holy Cross

Sunday 16th

10.30am Norman Fullard

Sunday 23rd

10.30am Tom Dodds

Sunday 30th

10.30am Tynedale Circuit Service
at Trinity Church, Hexham

4.00pm United Advent Service
at St Wilfrid's Church

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Out & About

The Harvest of the Hills

Autumn brings with it sharper mornings and darker evenings and that stunning autumnal light that sets off the golden and reddish colour of the leaves in this beautiful Roman Wall landscape.

You might have noticed as Autumn approaches the increased activity from the local farmers. Early morning trips with the Landrover and Ifor Williams trailer, heading off to Hexham, or Longtown or Carlisle with a load of lambs, or cattle.

This is the Harvest of the Hills.

Unlike the low ground farmers harvesting crops in July and August, with huge expensive machines, bringing in tonnes of barley or wheat, the hill farmers on the Roman Wall rely on sheep and cattle sales in September and October to make a living, it's that load of lambs or cattle that pays the bills.

The lambs that were skipping around in April and May are now ready for market, keeping the local butcher and the supermarket shelves supplied with the best of British lamb, reared to the highest standard



by the families that farm this beautiful but rugged part of the world.

The hardy Blackface and Swaledale ewes reared across the Roman Wall and Tyne Valley are crossed with a Bluefaced Leicester ram to produce a bonny faced North of England mule lamb. The North of England mule is recognised for its hardiness and adaptability and most of all its ability to successfully rear twin lambs. Buyers flock to the local markets in the North of England from Devon and Cornwall in the South to Caithness in the North, to secure these sheep for their own flocks.

continued on the next page...

Out & About

The Harvest of the Hills *continued*

For many, attending these annual sales is like a pilgrimage, generations of farmers have consigned sheep to marts like Lazonby, Hexham, Longtown and Carlisle, after spending weeks preparing them for the sales. Clipping their necks and bellies and dipping them in coloured dip to make them look smart. And it's been a successful sales season so far, despite the lack of grazing in the East and South of the country lamb prices have remained buoyant.

The Auction marts that conduct these important annual sales are more than just a place to do business, they are a social hub, where farmers meet over a coffee and a bacon roll in the mart café and compare notes, successes and disasters, before watching their carefully nurtured lambs being sold by a well dressed but rather noisy auctioneer shouting prices like a verbal machine gun. There's nothing like it, tweed caps and jackets and flexothane waterproofs are the uniform and the smell of the sheep dip sticks to you for days, but the buzz of the auction is like a drug we look forward to these days, and before you know it, it's November and they're past.



But November is when the whole cycle starts again, the rams or tups as we call them up here, have been purchased for considerable sums, and the ewes have been sorted out ready for 'tupping' time, and the new crop of lambs will begin to appear in April like they do every year.

So, when the cold weather comes and the rain is battering off your window, spare a thought for the farmer out in the elements making sure the shelves are full of the best of British produce.

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Adult tap 6:45-7:30
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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

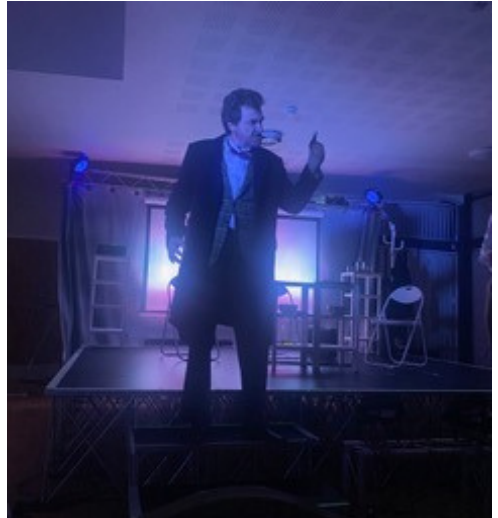
A Night of Spellbinding Theatre in Bardon Mill

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde & The Body Snatcher

On Sunday 12 October, Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall was transformed into Victorian Edinburgh as the NTC Touring Theatre Company performed The Body Snatcher and The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

With just three actors, a few props, and a small stage, this talented team delivered two gripping shows that felt far bigger than the space they performed in. The Body Snatcher opened the evening with dark humour and suspense, setting the perfect eerie tone. Then came Jekyll and Hyde — a truly mesmerising piece of theatre that had the audience hanging on every word and movement.

Philip Harrison gave a remarkable performance as Dr Jekyll and his terrifying alter ego, while Chris Connel and Steven Stobbs switched between characters, instruments, and sound effects with astonishing skill. The coordination, energy, and intensity were simply incredible.



At times, the tension was so strong that those sitting front and centre might have questioned their choice of seats! It was a performance that proved how a small crew, with imagination and heart, can create something truly extraordinary.

NTC once again showed that great theatre doesn't need grandeur — just passion, talent, and a captivated audience.

To enjoy more fantastic live performances, visit

www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Culture & Arts

Hansel and Gretel Pantomime - Oh yes it is!

The Haltwhistle Boardwalkers are back — and they're crumbling into chaos with their laugh-out-loud new panto, Hansel and Gretel! Packed with giggles, tunes, and enough slapstick to ice a cake, it's guaranteed to have you laughing from first crumb to last!

Join our daring duo as they get lost in the woods, meet a witch with a sugar addiction, and discover that gingerbread houses aren't all they're cracked up to be! Expect singing, dancing, bumbling idiots, and brilliant baddies to boo and hiss at. And of course, panto's not panto without the Dame — she's got more sass than sugar, the buns to prove it, and enough whisk to keep everyone in stitches!

There will be three performances at Haltwhistle Academy School:

* Friday 23rd January at 7:00 PM

* Saturday 24th January at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM



Tickets go on sale Friday, 28th November during Late Night Shopping, priced at just £8.00 (cash only). Tickets will also be available from Saturday, 29th November at local retailers including Black Bull, Westgate Hardware, and The Hair Designers — also cash only.

Don't hang about — last year's show sold out faster than you can shout, *"He's behind you!"* So grab your tickets and join the unstoppable Haltwhistle Boardwalkers for a recipe of ridiculousness and gingerbread giggles!



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Hidden History

We Remember Them

Many of us may recall the 2014 public art installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' featuring 888,246 ceramic poppies around the Tower of London. Each poppy represented a British or Colonial serviceman killed in the Great War, with the installation marking 100 years since the start of that conflict. The public were invited to purchase a poppy in memory of lost relatives, and we bought two, including one for my Great Uncle Edgar.



Edgar was an insurance clerk, who'd joined the London Rifle Brigade at the start of the war aged only 22. He was in France by November 1914, and then onto Belgium. His memory has lived on in our family largely due to two strips of four sepia photos, the size that you'd get in a modern photo booth.

These show scenes from the Christmas truce in 1914, with captions in Edgar's handwriting on the back, including one of him with a German soldier titled 'Fritz on the Hindenburg Line'. These photos have been used in many a school project over the years and have helped put a human face on an inhumane conflict.



The poppies from the Tower of London were removed, packed and sent out to those who'd bought them. We received ours on Jan 5th 2015 – one hundred years to the day after Edgar died after being shot through the neck at Ploegsteert, Belgium, very possibly by one of the soldiers he'd been fraternising with two weeks before. Our ceramic poppies remain as a poignant daily reminder of the sacrifice made by others, for us.

Kindly sponsored by the Roman Army Museum



Hidden History

Kenneth Norman 1920-1945 by Stuart Norman

On the morning of Monday 23 April 1945, a young RAF pilot flew out of Leeuwarden airbase in north Netherlands on a reconnaissance mission over northern Germany. His Spitfire developed engine trouble and crash landed near the town of Cloppenburg. His body was found beside his plane. His name, Kenneth Norman, born and brought up on the family farm of Portobello, Haltwhistle. He was my uncle, the youngest of a family of 6 children.

Growing up, my brother, Geoff, and I knew very little about Kenneth, other than he had been an RAF pilot who died just days before the end of WW2 in Europe. Apart from a few photographs of a young pilot we knew little about Kenneth's war service.

However, this changed when we read an article in June's Haltwhistle Herald by Alex Knoops of the Royal Netherlands Air Force Association (RNAFA). Alex has been researching

and chronicling the 18 crew members of the Dutch 322 squadron who lost their lives during WW2. Three of these airmen were British, Kenneth being one of them. Having contacted Alex we were able to provide one or two photographs but, in return, we have learnt much more about Kenneth's life during the war.

Geoff and I had talked about visiting Kenneth's grave but it was due to Alex and an invitation to visit Leeuwarden airbase that we started to plan a trip to Germany and the Netherlands. Within days our pilgrimage to Europe had been planned and in September, my wife, Helen and I set off with Geoff and his wife Béatrice on our journey.

The trip was a mixture of emotions. Kenneth is buried in a commonwealth war cemetery just outside the village of Sage near Cloppenburg. The cemetery contains 970 graves set in immaculate, tranquil gardens in a rural area of Lower Saxony. Mostly, young servicemen, some only 19. We found it sobering each grave marking a life lost so early. A testimony to the sacrifice so many young men, on both sides, paid for world peace.

Kindly sponsored by the Roman Army Museum



Hidden History

Our visit to Leeuwarden airbase was equally moving. After a period of correspondence with Alex it was lovely to meet up with him and his wife Maroel. He had arranged an extraordinary tour of the airbase for us where we were met by some of the officers. Their enthusiasm for their chosen career, helicopter rescue pilots among them, was fascinating. After a tour of the museum we were shown a restored Lockheed F 104 Starfighter and an F16 Falcon undergoing restoration. These young Dutch crewmen talked with such respect and warmth about Kenneth and the other airmen who flew for the 322 Squadron.

We then met Colonel (Ret) Anton den Drijver, retired Commander of 322 Squadron and Chairman of the RNAFA. In a long and distinguished career he had seen action in Afghanistan and the former Yugoslavia. He joined us for lunch and spent the rest of the afternoon on our tour, which included being shown the latest F-35A Lightning. Our day ended in the squadron's headquarters where we saw a



memorial plaque to the pilots who had lost their lives serving in the squadron. Again, it was touching to see how important the lost servicemen of the squadron are to the next generation.

We have so many people to thank for this amazing experience: Alex Knoops, whose knowledge and research is nothing short of exceptional. To the officers and former Commander of 322 Squadron who gave up their time to give us such a fascinating day at Leeuwarden airbase. Finally, to the Haltwhistle Herald for putting us in touch with Alex.





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Sports

Haltwhistle Jubilee FC

The 25/26 season is well underway for the club, and all our teams are enjoying various levels of success in their leagues and cups. The first team have made one of their best starts ever to any season and at the time of writing are currently unbeaten and playing with a high degree of confidence.

We are delighted with our latest team in the club in the form of Haltwhistle Jubilee Roma under 7s. This is where the first team players of the future cut their teeth and begin what we hope will be a fun journey for them in their footballing lives. Having come through the development phase with Dan Kirkup and DK coaching, they have literally hit the ground running and are already proving themselves a match for anyone in the Tyne Valley in their age group. They are being coached and managed by Andy, who brings all the correct attributes to the role and will be well placed to guide them on their journey.



People should watch out for the various social media outlets we have for when games are on, and please get along and support and encourage if you can. The first team and the development team play their home games at the Burn on Saturday afternoons. Our under-7, under-8 and under-12 Magpies all play their home games on Saturday mornings at the school pitches. The under-10 Falcons and under-12 Eagles both play home games at the school pitch on a Sunday morning, and finally, the under-13 Hawks play their Sunday morning home games at Bardon Mill. Please keep an eye out for the various fundraising events we will be having as we seek to further develop and expand the club and to serve the community.

Next Generation

This year, as always, Hannah Lucy Stage School are hosting their annual showcase. This years theme, The Time Tunnel – 100 years of music!

They will be showcasing their amazing dance and musical theatre talents across two night in November, in styles of ballet, tap, modern, cheerleading, acrobatics, lyrical, street dance, commercial dance and may even have a few extra treats thrown into the mix as well!

The children work so hard throughout the year, attending extra performances, doing examinations. The showcase is the biggest event of them all! Letting the students show off a little bit, perform their hearts out, but above all, ENJOY THEMSELVES!

The music this year has something for everything, as no matter when you were born, from 1920 all the way up to modern day, I'm sure you will hear a song that you know and want to bob along to!

The costumes have all been meticulously prepared to suit the styles and tracks, keeping Miss Hannah and her team working extremely hard! This is bound to be an event that shouldn't be missed!

The show dates are Friday 28th November (doors open at 6pm) and Saturday 29th November (doors open at 5pm) at the First Academy School. Tickets will be on sale from the end of October and can be purchased via a link which will be published nearer the time, or via Miss Hannah herself!

Come along, sing along and most of all, enjoy the dancing!





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PICTURE OF THE MONTH



MORNING FROST - CLAIRE DOBSON

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!

December's theme is 'Feeling Festive'