

FREE

The Haltwhistle Herald

**DECEMBER 2025 &
JANUARY 2026**





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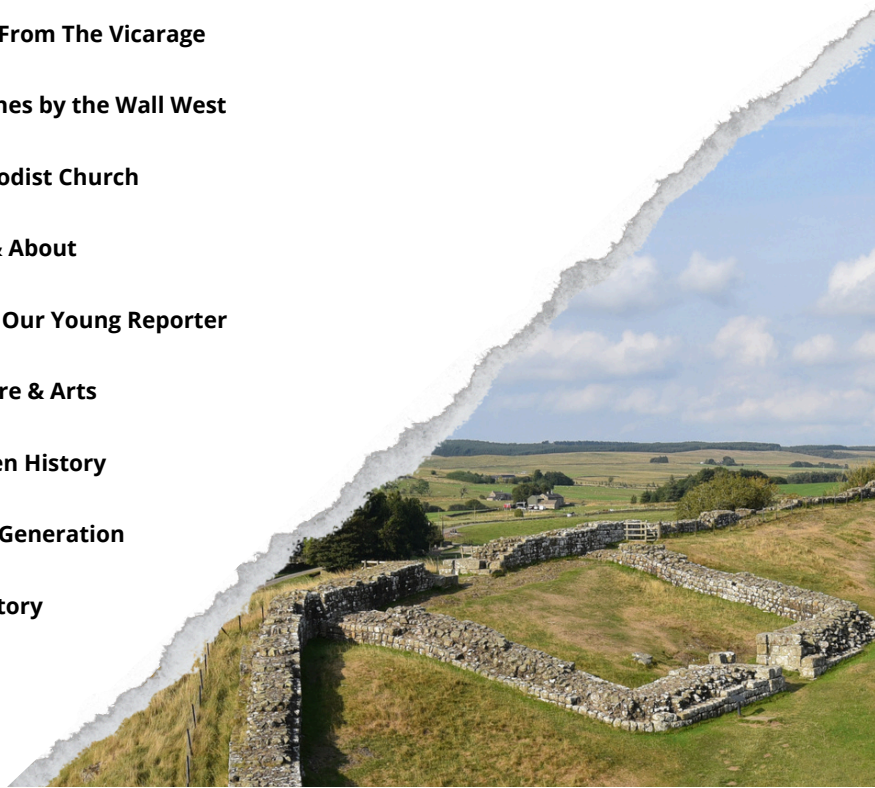
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What's on in Dec/Jan

- DEC 6th** Town Twinning coffee morning, Methodist Church Hall, 9.30-11.30am
- 6th** Lantern Parade, Gilsland Primary School, 3pm
- 6th** Bingo Night , Greenhead Village Hall, 7:30pm
- 7th** Coanwood Christmas Craft Fair, Quaker Meeting House, 11:00 - 3pm
- 10th** History and Heritage Group Talk - Memories of a Draper's Shop, Hospital Community Room, 10.30am
- 11th** Pancakes with Santa, Jethro's Cafe, 4pm
- 12th** Light in the Darkness - winter music and tales, Bardon Mill Village Hall, 7.30pm (tel 344424 for tickets)
- 13th** Santa's Sleigh - around Haltwhistle, 4pm-6.15pm
- 14th** HGSL Christmas Fayre - Stalls, children's activities, Santa's grotto, proceeds for Haltwhistle Hospital, 10am-2:30pm
- 14th** Community Carol Service, Holy Cross, 6pm
- 18th** Scrooge - film and food night, General Havelock, Bardon Mill, 7.15pm (tel 684376 for tickets)
- 20th** Carols round the tree, seasonal refreshments, Holy Cross, 3pm
- 22nd** Christmas Singalong, Haltwhistle Hospital, 11 am
- 25th** Christmas Day Special - Methodist Hall, 10am-4.30pm, see page 26
- JAN 3rd** Jubilee FC coffee morning, Methodist Hall, 9.30 - 11.30am
- 14th** History and Heritage Group Talk Vintage Tree Trails by Nick Johnson, Hospital Community Room, 10:30am
- 20th** Sustainable Haltwhistle talk Defined by Stones, Ian Jackson, Community Hub, 1pm
- 23rd/24th** Haltwhistle Pantomime - see p7

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

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

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

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, 10:00-2.30pm, 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

Christmas will soon be here and we hope you are ready! The town Christmas lights are up and fantastic, thanks again to the Chamber of Trade and Nick Postma and his amazing team of volunteers. If you didn't manage to get your shopping done at the Late Night Shopping you have other opportunities to pick up a stocking filler at Coanwood Craft Fair and the Christmas Fayre at the Garden centre -details in What's On. Don't miss an opportunity to support our high street over the festive period not just for gifts but wonderful food, flowers and decorations.

We also hear that Santa will be making a couple of stops in the town - there's an opportunity to see him at Jethro's for pancakes or out and about on his Sleigh on the 13th.



There are lots of opportunities to sing your favourite carols at Holy Cross Church see page 26 or join in around the Christmas tree on the 20th for a seasonal treat. There will also be a Christmas Sing-a-long for us all to get into the community spirit at the Hospital on the 22nd at 11am.

Turning to the New Year, make sure you have your tickets for the Pantomime, Hansel and Gretel this year, in the school hall. It is sure to be a crowd pleaser with three performances over the 23rd and 24th January.

Town Twinning - a fantastic opportunity to visit our 'twin' town of St Meen in Brittany, France for 5 nights in July, staying with local families and enjoying guided visits, entertainment and great food. Expressions of interest should be emailed to HaltwhistleTwinning@gmail.com or Facebook - Haltwhistle & District Town Twinning.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Haltwhistle Herald Team.

Our next edition will be February so contributions need to be with us by the **16th January** at the very latest please, maximum 250 words with a couple of pictures. To send contributions or to contact us email haltwhistleherald@gmail.com

Carols Round the Christmas Tree

join us for some festive singing and refreshments at Holy Cross Church

Saturday 20th December
3:00 pm

BINGO NIGHT

A charity event to raise funds for Greenhead Womens Institute and Village Hall.

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& LOTS
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Eyes down 7.30pm
Saturday 6th December, 2025
Greenhead Village Hall.

Christmas Sing-a-Long

Monday 22nd
December
2025

11am

Haltwhistle
War Memorial
Hospital
Westgate, NE49 9AJ

with
Haltwhistle
Family Hub
and the Warm
Welcome



Please join us afterwards at Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall for more festivities, including a performance from Hannah Lucy Stage School!

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Saturday 24th
January 2026

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Saturday 24th January - Evening Performance - 7.00pm



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What's On December 2025



GILSLAND LANTERN PARADE

Saturday 6th December

Meet at 15:00 at Gilsland CofE Primary School



WINTER SOLSTICE SOUND BATH & FIRE CEREMONY

Sunday 21st December

15:00 - 16:30 & 19:00 - 20:30

£17.50



VOICES FROM THE WALL

A creative writing project working towards creating a sound walk along Hadrian's Wall.

Beginning Thursday 8th January 13:00 - 15:00
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Regular Weekly Classes For All Levels
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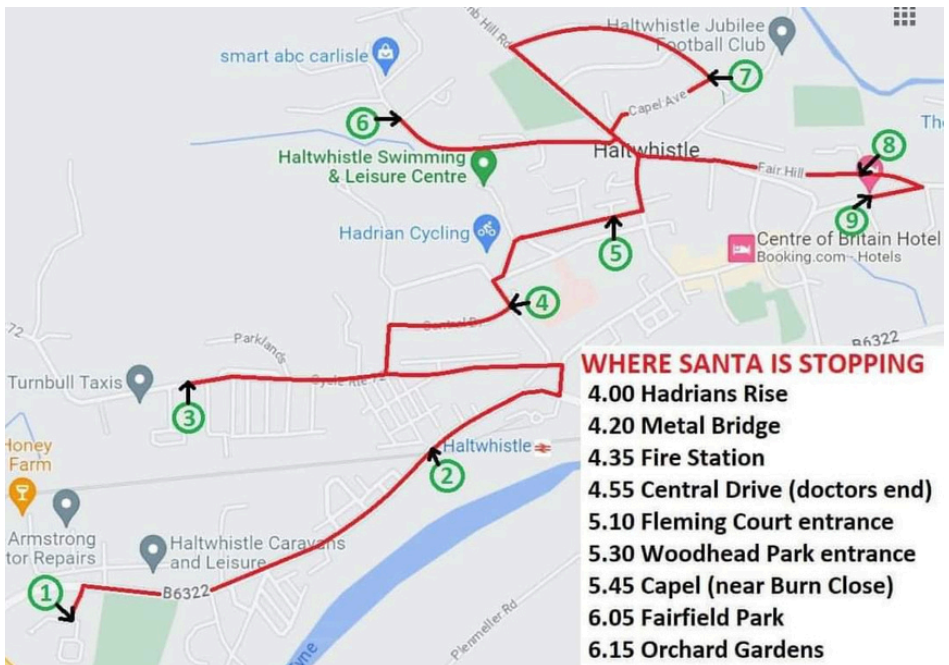
Funded by
UK Government

NE

North East
Local Enterprise Partnership

www.greencroftonthewall.com

The Corporation of Northumberland through the NE Local Enterprise Partnership funds the Greencroft Arts Centre and its activities.



Haltwhistle Partnership

Community Shops Fund

The Autumn round of the Community Shops Fund closed on 26th October, and we were delighted by the fantastic response. We received 11 general applications and 10 applications from young people, showcasing the creativity and commitment of our local community.

Successful applicants were notified at the end of November, and we look forward to seeing their projects make a positive impact.

If you missed this round, the next opportunity will open in Spring 2026, with exact dates to be confirmed.

This fund supports community groups with projects that benefit local residents, as well as young people seeking opportunities to develop new skills or access experiences that might otherwise be out of reach.

We're continually inspired by the energy and innovation in our area and encourage everyone to start thinking ahead for Spring 2026. Together, we can keep building momentum and creating meaningful change in our community.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

If you still have holiday shopping to do, there's time to visit the Community Shop before it closes for a short festive break at 1pm on 20th December. It will reopen on 5th January. The Community Bookshop will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve and reopen on 29th December; please check the notice on the door for any additional hours.

Together, the Community Shops offer a great selection of books, toys, clothing, games, jigsaw puzzles, household items, and a mix of brand-new and high-quality pre-loved gifts — perfect for thoughtful, affordable Christmas shopping.

Every purchase helps facilitate the Partnership's work across Haltwhistle and the surrounding parishes, funding projects through the Community Shops Fund that benefit local people. Whether you're after a special gift or a festive browse, the Community Shops are well worth a visit this season.

Christmas Closure

The Partnership Office will be closed from 20th December until 5th January. During this period, emails will continue to be monitored, but the office itself will remain closed.

Haltwhistle Partnership

Volunteering Opportunities – Make it Your New Year's Resolution!

Looking for a meaningful way to begin 2026? Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, build skills, and contribute to projects that make a real difference locally. Whether you can commit to a regular shift or just spare the occasional hour, your support is truly valued.

Volunteers are needed across all Haltwhistle Partnership projects. The Community Shops welcome help with greeting customers, arranging

displays, sorting donations, and supporting day-to-day operations — all essential to keeping this vital community hub running smoothly.

The Older People's Project is also seeking volunteers for its Drop-In, Lunch Club, and Memory Café, offering companionship and practical support to local older residents.

If you enjoy being outdoors, Haltwhistle Growing Together and the Community Gardeners offer opportunities to help maintain green spaces, grow produce, and keep the town looking its best.

Whether you're interested in social activities, community events, or outdoor projects, volunteering with the Haltwhistle Partnership is a rewarding way to give back, connect with others, and develop new skills. To learn more or get involved, contact the Haltwhistle Partnership today — and make 2026 a year of community and positive impact.

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.



THE OLDER PEOPLE'S PROJECT

The Older People's Project supports older residents in Haltwhistle by reducing isolation and promoting wellbeing through regular social activities.

DROP-IN LUNCH CLUB MEMORY CAFÉ

Weekly Drop-In Coffee:
Every Tuesday - 10am-12pm -
Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall.

Monthly Lunch Club:
First Tuesday of the month - 12pm-2pm
Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall.

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

For More information contact: olderpeoplesproject@haltwhistle.org

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Town Council

Haltwhistle Town Council: Community Update

Haltwhistle Town Council would like to share a brief update on recent activities and ongoing work within the town, and to extend our thanks to all residents who continue to support community projects and events.

Councillor Surgeries

Residents are welcome to attend the monthly councillor surgeries, held in the council office on the railway station platform (the converted waiting room). These sessions provide a friendly and informal opportunity to raise issues, ask questions, or simply have a chat. They run from 10am to 12 noon.

Upcoming dates are:

- Saturday 20th of December 2025
- Saturday 24th of January 2026
- Saturday 21st of February 2026
- Everyone is welcome, whether you have something specific to discuss or would just like to meet your councillors.

Community Litter Picks

Thank you to all those who continue to take part in the regular community litter picks. The most recent event took place on 16th of November and the next will be held on 21st of December.

Equipment is provided and there is tea and cake afterwards, so it's a good chance to do something positive for the town while meeting others.

Warm Hub and Local Donations

The Town Council is pleased to confirm that the agreed donation to the Warm Hub has now been processed. Please keep an eye on Facebook for details as to when this will be operating. In addition, support continues for other local organisations, including Sport Tynedale, the reading programme at Haltwhistle Academy and other community initiatives.

Bus Stop Renovation

The bus stop has recently been repaired, with new Perspex installed following vandalism. We hope this helps to improve comfort and visibility, particularly as we move through the winter months. Thank you to everyone for their patience while the work was arranged.

Town Council

Remembrance Day

There was an excellent turnout for this year's Remembrance Day wreath-laying at the cenotaph in Hospital Park. The Council would like to thank all who took the time to attend and participate.

We were especially pleased to receive positive feedback from Rodrica Straker DL, representing His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, who commented that the event had been well organised and also praised the performance of the young piper, describing it as excellent. It was heartening to see so many people gather to pay their respects.



Christmas Lights

This year's Christmas lights are now in place, including several new additions. They are looking very smart; and we hope residents and visitors enjoy them in the run-up to Christmas.



Chamber of Trade

The most wonderful time of the year

Once again, the community spirit of Haltwhistle was in fine form at the annual Christmas Late Night Shopping event on Friday 28th November 2025.

An opportunity for children to visit with Santa and be rewarded with an early gift, enjoy free Merry-go round rides and enjoy a little bit of magical snow whilst marvelling at our wonderful window displays and twinkling Town Christmas Lights.

All of this, only possible due to the overwhelming generosity of the individual donations in our collection bottles and our local companies who donate, time, snow, gifts, trees, and signs. Special thanks go to our very philanthropic larger industries who really pulled the stops out financially. We are especially grateful to the family of the late Joyce Redden who very kindly gave us a donation in her memory, we appreciate your thoughtfulness, thank you.

Please take a look at our Visit Haltwhistle Facebook page for a comprehensive and heartfelt list of thank yous, along with pictures and comments from the evening.

This year the twinkling Main Street was bedecked with even more sparkling brilliance, the Chamber of Trade having purchased some more lights to replace older models. We also had some new additions to light up long standing gloomy gaps that we had identified to further enhance our Main St magnificence, maintaining our local reputation as the place to come and experience some Christmas magic.

Of course, this year we also had the new addition of our first Design a Light competition winner Halle Belle. She is pictured here, below her specially produced light motif which will adorn 25 Westgate for many years to come. Another, similar competition will be launched next year, so watch this space.





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Christmas Activity Days

6

DECEMBER

Christmas Fair & Light Parade
4:00PM TO 7:00 PM

Milecastle Pizza

12

DECEMBER

Arabian Food Van
5:00PM TO 8:00 PM

15-19

DECEMBER

Festive Afternoon Tea
12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM
Booking Essential

19

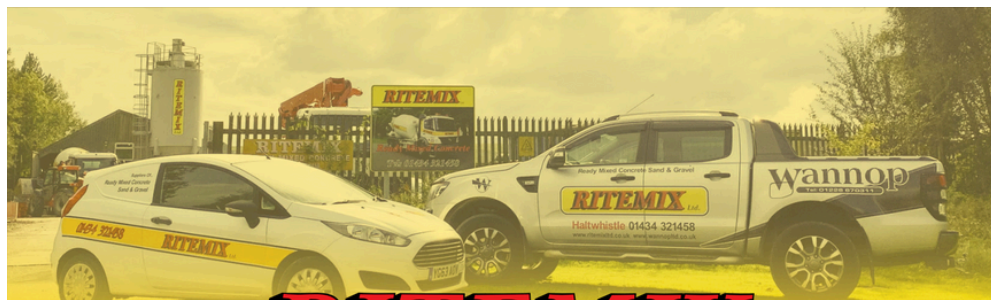
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County Council

Quarterly Update

I'm settling into my role as County Councillor and was honoured to lay a wreath at our War Memorial on Remembrance Day. I am being kept busy at the various town, parish and national park meetings and have been holding the county council to account, asking questions about our former First School and the lack of progress with the Borderland projects. The day-to-day work is unpredictable and it is clear that a good dose of determination and patience is needed.

These attributes are being tested when it comes to the former Working Men's Club - a matter on which I promised to report. There is progress, albeit slow. Thanks to the dedication and trust of local residents, the insurance claim is settled, and the funds are being secured. The main priority now is to tidy-up the site, weather-proof the building, and repair adjoining properties. Hopefully, renovation work will begin early in 2026. I aim to update you on this and other disused buildings later this winter.



As I write, our first frosty night is behind us and we are into the cosy winter months - always excitingly festive in Haltwhistle. We have already been spookily entertained at Fright Night (to be repeated, I hope); the town is being dazzled by our spectacular Christmas light show, leading to Christmas shopping night, when we can enjoy supporting our high-street. Thanks and compliments to those, most of whom are volunteers, who invest so much time and energy in promoting all this important community spirit and pride.

Warm wishes for a joyful festive season. I look forward to a productive year ahead, serving this wonderful town of Haltwhistle.

rachel.mathieson@northumberland.gov.uk

Local Hero

Nick Postma

Nick has lived in Haltwhistle all his life and is very much part of our community.

He began his apprenticeship to become an electrician in 1993. After serving his apprenticeship he became self employed in 1998. Since then, the business has grown into a successful one and he employs eight staff.

When asked how the Christmas lights became a major part of his work, he replied that the Chamber of Trade saw to the lights with the help of Billy Davidson until he sadly died. The work continued with Armstrongs and Crawfords over seeing them, Nick used to help with this by doing the connections. It led to an increase in the lights to include the hospital grounds and towards the station.

This has continued over the years to become what it is today. The best Christmas light display around Tynedale and beyond. Nick and his team make sure all is ready for the late-night Christmas shopping event and lights switch on.



All helped by the fundraising and generosity of the public.

Nick loved living in Haltwhistle with his family and is a major part of the community. He is Chair of the Comrades Club and a firefighter for the last 20 years. He also is an active member of the Chamber of Trade.

This community says a huge thankyou to Nick and his team, the Chamber of Trade and many others for helping to make Christmas in Haltwhistle so special.

Hospitable Haltwhistle

This month we spoke to Brett Pattinson from Oceans - Haltwhistle.

Oceans in Haltwhistle has been named among the Northumberland Gazette's Top 10 fish & chip shops in 2022, 2024 and 2025 — the only inland one to make the Top 10 list!

Herald - How long has Oceans been in Haltwhistle?

Oceans - 21 years in Haltwhistle owned and operated by Brett & Karen Pattison.

Herald - What's your favourite thing about Oceans?

Oceans - Working for myself.....I love hearing what customers from all over the UK and even abroad think about the fish — especially when they're talking about the quality and the size!

Herald - Where is your fish sourced?

Oceans - We use only Icelandic fish —caught wild in the cold waters off Iceland.



Herald - If you had a magic wand what is the one thing you would change about Oceans.

Oceans - The price of fish... It keeps going up, but we're doing our best to keep it fair and still serve the same great quality.

Herald - If you were any item on your menu what would it be and why?

Oceans - I'd be the haggis — it's just the offal, but it does the job! I don't actually eat fish, but the customers say ours is the best, so I'll take their word for it.

Herald - What plans should we look out for?

Oceans - I just want to keep serving Haltwhistle and the area the best fish and chips I can — with plenty of good craic and a friendly face behind the counter.



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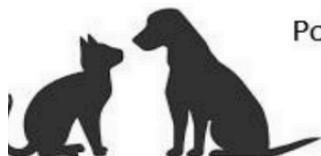


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View From The Vicarage

Canon Steve Wright

You think you know stress - When I grew up and you missed a TV programme, you missed it. Forever! Thank goodness we don't have the same with Christmas. Even if you missed it last year, there's another chance to start a good family tradition by coming to church this year.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church of England

- First Sunday of December - 10am Group service, Greenhead.
- First Sunday of January - 10am Group service, Holy Cross Haltwhistle

Other Sundays of December/January-

- 9.30am Holy Cross, Haltwhistle
- 11am St. Cuthbert's, Greenhead (but 3pm on the 21st, Christingle/Party)
- 11am All Hallows' Henshaw (21st is our Carols Service)
- Thursdays 10am - a quiet meditative service - Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

Roman Catholic Services

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

4pm Christmas Eve Mass (Christmas Day also in Haydon Bridge 4pm Crib service, 6pm Mass and New Years Day at 11am)

Methodist Services

10.30am on Sundays at Haltwhistle Methodist Church (except the 28th)

2pm Christmas Eve Communion

and Christmas Lunch on the 25th

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/>

A Pause for Thought

There's been a lot of talk about the amount of stress we're all under with inflation, wars in the news, and Christmas shopping is a particularly stretching time. The cheaper it gets to buy strings of sparkly electric lights means more glitz and visual exuberance in high street decor and for some, it can get all a bit too much. If you're feeling weighed down with it all, overwhelmed by the pressure, church encourages us to 'restart your heart with a bit of CPR' (a Carol, a Poem, a Reading) - our vicar Steve getting inventive on his advertising slogan this year! (his advert on the next page)

All our Churches encourage you to pause for thought and not to lose sight of the central story. The children at Haltwhistle Primary Academy have been thinking about the characters in the story, in particular Mary, Joseph, the Magi, the Shepherds, the Innkeeper, and of course baby Jesus and we hope we will have their displays from school in the back of Holy Cross church after the end of term.

Along with Haltwhistle, Henshaw and Greenhead schools also have Nativity Plays and Christmas carols, and our churches and community join together for our Community Carols service on the 14th at Holy Cross Church at 6pm this year. These are all opportunities to remember the heart of the season, and from all our churches we wish you all the best for the build up to Christmas, and the Christmas season itself.



From the Registers:
Funerals – Joyce Redden, John Wilde,
John Clark
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Restart your heart with CPR

I get the impression sometimes that by the time Christmas comes round everyone is exhausted already. I wanted to give an opportunity to get in touch with the real story, with an opportunity to think about it informally so, at Holy Cross Church we're providing an opportunity for

A Pause for Thought

with an invitation to

Restart your Heart with CPR

(a Carol, a Poem, and a Reading)

from Friday 19th to Christmas Eve for half an hour at 6pm each evening, and 4pm on Christmas Eve. We'll have a little electric fire to toast marshmallows on, and each evening think about a different nativity story character with a carol, a poem and a bible reading.

We'll have a Prayer too but restarting your heart with CPRP looked a bit odd. Drop in for one or more evenings as you wish.

Friday 19th 6pm - thinking about Mary, the song The Angel Gabriel.

Saturday 20th 6pm - thinking about Joseph with, Once in Royal.

Sunday 21st 6pm - We three kings of orient are - the magi of course.

Monday 22nd 6pm - While shepherds watched - a must have.

Tuesday 23rd 6pm - Little Donkey - one of the extras we add to the story, but thinking about the Inn Keeper this night.

Christmas Eve 24th 4pm - a carol for each character but focussing on Jesus with the light of Christ illustrated by the Christingle. If you can help make the Christingles, come along on Sunday at 10.30am to help



A Pause for Thought, to restart your heart that you might live again by getting in touch with deeper things. A bit of CPR, cardiac resuscitation with a carol, a poem, a reading. It is the antidote to tiredness, when the razmataz needs filling.

We also have an occasional discussion group in Henshaw, (this month at 12noon on the 14th), where you can raise any question you like about matters of faith - this month likely Christmas oriented 😊.

Methodist Church & Churches Together



JOIN US FOR THE COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14th December
at 6.00PM in the
Holy Cross Church
ALL ARE WELCOME

Haltwhistle Methodist Church

December 2025 & January 2026

Services

Sunday 7th

10.30am Rev Marie Beard (Holy Communion)

Sunday 14th

10.30am Rev Tony Buglass

6.00pm Community Carol Service
at Holy Cross

Sunday 21st

10.30am Ruth Johnson

Sunday 28th

NO SERVICE

Sunday 4th

10.30am Worship Leaders

Sunday 11th

10.30am Rev Stuart Earl

Sunday 18th

10.30am Sandra Martin

3.00pm Rev Marie Beard (United Service)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 25th

10.30am Norman Fullard

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Christmas Day Special

Thursday 25th December
Christmas Day

Methodist Hall from 10.00am-4.30pm

We would like to invite everyone, not just elderly people on their own but also families, therefore the 'day' would be opened up to all. We believe this event will make a difference to people for a variety of reasons.

• Doors open from 10.00a.m. – 4.30p.m.

- 10.00a.m. Tea / Coffee / Hot Chocolate / Mince Pies / Biscuits
- 11.15a.m. Carols

• 12.00 noon **Full Christmas Dinner available**

Soup / turkey, beef / roast potatoes / trifle / Xmas pud. & custard.
Rolls/bread / cakes / mince pies / tea, coffee, juice etc.

- 3.15p.m. **Tea** - come for tea and enjoy the company of others whilst listening to the King's speech

Previous years some people came and had coffee/tea and mince pies after church, some came and had dinner, some came for tea and some stayed all day (isolation/loneliness is worse over the holidays), it's what you would like to do.

If anyone wishes to help on the day or volunteer to pick people up/ take them home, please contact Ellen Walton telephone 07719 958 627 or contact Haltwhistle Methodist Church.

Everyone is welcome to come along on the day but if possible, could you let us know prior to Friday 19th December if you are coming for catering purposes. If there will be any children tell us so we can let Santa know.

We are grateful for the support from local organisations, businesses and individuals when organising events such as this.

Haltwhistle Methodist Church



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Out & About

The Pillar Box Cafe wins the Best Cafe in England Award.

What an amazing achievement and one the whole town can be proud of and celebrate.

Owner Cheryl writes:

We would like to thank everyone for their votes and support for helping us to win not only Best Cafe in Northumberland but to win Best Cafe in England at the England's Business Awards Grand Final! We had a wonderful time at Birmingham, dressed to kill! From opening the Pillar Box Cafe in 2008, it's been a roller coaster ride! From starting up our Meal Deliveries in 2011, to catering everything from Christenings, Weddings, Funerals, doing Afternoon Tea Boxes and Birthday Surprise Boxes. We take pride in supporting local businesses and charities, for example being involved with the town twinning and making sure our customers are well looked after whether that's in the cafe or in their own homes and everything inbetween.

We wouldn't be open this long without the support of my amazing parents, our fantastic staff and all our wonderful customers. Over the years, a lot of our customers have become our adopted family and we couldn't be any more grateful. Thank You again, Cheryl, Mattie and Tobin.



Fundraising: Ewan Mitchell writes

- Riley, Owen, and I are taking on the Goggins Challenge, an endurance run over 48 hours, to raise awareness and support for Tourette's Action. This challenge, testing our physical and mental limits, is our way of standing with those affected by Tourette's Syndrome. We hope to inspire others to join the fight for better understanding and support, all while raising vital funds for this incredible cause. To support please go to our Go fund me link or call in for a scratch card at The Hair Designers (Salon 25)

www.justgiving.com and put in your name to get to the link.

Out & About

Calico Hinnies Quilt Exhibition

What started out as an idea to get the quilts out of everyone's cupboard, culminated in a great team effort of putting on an exhibition in St. Cuthbert's Church, Greenhead, on the 15th & 16th November. There were a total of 146 quilts and other items made by the Calico Hinnies Quilting Group. There was a Cushion raffle which went down really well. Members made a total of 15 cushions, some with a Christmas theme and some for everyday use. Each cushion was definitely unique.

We all agree that the church was beautifully transformed into "Joseph's Technicolour Dreamcoat" with quilts of many colours. We received some lovely comments from those who came to see the exhibition. Some saying that they were completely surprised at the quantity of quilts on show. Project Linus UK were there with their quilts, promoting awareness of the charity. One particular quilt had a sensory feel to it, with different types of materials and even several zips which can be fiddled with.



Funds were raised for the church and Project Linus UK. Calico Hinnies members make quilts for Project Linus UK which are donated to local Children's Hospice and Women's Refuge. We have also made lap-quilts for Haltwhistle Hospital.

Thank you to everyone who came along and donated. We raised £194. We also make Heart-shaped cushion covers for the local hospital to pass on to Breast Cancer patients. We will be making those soon, followed by a well-earned Christmas lunch and a rest.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Out & About

Sustainable Haltwhistle

On 4 November Sustainable Haltwhistle hosted an event, in partnership with Northumberland National Park, which outlined the Hadrian's Wall Wetlands Landscape Recovery project. The project is still subject to final funding but will bring landscape scale interventions to the Haltwhistle Burn as well as the historic environment.

Keeping on the theme of river health, Sustainable Haltwhistle has been working with others to set up a 'Love Our Tyne' group. The aim is to investigate options to recognise the Rights of the River Tyne, just like people or corporations have and are protected legally.

Abigail Cheverst is enjoying her new role as a board member for Northumberland National Park. The role allows Sustainable Haltwhistle to raise issues and obtain information from the National Park at Board level.

In December Sustainable Haltwhistle has been invited to attend a Climate Round Table with MP Joe Morris where they will raise climate related issues affecting Haltwhistle residents. If you would like to feedback on this please email HaltwhistleClimateAction@protonmail.com

Sustainable Haltwhistle is working with other local partners to design a grasscutting survey for Haltwhistle so when the contract renews in 2027 Haltwhistle Town Council can be more informed about what residents want. This is an ecological issue and a cost issue, with grasscutting costs tripling last time the contract was renewed.

On Tue 20 January popular local author and Chartered Geologist Ian Jackson returns with a talk about his new book 'Defined by Stones' which explores the connections between our prehistoric ancestors and our northern landscapes. The free event will take place at 1pm on the 20 Jan at Haltwhistle Community Hub (Library).



Defined by Stones

Exploring the connection between our prehistoric ancestors and our northern landscapes.

Haltwhistle Community Hub



20th January 2026

1pm



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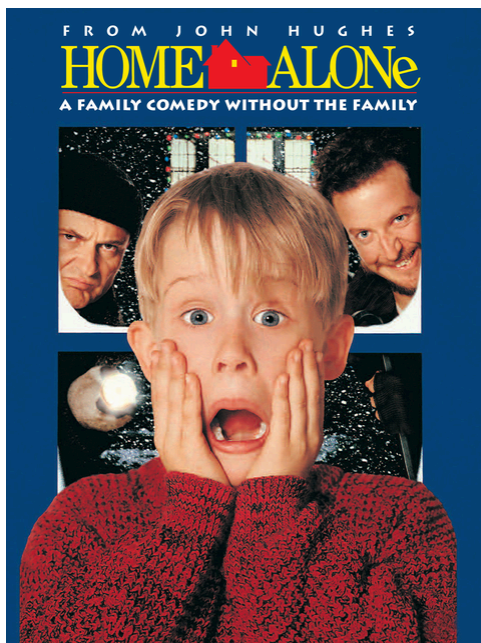
From Our Young Reporter

Hi it's Halle Bell here. I'm 11 years old and I have had yet again a great time being a junior reporter for December of the Haltwhistle Herald.

I have been round and have been asking what people love about Christmas.

My questions were...

1. What is their favourite Christmas movie and what's their favourite actor/actress?
2. What is their favourite Christmas Christmas song and are they good at singing it?
3. And finally what is their Christmas tradition they do with their family every year?



First up we have Alayah Craib and she is another one of my good friends. Her favourite Christmas movie is Home Alone 1 as she loves how funny it is. Her favourite Christmas song is Last Christmas by Wham and a tradition she does with her family is she goes to her grandparents house and has a very delicious Christmas dinner. Yummy.

From Our Young Reporter

Next up we have the lovely Jan Birks who I know very well. She said her favourite Christmas movie is Love Actually and her favourite actress is Emma Thompson. Her favourite Christmas song is Little Drummer Boy as it was her grandma's favourite and she loves singing the song. She must be a good singer! A Christmas tradition she does is watch Polar Express every Christmas Eve with her daughter since it's her daughter's birthday!



Last but not least, Jonathan Kenworthy, Halcyon's very own panto dame. He says his favourite Christmas movie is also Home Alone 1. A popular choice so it must be good, and his favourite actor was Devin Ratray who played Kevin's older brother Buzz. His favourite song is O Holy Night - the Christmas carol and we all know he's a good singer. And finally, his Christmas tradition was his mum's Christmas trifle. Yum.

That's all from me! Halle Bell wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Thank you Halle for writing for the Herald again, you're a star! Why not ask your guests these questions over Christmas to get the conversation flowing?



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Adult tap 6:45-7:30
Clubbercise 7:45 – 8:30

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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 atmospheric cinema and spine tingling nostalgia in Haltwhistle.

At the Masonic Hall on Hallowe'en a good number of local folk turned out to watch Alfred Hitchcock's last silent film, *Blackmail* and to buy a drink at the bar to steady the nerves!

The film showcased all the director's signature elements — romance, deceit, guilt, and tension — in a gripping melodramatic thriller.

One member of the audience said " it felt like we were stepping back to the 1920s, it was a brilliant event and the music added another dimension - riveting!"

Local musicians Chris and Veronica Perrin, provided the music as the Brief Encounter Duo, bringing the Jazz Age to life with live music from the era, played on an array of instruments. We could see why their unique blend of musicianship and film artistry has earned them glowing reviews. The show was nominated for the Buxton Festival Fringe Film Award 2024.

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S LAST SILENT FILM

BLACKMAIL

with LIVE MUSIC from BRIEF ENCOUNTER DUO
(Winners - Buxton Festival Fringe Film Award 2024)



Anni Onda as Alice

with Sarah Allgood
John Longdon
Cyril Ritchard

The event was supported by Haltwhistle Film Project, who provided technical expertise, and Northumberland Community Development Company (NCDC), were proud sponsors of the evening. I think we can all agree we would like more of these type of events in Haltwhistle, please.



Culture & Arts

Green Croft Arts

New Year, New You

The Christmas and New Year period is often a time for reflection, when many of us begin to focus more closely on our wellbeing. For some, this means reigniting old hobbies or trying something new; for others, it may involve developing creative skills or committing to improved fitness. Whatever the motivation, this season encourages us to seek a healthier and more balanced lifestyle.

Green Croft Arts is based at The Threshing Barn, located between Greenhead and Gilsland. Our programme includes free creative and wellbeing activities for our local community, as well as paid workshops and retreats that help attract day visitors to the area.

Free Funded Activities

Our Gilsland Lantern Parade will take place on 6 December, beginning at Gilsland CofE Primary School and ending at House of Meg with the Christmas Market and a performance by the Hadrian Singers. Voices from the Wall, a new sound-walk project, explores the history and atmosphere of Hadrian's Wall. Creative writing sessions led by Susannah Ronnie will run for five weeks from Thursday 8 January, 1–3pm.

In March 2026, all-female company Ceyda Tanc Dance will perform at Gilsland Village Hall and lead a community contemporary dance project for women aged 14–100yrs. No experience required, just a desire to move.

Paid Activities

We offer weekly Pilates, yoga and adult ballet classes, along with deeply relaxing meditation classes & sound baths—either floating at Hayton Pool or paired with a fire ceremony. Our creative workshop programme also runs throughout the year employing local artists to deliver.





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Hidden History

Errington Reay Pottery

Friends Robert Errington and William Reay decided to set up in business for themselves and, in 1878, set up in former woollen mill which closed down following a fire in 1860. The mill began life as an ordinary stone built house in 1750 before being adapted to a mill in 1760. It was three storeys high and would have been quite dominant as no other houses surrounded it. The mill turned fleeces into simple bolts of woollen cloth. Behind a wooden door in the wall facing the road is the original water wheel. Unfortunately a section at the base has rotted as it stands in a shallow amount of water. The wheel was powered by the Chainley Burn. From here, the Burn then powered a corn mill, which stood at what is now the village green, before entering the River South Tyne.

The company's main product was pipes but in 1970s, plastic pipes were beginning to be produced and the company decided to diversify. They used the pipe extruding machine to produce the main body of a garden pot.

A base was added and a rim created at the top. These were then taken to gardeners' markets to trial.

They were a hit and the company didn't look back. Nowadays, the principle is still the same. Holes are inserted into the base of the rim to allow air held in the clay to escape during the firing process. Another hole is added for the price tag. There are stamps to press the company logo onto the side of the pot and to create patterns. They are then left to air dry. About 30-40 are made per day. The pots are designed to stack base to base then rim to rim within the kiln.

The kiln is slowly heated to 1250°C and salt is added. At such high temperatures, the salt vapourises. It combines with the silica in the clay and melts onto the surface, glazing the pottery.

The whole process is a wonderful mixture of science, artistry and alchemy.

Kindly sponsored by the Roman Army Museum



Hidden History

Haltwhistle History and Heritage Group

The talk on December the 10th is entitled:

Nylon Stockings. Woollen Socks, Knitting Wool, and Electricity Bills - Memories of a Haltwhistle Drapery Business.

"W Thompson and Son, Ladies and Gents Outfitters" was established in the early 1900s and traded until the 1970s. Many Haltwhistle people will probably remember it as simply the "Wool Shop" run by brothers John (Jackie) and Frank Thompson. Barrie Thompson, Jackie's son, will give a little information on the family and shop history and then recount some of his own memories of the business and some of the business practices that nowadays would be regarded as little more than quaint. Some of these business practices relate to the family's Sock/Stocking Factory that occupied small premises to the rear of the long defunct railway station at Greenhead.

The talk will highlight several specific memories. But, as Barrie will point out, memories can be somewhat odd and may vary from the actual facts! Come along and listen to this interesting part of local history at the Community Room in the Hospital on December 10th.



Since, at the time of the talk, it will be nearly Christmas, attendees will be invited to recount their own memories of "Christmas Stockings" after the presentation.



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Haltwhistle Medical Group - NHS App

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The NHS App is a simple way to see recent test results that have been added to your online GP health record, without having to phone the GP practice.



You can view your results in a few easy steps

- Go to Your health
- GP health record
- Test Results

If you need help with the NHS App, please contact the Reception at Haltwhistle Medical Group

Christmas and New Year Closures

Haltwhistle Medical Group will be closed on Christmas Thursday 25th and Friday 26th December, reopening on Monday 29th December. We will be closed on New Years Day Thursday 1st January 2026, reopening on Friday 2nd January 2026. If you need non-urgent medical help while we are closed, contact NHS 111 and those in life-threatening emergencies should call 999 or visit Accident & Emergency.

Next Generation

Haltwhistle Academy

What a truly fantastic Autumn Term it has been at Haltwhistle Academy! As the leaves have fallen and the days have grown shorter, our students have been busy making memories and achieving wonderful things. We are so proud to end 2025 on such an exciting high note, and it is testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of our entire school community.

One of the highlights saw our adventurous Year 6 class enjoy an action-packed winter residential trip to the beautiful Lockerbie Manor. They embraced every challenge and came back with fantastic stories and stronger bonds of friendship.

The festive spirit was undeniable thanks to our wonderful School Choir, who performed brilliantly at the local Late Night Shopping event, filling us all with much-needed Christmas cheer and holiday melody. This community spirit continued with an extremely successful Christmas Fayre, where our families and local supporters helped us raise vital funds. We also saw incredible effort and enthusiasm during our Santa Dash Fundraiser—a fantastic sight!



Finally, to cap off the term, children from Year 2 right through to Year 6 enjoyed a thrilling visit to Queen's Hall to see their spectacular pantomime performance of Little Red Riding Hood.

Thank you to all our staff, parents, and the Haltwhistle community for making this term so special. We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



Next Generation

Young & Sweet

The fun never stops! The September term has seen us welcome back our existing members and of course our new cohort of year 5s. We have about 25 new members who are enjoying the space and getting to know the staff, youth work is very much about the relationship between youth worker and young person so it is important that we spend time getting to know each individual. We currently have about 120 young people per week accessing the project.

Weekly sessions have included topics of learning such as developing fine motor skills by making friendship bracelets and Halloween crafts, learning how to follow instructions by making rocky road and s'mores around the campfire. We had great fun with some traditional Halloween games and the older groups have been learning about female anatomy.

We also launched our new 'pop up' activities where young people can experience one off activities which are a bit different and have included pumpkin carving, movie night, multi-sports and glow in the dark soft play. This allows young people access to a variety of low-cost things to do in Haltwhistle during term time.



Young and Sweet's staff and volunteers organised a very successful children's Halloween disco and Kathryn McDonald kindly organised an adults' Halloween disco raising £752 combined. The year 7 group have organised a coffee morning and are preparing as we speak.



Santa's Sleigh 13th December - see page 8 for route.

Santa will stop at various places around town, play in the snow, have your photo taken with Santa and watch out for the naughty grinch



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M: 07747 897166

E: info@wannopltd.co.uk

Address: Esk Quarry, Sandpit Number 2, Faugh, Carlisle, England, CA8 9EG

Directory

HEALTH

Hexham General Hospital	01434 606161
War Memorial Hospital	01434 362200
Haltwhistle Health Centre	01434 320077
Cumbria Infirmary	01228 523444
Haltwhistle Dental Health	01434 322300
Geoff Steven and Sons Opticians	01434 322217
Anne Watson Podiatrist	01434 322723

SERVICES

Police	0345 6043043
Library & Tourist Information	01434 321863
Capontree Veterinary Centre	01434 320705
Co-op Funeral Director	01434 321755
Ian Blair Funeral Director	01434 322400
Northumberland Communities Together	01670 620015
Haltwhistle Family Hub	01434 321761
Cartmell Shepherd Solicitors	01434 320362

SCHOOLS

Haltwhistle Academy	01434 320467
Haydon Bridge High School	01434 684422
Henshaw C of E Primary	01434 344324
Greenhead C of E Primary	01697 747347
Gilsland C of E Primary	01697 747302

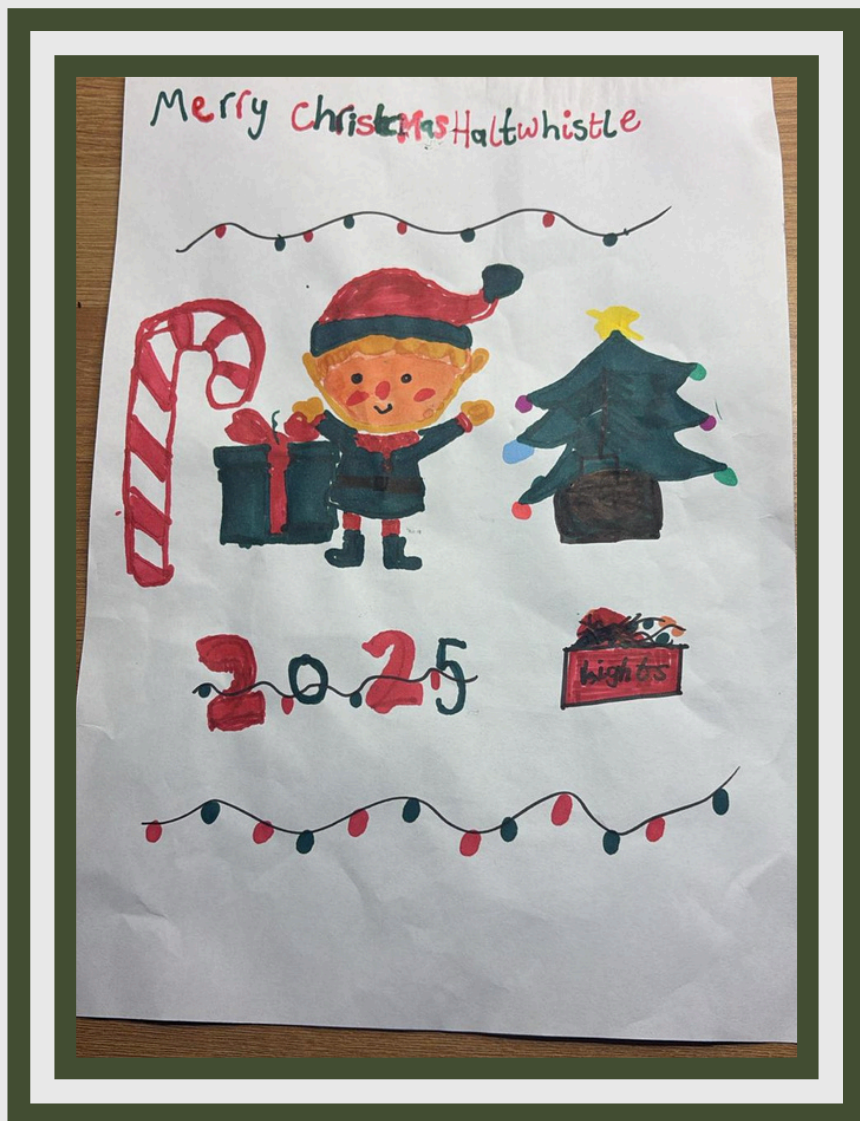
LEISURE

Haltwhistle Golf Club	01697 747367
Haltwhistle Leisure Club	01434 320727

HELP LINES

Victim Support	0300 3033 797
Childline Counselling	0800 11 11
Samaritan's Freephone	116 123
Farm Community Network	07002 32632
OneCall	01670 536400

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



FEELING FESTIVE - ALICE PLUMLEY

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!

February's theme is 'Winter Sun'