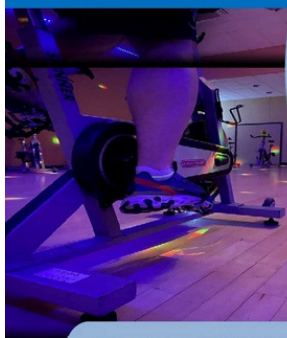


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APRIL 2026





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What's on in April

- 1st** Poetry Group, theme - Spring, 1:30-3pm, Greenhead Village Hall, Free
- 3rd** Good Friday Procession of Witness, 10am, meet at Memorial Cross
- 4th** Coffee Morning, Makers Market, Methodist Village Hall
- 4th** Holy Cross working party - Easter decorations and spring clean, 10am
- 5th** Easter Sunday - Easter Bonnet, Pace Egg competition and Service with Bishop Mark, 10am, Holy Cross
- 9th** Afternoon Tea for the town lights, 1:30pm, Masonic Hall
- 12th** Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market, 10-1:30, Greenhead
- 12th** Holy Cross APCM, 4pm (after evensong at 3pm)
- 13th** Blood Donor Session, Methodist Village Hall
- 14th** Henshaw APCM, 4pm
- 14th** Greenhead APCM, 7pm
- 16th** Garden Club - visit to Stanton Hall nursery - contact junereed53@icloud.com
- 16th** Sustainable Haltwhistle, Discussion and Planning for Emergencies and Resilience, Hospital Community Room, 5:30-7:15pm, see p25
- 18th** Coffee Morning, Town Twinning, Methodist Village Hall
- 19th** Hannah Lucy Dance Studio Open Day, 1pm, old Heads and Tails building
- 24th** Boxes of Hope project, see p26
- 24th** New Hadrians Singers next meeting, 7pm, Community Room
- Last week** Haltwhistle Walking Festival www.haltwhistlewalkingfestival.org
- 29th** Information Centre and Market Stalls for Haltwhistle local information and events, Haltwhistle Hub, 10:30-12:30

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 (also crafts):

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

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, Community Room

Armchair Warriors exercise classes,

every Thursday 10-11am, Haltwhistle Library Hub

Haltwhistle Growing Together,

every Thursday 10-12, Hillside Youth and Community Space

Haltwhistle W.I.:

Every 1st Thursday 7:15pm, Comrades Club

Calico Hinnies:

Every 4th Thursday, 10:00-2.30pm, Greenhead Village Hall

Men's Brunch:

Every 3rd Friday, 10:15-12, Haltwhistle Hub, Free

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

Haltwhistle Art Club:

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

Greenhead Dominos Night:

Every Friday, 7pm, Greenhead Village 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 April edition of the Haltwhistle Herald. Firstly, a big thank you to those that responded to our call for photographs, please keep sending them in. Our cover picture was taken by Stuart Elliot and I'm sure we can agree it's a stunner. Thank you, Stuart.

So Easter holidays are here and Spring has arrived at last. We are just entering lambing time and the farmers are busy. Enjoy spotting those lambs in the fields. Again it looks a good year for blossom so we're told that's a good sign for the summer. Let's hope so as the visitors to our town and countryside start to return in numbers.

At Holy Cross on Easter Sunday, we are reviving some old traditions - an Easter Bonnet competition for the best dressed bonnet and a Pace Egg competition - we had to Google that one, but will have fun attempting to produce a decorated hard boiled egg. Do come along and enjoy the Easter Celebrations and traditions, see page 20.

Here at the Herald, we have been Spring Cleaning! The eagle-eyed amongst you will spot that we have swapped the Hospitable Haltwhistle page for Haltwhistle Horticulture and over the year we will be including hints and tips for your garden. That's not to say we won't do any Hospitable interviews again, just that we wanted to mix things up a bit.

We had some fabulous comments about last month's front page. Many people appreciated seeing an old picture of the town. So we have decided to change the back page and rather than have a competition and a theme, we will be printing some old pictures of Haltwhistle and the local area. You know what you have to do....get hunting and see what you can turn up and send them to us - either by email, details at the foot of the page or leave in an envelope at the library.



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

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Haltwhistle Partnership

Community Shops Fund

The Community Shops Fund is still open for applications, with the deadline set for 5th April 2026. This fund is made possible through the generosity of local donors, alongside the continued dedication and hard work of volunteers at both the Community Shop and Community Bookshop. It aims to support a wide range of projects that deliver meaningful benefits to the local community.

Organisations and groups are encouraged to apply if they have initiatives that will make a positive impact. Following the closing date, all applications will be carefully reviewed, and successful applicants will be notified by 1st May 2026.

If you're unable to submit an application during this round, there will be another opportunity later in the year, as the fund is scheduled to reopen in September 2026.



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 Spring 2026 funding round.

APPLY BY 5TH APRIL 2026

To apply visit, email or call

haltwhistle.org/communityshopsfund

shopsfund@haltwhistle.org

01434 321242

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HALTWHISTLE GROWING TOGETHER

A Community garden project open to all



Come and join us
to help with the Community Garden/Allotment Project at Hillside

THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL, 2026
10am til 12 noon
then every week over summer



- No gardening experience required
- Learn how to grow vegetables and herbs
- Keep your share of the produce
- All ages and abilities welcome
- Level, accessible access
- Friendly group who will share their biscuits
- Come for the "Crack" and see what we are doing

Would you enjoy spending a couple of relaxed hours with a sociable group – learning more about gardening or perhaps sharing some of your own skills and experience?

If so, we would love you to join us on Thursday mornings! There's no regular commitment required – just come along when you can and do what you're able. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a complete beginner, everyone is welcome.

What to Expect

- We meet at 10am and start with a cuppa, biscuits (and sometimes homemade cake!)
- Around an hour enjoying the fresh air and getting stuck into some gardening.
- And often another cuppa to finish

There's no need to book – simply turn up anytime between 10am and 12 noon and ask for Claire or Jill.



Location:
Hillside Youth and Community Space
33 Park Avenue
Haltwhistle
NE49 9AU

You can also get in touch via Facebook or email us at haltwhistlegt@gmail.com.

Come along, meet new people, and enjoy a morning of fresh air, friendship and gardening.



Haltwhistle Partnership

We're Hiring!

The Haltwhistle Partnership is currently recruiting for two flexible, part-time roles. These positions offer an opportunity to contribute to meaningful community work while fitting around other commitments.

Administrative Assistant (6 hours per week, hybrid working)

This role is ideal for someone organised and dependable who enjoys supporting a small team and helping things run efficiently behind the scenes.

Key responsibilities include providing general administrative support to the Partnership Officer and Trustees, maintaining effective office systems, including secure filing and records management, attending meetings and taking accurate minutes, basic financial administration and assisting with social media and communications where needed.

We are looking for someone with strong organisational and time-management skills, excellent written and verbal communication and confidence using Microsoft Office.

Green Development Worker (8-10 hours per week)

This exciting new role focuses on improving and reimagining green and underused spaces across Haltwhistle, delivering environmental, social, and community benefits.

Key responsibilities include identifying and transforming underused green spaces into welcoming, sustainable areas, promoting biodiversity, nature-based solutions, and environmental resilience, engaging with residents, schools, and community groups to co-design projects and organising workshops, events, and volunteer activities.

We are looking for someone with a background in environmental sustainability, or community-based projects with a knowledge of biodiversity, food growing, or green space development and experience of working collaboratively with volunteers or community groups.

To apply, please submit your covering letter and CV to the Partnership Officer by 30th April 2026.

For further information or to apply, please contact the Partnership Officer:

Landline: 01434 321242

Mobile: 07307 107436

Email: admin@haltwhistle.org



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Town Council

Exciting Times in Haltwhistle!

There's a real buzz around Haltwhistle as the Town Council brings forward new ways to connect the community and improve our shared spaces.

Save the Date - Coffee Morning 2 May

You're invited to a relaxed coffee morning — a chance to meet local councillors, ask questions, share ideas, or simply enjoy a chat over a cuppa.

Every penny raised will go straight back into supporting our local community.



Bench Refurbishment - Contractors Wanted

Our well-used public benches are set for refurbishment, and we're seeking experienced contractors to carry out repairs and repainting across Haltwhistle.

If you have the skills, we'd love to hear from you.

CONTRACTORS WANTED!

HALTWHISTLE TOWN COUNCIL
BENCH REPAIRS & REPAINTING TENDER

Our public benches need a fresh start. We're looking for ****ONE**** contractor to take on repairs, cleaning and repainting in Haltwhistle, based on our Bench Condition Survey.

- ✓ ****Timber repairs & replacements****
- ✓ ****Fixings secured or replaced****
- ✓ ****High-quality exterior repainting****
- ✓ ****Benches left safe, clean & ready to use****

****Bring Haltwhistle's benches back to life!****

✉ ****Apply or for more information contact:**
clerk@haltwhistletowncouncil.org

Parking at Hadrian Rise play park is now street parking only. Thank you for helping keep paths, green spaces and access points clear.

Haltwhistle's strong community spirit keeps our town welcoming, safe and thriving.

Chamber of Trade

Haltwhistle is open for business.

On the 18th March we joined over 80 trade exhibitors at the Northumberland Tourism Fair in Alnwick, declaring that Haltwhistle is the perfect visitor destination, well and truly open for business.

Armed with bundles of our newly redesigned and updated Town Information leaflets, we were able to engage with accommodation providers, events and attraction companies, persuading them that Haltwhistle is a town worth promoting. We spoke about our rich Reivers history, great town and countryside trails, the wonderful array of cafés, pubs and accommodation. The independent shops, the fantastic community atmosphere and not forgetting that we have the only public outdoor pool in the county.

Information was also handed out explaining our fantastic rail links, cycle hub and the unique geographical position of the town right in the centre of the UK. We boasted about our wonderful Christmas Lights, the events which the town is proud of, such as the Walking Festival (starting on the

25th April), our May Day "Celebration of Spring" planned for 1st May (watch out around the town for posters advertising this event), our Carnival in July, Spook Night in October and of course the Christmas late night shopping (planned for 4th December 2026).

We even shouted about our newly refurbished public conveniences, which created quite a bit of interest, suggesting that ours is a town well worth sliding off the A69 for a wee short stop.



As a final message, our annual Town Lights fundraising Afternoon Tea event will be held at the Masonic Hall from 1.30 on Thursday 9th April. Thanks goes to Christine Dover and her gang of hardworking helpers who make this a fantastic and thoroughly delicious event every year.

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Local Hero

Shirley Nixon

Shirley was born in Haydon Bridge but has spent over 30 years living and working in Haltwhistle. After her family moved to Melkridge, she attended school in Haltwhistle before beginning her working life with horses in the racing world—an experience that sparked her lifelong love of horse racing. She still enjoys going to the races whenever she can.

She later married a Haltwhistle local and made her home here. Over the years, Shirley has worked at Robbs in Hexham, the Milecastle pub, and a local butcher's shop before moving to her current role at Billy Bell's. She is well known and well liked by customers, enjoying both her work in the shop and cooking behind the scenes. She especially values the friendly banter with customers, many of whom have become friends.

Shirley is also recognised for her involvement in the Boardwalkers pantomimes, where she jokes that she is always cast as the boy but is still waiting for her turn to play a princess.



She has helped raise thousands of pounds through organising and supporting local coffee mornings, particularly for Crohn's and Colitis charities. In her spare time, Shirley enjoys poetry and has written several poems herself. She also loves holidays, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.

For the past few years, Shirley has served as a town councillor, dedicating much of her free time to supporting the town and its residents. She is passionate about Haltwhistle and its close-knit community, where people are known for their kindness and loyalty. It is, without doubt, her happy place.

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Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

Easter is the big thing this month – Sunday 5th April 10am at Holy Cross Church with the Bishop of Berwick. After the service, instead of an Easter egg hunt, we're going to have a Pace Egg competition and an Easter Bonnet competition. There's lots of advice online about how to make a pace egg and your innovations and creations are all welcome for eggs and bonnets on Easter Day at the service and afterwards and we hope for a wonderful display.

The news of Jesus rising from the dead was so shocking on the first Easter morning that when Saint Mark was writing it up in his gospel the first reaction was that 'they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.' Advance notice: We are having a dramatic presentation of the complete gospel – live! on Saturday 16th May at 7pm – time to get it in your diary now.



St Cuthberts, Greenhead

Church maintenance is a practicality of having such a beautiful place to meet, pray and meditate on the wonders of God. Last month we finished off the work begun last summer with some repairs to the roof that had caused damage to the walls in three areas of our church.

We had a visit from the Haltwhistle Zig-Zag group to look at different materials and embroidery styles coinciding with the work but it all went off smoothly. We give thanks to the painters of course, but also to the church members who organised and paid for it so that our community might be able to enjoy this gem of a space for many more years to come.



All Hallows, Henshaw

We had a good retreat day in Henshaw last month, helping us to think about our relationship with God. The route to that was through the title, 'Come dine with me' – not a competition for best chef with prize money, but through 'attending' a few meals that Jesus took, and meditating on what came out of that.

The opening questions, though they were simple enough, turned out to be remarkably thought provoking even before we got onto the meals of Jesus. We were asked, if Jesus were to announce that he was joining you for a meal, where would you take him, and would you prefer he just turn up or give some notice? The variety of answers from the group was quite a surprise, and for some of us, even though we might be used to praying and thinking about God, the thought of Jesus turning up, face to face, and wanting to go out somewhere for a meal was quite something!

Some were happy for him to come into the kitchen and eat there, others would prefer to take him for a meal in a café or restaurant, while others would have taken him to a favourite spot by a river or beach.



From the Registers:

Baptisms – Heather Mary-Anne Blaylock
Funeral – Lorna Slater, Eileen Hodgson

In this resurrection month we give thanks for birth and new birth into eternal life within the love of God who gives us life. Thanks be to God.



the gospel of **MARK**

a dramatic presentation of the complete gospel – live!

**devised and performed by Rev'd Ian Birkinshaw
with original music by Rev'd Peter Birkinshaw**

**A traveller arrives to tell the story of a preacher and miracle-worker
whose dynamic presence touches the lives of all who meet him...
with the most astonishing twist-in-the-tale the world has ever known!**

There is joy, comedy and sadness
as Mark's fast-moving narrative brings the characters to life.
The drama is underscored throughout by live music.

In the second act we begin the journey to Jerusalem and the Cross,
with an open invitation to share bread and wine
before the startling discovery of the empty tomb.

*I never describe anything as awesome
but tonight I saw two men give a
properly awesome performance of
The Gospel of Mark. It was incredibly
captivating.*

*Compelling! Stunning!
Mesmerising! Phenomenal!*

*So many insights into the
life and teaching of Christ.*

You touched my heart.

*It took me right to the heart of the
story as if I was there alongside Jesus.*

*I thought I knew the Gospel of Mark
but what you brought us was like
fresh rain.*

*You had the hairs standing up on the
back of my neck, and several times
I was close to tears.*

*Profoundly moving.
We were on Holy Ground.*

gospelofmarklive.wordpress.com

Saturday 16th May at 7pm

Holy Cross Church, Haltwhistle

View From The Vicarage

Canon Steve Wright

The time for Lenten resolutions is over. I never thought I'd be the sort of person who'd wake up early in the morning to exercise, and I was right. Easter Day dawns and there's another chance for a new beginning. Although in some families it seems there's no 'we' in chocolate, in church we'll be giving Easter eggs to the children who come, celebrating the day with Bishop Mark in Holy Cross, Haltwhistle at 10am. Hope you manage to craft a great Easter bonnet, or a pace egg for those two competitions . The Lord is risen from the dead! Alleluia!

CHURCH SERVICES

Church of England

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

Other Sundays of April -

- 9.30am Holy Cross, Haltwhistle
- 11am St. Cuthbert's, Greenhead
- 11am All Hallows' Henshaw

Thursdays 10am - a quiet meditative service - Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

Roman Catholic Services

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

Methodist Services

10.30am on Sundays at Haltwhistle Methodist Church

CONTACTS

Church of England

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

Methodist

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

Roman Catholic

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

Methodist Church & Churches Together



the gospel of **MARK**

a dramatic presentation of the complete gospel – live!

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A traveller arrives to tell the story of a preacher and miracle-worker whose dynamic presence touches the lives of all who meet him... with the most astonishing twist-in-the-tale the world has ever known!

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I never describe anything as awesome but tonight I saw two men give a properly awesome performance of The Gospel of Mark. It was incredibly captivating.

Compelling! Stunning! Mesmerising! Phenomenal! So many insights into the life and teaching of Christ. You touched my heart.

It took me right to the heart of the story as if I was there alongside Jesus. I thought I knew the Gospel of Mark but what you brought us was like fresh rain.

You had the hairs standing up on the back of my neck, and several times I was close to tears.

Profoundly moving. We were on Holy Ground.

gospelofmarklive.wordpress.com

Saturday 16th May at 7pm

Holy Cross Church, Haltwhistle

Haltwhistle **Methodist Church** 

April 2026

Services

Sunday 5th

Easter Sunday

10.30am Rev Marie Beard
(Holy Communion)

Sunday 12th

10.30am Worship Leaders
Sunday 19th

10.30am Brian Japes (Reader)
Sunday 26th

10.30am Rev Fiona Calverey

ALL WELCOME



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
IN HALTWHISTLE**

Prayers Together

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

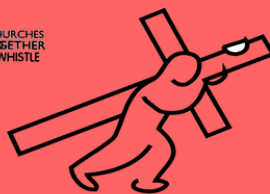
This is a peaceful time for prayers, spoken and unspoken, on topical events, those in distress, World affairs, our churches and leaders.

We give thanks for the many blessings we receive.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
IN HALTWHISTLE



**Good Friday
Procession
of Witness**

**3rd April 2026
at 10.00am**

**from St Wilfrid's (Westgate)
via Methodist Church
to Market Square**

Out & About

Haltwhistle young farmers took part in the calf overwintering competition in March. Here young farmers have the opportunity to buy a calf in October and keep it over the Winter period to then show/sell in March. We had eight people take part this year in which some of our members competed in the show.

Claudia Pattinson competed in her first show and came 3rd in her class, this was a massive achievement in her first ever attempt. Kaitlyn Wigham then came first in her class and later went on to take the overall champion animal. The next day all of the members presented their cattle for sale where all members did themselves proud; the maximum profit on the day reaching £1530. Well done team Halty!



Sustainable Haltwhistle

Strategic Adaptation For Emergencies and Resilience – communities working together

Do you have an idea for helping nature and increasing biodiversity in our town and communities?

Or maybe you have an idea for making Haltwhistle more resilient to extreme weather events?

Are you interested in getting involved in community green projects?

Or would you just like to come and find out more?

Thursday April 16th in the Hospital Community Room

Doors open from 5.30pm for tea and coffee

Discussion and planning 6pm – 7.15pm

Wildflower patches, tree planting, flood prevention and resilience, helping local residents cope with extreme heat, bee friendly gardening, green businesses, community orchards, local food networks, allotments, sharing skills and resources.

We'd love to hear your ideas - big and small!

Out & About

Boxes of Hope: A project offering Creativity, Connection, and Joy

Thanks to generous funding from the Smith Trust, Haltwhistle Memory Café will be launching a new project commencing Fridays 24th April called Boxes of Hope. Residents are invited to create miniature installations in a box representing the things that give them hope, joy and happiness. The project is designed to engage people living with dementia and the supporters who walk alongside them. The project is also seeking volunteer support from anyone interested and has experience in creating miniature scenes.

- Week 1: Participants will be supported to choose a theme as a curated collection of meaningful objects, photographs, keepsakes, could be items linked to work family or home life, hobbies, holidays any interests or hobbies or a mix of lots of things:
- Week 2 Plan it out: Sketch and scale a simple layout so everything fits together in the provided box
- Week 3-4 Gather and or make materials
- Week 4 to 7 create boxes of Hope

- Week 8 write up personalised description of individual boxes
- July -Week 9 onward- project launch and summer exhibiting at Holy Cross Church

With the support of The Field Shelter acclaimed local artist Lydia Brockless the end activity will be the creation of a communal plaster tablet impressed with a chosen object from each of the participants. Through simple the project aims to foster wellbeing, celebrate individuality, and reminds us all that hope can be held — sometimes quite literally — in a box.

If you are interested in supporting Boxes of Hope as a participant or volunteer please contact Annette McGlade tel or text 07968229767



Out & About

Treasure Hunting for a Cause in Haltwhistle

A charming mix of curiosities, collectibles, and hidden gems is set to arrive in Haltwhistle this spring, as the community comes together for a special Antiques Fair in support of a meaningful local cause.

Taking place on Monday, May 18th, from 10:30am to 3:30pm, the event will be held in the Community Room at Haltwhistle Hospital. Blending the spirit of a traditional flea market, car boot sale, and “might-come-in-hand” bazaar, the fair promises a delightful browsing experience for visitors of all ages.

Beyond the thrill of discovering unique finds, the event carries an important purpose: raising funds for the Memory Café, which provides vital dementia support within the Haltwhistle community. Every purchase and stall visit will help sustain this invaluable local service.

With a variety of stalls already booked, attendees can expect an eclectic range of items—from antiques and vintage pieces to practical treasures waiting for a new home. A small number of stalls are still available for those wishing to take part.

For further information or to enquire about securing a stall, please contact 07484 757022.

Whether you're a seasoned collector or simply enjoy a leisurely browse, this promises to be a heartwarming day of community spirit, nostalgia, and discovery—all in support of a truly worthwhile cause.





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Acro 5-5:50
Adult ballet/Modern 6-6:45
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

It's been a busy start to the year for Hannah at Hannah Lucy Stage School.

Classes started back as usual in January, but in the background she has been working her way through a mountain of jobs to create the next amazing space in Haltwhistle.

"The Studio" has a set open day of the 19th April, as long as everything goes to plan this will be open to anyone who wishes to go down and have a look at the new place!



There has been lots of demolition, ceilings ripped down, new ceilings put up, new floors and walls put in, you name it, it's been done! With the help of Miss Hannah's "village" or friends and family it's certainly coming together! Creating the most amazing studio space for the dance school, there will be lots of new classes and events coming up, so keep your eyes peeled!

Within this space will also be "Charlies Coaching", a gym with PT focusing on family fitness!

Lydia's Irish dancing lessons will move with Hannah to the new studio, and we are also welcoming a new pilates teacher to the space.

We cannot wait to see this new space up and running on the very near future!



Culture & Arts

What a Night — And What's Next at Green Croft Arts

We are still buzzing from last Saturday's sold-out performance of Kizlar by Brighton-based Ceyda Tanc Dance at Gilsland Village Hall. Led by British-Turkish choreographer Ceyda Tanc, this dynamic all-female company delivered a powerful exploration of female strength and solidarity. Kizlar blends contemporary dance with movements traditionally performed by men, creating a striking, high-energy performance that captivated the audience.

The evening opened with a special curtain-raiser by Mezze, a contemporary dance group made up of local women—some stepping onto the stage for the very first time. Facilitated and choreographed by Zoe Leigh Gadd, this moving piece was inspired by Kizlar and set the tone beautifully for the night. The event concluded with a joyful celebration, as performers and audience members alike came together on stage to share in Turkish folk dancing.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our Summer Music Series in The Threshing Barn. Kicking things off on Friday 10th April at 7.30pm is Northumbrian-born, Berlin-based multi-instrumentalist Andrew Cadie.

Known as one half of Broom Bezzums, Andrew will be touring his new solo album *Flooding the Ocean*. Tickets are £15.00.

We also have a fantastic programme of workshops coming up. Highlights include *Yoga for Runners & Walkers*, led by Amanda Drago, which explores how yoga can help balance the body and relieve the tightness that often develops through regular running, hiking, or walking. Early booking is recommended for our *Basket Making for Beginners* workshop and the *Willow & Hazel Fence Panel Workshop*, delivered by Ruth Thompson of Sylvan Skills. For further information, please visit our website.



THE THRESHING BARN

What's On March 2026



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Friday 10th April 7.30pm
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YOGA FOR RUNNERS & WALKERS
The Threshing Barn
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The Over The Wall Players

present



An evening of light entertainment including the comedy play "Rambles on Radio" (by Robert Scott)

The evening will open with comedy sketches and songs. After a break for a light supper join our 'professional actors' as they rehearse, and then broadcast live, their radio play — the sinister tale of Bellister Hall. Frictions emerge as the cast rehearse this spooky play but surely such professionals would not allow their emotions to affect their live broadcast ... or would they?

Bardon Mill Village Hall on Friday 8 May

Greenhead Village Hall on Saturday 9 May

Doors open at 6:45pm for a 7:15 pm start.

Ticket price £10 to include a light supper.

There will be a cash bar for beer, wine and soft drinks at Bardon Mill. For Greenhead bring your own drinks, although tea and coffee and some soft drinks will be available.

Tickets available (cash only), from Bardon Mill Village Shop and Haltwhistle Community Bookshop or by telephoning Diane on 07878 697751 or for Greenhead, Elsie on 07796 103000

Volunteer drivers needed!

For people receiving treatment for a life limiting illness, getting to medical appointments should be the least of their worries.

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Our volunteers choose to give their time for a variety of reasons. You can volunteer as much or as little as you like, and all petrol costs associated with the drive are covered by the Hospice. Every journey made has a real impact on local families, giving peace of mind to patients and their families during life's most challenging times.

If you have spare time and want to make a difference in your community, consider joining our Patient Transport Service.

Your support can help ensure that no one misses the treatment they need due to transport barriers.



For more information, visit tynedalehospice.com
or email volunteering@tynedalehospice.com.

tynedalehospice.com
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Charity No. 1034170



Easter

AFTERNOON TEA

IN AID OF HALTWHISTLE
TOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Thursday 9th April 2026
Haltwhistle Masonic Hall
1pm - 3.30pm

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Haltwhistle Horticulture

Have you planted your "Taties" yet?

If you have a walk around the allotments behind Haltwhistle Cemetery at this time of the year you are sure to find someone planting out their "earlies". According to traditional gardening lore they should be put in the ground on Good Friday then the first crop harvested on "Whit Sunday".

You can buy "seed potatoes" from a gardening outlet but you can just buy a bag from the local supermarket. Ideally you should have "chitted" them (sprouted) to start off the growing process and allow you to harvest new potatoes earlier. Place them in a cool sunny position four to six weeks before you plant them. They will develop shoots and they are ready to plant when these are about 2 to 3 cm long. An ideal container for smaller potatoes is an old egg carton. If you use larger potatoes place them in a flat tray and turn them every few days so that the shoots develop on all the potato surface. If you haven't done that yet, you can put them straight in the ground. They will just take a little longer to get going.



There is not space in this column to go into more detail but if anyone is interested to find out more come along to Haltwhistle Growing Together at Hillside Youth and Community Centre on a Thursday between 10 am and 12 noon. You will get lots of advice (and a cup of tea).

This is an excellent guide on the RHS website.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables/potatoes/grow-your-own>





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Hidden History

The History of Haltwhistle in One Building?

The original part of the Centre of Britain Hotel, as we now know it, is the Pele Tower, next to the main entrance. The tower's first recorded date is 1417 but it may be older. It was constructed as defence against the Reivers, most notably the Armstrongs of Liddesdale.

In 1650 the building became an Excise House. From around 1750-60, it accommodated the mail coaches. There were two services per day. One called in here, the other at The Sun (where the dog training school is now). It was also used as a postal service for a time. Then the railway arrived in Haltwhistle in 1838. When livestock was transported by rail and the Mart was in full swing, the building became known as 'The Farmers' Pub'.

During the Industrial Revolution, planners stated that all buildings should have three storeys so an extra floor was added. On the front of the building, the Insurance Badge consisting of three crowns can be seen.

In 1788, premiums were paid to the Newcastle Insurance Company who operated the fire engine.



The hotel became the Red Lion in 1830s. For a brief period it became a Temperance Hotel but this proved unpopular with the townsfolk! What is now the Cocktail Bar was once used for discos and before that for 'proper dancing'.

In 1997, when David Taylor acquired the premises, they were in a sorry state. The building had every type of rot and was at the point of collapse. Part of the kitchen had been cordoned off to accommodate the ladies' toilets but the hotel was still providing fish and chip suppers. There had been a fire on the top floor so this had been abandoned. Sadly, one occupant died from smoke inhalation. As the third oldest building in the town (after the Black Bull and Holy Cross Church) it warranted some tender loving care and David set to work.

Kindly sponsored by the Roman Army Museum



Hidden History

There had been rumours regarding tunnels under the building and during the refurbishment, workers came across a huge iron ring on a chain. They dug around and discovered stonework and steps to the entrance of the tunnel! By using dowsing rods, it seems the tunnel ran under the Manor House (which didn't exist then) and the church yard to reach the original Vicarage. As a child, Jane from the flower shop remembers playing in the tunnel at the Vicarage end.

Because of the historical significance of the building, it took two years to obtain planning permission and a further year to complete the work. Many of the original features have been left exposed. When working on the restaurant, between the Pele Tower and the Launderette, the exposed wooden beams showed evidence of being reused. Peter Ryder, the respected Historical Buildings Consultant, judged that they had been reclaimed from scrapped ships.

When the Cocktail Bar was refurbished, two large steel girders replaced the original wooden beams. A local blacksmith fashioned a steel cradle to go around the room. After completion, a local artist, Simon Terry, created a triptych representing the key elements of the area – Romans, Reivers and Miners. The final refurbishments took place in the 2000s when the stables were rebuilt and made to look old.

Many thanks to David for sharing the history of this amazing Grade II listed building and for preserving it for future generations. How and why did it change its name from the Red Lion to the Centre of Britain? That's a whole new story!



Health Matters

Healthy Smiles Start Early

As a dentist, one of the most common problems I see in children is tooth decay and the good news is that it's almost entirely preventable.

Primary (milk) teeth may be temporary, but they play a vital role in your child's health. They help with speech development, proper chewing, and guiding adult teeth into the correct position. When primary teeth suffer decay, it can lead to pain, infection, difficulty eating, and even long-term orthodontic problems.

Tooth decay happens when bacteria in the mouth feed on sugars from food and drinks, producing acids that weaken tooth enamel. Frequent snacking, sugary drinks (including fruit juices), and going to bed with a bottle containing anything but water are common contributors.

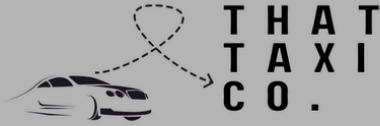
Prevention starts early, as soon as the first tooth appears. Parents should brush their child's teeth twice daily using a smear of age appropriate fluoride toothpaste and a pea-sized amount for children aged three to six. Supervision is important until at least age seven to ensure effective brushing.



Regular dental visits are equally important. I recommend that children attend their first dental check-up by their first birthday, preferably about six months. Early visits help children feel comfortable in the dental setting and allow us to spot small issues before they become larger problems.

Encouraging water or milk instead of sugary drinks, limiting snacks between meals, and maintaining good brushing habits can dramatically reduce the risk of decay. Healthy habits formed in childhood truly do last a lifetime and a confident, pain-free smile is a wonderful place to start.

Nigel Eve, Haltwhistle Dental Health



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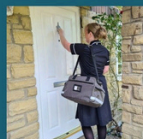
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Next Generation

Making Waves: A Spring to Remember at Haltwhistle Academy

As the final bell rings on our Spring term, there is a palpable sense of pride echoing through the halls of Haltwhistle Academy. It has been a season defined by bravery, celebration, and a fair amount of dancing. While we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break, it's worth taking a moment to look back at the incredible journey we've shared over the past few months.

Adventure and Ambition

The highlight for many was undoubtedly the Year 4 residential trip to Robinwood Outdoor Activity Centre. Our students traded their pens for paddles and harness gear, diving headfirst into a world of adrenaline-fueled learning. From scaling climbing walls to navigating the legendary "Piranha Pool," the resilience shown by our Year 4s was nothing short of inspiring. They returned not just with muddy boots, but with boosted confidence and stronger friendships.

Back at school, we turned our eyes toward the future during **National Careers Week**. We were thrilled to welcome a variety of professionals who shared their career journeys, sparking curiosity about everything from engineering to the arts. It's never too early to start dreaming big, and the insightful questions asked by our pupils proved that the next generation of leaders is already finding its voice right here in Haltwhistle.



Next Generation

Celebrating Together

Of course, it wasn't all hard work and high-ropes! To shake off the frost, we hosted our End of Winter Disco. The energy was electric as students across all year groups came together to celebrate the change in seasons. It was the perfect way to decompress and enjoy some community spirit after a busy term of academic progress.



Looking Ahead: Splash into Summer

While we say goodbye to the Spring, we are already buzzing with excitement for the Summer term. The change in weather marks the beginning of one of our favourite traditions: swimming lessons.

Swimming is a vital life skill, and we are committed to ensuring every child feels confident and safe in the water. These lessons are always a hit, offering a refreshing change of pace and a great way to stay active as the days get longer and warmer.

We want to extend a massive "well done" to all our students for their hard work this term, and a huge thank you to the parents and staff who make these opportunities possible. Enjoy the sunshine, stay safe, and get those goggles ready—we'll see you in the pool!





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Henshaw C of E Primary	01434 344324
Greenhead C of E Primary	01697 747347
Gilsland C of E Primary	01697 747302

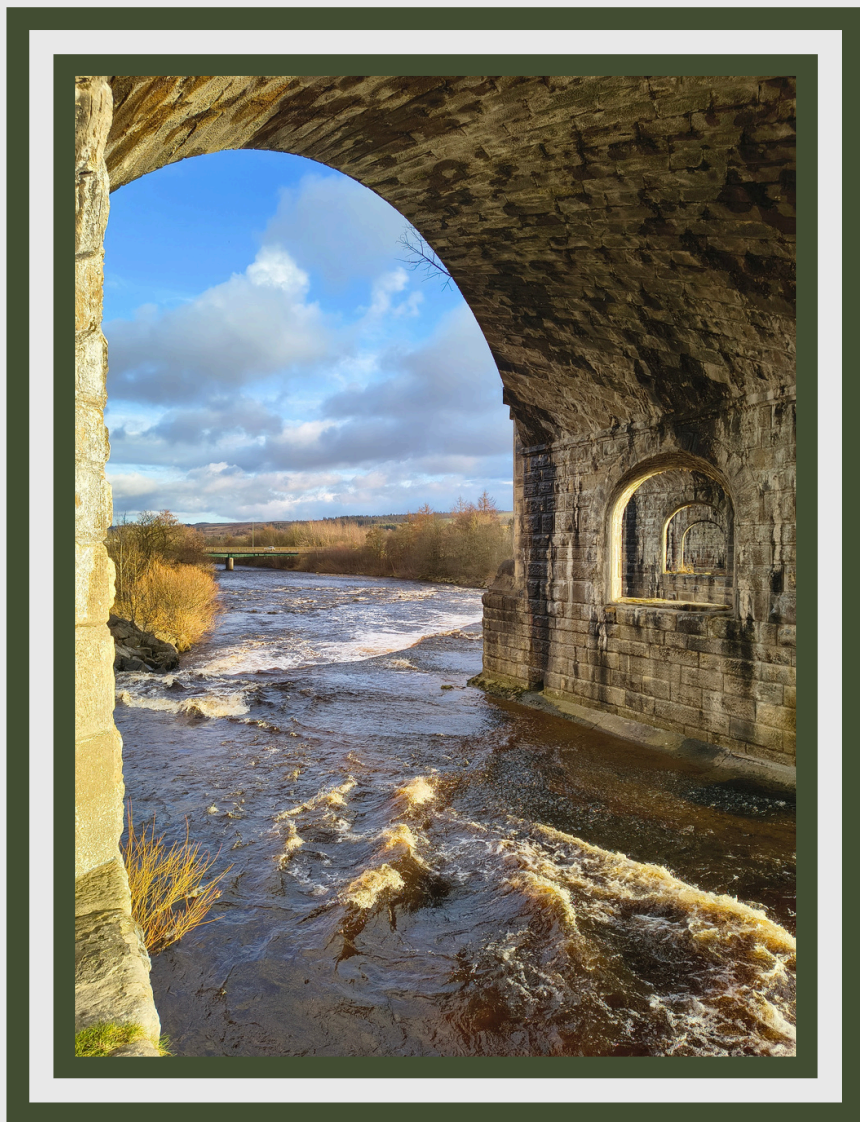
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Haltwhistle Leisure Club	01434 320727

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Samaritan's Freephone	116 123
Farm Community Network	07002 32632
OneCall	01670 536400

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Longer Evenings - ALISON COCKER

Share your old pictures and photos of life in or around Haltwhistle pre 1980 to haltwhistleherald@gmail.com, or drop them off in an envelope addressed to the Herald at the library - don't forget to include your name, and address if you would like them returned.

Memories of Haltwhistle and the local area.