FREE

The Haltwhistle Herald

OCTOBER 2026



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What's on in October

3rd Coffee Morning for the Cricket Club, 9:30-11:30am, Methodist Church Hall

7th Poetry Drop-In, National Poetry Month, Railway Poems, 3pm, Old Booking Hall

7th Informal Evening Prayer, 6:30pm, Holy Cross

10th Coffee Morning for Christmas Lunch, 9:30-11:30am, Methodist Church Hall

10th Bingo Night for hall funds, 7:00pm, Greenhead Village Hall, free entry, bring your own bottle

11th Greenhead Farmers Market, 10-2

12th Garden Club AGM and Social Evening and Pot Luck Supper, 7:30pm, Comrades Club

14th Haltwhistle Partnership AGM, see p8

17th Coffee Morning for Town Twinning, 9:30-11:30am, Methodist Church Hall

18th Haltwhistle Market, 10-2, Haltwhistle Train Station

24th Holy Cross Christmas Fayre, 9:30-11:30, Methodist Church Hall

30th Fright Night, 4-6pm, throughout Haltwhistle, see p17

30th Introduction to Rotary Club, 6pm, Manor House, see p26

31st Coffee Morning for Young Farmers, 9:30-11:30am, Methodist Church Hall

Nov 1st All Souls/All Saints Services, 11am, All Hallows Henshaw and 4pm Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

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

Barden Mill W.I.: Every Monday 11-3, Barden Mill Village Hall. Chat n Chill

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

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

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

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

Bricks & Banter: Every Tuesday 7-9pm, Mindful Hub (2, Station Court)

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

Poetry Drop-In: First Wednesday of the month, 1:30-3pm, Greenhead Village Hall

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, Hillside Park Avenue, 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

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

From The Editorial Team

autumn has arrived and the clocks will be going back at the end of the month. Nights will be getting darker so time to cosy up and get the warm throws and jumpers out!

Last month we enjoyed our Harvest Festivals and the wonderful Haltwhistle Music Festival. Thanks to the amazing donations and sponsors it looks as if this will go ahead next year and build on the well laid foundations. Read the article on page 29.

With Autumn comes a week's school holiday and the fun Halloween Late Night Shopping event. Look out for all the spooky shop windows, pit your scariest costume on and take part in the Halloween trail - there will be prizes. Check out the full details on page 17.



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Thank you to Rosemary Kemble for taking the amazing photograph of a rainbow over Haltwhistle which we feature on our front cover. This was taken on the weekend of the Music Festival, definitely a good omen! Nick Corble provided us with the lovely picture of the last sunflowers of summer from his garden which we have used for our back cover. Thank you both.

Talking of photographs we have included the winners of the Town Council's competition on page 13; so we know we have some talented photographers around. Do please remember to send us some photos as we don't have an official photographer - remember it's you! We need many more for our photo library. Please send them to ur email address below. Thank you.

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

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Haltwhistle Partnership

Haltwhistle Partnership Annual General Meeting

The Haltwhistle Partnership's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14th October at 7pm in the Old Booking Hall at Haltwhistle Station. Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm and everyone is welcome.

The AGM offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year, as well as to outline the strategic direction and key projects planned for the year ahead. It is also a chance for attendees to meet the Partnership team, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of how the organisation continues to support local development, wellbeing, and community initiatives.
Whether you're a long-time supporter, a local resident interested in community progress, or someone new to the area looking to get involved, your presence and input are welcome and encouraged.
For further information, please contact the Partnership Office on 01434 321242 or email admin@haltwhistle.org

Community Shops Fund – Applications Closing Soon!

There's still time to apply for a Community Shops Fund grant, but the deadline is fast approaching!
Thanks to the continued generosity of local donors and the dedication of our volunteers at the Community Shop and Community Bookshop, the fund has already made a meaningful difference across Haltwhistle and the surrounding districts, supporting 37 community projects and 18 young people through previous funding rounds. Now, we want to help even more local ideas become a reality!

Could your community project benefit? Whether you're looking to bring people together, create new opportunities, support local activities or develop an initiative that makes a positive difference, the Community Shops Fund could help you take the next step.

Are you a young person with an idea or ambition? Grants of up to £500 are available for young people under 25, helping you develop a new skill, pursue personal development or take part in an opportunity that might otherwise be financially out of reach.

Haltwhistle Partnership

Don't leave it until the last minute. If you've been thinking about applying, now is the time to collect your ideas, complete your application and get your pack submitted.

Applications close at midnight on 18th October 2026.

Where to Get an Application Pack
The Community Shop or Community Bookshop;
Haltwhistle Partnership Office, Westbourne House, Main Street, Haltwhistle (Wednesday afternoon's only or by arrangement); or
Visit our website at www.haltwhistle.org

Need More Information?
If you have questions about the fund, would like to discuss your idea or need an application pack, please get in touch with the Haltwhistle Partnership on 01434 321242 or 07307 107436, or email admin@haltwhistle.org

Every great community initiative starts with an idea. Don't miss your chance to apply!



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Town Council

Haltwhistle Photography Competition: A Stunning Showcase of Local Talent

Haltwhistle Town Council is delighted to share the results of this year's Photography Competition, and what a competition it was! We were truly blown away by the talent and breadth of entries received, and our judge found it impossible to separate the top two, resulting in a well-deserved joint first place.
Congratulations to our joint first place winners, John Sharp and Haley Storey!

The entries captured the intriguing beauty in and around Haltwhistle in ways that surprised and delighted us all. From sweeping views across the surrounding hills to quiet, unexpected corners of the town, the photographs brilliantly captured a huge range of subjects, including landscapes bathed in changing light, glimpses of local wildlife, and moments of everyday life that reminded us just how much visual richness surrounds us.
.

Kids Section Winners:
1st Place: Savannah, age 17
2nd Place: Imogen, age 12
3rd Place: Rowan, age 10

The standard of entries from our younger photographers was every bit as impressive as the adult category, and we can't wait to see what they capture next.

We're also pleased to announce the People's Choice Award winner, Claire Dobson.

Thank you to everyone who entered and helped make this competition such a wonderful celebration of our community and its surroundings.



Claire Dobson

Town Council



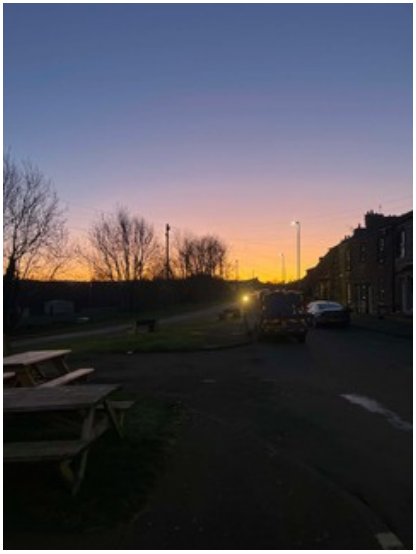
John Sharp



Haley Storey



Imogen



Rowan



Savannah

County Council

In my last update, Haltwhistle was anticipating a summer of activities, and what a summer it has been! Masses of fun entertainment, including two big community events: the Carnival, and our inaugural Haltwhistle Music Festival. Congratulations to all involved.

I am also County Councillor for the five parishes of Lambley, Featherstone, Plenmeller-with-Whitfield, Knarsdale-with-Kirkhaugh, and the recently re-established parish, Hartleyburn. Each, of course, has its own Parish Councillors and Clerk. I attend Parish Meetings when I can, and liaise with NCC when necessary. Lovely community events have also taken place in the parishes this summer: Knarsdale-with-Kirkhaugh had a Garden Fair, and Whitfield had its annual Village Fair, both were a success and blessed with fine weather. Again, well done to all the volunteer organisers.

One of my duties is meeting with highways officers from NCC, to discuss road maintenance. Maintaining our highways is a constant battle against the elements, rising costs, and increased usage. I will elaborate in a subsequent newsletter.



The goalposts for Comb Hill Play Park from County Councillors' Local Improvement Scheme (see previous newsletter)

For now I would like to alert you to some fairly major carriageway repair work that is scheduled along Castle Terrace for 4-8 January, 2027, weather-depending. Notices and information will be circulated to neighbouring residents, but please ensure it doesn't get lost in the Christmas post!

Strange to think that my next update will be after all the winter festivities. It's too early to send season's greetings, but I hope you enjoy Halloween, the Christmas late-night shopping and, of course, our festive lights - all arranged by the Chamber of Trade. Great for Haltwhistle's community spirit.



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Chamber of Trade

Haltwhistle's Halloween Fright Night

Last year's Haltwhistle Fright Night was a great evening for the whole family. We're looking forward to another fun night this year on Friday 30th October, with Main Street full of Halloween excitement and local shops open for trick-or-treating from 4pm to 6pm.

Children can visit participating shops to collect stamps on their trail cards and pick up some sweets. After collecting five stamps, they can go to Market Square to get a prize. Pick up trail cards, showing which shops are involved, from 12th October at the Community Shops, Jethro's, the Water Tower, Yellow Bird Café, or at Market Square on the night.





We encourage everyone to dress up, and there will be prizes for the best costumes throughout the night. Local businesses can also win prizes for their spooky shop window displays, and we're excited to see which display stands out.

Whether you want to wear a spooky costume, collect lots of sweets on the trick-or-treat trail, or enjoy the Halloween atmosphere, there's something for everyone, young and old. Come along, support our local shops and businesses, and enjoy a fun evening in the heart of Haltwhistle. Don't miss it!

Local Hero

Ed Corble
Many of us have dreams for the future, but few have a vision as ambitious as Ed's, a vision that became a reality with the fantastic Haltwhistle Music Festival, held from 4th–6th September.

The idea for the festival began during a casual chat in the pub with friends many months ago. From that moment, Ed was determined to create a top-class event that would bring people together and showcase Haltwhistle as a wonderful place to live and visit.

Over the following months, Ed dedicated countless hours to raising funds and sponsorship to make the festival free for the community.

Working alongside a small committee, he brought together a fantastic variety of local artists, all who were paid fairly for their work, and organised more than 25 free events showcasing 40 performers, supported by professional banners, programmes and advertising.

As well as organising the festival, Ed and Lydia welcomed their beautiful baby son, Robin, while Ed also started a new job and continued working in the family business at Bridge House.

In his spare time, Ed is a member of the successful Milecastle Quoits Team and runs the outdoor element for young people completing their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and compiles the Haltwhistle Herald every month.

Well done, Ed - you really are a local hero!



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Holy Cross, Haltwhistle



This is Haltwhistle Mother's Union group taking a cheque to the West Northumberland Foodbank at Hexham. Here's what they found on their visit: We were greeted warmly by the staff. The bank is divided into two areas – one for the helpline, with phone, computers, etc and another room where the goods are stored, neatly on shelves. The bank relies on a team of volunteers to pack and distribute the parcels. Everything from food to toiletries and pet food goes out in plain brown carrier bags. Anyone can use the foodbank.

It could go to someone who has an unexpected high bill and just needs something to tide them over, or it could be someone unemployed needing extra help. Only three weeks help is provided, then one has to have a week off.

If further help is required, staff may decide extra support is required, eg. Mental health or social services. If staff receive cash they buy fresh fruit and veg. or bulk buy. The supermarkets donate quite a lot. There are approximately eighty food parcels delivered to Haltwhistle each week.
There is a box at the back of Holy Cross Church for donations, which are collected and taken to Hexham for distribution.

In July we held a coffee morning in Holy Cross church and raised £520 in aid of the West Northumberland Food Bank. Thank you to all who supported the event.

Holy Cross Church 100 Club September prize winning numbers were; First Prize - 78, Second Prize - 17, Third Prize – 77. Thank you to everyone taking part!

Holy Cross Christmas Fayre 24th October 9.30-11.30am in the Methodist hall. Donations and offers of help to Christine Dover please.

St Cuthberts, Greenhead

Greenhead Jazz Night in church, what a night that was in September! Lovely to hear our church ringing with such interesting music. And a few weeks later our Harvest Festival – all those rousing hymns 😊 ! The magazine deadline is too early to show a pic, but here's one of our vicar after he discovered our high level brush on a cleaning day before the concert. Thank you to everyone involved for all the hard work to make these events happen. Our little community is the richer for meeting like this.

We have just started a different sort of meeting in Greenhead, a monthly bible fellowship group. We're not quite sure what to call it as although it is a time for us to get our bibles out, it is also a time to learn from each other and find strength in each other in a Christian fellowship. If you know our Sunday congregation, you will know that we're not going to be overly heavy on the study side, but the bible is our main source document for truth about Jesus so we'll want to see what it says.



Who knows, we may even sing a song or two together. If you know someone in the Greenhead area who would appreciate a bit of company and some good talk once a month, do come along to this group, or come on Sunday mornings at 11am. Do ask Jude or Sally from church about for more about this home group.

From the Registers:

Baptisms – Mabel Murdy, Oscar Turnbull, Elodie Wray McDonald

Weddings – Joshua Knowles and Elizabeth Odoh, Jack Bell and Kate Ogle

Funeral – Mavis Thompson – *May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

All Hallows, Henshaw

Last month we announced a new boiler, this month the PCC was discussing a new header tank after it began pouring water into the vestry, fortunately on a Sunday morning when we could hear it begin pouring out on to the floor! We wait to see whether the new boiler has provoked the leak. Keeping a church insured, safe for visitors, and as a welcoming prayerful space takes a bit of work and we are so grateful for all those who help.

Down the years we can remember a whole host of people who have helped us, many of whom have now died. Once a year we hold a service to remember all those who have gone before us at our All Saints/All Souls service. It seems very early to be writing about it for the October magazine, but the November magazine comes out rather near the date of the service and this year our patronal festival falls on the day itself, 1st November, All Saints or All Hallows Day.



As part of the service on Sunday 1st we will remember those who have died and give thanks for their lives, remembering them before God and praying for peace. If you would like someone you know to be remembered that day, let the sidepeople know as you enter the church and they will add names to the list for the day.

We have our service at 11am, and Holy Cross Haltwhistle has their service at 4pm.

View From The Vicarage

Canon Steve Wright

The church isn't always the best at showing God. We're human after all, and fall short of our ideal. But rejecting the church because of its imperfections is like saying, 'sorry Jesus, but you've got that corrupt Judas guy in your ranks so I won't follow you.' But what can we do when the God of church seems rather small? Well, when you look up at a plane flying overhead, how big is it? Very small. God's size too depends on how near you get to him. Come close to God and don't be afraid. Join others who walk with him, however imperfect they are. In Holy Cross Thursdays at 10am a quite Communion service or Wednesday 7th October 6.30pm informal evening prayer, or in all our churches on Sundays.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church of England

First Sunday of October - 10am Group service, St Cuthbert's Greenhead
Other Sundays of October -
9.30am Holy Cross, Haltwhistle
11am St. Cuthbert's, Greenhead
11am All Hallows' Henshaw
Thursdays 10am - a quiet meditative service - Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

Roman Catholic Services

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

Methodist Services

10.30am on Sundays at Haltwhistle Methodist Church

CONTACTS

Church of England	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	Fr. Paul Jenkins 0.CARM St. Wilfred's Catholic Church, Westgate, Haltwhistle 01434 603119 paul.jenkins@diocesehn.org.uk https://www.stmaryshexham.org.uk/st-wilfrids-haltwhistle/

Methodist Church

Haltwhistle **Methodist** Church

October 2026

Services

Sunday 4th
10.30am Christine Thompson
(Reader's Service)

Sunday 11th
10.30am Sandra Martin

Sunday 18th
10.30am Worship Leaders

Sunday 25th
10.30am Rev Marie Beard
(Holy Communion)

ALL WELCOME

The Poetry Drop-in

this month will be held in the Old Booking Hall at Haltwhistle Station where we will present a Programme of
28 Poems of the Railways!
3pm WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER

ALL WELCOME!!
We are dedicating the event to the memory of a great friend of the Tyne Valley Line and a lover of Poetry and all things to do with Trains & Railways, **Robert Forsythe**

Buy your cup of coffee at the Water Tower Cafe to bring across to the Hall in time for the start

Donations in aid of the
Tyne Valley
Community Rail Partnership



Holy Cross

A little earlier in the calendar than usual but nevertheless a major fundraising event for us. Raffle tickets will be available in many of our local shops and at Church, so make sure you get yours in time for the draw on the 24th.

If you can donate raffle prizes or provide items for our stalls that would be very much appreciated. Please see Christine Dover at Church or in Armstrongs Shop during the week.



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Wednesday 10 - 2
Thursday 10 - 3
Friday 10 - 3
Saturday 10 - 3
Sunday 10 - 2

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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

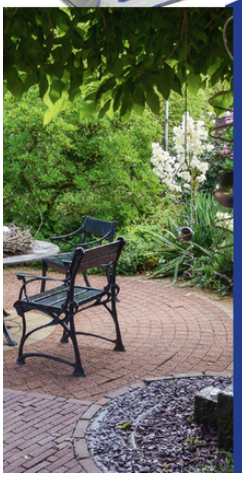




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Out & About

People of Action

Want to help others, enjoy companionship and have fun at the same time? This might be possible in the near future. We are looking at starting a Rotary Club in Haltwhistle.

These day a Rotary Club is made up of all sorts of people, men and women, working and retired, whose aim is to help others while having fun and fellowship at the same time. We also have Corporate members who can take part in all of our activities, so if you are a business, small or large, there is a place for you in Rotary.

We are holding a preliminary meeting to learn more about Rotary and how it works at the Manor Hotel in Haltwhistle on Friday 30th October at 6pm.





Do come along and see what we get up to!! Although Rotary is world wide with over 1.4 million members in almost every country in the world, each Rotary Club is autonomous and, although it abides by a common set of rules, each Club makes its own decisions and the way it meets and operates. We even have virtual clubs these days who meet only on line yet still manage to help the less fortunate in the world. Our projects range from litter picking in the town to eradicating Polio throughout the World. Please come and see what we do.

Rotary Haltwhistle

Out & About

Haltwhistle Craft Fair – Make a Day of It in Western Tynedale

Put it in your diaries and make a day of it in Western Tynedale by visiting the 38th Annual Art & Craft Fair in Haltwhistle, in the heart of Roman Wall country.

The event takes place at the Masonic Hall, Banks Terrace, on Saturday 7th November, from 10am to 4pm. With almost two months still to go, the fair is already full to capacity.

The modernised hall is just a short distance from Haltwhistle Main Street, has disabled access and will be well signposted on the day.

The fair features a wide range of crafts from across the northern region and southern Scotland, with returning stallholders alongside new exhibitors. There is also a strong presence of local producers from Haltwhistle and the surrounding area.

Stalls will include candles, knitting, crochet, paintings, prints, soaps and bath products, jewellery, cards, bags, driftwood and felted items, dream catchers, locally produced honey, painted glass, mirrors, wooden signs, cat toys, dog treats, festive products and many other gifts and accessories.

Event organiser and musician Ian Brown will have his CDs and video ukulele lessons for sale. The Northumberland Wildlife Trust will also be present, while a raffle will raise funds for the activities fund at Green Lane House.

Homemade refreshments will be available throughout the day, providing a chance to relax and chat between browsing the stalls.

The fair is the longest-running and one of the largest art and craft fairs in Tynedale, taking place as people begin thinking about Christmas gifts. With such a variety of handmade goods, there should be something for everyone, as well as a chance to discover the creative talent on the doorstep.

Haltwhistle is at the heart of Roman Wall country, so why not make a day of it and combine the fair with some of the area's many natural and historic attractions?



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Haltwhistle Music Festival

Haltwhistle Music Festival has celebrated the success of its first ever festival, with more than 1,500 people attending events across the town over a packed weekend of music, dancing, workshops and community activities.

The festival brought together local businesses, musicians, venues and volunteers, with events taking place right across Haltwhistle. From live music and performances to dancing and drumming workshops, there was something happening throughout the weekend, which - when mixed with the people of Haltwhistle and beyond - created a fantastic atmosphere across the town.





Attendees enjoyed performances from Janice Burns & Jon Doran, supported by watersmeet in Holy Cross, as well as a fantastic line-up at the Yellow Bird Café, including Carlos Carlin, Arthur Bassick and Jack Reed. There was also a surprise Sunday set from Spike of The Quireboys outside the café, music in the Market Square on Saturday and a wonderful Tea Dance featuring the Brief Encounter Dance Band; who we very much hope to welcome back again next year!

A huge thank you goes to all of the venues who opened their doors and hosted events throughout the festival, as well as to every musician, performer, volunteer and local business who helped make the weekend such a success. It was brilliant to see so many people coming together and bringing Haltwhistle to life.

XXX

Haltwhistle Music Festival

Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. The festival received an average overall rating of 4.86 out of 5, with an average likelihood to recommend rating of 4.90 out of 5. Most importantly, 100% of respondents said they would attend again.

We were also absolutely thrilled to see the festival making such a positive impact beyond the event itself! With 78% of attendees visiting other local businesses during the weekend, it was fantastic to see so many people exploring the town, enjoying what our local businesses have to offer and spending their time and money locally. It's a wonderful boost for the town and a brilliant example of how events like this can bring people together while supporting the wider local community.



We're delighted to confirm that through the generosity of our sponsors and attendees' donations from the weekend enough money was raised to make the festival financially sustainable for another year - which means we'll be back in 2027! We're incredibly grateful to everyone who supported, volunteered, performed at and attended the festival, and have been overwhelmed by the response.

Follow Haltwhistle Music Festival on Facebook and Instagram for updates.







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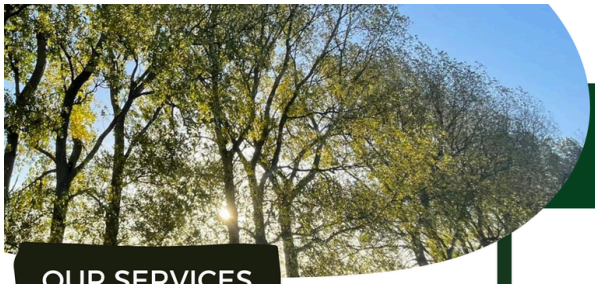
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Keeping you moving

Haltwhistle Green Development

I'm delighted to have joined the Haltwhistle Partnership as Green Development Officer, in a role funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. Over the next 18 months, I'll be working alongside local residents, volunteers, community groups and organisations to improve selected green spaces, encourage biodiversity and create more opportunities to grow food, learn new skills and connect with nature.

I've spent much of my career working with people and plants. Most recently I worked for the Royal Horticultural Society, managing community-led green space projects across the North East. I now run GoodNatured, supporting communities through food growing, biodiversity enhancements and practical environmental workshops.

There are already some exciting ideas taking shape. We're developing a new Plot to Plate programme, exploring herb and edible planting around the town, looking at wildflower and biodiversity projects, such as developing a bee corridor, and finding ways to make volunteering and watering our planters easier. Over the coming months, I'll be running some fun, informal workshops to introduce the project and give everyone an opportunity to find out more.

What would you like to see growing in Haltwhistle? Do you have an idea for a green space, a skill you could share, or a few hours to spare? Perhaps you'd like to grow food, help wildlife or simply get your hands dirty!

This project belongs to Haltwhistle, and its success depends on local people getting involved. If you have an idea or would like to be part of what's growing, I'd love to hear from you at:
greendevelopment@haltwhistle.org



HALTWHISTLE PARTNERSHIP

HALTWHISTLE GROWING TOGETHER

Next Generation

We have had a very busy summer with all kinds of activities including, trips to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Inflatespace and Tynemouth beach. Many local families enjoyed our annual trip to South Shields beach, and we also had a BBQ at youth club and asked Allendale Youth Project to join us for a swimming pool party at the leisure centre. Fourteen of our members enjoyed team building at Kielder and a walk from Bamburgh to Seahouses as part of their 'Northumberland Challenge' these trips were organised with the Northumberland Youth Work Network and young people from all over Northumberland got together to take part which is great for building their confidence when meeting new people.

The Tynedale Youth Forum hosted their annual awards for young people in West Northumberland at Haltwhistle Leisure Centre. Members from our youth project receiving awards for varying personal achievements were Issac Iley, Ollie Dempster, Jonah Jackson, Mark Evans, Lorena Ridley, Charlee Donnelly, Logan Winter, Freane Heppell and Leon Armstrong. We are very proud of all our members and love to see them achieving their goals and bettering themselves.

We have gone into the new term with a bang! We have thirty new year 5 members who have settled in nicely and we have enjoyed hearing stories from our year 7's who have started at their new high schools. We have enjoyed team building games, campfire and Nerf battles. We have lots of activities to look forward to. Some of our members are organising and running a coffee morning on Saturday 7th November as part of their fundraising/volunteering challenge and we also have some 'pop up' activities running on a Thursday.

Young and Sweet 'Pop up' activities (open to all young people school aged yr5+)

Contact Ayesha 07835163927

8th Oct- Pickle Ball
13th Oct- Girls Night in
22nd Oct- Halloween Movie
12th Nov- Pool, Darts, Dominoe Comp
20th Nov- UV soft play
26th Nov-Christmas Movie
10th Dec- Christmas Bauble making

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Hidden History

Hadrian: The Roman Emperor

We have Hadrian's Wall very close to us which attracts lots of visitors to our area but what do we know of Hadrian as a person?

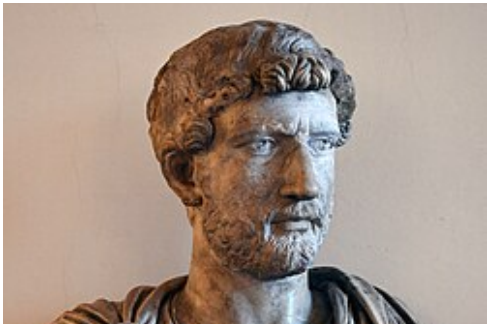
His imperial full name is Imperator Caesar Traianus Hadrianus Augustus and he was Roman emperor from 117 to 138AD. He was born into an ancient Roman dynastic family, near modern day Seville, in Spain and the family increased their wealth from the trading of olive oil. He died aged 62 on the coast near Naples.

Throughout his life he was an ardent admirer of all things Greek and he promoted Athens as the cultural capital of his Empire. His intense relationship with Antinous, a beautiful Greek youth and the latters' untimely death led to Hadrian establishing a widespread, popular cult. History does not record what his wife Vibia Sabina had to say about this!

He was the first Emperor to grow a beard - it is unknown if this is a tribute to the Greeks but it has been suggested that he had bad skin and was hiding that part of his face.

He travelled extensively across the Empire, more than any other Roman Emperor and visited his Wall in AD122 but did not see it completed. His building legacy includes the stunning villa Adriana at Tivoli in Italy, the rebuilt Pantheon and his mausoleum in Rome. All well worth visiting today.

Later historians listed him as one of the Five Good Emperors and a benevolent autocrat but his own Senate found him remote and authoritarian. He is described as contradictory, with a capacity for great generosity and extreme cruelty and driven by insatiable curiosity, conceit and ambition. An enigma indeed!



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Health Matters

What is sciatica and how can you deal with it?

A pain that starts in your lower back or buttock and shoots down your leg can be surprisingly unsettling. You might experience burning, tingling, pins and needles, numbness or weakness in the leg or foot. Sometimes the leg hurts much more than the back itself.

This is often what makes sciatica different from ordinary back pain. The symptoms can travel down the leg and may change from one day to the next. Sciatica commonly affects one side of the body and can cause sharp, shooting or burning pain through the buttock, thigh, calf or foot.

Sciatica is caused by irritation of nerves in the lower back that contribute to the sciatic nerve. A slipped or herniated disc is a common cause, although narrowing around the spinal nerves and other changes in the lower spine can also contribute.

The good news is that sciatica often improves with time, commonly within a few weeks to a few months, although some episodes can last longer.



How you manage it can make a difference. While reducing activities that significantly aggravate your symptoms can be sensible during a flare-up, prolonged bed rest and avoiding movement altogether are generally not helpful. Try to stay as active as you reasonably can. Short, gentle walks, changing position regularly and avoiding long periods of sitting may be useful.

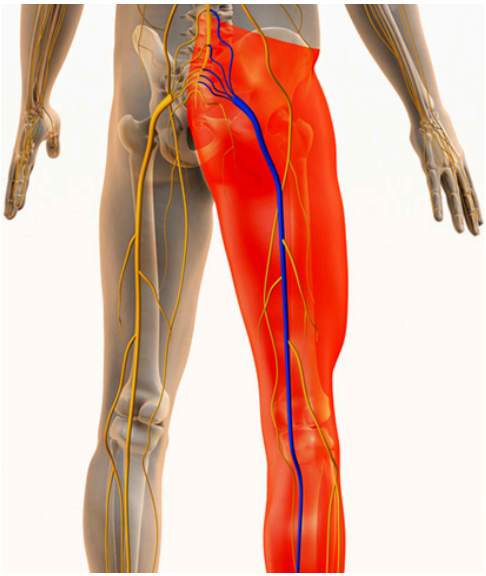
It is also worth remembering that an increase in symptoms does not automatically mean you have damaged your nerve. An irritated nerve can be sensitive to certain positions and movements, meaning symptoms may temporarily increase with activities such as bending, sitting, walking, coughing or sneezing.

Health Matters

As your symptoms settle, gradually rebuilding your movement, strength and confidence is an important part of recovery. You might begin with short walks and progress towards longer periods of walking, lifting, exercise, work or sport. The aim is to gradually increase what your body can tolerate rather than waiting until every symptom has completely disappeared before doing anything.

Physiotherapy can help if you are unsure what is causing your symptoms or how much activity is appropriate. An assessment may look at your back and hip movement, leg strength, sensation, reflexes, walking and how your symptoms respond to different movements. From this, a tailored rehabilitation plan can be developed around your symptoms and your everyday goals.

Most people with sciatica do not need an immediate MRI or other scan. Further investigation may be considered if symptoms are persistent, severe, the diagnosis is uncertain or there are significant changes in strength or sensation.



There are, however, some symptoms that need urgent medical attention. Seek emergency help if you develop numbness around or under the genitals or around the anus, new problems controlling your bladder or bowels, difficulty passing urine, or severe or worsening weakness or numbness in both legs.

Sciatica can be painful and frustrating, but it does not necessarily mean that you have seriously damaged your back or nerve. Understanding your symptoms, staying appropriately active and gradually rebuilding your physical capacity can help you move forward and get back to the activities you enjoy.

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Sports

The Ancient Game of Quoits

If you visit a pub in the Tyne Valley on a Summer's evening you may just hear the sound of metal clinking, some 'oohs and ahs' and chatter nearby. This is likely to be the local quoits team having a practice, or if it's a Wednesday evening, they'll be playing a match against another local pub, and despite the laughter and chatter it's serious business. The season starts in May and runs through to the end of August with Finals Day in early September.

Quoits is one of Northumberland's distinctive traditional sports, combining skill, accuracy and rivalry. Teams of 6 players throw heavy metal rings towards a pin set in a bed of clay, scoring for a "ringer" or finishing nearest the pin. Many local Agricultural shows feature a quoits competition on both clay and grass. Although the game has declined in many parts of Britain, it remains popular across the Tyne Valley, where matches bring together villages, pubs, farming families and generations of players.



At the heart of this tradition is the Allen Valley Quoits League, founded in 1987 with five teams, this year there are 30 teams competing across four divisions, with clubs stretching through western Northumberland and into communities such as Haltwhistle, Bardon Mill, Alston, Great Whittington, Corbridge, Slaley and Haydon Bridge. Its success reflects quoits' accessibility and sociable character: matches take place after work, often beside a pub, creating a strong sense of local identity. The league is preserving an ancient game while attracting younger players and new teams.

Locally the Comrades Club, the Milecastle Inn, The Wallace Arms, The Kirkstyle Inn, and The Twice Brewed all have quoits teams.

The origins of quoits are ancient and somewhat uncertain. It is often linked to the discus contests of Ancient Greece and may have been introduced to Britain by the Romans. The modern game developed over centuries, with competitors eventually replacing horseshoes with purpose-made metal rings thrown at a fixed pin.

Scott Donaldson
Milecastle Wanderers Quoits Team

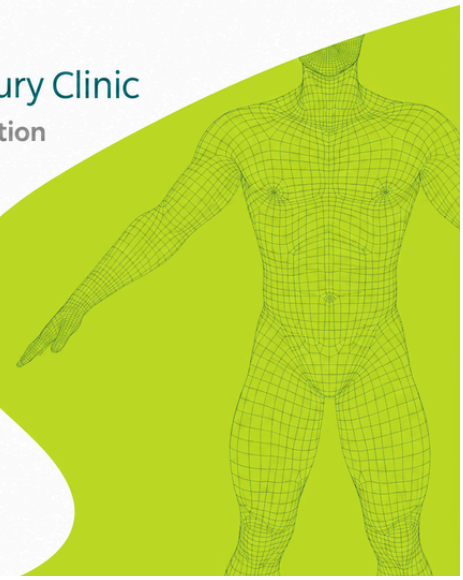
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PICTURE OF THE MONTH



The End of Summer

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