FREE

The Haltwhistle Herald

NOVEMBER 2026



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What's on in November

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

7th Coffee Morning for Young & Sweet, Methodist Hall

7th Annual Craft Fair, Masonic Hall, 10-4

8th Greenhead Farmers Market, 10-2

8th Remembrance Sunday Service, Holy Cross, 10am and War Memorial, 11am

11th Haltwhistle History and Heritage Group, 'British and German Characters Mentioned in the History of Featherstone Camp', Hospital Community Room, 10:30am

11th Informal Evening Prayer, Holy Cross, 6:30pm

12th Deadline for Christmas Tree Festival Applications, see p27

14th Haltwhistle Art Club Christmas Fair, Methodist Hall, 10-1pm

16th Sing n Sup, Holy Cross, 1:30-3pm, see p25

20th Disco Through the Decades, Comrades Club, £7 entrance, 7:30pm

21st Coffee Morning for Henshaw Nursery, Methodist Hall

27th Christmas Market, House of Meg Gilsland, 4-7pm, see p19

28th Coffee Morning for Irish Dancers, Methodist Hall

29th United Advent Service, Methodist Church, 6pm

Dec 4th Late Night Shopping and Launch of Christmas Tree Festival

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

Sing n Sup: Every third Monday 1.30pm at Holy Cross. singalong, cuppa and chat

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 Club: 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

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

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

For those of you that went along, we hope you enjoyed the Fright Night last week and didn't have any bad dreams afterwards!

November is always a time for remembering and we have our All Souls services at Holy Cross and All Hallows, Henshaw to remember those close to us who have died over the last year and to give thanks for their lives.

On Sunday 8th November at 10:00 we will be holding our Service of Remembrance at Holy Cross and then moving onto the War Memorial for 11:00 for the Act of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths. We give thanks for those who gave their lives in both World Wars and recent conflicts to ensure our freedom.



We are sad to announce that our vicar, Canon Steve Wright will be leaving us at the end of December. He and his wife Jo are moving to St Helen's to be nearer to family and he is retiring - well sort of! Let him tell you more in his own words on pages 20, 21 and 22. We thank him for his service and ministry to Haltwhistle, Greenhead and Henshaw and wish him and Jo well in this next stage of their lives. There will be more to be said in next month's Herald!

We are very much in need of people who can write a short article 250 words for our **Sports** section - football, darts, dominoes, golf anything goes - please get in touch via email, address on the bottom of the page.

And finally, next month is our bumper December/January edition, so tell us about all those Christmas/ winter events coming up. Our deadline is the 20th of November.

October winning numbers for the 100 Club: 43 (1st), 59 (2nd), 67 (3rd)

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

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Haltwhistle Partnership

Community Shops Fund

The Autumn 2026 round of the Community Shops Fund has closed, with 12 project applications and 14 applications from young people requesting more than £35,000 in total.

The Grants Panel will review and assess the applications over the coming month and will notify successful applicants before the end of November. If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the Haltwhistle Partnership.

Haltwhistle Partnership Annual General Meeting

The Haltwhistle Partnership held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14th October at the Old Booking Hall, Haltwhistle Station. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the organisation's achievements and challenges during 2025/26, review its ongoing work and look ahead to future priorities. The Partnership welcomed questions and discussion from members and other interested attendees.

The Chairman's Report illustrated the breadth of work undertaken throughout the year to support Haltwhistle and the surrounding parishes.

Community development has remained a priority, including continued involvement in the Borderlands Place Plan. The Partnership also registered Haltwhistle's public toilets and the Mechanics Institute as Assets of Community Value, helping protect these important facilities. The Partnership has continued to represent community interests on local issues, including the former first school site and efforts to help former Working Men's Club members pursue outstanding insurance funds following the building's fire.

The Community Shops remain central to the Partnership's work, providing affordable goods, volunteering opportunities and funding for local initiatives. The shops were shortlisted for the Tacnbora Tour Award, recognising their contribution to the community. During the year, the Community Shops Fund distributed almost £39,000 to 17 projects involving 14 organisations, alongside grants supporting 9 young people.

Haltwhistle Partnership

The Older People's Project and Memory Café continued to create valuable opportunities for friendship, companionship, and support through coffee mornings, lunch clubs, outings, and visits to advice organisations. Meanwhile, Zigzag Days celebrated local heritage through research, building models and exhibitions showcasing Haltwhistle's historic homes.

Environmental projects also continued to flourish. Community Gardeners maintain flower beds around the town and railway station, while Haltwhistle Growing Together brings volunteers together to grow produce and share skills. The Station Adoption Team continue to help keep Haltwhistle Station clean, tidy and welcoming.

The Partnership's residential and commercial properties maintained generally high occupancy levels, with ongoing maintenance helping to protect these important assets. The income generated supports the organisation's wider community work.

The Chairman expressed sincere thanks to the Partnership's funders, trustees, staff and volunteers, whose commitment makes this work possible. Going forward, the organisation remains committed to working with residents, community groups and partner organisations to strengthen local opportunities, protect community assets and improve quality of life across the district.

To request a copy of the AGM minutes or Chairman's Report, find out more about the Partnership, or become a member, contact the Partnership Office on 01434 321242 or email admin@haltwhistle.org.

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

Thurs – Teeny boppers 4-4:30
Mini ballet/tap/mod 4:30-5:20
Junior ballet/tap/mod 5:30-6:20
Street 6:30-7:30
Senior ballet/tap/mod 7:30-8:30

Fri – Junior ballet/tap/mod 5-5:50
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Town Council

Haltwhistle Cemetery: A Place of Remembrance

For more than 130 years, Haltwhistle Cemetery on Tyne View Road has been a peaceful and well-cared-for part of our town. Since around 1890, it has served Haltwhistle and its neighbouring parishes, and its records and headstones tell the story of the community through the generations. It is also the resting place of eleven servicemen from the First and Second World Wars, some marked by Commonwealth War Graves headstones and others remembered quietly on family stones.

As Remembrance Sunday approaches, the cemetery is a fitting place to pause and reflect, and a reminder of the care that goes into keeping it a place of dignity for all.

Did you know?

Some of the cemetery's war graves belong to servicemen who died after the fighting ended. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission counts deaths from war service up to 31 August 1921. Not every war grave looks like one, either: families could choose their own headstone, so some lie beneath ordinary family stones.



Town Council

Resting close to home

For many families, there is real comfort in knowing that loved ones can rest here in Haltwhistle, close to the people and places they knew. The cemetery is run by the Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee on behalf of local parishes and is here for the whole community, whether for a burial, the interment of cremated remains, or laying a much-loved pet to rest.

Good to know

Headstones need Committee approval, with fees starting from £190. Please give at least 48 hours' notice for all burials; weekend, bank holiday and short-notice burials carry an extra charge. The full 2026–27 scale of fees is available from the Burial Clerk.

Questions? We're always happy to help. Contact the Burial Clerk:

burialclerk@haltwhistletowncouncil.gov.uk

Fees 2026–27

Burial	Cremated Remains	Pet Burial
£1,530	**£335**	**£100 / £200**
Includes 99-year Exclusive Right and base stone	Includes 99-year Exclusive Right and base stone	Small / large, including VAT

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Chamber of Trade

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas?

Well, it soon will. Our town Christmas lights will soon be going up during Remembrance week and before too long we'll be finalising the Chamber of Trade plans for our annual Late Night Shopping event. This year, we are holding our extended shopping hours on Friday 4th December 2026, and we are hoping for a dry, clear crisp evening to complement the fabulous atmosphere we always enjoy during this event.

Santa will be making his usual appearance, the town Christmas tree will be lit at 4pm as is tradition, and we are planning some additional stalls and entertainment to entice everyone to come along and take part.





Of course, the lights and festivities come at a price, which is why we have again launched our annual Christmas Lights town raffle. Each year we are astounded at the generosity expressed by our residents and traders with the astronomical sale of raffle tickets and the money raised helping us continue to maintain our wonderful lights display.

Please remember to buy your tickets soon; there are a huge amount of fantastic prizes to be won, most of which will kindly be displayed in optician Geoff Steven's window. Raffle tickets are being sold by most of our wonderful shop, café and bar owners and the draw will be held on Saturday 12th December. We look forward to seeing you on the 4th December from 4.00pm.

Local Hero

Alf Adams

Alf was born in Washington in the middle of the Second World War and remembers the tough times and his school days during that period, when winters were severe and school discipline even more so.

He left Washington Grammar School with six O-levels, including Maths, and began a career in accounts with a company in Sunderland. He later gained a postgraduate certificate in marketing.

In 1984, Alf married Carol and moved to Bardon Mill, commuting to Washington, where he worked as Accounts Manager and Office Manager for a precision engineering company.

Alf retired in 2002 and took on the role of Parish Clerk for both Bardon Mill and Henshaw Parish Councils, a position he held for several years. During this time, he helped organise the replacement wall and fence around the War Memorial, the refurbishment of bench seats throughout both parishes, and arrangements for parking in areas that had mistakenly been classed as village green.

A Freemason for 55 years, Alf has also served as secretary to Haltwhistle Lodge for 30 years. The Masonic Hall hosts many community and fundraising events, keeping Alf busy arranging bookings, opening up, running the bar and organising furniture.

In this role, Alf is appreciated by all who use the hall and has helped make everyone feel welcome.

In his spare time, Alf enjoys watching football and going on holiday, particularly coach trips at home and abroad. He and Carol also enjoy attending 1940s events.

Alf loves the communities of this area, especially their peace and friendliness.





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Christmas Events IN GILSLAND

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Date	Event	Details	Location
Sat 21st Nov	Christmas Craft Fair	The craft fair returns to The Samson Inn, a perfect opportunity to get those Christmas gifts bought!	The Samson Inn
Sun 22nd Nov	Winter Frost Moon Sound Bath	5 – 6.30pm | £25 Settle into a relaxing sound bath with Amanda followed by a fire ceremony to mark the Frost Full Moon.	The Threshing Barn, Green Croft Arts
Fri 27th Nov	Gilsland Lantern Parade	From 5pm | FREE A glowing procession of handmade lanterns, starting at Gilsland School and finishing at House of Meg for their Christmas Market. Followed by carols at the Methodist Church.	Gilsland House of Meg
Fri 27th Nov	Christmas Market at House of Megs	Christmas Market at The House of Meg. Not just Christmas gifts available, Pizzas from Milecastle!	House of Meg
Fri 27th Nov, Fri 4th Dec & Sat 11th Dec	Samson Inn Christmas Party Nights	Festive menu, magic and live music. £35 per head. Min 4 – up to 10 per table. Work or family parties welcome. Drinks offers & happy hour 5-6pm.	The Samson Inn
Sat 28th Nov	Cinema Night	Showing 'Rental Family' (12A) Comedy/Drama tickets available on the door - £5 - 7pm.	Gilsland Village Hall
Fri 4th Dec	Christmas Willow Wreath Making	7pm – 9pm | £35 at the Threshing Barn Green Croft Arts.	The Threshing Barn, Green Croft Arts
Sat 5th Dec	Swedish Willow Star Workshop	10am-1pm | £35 Learn to weave a beautiful Swedish willow star to light up your home at Christmas.	The Threshing Barn, Green Croft Arts
Wed 9th Dec	Seniors' Christmas Lunch	2 courses £12.95 Christmas Dinner with a choice of Puddings.	The Samson Inn
Mon–Fri 14th–18th Dec	Afternoon Festive Tea	Join us for home made festive sweet and savory treats. Call 47777 to book.	Gilsland School
Wed 16th Dec	Gilsland School Carols by Candlelight	4:30pm Carols in the school hall followed by a raffle and donations to the school.	Gilsland School
Fri 18th Dec	Christmas Carols	6pm – Carols around the Tree 7pm – Special screening upstairs of 'A Muppet Christmas Carol' (U). Tickets £6 - includes mulled wine/soft drink, mince pie and cinema ticket.	Gilsland Village Hall (Upstairs cinema)
Sat 19th Dec	Breakfast with Santa and the Wyeknot Donkeys	Join us for breakfast with some very special guests. Booking essential.	The Samson Inn
Sat 19th Dec	Christmas Quiz	Our final quiz of the year! Seasonal special menu and a festive quiz to really get you in the Christmas spirit!	The Samson Inn
Mon 21st Dec	Winter Solstice Sound Bath	7 – 8.30pm | £25 Mark the winter solstice with an immersive sound bath, blending Anamba Drago's crystal bowls with live piano from Kit Haigh.	The Threshing Barn, Green Croft Arts
Wed 23rd Dec	Christmas Carols	Christmas carols at the church followed by mulled wine and mince pies at The Samson Inn.	St Magdalenes Church The Samson Inn
Thu 24th Dec	Santa Dash	Fun run around Gilsland, festive fancy dress is definitely encouraged!	Starting & finishing at The Samson Inn
Sat 26th Dec	Boxing Day at The Bridge	Pool and Darts competition. Entries from 2:30pm.	The Bridge

Merry Christmas Gilsland!

Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

The vicar remembers:
When you're leaving a place, you keep remembering the past there. Pictured here at my first Remembrance Sunday in Haltwhistle in 2022 toward the end of our first year here. My hair was shorter than it has been of late, and with all the wisdom I've gained in the Centre of Britain (woo woo!) I think it's even whiter now. Holy Cross Social Committee were coming up to their Christmas Fayre, which was early this year but still another great event.

I love being part of an organisation where such a varied group of people try to get on together and complement what each one does to enable the work of the church. Some like the building, some like the fundraising, some like the ceremonies, some like the quiet stillness of prayer in the building when it's empty, some like the joyful noise of singing and laughter at major events. Underpinning it all is the regular weekly worship of the faithful Sunday crowd and the Monday morning prayer meeting.



At the All Souls Day service this year I put out what I have of orders of service for funerals that I've taken over our nearly five years here, each one a memory of a family I've been privileged to help at a difficult time, but also each one a reminder that we walk in a long line of those who went before us. This is important to me. At these services we read out the names of all those we want remembered and light a candle as we do so, the names collected from those who come for the service as they enter. Praying with others adds something special that I find hard to put into words. It's the same for me on Remembrance Sunday at the cenotaph. Our life is in the hand of God and it's not all about me.

St Cuthberts, Greenhead

The vicar remembers:
Before I knew I was leaving at the end of the year I'd written something for this page about our school in Greenhead. We love it when they come and visit the church for a service every now and then, the children full of excitement as they file down the road in pairs from the school to the church. Working with all the schools here and with young families, including the weddings I've done in the three parishes, is very enjoyable. So much of my work is with the retired, whose ranks I am soon to join, but working age folk have a different approach to life which is more my wavelength, and I wish more of them would find the time and patience to work out their place as part of the church fellowship.

I know church committees can be their own worst enemies, but we need the help of those of the next generations to keep our Christian heritage and witness alive. At the very start of that journey, this picture is of little Elodie at her baptism in September. It is poignant in Greenhead that baptisms take place right next to the war memorial.



Baptism comes with the symbolism that as Christ entered the deep waters of death, so we enter the waters to claim his resurrection, walking in the Christian heritage of all those who went before us. The memorial reminds us that it is sometimes a fight to defend what is right. I've not had to do much fighting here and in Greenhead particularly have loved how the village hall and church have been able to work together for the good of the village. Greenhead is my favourite Church Committee too, its business being the simplest of the three, its warm fellowship complementing that, though I hasten to add that I love all my churches, only for different things!

All Hallows, Henshaw

The vicar remembers:
I first attended a meeting at All Hallows before I was even licensed here. It was the annual general meeting and it took eleven minutes! Wow, this was going to be a church which was shifting through business, how exciting! But coming to a decision not to go ahead with a car park and new entrance in Beltingham took about 3 years and replacing a boiler took four and a half 😂, not all our fault I hasten to add, but when you're running ancient buildings, procedures can be slooooooow! I've enjoyed how in all the churches people work together but Beltingham is the only one that maintains its own churchyards – the whole community expects to use it when their time comes but expect church members to pay for it, which they do. This pic is part of the team on a churchyard clear up day. A good number of the Over the Wall Players are Henshaw folk too, something I've very much enjoyed being part of (along with the Rusty Buskers from Haltwhistle). Lent groups and bible study, the occasional retreat day, and the work of the Mother's Union have been more prominent in Henshaw too.



In all our churches bible reading and study, prayer and communal worship is encouraged as a means of knowing God and finding peace and joy in him. In Henshaw that may come with more traditional hymns, but I can tell you, with Nigel pulling all the stops out (including bells!) it can be grand! I have enjoyed talking music with all our organists over the last five years, whilst also enjoying musical jam sessions with Janet and Lorraine in Haltwhistle!
I want everything in our churches to contribute to the witness of the Christian fellowship that Jesus Christ is the one who gives us hope in the love of God, and so much of our church life does do that, for which I am full of thanks and praise. I encourage everyone to read about these things in the bible and to pray and walk with God every day.

View From The Vicarage

Canon Steve Wright

It's been interesting having all three church pages to write this time. I always knew the day would come. Retirement. After Christmas. But I'm continuing part time in a church near our daughter. Why now? Because we're going to become grandparents early next year and wanted to be closer and God has made the way straight for that! We have loved the view from this vicarage, both the beautiful Northumberland hills we see from our windows and the good folk of Haltwhistle, Henshaw and Greenhead that we see week by week both in church and out and about. We are full of gratitude for all that we have had here. You are all welcome at St Peter's Church, Parr, St Helens if you're down that way and I expect we'll be back this way from time to time.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church of England

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

Roman Catholic Services

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

Methodist Services

10.30am on Sundays at Haltwhistle Methodist Church

CONTACTS

Church of England	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

November 2026

Services

Sunday 1st
10.30am Ruth Johnson
3.00pm Memorial Rev Marie Beard
Sunday 8th
10.00am Remembrance at Holy Cross
Sunday 15th
10.30am Elaine Goy
Sunday 22nd
10.30am Rev Marie Beard
(Holy Communion)
Sunday 29th
3.00pm Tynedale Circuit Service
at Trinity Church, Hexham
6.00pm United Advent Service
at Methodist Church

ALL WELCOME

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HALTWHISTLE

LEST WE FORGET

Remembrance Sunday
8th November
10.00am at Holy Cross
Service of Remembrance
and
11.00am at War Memorial
Act of Remembrance
and wreath-laying

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HALTWHISTLE

UNITED ADVENT SERVICE

Sunday 29th November
(Advent Sunday)
at 6.00pm
in
The Methodist Church
"Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"
EVERYONE WELCOME





Missed our first Sing & Sup in October? You missed a treat!

We warbled our way through songs from The Sound of Music and a few others, too. (Carol's Mother Superior was something to behold!)

There was plenty of laughter, lots of tea and coffee, and a good old-fashioned chat. What more could you ask for? But don't despair… the next Sing & Sup is on 16th November! This time, we'll be whip-crack-away-ing with songs from OKLAHOMA! and CALAMITY JANE. And who knows… we may even give Your ol' Wagon a lick of Paint!

So come along, join in the singing, enjoy a cuppa and a natter, and have a whole lot of fun. Everyone welcome! 🎶☕



Out & About

Haltwhistle & District Town Twinning Association members are preparing to welcome French and Italian visitors next summer. As part of a triennial hosting rotation, groups from St Méen le Grand and Valentano will experience Haltwhistle's renowned hospitality from 26th to 31st July 2027.

Visitors stay with local host families, and an exciting itinerary is already taking shape. The planned programme features communal meals, entertainment, visit to Hadrian's wall, game of quoits, treasure trail, afternoon tea, and dance and music nights and a group excursion. Twinning members pay their own costs with the funding initiatives and grants paying local businesses for refreshments, venue, entertainments etc. The Association is very grateful to the Douglas Smith Trust for a £500 grant supporting the upcoming visit.

A series of social events are being held. Following a successful coffee morning and a recent cheese and wine evening, the next fundraiser will be a community Disco on Friday 20th November at Haltwhistle Comrades Club, £7 on the door. Everyone is invited to come along and dance the night away.

Looking further ahead, a special afternoon tea fundraiser is also planned for next spring.

New members are always welcome to join this international community. To participate, you simply need to reside in the Haltwhistle area. There is no obligation to host visitors but please contact the group if you would like to host; new members are welcome to join solely to enjoy the social events and fundraising activities.

For more info please email haltwhistletwinning@gmail.com or ring 077734468661



Out & About

Haltwhistle Christmas Tree Festival

Celebrating Christmas Cheer and the Season of Goodwill at Holy Cross Church. The Tree Festival will take place between 4th December and 13th December. The launch event will coincide with our Late Night Shopping evening.

Our Christmas Tree Festival will celebrate the community groups, organisations and volunteers who make Haltwhistle such a happy, helpful and caring community.

We're inviting local community groups and organisations to take part by creating and displaying their very own special Christmas tree.
Showcase your project, share your story and celebrate your volunteers!

Your tree can highlight the wonderful work your group does and the difference your volunteers make to our community.

How to take part:
Request a registration pack for your group by contacting Nic at Haltwhistle Partnership.
Email: Info@haltwhistle.org
Please use the reference: Christmas Tree Festival
Alternatively, leave a message on 01434 321242 leaving your name, your groups name and contact details. Applications to be received no later than Thursday November 12th

Let's come together to celebrate community spirit, kindness, volunteering and the magic of Christmas in Haltwhistle!



UPCOMING EVENTS

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Friday 20 November 19.30 - 21.30
SOUNDS ROOTS...TRIPLE BILL
AT GILSLAND VILLAGE HALL
£15.00 / £10.00



Saturday 21 November 10.00 - 14.00
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AT THE SAMSON INN CRAFT FAIR
FREE



Friday 27 November from 17.00
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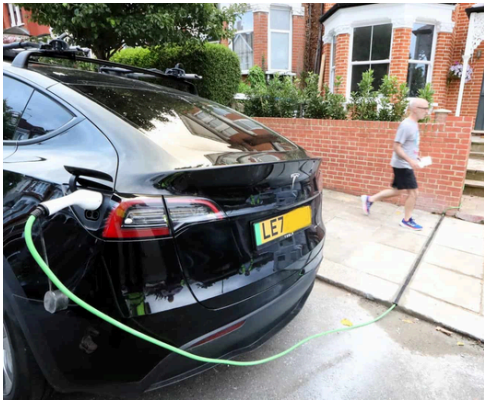
Lydia Howdon TCRG
07765738128
lydiaehowdon@hotmail.co.uk

Out & About

How to Charge Your Electric Car Without a Driveway

Owning an electric vehicle (EV) without a driveway needn't be a barrier to home charging. Help is available for residents who park on the street.

The Government's Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Grant for Households with On-Street Parking offers eligible residents up to £500 towards the cost of purchasing and installing a chargepoint, covering up to 75% of the costs. The grant closes at 11pm on 31 March 2027.
Check eligibility and requirements before applying.





Northumberland County Council (NCC) also offers a cross-pavement channel installation service, allowing residents to run a charging cable safely between their property and the road without creating a trip hazard on the footway.

NCC recognises the benefits of electric vehicles, including improved air quality, reduced carbon emissions and associated public health benefits.

Apply for the Government grant: https://bit.ly/4hynsRP

Apply for NCC's cross-pavement channel service: https://bit.ly/4yo8V2a

Out & About

National Competition includes Haltwhistle's Railway Station

Haltwhistle was in the spotlight nationally being shortlisted for the World Cup of Stations 2026 celebrating "stations which create connections which matter".

Improvements undertaken at the station have made such a difference, the waiting rooms are warmer and more welcoming, the old, dilapidated buildings have seen a makeover and are now used as studios/offices. The Water Tower adjacent to the station is now a cafe, which is open every day (except Tuesdays). The monthly markets have created an outlet for many local crafters and food producers. There are events, talks and meetings in the Old Booking Hall.

The volunteer station adoption group help to keep the station clean and tidy, making sure the waiting rooms are open for passengers. Local groups, including ZigZag, have created exhibitions in the waiting room featuring the local area.



There are other connections too – arriving at the station by train, it's a short walk to the bus stop for the AD122 and 681 buses, helping visitors to get to Hadrian's Wall. From Haltwhistle, the train can get you to work, education, appointments or for leisure trips to destinations throughout the country.

A public vote initially decided the winner of the regional group winner and sadly Haltwhistle didn't top the poll so didn't get through to the final.

Haltwhistle may not have won the national competition, but it certainly does create connections that matter.

Out & About

Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital League of Friends first adopted their constitution on 21st March 1988 with roots going back around 70 years. Founding members included Lillian Teasdale, Violet Smith, Dorothy Dickinson, Nancy Burnam, Linda Clemitson, Cathleen Bell and more formed the League of Friends and would organise coffee mornings, afternoon teas, cake sales and other events which raised funds to support the overall health of local people. The most recent volunteers being Angela, Cathy, Jane, Elizabeth, Margaret, Roberta, Mavis, Linda, Angela, Sheila M and Sheila J, they have had a huge impact on the League of Friends by not only ensuring the continuation of the charity but putting many hours in organising fundraising activities and safeguarding the funds for future need.

The funds raised by the League of Friends have provided HWMH and the Health Centre with various medical equipment such as bladder scanners, BP machines, ECG, fridges, scales, sensor alarms and has also supported patients' well-being with televisions, treats and back in the 90s the patients were even taken by the staff to Haltwhistle Comrades Club for a Christmas day out funded by the League of Friends. However, in more recent years they have provided Christmas presents for the patients!

The existing committee feel that it is now time to hand the baton over to 'younger members of the local community. We would like to send our immense gratitude to all those who have been involved in keeping such a valuable charity active for the benefit of local people in our community.

Best wishes from the past and present staff and patients of Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital.





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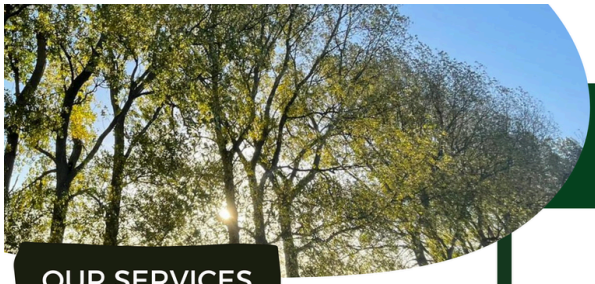
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Haltwhistle Horticulture

Hug A Hedgehog

Not a good idea..... they have prickles!

Gardeners can help this endangered species at this time of year when they need a cosy space to hibernate. Don't tidy up too much and leave suitable habitats. They love piles of brushwood or logs (or a hedgehog house). Their favourite bedding material is fallen leaves. Unfortunately, bonfire piles are almost the perfect habitat for their winter lodgings so please check before you set them alight.

When out and about, hedgehogs are very mobile and will cover up to 2 miles a night looking for food or a mate. You can help them on their nightly travels by making sure they are able to pass into the next garden in the form of a hedgehog hole or tunnel.

Hedgehogs eat a varied diet including earthworms, beetles and SLUGS. During milder winters they may wake up and need a feed (meat based cat or dog food is ideal for them). By now they should be at least 450g in weight in order to survive winter. If you spot one less than that or out during the day it is usually a sign that something is wrong so contact a hedgehog rescue centre for advice.

Lastly, they are called Hedgehogs for a reason – they like hedges! So please, if you can, plant a hedge instead of building a fence. It will provide food and lodgings for them and a wide range of other species.

For hints and tips on how to “help a hog” have a look here https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs-this-autumn/



HALTWHISTLE PARTNERSHIP

HALTWHISTLE GROWING TOGETHER

Next Generation

Haltwhistle And Brampton Irish Dancers, Lydia Howdon TCRG

I started dancing at the age of 4 years old and dancing competitively from the age of 6. I have travelled the world and have gained many achievements including; North East Regional Champion, Adult Great British Champion and was a qualifying World dancer. After retiring from competitive dancing, I gained my TCRG Teachers qualification and began teaching children in our local area, including Haltwhistle and Brampton, and love bringing Irish dance to our community. Irish Dancing is a fantastic style of dance where children not only form friendships but learn teamwork, coordination and confidence.





We believe in nurturing creativity and artistic development and offer a warm and positive environment to help dancers achieve their aims and goals. There are so many opportunities for Irish dancers, and we offer classes from beginner to championship, including competitive Ceilidh Teams. Our display team perform all over Northumberland and Cumbria raising funds through displays, dance shows and fun events, to help children travel to major competitions such as the World Championships, enjoy parties and celebrations. Our classes start from 3 years old and if you would like anymore information please contact Lydia.

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ROMAN ARMY MUSEUM & MAGNA FORT

Hidden History

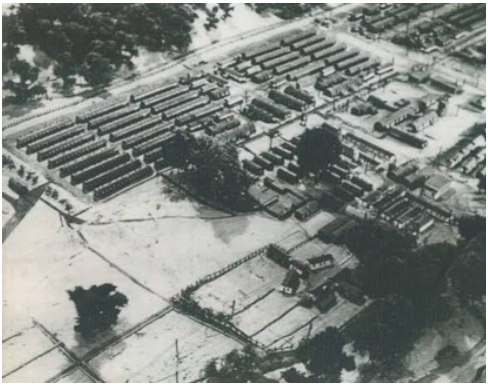
On Tuesday 8th September, the Haltwhistle History and Heritage Group introduced some colleagues from the charity Digital Voice for Communities to the morning Pop In at the Methodist Church Hall. We were fortunate that the Older Peoples Project had kindly agreed for us to set up a small area to talk to residents whilst they enjoyed their cuppa.

The aim was to engage with as many attendees as possible and encourage them to share memories and stories of life in Haltwhistle through the ages.

There was a fair amount of cautious curiosity at first, but everybody was very welcoming and willing to investigate why we were there. As discussions gathered momentum, a whole cascade of colourful memories emerged, bringing our Main Street of old back to life. Groups remembered shops, now lost but fondly recalled, old buildings which were once alive with dances and parties, now lying derelict and were able to enthusiastically enjoy each other's tales of how our town felt back in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s.

We thumbed through old copies of the Haltwhistle Echo and sorted through some old photographs picking out familiar people and scenes, laughing at some of the collective memories and reflecting on the nostalgia the session prompted.

We were particularly keen to gather any memories surrounding the amazing interaction there had been between our town and the German Prisoners of War held at Featherstone Park. Many residents still have the letters received once the officers had returned home and some still have the toys and gifts made by the prisoners and presented to families as a thank you for being unjudgmental whilst including them into the Haltwhistle community.



Kindly sponsored by the Roman Army Museum

ROMAN ARMY MUSEUM & MAGNA FORT

Hidden History

Since that first session on the 8th, the ladies at Digital Voice have held several more weekly events and are now conducting scheduled recording sessions, making an audio library of specific memories. There are plans to include our schoolchildren and members of the ZigZag group to co-produce some other pieces of work to help them learn more about the town's rich heritage culminating in a community event in Spring next year to screen a film of the finished project. We hope to include an exhibition showcasing the wealth of historical information we have discovered during this venture.

The work will not stop there, our friends at Digital Voice have been busy training the History Group on the best ways to preserve our town's heritage and we continue to welcome you to share your stories and memorabilia with us for the benefit of our whole community.

We host monthly history talks at 10.30 on the 2nd Wednesday each month in the community room at the Memorial Hospital and can also be contacted by email at haltwhistle.history@gmail.com



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If you need help to set up the NHS App, please contact the Health Centre on 01434 325919 and book an appointment with our Care Co-ordinator.

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Culture and Arts

Oh Yes It Is! Panto's Back for 2027
Dust off your best boos and hisses, Haltwhistle. This year's panto is Cinderella!
Save the dates:
Friday 22nd January 2027
Saturday 23rd January 2027

Expect fun, mayhem and belly laughs, with some old faces (watch it!) and a few new ones. There'll be two ugly sisters who'd struggle to squeeze a big toe into a glass slipper, a much-loved Cinderella, a really BIG BADDIE, fairies with more sparkle than sense, and of course the Royal Family. Will the shoe fit? Will the pumpkin make it past midnight? There's a surprise around every corner!

Plus plenty of dancing from the Hannah Lucy School of Dance.

Tickets go on sale first at our Panto booth in the Market Square during Christmas late-night shopping on Friday 4th December. Grab yours early! After that, you'll find them online and at local shops.

We couldn't be more excited to bring another crazy show to our beloved Haltwhistle. Without you, it's just grown-ups in silly costumes shouting at an empty room! You boo the baddie and cheer for Cinders, so this panto is yours. Will it be the best one yet?
OH YES IT WILL!



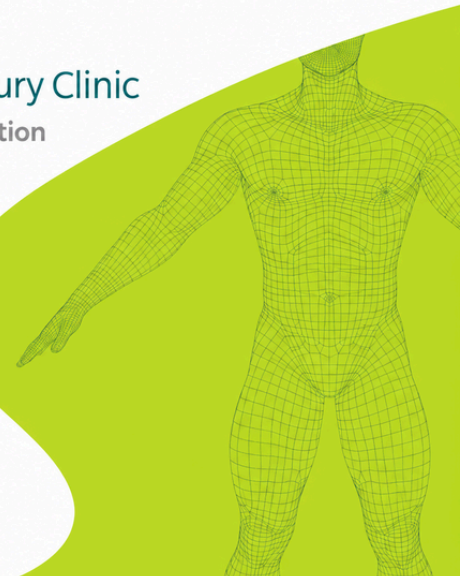
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Gilsland C of E Primary	01697 747302

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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



Haltwhistle Burn in Autumn

Share your pictures and photos of life in or around Haltwhistle 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.