



THE HAYDON NEWS

**SEPTEMBER
2001**

Published by The Friends Of Haydon Bridge

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS"

In the late 60's the Head teacher I worked for used this phrase a lot. And I suppose in those days it held true. The emphasis being on the words "NO" and "GOOD". How things have changed in the thirty-odd years since! Put the emphasis on the first word only "NO" and a completely different slant is put on things.

These days one can hardly pick up a newspaper or a listen/watch a broadcast without being bombarded with BAD news be it local, regional, national or international.

Of course we are all shocked by recent events – including the attacks on America – but around here most of us are wondering just when the Foot & Mouth crisis will end, to take one issue which impinges on the whole area. What with some farms being culled because of infection, others because they are contiguous and others not at all but not able to move their stock because they are inside the Blue Box! There are other issues of course which engage our minds. Church Street, the Post Office, Innerhaugh, the A69, Tourism and the provision of Play areas. Have I missed anything? And what about an issue which only this week has cropped up. The possible re-siting of the Library from its present position to the High School! It is said that no decision will be taken until an extensive public consultation process has been undertaken. If something's not broken, why fix it? Are we once again to be told by the 'people that know' what is best for this village. Or should we not make a stand and let these same people know that we still have pride in our village and that surely WE know best! Or is that being too parochial?

This issue has a fair bit of correspondence generated mainly by July's editorial. Good to see and worth a read. Also I took the liberty of writing to the regional office of Post Office Counters Ltd to see what they had to say on the relocation of the PO to the Co-op. Their statement can be found on page 9. Does it satisfy?

Although at the end of Dennis Telford's notes this month mention is made of an error regarding Raymond McVay's death it was I who got it wrong. Apologies to all concerned.

Our next issue of the *Haydon News* is at the end of October.

Richard A D Snowdon (Editor)

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre (Haydon Bridge)
Thursday 27th September 2001 at 7.30pm.

Present throughout were: 10 Councillors (apologies from 1), County Councillor, the Parish Clerk and 6 members of the Public.

Public Participation: (1) Cllr. Garrow began proceedings by highlighting the growing problem created by traffic using Martin's Close. This is growing steadily now that the new football facilities are being used and measures need to be taken to lessen the risks to those living in the area.

(2) David McVay who, with his family, lives next door to the Co-op spoke on the increasing problems created by delivery trucks to both the front and side of the premises. Not only do these trucks arrive at all times of the day but now they are taking to parking on the pavement outside the Co-op within 4 feet of his front door. As a result, the pavement is now cracked – pools of water gather proving a hazard to pedestrians – and one has to be careful how one gets past these vehicles. Trolleys are wheeled over the 'new' flagstones so chipping them but why cannot these trolleys be wheeled round to the back entrance?

The hazards created by these trucks (and others who seem to think that the wide pavement is a good place to park) affects traffic movement on the A69 which is right outside the shop.

A massive problem is being created and a solution will have

to be found before there is a serious accident. Should bollards be erected? If so, where, and also on Church Street? Cllr. Mitchell wondered whether a fence separating the road from the pavement might work?

David has contacted various agencies (Highways, Road Link etc) with little success.

It was eventually considered that there should be an urgent meeting with all parties concerned to find a remedy to this problem created partly by changes in circumstances over recent times.

(3) The fate of Haydon Spa was raised by the Editor who felt that it was being neglected. He had met with some visitors recently wondering what the large white sign on the side of the A69 stood for. Obviously the subsidence has created a mess which is getting worse by the day.

Also should the seat dedicated to Raymond McVay be moved before it disappears into the river?

It was suggested that Haydon Spa be placed on the agenda for next month's Parish Council meeting.

Minutes of Previous Council meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising: Playground suggestions. The Trustees of the Shaftoe Foundation have yet to meet to discuss the

ideas put forward by an excellent project undertaken by the First School pupils and presented to the Parish Council in July 2001.

Old Bridge Lighting: Is much admired though the same cannot be said for the surface of the bridge. Also with the road being raised there would appear to be less parapet offering protection. The First School has noticed this in particular. Cllr Smith added, with some humour, that as the bridge is a listed building the road could be raised almost to the top of the parapet and little could be done. Cllr Charlton added that the parapet appeared to be loose in one or two places.

H.E.R.S: Cllr Philp informed the meeting that there would appear to be £20,000 to finish the scheme although this would seem to be insufficient.

However, the street lighting on Church Street would be completed. Their style would be like those on Beaumont Street/Abbey area in Hexham and as they would appear to be a 'stock' item there should be no problem in getting an early start. The lighting plans can be seen at J&M Clarke's (Newsagent) on Church Street.

The seat in the Churchyard would also be done although the floodlighting has been taken off the plans. No money.

Litter bins and bollards are being considered for Church Street. Map also with J&M Clarke.

Cllr Philp is not at all happy with the way the scheme has been run. Cllr Mitchell has met with the Head of Economic Development and has indicated that the Parish Council is not at fault as it was ready to move in the early days of this scheme but Tynedale Council were not. Funds should be made available to complete the scheme as was planned even if only to restore the village's pride in itself. Peter Kemp (TDC) supports our claims.

Cllr Faulks (Chair) was flabbergasted at the apparent cost of providing and laying the flagstones. He felt that £200 per square metre was a bit steep!!!! and that we would appear to have been overcharged. Ian Douglas (TDC) would provide a breakdown of all costs.

Did the focus group have a contract? Cllr Philp said "No" because they were in the hands of the 'professionals' and we trusted them. Does English Heritage know what is going on? As regards planning arrangements, residents had to 'jump through hoops' to secure grants, but it would appear that TDC are able to do what they want wherever!

Cllr Horncastle, drawing on his work at Allendale, suggested that local people with their skills would be better placed to do work, and perhaps do a better job.

On a brighter note, Cllr Garrow said that a lot of bulbs have been acquired for planting around the 'new' tree and with Shaftoe's help would provide a riot of colour. Excellent news.

Village Appraisal: Two meetings have been held and preliminary work has been done. The way forward is firstly to register our interest to the group which provides the grants as suggested by Kirsten Francis.

Brown Tourist Signs on the A69. In reply to Cllr Parkin's inquiry at the last meeting a letter had been received from Highways/Road Link saying that the type of signs required are only provided for bypassed villages. We are not bypassed so no chance. A further letter will be forwarded to these agencies!

Parish Clerk's Resignation: Advertisements were placed and four have applied. Nothing further to report.

TDC Minutes: Cllr Mitchell had nothing much to report although he had attended a meeting when the re-location of the village's Library was being discussed. He made it very clear, and I think the whole Parish Council support him, that he would never accept this suggestion.

Highways/Bypass : Nothing to report.

Foot & Mouth: Cllr Smith gave a very emotive presentation on the current status. Farmers are bleeding to death for a number of reasons too many to mention here but local press have it covered well. The Blue Box zone is diabolical and the way that DEFRA is handling the crisis is a joke. Who is better off, farms which have been culled or those who have not?

N.C.C School Support Officer has informed the meeting that Geoff Jackson (Governor at Shaftoe First) has come to the end of his term and a replacement will be needed. Any offers? Cllr Mitchell was asked and said, "OK".

RADS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Please see the notice board, next to the Butcher's shop for the venue. The General Public is welcome as the first part of every meeting invites Public Participation. Have your say – Brickbats and Bouquets!!

HAYDON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr D Charlton	684 505
Mrs E Charlton	684 505
(Chair) Mr E J Faulks	Chesterwood Park
Mrs V A Fletcher	
Mrs E Garrow	684 324
Mrs L Gilhespy	684 632
Mr S B Mitchell	684 980 *
Mr M R Parkin	684 340
Mrs L A Philp	
Mr D C Smith	684 480 *
Mr T J Stephenson	

* also Tynedale District Councillors

PARISH CLERK

Mrs S Batey	684 323
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HISTORICAL NOTES OF HAYDON BRIDGE – Dennis Telford

In this month's notes I am still reflecting on Mr Veitch's letter published in the June edition of the *Haydon News*.

Mr Veitch's contact with me brought back to my mind an incident which occurred some thirty years ago. The Veitch family had left number 29 John Martin Street in 1935 but an interesting encounter in the 1970's, 1972 perhaps, makes an appropriate post script to Harry's letter.

My story starts at the 'Club' on a Saturday morning.

In its early years the CIU Golf competition was held at Westerhope Golf Club and given the chance of a free trip away there was never any shortage of names on the list pinned up on our Haydonian Club noticeboard..

The party which left Haydon Bridge included golfers and 'caddies'. David Brown remembers the trip well and between us we have come up with the names of a few of the people on the bus to Westerhope that day.

Firstly, the golfers included David, Maurice Armstrong, Dent Oliver and myself. Denis Bell, Barry Brown and Keith Brown (T.K that is!). Jackie Johnson and David Tulip. The all important 'caddies' included Jake Forster, Sid Thompson, Tot Pickering, Jim Porteous, Alfie Kent and Jackie Wardle.

Neither David nor I can recall any sporting success that day worth recording for posterity although I'm almost certain that Barry's fine stylish swing, coupled with his unusual method of calculating a par, got him somewhere near the leaders.

There was of course the usual element of 'coarse' golf which was (and perhaps still is) generally associated with 'Club Trips'

For example, the day got off to a bad start when a wayward practice swing on the first tee gave David 'T' a hefty whack with a three wood and almost reduced the Haydonian team by one before a ball was played.

I also recall David 'B's three iron lying in two pieces on the fairway. His 'now you see it, now you don't' swing proved much too swift for any golf club yet manufactured. Dent's putter was in a similar predicament, having been laid carefully on the ground (believe that if

you will!) after another twelve inch putt got awayor was this another occasion or indeed occasions?

Jake was Maurice's 'caddy' and his idea of encouragement was to wait until Maurice was at the top of his back swing and then tell him that his golf ball would probably end up in a bunker or behind a tree. (very perceptive as it happens!!)

And of course most. No! I mean ALL of the 'caddies' developed injuries of one sort or another and had to leave the course. Significantly, all together and just about on opening time!

You can probably guess that the golfers and their (part-time) 'caddies' were in high spirits as we repaired to the 19th hole, which, on this occasion was the Lemington Social Club at Newburn. We were there as the doors opened and when the regulars arrived they were none too happy that the, 'Farmers' had commandeered their usual seats.

Isn't it amazing how many of our friends 'Doon Bye' think that anyone from west of Hexham must have arrived by horse and cart, but not until the pigs have been put to bed! Many eventually join us of course as visitors or residents, to share our beautiful countryside and way of life. We should take this as a compliment and welcome their contribution to our community.

Tot and Sid were the first to the Bar, apparently determined to break all records for pints of 'Fed Special' consumed in a single session. Maurice 'A' was casting an inquisitive eye around the room and David 'B' was listening with an intuitive ear to the musicians tuning up ready for the dancing. I thought they were out of tune but 'Cap' retorted, "No, no, no. This is modern Jazz, man!"

So where is all this leading?

Well, as the dancing got underway and I waited patiently for the Bradford Barn, Armstrong startled the rest of us at the table.

"Wey, ye beggar o'Hexham! Aa Knaa yon lass o'er there"

We all turned to where he was pointing and, as their eyes met, the 'lass' in question came over to join us.

Maurice had lived with his parents, Joe and Elsie and his sister June at 25 John Martin Street, when the lady he recognised had lived next door but one.

The two of them were born on the same night in the same year. Maurice before midnight on the 6th of November (he says it was the fireworks that set Elsie off) and neighbour after midnight, on the 7th.

The lady that Maurice introduced us to that Saturday night was Harry Veitch's sister, Marjorie. They hadn't met since they were both school children over thirty-five years earlier and yet they recognised each other instantly across the dance floor.

Just as Harry Veitch had thought when Dan Liddle recognised him in Italy after all those years. "Truly amazing"

Harry's two sisters, Marjorie who still lives at Lemington and Lillian from Cornwall, take a close interest in the village that was their home sixty-six years ago and they visited Haydon Bridge last month to spend some time with their school friends from those early days, Lily and Sadie Pickering.

I enjoyed a very pleasant couple of hours in the company of these four ladies. While Lily kept us amply supplied with tea and cakes, just as she did when as a youngster I would go to 'Knights' the bakers on Church Street. I was entertained by their fascinating stories of Haydon Bridge characters and events of the past.

Wonderful memories.

(Just ask Sadie about the inkwell story sometime!)

Incidentally, I noticed when driving past the Newburn Club recently that it is an Old People's Home now. So those of us who are left from the 'Club' trip that day are, I'm afraid, still eligible for membership!

RAYMOND McVAY

In my notes for the July issue of the *Haydon News*, the date Raymond died was given as 1988. It should have read, 1998 of course. Please accept my apologies for this error.

Dennis Telford

THE ANCIENT LAND OF NORTHUMBRIA

Winding roads hills and vales, paradise seeped in fame,
This land of famous artists and many famous names,
Majestic Stags lofty crags and green fields here abound,
Mighty walls and castles in this wonderland are found.

History in this land abounds, it's secrets it unfolds,
Of mighty Roman armies as they built great walls and roads,
Danes of old have past this way and ships of the Viking Norse,
Englishmen and Scotsmen great battles here have fought.

To feel this part of history flowing through one's veins.
Just close your eyes with feet spread wide upon these ancient plains,
You can see the cavalry wheeling far off to the right,
Their banners flowing in the breeze, as they race in for the fight.

The thunder of the chariots as they hurl them into war,
A clash of steel one still can feel as the enemy they saw,
A victory call as the enemy fall 'neath the blade of a flashing sword,
Great cheers went up as they enter the rough to lay bare the heathen horde.

You can feel the clash of armour hear the whistle of the blade,
The thunder of the hoof beats as history here was made.
Hear the death roar of the cannon, and the, ghosts of a million dead,
It's the heart of English history, the blood of man this land hath fed.

The Roman Legions sailed away, Viking ships have gone,
Scots have stopped their raiding but their history still goes on,
They left to us their heritage that makes this land so fine,
A land of stark wild beauty, this land of yours, and mine.

Harold Humble 12 - 5 - 2001

**ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
HAYDON BRIDGE**

*Northumbria Historic Churches Trust
Sponsored Steeplechase
Saturday 8th September 2001*

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored Margaret Curry. A total of £216.50 has been given: half will go to the Trust and half to St. Cuthbert's Church.

None of the Churches in the Hexham Deanery were open because of the Foot and Mouth crisis but the route taken started at St. Andrew's in Corbridge, through Riding Mill, Stocksfield, Bywell, Ovingham, Wylam and on to the final church, St. James and St. Basil in Fenham.

In all, twenty lovely, different, surprising Churches and Chapels were visited.

It is the one day in the year when many Churches throughout the Diocese of Newcastle and Durham are open so if you like visiting Churches and having a challenge, have a go next year.

Many thanks again.

Joyce Armstrong (Treasurer - P.C.C)

**the
shaftoe charities**

*Shaftoe Educational Foundation
Almshouse Charity of John Shaftoe*

*Reg. No. 528101
Reg. No. 506598*

SHAFTOE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (Educational Grants)

Applications from residents of Haydon Parish will be considered by the Governors at their meeting on 8 November 2001.

If you wish to make an application to that meeting, please write to:

*The Clerk
Shaftoe Educational Foundation
Shaftoe Terrace
Haydon Bridge
NE47 6BW*

Applications received after that date may have to wait until the next meeting in March 2002 before they can be dealt with.

ALMS HOUSES ON SHAFTOE TERRACE

The Trustees invite applications for residence in an Almshouse on Shaftoe Terrace.

These one-bedroomed cottages are available for occupation by people who are: Aged at least 60, Resident in Haydon Parish and able to show a genuine need for more suitable accommodation.

Applicants are required to complete a questionnaire and to attend an interview before a small panel of Trustees.

Application forms are available from J & M Clarke (Newsagents) on Church Street or from the Clerk on request by telephone on: 01 434 684 298

Clerk to the Governors/Trustees: J P Richardson, MA LLB FCIS

CORRESPONDENCE

4th August 2001

Dear Mr. Thomas

I am writing about the proposal by Bellway for 48 more housing units at Innerhaugh, Haydon Bridge.

What is the matter with the people in this village who are objecting to this proposal? Surely this is what we need. New housing to provide local residents the chance to either own or rent a new home? New people to move into the village and to join in the community, with possibly new ideas and different services to offer all of us? This would provide more custom for the shops, more youngsters to attend the superb schools in our village, more help with our fight for a bypass - and yes, more business for the Post Office Counters in the Co-op, if it is still in use by then.

So come on, fellow villagers, look beyond the initial reactions of a few, as I have spoken to several people who have lived here much longer than I have - 20 years - and who cannot recall when this land ever flooded - and surely if we need a new sewage system this could well be the way we will get one - by building more affordable, but desirable properties for our village.

Yours sincerely

*Disappointed Newcomer***Mr. Charles Thomas**

Chairman of 'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'

Dear Mr. Thomas

With regard to your request for comments regarding the new Post Office arrangements within the local Co-op.

I am very sorry to have to report that I have found the new arrangements appalling on more than one occasion. We can all understand that there will be teething problems when any business moves to a completely different working environment, or should I say alien environment, but this situation should have been corrected by now. I really do not know where the *Hexham Courant* got their recently published story from, but whoever they were have been very fortunate

in their service at the Post Office Counters area in the Haydon Bridge Co-op!

I will endeavour to recall two particular occasions to you. I called early one morning, 8.00am, great I thought, I will get this document posted to London, with a certificate of posting, before I go to work. I approached the front of the shop and noticed about 4 other customers waiting outside. My watch must be fast, so I thought, however, after waiting a further 8 minutes a member of staff arrived, walking up the street, and opened the door, without any explanation or apology for the lateness of the opening. Our small group trooped into the shop and duly queued up in front of the Post Office Counter. An assistant appeared and started to 'fiddle' with the computer screen, again no explanation, and the situation remained like this for a further 4 minutes.

Unfortunately, by this time it was too late for me to wait any longer, so I had to leave to get to my place of employment on time.

On another occasion, I went with several extremely important parcels to post - First Class and again to have a Certificate of Posting. This is a regular part of my job, and as I approached with them the assistant looked up, saw me with the parcels and groaned, "Oh no!", to which I immediately replied, "If you would prefer, I can take these to the Post Office at Hexham or Haltwhistle". This appeared to calm the assistant who then proceeded to process my business - albeit grudgingly?

Surely the customer is always right, or is this from days gone by and not the modern approach of staff? Have we been thoroughly spoiled by Tony and his marvellous staff? It was always such a pleasure to go into the village Post Office, pass the time of day with Tony and his 'girls'.

Maybe the new Post Office arrangements would work better if there was designated staff who worked almost exclusively on the Post Office, as I am sure that some of the staff did not

join the Co-op to deal with the complex and sometimes quite personal and private business of people that they know and live near to, but to help them with their shopping, advise them of the special offers available, and to give them a smile as they handed them their change. I feel that the lack of privacy in some instances is very obvious and that this must be extremely embarrassing for all concerned.

I do hope that this situation can be solved before very much longer, or else I fear that there will be a lot more custom winging its way to Hexham, and we will lose this vital service in our village.

Yours sincerely

*Disappointed Villager*The Editor
Haydon News

Dear Sir

I would like to reply to the editorial in July's *Haydon News* regarding the new Post Office arrangements at the Haydon Co-op.

Post Office Counters are cheek by jowl with retail customers. There is no privacy for private transactions and all business can be clearly observed and overheard.

I do appreciate the fact that Haydon Bridge still has Post Office facilities but considering the amount of floor space in the Co-op the Post Office ought to have been situated entirely separate from the retail counters.

I am also concerned for the safety of the Staff. There appear to be no alarms or panic buttons and it may only be a matter of time before a serious robbery is attempted.

I voiced my concerns to Senior Training Staff when the Post Office facilities were first set up but was told, "You don't like things to be changed! Minor teething troubles will soon be sorted out"

Other people have voiced their concern and I have not heard any positive opinions regarding the new sys-

tem apart from the self congratulatory one issued by Co-op management in the *Hexham Courant*.

Yours faithfully **J. H.**

The Editor
Dear Sir

I have visited the Co-op several times lately for a few groceries only to turn around and go elsewhere as the Staff are so busy dealing with Post Office business.

I certainly would not like to work on the counters that are open to the public, so near to a road, and not much security at present.

My congratulation to the excellent Staff at Haydon Bridge Co-op

Happy Shopper **By E-mail**

OVER 60'S CLUB

In September the Over 60's met for the first time since their annual outing. This was to Morecambe and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone despite a somewhat overcast but warm day. Joined by many friends the coffee stop at Penrith Methodist Church where we were warmly welcomed.

A vote of thanks was given to Mrs Avice Sparke for all her hard work in organising the event.

Happy Birthday Greetings were extended to Mrs V. Reed and Mrs E. Ohlsen. Everyone wished Mrs Taylor a hasty recovery after her recent fall in Ratcliffe Road.

A most enjoyable social evening followed.

Myra Bowen

LANGLEY W.I.

Because of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak, all meetings have been suspended for the time being.

Myra Bowen.

Tynedale Council, Hexham House,
Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NH
PRESS RELEASE

19th September 2001

New Heart for Organ Donor Scheme

Following a request from Tynedale Council to all Tynedale residents that they consider becoming potential organ donors after their deaths, the early indications are that people are responding positively. Six thousand people a year are on the organ donor waiting list, each of which could have the opportunity to live a long and healthy life if only there was a transplant organ available. The council has sent out 25,000 letters to households asking that the district's 59,000 residents consider signing up for the NHS donor register, and the forms on the reverse side of the letter can be returned to the council with the electoral registration form in the envelope provided. People can request that any part of their body be used for the treatment of others, or particular organs can be specified, and there is no upper age limit for registering.

Chairman of Tynedale Council, Mrs Audrey Hutchinson appealed to the whole family to consider being part of the scheme and to discuss it with each other: "It is tragic that many organs are lost because registered donors

have not informed their relatives of their wishes beforehand, and in the immediate grief and trauma the relatives can refuse permission when approached by a doctor. Please talk this over with your family so that it is understood that you have signed the donor form and really do wish to assist others in obtaining life-saving treatment. This initiative has the full support of all parties and members in Tynedale Council. If Tynedale is successful in enrolling thousands of potential donors, it is likely that the other local authorities in the region will follow our lead."

The initiative was first pioneered in 1999 by Taunton Deane Borough Council in Somerset, where within three weeks 11,500 registrations were received. Last September Taunton were successful in influencing a further 12 councils to launch similar campaigns which resulted in 108,000 new organ donors.

Mrs Hutchinson added: "If as many as 100 councils respond with a mail-shot like the one in Tynedale, residents up and down the country could deliver one million new organ donor registrations, and within a short space of time the organ donor shortage could be a thing of the past."

For further information on the organ donor scheme, please ring UK Transplant (01 179757575). This is the special health authority with responsibility for securing and allocating organs for transplant and the organisation to which all returned forms will be sent.

Media Contact: Sarah Wilson or Patricia Gillespie,
Public Relations Section
Tel: 01434 652347 or 01434 652244

Haydon Bridge F.C. 100 Club Draw

September

£30 176 J. Carruthers
£15 013 J. Kendrew
£10 147 M. Marshall
£ 5 104 S. Phillips
£ 5 151 W.E. Carruthers

Alistair Burrowes

HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED. Season so far

Date	Competition	H/A	Opponent	Result	Score
Saturday 18 August	Division 2	A	Ashington Collier	W	3 - 4
Saturday 25 August	Division 2	H	New Birtley	D	3 - 3
Wednesday 29 August	Division 2	A	Northumbria University	W	6 - 0
Saturday 1 September	LC r1	A	Highfield United	W	5 - 1
Thursday 6 September	LC r1	H	Chopwell Top Club		
Saturday 8 September	Division 2	H	Walker Stack	D	1 - 1
Saturday 15 September	Division 2	H	N'Cle East End Ra	D	3 - 3
Saturday 22 September	Division 2	A	Benwell		

CORRESPONDENCE

LIFE CYCLE 2001

- * Life Cycle aims to raise money for patients suffering from renal failure and kidney disease
- * Life Cycle is a non-profit making organisation run entirely by volunteers
- * The charity's main event is an annual long-distance cycling marathon to be held in mid September
- * This year the marathon will cover 1,000km across Malta, Gozo and Sicily in seven days
- * 8 teams of 4 persons will be taking part with participants being amateur cyclists who volunteer to train hard and forgo their leisure time to help people in need
- * Each team must raise at least Lm800 in cash (including a main sponsor of Lm500)
- * Each team's main sponsor will be mentioned in the media and receive prominent advertising on banners, flags, stickers and cyclists' clothing etc.
- * Full media coverage, including:

PBS reporter and cameramen accompanying the cyclists throughout the trip

Times / Sunday

Times - full coverage as in previous years

Independent -

'Cyclist's Diary'

This year's event was chosen because we wanted to involve larger numbers of people and take place in Malta and Gozo to give our loyal sponsors more publicity. We have still maintained the high endurance challenge theme because we believe that if we can show the general public that there are people willing to go to extremes in order to help others less fortunate than themselves then they may be more willing to give money to this worthy cause. Life Cycle has only been going for 3 years but the level of interest has been remarkable and this year in particular has seen an interest beyond

the committees' wildest dreams when you consider what we are asking each participant to do. 'The Malta, Gozo rides will be difficult enough but with 3 days in Sicilian mountains thrown in and a time limit on the full 7 days then it is no wonder the riders are being put through 4 months of intense training.

People in the past have used Politics as an excuse not to give money and of course, that is their prerogative however it annoys me because both Governments have always given generously to the Renal Unit but it is a bottomless pit and to keep one patient alive for one year on Kidney Dialysis costs something like LM12,000, so if we can make their lives more comfortable then it has to be a good thing. We have already seen improvements in the Renal Unit with extra machines and Air Conditioning soon to be installed, and this is all through money raised during Life Cycle. Let us hope the Maltese public can respond again.

Alan Curry
Life Cycle Organiser

Post Office



Counters Ltd.

21st September 2001

The Editor

Dear Mr Snowden,

First of all can I apologise for not replying to your enquiry earlier but your letter has only just landed on my desk.

In response to your enquiry, here is a statement on the issues you raised about the new Haydon Bridge Post Office.

A Post Office spokesman said:

"The Haydon Bridge Post Office offers customers a brighter and better environment in which to carry out their shopping and conduct Post Office transactions under the same

roof, with an open-plan counter and the need to only queue once.

"A further benefit is that the Haydon Bridge Post Office is now open far longer than traditional Post Office branches are, seven days a week, giving customers even greater convenience.

"There are a number of security measures in place at the office, which, for obvious reasons, we are not willing to discuss."

"If customers are concerned about privacy, they are able to ask a member of staff to use a separate office within the premises to conduct their transactions, although this is primarily aimed at business customers.

"The move into the Haydon Bridge Co-op was welcomed by the Post Office as it has helped to maintain a vital service in the village which could otherwise have been lost."

I hope that is a satisfactory response to the points you have raised.

Many Thanks.

Sean Edmunds

Press Officer
Group Centre
Group Communications

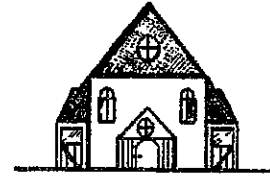
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London EC1V 9HQ.

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Reg Charity No. PH / 522069/R

AUTUMN FAYRE

An Autumn Fayre and Table Top Sale will be held in the Community Centre on
Saturday 13th October starting at 2.00pm.

Stalls to include cakes, fresh produce, Tombola and Books to name but a few. Donations would be very welcome.

Refreshments will also be available.

Members of the Computer Group will be on hand to promote the new computer facility in the Community Centre and to assist you if you have any queries.

To book a table telephone **Valerie Bell** on: **01 434 684 705** (evenings)

HAYDON & ALLEN VALLEYS MEDICAL PRACTICE

FLU JABS

12th OCTOBER

In the

METHODIST CHAPEL

at Haydon Bridge

Please come according to the first letter of your surname and the schedule below;

A-E	10—11
F-J	11—12
K-O	12—1
P-T	2—3
T-Z	3—4

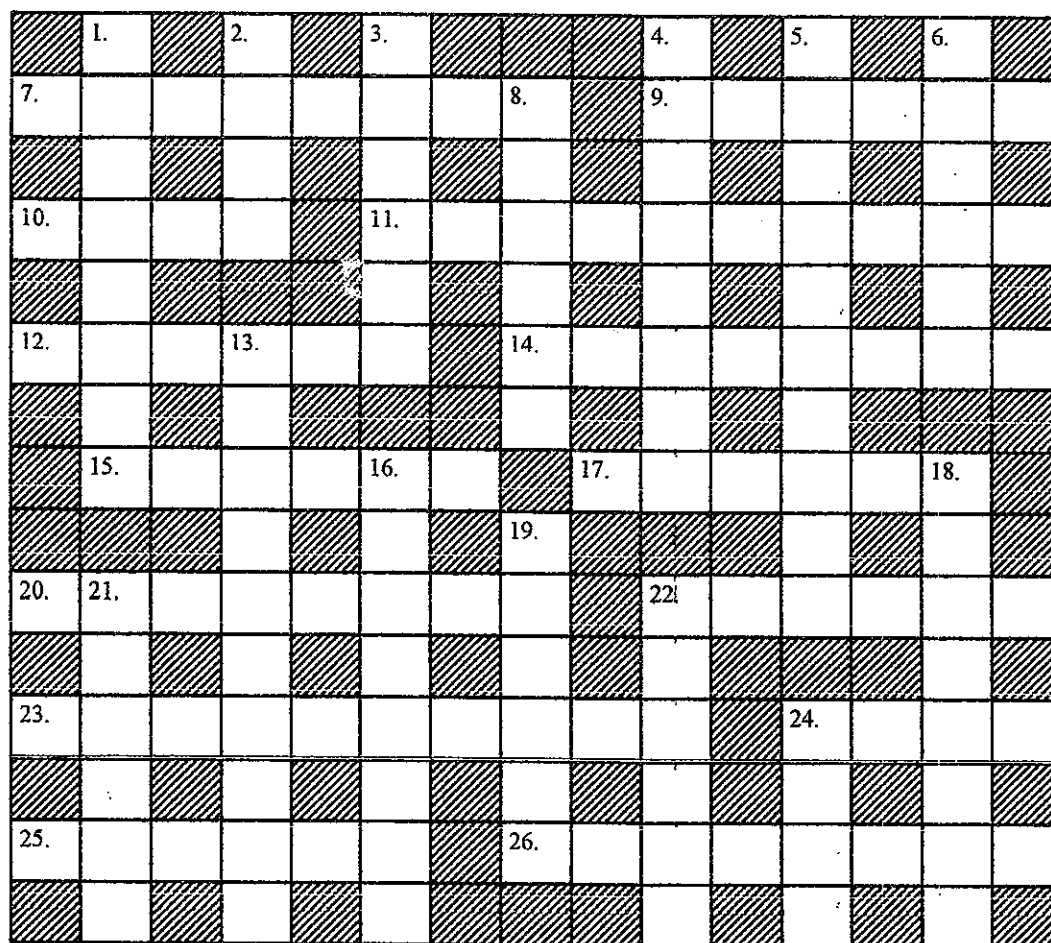
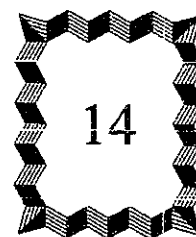
There will be an extra session for extras between 6 and 7.

Alternatively, please make an appointment to attend the Health Centre at a time and date convenient to you

The £10 Crossword

NAME:

ADDRESS:



ACROSS

7. A choosing process. (8)
 9. Timely concert accompanies exercise. (6)
 10. First class tree? (4)
 11. South Asian rebel. (5,5)
 12. Unit of currency. (6)
 14. Rex mostly used Post Office for photograph. (8)
 15. Woman has vehicle test? (6)
 17. Mocked. (6)
 20. Breakaway group in wood. (8)
 22. Rest. (6)
 23. A nest and African river combine in fruits. (10)
 24. Race? (4)
 25. Area of influence. (6)
 26. Without equal. (4-4)

DOWN

1. Rector mostly surrounded by fruit. Plucky? (8)
 2. Feature of limestone country. (4)
 3. Envy placing race in German drink. (6)
 4. Neat pudding. (5,3)
 5. Laughable airfield? (5,5)
 6. On stage or in court. (6)
 8. Unfeeling royalty in quantity. (6)
 13. 'Queen of the Midlands' (10)
 16. Crown. (8)
 18. At length man appears in cube. (8)
 19. Scottish waterway. (6)
 21. With quiet Ian so instruments are made. (6)
 22. Angry Ernest? (6)
 24. Most of the staff are confused in Lent. (4)

Entries to be received by the Editor on or before MONDAY 22nd October

Best of luck

Please hand in your entry to:

any of the businesses indicated at the top of Page 2

or by post to: The Editor, Wheelsteads, Woodhall Mill, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6AS

Solution to Crossword number 13 will be found on page 14

HAYDON NEWS WEB SITE: www.haydonbridge.demon.co.uk/

'THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE'**Dates and Times of Meetings**

Committee Meetings are held at 8.00pm on the **TUESDAY** following the fourth **THURSDAY** of each month.

Venue: The Community Centre, Haydon Bridge

Public Participation

Our invitation to members of the public to participate continues, but it must be remembered these are the monthly meetings of a constitutionally-based committee which are run on formal business lines (agenda, minutes, reports, etc). For this reason, public participation will in future be restricted to a maximum of the first 30 minutes of every meeting only. Items for discussion must be notified in writing to the Chair one week in advance of the meeting so that Committee members can be advised, enabling worthwhile discussion to take place. The Chair will then advise the person concerned of the right to attend.

After the allotted time we ask that you leave the meeting so that the Committee can continue with their formal agenda.

Charles Thomas, Chairman.

Tynedale Citizens Advice Bureau

We hold a free, confidential, independent advice and information session at:

The Health Centre, Haydon Bridge
on Monday afternoons
from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

We can give you advice and information on:

Social Security Benefits	Money Problems
Consumer Rights	Problems at work
Relationship issues	Housing
Employment	Legal Proceedings

And much moretry us!

We can help you fill in forms, draft letters, negotiate by telephone or letter, and prepare Social Security reviews or appeals.

Ring the Health Centre (01 434 684 216) to make an appointment or, if required, to arrange for a home visit.

MUSIC and MOVEMENT

Calling all Mums! Did you know that there is a Music and Movement group running in Haydon Bridge?

We meet at the Methodist Church on Friday afternoons (1.10pm and 1.50pm) during term time.

This is a fun get-together for Mums and pre-school children alike which involves singing, instrument playing and movement with coffee and orange juice served afterwards.

Please contact **Susie Steven** on:

01 434 674 260 for further details.

(Please note change of telephone number)

ACHES and PAINS?

Do you or your pet suffer from aches or pains?

Why not wear a **MAGNETIC** product?

With a money back guarantee, it must be worth a try.

For more information contact:

Iris Stafford Four Winds

Heugh House Lane
Haydon Bridge
NE47 6ND

Telephone / Fax: 01 434 688 014



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STRESS & TENSION,
HAY-FEVER & BRONCHIAL SYMPTOMS
GENERAL RELAXATION AND BODY BALANCING

Phone: Liz Jukes on 688 851

A.D.A.P.T.

Action by Differently Abled People in Tynedale

Are you retired or semi-retired?

Why not put some of your spare time into driving for
A.D.A.P.T.'s

Community Transport Scheme.

It's a chance to meet people and get involved
in the community.

We provide on-going support and all expenses are paid.

ALL DRIVERS MUST BE OVER 25

AND HOLD A FULL

LICENCE FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

For more information phone Bob or Eyra on:

Tel: 01 434 606 156

Fax: 01 434 600 599

Minicom: 01 434 607 262

Patron: Henry Straker (Spirit of Enterprise Award 1997)

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State Registered Chiropodist
Member of the Society of Chiropodists

Treatment available at the Haydon Bridge Health Centre
and at

25, Burswell Avenue, Hexham

For appointments and enquiries.
Telephone: 01 434 608 612

THE MEETING PLACE

AT

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Come and Join your friends for
Coffee and Refreshments on

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am - 12 noon

FAX facilities

Warm welcome to all

**HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED
ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB**

HBUAFC hold their monthly meeting on the first Tuesday
of every month at 7:30pm in the Lounge of the *Railway
Hotel* where representatives of every football team in the
village are invited to attend.

This meeting is also open to members of the public.

NEED HELP WITH

Tax Returns, Accounts, Book-keeping etc ?

Ring

BASSETT HERRON & CO.

Chartered Accountants

3, Market Street, Hexham

Tel: 01 434 605 666

We Can Help YOU

Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'

Charles Thomas (Chairman)

Mike Parkin (Vice Chairman)

Elena Parkin

Alistair Bowen

'Mitch' Mitchell

Pauline Tulip

Sylvia Mitchell

Richard Snowdon

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOPS. THEY NEED OUR CUSTOM TO SURVIVE.

WHIST DRIVES

Langley Village Hall

POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
DUE TO F&M CRISIS

Solution to crossword (13)

Ten (10) entries were of which
nine (9) were all correct.

Dennis Telford
Philida Irving
Rene Armstrong
Mrs A M Scott
Maureen Robson
B Pearson
A Phillips
Rosemary Shout
Denis Bell

BOXING has also been allowed
as the answer to '4 down' even
though it was suggested that
there were LIQUID connections.

TINY TOTS*From Birth to 3 years.*

The sessions, run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9.30 to 11.30 at St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, aim to provide a friendly environment where parents / carers can meet, have a coffee and chat, whilst the children play and have fun.

Cost: £1 for the first child, 50p for each additional child.

For further information contact

Genevieve Stone on: 01 434 684 537 or call in at one of the sessions.

PLAYGROUP*From 2 years 6 months*

Playgroup currently runs on Monday and Friday mornings from 9.15 to 11.45. Each session provides your child with the opportunity to learn through play and to experience a wide range of activities. Children learn, through play, to communicate effectively and happily, at their own pace, with other children and adults. Playgroup is run by a qualified Nursery Nurse Teacher plus assistants.

Cost: £3 per session.

For further information contact Helen Easby on: 01 434 674 371 or call in at one of the sessions.

St Cuthbert's Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.



£10 winner out of the hat:
Mrs A M Scott

		C		M				I		R			
M	E	R	S	E	Y		U	N	B	O	L	T	
E		O		K		R		D		W		H	
E	D	I	S	T	O		I	D	O	L	I	S	E
W		S		N		V		L		N		B	
B	A	R	I		G	L	E	N	E	A	G	L	E
Y		N				R		N				S	
		A	G	O	O	D	R	E	T	U	R	N	
T				V		O				I		S	
C	H	I	C	H	E	S	T	E	R		V	A	L
A		R		R		H		I		E		O	
S	M	O	O	C	A	V	E		B	A	R	R	O
E		U		W		R		B		E		P	
S	A	C	K	E	D		C	L	A	S	P	S	
		H		D				E		K			

EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE HAYDON NEWS

The editorial policy of the *Haydon News* is ultimately the responsibility of the Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge', although day-to-day responsibility is delegated to the Editorial Committee of the *Haydon News*. Our intention is always to ensure that the content of the *Haydon News* is as fair and factually correct as possible. Any complaints concerning editorial policy should be addressed in writing to the Chairman of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge', and will be considered by and receive a formal response from the Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'. Complaints other than those made above will not be entertained.

The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide which letters are to be published, and to alter or shorten letters when necessary. Anonymous letters will NOT be published. A nom-de-plume may be used provided that the Editorial Committee has been advised of the writer's name and address.

Charles Thomas, (Chairman)
South View, Heugh House Lane,
Haydon Bridge, NE47 6ND

DEADLINE: All contributions to the *Haydon News* to reach the Editor no later than Monday 22nd October 2001.

CHURCH PAGE

CLERGY MESSAGE

Rev David Hasson

As the 'new boy' in the clergy team of Christians Together in Haydon Bridge it falls to my lot to write the 'clergy bit' for this month's 'Haydon News'.

My name is David (not much change there) Hasson as you will have read in a previous issue. By birth I am a West Cumbrian, having been born and brought up in Whitehaven before moving to Keswick, Edinburgh, Bristol and Northallerton. I have worked on farms, down a coal mine, and in youth work. For the last 14 years (of which 6 have been in Haltwhistle), I have been in the Methodist Ministry. My wife is called Anne (the 'e' is important) and we have two daughters, two son-in-laws and two grand-children.

Now that the Allendale, Haltwhistle and Hexham Circuits have become the Tynedale Circuit, Haydon Bridge has been added to my responsibilities. I am looking forward to serving amongst you and getting to know some of you - although some I may never meet.

That's enough about who I am. What am I here to do? First and foremost I am here to serve God as he is the creator of heaven and earth and all in it and I have experienced His love for me. That service of God requires that I work with other Christians in the area, no matter what their denomination, to do the tasks which God wants us to do in Haydon Bridge. Primary among these will be worship, because it is through worshipping together that Christians receive the power for the work they have to do.

Within the community that work will be seen as Christians share God's love for people with those they meet daily. This will show itself in practical ways, visiting, helping people in need, listening, sharing their experience of Christ and many other ways.

At this time that sharing of love is important as we support people we know who are going through difficult times with the Foot and Mouth epidemic. Also the events that have unfolded in America in the last weeks have demonstrated that there are many people who have little regard for the life of others and they need to be brought to the point where they know God's love and have a desire to share it with others.

While this may seem an impossibility to us nothing is impossible to God as people are faithful to Him.

Haydon Bridge welcomes Rev David Hasson. Best wishes, David, for your time as a minister in our community. It's good to have you with us.

September / October 2001

AN INDEPENDENT SUPPLEMENT TO THE HAYDON NEWS

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN HAYDON BRIDGE

*Introducing our new logo! Mission 2002.
We have decided that, from Advent 2001 till the end of 2002
we should have an outreach theme.*



*With the different crises that have affected the world in 2001,
we need to help people find a faith in God which can lead
them more confidently into the future. churches in Haydon
Bridge have decided that all our events from Advent*

WHO AND WHERE

The names and phone numbers of the
clergy who minister in Haydon Bridge

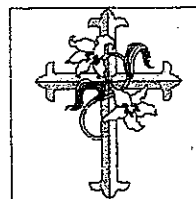
Rev David Hasson, with the Methodist congregation
The Manse, Moorview, Haltwhistle 320.051

Father Leo Pyle, with St John's Catholic Church
St John's Presbytery, North Bank 684.265

Canon Vincent Ashwin, with St Cuthbert's C of E
The Vicarage, Station Yard 684.307

HARD TIMES

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN HAYDON BRIDGE decided not to cancel Harvest Festival last month. Harvest Sunday, September 16th, was only five days after the terrorist attacks on the United States. Also, several farms in the parish had had their flocks and herds culled the previous fortnight. The morning and evening services had the theme: Thanks to God for his harvest gifts; sorrow before God at the violence of humankind; prayer to God for peace, justice and humanity; hope before God that his Kingdom will come; and silence before God to share innermost feelings. Members of all Haydon Bridge's churches took part in the services.



METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

October 2nd

7.30pm Men's Christian Fellowship

Oct. 3rd 2.30pm Women's Own
Speaker Mrs C Perkins
Soloist - Mrs K Todd

October 7th

10.00am Rev David Perkins

6.00pm Rev George Ambler

October 14th

10.00am Mrs W Huntsman

6.00pm United Service, at Trinity

Oct 16th 7.30pm Men's Fellowship

Oct 17th 2.30pm Women's Own
Speaker: Rev A Beniams

October 21st

10.00am Mrs L Marsh, Family Service

6.00pm Rev Vincent Ashwin

October 28th

10.00am Rev D Perkins, Covenant Serv.

6.00pm United Service, Haltwhistle

Oct 30th 7.30pm Men's Fellowship

Oct 31st 2.30pm Women's Own
Speaker: Mrs J Appleby

November 4th

10.00am Mr Patrick Eavis

6.00pm Local arrangement

Operation Christmas Child is running its shoebox appeal again this year. You fill a shoe box with presents, which will go to children in Eastern Europe who do not otherwise get any Christmas present. Wentworth Leisure Centre or Kwik-fit Haugh Lane are our nearest collection points, and boxes can be left there from 29th October to 12th November. Otherwise, leave your box at one of the churches, and we'll get them to Hexham. Last year, church congregations in the UK sent 64,000 boxes out of a total of 750,000. Boxes went to children in more than a dozen countries. Phone Gill and Tony Macdonald for details: 632.298.



The Harvest Thanksgiving service planned for Haydon Old Church will not now take place. There is still a risk of Foot and Mouth Disease spreading to the North side of the parish.

Remembrance Day is the next joint service: Sunday, November 11th at 10.15am in St Cuthbert's.

CALENDAR FOR ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

Oct 3 7.00pm Healing service
7.30pm Church Council meeting

October 7th 17th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)

10.30am All-Age Service & Address

6.00pm Ordination Service, Hex Abbey

October 14th 18th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Communion & Sermon

Oct. 20th 125th anniversary service of the Mothers' Union, Cathedral

October 21st 19th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)

10.30am Morning Prayer & Sermon

Oct. 25th Harvest Supper, 7.30pm

October 28th Saints Simon & Jude

10.30am Parish Communion & Sermon

Thu. Nov 1st, All Saints Day

7.30am Holy Communion

Fri. Nov 2nd All Souls' Day

7.00pm Memorial Service

November 4th All Saints Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)

10.30am All-Age Service & Address

The Ordination of Revd Alan Currie as a priest will be performed by the Bishop of Newcastle at Hexham Abbey on Sunday October 7th at 6.00pm. At the service, Alan and Revd Christine Bull of Wall parish will receive the laying-on of hands from many of their fellow priests, as well as the bishop. A bus-load will be going from Haydon Bridge and Bardon Mill. Alan's first Communion services will be the following Sunday - 9.00am at Henshaw Church, and 10.30am at St Cuthbert's. And Alan will preach at those services too.

A prayer of sadness, remembering the American bombing, and Foot & Mouth

O God, we look on from a distance as Jesus is crucified again in our own day. Still today your son Jesus cries out: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Still today our brother Jesus is crucified in our sisters and brothers in the violence of the world. We weep, as you weep as well. Your dream for mankind goes awry. Show your love today in this time of distress, and this season of so much death. Raise up all who suffer violence to live in wholeness. Hear our prayer, Lord God. Amen.

SERVICES AT ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am.

Mass at 11.0 at Haltwhistle each Sunday.

Mass on weekdays (except Mondays), at 10.00am, either at St John's or at Haltwhistle.

COMMENT

Vincent Ashwin

Many words have been written about the terrorist outrage in America last month. We received moving emails from friends in the USA; each message was full of shock; most friends said they were praying for a reasoned response. "Further killing, especially of women and children, cannot be justified in the name of revenge."

Other moving statements have come from faith leaders throughout the world. For example, Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem wrote to their friends in the USA, saying:

"We are stunned at the enormous tragedy that hit America this week. As we grieve the loss of so many lives, we share your sorrow, fear and concern for your loved ones and all innocent people, victims of hatred and sick minds. As Palestinians, who have also been victims of terror, we are appalled at the reports of Palestinians celebrating your tragedy. Amidst all the pain and injustice that we have been living through in the past year, we condemn all terrorist crimes that dehumanize and perpetrate evil. Now is the time to work with more determination to deal with the root causes that create violence, a violence that is consuming our world."

They enclosed a joint statement made by the Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders in Bethlehem:

"We and all people of good faith and goodwill - whatever their religious, ethnic or racial background - are appalled by these terrible attacks. As Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders, we believe that it is vital amid so much anguish to nourish all that we hold in common, and to resist all that would drive us apart."

Religion is not the dividing force here. It is extremism that divides people, and that extremism is often driven by people who have a grievance, and wish to take revenge against those who have hurt or oppressed them. ? Revenge is not a New Testament response. As the Bishop of Jerusalem says: *"We struggle against evil in the world - but we must not resort to the means of the evildoers."*

An Autumnal Assortment of Agitprop.

ALAS POOR GOOSE - I KNEW HIM WELL.

Feedback on items contained in this column is always welcome. Accordingly, it was with particular interest that I read an hilariously detailed, if scatological and mildly depraved, description of the unequalled delights afforded to one reader by following advice recently offered. My correspondent concluded: "At this stage the goose died of it's exertions and made delightful eating." Another satisfied customer!

HEALTH ALERT

From the Internet;

Number of physicians in the USA;	700,000
Physician caused accidental deaths in the USA;	120,000
Accidental deaths per physician;	0.171
(US Department of Health and Human Services)	
Number of gun owners in the USA;	80,000,000
Number of accidental gun deaths per year;	1,500
Accidental gun deaths per gun owner;	0.0000188

Statistically, doctors are about 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners. Not everyone has a gun but almost everyone has at least one doctor. Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. We must ban doctors before this gets out of hand. I have withheld the statistics on lawyers for fear that the shock could cause people to seek medical aid.

It should be remembered that most gun related deaths in America are not accidental.

The British Medical Journal contained the following mind game: You arrive at the scene of a house fire and discover that ten people are trapped inside. You rescue nine but one dies. Should you be cited for bravery or indicted for homicide? The parallel was drawn with a doctor who diagnoses nine patient's ailment correctly but fails one.

GLORIOUS TECHNICOLOUR

We have just purchased a digital camera for the practice. This will have a number of uses in the care of patients; education of professionals, documenting treatment and outcomes, diagnosis, audit of minor surgical procedures and recording evidence for legal purposes etc.

All pictures of patients or even just pieces of patients require proper consent by the patient before the lens cap comes off. If a photograph is proposed the whole issue will be discussed fully with the patient first.

SNAFU - SITUATION NORMAL, ALL FAXED UP

A few weeks ago we received faxes from various official bodies on the withdrawal of cerivastatin, the withdrawal of certain SMA milk products and problems relating to landfill sites. All of these arrived some hours AFTER the appearance of the same news in the national daily papers. Truly, one could wish for evidence of intelligent life amongst those to whom the central operation of the NHS has been delegated. The words *brewery, party, arrange* and *not* spring to mind. Grrrrrrrrrr!

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY BEFRIENDING SERVICE

To provide companionship and support to sufferers and their carers the society has established a befriending service. Contact Liz Tait, 8/9 Market Place, Hexham. NE46 1XF on 01434 601555 for more information.

ANOTHER NEW SERVICE

There is now an Erectile Dysfunction Clinic at Hexham General Hospital for men who are experiencing difficulties in this department. Women do not have a monopoly on sensitive problems - we would wish men to know that they will receive a sensitive and sympathetic response to what can be a devastating difficulty.

SQUEEEZE

Not only are we in the midst of redecorating the Health Centre but we are also taking the opportunity to rearrange the layout of the rooms too and further subdivide them. The doors that lead from the consultation rooms into the neighbouring examination or office rooms will be sealed up. My old examination room will then be a staff room and the old staff room will become a second treatment room.

We will then be able to have up to five (at a pinch six) people seeing patients at any one time - two doctors, two nurses and one or two others (social worker, counsellor, CAB, chiropodist, dietician etc.).

Plans have been sketched for possible extensions but funding has yet to be found. Anyone wishing to contribute to the decision about what happens should let us know.

AN EXTENSIVE PALETTE

People can go many different colours depending on what is wrong with them though the most frequently described colour, by patients or their relatives is black, as in; "My leg went absolutely black!" or "She went all black around her eyes!" If it's a bruise that is being described then almost any colour could be meant, from dark maroon to yellow to green. The "holes in snow" effect around eyes is more usually grey to dark beige - but it's a very subjective judgment.

Pale grey can be achieved, I have heard, by swallowing cordite. A trick adopted by military personnel in times past when they wished to feign illness. Patients with very low blood pressure, who are in shock - to use the term correctly, often have a sickly pallor that verges on the grey.

In the old days, when women could become profoundly anaemic, they were sometimes described as having chlorosis. This referred to the slightly green tinge to their pale skin. I have only seen one green patient and that was due to illumination with gaslight in a remote rural dwelling without electricity. She really was the most fetching shade of pale Chartreuse or possibly even Eau de Nil.

Yellow skin and eyes can come from jaundice which reflects a problem with the liver (such as Yellow Fever) or rarely it can be due to treatment with mepacrine for malaria though that is obsolete now. Yellow nail syndrome is not well understood but quite often found.

If a patient is blue then they are short of oxygen either due to heart or lung disease or because the skin's blood supply has slowed to the point that only deoxygenated blood is present in the skin's blood vessels. In erythema multiforme one can have red rings on the skin with grey/blue centres - which can be dramatic to look at.

Patients who have poisoned themselves with carbon monoxide are bright cherry red and quite, quite dead. Live red patients, regardless of gender, may have a condition called "l'homme rouge" if they become strikingly red all over. This may be caused by both skin diseases and as a consequence of other internal conditions.

The cervix of a pregnant uterus is classically described as heliotrope - a bit of a "Changing Rooms" or "Ground Force" shade I regret to say.

With certain infections a tongue is described as being strawberry.

For really dramatic colour schemes you have to turn to paediatrics. Very, very rarely a baby will be half blushed and half blanched - divided down the middle. This is "Harlequin syndrome" and is due to an immaturity of the nerves controlling the flow of blood to the skin.

A TIMELY REMINDER

Winter draws on! We really hope to see hardly anyone this winter with coughs, colds, sore throats and flu of the ordinary variety.

ANTIBIOTICS HAVE NO EFFECT ON VIRUSES - IT IS ALMOST ALWAYS VIRUSES THAT CAUSE COUGHS, COLDS AND FLU ETC.

Rest in bed, plenty to drink and simple painkillers are all that is required. If the phlegm has been outstandingly green and huge in amount for **several weeks** then lets have a look at you and see.....

NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

There must be something in the water locally. Every doctor who joins the practice becomes pregnant and spends months and months idling around on maternity leave - an endless vista of snoozing in the sun, grazing in the fridge, retail therapy and coffee mornings! Despite my best efforts I have been unable to follow suit and so I have come up with a cunning plan to even up the dossing around quota.

On October 2nd I am going to have my chassis straightened and steering realigned courtesy of the neurosurgeons. Taxed, tested AND RESTED, I should be back on the road in December.

In my absence Mary Henderson, Michelle George, Gail Young and Laura Anderson will be sharing the work. SF.