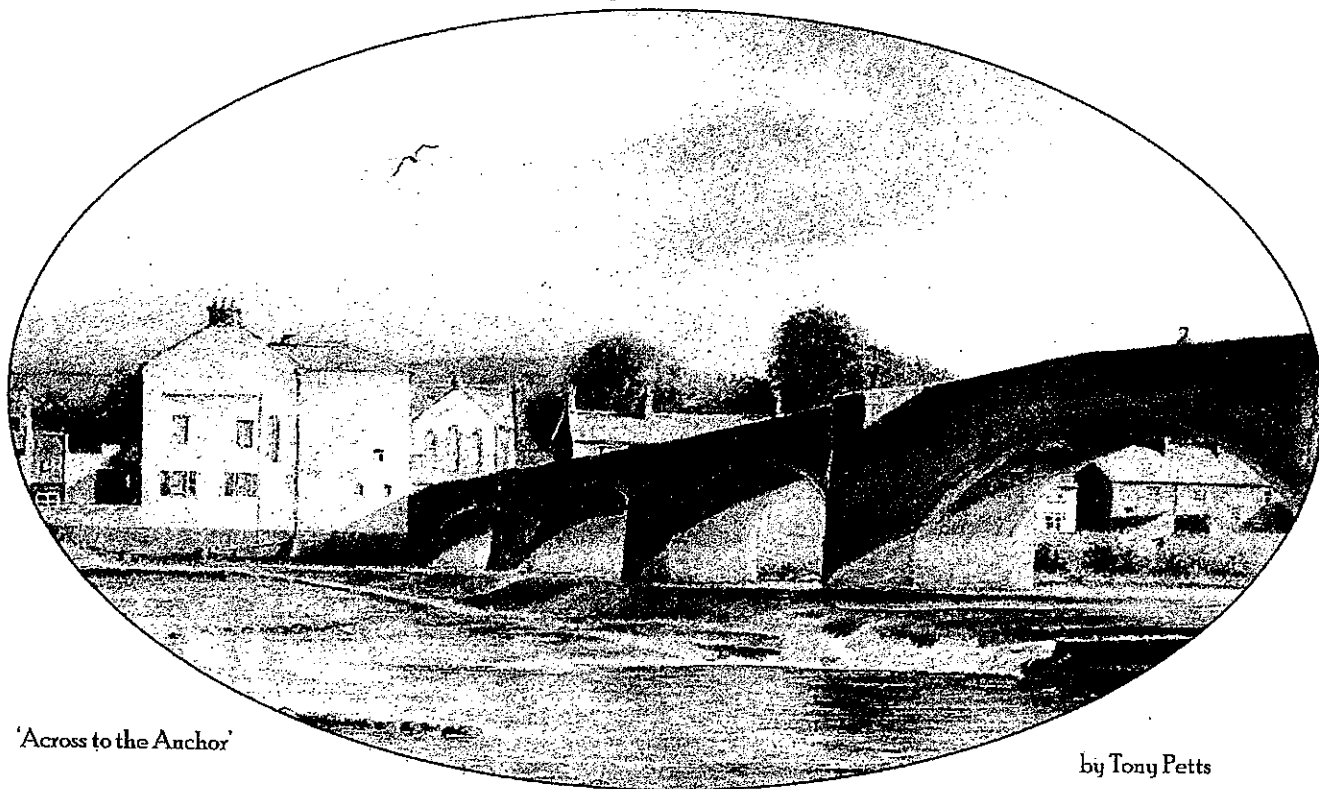


The Haydon News



'Across to the Anchor'

by Tony Petts



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issue 02

February – March

2003

Full colour versions of the cover print can be seen at:
www.paettzart.co.uk

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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The show, given by "Circus Berzercus" will be staged on:

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PRIZE BINGO

Organised by

'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2003

7.00pm. - 9.00pm.

Community Centre

Book of tickets only 50p
each session of 5 games.

Free Tea & Coffee at half time

RAFFLE

All age groups are most
welcome to attend.

The evening will be hosted by:

Pauline - Sylvia

Chris Sim is the caller

50% of the proceeds to:

'Mothers Union'

'THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE'

Formal Committee Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the **MONDAY** before the fourth
THURSDAY of each month at The Community Centre, Haydon Bridge.

(The General Public is welcome at the first part of every meeting.)

Any items for discussion must be notified in writing to the Chairman one week in advance of the
meeting so that Committee members can be advised, enabling worthwhile discussion to take
place. The Chairman will then advise the person concerned of the right to attend.

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 Anonymous letters will NOT be
published.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

Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'

Charles Thomas (Chairman)	Mike Parkin (Vice Chairman)
Elena Parkin (Secretary)	Alastair Bowen (Treasurer)
Pauline Tulip	Sylvia Mitchell
Louis Parkin	Jacqueline Outterside
Richard Snowdon (Editor)	

EDITORIAL COMMENT

I would like to begin this month's introduction by thanking our past Editor Mitch who helped me out of a sticky situation last month. I had three and a bit pages to print when the machine stopped and could not be repaired. I was able to use his 'old' machine to complete the *Haydon News* in time. *Many thanks Mitch.*

I have been pleasantly surprised by the number of people who have expressed their liking for the 'new look' to the *Haydon News*. This is most heartening so I hope that the current issue lives up to expectations.

Having said that, this publication is for you and its contents are produced by you. We have the regular, welcome contributors like Dennis Telford, The Women's Institute, Over 60's and Dance clubs. The regular, and I must say, increasingly popular Crossword. Have you had a go yet?

You will see that this month I have not included any Press

Releases partly because none have really been appropriate to our area but also because I have enclosed in full a letter and some poems from our good friend, Harold Humble.

I make no apologies for this but would remind readers that were we not to have the regular contributors the *Haydon News* would be extremely thin, so thin in fact that it would only be a '*vehicle*' for the advertisers.

Throughout the village, *vehicle* parking is a big problem. One remedy would be to have Double Yellow lines painted, and policed!! How about painting yellows on Church Street and both John Martin and Shaftoe Streets? This would surely end the aggravation caused by the bottlenecks on these roads. But where would residents' cars go? The Parish Council is concerned. Are You? We would welcome your thoughts.

Please get in touch. Remember a 'pen-name' is acceptable providing I have your name and address.

Richard A D Snowden (Editor)

HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

*Meeting held Thursday 27th February 2003
Haydon Bridge Community Centre*

Present were: 10 Councillors, the Chairman, the Clerk and 6 members of the Public.

An apology for absence was received from our County Councillor.

Public Participation: 1. Mr David Tait gave a very brief presentation on his submission for outline planning permission to build on Tait's Yard. He was not able to be any more specific than to say that there would be housing.

2. Residents on Church Street reported that sewage smells had returned. The County Council has washed out the surface drains and Northumbria Water has cleaned also. The Co-op is experiencing the smells and people are wondering if the works on Church Street have cracked pipes. Further investigation needed.

3. Drainage problems at the cemetery. Cllr Smith has investigated and is sure that the drainage pipe under the road must be blocked. He has tried rodding it but has had problems. The County Council will have to be involved and a letter is to go from the Parish Council.

4. Road to Fourstones. Cllr Smith had received a notice on 21 January indicating that the road would be closed to traffic for a further 6 weeks. By rights that should mean that it will be open

sometime next week!

Minutes & Matters arising from the last meeting.

Further to last month's report another **bollard** has been knocked down on Church Street. Would it not be best to remove them all?

The **painting of the underpass** has finished and the team are looking for more worthwhile projects to undertake. Suggestions should be channelled through the PC.

The **white van** which has been causing some obstruction on Church Street is reported as being a 'private' vehicle not used for business, and therefore the Police are unable to ask the owner to move it.

A **new barrier** on the bridge has already been damaged! By whom and when?

Information has been received that **bollards are to be erected outside the Co-op** and will be placed at 3 metre intervals thereby affording pedestrians ample space to cross the road. Let's hope that the bollards will be very much more substantial than those erected on Church Street.

Martins Close Traffic calming measures are going ahead but at slightly different placings from those originally

planned. Residents however are agreed.

Northumbria Water has indicated that there will be no compensation for the residents of Church Street who were subjected to much inconvenience whilst NW were re-laying pipes!

Railtrack has indicated that when the plans for the crossing are drawn up consultations will begin. There is likely to be a ramped access onto the east-bound platform. Will access become a general problem if, and when, the new barriers are installed?

Cllr Smith reported that the lighting at **Langley crossroads** has been fixed but that the Give Way signs have not.

A resident on Shaftoe Street had asked if it would be possible to have a '**Keep Clear**' sign. There would appear to be no immediate answer to this.

However, this issue caused much debate as not only was Shaftoe Street causing problems for traffic but similar situations were arising on John Martin Street.

Cllr Gilhespy reported that there had been occasions when the school buses could not negotiate Shaftoe Street and had to let children off by the Anchor for them then to have to walk up to school. Not a satisfactory situation. This street which is designated as '**2 way**' is quickly becoming '**1 way**'.

Councillors felt that whilst residents on both roads had every right to have their cars close to their homes, there has to be some drastic action taken in order that congestion is eased. Access has to be maintained for emergency services and this double parking hinders that access.

The Council wondered whether all residents might be asked for their views.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? ANY IDEAS?

Haydon Bridge Bypass. There are to be two exhibitions of the proposals for the Bypass and an advertisement to this effect is shown on page 9.

Cllr Smith reported on the **Draft Plan for Open Access.** Apart from one area at Nilston Rigg, everything else was..... WRONG!!!

There is a great deal of contradiction in the wishes of those drawing up these plans.

Dog Bin at the Showfield. Nice to have one but it is in the wrong place.

Tynedale Council Minutes.

There is a move to allow the **Public more access to the workings of the Council.** It is proposed that the Public can attend meetings between 5.30 & 6.30. The next one is Tuesday 4th March held at the Tynedale Function Suite (Hexham).

As the **A69 Bypass** pressure group had been successful as a special study TDC was now looking for more projects. The PC indicated that one might be the provision of toilets on the north of the river.

The **number of beds in the new hospital** has been a concerning issue. Assurances have been given that there will be sufficient for the area. Still a feeling that Hexham could turn out to be another Carlisle.

Council Tax. Whilst the imminent rise is not welcome it could have been larger if TDC had not used some of its reserves.

Questions have been asked about the increased growth bureaucracy and planned new building to accommodate the Council.

On a connected issue Local Elections are due on 1st May so anyone wishing to have a Postal Vote should make sure that they get it.

Highways. All footpaths in the area are to be checked again as a number seem still to be closed.

Lighting. Cllr Mitchell expressed his disappointment that he had not been able to meet with those people who were going to see to the provision of lighting in specific areas. Belmont etc.

Planning Applications. Four were submitted for discussion. Development of land on North Bank, Change of use of the old Post Office to residential, Tait's Yard and Plunder Heath. Apart from the Tait's Yard plan all were considered as being acceptable. Some reservations were expressed on the Yard because of its past use as an industrial site and being polluted. However, it seemed sensible to use it for housing as it would fill in the 'hole' created by the development of the Innerhaugh area.

The High School has also submitted a couple plans. One is for the erection of new signage at the entrance showing the school's new status as a Sports College. The other is for the construction of a 'half pipe' for skateboarders, bikes etc. Further discussion will be needed on this particularly with regard to its siting.

There were no village projects which came to mind though Cllrs were sure that there could very well be people out there who might have some ideas.

Any Other Business.

Concerns were expressed about the apparent lack of communication between the emergency services when there is an incident in the village.

Example. Following a recent disturbance after a party a great deal of glass was left on Shaftoe Street and across the Old Bridge. It took a great while before this was cleared. Had communication between the Services been better the area would have been cleared earlier.

Fly Tipping. This is becoming a serious problem. An example was cited where tyres had been dumped on to someone's garden. It has proved very

difficult for this person to get rid of the unwanted rubbish.

Cllrs felt that the whole population has got to be made aware of the need to be more active in re-cycling.

Landfill sites are filling up and soon there will be no more suitable places. Education is needed so that everyone takes responsibility for their waste - sorting papers, glass, plastics etc, etc.

Cllr Charlton brought along **'Exhibition A' - a piece of masonry.**

This had recently fallen onto the pavement alongside Hordley Acres house which is increasingly falling further and further into disrepair. It is becoming dangerous and something must be done to protect the public.

RADS

Date / Time of next meeting:
27th March 2003 at 7.30pm

Venue:
Haydon Bridge Community Centre

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held on the 4th Thursday of each month.

The meeting is usually held in the Community Centre but occasionally goes elsewhere. The notice board, next to the Butcher's shop on Church Street always shows the likely agenda for each meeting and the venue.

The General Public is very welcome at the first part of every meeting. Have your say - *Brickbats and Bouquets!!*

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr. E J Faulks	(Chairman)
Mr. D Charlton	684 505
Mrs. E Charlton	684 505
Mrs. V Fletcher	688 872
Mrs. E Garrow	684 324
Mrs. L Gilhespy	684 632
Mr. S Mitchell	684 980 *
Mr. M Parkin	684 340
Mrs. L Philp	
Mr. D Smith	684 480 *
Mr. T Stephenson	

* also a Tynedale District Councillor

PARISH CLERK

Mrs. C McGivern 688 020
E-mail: carolemcgivern@aol.com

Ossie Moore was employed by the Haydon Bridge Co-op until his retirement in 1978. Ossie was manager of the store on the north side of the river.

It is the people of Haydon Bridge who make it such a grand place in which to live and over the years we have been fortunate to have had more than our fair share of those perhaps best described as, 'village characters', well known to everyone and worth a lasting place in Haydonian folklore. Without question, Ossie, who died in October 1991, falls into that category.

It must have been about 1973 as I supped my pint of Fed. Special and Ossie his usual gill in the Bar room of the Haydonian Working Men's Club. You could be forgiven for assuming that a working man who sticks to his gill, drinks less than a pint man during a session. Not necessarily so in my experience, in supping parlance, there are often three halves to a pint.

Anyway, that's by the way. On the occasion in question in 1973, I can well remember Ossie telling me and anyone else prepared to listen, how his wife Marjorie had acquired two sketchbooks from the 1830's. The artist was Martha Helen Davidson.

The lady's name meant nothing to me at the time, even though Ossie's story was the talk of the village. I know now that Martha Helen Davidson was from Westgate Street, Newcastle. She was born on 18th July 1786 and died aged only 42 years on 9th September 1834. She is buried in All Saint's Churchyard on the north side of Jesmond Road in Newcastle.

I was reminded of Ossie's story when researching material for my history of our late Queen Mother and her Ridley Hall connection. (*Haydon News: September/October/November 2002*). It would be remiss of me to end my chapters on Ridley Hall without referring to the sketchbooks which, thanks to the Haydon Bridge Spark and Moore families, have been saved from a wartime salvage collection for this and future generations to enjoy.

Martha Helen Davidson's drawings include Langley and its castle, Ridley

Hall and the Beltingham area in the Spring of 1832, as well as Gibside, Streatlam Castle and Glamis Castle. All places which are interconnected in my 2003 'notes' by the Bowes and Lyon family histories.

Many of the sketches in the books are views in Perthshire and Stirlingshire and were drawn in 1826, perhaps while Martha Helen was on holiday with her 'Strathmore' relatives, in August.

Our story however, has its beginnings in 1830 when John Davidson purchased Ridley Hall. His ancestors, the Lowes family, had held the Ridley Estates since 1653. Martha Helen Davidson was John Davidson's cousin, a daughter of Thomas Davidson and his wife Elizabeth (née Allen). It's probably safe to assume that Martha Helen's sketches of our locality were drawn while staying with her cousin John and his wife Susan, sister of the 10th Earl of Strathmore, at Ridley Hall in 1832. Whether the two books remained at Ridley Hall after the final sketches were completed or were returned there when Martha Helen died two years later, we cannot tell. What we do know however, is that over one hundred years later in 1942, the two books were within a few days of being destroyed and pulped when they were thrown out to be collected for the War Effort. Fortunately they were rescued by a Haydon Bridge businessman, John Spark.

John Spark worked occasionally as a gardener at Ridley Hall when Francis Bowes-Lyon, the Queen Mother's uncle, occupied the property. He was captain of the Haydon Bridge Auxiliary Fire Service and had a grocery shop in the village. My enquiries lead me to believe that his first business premises were on Ratcliffe Road, where Werner and Mary Nagle offer their services with a smile in 2003 and where John's daughter Marjorie was born seventy-nine years ago. Eventually the business was relocated across the road towards the corner of Church Street and Ratcliffe Road, between the Post Office and what was then the village Chemist shop where Jinny Anderson was behind the counter.

We have a typically perceptive description of John Spark's grocer's shop, written in March 1998 by our late lamented chronicler of Haydon Bridge activity, Bill Tait.

"What nostalgic memories come flooding back with the passing of time. I can see

John Spark as if it were only yesterday – serving a housemaid from one of the big houses up the bank as she stood immaculate in her blue and white starched attire. John would be wearing his clean white apron reaching down to his ankles, his little white dog sat out on the warm pavement watching the comings and goings of customers".

"Smells which linger in the mind come drifting back over the years from days of the grocers' shops of the 1930's. Danish butter packed in wooden barrels mingled with cheese, bacon, fresh ground coffee, soaps, sherbet, Cumberland sausage and twist tobacco – the latter being popular with Hal Henderson and his farmer friends and Wallace Milligan and countrymen like him. All these things produce a unique and unforgettable aroma that one cannot find in present day grocers' shops".

"Don't forget the Vicar's cigarettes and two packets of Mazawattee Tea" said John to his daughter Marjorie as she weighed out the sugar, dried fruits, butter, lard and cheese going into bigger and stronger white bags. "And his favourite sweets" John would add, as Marjorie reached up to the shelves amongst jars which contained sweets of every description....

It wasn't long after he recovered Martha Helen Davidson's nineteenth century sketchbooks that John Spark died, in May 1942 following an operation. He was one of Haydon Bridge's best known and respected men of the time, elected to the Parish Council in 1928 and appointed Chairman in 1937. He was a Manager and Governor of Shaftoe Trust School. The Central Methodist Church was too small to accommodate all the mourners wishing to pay their respect. My grandfather undertook the funeral arrangements and John's Haydon Bridge Fire Service colleagues were under bearers. Robbie Tait, Jack Leathard, Robin Armstrong and Tom Snowball. Haydon Bridge names that bring back so many memories!

Following John Spark's death the business property was sold to the Co-operative giving it premises on the

north side of the river in addition to its Shaftoe Street store. Interestingly, the Co-op had started its life on the north side in the building now occupied by Willie Mycock and his family. The new shop was extended by incorporating the house next to Mrs Robinson's Post Office, to provide the width of frontage which we have today.

The history of our Co-op is a story which would fill these columns many times over and perhaps that may be possible in the future, with the permission of the present owners of the Committee Documents. For the background to my 'notes' this month, only the briefest of information is necessary to jog the memory.

The store manager at the time of John Spark's death was John Willie Melvin and his assistant was Joe Longstaff who moved from the Shaftoe Street premises to take over the management of the newly acquired north side shop. When Joe Longstaff moved to Whitfield as store manager there, Charlie Cowing took responsibility for the Ratcliffe Road Co-op. Following Charlie's sudden death in November 1968 Ossie Moore became manager.

John Spark's daughter, Marjorie, continued to work for the Co-operative in the shop which had previously belonged to her family. Ossie Moore and Marjorie were married in May 1962 and importantly for this story, they continued to take good care of the Martha Helen Davidson sketchbooks.

In July 1973, Nancy Ridley, my grandfather's cousin and a renowned Northumbrian writer, opened St Cuthbert's Church Fete in Haydon Bridge and our vicar at the time, the Reverend Alec Benniams, introduced Miss Ridley to Marjorie's 'sketch books'. Nancy Ridley's subsequent research makes interesting reading and is published in her books, *"A Northumbrian At Large"* and *"Northumberland Then and Now"*.

"A Northumbrian At Large" was published in 1975 and after she had read the chapter on Martha Helen Davidson's sketchbooks, the Countess of Strathmore, who was herself trying to trace the background of this nineteenth century Newcastle lady, contacted the author.

Martha Helen Davidson visited Glamis Castle during August 1926. A number of her possessions are kept there, including two miniatures which have been photographed and copied by the Countess and given to the Moore family. They are of Martha Helen as a beautiful young woman. A fine sketch of Glamis Castle, drawn during her 1826 visit, is part of the collection found at Ridley Hall by John Spark.

Nancy Ridley visited Glamis Castle in May 1977 and as a result, the sketchbooks which were at Ridley Hall for one hundred and ten years and the treasured possessions of Marjorie, Ossie and their daughter Kathryn for thirty-five years, were loaned to the Strathmore family at Glamis Castle. 'The Seat of Mr. Bowes' which was completely demolished in March 1959, Gibside, where Martha Helen's Ridley Hall cousin, John Davidson, married Susan Hussey-Elizabeth Jessup on 21st December 1824. Wonderful views of the Allen Gorge, Ridley Bridge and Ridley Hall, Willimoteswick and Beltingham. A ruined Langley Castle and the long-gone Langley Smelting Mills. All as they were one hundred and seventy years ago.

If you are on holiday in Scotland and you have the opportunity to visit Glamis Castle in Angus, why not ask to see the Martha Helen Davidson sketchbooks and ponder on their Haydon Bridge connection.

As well as having an interesting history and being a pleasure to look at, Martha Helen's sketches have also benefited those people researching related topics. For example, Margaret Wills in her book *"Gibside and the Bowes Family"* published by the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries in 1995, refers to Martha Helen Davidson's 1927 Gibside sketchbook as the only views available which show Gibside as it used to be. These sketches are kept at the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle.

Martha Helen Davidson was not just an artist. I have visited Newcastle Central Library to view an example of her literary work, written in 1817.

I will leave you this month with a few lines of her poem *"Spirit of the South*

Tyne" It suggests a fondness for and knowledge of our beautiful countryside long before her cousin purchased Ridley Hall.

*My stream now rolls on,
It with triumph looks back on days that
are gone,
In memory's mirror reviews each past
scene,
And sighs o'er the great and the good
who have been.
By Willimoteswick Tower as I gently
glide,
I think on her martyr with glory and
pride
Hail Threepwood, as onward by thy
classic ground,
To the memory of Tweddell a requiem
I sound
Tho' in Theseus' famed temple his re-
lics repose, ⁽¹⁾
Still his shade hovers light o'er my
stream as it flows.
But chief, Ridley Hall! As I softly
glide by,
Claims for goodness departed my ten-
derest sigh,
And fain would I linger a while on my
way,
To virtue and talent a tribute to pay,
To piety warm, and to kindness sin-
cere,
And weep for their loss o'er thy Lowes'
sad bier!
But my stream may not tarry, for rapid
and strong
The water of Allen now urge it along:
O'er rocks and thro' woodlands they
foaming have rolled,
And passed in their course scenes ro-
mantic and bold,
From Whitfield to Starward-le-Peel's
ruined keep,
Thro' thy groves, Ridley Hall, and thy
crag rude and steep,
'Till lost in my current, now deep,
smooth and wide,
By Langely's grey turrets majestic I
glide.....*

M.H. Davidson 1817

*note: John Tweddell of Threepwood was buried in the Temple of Theseus in Athens in July 1799.

⁽¹⁾ My thanks are due to Marjorie Moore and Kathryn Arthur (nee Moore) for allowing me access to their documents.

CORRESPONDENCE

H. Humble
26, Wheatley St.,
Kyneton.
Victoria 3444.
Jan. 2003.

Dear Mitch, 'Friends of Haydon Bridge' and all Haydonians,

Happy New Year and one hopes you all had a wonderful Christmas.

Well life in 2002 "down under" to say the least has been disastrous. I have done very little writing due to constant small niggling problems, and to cap it all, at the moment, we are going through the worst drought in two hundred years, and looks likely to continue for some time.

Most of you would not be able to visualise what drought really is, in Australian terms. It means no rain for weeks, months and in this case years. It efficiently reduces the entire country to dust totally destroying all in its path. It is the most destructive killing machine nature has ever devised. Nothing is spared and there is not one thing anyone can do to stop it.

Yes, we do live with drought in Australia and it's part and parcel of farming. But not even the ultra efficient farmer could visualise some thing like this. Sheep and cattle are dying in their thousands. Most native animals cope quite well, but even they are feeling the pinch. Kangaroos and Emu are heading south in their tens of thousands in search of food and water. It's all just so sad and demoralising. Even more so for the farmers who take the brunt of it.

You have all seen what Foot and Mouth can do. I have seen it too. It's disastrous. What we are going through at the moment is a hundred times worse, and takes ten times longer to get over. Some farms never recover.

The bottom line is, it may not rain next year either! The moral of this story is! No matter how badly off we think we are, someone out there is ten times worse off than you are.

With the unpredictable constant changing of the weather, one wonders what we are doing wrong?

1st December, it was 38 Celsius; 7th December, it was 12 Celsius with snow on the high hills but no rain.

What next? To my way of thinking it must have something to do with the constant removal of trees and the extensive use of petrochemicals. Oil has much to account for.

When I was a kid in Haydon Bridge the place as alive with bird life. One would walk up the Dene and see ten different birds without looking. On my last trip over there, I saw very little signs of any birds what-so-ever. Makes one wonder what the word "progress" really means. One could well believe it's a mystery to all! Except MP's. And big business.

Well, although last year was a total disaster this year will be just the opposite. We don't always have control over our destiny, but we can certainly influence it a great deal if we put our minds to it. The moral of this story is! Keep trying. Some thing will give.

The only moral boosting thing which happened last year was my book of poetry. I am pleased to say sales have been buoyant, and 600 copies have been sold. Some in places as far away as Canada, Austria, Holland, U.S.A, Sweden and, believe it or not, a letter of request from Japan. To say the least I am highly pleased with myself.

It was very sad to hear my good friend Edna Rumney, past away. I must have known Edna, the best part of fifty years. One can sincerely say she was one of the best friends one could ever have, and will be sadly missed by all, myself in particular. In all the time I knew Edna, she always had a smile on her face. She was a wonderful person and I am sure if we all had her outlook on life, the world would be a much better place.

Unfortunately one has not been able to get the *Haydon News* on the internet. Any chance of getting it up-to-date?

The town I live in "Kyneton" which has around 5000 population, is situated fifty miles North of Melbourne, or forty minutes by the new Calder Freeway, 'motor way'. It's cooler and wetter than most parts of Australia except Tasmania. Because of the climate we have lots of English type trees and gardens, one can almost say it's home

from home. Also we are almost drought free. Unfortunately one only has to drive twenty miles north to see the full extent of the drought. We are very lucky, and it's a nice place to live. Not quite Haydon Bridge, but one can't have it all.

Although I have not written a great deal of poetry this year, I enclose a few for you to print if you wish.

A joke.

There was once a jockey who finished last in a horse race. The irate owner rushed up to the jockey on his return to scale, and in a loud voice said, "*Why did you not take that split at the top of the straight when you had the chance?*" "*What!*" said the jockey. "*And leave the horse behind!*"

Joke 2

A man was standing by the \$500 tote window at Hollywood Park horse races. Another man came up and placed \$500 on number 2 in a four horse race. A few minutes later he did the same again. Then two minutes later he bet \$500 again. Unable to contain him self any longer. The first man said, "*I don't wish to put you off. but that horse belongs to me and there is no way it is fast enough to win this race!*" "*That so!*" said the other man "*Looks like a real slow race. I own the other three!*"

The weather over here at the moment is quite warm, 85 degrees, but it can rise to 105+ without much trouble. January and February are our hottest months. As you have seen on the television the fires have started again over here. In Victoria we have been spared any out breaks so far this year but one fears it will not last.

For those of you who do not understand as to why we have these fires and why we don't do some thing about it before it arrives.

First, our population is very small. Of the 20,000,000 or so people who live here some 15,000,000 live in larger cities. Another 2,000,000 live in towns the size of Hexham. The rest are country people in an area bigger than the U. S.A.

Also the Eucalyptus Gum trees we have here, are a ready made fire disaster. After a long dry spell, they give off a gas which is highly inflammable. Couple that with a hot dry 50 mile an hour northerly wind and 100+ degree temperature, the fire travelling at up to 20 miles an hour and it is just unstoppable.

Another reason perhaps the most significant of all is! We only have these conditions once every twenty years or so. It's human nature to forget what happened twenty years ago. Only ten miles from here, fifty houses were burnt. Several people lost their lives, yet they have rebuilt the same type of houses, planted the same trees, and think it will never happen to them again. One just hopes they are right.

I have always thought that we learn to live, as we live to learn. But do we!

Well, I hope you all have a wonderful year. I know I shall.

Yours sincerely

Harold Humble.

LANGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the Langley meeting business discussed included the Denman Bursary and delegates for the Spring meeting. Names were taken for the Summer outing to Spadeadam and the Domino team will meet at the Carts Bog Inn in the near future.

The speaker was Stan Beckinsall, author of "The Power of Place" and his subject 'Place and Field Names'

Fascinated by place names which he described as having a language all of its own, he went on to describe the significance of place names and field names.

Accompanied by slides, we were given a delightful insight into the most interesting derivation of the names of many well-known places.

Stan Beckinsall has lived and worked in Northumberland since 1966. His enthusiasm for his subject was unmistakable sweeping us along with his wealth of knowledge.

The competition - "A Postcard" was

won by Peggy Dakers with Francis Wise second.

The Raffle was won by Jack Young and Doreen Davidson.

OVER 60's CLUB

The February meeting opened with birthday greetings for Mrs Benson and Mrs Taylor. Our thoughts were also with our President, Mrs Florence Turnbull who is at present in Newcastle General Hospital.

The speaker was Mrs Margaret Curry and her subject was 'Malta'.

Mrs Curry's son, Alan, has lived in Malta for nearly twenty years since his marriage to a Maltese girl. A frequent visitor to the island Mrs Curry gave a fascinating insight into life there rather than a tourist's view.

Members thoroughly enjoyed the talk and this was reflected in the number of questions which they asked. So interested were they in fact, that Mrs Curry has been invited back again in October, and she has promised to come.

Myra Bowen

DANCE CLUB

On Valentine's Night, several Club members attended a Ball at the Masonic Hall at Haltwhistle in aid of Cancer Bridge.

The music was supplied by George, a Club member, and again on Friday 21st February at Allendale for Hall funds this time the music was by Charlie Mackenzie and Harold Muir with excellent dancing and a lovely supper at both venues.

Where do we go next?

DJ Jim Biggs

NATURAL REMEDIES FOR A HEALTHY BODY

Eczema.

Eczema, which can occur at any age, is an intensely itchy inflammatory skin condition. The skin can become reddened, dry and thickened and it may weep and become encrusted.

There are many types of eczema, but the most common are: eczema as the result of an allergic reaction, and atopic eczema which often develops in people with a family history of allergies or asthma.

The homeopathic remedy *sulphur* is often used to relieve intense itching and *graphites* is often helpful where the skin is cracked Weeping. The herbs *burdock* and *sarsaparilla* may be helpful for their anti-inflammatory properties.

Research has shown that eczema sufferers are unable to breakdown essential fatty acids in their diets properly. Many of our customers have overcome this by using *evening primrose oil* and *fish body oils*. This tops up their body's levels of these essential fats. *Hemp seed oil* capsules contain natures best balance of these fats for the human body.

The *B vitamins* are important for people under stress and researchers have found eczema sufferers to be low in *Biotin* and *Inositol* so it may help to use a good *B complex* containing good levels of biotin and inositol.

Vitamin A and *zinc* are important for the healing and strengthening of the skin. *Zinc* (as well as several B vitamins and *magnesium*) is also important for the absorption of certain essential fatty acids. So, if they are lacking in the diet taking evening primrose or fish oils might not work.

Over the years we have seen many of our customers successfully control their eczema through diet by avoiding certain foods or artificial additives to foods.

We recommend that this is done with the advice of a professional in order to ensure that the diet remains balanced in all the necessary nutrients.

Many eczema sufferers find that stressful situations, chemicals and detergents can aggravate their skin - these should be avoided where possible.

For more information on food intolerance testing or upon taking supplements please contact a qualified member of our staff for advice.

Important:

Pregnant, breastfeeding ladies, anyone under medical supervision or taking prescription drugs should check with their doctor before using complimentary therapies.

Jill I. Henderson.

Holland and Barrett. (Hexham)

A selection of poems recently
submitted by Harold Humble

MY TYNE VALLEY

The mystic beauty of this place,
Is way beyond the dreams of man,
Hidden well neath lofty crags,
A million years of history span.

My eyes swept O' those ancient hills,
The river lying deep and still,
What history lurks neath those murky depths,
We know not now and never will.

Those lofty trees of ancient birth,
Towering limbs and endless girth,
Oak, ash and sycamore,
Guard the endless river flow.

Trout and salmon lurk neath its depths,
Now flying high in fruitful quest,
Otters flitting to and fro,
Frolicking in the evening glow.

Twilight comes, then all is dark,
There cries an owl, the dog fox bark.
A rustle of leaves from the mighty trees,
As boughs are bent by a passing breeze.

Dawn arrives with the morning sun,
As I breathe the air of a day begun,
Those crags and hills are part of me,
With my river winding to the sea.

HH

02 / 03 / 2002

JUST A THOUGHT

A far off cry from a forgotten day,
To pause for a thought, so far away.
A gentle smile will cross your face,
When I think of you and another place.
That lovely hair, a sparkling smile,
Hold all my thoughts for a little while.
It's part of life to reminisce,
To think for a time, of things we miss.
And even years, as they roll along,
Can't cloud the thoughts of those days
"long gone"

HH

24 / 10 / 2002

Editor's Note: I have typed each poem
exactly as Harold has typed not wishing to
change anything.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXHIBITION

ON THE PROPOSALS FOR THE A69 HAYDON BRIDGE BYPASS

To be held at the

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

at the following times:

WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2003

6.00pm to 9.00pm

THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2003

10.00am to 8.00pm

The Highways Agency is proposing a bypass for Haydon Bridge.
Please come to the exhibition to see plans of the proposals
for yourself and speak to representatives of the Highways Agency
and their consultants Bullen's. We will be happy to explain
the proposals and listen to your comments.



**HIGHWAYS
AGENCY**

THE FOREST

Sunrays blazed across the forest on a glorious summers day
One could stroll on through this wonderland, just to hear the wind at play.
Soft golden beams that penetrate a never-ending mantle of leaves,
In an ever changing pattern as they rustled on the breeze.
Like shafts of steel one can feel, they pierced the forest floor,
Bring forth the forest smells. Intoxicating, exciting and more.
Tiny little flowers abound, their life has just begun,
Like miniature sparkling jewels shimmering in the sun.

Small furry animals, scurry too and fro,
Tireless in their search for food, as their young eat more and more.
Birds abound in the canopy above,
Singing endless songs of peace and love.

Truly! What a beautiful day this will be,
Just the trees, animals, birds. AND ME ...

HH - 20 / 02 / 2003

HAYDON NEWS ADVERTISING

ANNUAL ADVERTISING FEES FOR THE YEAR 2003

*Advertising costs for businesses remain
unchanged for the coming year.*

Advertising Rates

Single Column – Variable Width

12 months (10 Issues) - £12.00

6 months (5 Issues) - £7.00

Single insertion - £1.50

No charge for:

Forthcoming events
Results of Collections
Acknowledgements
Club News
Reports of Local Functions

Please complete the box below, enclose it and the appropriate fee in an envelope addressed to:

The Treasurer (Alastair Bowen)
Friends of Haydon Bridge
11 Tynedale Cottages
Ratcliffe Road
Haydon Bridge
Northumberland
NE47 6EU

If you live locally just use the top two lines of the address and leave it at the *Co-op, John Clarkes or Marsh's newsagents* from where it will be collected.

ADVERTISING FEE FOR 2003

I wish to continue using my present advert. ☐

I wish to change my advert. (see over) ☐

NAME OF BUSINESS:

ADDRESS:

.....

POST CODE: **TEL:**.....

Cheques payable to: *'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'.*

PAID BY:(Please PRINT)

FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE FOR THE YEAR 2003

As the subscription to cover the current year is now due please complete the box below, enclose it and the appropriate subscription in an envelope addressed to:

The Membership Secretary (Mike Parkin)
Friends of Haydon Bridge
'The Rambler'
Brigwood
Haydon Bridge
Northumberland
NE47 6EX

(If you live locally just use the top two lines of the address and leave it at the *Co-op, John Clarkes or Marsh's newsagents* from where it will be collected)

The standard subscription is only **£1.20** therefore if you so desire by all means increase the size of your donation. It would be very much welcomed.

All donations are used by 'The Friends' in supporting voluntary and charitable causes in the Parish of Haydon.

UK readers of the *Haydon News* may join 'The Friends of Haydon Bridge' for an annual subscription of **£10.00**.

This will guarantee a posted copy for each of the ten months. Again you may donate more.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please find enclosed subscription of to
'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Minimum donation **£1.20**. Larger donations welcome.

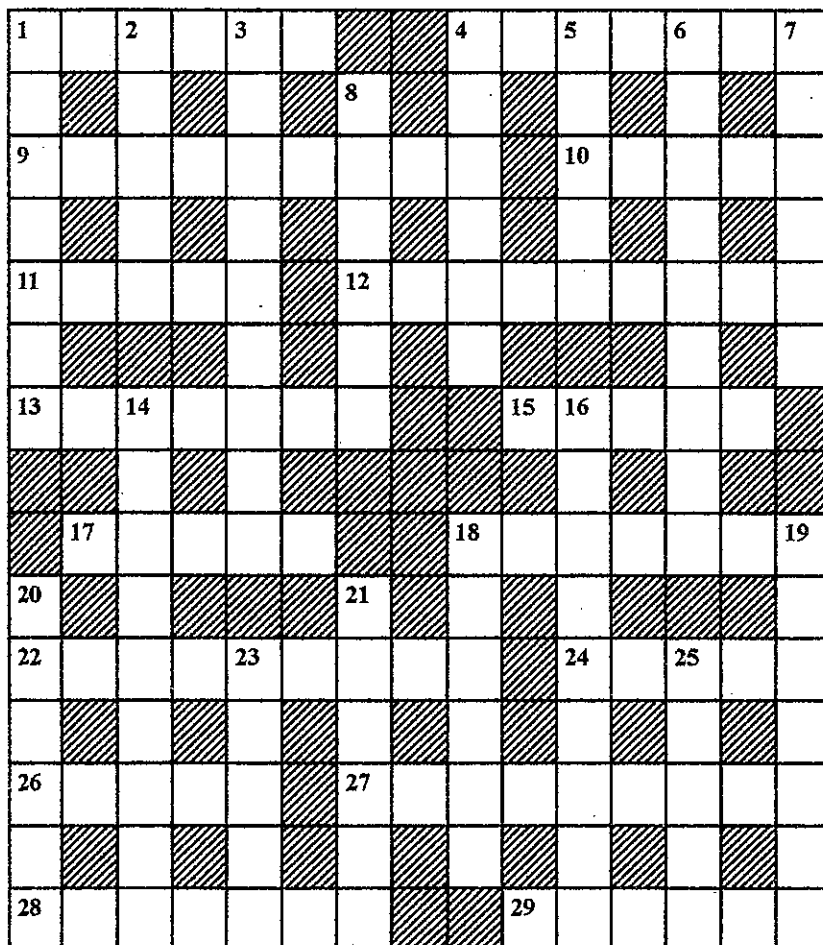
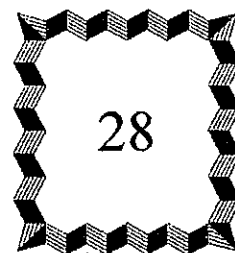
Cheques payable to: *'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'.*

New advertising or any queries should be addressed to **The Editor (address to be found on page 2)**
or please phone: **01 434 688 871**

The £10 Crossword

NAME:

ADDRESS:

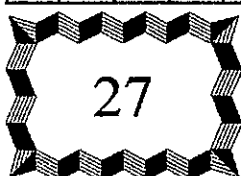


ACROSS

1. Ancient poet in possessive mode. (6)
4. Long winded walker? (7)
9. "— keep falling on my head" (9)
10. Unkind. (5)
11. Prepare for battle. (5)
12. Draw in diary. River. (9)
13. A2, A5. Street. (7)
15. Incapacitated French line? (5)
17. Boast. (5)
18. Partners. (7)
22. Swashbuckler? (9)
24. I sit in settee capitally. (5)
26. Cool. (5)
27. Word association. (9)
28. Spidery script. (7)
29. Avoids confrontation dressily. (6)

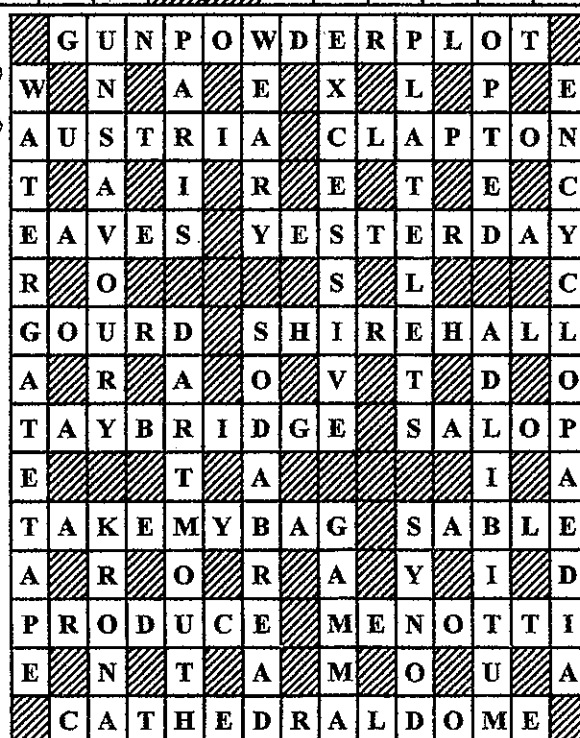
DOWN

1. Ratten locally, firm force in Yorks. (7)
2. Woman's name. (5)
3. Saved Barker novel. (9)
4. An apology broken in beads. (6)
5. Scottish parrot? (5)
6. Wash houses? (9)
7. Kitty was mothers daughter. (6)
8. Dull. (6)
14. Newsagent? (4,5)
16. Rhizome. (9)
18. Unhurried. (6)
19. Roof top critics. (7)
20. American taxi in beads. (6)
21. Irritable. (6)
23. Shining. (5)
25. Sudden angry outburst. (5)



Entries were
received from:

I. P. Hopkinson
E. Jukes
B. Pearson
Mrs Philida Irving
Trevor Corbett
Ted Castle
A. Phillips
Ann Rooke
Rosemary Shout
Susan Stephenson
Dennis Telford
Maureen Robson
A. Scott
Denis Bell



Entries to be received by the Editor on or before
MONDAY 24th March 2003.

Best of luck

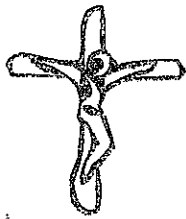
Please hand in your entry to:
any of the businesses indicated at the top of
Page 2

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

£10 winner out of the hat:

Trevor Corbett

OLIVET TO CALVARY



*Combined choir: Shaftoe Church
West End Methodist Church*

Conductor - Allan Armstrong

Saturday April 12th 7.30pm

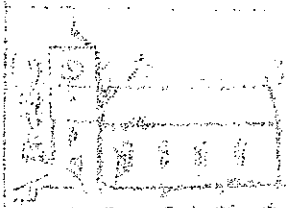
ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

TICKETS: £3.50 (children £1.75)

from Joyce Armstrong, 684.094

including light refreshments

*in aid of
St Cuthbert's
Church
Renovation
Fund*



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (Interdenominational)

The Women's World Day of Prayer Movement
will celebrate its
Annual Day of Prayer

**FRIDAY 7TH MARCH
AT 2.00PM**

METHODIST CHURCH

Guest Speaker

MRS BRENDA MEARNS

This year's service has been prepared by
Christian Women of Lebanon
and the theme of the service is:

"HOLY SPIRIT, FILL US"

Women, men, children and young people from many
different backgrounds in more than 180 countries
will be celebrating this Day of Prayer

**MAY WE, (Churches Together in Haydon Bridge), INVITE
YOU TO JOIN IN THE SERVICE AND REFRESHMENTS
AFTERWARDS**

Shaftoe Educational Foundation

Anybody resident in Haydon Parish, or their child, is entitled to apply to the *Foundation* for a grant to help them pursue a course of Further Education, either academic or vocational.

Applications should be made by letter in the first instance, naming the type of course, where it will be studied and how long it will last.

You should also say to what extent you are able to obtain other grant aid - for instance, from the County Council.

The next Governors' meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 13th March 2003**. If you wish to make an application to that meeting, please write to:

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

Applications should arrive at the Office by **Thursday 6th March** at the latest. Applications received after this date may have to wait until the meeting in July 2003.

R A D Snowdon B.Ed (Hons) - The Clerk

Almshouse Charity of John Shaftoe

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A MORE SUITABLE HOME?

- * Are you a resident of Haydon Bridge?
- * Are you at least 60 years of age?
- * Are you able to show a genuine need for more suitable accommodation?

IF SO

** we can offer you a delightful one bedroom unfurnished cottage in pleasant and friendly surroundings on Shaftoe Terrace.*

For more detailed information and an application form please ring:

01 434 688 871



1689

EEYORE'S GLOOMY PLACE AND OTHER THISTLES

AW SHUCKS! DISCOVERED.

A kindly and well-meaning correspondent has hinted that I am allowing too free a rein to my normal pervasive melancholy in my monthly ramblings. She is breaking out in a sympathetic depression I suspect and is hoping for some lightening in the tone. I shall attempt to oblige.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR NEW HEARING AID.

Congratulations on your new hearing aid. Here are a few things you should know.

- It will not give you your hearing back
- It will make your family sound like Daleks
- Every time the dog barks, you will fall off your chair in shock
- You will feel hugely self-conscious, as if the hearing aid is twice the size of your head
- The whistling will sap your will to live
- The hearing aid mould will chew up your ear something awful

However, do not despair after a certain length of time (a few weeks or so):

- The aid will feel small and comfortable
- You will figure out how to deal with the whistling and loud noises
- Your family will sound normal again (warning: this depends on how normal they sounded to start with)
- You will wonder how you ever managed before

Good luck, and don't forget to prolong battery life by switching your aid off at night and when being asked to wash the dishes.

(The foregoing has been penned by *Amanda Kvalsvig*, a doctor, and printed in the British Medical Journal recently. I am indebted to her for permission to reproduce it here.)

A REFRESHING CHANGE.

Patients sometimes apologise for bringing their problems to us. *'I'm sorry to burden you with this Doctor. I'm sure you've got more important patients than me...'*

It is true that we interact with people, on a daily basis, who are facing disasters of one sort or another. Many of those who come to see us are feeling lousy because they are ill. Those who know they are dying are often, by contrast, able to laugh and share their rueful or ironic insights with a smile – gal-

lows humour can be the very sharpest kind, the mind being wonderfully concentrated.

Doctors can sometimes get the impression that the whole world is ill all the time because everyone they encounter in their world is ill. The overwhelming majority of people are, of course, perfectly well for the overwhelming majority of the time and never go anywhere near a doctor.

When you've accompanied someone through their particular vale of tears, often the only indication that they've emerged on the other side is that you don't see them again. On the other hand, sometimes a patient will come through the door just fizzing with newfound well-being and, before they open their mouths, you know that they have something marvellous to share – a new job, a new partner... Women, in particular, seem to visibly bloom when the pressure's off and *'the good times roll'* – as the old song goes.

Even years later a phone call or letter may arrive – *'You won't remember me doctor but...'* Usually I do remember though and to be able to put a full stop at the end of a previously unfinished narrative is a great pleasure.

THE LIGHT FANDANGO

Everybody knows that sunlight damages your skin and can cause skin cancers of various kinds. We find several every year. Long term, it is very harmful to the complexion in general. Naturally, the advice offered is to cover up and use sun-screen unless you wish, in your later years, to resemble the natives of Essex or Hollywood.

People who become gloomy in winter are sometimes greatly helped by exposure to strong artificial light that fools the body into thinking it's summer again. Naturally, the advice offered is to buy a light-box and bask.

Now we learn that the epidemic of breast cancer in women may be related to exposure to artificial light after night fall, especially amongst shift workers. So far, I have not heard any advice offered in the light (sic) of this knowledge but I imagine that going to bed at sunset and rising with the dawn could be a bit of a departure for some. The mechanism of action is thought to be that darkness promotes to secretion of *melatonin*, a hormone, into the circulation and that this inhibits the process by which cancers arise.

On the other hand, white skinned people generate *vitamin D* in their skin when exposed to sunlight and its lack can lead to rickets and other related problems. Some sunlight is obviously beneficial but how much is just enough? White skin evolved in races inhabiting the northern latitudes and therefore, in the absence of any more cogent reasoning, it would seem reasonable to avoid prolonged exposure anywhere, especially in summer and at midday, and to actively avoid exposure to the sun in more southerly latitudes. A factor that I have never seen discussed but which would seem to be self-

evidently significant is the degree to which we would be naturally screened by head and body hair and years of accumulated, in-ground grime. Short hair, shaving and cleanliness may be 'normal' in our society but it is quite the opposite of what evolution has bestowed upon us.

From personal experience I can attest to the healing properties of tropical sunlight on psoriasis, even if the effect only lasts a month or two. Let's hope I have not left any skin-deep time-bombs ticking. Only the individual can make the judgement about acceptable risk and personal choice.

UN-NATURAL PRACTICES

Whilst on the subject of evolutionary influences, I am constantly amazed by the distance that lies between what evolution has equipped us to handle in our diets and what some people eat.

The natural diet of feral humans, as evidenced by anthropological study, dentition and physiological characteristics, is almost all coarse vegetation (leaves, roots, fruits, berries, seeds) with a very small amount of animal derived protein (meat, eggs, fish) occasionally. Only a few thousand years have elapsed since modern humans achieved their present form and physiology and it will be scores of thousands of years before we can even begin to evolve to handle a high fat and protein diet with negligible roughage.

Try to make the greatest part of your diet, plant derived. There is no such thing as too much roughage.

Other un-natural practices, amongst the many that humans engage in, include bungee jumping. Those of a more delicate or refined disposition or who lack access to the internet may chose to employ their imaginations or simply avert their gaze but those with an irresistible urge to view the effect of fear on the bowels may care to resort to: www.dribbleglass.com/subpages/strange/bungee.htm The Bible refers to the process as *'covering the feet'* but the chap illustrated has covered everything except his feet.

On balance, I feel that attention to diet will be the preferred way of avoiding constipation, piles, bowel cancer, diverticular disease and a host of other diet related ills and beside which there are no suitably high points in the village...

SMALL AND BEAUTIFUL

Some time ago government seemed to be saying that bigger was better but now evidence in the British Medical Journal shows that the clinical outcomes of small practice care are indistinguishable from that in larger practices – and they are more homely and welcoming. *But then we all knew that already, didn't we?*

CHURCH PAGE

CLERGY MESSAGE

*The Rev David Hasson
Methodist Minister*

The first Wednesday of March is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It signals the start of the run up to Easter when the church follows the last days of the life of Jesus in preparation for His crucifixion on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Within the Church Lent has been a time for remembering where we have failed God and seeking His forgiveness. It has also traditionally been a time when we have identified with Christ's suffering by living a spartan life.

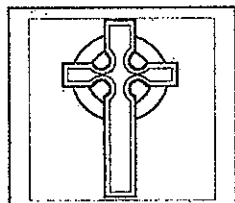
This 'giving up' of things has been absorbed into everyday life. During Lent you hear many conversations between people about what they are giving up for Lent. Discussions on radio and in the press devote quite a lot of time to this topic looking for the more unusual things which have been given up for Lent. Often we find that people are trying to give up unhealthy things within their lives, chocolates, smoking, drinking, meat etc., etc. Conversations range around whether or not people are able to stick to their decision, or even carry it on beyond Lent. All of this is a rather selfish way of looking at the things we give up for Lent because it only helps the individual concerned.

We are living in a world which is on the brink of war, millions of people are homeless, hungry or stateless. Perhaps it is time to take a new look at what we give up for Lent. Give up something which has a negative effect on the lives of others this year so that life in general can be improved.

If you want some ideas how about selfishness, greed, dishonesty, and violence. Just four thoughts which, if they were given up by everyone would make a major change to the quality of life for all people in the world. It's no surprise to find these four are some of the things which Jesus taught His followers to avoid in their lives because without them wars would cease, crime would be nil, people would feel safe when they are out and in their homes.

So, go on, don't just think of helping yourself as you consider what to give up this Lent. Be courageous and give up something which will make a difference to life for others as well as yourself. Then carry it on after Lent as well.

lent is for
loving god
learning
and giving



February / March 2003



christians together in haydon bridge

AN INDEPENDENT SUPPLEMENT TO THE HAYDON NEWS

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

DID YOU KNOW

the Revd **David Hasson** also covers
Haltwhistle,
Henshaw,
Keenley,
Halton Lee Gate, and Whiteley Shield?

Canon Vincent Ashwin also covers
Beltingham and Henshaw

Father Leo Pyle also covers
St Wilfrid's, Haltwhistle.

Haydon Bridge Community Band

... nearly raised the roof on the Community Centre last month, when they performed a concert for St Cuthbert's Church Renovation Fund. The audience of 60 enjoyed a mixed programme of jazz, rock, dixieland, and tunes from the sixties. The Band is part of the adult education provision at Haydon Bridge High School, and are always willing to welcome players of any instrument. The band includes guitars, drums, saxophones, keyboard, cellos, trumpets, trombone, and clarinets, with players ranging from 16 to 60 years of age. Phone the High School for details about joining, they rehearse in the music department at school on Tuesday evenings. The concert raised about £220 for the fund.

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday March 2nd

10.00am Mr John Green
6.00pm Service at Bellingham

Tue 4th Men's Christian Fellowship
Wed 5th Luncheon Club, Women's Own
6.30pm Alpha Course continues
and every Wednesday

Sunday March 9th

10.00am Mr D Stabler
6.00pm Mr B Lumsden

Thu 13th Circuit Fellowship meeting

Sunday March 16th

8.30am Prayer Breakfast
10.00am Mr Mark Knowles
6.00pm Rev D Reader

Tue 18th Men's Fellowship AGM
Wed 19th Luncheon Club, Women's Own

Sunday March 23rd

10.00am Rev David Hasson
6.00pm Rev David Driver

Sunday March 30th

10.00am Mr B Elstob
6.00pm Mrs M Gazzani

12 MONTHS IN THE LIFE OF A YOUTH WORKER – continued.

In January, David Matthews came to the end of his three-year term as a worker for the churches among young people in the village. This is the concluding part of his farewell article about his life here. He is writing about his work of listening and caring:

"There was a 2nd time in 18 months that I have had to walk into a room full of grieving teenagers; that's the other side of being a youth worker: like the time I had coffee with a 16-year-old, in the middle of her GCSEs, who is telling me that her parents split up last night. What do you say to her?

Then there is the fun side; learning to play table-tennis proficiently; bandaging the bleeding thumb of a screaming 12-year-old, using a tissue and sellotape;

There have been times when assemblies have gone wrong, like the time when I turned up at the High School with video tape and talk, timed to perfection, only to find two minutes before the assembly that

/ continued in the 3rd column . . .

CALENDAR FOR ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

March 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)
10.30am All-Age Communion/Address

Ash Wednesday, 5th: 7pm Holy Comm'n
Fri. 7th 2.00pm Women's World Day of
Prayer service, Methodist Ch.

March 9th 1st Sunday of Lent

10.30am Parish Communion Baptism &
Sermon

March 16th 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)
10.30am Morning Prayer (Mike Fry)

March 23rd 3rd Sunday of Lent

No service at Haydon Bridge
10.15 at Henshaw Benefice Communion

March 30th Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)
10.30am All-Age Service of the Word

Thu. April 3rd 7.30pm. Church AGM

April 6th 5th Sunday of Lent

10.30am Parish Communion & Sermon

Beltingham & Henshaw

March 2 10.00 Communion, Beltingham

March 9 9.00 Communion Beltingham
4.00pm Evensong, Beltingham

March 16 10.00 Communion, Henshaw

March 23 10.15 Benefice Communion, He

March 30 10.00 Mothering Serv, Henshaw

April 6 9.00 Communion Beltingham

LENT ACTIVITIES

Holy Communion, with the ceremony of signed the cross on people's foreheads in ash, will take place at St Cuthbert's on Ash Wednesday, March 5th at 7.00pm. Other weeks there will be Holy Communion each Thursday at 10.00 am, with a short meditation.

OLIVET TO CALVARY, the well-known oratorio from 100 years ago, will be sung on Saturday April 12th at St Cuthbert's. It is an excellent reflection on the history of Christian salvation. It will also raise money for our appeal, and tickets are £3.50 – half price for children of school age. Haydon Bridge's Shaftoe Chorale will join forces with the choir of Hexham West End Methodist Church to sing 'Olivet' here one night, and in Hexham the next.

There will be no study groups this year, as the Alpha Course is taking place, with several leaders who might otherwise attend a Lent course. Wait till next year!

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.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

St John's

Wedding, 21.12.02 Regan William Tetlow
& Sarah Jane Walker

Baptism, 2.2.03

Victoria Elizabeth Poppy Connolly

St Cuthbert's

Funerals:

11/2/03 Kathleen Margaret Skene (47)
49 Strother Close

19/2/03 Grace Carruthers (56)
10 Martins Close

NEWS FROM CHRIS AND LINDSAY
GRAY in North Yorkshire, where Lindsay
works at Scargill Christian Community.

People, themes and activity change so rapidly. There are different groups of visitors and themes each Friday to Sunday and then Monday to Friday, so holding heart and mind open to be alongside those who are here takes quite a letting go of oneself. Of the 28 members of the "community" living here, 12 are here for a year or two, 8 of whom are from other countries; one from Poland, 2 from Zimbabwe (one of whom is two years into his training for priesthood within the Roman Catholic Church), one from Kenya, 2 from Uganda, 1 from Germany and one from Nepal. Sharing the leadership and participation in worship with everyone is a wonderful and humbling experience. Please give my love to everyone. We have space in our house here – so we'd love to have visitors.

Good wishes to you, Lindsay & Chris.

David Matthews's stories, continued

the school video players did not work 300 15-year-olds are waiting with bated breath. I would like to thank everyone who has prayed for me, and encouraged me over the past three years. Who knows the seed that has been sown in young lives, or the fruit we will see in years to come.

Sadly my contract finishes in January 2003, and will be renewed due to lack of funding. So this is my way of saying thank you to everyone. Please pray for our future.