



THE HAYDON NEWS



Vince Turnbull working in his California garden.

see page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE PAGE

Editorial	2
Parish Council Notes	3/12
Historical Notes	4/5/6
Sayings and Customs	6
Local Artists	7
Dr. Steve Ford	8/9
Church Pages	10/11
Women's Institute	12
Crossword	16

Issue 06

**July
2006**

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

During the warm weather we experienced in early June, it was great to see so many people taking advantage of the seats and tables provided outside the Railway Hotel to enjoy a meal, drink and conversation outdoors. Of course it didn't last long, the hot sunny weather that is, but hopefully with all of July and August yet to come, it may return. What a difference to the feel and appearance of the village when the so often quiet streets have the buzz of social activity. I'm sure many motorists passing through, during those warm sunny days, gained rather a different impression of Haydon Bridge from the lively scene greeting their eyes as they cross the river. Of course we have to recognise the role played by the present licensees of the Railway Hotel who, by making the corner of Church Street and Ratcliffe Road attractive with tubs and baskets of flowers, providing the tables and chairs and keeping the area litter free, made it all possible.

Have you walked some or all of the John Martin Trail? do you have any comments/views on the trail? If so please let the editors know (address below) - We're hoping to do an article on people's experience of the trail in next month's issue of The Haydon News.

The Editors.

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Ratcliffe Road

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The editorial policy of the Haydon News is the responsibility of the Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge, although day to day responsibility is delegated to the editors. 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 Editors reserve the right to decide which letters/articles are to be published, and to alter or shorten letters/articles when necessary. Anonymous letters/articles will NOT be published. A nom-de-plume may be used provided that the Editors have been advised of the writer's name and address.

Dennis Telford (Chairman). chairman@haydon-news.co.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the meeting in June 2006

Public Participation

The council was informed that the church clock, while showing the correct time, has developed yet another problem. Now it's striking the incorrect hour, the striking mechanism being one hour behind the time shown on the clock. To be adjusted. (Someone did point out that come the end of October the striking mechanism, if left unadjusted, will be correct and the time shown on the clock will need attention).

It was brought to the council's attention that some of the branches of the trees by the approach to the new bridge hang rather low over the pavement. Road Link is to be requested to trim them back .

Parish Council Meeting

7 councillors present and a Tynedale Councillor.

Matters arising from last month's meeting

Following last month's discussion on the problems created by the parking of students' cars on the North Bank the council received a response from Mr Dowler, the head teacher. In his letter he pointed out that provision for parking on the school site is very limited. He shared the council's concern, regarding the increased number of students coming to school by car, but noted that this was mainly due to the recent changes introduced for post 16 school transport. The council was invited to visit the school site. A councillor did point out that the current problem was exacerbated by the construction work at present being carried out on the Haydon Lodge buildings, during the development of the 'virtual college'. A number of vehicles associated with this work were often parked on the North Bank opposite the school.

In a letter from Northumberland County Council (NCC) Highways Dept the council was informed that the 30mph sign on the North Bank approach to the village met with current requirements as it is sited at the start of the continuous

development. The council had requested NCC to move the sign further up the North Bank away from the sharp bend at the Chesterwood lane junction.

In reply to the council's request to NCC for the provision of signs directing vehicles to the car parking area by the riverside and at the station, the council was informed that the Highways Dept would investigate requirements.

A new outdoor notice board is to be provided to promote public use of the local rail services. It will be used to advertise timetables, fares and special offers/services. The board is to be fixed, appropriately enough, to the wall of the Railway Hotel.

Tynedale Council Minutes

The Tynedale councillor present informed the council of the planning permission granted to the owners of the Haydon Hotel for change of use to a residential dwelling. The Tynedale Development Control Committee had agreed the change of use at their meeting the previous evening. Concern was expressed by some members of the parish council at its own dealing with the application during the consultation period. In their advice and analysis the Tynedale Council Planning Dept officers recommended the application be granted summarising the parish council and community's response as follows:

'The Parish Council initially raised no objection and only objected when re- consulted on the accuracy of the plans. These concerns do not relate to the loss of a community facility, but to the Hotel's future role in improving visitor facilities. Very little local concern has been expressed and the Director of Tourism has raised no objections. On balance therefore, the closure of the Haydon Hotel will have minimal effect on community and visitor facilities in the village and will not conflict with Local Plan Policy TM1.'

It was felt that this did not accurately reflect the parish council's view and although prior to the Tynedale

Development Control Committee meeting the clerk to the parish council had telephoned the planning department to rectify this, no amendment appears to have been made to the department's summary.

As part of the extraordinary meeting held last month to discuss the Haydon Hotel planning application, the parish council discussed its general approach to dealing with consultation on planning applications. Following this, a letter was sent to the chief planning officer, Helen Winter, asking her to come and talk to the council on issues raised. As she was unable to meet with the council Helen Winter sent a letter to the council to explain Tynedale Council's approach to planning consultation. She stated that current legislation allows 14 days for consultation but that Tynedale allow 21 days for parish and public comment. She went on to say that there was no scope to extend the consultation period to better fit with parish council meetings (usually monthly) but letters received after the period of consultation would be considered if they arrived before a decision was made on the application.

Planning applications

Building of dwelling on the site of the old workshop at Hordley Acres House. No objections raised but a note made about safeguarding the width of the footpath between Hordley Acres and Greenwich Gardens.

(Parish Council Notes continue on Page 12).

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Mr. D Smith*
Mr. A Johnson
Mr. R Snowdon
Mr. E Brown.
Vacancy

(* also a Tynedale Councillor)

Parish Clerk
Mrs. C McGivern

I have to admit that never, in my 65 years in Haydon Bridge, have I referred to it as Station Road. A pleasant evening stroll, following the Tyne downstream, under the railway and then returning along the narrow footpath to the railway crossing and Church Street, would be described in my family as, "down the Eiland" or, "round the California." If we took the route in the opposite direction it would be, "down the back of the station" or, "along the Fourstones road." But no. Never, as I recall it, "along Station Road." Unquestionably however, it is Station Road, as our parish records and the rusted sign on the signal box make clear.

So this is a continuation of my history of the California Gardens, Station Road, Haydon Bridge.

From 1954 until 1989, the minute book of the allotments' secretary is available to help with my research.

The committee in 1954 was:

W. Hutchinson, chairman. G.T. Brown, secretary. J. Turnbull, treasurer. S. Brown. J. Graham. W. Kent. J. Marshall. G. Mellish. F. Pearson. and S. Taberham.

At the Annual General Meeting in the Reading Room in 1955, the resignations of G.T. Brown and J. Turnbull were accepted and they were replaced as secretary and treasurer by Willie Kent and John Graham. In 1956 Jeff Marshall replaced Bill Hutchinson as chairman of the California Gardens' committee. Jeff gave valuable service in this role for over thirty five years.

By October 1959, plans were being made to build a new fire station at Haydon Bridge, to replace the old Nissen hut on John Martin Street that had served the local brigade so well. This was not good news for the allotment holders down the California, as part of their land was considered a prime site, and a committee meeting held in June 1960 accepted that eight plots in gardens 1 and 2 would be lost. The County Council had agreed to acquire 2,600 square yards of the allotment land for the fire station.

Another blow for the California gardeners in 1960, was a committee decision to impose a 100% rent increase, from 5 shillings to 10 shillings per year for each of the 64 plots in 16 gardens.

The County Council's purchase of land from the Admiralty for the new fire station was completed in September 1961, but the allotment holders were given permission to occupy the gardens until building operations were due to start, in April 1965.

When the County Council made its request in January 1965 to dig bore holes, and sought the land for an April 1965 start on the fire station, it was realised that their legal department had failed to give the sub tenants the required twelve months notice. This would delay the start of the building work unless the California Gardens' committee waived their right to notice. I assume that, as a goodwill gesture, the committee delivered up possession of the land when requested, although this isn't recorded in the minutes.

The allotment holders who lost their plots to the fire station were: Miss Turnbull, George Brown, Tommy Ord, Alfie Kent, Ronnie Burrows, Andy Robinson and E. Mitchell, and they were given priority as tenants for other allotments on the site, as they became vacant.

A meeting held at the Working Men's Club in February 1965, welcomed four new committee members: Bill Foster, Dent Oliver, Jack Smith and Tommy Teasdale.

A few of our horticulturalists of the 1940's, still had their allotments over thirty years later. George Brown, Dent Oliver, Willie Kent, Jeff Marshall, Peter Spooner and Tommy Teasdale for example, and they had been joined by new generations of California gardeners.

Many of these allotment holders are sadly no longer with us, but a social history of our village, never mind just the California Gardens, would be incomplete without a record of every one of them:

Eric Armstrong. Maurice Armstrong. Sid Bell. Ernie Bowman. John Bowman. Gordon Brown. Maurice Brown. Charlie Coombes. Tommy Cunningham. Ed. Davison, Jimmy Donaldson. Philip Donnelly. John Duffy. Joe Foster. Sammy Gilchrist. Jackie Heslop. George Hutchinson. Dickie Lambert. Jack Milburn. Roy Philipson. Horace Powell. Ronnie Routledge. Jack Rumney. Andy Skeen. Jackie Robson. Cecil Temperley.

Dixon Temperley. Laurie Thompson. Teddy Thompson. David Tulip and Vince Turnbull.

Vince has worked his garden since 1963 and he has the distinction of being the longest serving of today's California gardeners.

Maurice Armstrong took over his plot in 1962, replacing Ronnie Marshall in garden number 9. An earlier tenant in the garden had been Joe Irving.

Joe bought and lived in one of the four bungalows, built by Joe Reilly at Pool Bank, that looked onto the gardens from the bottom of Alexandra Terrace.

Joe had reached an agreement with the Greenwich Hospital Estates to make a gate access into the California from Alexandra Terrace. The annual rent for the agreement was one shilling and Maurice, who lived in Alexandra Terrace, continued to pay this during his tenure.

Maurice recalls the administration process of collecting the rent, with some amusement.

"Aye! Aa kept Joe's gate, to save us walking all the way round. Aa paid a shilling a year. They would send us a bill, then they would send us a reminder. Aa would send a postal order for a shilling and then they would send a receipt back.

How much it cost to collect that shilling, aa wouldn't like to guess!"

Maurice might like to know that the gate rent is still paid in the same way today. It is ten shillings now though. Not one!

The demand was such, for a plot on the California Gardens, that by 1975 there was a waiting list of seventeen names as prospective allotment holders. It wasn't until 1982 that the committee was able to go some way to satisfying local demand for plots, when Joe Anderson ploughed out four gardens previously used as hen runs by Dent Oliver.

Mind, it wasn't just gardening that went on down the California.

I am reminded by a story that Norman Heslop has told me, of the singular and, if one aspires to it, isolated pleasure a garden shed and a plot of land can bring. Norman's father Jackie, like his father before him, had a garden for many years. Jackie would fill his flask every morning at home before going off to spend many happy hours on his allotment.

Norman tells me that until he mentioned it to his mother, Lily, one day, she had no idea that her husband enjoyed a secret liaison down the back of the station. Jackie's hobby was so personal that it was unknown even to his wife that he kept another love in a shed on garden number 4..... His budgerigars!

On the 9th of October 1975, the California Gardens' committee of Jeff Marshall, Dent Oliver, Bill Foster, John Duffy, S. Brown and E. Halkier, appointed Eric Armstrong as their new secretary to replace Willie Kent. Eric was in an ideal position to keep an eye on the cultivated land in his charge, working as he did as a signalman in our historic signal box.

It was about this time that the California Gardens were given international exposure.

Philip Larkin, the world famous poet who visited Haydon Bridge regularly to meet his muse and lover Monica Jones, described the 1973 Bellingham Show in his notable poem, 'Show Saturday'. Larkin tells of the end of the show and his return to Haydon Bridge, and he refers to our California Gardens in the poem.

**The car park has thinned. They're loading jumps on a truck.
Back now to private addresses, gates and lamps
In high stone one street villages, empty at dusk,
And side roads of small towns (sports finals stuck
In front doors, allotments reaching down to the railway);
Back now to autumn, leaving the ended husk
Of summer that brought them here for Show Saturday -**

The annual Admiralty rent for the California Gardens had remained at £18 from 1962 to 1977, from 1978 however the rent doubled to £36 and increased every three years thereafter until fifteen years later it was £120 each year. Little wonder then that the individual annual rents were increased in 1979 from 50 pence to £1 and eventually, in stages, to £2.50 in 1989.

Continuing relatively large increases in individual rents until 1993 were perhaps the reason for some of the gardens not being let at that time, and at least two tenants failing to pay their rent. The association's Bank balance was reasonably healthy though, probably

because only £20 had been spent on repairs in nine years since 1984.

The mid to late 1990's and the early years of the 21st century, heralded a new 'generation' of gardeners down the back of the station. Family names, some of whom had not previously been associated with the California. Alan Young, Lindon Davison, Ossie Davison, Tony Willis, Fiona Knox Les Jewitt, Gary Thompson, Maurice Robson, Emma Moody, David Marshall and Cliff Eales, for example.

The annual rent to the landlords had increased by this time to £220 and the gardeners were paying £5 for each plot.

Following Eric Armstrong's period as secretary, the gardeners' association appears to have continued with a minimum of formal committee activity. The earth continued to be tilled, seeds were sown and germinated and the harvest was as successful as before, but first John Oliver and then Joseph Brown had to deal personally with all the general administration.

In 2002 a new committee was formed and their first meeting took place in the Railway Hotel on March 5th. James Brown (Chairman) Joseph Brown (secretary and treasurer), Alan Barker, Danny Brown, Brian Burrows, Jimmy Donaldson, John Kanes, Roy Lockhart, Alan Ord, Roy Philipson and Mick Smith were those who resolved: 'To manage the California Gardens' Allotments in a fair and reasonable manner.'

The first meeting of the new committee, confirmed that the annual charge for a one chain plot within each garden would be £10. The total annual rent for the California Gardens was by this time £350.

At the next meeting of the association, in March 2003, Joseph Brown resigned as secretary and treasurer, and some time later, James Brown agreed to combine the roles with his position as chairman.

It was at this 2003 meeting that it was decided to place an advertisement in The Haydon News, to inform prospective gardeners that there were spare allotments available to rent.

By June 2003, the committee of the California Gardens had reached agreement on a new set of rules through which the allotments would be

governed.

Extravagant use of the water supply, indiscriminate use of weed killer, the maximum number of livestock allowed, joining a national allotments' society and more recently, bird flu, are all issues which have demanded the committee's attention.

Within the next three years, requests for allotments exceeded the number available. Sadly however, a wealth of horticultural experience was lost with the deaths of Jackie Robson, Roy Philipson and John Duffy.

As I wander down the back of the station today and survey the scene that greets me over the stone wall of our historic allotments, I am reminded of occasions in August 1966 and March 1970, when Dent Oliver and David Tulip sought permission to build greenhouses on their plots of land.

Before consent was given, the two gardeners had to provide sketches and specifications, so the committee could be certain that the greenhouses were 'appropriate structures'. I can't help wondering who gave permission for the array of 'structures' that litter the California Gardens in 2006.

Don't get me wrong though. There is something special (of a bygone era perhaps) about the gardeners' hotchpotch of shelters and sheds, lean-to's and half glazed greenhouses. An individual's mark, allowed and expressed within the control of a well organised group of like minded people.

That is what the tradition of our California Gardens' allotments is all about and maybe why they have endured.

Not only that; for those passengers on the Newcastle to Carlisle line our village is instantly recognisable as a place where 'real' people live!

The committee of 2002 are still responsible for the administration of the allotments today (With the addition of Stephen Brown who has replaced Roy Philipson).

Along with the Greenwich Hospital Estates, it is their task to nurture an allotment tradition in Haydon Bridge that goes back at least two hundred and nine years and probably one hundred and fifty eight years on the California Gardens' site.

Chairman and secretary James Brown has every right to feel confident about the future.

There is, once again, a waiting list for those seeking an allotment. There are now ten ladies with gardens on the California, which hitherto has been an almost exclusively male preserve. And the California Gardens plays a significant role in supporting and integrating new members of our village community, as those who have joined us in the recently completed Innerhaugh, labour alongside our established horticulturalists.

As I end my history of our California Gardens, I will leave you with a list of today's gardeners. A starting point maybe, for a researcher into our local history in another 158 years time. Ray Lott. John Bowman. Brian Burrows. Tommy Cunningham. Trevor Akin. Andrew Webster. Ossie Davidson. Pam Armstrong. Bridget Raine. Pat Hirst. Roy Lockhart. Lindon Davidson. Danny Brown. Gordon Brown. Peter Doyle. Andrew Smith. Willie Carruthers. Fiona Knox. Tony Willis. Ray Richardson. Mick Smith. Alan Barker. Stephen Glenwright. Mary Chandler. Richard Charlton. Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Bowen. Storey Hall. Jim Donaldson. Alan Young. Jemma Moody. Julie Livesey. Cliff Eales. Ronnie Youngman. Big Tim. Joseph Brown. John Kanen. Alan Ord. Tony Hudson. Alan Burrows. Les Jewitt. Mrs. Mackirkle. Carole McGivern. Graham Murphy. Stephen Brown. Gary Clough. John Kendrew. James Brown. Chris Brown. Vin Turnbull. Stephen Beadle. David Wright. Melvin Crowe.

It is indicative of the close community that has been Haydon Bridge for so many years, that I can recall stories about almost every one of the gardeners mentioned in my notes so far; either from my own experiences or from memories handed down.

Times change of course. I walk along the streets in our village now and there are so many people I don't know. Even the Haydon Parish association with my own Telford family name, continuous certainly from 1670 and maybe even earlier, will most likely die with my demise.

I can't help but wonder whether those 'diggers' of the future down the back of the station, (or should that be Station Road) will continue to have as much impact on the Haydon Bridge community and its history, as our California gardeners of the past.

END

CORRESPONDENCE

Haydon Bridge.
June 2006.

Dear Editors,

I read in the Haydon News Parish Council Notes (May meeting) that the council opposed the Haydon Hotel's application for a change of use to a residential dwelling. There will no doubt have been arguments for and against the planning application but one thing puzzles me. Why did three of our Haydon Parish councillors choose to abstain on such an important issue, when it seems that there had been plenty of time for them to prepare for the agenda item? I may be missing something here, but is there any point in us voting for individual councillors to run the affairs of the parish if they are unable to make decisions one way or the other.

Maybe those involved will enlighten me through the pages of next month's Haydon News.

Yours faithfully,

B. Mused. (Name and address supplied.)

Bygone Days Sayings and customs

by
William Veitch

I came across the following and thought that they would make a bit of fun reading for The Haydon News, although I'm not sure whether some of them may be more suited to Stephen Ford's pages.

Most sayings and nursery rhymes have origins in the distant past e.g. 'Ring a ring of roses' from the sores produced by the Plague.

The following are reputed to be true and originated in the distant past — some of them a few hundred years ago.

Most people got married in June because they took their annual bath in May (which may be the origin of never cast a clout till May be out). However they were still starting to smell ripe so the bride earned flowers to hide the body odour — hence the custom of the bride carrying a bouquet.

Baths consisted of a tub of clean water

which was first used by the man of the house. The same water was then used by the sons, then the women and finally by the small children. By this time the water was filthy and a child could be invisible in it — hence the saying 'don't throw out the baby with the bath water'. Don't forget that in earlier days, many people considered that bathing could be injurious to health and the majority only bathed once a year — whether they needed it or not!

The house floors of the labouring classes were of dirt, hence the expression 'dirt poor'.

The better off had flagstone floors and covered them with thresh (straw or reeds) in the winter. To stop the thresh flowing outside when the door was opened a piece of wood was fastened across the doorway, hence the term 'threshold'.

In days gone by, food was cooked in a large pot which hung above the fire. Every day, the fire was lit and more food added to the pot - these were mainly vegetables. So, every morning the pot would be cold and some of the food would have been in the pot for several days, hence the expression. 'Pease pudding hot, pease pudding cold, pease pudding in the pot nine days old'.

If you could hang up a joint of pork it showed that you had some wealth, as many couldn't afford meat and only ate vegetables. This was a sign of wealth as it showed that the man could 'bring home the bacon'. He would cut off chunks for guests and they would sit around and 'chew the fat'.

Baking bread was a fairly crude operation and the workers got the burnt or bottom part of the loaf. The family got the middle part and the guests or employers got the 'upper crust'.

Canopy beds came into existence to stop bugs dropping onto their occupants from the thatched roofs (there were no ceilings). Curtains around beds were to stop draughts, although they did serve another purpose in crowded dwellings!!

Are they all true?

You must decide for yourself.

We thank William once again for his enjoyable contribution.

LOCAL ARTISTS' EXHIBITION

Attendance at this year's exhibition held in the Community Centre, included visitors from Lanchester, Prudhoe and Corbridge, as well as our own locality. All were sincere in their praise for the paintings exhibited.

"A wonderful display." "Once again a great exhibition." "A very broad range of pictures." "They are all excellent." "I particularly liked 'A Bird' by Adam, but they are all so good." "Lovely to see so much local talent." "Very talented artists." "So many talented folk. Super." "Children's pictures especially nice, especially the rainbow snails."

Just a few of the comments from those who attended.

And for those who didn't. "You missed a village treat."

The paintings from 104 Shaftoe Trust School children, aged four to nine years, were especially admired and their captions caused much amusement. "You notice something different every time you look at their pictures" commented Elaine Westall.

Committee member Barbara Wardle said that the organisers were thrilled with the number of artists who displayed their work. More than ninety paintings were hung, in addition to the children's work, and that included five artists who hadn't

exhibited before.

Barbara spoke on behalf of the committee in expressing her gratitude to Mrs. Cox and her staff at Shaftoe Trust School for their commitment to the exhibition again this year, and she thanked all those involved in organising the exhibition, including Henry Swaddle and Ernie Swinburn for their work in providing the programme and the publicity posters.



Five year old Emma Hardy shows me her favourite paintings at the local artists' exhibition.

JOHN MARTIN GALLERY

Visitors to the Community Centre will have noticed a new area that has been provided for our John Martin display. The gallery in the foyer is a permanent exhibition space dedicated to John Martin and his work.

Special thanks are due to Dennis Oliver who has provided new and improved lighting for the gallery. Thank you Dennis, your gesture is appreciated.



Emma paints her own picture, surrounded by the 'master's' work in our new Martin Gallery.

NIVVOR ON A SUNDAA

The fashion for renewing one's marriage vows, encouraged locally with the opening of the chapel in the South turret at Langley Castle, is perhaps welcome in an age when fewer couples seem willing to take the religious vows in the first place.

It isn't my intention here to enter into the whys and wherefores of Holy matrimony, but I mention it merely as an introduction to an old Geordie story which I am about to update.

For over twenty five years it was accepted that every Sunday morning, four Haydonians would travel together to take part in their favoured recreation, golf.

I'll not reveal their names, so as to preserve the four fellows' anonymity.

Historically, there were two golf courses in our village. One at Chesterwood and the other in the shadow of Crook Hill where the old tees and fairways will (soon?) be covered by the Haydon Bridge by-pass.

By the early 1970's these courses had long since disappeared and it was necessary for the golfers in question to travel to Allendale and eventually to Hexham, for their sport.

Tee off times for the friendly four-ball seldom varied. 'Battle' commenced at precise and preferred times, being 12 or 19 minutes past 8.00 a.m.

Now, as every seasoned golfer will tell you, a pleasant round of 19 holes on the morning of the Sabbath never ends before one o' clock, after which time the travellers would return home to their wives and loved ones.

It is at this point that I will introduce my interpretation of the old Tyneside story. The tale was collected by Haydonian Fred Pearson, and then passed on to me by his niece Kathleen Forster, after Fred's death in 1989.

To provide a hint of realism to my narrative, it is necessary to give names to the central characters in this tale of a Haydon Bridge golfer.

To avoid any confusion I'll refer to

them as Arkwright and Gladys.

Arkwright's late return from The Spittal golf course one Sunday morning, following his success in the competition and the obligatory toast with a glass or two of the finest club house ale, was just too much for Gladys to bear.

"Aye" she says with grand scorn.

"A fine husband ye are. Yer aa'lways knocking that little white baa'l about ov a Sundaa and yer nivvor at hyem so as ye can tek us oot for a ride i' the car room' the countryside.

Aa mebee should aa teun up wi' a fella what cud treat his wife an' bairns reet. De ye not think shyem, gannin off te yon golf an' leavin' your wife at hyem?"

"An' onyways. De ye not mind what the Minister read oot when we wor forst gettin' married?"

"Aye well. Aa'l remind ye then."

"Them what's joined together in the bond of Holy matterimony. Let nee man putt o' Sundaa !"

DON'T FORGET THE SUN SCREEN!!!

Patient group

The world is run by people who turn up.

We are now actively recruiting for our patient group. The idea is that the group would comment on any and all aspects of health centre development and activity. In particular the group would formulate suggested courses of action in response to patient surveys. Patients, partners and staff would feed comments to them too and invite responses.

The group might consist of 3 – 10 people who would maintain informal contact during the year and actually meet three or four times for more detailed discussion.

Volunteers from all age and racial groups, both genders and all social backgrounds are welcome – teenagers, older people and disabled persons would be especially welcome. Their own views and the views of the community at large can be forged into coherent plans and then acted upon.

Would all volunteers please make themselves known to either Geraldine Round (Manager) or Mary Henderson.

Thanks.

Thank you 1

Shirley Sim has been a long-term member of staff who most people attending the health centre never saw there but she has now retired from the post. She has kept the place spick and span for over a decade and we are most grateful to her for her efforts.

Cleaner wanted!

We need a cleaner for ten hours per week – 2 hours daily for five days, ***either before or after opening hours.*** Full training will be provided. References will be taken up and CRB clearance may be required. Contact Geraldine on 688612 to discuss if interested.

Thank you 2

We have had a most encouraging response to our offer to act as a depository for stamps, mobile phones, batteries and ink cartridges for

re-cycling. Please keep it up – the boxes are in the entrance hall.

Thank you 3

Our most grateful thanks to all those who contributed so generously to the collection for Phillip Hubuck. He will not be soon forgotten.

Draw up an agenda

When a patient comes through the door of a consulting room, the doctor lurking inside usually has no idea at all what is going to be discussed. The patient, on the other hand, may have been stewing feverishly over a problem for months and only just plucked up the courage to come in and talk about it. So intense may be the emotion that the patient may assume that the problem can be read in their face – this is rarely so.

Whilst we may pick up clues sometimes, we really need you to say what the key issue(s) is/are at the start of the discussion – even a simple two or three word phrase may be enough to get the conversation off in the right direction. Research shows that writing down a few words, to remind you what you want to say, makes a big difference to the success of the consultation.

We welcome people coming in with lists of topics – but do remember that we plan on the basis of each problem taking ten minutes – you do the arithmetic and book the length of time you need.

Men – their minds and their society
A Canadian relative came up with a telling phrase in conversation last year. He was talking about the next boat trip that he and a group of friends were planning. When asked what they got up to on the long trips they took together he replied: –

‘Well. What do men do when they get together? Drink beer and tell lies!’

In the past I have commented on the gulf that exists between men and women and how neither has a meaningful insight into the other's mindset. Fortunes have been made with popular books such as those suggesting different planetary origins

for the two sexes. It is an endless source of speculation, fascination and frustration for both sides in the confusion.

Now a new book offers an interesting and different view but be aware that this whole area is a sea of subjectivity and the definitive work has yet to be written. Those of either gender who can legitimately carry off the pose of ‘startled virgin’, maiden aunts and those of a nervous disposition may choose other bedtime reading material to their advantage – or not. Allowance has also to be made, when reading the book, for the American social and cultural environment in which the events are set and, to a small degree, for the author's own sexual/cultural orientation – she is a lesbian from New York.

‘Self Made Man’ by Norah Vincent is an account of a year and a half in the life of the writer when she adopted the disguise of a man, including voice coaching, muscle building exercises and artfully applied stubble, to spend time in the company of men – in those areas normally closed to women. She experienced a ten pin bowling league, a monastery, a high pressure sales company, a men's awareness group and a strip club, amongst other things, and is never discovered for what she is. Quite how normal or representative these environments are I cannot say, having never been in them myself (but perhaps it's me that's not normal – answers on a postcard please).

She writes with candour and insight, both with regard to those whom she is observing and herself. Some reasons for men's apparent spiritual/emotional inaccessibility to women and the casual hurt inflicted on them by women are sources of Damascene conversion for the author.

The disclosures that she tempts some men into making are informative. The norms of male society and its unspoken boundaries are loosely sketched. The contrasts with female society are discussed.

Toward the end of the book things get a little strange but then she is American and it is worth persevering to the final sentence.

I would be genuinely interested to hear the views of others when they have read this book.

Writing – why not?

I know for a certain fact that there are scores of people in the Parish who have memories to treasure, stories to tell, experiences to relate, advice to offer, views to share, knowledge to impart and the skills with which put it all in writing.

Many times I have invited people to write things for their own family, their old regiments, the county or national archives, for magazines and newspapers and even, once in a while, for a book. May I make an earnest request that you (yes – you!) give serious thought to penning a few lines and submitting them to the Haydon News?

The village's grumpy old men (and women) can get things off their chests, the youth can poke fun at their elders and, who knows, an exchange of views might develop that would be most illuminating.

Go on! Have a go!

A useful bump

A case is reported in the BMJ of an elderly man, with a severe disturbance of his heart's action, being transported in an ambulance at speed. At just the same moment as his heart effectively stopped the ambulance went over a speed bump too fast and the resulting impact

restarted the man's heart. The whole episode is beautifully recorded on an ECG.

Nurse practitioner

There seems to be a measure of confusion about Karen Cousin's status – what does Nurse Practitioner mean? Karen attained the very highest scores in her examinations at the end of her 3-year degree course to become a Nurse practitioner. This is all on top of her decades of successful practice as a very senior grade of nurse.

She performs almost all of the duties of a doctor – consulting, examining, diagnosing, ordering investigations, referring where required and treating.

Whereas all of the GPs are now part time, she is in the place of another doctor – actually increasing the amount of appointments available overall. We are keen for her skills and time to be fully utilised. Ask for appointments with her directly and make use of any spare appointments that she may have please. That way we can keep the wait for appointments to an absolute minimum.

Complaints and significant events.

Every month we have a practice meeting at which complaints and significant events (good or bad) are discussed – some months there are none. We'd love to pretend that we are perfect but if we don't address problems as they arise then we would

be dwelling in a fool's paradise.

Usually we can see what's gone astray and take action to do better in the future but sometimes, no matter how hard we try, we have to conclude that the problem actually lies with the patient. Anger, frustration, lack of knowledge, fear... there are many causes for people losing their rag.

When we are at fault we definitely want to know – but please count to ten before saying anything, just in case it isn't our fault after all.

Village life

Ours is a very small village, despite which we have a traffic problem – as well as a long overdue bypass. Many of our narrow streets are blocked with parked cars – and, yes, the health centre has much to answer for on North Bank. Given the very short distances involved, I am amazed at the number of people who drive between two points in the village. For those sorts of distance, except for the disabled, **everyone** ought to walk or bicycle. Shopping does not have to be carried; it can be wheeled in shopping carts.

Think of the advantages – its cheaper, its healthier (you will soon be sporting the body of a young Greek god), you meet people for a chat, you can admire the scenery, you don't pollute your environment and you will find your self suffused with the rosy glow of virtue.

Steve Ford

HAYDON BRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE JUNE 2006

Lorna Woodward from Bee-Active Sports was our guest this month. Lorna put us through our paces without any of us having to get out of our seats. Lorna gave a short talk on healthy living, with some sound advice on how a healthy diet combined with a little exercise, can keep you in good shape even as the years progress. This was swiftly followed by a series of exercises using soft balls, elasticated bands and hand held weights. As a group we worked out using all the muscles in our legs and arms, trimmed our waists and generally toned up, and didn't we feel better for it?

Well everyone seemed to enjoy it and there was certainly plenty of laughter in the room.

To finish off the exercising, a few members had a quick attempt at New Age Curling. We won't mention the over enthusiastic few that managed to dislodge the wheels from the curling stone.

We were joined by Janet this month and welcome her as a new member. Janet even managed to win a prize in the raffle. We have a reputation for letting guests win!

A fine (but healthy) supper was provided by Tula, Pauline and Karen.

Karen Lumsden.



Holiday Club 2006

24TH -28TH JULY 2006

STARTING WITH THE FLAGPOLE @ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH 10AM EACH DAY

AGES FROM 9-16 YRS

GROUP ACTIVITIES
10:30 TO 12:30 EACH MORNING

FOLLOWING 'FLAGPOLE'



CHURCH PAGE

CLERGY MESSAGE

From

David Hasson

**JULY
2006**



I write this message while I sit in a bedroom on the outskirts of a beautiful city in Scotland called Edinburgh. The Methodist Church is holding it's annual conference here in the Edinburgh Conference Centre at Heriot Watt University. This is a historic occasion because it is the first time the Conference has been held North of the border since the Methodist Church first began. It is also a first for Anne and I because we have been involved in the organization of the conference this year as have many people before us, it is organized by a different region each year. This year was the turn of the five northern districts of the Methodist Church hence the choice of Edinburgh as a venue. If you are into kilts then we commissioned a Methodist Tartan to be available for this conference. Details of it can be found on the web at www.methodistconference.org.uk for the next few weeks. (advert over)

This year is also a time of change for Anne and I because we move to Carlisle in August where I take over as Superintendent of the Carlisle Circuit. After eleven years living in Haltwhistle which includes five years being involved in Haydon Bridge the change will be difficult. The longer you are in a place the more involved you become and the more friends you make. Moving will be a wrench and we would value your prayers but it does remind us that during Jesus' ministry on earth he did not stay anywhere very long. He moved around so that his message of love for others could be heard by more people. Not for him the instant communication of the internet by means of which this will come to you. He had to move around so for the Christian that knowledge makes moving a little easier.

But a move, as well as meaning meeting new people and leaving behind old friends, also means change. Different churches and groups of people have their own way of doing things and, as we join them we adapt to their ways. But it is also true that when someone new comes into a group the group can change as well because of the new influence. Change is something to be welcomed but is often feared. My successor is Rev Les Hann who is coming from Stanhope in the Weardale circuit together with his wife Jill. No doubt people are wondering what he will be like, will we like him, or him us? No doubt the Carlisle folk are saying the same about Anne and I. But change is inevitable otherwise we would stagnate. It is something which should be embraced and worked with to move our lives, and the lives of our communities, forward. Are you the one who says "There have been lots of

WHO AND WHERE

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

Rev Judith Hampson,
with St Cuthbert's Anglican Church
The Vicarage, Station Yard
Tel. 01434 684307

Rev David Hasson,
with the Methodist Congregation
Wesley Manse, Moor View, Haltwhistle
Tel. 01434 320051

Father Leo Pyle ,
with St John's Catholic Church
St John's Presbytery, North Bank
Tel. 01434 684265

changes around here and I've objected to everyone." or are you one who says "There have been many changes around here and something good has come out of them all.

The world needs change because of all the selfishness, greed and cruelty which we read about every day. Are you going to work for change which makes Haydon Bridge a better community to live in. That will only happen as people get involved and work for one another. It's called caring about others and is one of the things which Jesus taught and demonstrated that it did make a difference as people's lives were changed.

On that note may I thank those whom I have met for their friendship and wish you all every blessing in the future. I will listen with interest to what happens in Haydon Bridge from now on because it is now a place that is known to me.

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 02 July

08.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship
Mrs Margaret Weatherson
6.00pm Evening Worship
Mr Brian Scorer

Sunday 09 July

10.00am Family Worship
Mr Roger Anthony
6.00pm No Service

Sunday 16 July

10.00am Morning Worship
Rev Russell Hilborne
6.00pm Evening Worship
Reader

Sunday 23 July

10.00am Morning Worship
Mr Stan Rowntree
6.00pm Evening Worship
At Trinity Hexham
Circuit Farewell Service for Rev David Archer, Rev Marie Beard & Rev David Hasson,

Sunday 30 July

10.00am Morning Worship
Mrs Joan Histon
6.00pm Evening Worship
Rev David Hasson

ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY CHURCH SERVICES

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am

Mass each Sunday at 11.00am at Haltwhistle

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

BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 02 July

Beltingham
10.00am BCP Communion

Sunday 09 July

Beltingham
10.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 16 July

10.00am at Hexham Abbey
Henshaw 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 23 July

Henshaw
10.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 30 July

Henshaw
10.15 am Communion & Baptism

Sunday 06 August

Beltingham
10 am BCP Communion

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 02 July

10.30am All Age Service

Sunday 09 July

08.00am BCP Communion
10.30am Communion

Sunday 16 July

10.30am at Hexham Abbey

Sunday 23 June

10.30am Special Family Service

Sunday 30 July

10.15am At Henshaw

Sunday 06 August

8 am BCP Communion
10.30 All age Service

HAYDON OLD CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 02 July

06.00pm Evensong

Sunday 06 August

06.00pm Evensong

Christian Aid Week

£1729.58

That was the amount collected in the Haydon Bridge, Langley, Bardon Mill & Beltingham with Henshaw area during Christian Aid Week. This is a very generous amount.

Thank you to all who have given so generously and special thanks to those who gave their time to collect.

Without all this work there would be many aspects of the work of Christian Aid which wouldn't receive the funding it needs. Costs go up each year for all of these organisations so lets see if we can beat this amount next year.

Baptism Re-Union Sunday 23rd July at 10.30 am

We are having a family gathering at Saint Cuthbert's, Haydon Bridge to celebrate our church family and give thanks for the gifts we receive.

This will take place during our Sunday service at 10.30 am on 23rd July. We hope you can join us on that day and bring all the family.

Looking forward to seeing you, On behalf of your friends at Saint Cuthbert's.

Haydon Bridge

Holiday Club

24-28 July 2006.

The theme of this year's week is

"Pyramid Rock"

looking at the life of Joseph and how he was faithful to God. Each day of the week we follow Joseph's life and at each stage we see something different about God as well and how he is there to help in many different ways in our lives today.

Are YOU coming?

Cream Teas

Sat. 5th August

Haydon Bridge

Methodist Church

2.30 to 4.00 pm

£2 charge

Cake Stall and

Miscellaneous Stall

We would like you to come along

and bring a friend.

Proceeds for Church Funds

Planning application by Premier Express Supermarket for change of use from shop to residential flat. Although the council raised no objections, recognising the trading challenges faced by small shopkeepers, concerns were expressed at the loss of the last shop on the south side of the river and the inconvenience this may cause for local residents. One councillor asked whether or not the shop had been put up for sale.

19A, Church Street, extension to the rear of the building. The council was informed by a member of the public that she had received notification of the withdrawal of this planning application. (The council received notification the day after the meeting).

A week or so prior to the council meeting three councillors had been asked to comment on a document from Tynedale Council identifying 'Green Spaces' within the village. The following areas were shown; the cricket field, rugby pitch, the area around the sports hall and at the end of Belmont, Langley Gardens Green and the riverside near the football pitch. The councillors asked for the following to be included; Shaftoe Green, Strother Close Green and the riverside picnic area. They queried the inclusion of Belmont. In the response to the council's comments Tynedale Council agreed to the inclusion of the additional areas and stated that Belmont was to remain on the list as it is an important wild life corridor. Any future plans to develop the area would need to take this into account.

Village projects.

The council was informed that the John Martin pictures had been re exhibited in the foyer of the community centre and highlighted with spotlights. Explanatory leaflets are to be made available giving information about the pictures. Further exhibits from the John Martin Project are to be introduced in the near future. The council was also informed of the proposal to set up a John Martin Society based in Haydon Bridge.

The current state of the picnic area is giving cause for concern. A site meeting was proposed regarding the reinstatement of the area following the work done by Northumbrian Water. A local landscape designer is to be asked for advice.

Any other business.

Closed cemeteries.
Tynedale Council are undertaking the task of making headstones safe in closed cemeteries. This includes the closed cemetery in Haydon Bridge. As cash is limited for this work it is likely that the headstones not passing the 'Topples test' will be laid on the ground. (This will include all loose headstones).

Any one with a relative /friend interred in the old cemetery and wishing to repair, or make secure, their headstone, should make arrangements to do so as soon as possible.

Concern was expressed for the safety of pedestrians using the footpath between Hordley Acres and Greenwich Gardens as the path is frequently used by cyclists. The two right angled bends in the path make it impossible to see on coming cyclists, or for cyclists to see pedestrians ahead of them. The narrowness of the path makes it difficult for pedestrians, especially the many elderly people using this route, to get out of the way. It was proposed that the parish council put up a temporary sign asking cyclists to dismount and walk along the path and also to request a permanent sign be erected prohibiting cycling along the path.

The next council meeting is on July 27th at 7.30pm. at the Community Centre.

**Haydon Bridge Women's Institute
18th July 2006**

The next meeting will take the form of a barbecue at Pam's. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of the food. Would any members wishing to attend please give their names to a committee member in order that we have enough food for the evening.

**Thank you,
Karen.**

**Haydon Bridge Nature Group
Summer Walks**

6th July: East Allen 3 1/2 - 4 miles.
Meet at Allendale town centre.
Contact Ann Nicholson 684639.
20th July: Featherstone Castle 3 1/4 ml.
Meet at car park below Wallace Arms Public House. GR 681607.
Contact Dave Rutherford 601461.
3rd August: North Haydon Br. 3 1/2 ml.
Meet at Orchard House (next to Haydon View Rest Home) Return to Orchard Ho. for supper.
Contact Peter Ninnim 688755

All walks leave at 6.45 p.m.

ARTS EVENTS

***Let Sweetest Music Sound on
High!
Classics for a summer evening
featuring;***

Roberta Ritson, Anne Stephens,
Paul R. Davies—voices
Lisa Hardy—flute and piano.

The programme will include English music from 1600 to the twentieth century and a selection of Mozart's best loved operas.
Interval finger buffet with wine and soft drinks.

**Saturday 15th July, & 3.30pm
The Church of St Michael and All
Angels, Warden, Hexham.
For details phone 01434 603687
A retiring collection will be taken
**ALL PROCEEDS TO
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT.****

***WOODLANDINGS.
A soundscape in the garden.***

11am—4pm Sunday 16th July
THE GARDEN STATION,
Langley.

Be our guest at a day of live music in the garden.
Nick Torday and Alex Marten will be performing through the day, producing a soundscape to reflect the environment of The garden Station with live instrumentation and electronic samples.

For further details ring 01434 684391.

A POEM.

In May's issue we thanked you—
you may recall
For the sympathy shown in our Easy Jet
downfall.
Ed kindly explained to those without
knowledge,
For his eloquent terms we give him
homage;
We only take issue with one little
word -
MATURE! How could he, that's really
absurd!
Mature's a title you give to good wine,
Or cheese that's mellowed with eons of
time.
For twenty years of Thursday nights;
(Our table's reserved so there are no
fights)
Girls we have been, and girls we'll stay,
Recycled teenagers of yesterday.

(From the Thursday night girls.)