HAYDON **NEWS**

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May 1988

No 4

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MICHAEL JEFFS on HB 3,9

May 1988

Dear Friends.

Once again there is a large amount of information to be passed on to you from Tynedale and other issues of concern.

River erosion and flooding

Mr Clarke from the Water Authority contacted me on 7th April to inform me of the following proposals regarding the River South Tyne at Laydon Bridge:

- a) the riverstone shoals at the east of the Old Bridge will be shifted to a position along the south of the river, immediately behind Rocksprings, so that more protection can be provided for the New Bridge stanchions and effectively help to stop erosion of the river bank at this point.
- b) it is also the intention of the Mater Authority to build a flood barrier in a position best suited to protect the Sewage Station and to enter into an agreement with a suball Dlub to provide a similar time of protection for the Cinhard.

Tynedale District Council By-law request

Mr Hugh Davies, Environmental Services Officer, has agreed at my request to site three notices with regard to the fouling of pavements by dog dirt. One will be at the bottom of the bank leading up to the main entrance of SHAFTOE FIRST SCHOOL.

The other two will be placed either end of the cut leading between HORDLEY ACRES and GREENWICH GARDENS.

This will, hopefully, help to make these ares a little more safe to walk over. Please try and point out these notices if you see people abusing them.

Cut between Hordley Acres and Greenwich Gardens

Both myself and the Parish Council have repeatedly requested Tynedale to provide a better cleaning service for this area.

As you read in the last issue of Haydon News, there is to be an increase in the frquency of amenity sweeping in and around Haydon Bridge. The proposed purchase of a small mechanical sweeper will, for the first time for many years, enable pavement areas to be cleaned on a planned basis. It looks likely that if the the dimensions of the cut/walkway are wide enough, then this new machine will be used to clean on a regular basis.

Tynedale District Council are also pressing Northumberland County Council to resurface the walkway to bring it up to a siutable standard.

Haydon Bridge By-pass

I have received a letter from Mr Alan Amos MP which makes reference to a letter which he received from Mr Peter Bottomley, Minister for Roads and Traffic. The letter from Mr Bottomley is in content the same as a letter I received from the Regional Department of Transport in March 1988.

One interesting point is however made with regard to traffic flow and Mr Amos' desire to see dualling of the A69 west of Hexham. Mr Bottomley quotes that 'around 7000 a day' is the traffic flow, and that in general, 'dualling can only be justified where flows exceed 12000 - 14000 vehicles a day'. The '7000' figure is the stated figure for Haydon Bridge in the Ove Arup Partners' report. This is the report I have been hoping they will release so that the public can read for themselves how the consultants reviewed our case for a by-pass.

I have therefore written to Er Amos pointing out the similarity between this figure and the consultants' report, and also stating that if the Department are using the report 'out of context snatches' to justify their arguments, then it's about time the report is released to the public.

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Best Wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Howard

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PARISH COUNCIL PICKINGS

28 April 1988

9 Councillors present

Correction

In last month's Pickings there was a reference to the Play Area. This matter was inaccurately reported. Here is a better version of what was said and decided:

Bill Howard talked with most of the people living close to the Green area in Langley Gardens. As a result he discovered that there is mixed feeling about placing a Tarzan type Play Area on the Green. Tynedale D C have the equipment ready for placement. The Parish Council decided to ask the District Council to phase in the Tarzan Trail so that we can see what it looks like.

At no time was it stated that the play area would be put back on the old site behind Greenwich Gardens.

Now for the latest meeting;

Sports Hall

Tynedale D C is expected to approve the recruitment of a Sports Motivator at a meeting next week. The initial appointment will have to be made on a temporary basis since the County Council cannot make up its mind whether it will or will not contribute the funds needed to make it a permanent post. In a way, this is just as well, since the Parish commitment is almost equivalent to 1 penny on the rates, and the Council wants to be sure that the residents are getting value for money.

Roads

Compulsory purchase of the land needed to improve the 'Watson's Garage' junction is in progress.

The level crossing didn't close as advertised. The Parish Council is demanding an apology from the County for not letting them know in advance. The Co-op Store is to be asked to co-operate (!) by not allowing deliveries to be made by heavy vehicles parked on the Radcliffe Road pavement, which is being badly damaged.

The bridge footways will be repaired this year.

It is said that the little green man escaped from the Panda Crossing recently. Did anyone see him looking lost?

Best Kept Village

The reference to this matter last month produced one volunteer willing to help with organisation. Our thanks to that person. The Parish Council decided to accept the challenge of entering the competition, and Mrs Garrow is the Councillor to contact if you are prepared to help. (HB 324)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 15 to 21 May 1988

Christian Aid Week eill begin with a United Service in the Methodist Church on Sunday 15 May at 6.00 PM. The service will be followed by a cup of tea in the school room. Everyone will be welcome at the service and at the refreshments afterwards.

During the week 16 to 21 May there will be a house-to-house collection in the village and surrounding areas. Your contributions will be gratefully accepted. As we all know, the need for aid to Third World countries is as great as ever.

This year, instead of the Jumble Sale a series of Coffee Mornings/ Evenings has been arranged, when some of our members have generously offered to hold these in their homes, so please come and join us at these events - everyone will be welcome:

Mrs Fletcher, Chesterwood Grange

10.30 am

Transport will be available from 10.15 at the United

Reformed Church.

2 June

6.30 - 8 pm Mrs Todd, Church Street

29 June

Mrs Clarke, Derwent Cottage

6.30 - 8 pm

Thanking you for your continuous support.

4011

Anne Thubron Christian Aid Week Organiser

THE FRIENDS OF THE OLD CHURCH

are holding a Coffee Evening on Tuesday 10 May at 7 pm in the Church Hall.

There will be stalls and a raffle as well as refreshments. Everyone welcome. All proceeds to the Old Church.

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association will be held on Monday, May 23rd at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre.

HAYDON BRIDGE P T A

MICROWAVE DEMONSTRATION by Mrs Wendy Howe at the Temperance Hall, Allendale on 11 May at 7.30 pm.

£1.50 including coffee. Tickets from PAT HIRST - HB 474

If anyone has an old kitchen unit to dispose of, the Church Hall has If you can help, please contact the Vicar - HB 307 need of it.

MEMORIES V

It was a warm summer's morning as I came out of the arch into Radcliffe Road. As usual, I stood for a few moments to look up and down the street, at the same time pulling my drooping hand-knit stockings up to my knees; my elastic garters were old - they had been garters too long because the hand-sewn garters had stretched and now failed to do the job they were meant to do - mind you, it wasn't so bad having droopy stockings on a fine day but, by lad, it was cold with droopy stockings in the winter: never mind, I just had to put up with it because Dad had no money to buy new elastic so I just had to make do with well-stretched and crinkled elastic from the leg of Mam's old knickers.

I watched "Old Rickard" across the road pulling bags of potatoes into his fruit and vegetable shop. Now that was a revelation if ever there was one, the bare floorboards of the shop was permanently the colour of garden soil through bags of potatoes standing in front of the counter. Boxes of cabbage, Brussels and cauliflower were stacked any old way, crates of Murry's lemonade were up against the red-powdered distempered walls that always brushed off onto your clothing if you happened to get up against them.

Dark brown woodwork and the pervading smell of soil and vegetables epitomized this little shop in 1928 - but "Old Rickard's" daughter, who was married to Mr George Laverick, was a character in her own right. There she stood behind the counter, barely 5' 3", her rosy cheeks and warm smile blending perfect with greying hair fastened in a bun that was topped off with a little black net and straw hat with ornate cherries round the brim.

Occasionally a mouse would pop out from amongst the bags causing a shriek amongst the ladies waiting to be served with a clashing together of knees. Jars of sweets of every description stood on the shelves on the back wall, and who can forget the sound made as Mrs Laverick unscrewed a jar top and thrust her ring-bedecked fingers amongst the "Silver Link" toffees to extract five for a halfpenny or ten for a penny? The sound of fingers rustling and rings clashing against the glass jar is now only a memory in time. One could buy needle and thread, and elastic, and bluebags from a little glass case on the counter - but now it's all gone, only part of the ornate shop front remains, and what was once the shop is now Sep Waugh's sitting room....

A strong acrid smell of burning horse-hoof exuded from Brown's blacksmith's shop as I scuttled across the road towards Church Street where I had to buy a penny stamp and post a letter at the Post Office run by sub-postmaster Nicholas Beattie. (The Post Office was in the shop now owned by M Armstrong, Grocer; you can see where the letter box was - on the left-hand mullion of the left window). The church clock struck 10 am as I crossed the terrazzo-tiled step that had the name "BEATTIE" set out in an ornate manner and upon pushing open the door by its brass handle I found the Post Office full and buzzing with gossip. Now I wasn't so young as not to understand a bit of local gossip, so there I stood - tousled hair, egg on my jumper, patches on the backside of my knee-length trousers and feet set firmly into a pair of 'store' clogs, a healing scab on my left knee from a recent fall, and, oh yes, my stockings had slithered down again! So with thumbs tucked in behind my braces, there I stood, a little lad inconspicuous and unseen and listening.

Local gossip was always relished with delight as it was digested, regurgitated and chewed over again for many a long day by locals and gentry alike as they met in the Post Office or the corner of Church Street, the bridge end, local ale house or a rear pew in one of the houses of worship on a Sunday evening. As in the case of the person being gossiped about on this occasion - she was a poor unfortunate local lass in service at one of the "big" houses and had fallen foul to the charms of her graciously-born

master or to his "well-cut" and "well-heeled" son - the Cad!

Now, standing close by and listening most intently were two middle-aged sedately staid and gentle ladies from up the bank, who for some unknown reason had let those daring days of youth pass them by, and as I listened and watched them I could clearly see that they were pleasurably titillated and stimulated in thought by the actions of the old boy and his conquest with the poor unfortunate servant lass (though appearing to be disgusted). They were enjoying every moment and word before leaving the Post Office with a knowing smile upon their faces as they said "Good-day, Mr Beattie".

As they brushed past me in all their grand and elegant finery I noted the distinctive fragrance and sweet scent agreeably emitted from the expensive perfume "AMANTE" - a top quality perfume in its day.... 'and I know' because an uncle of mine who as a regular RAF man out in Palestine had brought a bottle of the expensive Italian perfume back for his girl friend. I began to wonder about the two distinctive and elegant ladies when I got to know that the name "Amante" translated into English means "Sweetheart".....were they too having their moments?

As I came out of the Post Office and posted Mam's letter I noted the church clock was at 10.20, just as "Bungy Jack" was coming along Church Street with horse and milk float after completeing his morning rounds. Now, "Bungy Jack" was a real old country character who worked for a farmer east of Haydon Bridge. He always wore coarse clerical grey jacket and trousers with legs encased in thick leather leggings down on to the top of his farm boots, a collarless shirt and large-brimmed flat cloth cap. He was never married, and had no vices apart from his pipe: he never bothered with women and never drank in excess. Being the comman on the farm, he always smelt of cows and milk - and he loved to eat - his one gastronomical passion in life was for the delicate taste of woodpigeon: he was obsessed by eating pigeon though he was only a little man of around 5' 5" in height.

At nesting time in early summer he would seek out the nests of woodpigeon in the cleugh as he took an evening stroll while enjoying his pipe - mind you, he knew that pigeons lay only two eggs so he sought out many nests and waited until they hatched. Being a countryman, old Jack knew all about conservation and only took one at a time, so when he climbed up a tree (complete in leggings) he would look at the chicks, then select the He would reach up and pull the chick's legs weakest-looking bird. through the bottom of the flimsy twig nest so that the bird's breast rested comfortable on the nest, and with its legs sticking through the bottom of the nest he would fasten them secure to a lower branch with binder-twine so that it could not fly away. Old Jack knew that after 20 days in the nest woodpigeons fly, but the one fastened by its legs could not get away and the parent bird kept on feeding it in the nest.... Well, when it grew to about the size of a cock pheasant, old Jack would climb the tree (complete in leather leggings), cut the twine securing its legs, wring its neck, and he had a king-sized woodpigeon for supper with a pot of strong tea. Mind you, he had lots of nests lined up because I used to see legs sticking through the bottom of nests when I went to the woods with Dad to gather sticks.

BABIES, TODDLERS AND PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Please come and enjoy the facilities of our Toddler Group in the Community Centre.

Have a cuppa and a chat to other Mums.

All are welcome.

Tuesday Wednesday 1.00 to 3.00 pm 9.30 to 11.45 am

Friday

9.30 to 11.45 am

DISCO

Come and help raise funds for Haydon Bridge Toddler Group at our DISCO in the Haydonian Working Men's Club.

3rd JUNE

9.30 to 1.00 am

LATE BAR.

HAYDON BRIDGE P T A

BARBECUE & DISCO

in the School Farm

Food cooked by Mr Norman Kyle

Licenced Bar Raffle

Disco provided by Paul Stout

Family Groups welcome

SATURDAY 11 JUNE

8.00 pm till midnight

Tickets £3.50 from P T A Members: Christine Swaddle, Sue Boakes, Harold Foster
Pat Hirst

Please note revised date

19 SHAFTOE TERRACE

The Trustees of the Almshouse Charity of John Shaftoe will shortly be inviting applications from people wishing to occupy No 19 Shaftoe Terrace. Applicants must be over 60 years old and live in the Parish.

Application forms will be available <u>from 1 June onwards</u> from the Warden, Mrs M Wilkinson, at West House, Shaftoe Terrace or from the Clerk (Mr J Richards m) at the Office, Shaftoe Terrace (written) or by telephone on HB 298.

The closing date will be 30 June and the choice will be made by the Trustees in \min -July.

Under the new rules laid down by the Charity Commissioners the Trustees have to make a charge which contributes to the cost of maintenance, wardening etc. This charge will be regarded as rent by the District Council for the purposes of rent rebate for those eligible for it.

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GUITAR FOR SALE

Yamaha. Call HB 298 after 6.30 pm and ask for Paula Wildbur.

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