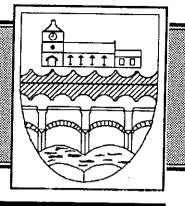
HAYDON NEWS



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FEBRUARY 1991 No. 27

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EDITORIAL

HAIL....

I am very pleased to have been entrusted with the position of EDITOR of the HAYDON NEWS. The Parish of Haydon has every reason to be proud of the smart appearance and lively content of this publication and I will endeavour to maintain the high standard set by my predecessor.

It cannot be said too often that a great deal of effort on the part of many people goes into the production and distribution of the Haydon News. Even so, such effort would be in vain without a constant supply of articles, announcements, news items and reports to be published: to say nothing of the ongoing support of the advertisers.

Contributions may be small or large; they can be regular, occasional or once in a lifetime; they will be equally welcome. particular it would be nice to hear from parishioners of all age-groups, please. Items intended for publication must be accompanied by a name, address and telephone number, if you have one, but your name need not appear in print if you wish to remain anonymous.

Please deliver or send your contributions to 14 Shaftoe Street. In the case of highly topical items, make sure that I receive your communication before the 20th of each month.

Thank you Gina Richardson Editor

AND FAREWELL

The Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge would like to record their appreciation of the very great service rendered over the eight years by Marion Howard.

As Editor of the Haydon News she has ensured its regular publication and maintained its consistently high standard of content.

The amount of time and effort she has put into the task has been prodigious and the Committee is extremely sorry to lose her as Editor.

In extending our grateful thanks to Marion may we welcome her successor, Gina Richardson, and assure her of our help and support in her new role. Jim Cape

Chairman

PARISH COUN-CIL PICKINGS

Meetings of 20 December and 24 January

Both meetings discussed the electricity failures in mid-December and on Christmas Day. Some of the Parish has the advantage of strengthened lines, but the copper ones which still serve some outlying areas stretch and break, or clash in the wind, causing a short-circuit. Everybody was full of praise for the maintenance men, but critical of the problems of making contact with the emergency service itself.

Worry was expressed that the proposed closure of local Royal Mail sorting offices and the possible effect on local sub-Post Offices. This question is being taken up by Tynedale D C.

The Chairman had attended a meeting concerned with the dualling of the A69. More bodies are now taking an active interest in this question, including both Northumberland and Cumbria County Councils, and there is some feeling that the rigid criteria operated by the Department of Transport may be relaxed to take in considerations other than bare trafficflow figures. You may rely that nothing will happen about this until they have finished re-surfacing Ratcliffe Road!!!!

A Councillor reported that one of the local traders with an advertising sign at the eastern entrance to the village had expressed interest in an amenity signboard in the lay-by. The red tape surrounding the siting and design of such a board is

wound very tight, but the Clerk is continuing her unravelling and Councillors will pursue the matter further with interested parties in the village.

As expected, the plans to extend the caravan site and to build a new house in Belmont Gardens have been refused by the District Council.

COMMUNITY CENTRE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A concert of carols and Christmas readings was given on December 14th by the Shaftoe Chorale. with Jack Shield as soloist. The Mothers' Union kindly provided tea and mince pies in the interval. This was intended to be a "Community" activity rather than a major fundraising event and the somewhat poor attendance was disappointing. Nevertheless, an enjoyable evening was had by all present and the retiring collection on behalf of Community Centre funds raised the sum of £25. EGR

A NEW FLOOR for the COMMU-NITY CENTRE

The floor of the Main Hall in the Community Centre is nearing the end of its useful life. Its replacement will be a major task and a great expense.

The advice of a consultant structural engineer has been sought and a specification for the new floor has been selected to provide a stable, level floor, but one with some degree of resilience.

Renewal of the floor will involve the following:

- 1 Removal of existing floor and joists;
- 2 Construction of a concrete base with inset wooden battens;
- 3 Laying a hardwood strip floor on the battens
- 4 Replacement of skirting boards and reconnection of services
- 5 Complete redecoraton of the Hall.

The cost of this work will be in excess of £10,000 plus VAT. Applications for grants are being made Northumberland County Council, Tynedale District Council and the Parish Council, but the Community Association will have to find about 25% of the costs. although there is the possibility of some help being available from other bodies such as the Hadrian Trust and the Augustine

The Bowls Club is spearheading the fund-raising activities and has set up a "floor fund", putting the proceeds of every raffle of the Club into the fund. All organisations using the Community Centre are asked to consider whether they can either make a donation to the fund or organise some fund-raising event, however small. Everyone in the community is asked to keep a look out for and give their support to such fund-raising activities.

Cheques etc should be made payable to "Haydon Bridge Carpet Bowls Floor Fund" c/o Mrs M Douthwaite, 19 Temple Houses, Haydon Bridge. All donations will be acknowledged with a receipt. Any help to raise funds would be appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Mary Douthwaite Secretary, Bowls Club

A VIDEO SHOW

IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY at 7.00 PM

There will be a showing of a video made at the wedding of Dr High's daughter, Joanna to Patrick Crawford that took place on Saturday 29 December at St Cuthbert's Church and afterwards at Langley Castle.

Admission free: Collection in aid of Health Centre Fund.

1906 (Part III)

The sweet smell of pipe baccy drifted into our living room from the bar below as I sat by the fire listening to Mother read to me from her scrap book. It was snowing outside and the muffled hoof-beats and clanking of milk cans could be heard as Michael Pigg's milk float wended its way along the snow-covered, gas-lit Church Street.

It was in this establishment, the Railway Hotel, that I was born to John Lawrence Dickinson, tenant to the pub. Mother's name was Edna. Edna Dickinson, and she did the cooking and ran the hotel in general. the summer months people travelled great distances to stay at Haydon Bridge and partake of the 'medicinal' waters of the Spa. People would come on holiday to Haydon Bridge from Bellingham, Acomb, Alston, Ashington, Newcastle and the Coast - remember, travel was not as it is today. After all, I've just come back to Haydon Bridge for the first time since 1922 by means of a flying machine and pedalled to my beloved village on a super new bike on a first class road, something unheard-of in 1906 when I was born.

But let me tell you about what Mother was reading

to me about that snowy night so long ago: yes, it was about the places of worship in our village. We dealt with the pubs in the last issue of the Haydon News, remember, and although Mother was a publican's wife she was also a deeply religious woman (although she loved her jug of ale on the Q.T.) She went on to say (between swigs from a bottle of Bass) that the chapel of St Cuthbert was erected in 1796 in lieu of the old chapel of Haydon. that it is an edifice of stone consisting of chancel, nave, north transept and tower with a small spire containing a clock, erected in 1888 and one bell; there are 380 sittings; the living is a vicarage, net yearly value £284, with residence, in the gift of the Bishop of Newcastle, and held since 1879 by the Rev John Heneage Mandell MA of Exeter College, Oxford.

Oh lad! he used to frighten me as a bairn when I peeped out from behind our heavy kitchen curtains and saw him coming along by the churchyard wall dressed in black, his large staring eyes and bushy black eyebrows set in a mask as white as death nestled beneath a shiny black topper - reminding me how he could have been the rider of the third

horse of the Apocalypse. He had six daughters (I think) and all their manes made up a rhyme that I can remember older children chant as they played in the street.....(is there anyone old enough left that can remember that chant?)

Up the Bank there is the Catholic Church, dedicated to St John of Beverley. It was erected in 1872 at a cost of £1,500, defraved out of the Newbrough Fund, by which it is also endowed. It is a building of stone in Early English style, consisting of nave, chancel, north vestry, south porch and a turret at the west end, containing one bell. There are 200 sittings; adjoining is a Presbytery. The Minister is the Rev George Silvertop, Presbytery, 1906.

Down the hill by the rail-way gates there was the Congs (not any longer I see). The Congs was built in 1863 at a cost of £700, with £250 sittings and the Minister in 1906 was the Rev Edwin Charles Rattrey, The Manse.

In Church Street there was and still is the Primitive Methodist chapel, erected in 1893 at a cost of £400, and enlarged in 1884 at a further cost of £600. There are 200 sittings. (Mother failed to make a note of the Minister in 1906 - can anyone

enlighten?).

In Ratcliffe Road there was also the United Free Methodist chapel, erected in 1856: a plain building of stone with 200 sittings. Rev George Langley, South View. The house now known as Valley View was the chapel. Also in Ratcliffe Road was the Wesleyan chapel, erected with a Sunday School attached at a cost of £840. There were 350 sittings. My relative, with whom I stayed while on holiday, told me that it is now the local Community Centre. Many changes have taken place in Haydon Bridge since I left in 1922, but none as outstanding as the shops and people of different trades. I'll tell you about some of these people and of the shops that that made village life interesting in the year I was born - 1906. instance, two days before I was due to fly back to Canada from my joyful holiday in 1988, I wandered into a shop that used to belong to 'a one Nicholas Beattie'. Do you know what the shop was and where it is?

I was fifteen years old when I was last in that shop (just before I left for Canada) but as I opened the door, (the shop was full, but it doesn't take many to fill that shop) I saw her. She stood with her back to me looking as sweet as ever, her silver

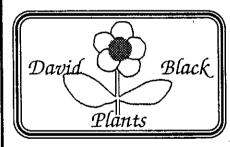
hair reflecting the morning light as I looked at her through tear-filled eyes. My knees became weak. old heart my thumped.....yes, I still loved her. I became very shy, I wanted to to turn, run out of the shop and just leave it at that. "After all, I am 82 now and she is 83 and maybe she had forgotten all about me", I said to myself as I gazed at her. Fancy that silly old man of 82, whose life is all but over, feeling the way I do about my first love. In one brief moment in

In one brief moment in that crowded shop I slowly moved up from behind and slowly slipped my hand into hers. As she looked around her hand gripped mine tight and tears filled those gentle hazel eyes. That said it all as she looked at me.

No-one noticed - no-one saw that brief encounter from the long, loving past, but Miss**** from the other side and I did manage a walk amongst the sweet meadows behind Esp Hill where our young love blossomed all those years ago. Again we both swore our love until I come back in 1991 to marry her.

(More to come)

Owing to lack of space the Lands End to John o' Groats Bike Ride will continue next time.



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