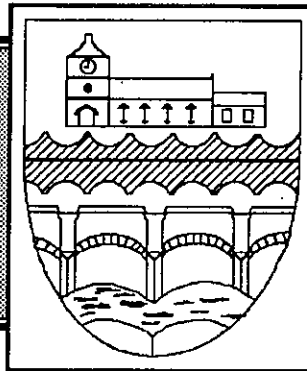


# HAYDON NEWS



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MAY 1991 · No. 30

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## EDITORIAL

A lively magazine is a valuable contribution to the 'sense of community' within a parish and I am therefore delighted by the quality, quantity and variety of the material being submitted for publication on the Haydon News.

It will have been noticed that in recent months it has been impossible to maintain the former timetable of issue, and sometimes delivery as well, within the first week of each month. The material received by the 20th of any one month is processed immediately, the excellent Parish Council Pickings are added within a couple of days of the relevant meeting, and the Master Copy is then ready for printing. Unfortunately this now has to be done outside the village, and in order to keep the cost of the operation within our means it is necessary to wait for spare printing capacity to become available. As things stand at present, a delay of two weeks or more!

In submitting notices of forthcoming events would correspondents therefore note that that items handed in on the 20th of any one month are unlikely to reach the readership before the 20th of the following month, and realistically should be detailing what is planned to take place during, say, the month after that. Arrangements for the production of the Haydon News are under constant review and readers can rest assured that every effort is being made to improve upon the present situation.

Gina Richardson  
Editor.

## LETTERS

### Haydon Bridge Day Centre

This is a very sad letter for me to have to write. I started the Centre on 3rd January 1980, with 26 members. We have had ten good years, which have been a lot of hard work but also a lot of fun. Unfortunately, now we do not seem to have any Senior Citizens who wish to spend a day from home. In January of this year I was left with only two members, so I had to think about winding up the Day Centre.

I am very grateful to the 20 helpers who have stood-by and helped me; most of them the whole eleven years. I say to them a very big "thank-you". Also the transport drivers who worked on a six-week rota to bring in the members and take them home; thank-you very much. I also thank the unseen helpers who used to come in early in the morning to set out tables and chairs and switch on the heating.

I am going to miss my Thursdays. In eleven years I was off only three times!

It has been suggested that we start something in place of the Day Centre, such as a Luncheon Club, but this would require the interest and help of younger villagers. If anyone has any ideas about something like this I would be grateful to hear from them. The Day Centre kept Haydon Bridge "on the map" because I used to talk about it wherever I went, country-wide. So please read this letter and think what can be done about the social life of our Senior Citizens.

Mary Porteous.  
6 Langley Gardens  
Tel: 684404.

### An Appeal from the Antipodes

I am a family historian, and it is through my researches that a distant relative of mine sent me a copy of the December 1990 Haydon News, which mentioned a mutual relative, William Henderson Brown, the Haydon Bridge blacksmith at the turn of the century.

One of the main aims of my research is to trace as many distant relatives as possible and to locate any old family photographs before they are destroyed or their identity is lost. I would be most grateful if any of your readers could help in any way.

My great-grandfather's sister married William H Brown at the end of last century and had four children. I am particularly interested in locating the family of their daughter, Margaret Annie, born in 1902. I believe that she married and moved to Hebden Bridge, in Yorkshire. I have a number of photographs of William and his blacksmith's shop, but none of his wife or family.

I have much stronger blood ties to the area through my grandmother's family, the Reeds. My four-times great-grandparents Robert and Eleanor Reed lived around Haydon last century, having for much of the time the corn mill at Plankey and later that at Woodhall, before retiring to live in Haydon Bridge itself. Their eldest son, my ancestor, also Robert, married Mary Bell whose family have lived in the area since records were kept. Robert and

Mary's daughter Eleanor married John Hamilton who was manager of the Haydon Bridge Iron Works as well as Secretary of the Oddfellows Society and a local lay preacher. John would have been a well-known local personage at one time and I would very much like to locate photographs of him or his wife.

Of Robert and Eleanor Reed's other children the next, named Isabella, married into the local Dinning family, who owned the Langley Smelt Mills and much of the surrounding farmland. Despite being such a well-to-do family, after the collapse of the lead industry in the 1880's the family scattered and I can find very little by way of photographs or information.

The next child died young, leaving a daughter Emma who married a local farmer, Thomas Carr. She died in the 1920's but had at least two daughters, though I have been unable to trace them.

I am sure that someone somewhere around Haydon Bridge, or someone from further afield who reads the Haydon News, has the old photographs which I am seeking, or can give me some clues as to the whereabouts of my missing relatives. Time is not on my side and I will be most grateful for any help which is forthcoming.  
 Mark Hindmarsh  
 Auckland  
 New Zealand.

Editor's Note: I will be pleased to forward any information or documentation to Mr Hindmarsh.

**HEALTH CENTRE NEWS**

One of the new duties for GPs these days is to write an annual Practice Report for the Family Health Services Authority. This provides an opportunity to measure what has actually been done in the practice in the last twelve months. Copies of our report will be left in the waiting room for anyone who wishes to see them.

Some items of general interest from the report:  
 97.7% of our referrals are to Hexham General Hospital, the one whose future - to say the least - uncertain!  
 8013 consultations took place, 159 operations were performed in the Health Centre, the nurses saw 2191 patients and 244 patients joined the practice.  
 91.39% of eligible women have had their smear.

100% of eligible children have had their basic immunisations and their Mumps/Measles/Rubella injection, 94% have had Whooping cough injections and 93% have had their preschool injection.

71% of adult patients are up to date with their Tetanus shots. Recently two women, aged 51 and 82, have been admitted to Ashington with Tetanus infections from the most minor household accidents. If you are one of the minority who is not up to date please think carefully for a moment and then run quickly all the way up to the Health Centre to see Mary who will put everything to rights.

Between them the partners worked 7354 hours, for the busier partner this gives an average 103 hour week. For the last complete year for which we have figures the practice spent

£92,995.00 on prescribed treatment for patients. Our "allowance" for 1991/2 is £102,000.00, this is a 9.7% increase. The cost of prescribed treatment is presently rising by a much larger percentage.

The last evening meeting at the Health Centre - The work of the Fairnington Centre - was so useful that a follow-up meeting is planned. Too much stress can be harmful in many different ways. Drugs have a part to play in overcoming stress but other treatments can be even more effective in the longterm. Relaxation techniques can be learnt and prove very helpful for many people. If there is a sufficient demand from people in Haydon Bridge it might be possible to arrange sessions at the Health Centre for learning relaxation. Do let us know if this appeals.

At the moment there are no other meetings planned. Do make use of the suggestion box in the Pram Porch. The children's clinics for the next three months are:

- May 16th
- June 6th and 20th
- July 4th and 18th.

Steven Ford

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**A PAINTING JOB**

Tenders are requested for the complete external repainting of East House, Shaftoe Terrace.

Please deliver your offers to the Office, Shaftoe Terrace, by the end of May.

Queries to J P Richardson, Clerk to the Shaftoe Charities, Tel 684298.

## PARISH COUNCIL PICKINGS (Meeting of 25 April 1991)

Ten Councillors were present. Next month there cannot be more than nine because two have not stood for re-election and no new candidates have come forward. This means that all nine who are standing are automatically re-elected: but it is also the duty of the next meeting to find two people willing to be co-opted - otherwise the residents will have to bear the cost of a new election. Remember that point when somebody asks if you are willing to let your name go forward!!

The question of the state of the river-bank between the Anchor and the new bridge gets steadily more involved. Considerations of river management (the River Authority), public footpaths (County Council?), and "environmental protection" - i.e. litter and dumping (District Council) are all relevant. Your District Councillors are trying to promote a solution which will deal with all these problems at once. Wish them luck!

The Parish has finally accepted that the only way to keep the verge at the West End tidy is to pay for it to be cut. The area damaged during the recent road works will be re-seeded by the Contractors: thereafter the Parish will organise three cuts per year. A proposal to plant shrubs in the grass strip along Church Street is not thought to be worth while. There are far too many tree roots to give them a chance. Maybe a layer of bark or gravel would be a better idea.

The excitement about the by-pass is reported elsewhere. More immediately, there are four road jobs in the pipeline - Greenshaw, Whitechapel and two in the village which will take priority over further work at "Watson's Garage" while the ground settles. Expect no more activity there before spring next year.

Nobody is happy about the Royal Mail sorting office proposals. The Parish Council thinks it is wrong that the "neighbourhood" functions which a local postman and a local Post Office cannot help providing should be sacrificed to an economic advantage relating exclusively to an artificial business entity called "Royal Mail Letters". An obscure body called POUNC (Post Office Users National Council) will receive representations.

Questions were again raised about the validity of the Co-Op's use of the back lanes, particularly Back Church Street. An estimate (no more) is to be obtained for the cost of the repair to an acceptable standard of both back lanes.

J P R

\*\*\*\*\*

## FLOWER POWER

The daffodils have made a brave show in spite of the upheaval at the West End. Church Street may get a face-lift when the High School gets cracking. I need trailing lobelia and any other plants for the hanging baskets. I am going to Kirkley Hall on May 1st for further instruction regarding hanging baskets. You can't deny that I am trying. My husband says, "very trying".  
Enid Garrow  
Keeper of the Baskets.

## THE BY-PASS

It was standing-room only in the Community Centre for the Public Meeting on May 1st. The attendance was in excess of 150 adults and it is fervently hoped that the children present will not be taking their children or grandchildren to an action(?) replay in future years.

Councillor Howard gave a very brief outline of events since the New Bridge was built - nearly a quarter of a century ago! The present position is that a small deputation will be meeting the Minister of Transport, in London, on May 14th. The official Northumberland County Council line at this meeting will be to press for priority to be given in the short term to the construction of a Haydon Bridge By-pass, substantially along "Red B Route" (as selected by Public Consultation in 1978) and possibly for the carriageway to be dualled from Hexham to the "tunnel top" west of Haydon Bridge at the same time. Northumberland County Council supports dualling of the whole of the A69, but as a longer-term objective.

There was thorough and constructive discussion of the actions which can be taken at local level to further the cause and it was agreed that an Action Committee should be formed to co-ordinate the activities. There are several distinct areas of action to be taken and anyone wishing to know more or willing to give practical help or offer bright ideas should contact the appropriate co-ordinator.

### Petitions

The first of these is destined for the Minister of Transport on London on May 14th. It was available at the meeting, where 155 signatures were appended and then outside the Polling Station the following day. In all it carried 739 signatures by the time the poll closed at 9 pm.

### Letters

Trudy Franks, 5 Shaftoe St. An influential person is to be targetted each week to receive a large number of letters about the urgent need for a Haydon Bridge By-pass. Anyone willing to send out one letter a week (it can be the same wording every time if you wish) should contact Trudy for the list of names/dates.

### Accidents

Roy Thompson, 17 Ratcliffe Rd. There is to be a dossier of reports and photographs relating to accidents and potentially dangerous traffic conditions within the village, not only on the A69 itself but on the side roads as well if thge source of trouble is a tail-back of vehicles waiting to get on to the main road. Nothing is too minor to report. If you have already experienced or witnessed such an incident, or do so in the future, write down the details, including date and time of day if possible, sign it, add your address and hand it in to Roy or to the hair salon. Photographs should be accompanied by the same information.

### Transport

David Stockill, Tel:684754 The transport companies whose vehicles use the A69 will be lobbied, to encourage them to lobby Westminster direct or pressurise

their Trade organisations into doing so. Volunteer letter writers will be required for this in due course. In the eleven months of repair work ahead of us it may be decided to collect signatures from frustrated drivers stuck in the traffic jams.

### Pollution and Noise Measurement

Michael Jeffs will survey the instrumentation used by action groups elsewhere. Gina Richardson, 14 Shaftoe Street, will co-ordinate any data collecting activities.

### Visual Displays

Eileen Charlton, 27 Greenwich Gardens. Badges, car stickers, window notices and tee-shirts are already available, though in limited quantities. Notice boards will be erected at either end of the village if the landowners will agree to such use of their land. The Headmaster has volunteered the services of the High School to design visual displays. Ken Bennion, Tel:684797, will make and erect the notice boards if someone will supply the materials.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY.  
MONDAY 27th MAY has been chosen to mount an exhibition for invited guests, with accompanying banners, flags and anything else that can be thought of to attract attention of the approach roads. Watch out for local notices about this.

### Funding

This is an awareness-raising campaign: the need is for EFFORT far more than for CASH and everyone can help in their own way at some point along the line. Nevertheless, the offer from the Group "Wor Chest" to sing in local venues for the

benefit of the cause was noted with gratitude and will be held in reserve.

### Advice from County Councillor Purdue

In any letters, petitions or any other actions be sure to emphasise that the lack of a by-pass causes serious environmental and social problems for the village as a whole as well as the more obvious traffic dangers and delays.

### Conclusion

There was no formal vote of thanks at the end of the meeting but the audience response throughout and the feed-back since have made it clear that Eileen Charlton and her friends are to be congratulated on galvanizing the village itself into Action on this long-standing problem.

E G R

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### A REAL STORY

Taking a stroll up the riverside one day I stopped to watch two young friends fishing. Sheer concentration etched their faces as they cast: the lines forming graceful arcs as they endeavoured to reach the deep water of midstream. Once this objective had been achieved hope replaced concentration as they gently wound in their lines, only for yet once again to gaze at empty hooks. As I watched I saw the younger of the two jerk at his rod and I thought, "Ah, success". His friend went to assist and after several attempts at twisting and tugging I realised that he was indeed "snagged". They eventually managed to "free" and when they got the line back there seemed to be some excitement. Not wishing to miss out (call me

nosey if you like) your intrepid "Haydon News-hound" went to find the source of their evident joy. To my amazement, amongst the twigs and moss that had been the cause of the snag was a "reel".

"Now that's REALLY a lucky catch" I remarked with a chuckle, hoping he would see the attempt at a pun, but I was taken further aback when he went on to explain that it was indeed his own that he had lost on a previous trip some two weeks earlier.

I didn't stay to see if he caught anything else, but with luck like that he is surely destined to have some good catches in the future. Haydon Newshound

\*\*\*\*\*

### SCOTTISH WEEK

With very pleasant memories of a holiday rail tour of the Highlands and a stay on the Isle of Skye still fresh in our mind, we went along to the opening of "Scottish Week" at Gateshead Metro Centre on 18th February. By mid-morning people were flocking in from trains buses and cars. It seemed the place would become overcrowded, but there was ample room for all.

The Scottish Tourist Board organisers had a well-prepared publicity programme of competitions and fun sporting events to take place during the week. That afternoon piping and highland dancing entertained a large and appreciative audience.

Very many people were interested in the busy holiday information stands, where advice and brochures were in great demand. In addition to those who usually spend holidays north of the Border, it appeared

that many others, perhaps because of the Gulf war and fear of terrorism abroad, will be choosing holidays in Scotland this year.

Busy with the camera among the professionals as the opening ceremonies were ending we took advantage of an invitation to the Lady Mayor and Mayoress, and members of the Press, to retire to the conference room for light refreshments. A little cheeky, perhaps, but we were welcomed even though we made them aware that our "press" experience was limited to one or two articles contributed to the Haydon News. We took a few more photographs, but declined to partake of offered liquid refreshment.

RS

\*\*\*\*\*

### LAND'S END TO JOHN O' GROATS

The Bike Ride concluded

By the time we reached High Force, it was raining again. Again! I felt aggrieved - rain was cheating us of our favourite vistas. And boy, did it rain! There was nothing for it but to make for home as fast as possible - no easy task when the sky itself seemed to be sitting on your shoulders.

We awarded ourselves a day off to do the washing and weed the garden. It wasn't such a good idea on the Friday morning when we were loading up again under yet more threatening skies. However, we miraculously seemed to dodge the showers all the way to Langholm, except the few drops which fell as we were manhandling our bikes over a roadblock where the road had badly subsided.

Perhaps it was a gentle rebuke that we had not taken the long diversion round it!

When we again awoke to rain, I was ready to go home and give up. Somehow we ended up pointing in the opposite direction, into the wind and rain and uphill to boot. Yet again, by lunch-time sunshine was peeping out, hope returned and we sprinted into Peebles to find a B and B. Hitherto, most people had been vaguely curious when we'd told them what we were doing. I'd never met anyone who had biked the length of the country, although I knew people did do it. Our hostess said, "Oh no, not again. Not more end-to-enders!". Peebles is obviously everybody's stopping-off site!

Stirling was our next destination, and we were feeling pleased with our progress on a fine day when we came across a half-grown white kitten which had been struck by a car. As I approached it, I called "Oh no, someone's hit a cat". I was horrified when the poor thing raised its little head at the sound of my voice, and looked up at me in hope, vainly trying to lick away the red blood welling from the corner of its mouth. Clearly paralysed, blood also dripped from its ears and nose. "Christ, Mike, it's still alive!" I screamed. We stopped, as did a car behind us, and Mkie made me go on ahead while the car driver put the cat out of its misery. Very subdued and upset - I love cats - and feeling totally despicable, ashamed and guilty for not having been more positive towards an injured animal myself, the rest of the day

was a sad blur after such a horrid little episode.

Scotland I'd expected to be wet, so when we set off for Crianlarich in brightening weather, it was a real fillip. As anyone who knows that area will be aware, the terrain is wonderful with its hills and lochs; on a fine day it was glorious. And the following day which took us over Rannoch Moor, down Glencoe and up to Spean Bridge was simply superb. Breathtaking views in clear air and warm sunshine made us vow that Scotland is still one of the best places in the world to cycle in.

(Funny, isn't it, how afterwards the not-so-good bits can be clearer in your memory than the nice bits? The little white cat is far more vivid than the glories of Glencoe, even though I've seen Glencoe before, in equally good weather). We marvelled at the amounts of snow still sitting on the hills, even though it was June 12th.

Our journey up the Caledonian Canal seemed interminable, with a head-wind and scenery which didn't seem to change much at all. But at the hostel in Strathpeffer, a Victorian spa town, we met more cyclists, one of which was actually a BR employee, so he regaled us with inside stories about BR and cycling. The hilarity was sobered when we remembered we still hadn't organised our home-going. He urged us to go into Dingwall the next day to book the trains....

Which we did. It only took an hour, in between trains and the selling of tickets to other passengers. The (single-handed) station master treated us very well once he'd ascertained we

most definitely did not have a tandem - I wonder what if we had? That Thursday evening we spent at Carbisdale Castle - what a place! A real castle complete with paintings and sculpture ensured an evening of culture and dreaming of how we could live when we won the pools.

Never having been north of Strathpeffer before, we didn't know what the terrain would be like, but vaguely anticipated misty hills and heather. The unexpectedly lush pastureland, with splashes of yellow gorse and broom against the blue sea was a colourful contrast. Helmsdale was our penultimate stop before the last leg up to John o' Groats - why did I have a niggle of discontent? I found out the next day. It was cold and grey with a northerly wind, through rolling, bleak country. We arrived at Duncansby Head tired with no sense of achievement at all. It felt really anticlimactic, mostly because we'd be going home on the train tomorrow. I wanted to get back on my bike and head for Cape Wrath then meander down the West Coast.... We celebrated our "success" with half a fruit and nut bar and a drink of orange juice, turned away from the north-easternmost point of mainland Britain and set off to find the youth hostel.

Well, that was it. We covered some 1100 miles, taking 21 days - a minor achievement given that the ladies' record is now just over two days and the men's is less than that. We zipped through 16 counties entirely without punctures or mechanical problems, getting wetter than we

would have liked (although it wasn't that bad), but meeting some lovely people and generally having a super holiday. We also raised £440.00 to help purchase equipment for the new Haydon Bridge Health Centre - we would like to say a big thank-you to all who gave us their support.

Liz and Mike Jukes

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### THE PARISH CHURCH

The usual services will be held during June but please remember the **CHURCH FETE** which will be held in the Church Hall and grounds on **SATURDAY JUNE 8th**, starting at 2.15 pm.

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