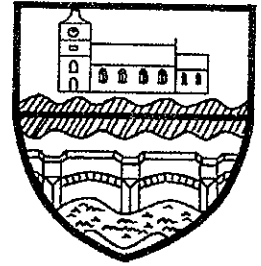


# Haydon News

The Friends of Haydon Bridge thank the Advertisers for their continued support



December 1995 / 10

IN THIS ISSUE: Revelation that our local butcher practices Nepotism. Village Doctor's own secret alcoholic remedy. Local lady suggests a new Lottery competition. A novel use for sausages. An unwanted pregnancy revealed. Spans and Arches. A nice poem and much more.

Win £10  
Crossword Competition inside

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Wednesday	11.30	-	1.30	5.00	- 9.00
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## EDITORIAL

*Only a couple of days ago I happened to be in a shop in order to buy an ink-ribbon for my typewriter. I overheard a snatch of conversation between two customers.*

*"What the \*\*\*\* shall I get that old \*\*\*\*\* for his present?" - "Oh, God! Get the \*\*\*\*\* some note-paper."*

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the late Rev. R.A. Reid wrote the above in the December 1965 issue of the Parish Magazine.

Reading through the archives trying to get some inspiration for this month's editorial I came across the above 30 year old anecdote. The article continued:

*I cannot help but wonder how many of you are going to receive presents bought in that spirit.*

*I cannot help but wonder how much happiness the presents given and received in that spirit are going to bring.*

*I cannot help but wonder how much more good the money thus wasted (for wasted it be) could have done had it been otherwise applied.*

Following a debunking of Christmas cards and gifts the Christmas 1965 article concludes:

*As at the first Christmas God put you first, so now should we put Him first by seeking how we can do the most good where good most needs to be done.*

*That is - to my mind, at least - the true spirit of Christmas.*

...oooOOOooo...

Back to 1995. Your present Editor who does believe in Father Christmas and the Christmas Spirit took no truck with a friend a few years ago, who not being short of a bob or two said to me at a New Years Eve party "You know what Mitch I'm pi\*\*ed off that every bleedin' Christmas I spend £500 for some socks and hankies" See you in February

Mitch

## BUTCHERED

Every Thursday I pop into Andy Shield's shop in Church street to get my weekly meat order. Normally one of the good looking young butchers, Neil Roberts or Paul Baugh freely serve me the one and only thing I ever get - a small bone for my little dog Millie. Despite not spending anything in the shop the lads are always cheerful and courteous. Andy always comes up with a caustic comment, this week it was no different when he shouted from the back room to the lads "Make sure Mitch buys a couple of pounds of rump steak!" - 'cheeky sausage', thought I.

Now Andy knows that I never buy meat as not being able to cook I eat out a lot in the very good restaurants of our licensed advertisers The Haydon, Havelock and Oddfellows. The Railway does not serve restaurant meals at the moment although I do have the occasional Pizza there. Langley Castle have just started advertising and I have not yet had the opportunity to visit. I'll do that as soon as I find someone who will share a table with me for the evening. The Haydonian WMC do not have a restaurant.

I have a feeling that Andy would like more of you to visit him to buy your meat supplies. He claims that his prices are as competitive as any of the Hexham quality butchers. Bones are free, he does have four charity boxes on the counters which require filling!

Robert Andrew Shield is a Mancunian and was a Local Authority Meat Inspector in Manchester before running his own butcher's shop in that city. The family came to the Village in May 1989 taking over the butchers from Pat and Neville, (Leck and Telford) who were there for donkey's years. The shop has supported the Haydon News for nigh on 18 years.

The family, wife Linda and their four daughters (now 17, 15, 14, 8), came in order to have an 'easier life' (sic) than possible at the very busy Manchester shop. Linda's parents Roy and Beryl Dorriy already lived in the Village. Andy's father was a Northumbrian who came from the town of Ashington.

Of the staff - Neil is also from Manchester and is in fact a distant cousin of Andy's, Paul is a local lad. Carol Johnstone is the full time baker and comes from Humshaugh, prior to working at the shop she worked in the Kielder Restaurant. There are two part-time ladies daughter Catherine and Linda Pender. Andy's wife works full time.

He was really chuffed a couple of years ago when Lord Elliott wrote into the Hexham Courant praising the quality of the dry cured bacon that he purchases from the shop.

Not so chuffed was the butcher when he learned that some of his sausages were impounded by Customs in Australia, however many of his wide variety of tasty sausages have managed to find their way into other far off lands, South Africa to name but one. Whilst in Manchester he made beef free sausages for the large Sikh community resident there, he finds no demand for this product here.

The biggest single order for his quality meats was earlier this year when he supplied Langley Castle with sufficient beef and ham to cater for some 500 people.

As well as being a practicing nepotist Andy is a member of the Parochial Church Council of St. Cuthberts. In the Christmas Pantomime he plays the part of the 'Dame' and says that any suggestions that his bosom is made up of 14 lbs of freshly made pork sausages are without foundation.

There was some rumour going around that the Shields were interested in buying Lipwood Hall but went off the idea when Linda said she didn't like the nauseating smell of greasy bacon about the place. Andy says that these stories are all untrue and is happy to have bought Tony Blackburn's house.

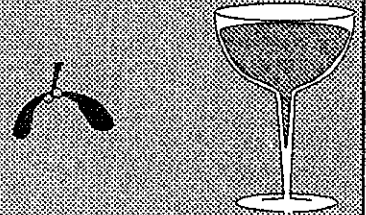
The cafe above the shop should be opening before Christmas, Andy hopes that this will make a good central meeting place in the Village.

SBM

*It is better to want meat than guests or company*

The Friends of Haydon Bridge wish all Readers, Contributors, Advertisers and Distributors:

A Merry Christmas  
&  
A Happy and Healthy  
1996



**PARISH COUNCIL PICKINGS**  
Thursday 23rd November 1995

Nine Councillors, County Cllr Purdue one member of the public and the Hexham Courant reporter were present.

The meeting began with an interesting presentation by Mr Darling of Tynedale Housing Department. The question at issue was whether Haydon Parish Council did or did not want to conduct a housing needs survey. The purpose of the survey is to establish the extent of any housing shortage in the Parish: this data can then be used by the Housing and Planning Departments to negotiate the provision of a proportion of 'affordable' housing within each new development.

In the Tynedale District Plan provision has to be made for the building of 2200 new houses by the year 2006. As Haydon has had barely any new housing (private or public) for many years, and because it is a natural 'local centre' with schools, railway, main road, post office, shops, pubs etc. it is the natural choice for some of these 2200 - 156 of them in fact.

Some Parishes have rejected the idea of a 'Needs Survey' on the grounds that 'affordable' housing will lead to the 'wrong' type of development. That is not the view of Haydon Parish Council who believe that if houses are to be built anyway, they ought, as far as possible to cater as much for the needs of existing residents as for new arrivals. So a Survey Form will be distributed to every house in the Parish in mid-January. The Parish Council urges you most strongly to fill them in and return them so that there is a fully documented and comprehensive record of Housing Need. You will not be asked to put your name on the form.

The Hexham Civic Society's ideas about extending the Green Belt were discussed. The Council's view was that the area in question is sufficiently protected by other planning criteria which already apply.

Cllr Bill Howard reported that it has proved impossible to find space for a grass bowling green, plans are now being worked out for a 3 rink artificial surface near to the football field. This will cost the Parish far less in upkeep.

Expenditure plans for 1996 were discussed. The proposals include extra money to pay for the upkeep of the new landscape features and the hanging baskets; help for the Community Centre to upgrade it's kitchen to meet legal requirements; a bigger grant to Langley Village Hall; a grant to the Scouts to help them replace the ageing minibus. At the level of Band D Council Tax, this would result in an increase of about £3.50 for the year.

JPR



**LANGLEY W.I.**

The first of two meetings held at Langley W.I. in

November was a talk on making jewellery given by Mr Thompson.

This time consuming hobby produced some remarkable results and members were able to admire a selection of rings, pendants, tie-pins etc. which Mr Thompson had fashioned from stones he had collected, cut and polished.

The second meeting was the annual pie and peas supper, which was remarkably well attended despite hazardous driving conditions caused by the first snow of winter.

Winter woes were soon banished by the sunny banter of Eddie Milligan who compered the evening's entertainment. Vocal entertainment was provided by local singer Al Jackson, accompanied by his son Daniel. They soon had the audience singing along enthusiastically to their wide repertoire of songs.

W.I. members Eileen Martin, Frances Wise and Laura Gilhespy entertained the audience with monologues and sketches which were thoroughly appreciated because of their references to local personalities.

The evening ended with the traditional auction carried out by Maurice Reed, aided and abetted by Eddie Milligan - a formidable double act.

This was once again a most successful and enjoyable evening and members and guests alike are already looking forward to 1996.

M Nagel

**ANGRY LADIES**

When you have words with your unreasonable partner do you storm out of the room in tears and slam the door hard behind you ?

Why not fix a balloon to the door frame before you start the next row then leave with dignity pulling the door shut gently - it's just as effective.

**THE CROSSWORD**

There was again an excellent response with 15 correct entries.

\$T.Alexander, \$D.Corbett, \$K.Heslop, \$R.McVay, \$M.Robson, \$B&R Shout >S.Charlton, >M.Moore, >M.Hindle, >M.Nagel, >A.Scott, +T.A.Bates, \*N.Pretswell, \*A.Phillips. \*S.Stephen-son.

Previous correct entries: \$P.Irving, +R.Armstrong, +E.Rumney, \*C.Todd, \*J.Tucker, J.Heslop, Mrs Jackson, E.Jukes, M.Porter.

\$ Five or more correct entries to date  
> Four correct entries to date  
+ Three correct entries to date  
\* Two correct entries to date.  
The remainder have one correct entry.

Terry Alexander, David Corbett, Kirsten Heslop, Philida Irving, Raymond McVay, Maureen Robson, the Shout sisters Betty and Rosemary are already sure of their places in the special £50 competition having already completed five or more correct entries. There are five more of you (>) who can become eligible to join the seven households - best of luck.

All of those with three correct entries to date can still obtain four correct entries thereby gaining entry to the £25 competition. See Rules on page 6, if you think that you will have four or more entries after completion of this month's competition.

On Sunday 19th of November 14 entries were put into Sid Thompson's ashtray and two winners drawn by Edna Rumney and Joyce Tucker.

I know a lot of people enjoy doing the crossword without submitting it, some have asked if they can have a copy of the special competition. You can have a non-entry copy if you will donate £1 to help fund the Haydon News in 1996. If you have any queries please give me a ring on 684 035  
SBM

**NEXT ISSUE OF THE HAYDON NEWS**

31 JANUARY 1996

ALL COPY TO THE EDITOR:

S.B. MITCHELL,  
HIGH BRINDLES  
HEUGH HOUSE LANE

OR ALTERNATIVELY  
HAND IN AT THE POST OFFICE

BY 20 JANUARY PLEASE

### ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

A capacity audience filled the Church Hall on Friday November 10th when Mr. W. Nichol gave his most informative and illuminating talk on the buildings, machines and working conditions for the men who kept the Settlingstones Mine, Stonecroft Colliery and Frankham Quarry in operation.

The event raised £72.00 towards arthritis research and the Haydon Bridge branch thank both Mr. Nichol and all who attended.

Hilary Rutherford  
Brigwood

#### By-Pass Update

On Monday 6th November another 1,000 letters were handed out to vehicles stuck in the traffic lights, again we received a good reaction from drivers, they are pleased to see we are trying to do something ! The roadworks were done in record time but we question what was actually done, major reinforcement turned into just a new surface on top of the main problem, a crumbling foundation. When the rains came down we find that they have created a paddling pool, pedestrians being soaked if they dare use the pavements, no doubt workmen will be back.

Mitch's figures for traffic flow are proving what we have been saying - that the amount of traffic greatly exceeds the figures quoted by the Department of Transport. We are using this to question where they get their figures from. I've had a great deal of mail from the House of Commons, mostly saying that they are going to look into the issues we have raised, perhaps I'll have more to report on this in the next issue of the Haydon News.

Eileen Charlton By-Pass Committee

**R**osemary is an aromatic shrub the leaves of which are used in both perfumes and cookery. In the post this month was a letter which formally addressed me as S.B. Mitchell Esquire which when opened I saw that it contained a couple of letters and a large cheque, payable to me ! I quickly flipped the pages to find that the letters were simply signed Rosemary. The phone interrupted me, whilst having the telecon I convinced myself that the cheque was from Rosemary Squires (not Dorothy) a big-band singer I once knew, who went to America and had a most successful career making TV commercials. "Good old Rose", thought I, "in not forgetting your biggest fan." Alas the letters were not from her, nor the cheque for me, but more importantly a donation from Rosemary the Postie to the Village, her letter read:

*As we head towards the close of 1995. Can I take this opportunity to say a very big **THANK YOU** to all those kind motorists of the village (too numerous to mention individually) who have rescued me from the roadside, and returned me to Hexham.*

*In trying to think of a practical way to show my gratitude I came up with the idea of a contribution to the "gardening-fund" for the purchase of some extra bulbs. Something we can all appreciate and enjoy.*

*Again. A very sincere thank you to all.*

*Rosemary*

The donation has been passed over to Eileen Charlton who is more than pleased to receive it for shrubbery enhancements.

**Thank You**

Rosemary could now be rescued by the Scout's new Minibus which has now arrived. At the time of writing, it was planned to be on show in Church Street on 25th November when the fund raisers could say a personal thanks to everybody who helped. The 1st Haydon Bridge Scout Group letter says:

*The Minibus has arrived. 1st Haydon Bridge Scouts are now the proud owners of a Transit mini bus specially adapted to carry 17 young passengers in fully seat-belted comfort.*

*The bus has been supplied by a firm in Dorset who specialise in converting and fitting out buses with seat belts and all the other necessary safety features, such as reversing bleeper, fire extinguishers etc.*

*Though the bus is 'H-reg' it looks as good as new, and should give years of good service.*

*Many thanks to all concerned, both individuals and organisations, who donated time, effort and money to help raise the substantial sum needed to acquire this vehicle.*

*This helps us ensure safer transport for our children for the foreseeable future.*

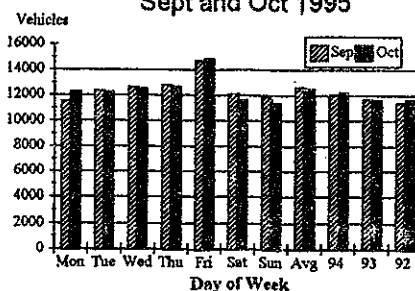
*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.'*

#### A69 TRAFFIC

This graph compares average daily traffic during the months of September and October 1995.

The Avg column shows the average traffic in Sept. and Oct. of this year, the same months average figures for the preceding three years 94, 93, 92 are then also shown. An upward trend can be seen from 1992 to 1995. **SBM**

#### A69 Traffic Sept and Oct 1995



#### To our Advertisers

As Treasurer of the Haydon News I would like to say thank you to all our advertisers (well nearly all) for their cheerful willingness to pay their dues for the 1995/1996 advertising year. It makes my job a lot pleasanter and easier.

To remind the few whose money I still have to receive, my address is Cubstocks, Haydon Bridge NE47 6NF, or an envelope left at John Clarke's shop will do.

**John Richardson**  
Hon. Treasurer

December Garden



**The Holly** - the name is from the word holy - has had religious significance from pagan times. It was adopted by Christians and its barbed leaves and blood red berries symbolised the crown of thorns. It has had a long association with Christmas.

Each winter I admire the holly tree in the village in front of the United Reformed Church. It is a self pollinating form of holly called - *Ilex aquifolium* 'J C van Tol' with glossy deep green oval leaves which are almost thornless. Bunches of red fruit adorn the tree without fail every year.

Hollies don't all grow as large as this magnificent tree some hollies remain tiny dwarfs. most are slow growing and all respond well to pruning so there is room for a holly in most gardens. Hollies will flourish in sun or shade; they are not fussy about soil and will make superb garden specimens. Remove any leaves that revert to green.

Holly trees are either male or female ( except for a few self fertile forms). Only the female plant will bear berries so it is important to choose a female variety and to make sure that there is a male plant in the vicinity.

**and The Ivy** - an indispensable, versatile plant. Evergreen, hardy and easy, it will climb without support, trail gracefully from containers or can be used as ground cover. 'Goldheart' is one of the hardiest and will quickly cover a wall. 'Buttercup', an all gold variety, is one of my favourites. Kirkley Hall College, Ponteland, houses the national collection of ivies and has over 800 cultivars. They are open daily from 10.00am until dark.

Continue planting deciduous trees and shrubs if the ground is not frozen or waterlogged.

Take hardwood cuttings about 9" long and insert into the soil to at least half their length.

Cut back tall roses to about half their height to prevent windrock.

Clear away leaves and debris from borders before the weather worsens.

Melt a hole in the ice if your pond freezes over to reduce pressure on the sides and allow in oxygen for the fish.

Mulch over the crowns and root areas of perennials of borderline hardiness to protect them from frost; use leaf-mould, bracken, straw or bark chippings.

James Thin

More Gardening Tips

My grandfather was a well known amateur gardener in Newcastle and gave me many useful tips. Stick three inch wide posts 6ft apart at the edges of the garden, nail some wire mesh between them - this will indicate where your garden ends and the neighbour's begins. Dip soil in vinegar, it lasts longer. Joe

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CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Who has lost Christmas ?  
*No one - that's silly*  
So tell me !  
Where is it then ?  
The Spirit I mean

Where does it live now ?  
*Everywhere I suppose*  
Show me where it is  
*In the hearts of everyone*  
*I think*

*Goodwill to all men*  
Yes I suppose that's symbolic  
*Joyful tidings*  
Yes yes I know all that !

So ?

Do people still remember  
*What ?*  
The birth of The Babe  
*Yes of course, it is written*

But is it remembered  
amid the festivities ?  
*I don't know*  
It's a bit like The Spirit then ?  
*How ?*

Forgotten !

Sylvia



"I can't help it ... it's just the way I am"



Condoms don't only prevent AIDS !



It was in days of old  
when Knights were bold  
and the Lottery had just been invented.  
A battle of wills  
and superior skills  
sprang up and was duly presented.

The television debate  
full of venom and hate  
decided the dastardly spot.  
"A tournament will take place"  
he said with straight face  
'neath the walls of King Arthur's Camelot."

## The day King Arthur lost his balls

### THE CHALLENGE

He'd issued the challenge on live television, thrown down the gauntlet if you like, to gauge the reaction from King Arthur's Court. He had originally made the accusations in a 'tongue in cheek' manner, but later when he'd had time to think about them more seriously he was convinced his theories were correct.

The National Lottery was no myth! It was cold, hard fact and people appreciated fact above all else. They wanted to see their money going to worthy causes, benefiting those less fortunate than themselves and this just wasn't happening. A few small sums had been allocated to minor charities and obscure organisations but to date the main part of the proceeds had furthered rich people's pursuits. Unfortunately the present owners of the Lottery, King Arthur and his Bold Trusty Knights were of the minority opinion that the Arts and Heritage were infinitely more deserving.

His Majesty had angrily picked up the gauntlet and taken himself off to discuss the worsening situation with Merlin, Camelot's resident magician and long serving tutor to Mystic Meg. Hence the Tournament.

A novel experience the media pounced upon with great relish, resulting in the following announcement being printed in the Mythical Financial Times.

*A Tournament will take place 'neath the walls of King Arthur's Camelot at the 'lucky for some' thirteenth hour of the thirteenth day of the thirteenth year of this thirteenth century A.D., to decide the just and rightful ownership of our much loved Lottery.*

*The contest will be between the present owners, King Arthur and his Bold Trusty Knights, famous for doing chivalrous deeds, fighting gallant fights and supping Carling Black Label by the crateful, thus provoking the afore mentioned gallant fights, and a certain 'Dick' Branson, accompanied by his team of Angelic Virgins, famous for hot air ballooning taking the King of British Airways for a jolly good ride and extremely good compact discs.*

*It was hereby decided by both teams of contestants, Lottery balls numbered 01 - 49, taken from envelope number 4 by Miss Anthea Turner, would be used as weapons.*

### THE TOURNAMENT

As the fateful thirteenth hour approached each man was allocated two balls which they nervously jiggled about in their hands.

King Arthur glanced proudly at his men, resplendent in filigreed armour, gave Sir Lancelot a slow, knowing wink.

Now Sir Lancelot, who really did prance-a-lot, guiltily misinterpreted this gesture and immediately dropped his balls onto the battle scarred ground whereupon they rolled speedily downhill into the sand filled bunker at the edge of the thirteenth green.

King Arthur cried with fists in the air  
"In two balls short, lose more if you dare."

So

Battle commenced and waged for hours  
Balls became soft and lost precious powers.  
Until only the two faced each other with fear  
Defeatedly King Arthur placed his on the floor

He declared, "I give up. I cannot do more  
You're the new Lottery owner, the winner for sure"

Joyce

### IT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER

- 1877 - Thomas Edison recorded 'Mary had a little lamb' in his own voice and demonstrated the first gramophone
- 1888 - Vincent Van Gogh cut off part of his own earlobe
- 1898 - Marie and Pierre Curie discovered radium
- 1920 - Women must come off the pedestal. Men put us up there just to get us out of the way [Lady Rhondda]
- 1935 - Little Richard the Rock and Roll pioneer born
- 1943 - Editor's mam died on the 23rd in Haydon Bridge
- 1953 - First issue of Hugh Hefner's Playboy magazine was published, centre-spread nude was Marilyn Monroe
- 1954 - Annie Lennox the pop singer born on Christmas Day
- 1958 - Britains first motorway, the Preston by-pass, opened by Prime Minister Macmillan
- 1967 - Dr Christiaan Barnard carried out the world's first heart transplant operation, in Cape Town South Africa
- 1965 - 70 m.p.h. speed limit introduced in Britain
- 1969 - The death penalty for murder abolished in Britain

SPANS AND ARCHES

(Inspired by Bellringer's bed-time stories of old)

"Hello there old chap, how are you ?" said the Old Bridge to the New Bridge. "I think I can call you that by now for you've been with us for quite a while."

"Well thanks for asking," said the New Bridge, "and I don't mind at all for that's just how I feel - old. What a year we've had, but I must take my hat off to you for standing up against those floods, you must be feeling right chuffed."

"Wellll," confessed OB, "I must say that I am somewhat proud, though for how much longer I can take the strain I do not know."

"Oh come on !" said the NB "There's plenty of life left in you yet. There might be the odd crack here and there so ....."

"Hold on, Hold on, " interrupted the OB somewhat a little aggrieved at the NB implying that he was a little 'crackers'. "I'll have you know there are people out there who are only too willing to fix me up, it's just that they haven't got the money, or so they say."

"Never mind " replied the NB "Their hearts are in the right place. But tell me what do you think of all this gravel shifting that took place ?"

"To be honest" responded OB "I think very little about it. They left a big pile on the top side of me that is going to rattle it's way in between us and we'll be back to square one."

"Yes, I can tell how you foresee that, for after all you have had years and years of experience." said NB.

"There you go again." chastised the OB, "Not so much of the years and years, we did very nicely before you came along, I'll have you know."

"I'm sorry," said the NB "I didn't mean to upset you but I'll bet it upset the fisherman."

"It certainly did," replied OB "Because it appears that they took away the channels and the fish couldn't run. Not to worry though, two or three floods and a year or so to rekindle the feeding beds will put things right."

"I really hope so," replied OB "for everyone's sake - especially those people living close to the road, they must be sick and tired of all the noise and disruption. We can only hope that Eileen and her team win the day."

"I've just been thinking" said the NB "It's twelve months since we last had a chat, and we've hardly had any time without traffic lights. My left shoulder is aching with all the traffic standing on top of me, not to mention those Bypassers dodging around taking censuses and handing out leaflets. Do you think we'll ever get the new road ?"

"I hear that those Parish Councillors are to press for ramps on either side of my subway." stated NB.

"So I believe," responded OB "but why it was not done when you were being built I'll never know. I seem to remember the City Fathers saying at the time it had to be ramps so how they will do it now is anybody's guess. I wonder if that will come under Northumberland County Council or that new Consortium that's due to take over the A69 ?"

"I don't know, but it's long overdue." NB answered.

OB commented "The Fair Day went off nicely again this year but I was left out once again, not even a bit of tinsel to ease my wounded pride."

"Oh dear Oh dear perhaps next year" whimpered NB.

"It's alright for you and you're little asides." said the OB "But YOU had decorations both sides, and a good views to boot !"

After a lull in the conversation the OB said "It's nice to see someone has taken time out to clean up the War Memorial."

"Indeed, indeed" replied NB "Just in time for the 50th Anniversary. Mind you I had to look that up in a book, being too young to remember. But you will still be able to recall it being sited on your north side after the Great War."

With just a little touch of nostalgia in his voice the OB replied "Yes I can and oh the peace and tranquillity of those bygone days."

"Here," said the NB "those tranquil what days ?"

"Oh never mind" smiled the OB "Greetings for the festive season." and on that note he went off to sleep for another year.

MAGNA

Anecdote Corner

Missing Glasses

Early one morning last week when I was looking for my glasses and could not find them anywhere I was just about to recover an old pair from my spectacle archive when the kettle started to boil. Pot of breakfast tea made I went to the refrigerator and there were my specs sitting at 4 degrees Celsius, where was the milk ?

You've guessed right, in the drawer where I normally put my specs. Perhaps one of Anna Freud's papers can explain it away as being linked to something I did as a child, or am I just getting old ?

My study looks like a tip, as I am a hoarder all cupboards are full, flat surfaces are covered, and piles of 'important' documents and books litter the floor. Now since the age of 17 I have kept every 'important' thing that I have written or had sent to me, some 8,400 items. I decided a big clearout was in order.

After filling and dumping six bags I returned home from Frankham pleased with my efforts. The phone rang, it was one of my children who when told of what I had done said "Dad, you're crackers, you should have kept them."

A few minutes later her elder sister rang and said "Dad, I hope you haven't burnt your's and mum's old divorce papers we four were looking forward to the day you pop your clogs when we could read what really happened." (sic)

The six bags of paper only covered up to me reaching the age of 22 and I have now abandoned the tidy-up. Of course my children don't know this, and I trust you won't tell them.

A. Resident

CHRISTMAS TIT BITS

Buy a large amount of pre-cooked cocktail sausages and drape them across the living room to make a perfectly safe and edible Christmas decoration.

After Christmas collect peoples old cards then next year post them all to yourself. The postman will think you more popular than you really are.

If you are thinking of having a party this Christmas give each guest a numbered plastic disk to swallow then if anyone throws up you will easily be able to identify the culprit.

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Number 40

An independent supplement to the Haydon News

DEC/JAN 95/96

## Light in the Darkness

In the darkest days of winter we are able to look forward to Christmas to cheer us on our way. It comes just at the right time - when the days are at their shortest and darkest. Christmas is like a light shining in the darkness, and that is exactly as it is meant to be, for what we celebrate is the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

Historically we know very little about the birth of Jesus. We have two stories in the gospels according to Matthew and Luke, but we do know a great deal about the impact of the life of Jesus on his contemporaries and on generations since then. The light of Christ was a light that changed the course of world history and has changed many of ways people have thought and acted since.

Christ's light revealed the nature of God in terms of a human life. God's nature was revealed in a way that we can all understand. The loving faithfulness of the life of Jesus reveals the love which is the very nature of God himself. It is a love which is vulnerable and yet indestructible.

Christ's light reveals the sin which puts human beings at enmity with God. The human response to Jesus was to plot against him and eventually to kill him. The light shows up evil as well as good.

Christ's light revealed a set of values which have changed the course of history. The virtues of educating the young, healing the

sick, caring for the poor, were taken forward and developed, first by the Church and later by whole societies and nations.

Christ's light, having come into the world, still shines today. Although the Church as an organisation, has its ups and downs it nevertheless, through the lives of ordinary people, keeps the light burning. A light by which we can judge our personal standards of behaviour and

character. A light by which we can judge political and economic policies. A light by which we can judge current values and morality. Christ has come, not to bring to us a fixed set of rules and laws, but to bring us light by which we can grow into full maturity as human beings.

The light of Christ continues to shine in every age for those who want to live in light. I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

K.F.

## 200th Anniversary

1996 will be the 200th Anniversary of our Parish Church. On the 20th July 1796, the Bishop of Durham consecrated St Cuthbert's Church, Haydon Bridge, to be a Chapel of Ease for the people of the Chapelry of Haydon in the Parish of Warden in the Diocese of Durham. A lot has happened since then. We are now a Parish in our own right and no longer in the Diocese of Durham, but the Diocese of Newcastle. Many changes have been made to our building and the world we live in is very different to what it was in 1796. We hope that during 1996 we will be able to recall the various stages in our history and celebrate the 200 years of our church.

To inaugurate our bi-centenary year, The Archdeacon of Northumberland, the Venerable Peter Elliott, will be our celebrant and preacher at the Parish Eucharist on the first Sunday of the year - 7th January 1996. We hope that there will be a good turn out to set the year off to a good start. We are being joined on that occasion by the people of Beltingham with Henshaw.

During 1996 we hope that there will be a number of special events organised and the climax will be the weekend of 20th/21st July when we will be holding a Summer Fete and Gift Day, and the Bishop will join us for a special service on the Sunday.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year and hope that for us all it will be a very special year.

Keith Fletcher



## Christmas services

Sunday 17th December  
3pm Family Carol Service at the  
U.R.C.

Thursday 21st December  
7pm Nine Lessons & Carols at  
the Parish Church

Friday 22nd December  
6pm Youth Christmas Celebration  
at the Methodist Church

Sunday 24th December  
9.30am Mass at RC Church  
10.30am Family Carol Service at  
Methodist Church  
10.30am Parish Eucharist at  
Parish Church  
4pm Crib Service at Parish  
Church  
6pm Carols for Christmas at  
Methodist Church  
9pm Christmas Eve Communion  
at Methodist Church  
11.30pm Midnight Mass at R.C.  
Church  
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist at  
Parish Church



### Christmas Day

9.30am Mass at R.C. Church  
10am Family Service at  
Methodist Church  
10.30am Parish Eucharist at  
Parish Church

### NOTE

On 7th January at 10.30am the  
Parish Church inaugurates its bi-  
centenary with a special Eucharist  
(There will be no 8am service)  
and in the evening at 6pm the  
Methodist Church holds its annual  
Covenant Service to which  
members of the other churches  
are invited.

## Christmas Cards

£150.90p has been raised by Mrs  
Watson from the sale of  
Christmas Cards. Proceeds are  
for the Parish Church. Many  
thanks to Mrs Watson and all her  
customers.

## Men's Christian Fellowship

5th December at 7.30pm  
"Mount Kilimanjaro"  
Mr Ian Hopper



## HOST

(Hosting for Overseas Students)  
HOST is looking for people who  
would welcome international  
students into their homes for a  
few days over Christmas, Easter  
or for a weekend. Many  
overseas students feel isolated in  
a strange country where they  
have little contact with ordinary  
people and no way of forming  
friendships with them. This  
scheme gives them a chance to  
meet and make friends with local  
people and learn about our way  
of life.

For further information contact:-

Catherine Harrison  
Press and Hospitality  
Co-ordinator  
HOST

3 New Burlington Mews  
London W1R 8LU  
Tel: 0171 494 2468

## SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

(including Beltingham & Henshaw)

3rd December - Advent Sunday  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Holy Communion at  
Henshaw  
10.30am Worship for All  
6pm United Service at U.R.C.

10th December - Advent 2  
9am Holy Communion at  
Beltingham  
10.30am Parish Eucharist  
6pm Evensong at Beltingham

17th December - Advent 3  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Carol Service at Henshaw  
10.30am Parish Eucharist

24th & 25th December  
See note of Christmas services

31st December - Christmas 1  
10am Joint Eucharist at Henshaw  
no service at Haydon Bridge

7th January - Epiphany 1  
10.30am Special Eucharist see note  
of Christmas services

14th January - Epiphany 2  
9am Holy Communion at Henshaw  
10.30am Parish Eucharist  
6pm Evensong at Henshaw

21st January - Epiphany 3  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Holy Communion at  
Beltingham  
10.30am Morning Prayer  
6pm Evening Prayer sung by choir.

28th January - Epiphany 4  
10am Matins at Henshaw  
10.30am Parish Eucharist  
6pm Evening Prayer - said without  
sermon.

4th February - 9th Before Easter  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Holy Communion at  
Beltingham  
10.30am Worship for All

# HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

## THANK YOU

Our most grateful thanks are offered to the families and friends of the late Mr Charles Glenwright, Miss Elsie Watson and Mr Alfred Bergman who made such very generous donations to the Health Centre Equipment Fund. We strive to provide the best and widest range of equipment for our patients, the support received from the public is very important in achieving this.

## ASK YOUR PHARMACIST - You'll be taking good advice.

In this season of coughs, colds, sore throats and the like

there is every reason to ask Peter Robertson for advice on managing symptoms with treatments which can be brought over the counter. The cost of over the counter medicines is often a great deal less than the cost of a prescription. If, as seems likely, the Office of Fair Trading decides that competition will be allowed the price of medicines then asking your pharmacist will be even better value.

If the cost of some branded products is a bit high then one can always consider the "generic" version. For example - Calpol tastes lovely but paracetamol elixir is much cheaper. Solpadeine is a widely known and high quality product but there are many cheaper products of equal effect. Nurofen is heavily advertised but ibuprofen is the same chemical and cheaper.

My personal recipe for a cold treatment is as follows - into a half pint mug put two soluble aspirins, a generous teaspoon or two of honey, a tablespoonful or two of pure lemon juice, fill with boiling water and season with whiskey to taste. Stir vigorously and drink while still steaming. This glorious concoction doesn't cure anything but relieves most of the unhappiness and discomfort of a cold. Hic!.....

## KINGS FUND ORGANISATIONAL AUDIT

This scheme is the GP practice quality assurance program (a sort of Kitemark for practices) which we have changed to from the BS5750. We have completed the initial survey of our organisation using the twenty odd chapter document provided by The Kings Fund. We are also part of a national pilot study on auditing fundholding. The object of this exercise is to seek out those areas of the practice which need honing and to maintain the whole organisation at the best achievable level, consistently.

## HYPERVENTILATION

In practice one often finds that conditions turn up in little bunches - rather like buses. There is none for ages and then several come along together.

Recently several people have been troubled by hyperventilation. This is a frightening but harmless set of symptoms which can start as breathlessness, a feeling of being unable to get enough air, chest pain sometimes, panicky sensations, pins and needles or a fizzing feeling around the face, hands and feet (which can turn to numbness) and faintness. The sufferer is usually very frightened indeed.

Having examined the patient to exclude any other conditions, the correct treatment is reassurance. What has happened is, that for any one of a number of reasons but often because of anxiety, the patient has

been breathing more rapidly than their body requires. This need not amount to panting but even a subtle increase in breathing over a lengthy period will change the chemical composition of the blood and this in turn will interfere with the way the nervous system works.

## SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS

It is our wish that everyone be offered an appointment on the same day that they contact the health centre.

We seem to very rarely fail to achieve this. If some future time or date would suit you better, we are very happy to fit in around your needs.

We feel that knowing you will not have to wait more than a few hours, at most, to see a doctor reduces anxiety when illness strikes.

This policy can lead to a bit of a frantic pace of work on Mondays as everyone has been saving things up over

the weekend. It would be a great help to us if those who do not NEED to be seen on Monday could choose another day in the week. Thank you for helping us to help you.

## WHEN THE HEALTH CENTRE IS CLOSED

There still seems to be some confusion about what happens when the health centre is closed at nights, weekends etc.

There is **ALWAYS** a doctor on call - every moment of every day of the year - without fail! To allow the doctor on call to be contacted wherever he or she is at any time we have hand held radios. The answer phone in the health centre will give you the number of our message taking service (0191 273 4470) which will take you message and pass it to us immediately by radio. You will NOT get a doctor from Newcastle coming to see you! It will be myself (Dr Ford), Dr Mary Henderson or Dr Jim Miles and we all live locally.

If this is not clear to anyone or if anyone has questions about how the system operates we will be delighted to explain it in greater detail.

## YOUNG PEOPLE

We are just coming to the end of our second year's group of talks to the High School students. As before, they astonish us with their considerable knowledge and eagerness to discuss issues of importance.

Parents sometimes find difficulty in talking to young people about important issues such as sex, contraception, relationships, marriage, divorce, alcohol, drugs, death, depression, suicide, leaving home, money, work etc. Adults may feel that they do not "know what to say" or do not "know the right words" but bear in mind that this is often what the young people are thinking too. Just straight forward conversations in response to questions are what is required. Talk about your own experiences, what would you do differently if you had your time over again, what are the problems you have encountered and how did you tackle them.

## NEW YEARS RESOLUTION SUGGESTION

Either stop smoking yourself or get someone else to stop with your help. SF

A Very Happy Christmas  
& Happy New Year To  
Everyone  
From  
The Partners And Staff  
At The  
Haydon Bridge Health Centre