

# Haydon News

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**September 1996 / 7**

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Continuing story of Showfield Housing. Temple Houses Bowling Green abandoned? Editors vitriolic attack! Have the physique of Linford Christie says Doctor Tebbit. Strange goings on at Langley Hotel. Amanita phalloides are dangerous. Loads of jokes & much more inside.

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## EDITORIAL

Hi folks I'm back again, batteries charged and raring to go, well I was until I made a phone call a few minutes ago. Want to hear more ? - well read on.

As I write this column it is 9am on Thursday 29th August and I've just returned from Hexham. Before I came in here to finish off the newsletter I rang up the lady who now has the daunting task of printing the 850 copies - some 5950 double sided sheets of paper. After sorting out the details of printing this issue she asked "Are you feeling better now, I hear you've been quite poorly of late ?" I explained that I felt great and hadn't been poorly. She responded "Well something must have happened to your sense of humour then !" I'm still trying to fathom that one out - in fact if there had not already been a conundrum on page 3 I would have slipped the above conversation in for you to solve. Of course people may have seen my older brother, David, wandering around the Village and mistaken him for me. He's nigh on 73, frail looking, white hair, false teeth and is a tab smoking teetotaler. I'm nowhere near 73, am robust and podgy, fair headed, with my own teeth, and a non-smoking social drinker. The more I drink the more social I get. If you refer back to July's Haydon News you will see a reasonable passport photograph of me.

You've really got a bumper bundle this month with an extra couple of pages of varied content from which I hope each of you will find something of interest, and I do hope the lady mentioned above finds at least one of the humorous bits funny this month. The Medical News page is particularly good and worthy of a couple of 'reads'. In one paragraph the Doctor suggests we all start cycling again, good idea, I myself used to cycle to and from work each day (13 miles each way) and for the past few years could be seen during the summer pushing my bike up the local hills. However when I dusted it off this year I found couldn't cock my leg over the saddle, I'll try again soon.

A couple of Strother's Close residents collared me yesterday evening and pointed out the poor state of the roadside edges with clumps of grass growing in the cracks. Apart from looking unsightly they will of course cause localised puddles when it is raining and we all know what happens to pedestrians when cars drive through puddles. Now I have been told that a certain Councillor has been informed of these frequent and unsightly clumps and is alleged to have responded that "it is not the responsibility of 'The Council' to remove them". I know that most work is privatised nowadays so it should be written into some company's contract that surface water drainage routes are kept clear - can someone please act on this. Thanks Mitch

NEXT ISSUE OF THE HAYDON NEWS

2nd October 1996

ALL COPY TO THE EDITOR:

S.B. MITCHELL,  
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HEUGH HOUSE LANE

OR ALTERNATIVELY  
HAND IN AT THE POST OFFICE

BY 26th SEPTEMBER PLEASE

WANTED  
URGENTLY

AN EDITOR FOR THE  
HAYDON NEWS

TO REPLACE PRESENT  
INCUMBENT IN  
JANUARY 1997  
See page 7

## SHOWFIELD HOUSING

Most of you will know by now that the 'Showfield Housing' scheme is to go ahead, despite late strong objections by a large number of residents. Since the last issue of the Haydon News in July there were a number of meetings dealing with the matter.

You may recall that your Editor was planning to go to the Tynedale District Council planning meeting on Wednesday 17th July to report back on the Showfield housing discussions there. However prior to that residents of Douglas Gardens had initiated a meeting with Councillor Bill which was arranged for 6 pm on Saturday 13th July in the Community Centre, I was also invited. News of the meeting quickly spread and it was not long before the inevitable rumours swept the through the Village, one was "Bill will walk out of the meeting if Mitch goes". As the Councillor had been at my front door a few days earlier and he seemed to be in good spirits I dismissed this as being just more gossip although I was mindful that he would probably be a bit touchy of my July editorial reminding him of his own January 1979 Haydon News article.

On the Saturday my sister Jean from Salisbury and cousin Vi from Corbridge were meeting a friend and I for a meal in The General Havelock and would be getting off the 8 pm bus, timing was therefore important so in deference to Angela and Ian Clyde, and remembering how they turned away a hungry Barry Manilow, we dressed posh before turning up for the 6 pm meeting.

Arriving five minutes before the session was due to start my friend sat next to some friends near the front whilst I handed a pile of surplus Village Appraisal forms to Councillor Bill and asked him to return them to his wife Marion, noticing his harassed and pained look I quickly made my way to the back row leaving my companion with her Douglas Garden friends - unless I am planning to speak I always sit at the back. Bill remained seated !

Madam Chairperson opened the meeting promptly at six by saying that this was a 'private' meeting would confine itself solely to the matter of housing at the Showfield site - no other subject would be discussed !

The first speaker, adjacent to me, opened his comments with "I wish to disassociate myself with the comments made in the July issue of the Haydon News .....", three heads in the room of 50 or so people nodded in agreement, Madame Chairperson piped in and said "Vitriolic is perhaps the word one should use ?" I made a mental note to have another read of the Haydon News when I arrived home as for the life of me I could not recall reading anything bitter in the July Editorial - perhaps I'd missed it ! Candid maybe but not bitter.

There were many questions and statements from the floor concerning the (in their opinion) absurdity of the Showfield Housing Development. After about an hour and a half the well managed meeting wound up with Councillor Bill agreeing to ask Tynedale District to defer their planning decision. Another Tynedale Councillor present then stood up and said they wished to associate themselves with the first speaker's opening comments

As the meeting ended the Douglas Gardens' residents thanked the District Councillor for attending and responding to their concerns - Councillor Bill left the meeting looking much happier than when he came in. >> P8

© Notice on the door of a Moscow hotel room: *If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.*

PARISH COUNCIL PICKINGS  
25th July 1996

8 Parish Councillors present. Business commenced at 7:30 pm.

Again there was a good turn-out on the public benches to hear Inspector Catanack from Hexham Police Station.

He reported that crime in Haydon Bridge in the 6 months January to June is down 22% compared to the corresponding period last year. There is a drop of from 34 incidents to 27. Examples are:

Burglaries of garages: Down from 9 to 2

Vehicles stolen: Down from 3 to 2

Thefts from vehicles: Down from 7 to 5

In the last 30 days there have been; 1 theft of a motorcycle; 1 damage to a car; 1 pub assault; 1 burglary and 1 theft of a bicycle reported. Inspector Catanack said that most burglaries and theft were committed by 'travelling criminals' out of Newcastle or from camp and caravan sites. He asked that people in Haydon Bridge continue to report suspicious persons and stressed that the police are always pleased to respond.

After questions from the public about vandalism and problems in Church Street the Inspector pointed out that 5 investigations have been carried out in the last 30 days including a period of 6 hours surveillance. All car documents were in order, there was no vandalism and no breaking of the law. Sitting and talking or walking about, even late at night is not an offence.

After further questions he explained that there are insufficient police resources available to have a village policeman. He said that intimidation of witnesses is very, very rare and that he had only known 2 cases in his 22 years much of which was inner-city experience. Inspector Catanack ended by making the point that if people wanted less crime then they must be prepared to give statements to the police and to report those committing offences even if they knew them personally.

Councillor Bill Howard spoke to the attending residents of Temple Houses about the bowling green proposals.

The completed feasibility study clearly showed that the sports field site had too many potential problems - flooding, maintenance etc. and had been abandoned. The Parish Council will continue to look for a site or sites.

Residents of Douglas Gardens thanked Council Howard and the Parish Council for their efforts in persuading Tynedale District Council to defer their decision on the Showfield Housing Proposal until after a site visit had been made on 2nd August. Mrs Swaddle, the Parish Council Secretary, was also thanked for her co-operation and help given to the Douglas Garden residents during their recent campaign.

A final question from the public benches was answered with the information that the questions on the Village Appraisal questionnaire were all questions posed by the public at the various open meetings.

Council business began at 9pm and was quickly concluded.

The Council is looking to forming an advisory group for youth work.

Painting of the A69 pedestrian underpass has been completed.

It was reported that repairs to the Cemetery water supply were not possible and that it would be necessary to seek an alternative way to provide a supply.

It was mentioned that The Shaftoe Trust was now charging the Scouts, Brownies and other groups for the use of the first school.

The accounts of the Parish Council have been audited at a cost of £105.00.

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm.

Final Score:

Public Participation 90 - 40 Council Business  
WEN

THE CROSSWORD

A more difficult crossword than usual in July restricted the number of correct entries to 11 this month.

On the 6th of August the two winners were drawn, they were T.Alexander and E Rumney.

After six competitions the status of winners credits are:

~P.Irving, ~A.Scott, \$T.Alexander, \$D.Corbett, \$R.McVay, \$M.Nagel, \$A.Phillips, \$M.Robson, \$E.Rumney, >N.Gilholm, >N.Pretswell, >B&R.Shout >R.Armstrong, +M.Moore +M.Hindle, \*P.Tomlinson, \*J.Tucker, H.O'Brien, E.Jukes, S.Wardle.

~ Six correct entries  
\$ Five correct entries  
> Four correct entries  
+ Three correct entries.  
\* Two correct entries.

Remainder have one correct entry.

Ladies Writing Workshop

Conundrum

Last month's - *Where am I ?*

*Deep in the jungle  
Duke searches  
For the land of fabulous opportunity  
Where lather 'Costas' a fortune*

Answer: 'Eldorado'

The £10 winner, drawn from the hat is: Norman Pretswell

This month's - *What am I ?*

*Picture me with golden memories held  
together by dreams past and present.  
Our heart-felt yesterdays locked in-  
side life's miniature.*

Answers to Editor before 26th September

From the correct entries a single winner will be drawn and will win £5

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## Readers Letters and Viewpoints - collated by the Editor

### MORE MISSING CATS

Another cat has gone missing from Tofts Bank bringing the total to 5 over the past few months.

The latest to disappear was last seen on 16th June heading towards the New Alston Crossroads. He is a medium/large tabby who answers to the name of 'Arthur' or 'Artie'

The other cats to have disappeared are of varipus colours and sizes.

We are very grateful to all those people who called in response to our last appeal. Thank You. A reward is available for recovery.

J. Housden Tel: 684183  
1, Tofts Cottages

### Arthritis & Rheumatism Council

The Strawberry Teas held on Sat. 20th July were our most successful ever, the hot weather bringing a bumper attendance. We nearly ran out of cakes!

This was reflected in our profits being well over £250. Thank you to everyone who came and/or contributed.

We were greatly assisted by the donation of strawberries from Fruit of Northumbria Ltd. They were delicious.

Our next event will be a fashion show, to be held at the Beaumont Hotel, Hexham on the evening of Nov. 4th. More details in due course.

Hilary Rutherford

### THANK YOU TO THE RAILWAY

Many readers stopped me in the street during the month of August and asked me to mention the magnificent display of flowers in the window boxes and hanging baskets adorning the Railway Hotel.

I wish to be associated with these comments, they are particularly beautiful this year.

Thank You Jackie and Josie.

A North Bank resident takes issue with Dr High's letter which discussed 'THE HOUSING NEEDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE IN 1996 AND BEYOND' in June's Haydon News where the Doctor wrote 'As I look around the village I see more and more people struggling on with increasing difficulty until they reach a stage when it is either Peelwell or Greenholme while others are stuck and isolated in little houses that deny them access to socialising.'

The North Bank reader writes: 'I would like to respond to Dr High's letter about old people having to struggle on until they reach the stage "when it is either Peelwell or Greenholme"'

### What is wrong with Peelwell or Greenholme ??

He can custom build houses to suit the elderly, but if they are not capable of either dressing or feeding themselves what good are these custom built houses for them? It is a good job there are places such as Peelwell, where they have a home from home atmosphere and can be fed and cared for with dignity.

It is no good having a kettle, never mind a home, if you cannot remember what it is for and some elderly people can not make themselves a cup of tea.'

Val Rogers

Perhaps it is time for the Editor of the Haydon News to retire gracefully to the lovely Peelwell Rest Home just across the field from his home may be in the mind of the Brigwood Chairman of Haydon Bridge Football Club who writes:

Further to the July issue of the Haydon News in which you refer to the conversation regarding the football club and the notorious bowling green proposals, I would like to right one or two inaccuracies.

Firstly, can I emphasise that the football club have no involvement with the proposed bowling green other than offering assistance with the provision of land.

When the land was first purchased for use as a sports field in the 1970's it was done so by the football club with the aid of the village holding a massive sponsored walk, for which we are very grateful. At that time it was suggested that a bowling green, tennis courts and perhaps a children's playground should be provided after the football field had been levelled and drained and the pavilion erected. The football club committee are ever mindful of this and whenever there is an opportunity to assist the village in the pursuit of more sporting facilities we are more than willing to help.

The football club never have intend to carry out this work themselves but to act as facilitators and although one or two people have mentioned the lack of a bowling green they have never been motivated enough to pursue the matter until now. The football club have in the last twenty five years, thanks to a lot of hard work by a few dedicated people, maintained the grounds and pavilion and provided a second football pitch, fenced off the playing area and provided the opportunity for five football teams to play the game they love. The ground is also used by youngsters for playing games and sports.

Now for the two inaccuracies I referred to earlier, firstly the football club would, if possible, like to buy land for expansion however the desired spot is not for sale so there is no possibility at this time however we would like to pursue the provision of a floodlit 5-a-side pitch/tennis court on the land north-east of the pavilion. Secondly it is the football club who own the land and decide on the use of the area but would take the wishes of the village into consideration as described above.'

Alan Borthwick

Sorry Alan for not reporting, verbatim, our telecon conversation on which my comments were based. You will recall that I spoke to you concerning Daisy Thompson's letter to the Parish Council however I did not want to anger Daisy any more than she already was and provoke yet another letter from her (she had also written to the Haydon News the previous month) so I refrained from disclosing word for word what you had said. Now that the Temple Houses bowling green issue is out of the way I am sure the 'elderly Haydonian' will be enlightened to read your final paragraph!!!

Bye for now see you all in October ... Mitch

⊗ Notice in a Norwegian cocktail lounge: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

September Garden

LANGLEY W.I.



Members of the Langley W.I. were treated to a dazzling display of both fresh and dried herbs at their July meeting.

This summer I realised that the first thing a lot of people say when they look around my garden is "There must be a lot of work in a garden like this." I don't know if this is because they are lost for words to describe the sheer beauty of it all or because they've spotted some weeds and thinking there is still a lot of work to be done. Whatever, it has made me think seriously about work in the garden. It can be difficult to control weeds in a large garden and I have decided to completely cover all soil with weed-suppressing mulches to achieve that most elusive of creations - a low maintenance garden! Mulches will also keep the soil moist so less time should be spent on watering.

As well as explaining how to grow these herbs, the use of herbs for medicinal purposes was also discussed. Members were also given advice as to how to use some of the lesser known herbs in cooking. Judging by the number of questions raised members will be treating their families to more adventurous culinary delights.

Many materials make suitable mulches - compost, peat, gravel, grass mowings, bark, coco shell etc. Beth Chatto uses straw which rots down as a soil improver for the back of borders but I can't recommend it because my garden turned into a cornfield after I'd tried it. You can buy plastic woven sheeting from garden centres that stops weeds growing but allows water penetration and lay this on the soil under the mulch. Newspaper can be used under the mulch for the same reason. I grow too many bulbs to be able to do this so I will have to mulch at least 3"-4" deep to cut out the light which weeds need for germination.

After supper, arrangements were made for a ramble through Langley in August, followed by a meal at the Cart's Bog Inn.

I have decided to use shredded bark because it looks natural in a country garden and is cheaper than some of the alternatives. Bark mulch has been used in the shrub borders at the new Co-op in Hexham and it looks very tidy. The best buy locally seems to be £3 for a large bag from Dilston Sawmills, less if you fill the bags yourself. I'd be interested to hear from anyone who knows a cheaper source.

M. Nagel

This month plant daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses and other spring bulbs. Tulips are better left until November.

HUBERT NIXON

Plant evergreen trees, shrubs and conifers while the soil is warm. Prepare the soil well, incorporating compost or well rotted manure and keep well watered until established. Lack of water is the main reason trees and conifers die in their first year.

Haydon Bridge is not short of real characters but one will be missed. Together with the steam engine and fairground organ, Hubert Nixon was indeed a 'character'. Not an easy man to get to know, not very fond of women! Given to complaints and short on compliments but I never asked for a donation - for anything - and came away empty handed. Indeed he will be missed

Rambling/climbing roses. Ramblers usually have numerous small flowers held in large clusters and have robust growth with the ability to sprout strong, long stems from the base of the plant. They give a mass of bloom but only once a year. They require little pruning except for the removal of old shoots when they become too dense and this is done after flowering. Climbing roses differ from ramblers in having larger flowers similar to other roses, held either singly or in small clusters and they have the ability to repeat flower. Apart from cutting back shoots which have flowered, to encourage further flowering, main pruning of climbers can be left until spring.

Enid Garrow

Feed the lawn with an autumn fertiliser, and treat weeds and moss as necessary. Remove dead grass and debris from lawns by vigorous raking. New lawns can be sown this month.

James Chin

MARGARET BURGON

**Silhouettes**  
 The sea is flecked with bars of gray,  
 The dull dead wind is out of tune,  
 And like a withered leaf the moon  
 Is blown across the stormy bay  
 Etched clear upon the pallid sand  
 The black boat lies, a sailor boy  
 Clambers aboard in careless joy  
 With laughing face and gleaming hand  
 And overhead the curlews cry,  
 Where through the dusky upland grass  
 The young brown-throated reapers pass,  
 Like silhouettes against the sky  
 Oscar Wilde

On behalf of the whole family we would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and support following our sad loss. Your words have given us all great encouragement during this difficult time. **Thank You.**

Brenda - Bryan - Peter

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**A LETTER FROM BRIGWOOD**

I don't suppose for a moment that the job as editor of the Haydon News is an easy one. Has there been a rush of people wanting to fill the announced vacancy from January 1997? I doubt it.

It cannot be the pay that deters prospective editors! Perhaps it's the hours of work involved in compiling the Haydon News, or attending and reporting on meetings where decisions are made affecting the lives of local people.

Is it the thought of publishing other people's views and then taking the flak for doing so? Or could it be expressing one's own views and stirring up interest in issues that otherwise may pass unnoticed?

Maybe it's compiling the crossword, searching out numerous anecdotes and jokes, working to deadlines, getting the news published, printed, having the time and commitment .....

No I don't want the job, but do express my appreciation of the work done by the present editor.

Mike Parkin

**EDITORS COMMENT**

Thanks for your comments Mike.

There has been no rush to fill the Editor's job, in fact to my knowledge there has only been the two jokers who have said they would do it if I give them my computer!

Of course the new editor is not obliged to follow my somewhat provocative and controversial style which I deliberately chose to stir up interest in local happenings, or lack of them. In this we have achieved some success.

One must be careful in attempting to discover my own views from the representations of other peoples views which are written in these columns, they are often very different.

In Marion Howard's splendid 8 year marathon stint as Editor she resisted the temptation to be controversial even though she felt strongly about some issues. Perhaps the new editor may adopt the same tack giving them an easy life. Jokes, anecdotes and the crossword are burdens inflicted upon myself - again my replacement does not have to continue in the same fashion. Mitch

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 'Friends of Haydon Bridge' will be holding their:

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
7pm on Monday 28th October  
in the Community Centre.

The main purpose of the meeting will be to appoint new members to the committee as well as nominating a new Editor of the Haydon News.

Residents of the Parish are most welcome to attend, particularly those who would like to help support the production of your monthly newsletter.

Should you require any further information please contact:

**Philip Carr (Chairman)**  
Tel: 688-551

**Bill Nicholson (Vice-Chairman)**  
Tel: 684-639

**Mitch (Editor)**  
Tel: 684-035

**A Parish Council Meeting ?**



**Taking the Michael**

A man is driving his car quite erratically, and the Police stop him. The officer says that he will have to be breathalysed at which point he pulls out a card saying that he suffers from bad asthma so can't do that.

The officer then says that he will have to go down to the station and give a blood sample, at which point the man brings out a card saying that he is a haemophiliac so can't give blood.

At this the officer says that he will have to have a urine sample, at which the man brings out a card which says, 'This man is a Manchester City supporter....'

**Notice in an Acapulco hotel:** *The manager has personally passed all the water served here.*

**Above the basin in a Finnish washroom:** *To stop the drip, turn cock to right.*

**In a Japanese hotel:** *You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.*

**In a Tokyo bar:** *Special cocktails for ladies with nutes.*

**On the menu of a Polish hotel:** *Salad a firm's own make limpid red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.*

**On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:** *Our wines leave nothing to hope for.*

**In a Zurich hotel:** *Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.*

**From the brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo:** *When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.*

## >> SHOWFIELD HOUSING

Wednesday 17th July soon arrived and again it was a glorious summer's day. At about 1:50 pm a dozen or so Haydon Bridge residents filed into the Council Chamber in Hexham and occupied most of the public gallery.

A number of other applications were discussed by the Planning Committee before the Showfield application came up at 3 pm. Mr Chown, the Deputy Director said that despite the large public interest; numerous letters of objections; public petitions etc. the Executive were still recommending the proposal for 8 bungalows and 12 rented houses as this need outweighed other concerns. Following pleadings from Councillor Bill the Committee agreed to defer a decision until after a working group site visit on Friday 2nd August.

At 9:30 am on 2nd August there were about a dozen residents and a similar number of Tynedale officials, District and Parish Councillors opposite the proposed development site. The Parish Council Chairman, Michael Loyd and Parish Cllr. Enid Garrow were there to represent local opinion, resident's having already been informed that they could listen but not speak. The residents expressed surprise that neither Councillors Bill or Marion Howard were there and no-one present proffered an explanation.

Mr Chown outlined the proposals for the site, Councillor White - Chairman of the Planning Group lead the discussions which lasted about an hour and included a short walk to Land Ends road. Despite a very good showing by Cllrs Loyd and Garrow, in putting forward the resident's objections, when the roadside vote of Tynedale District Councillors they all stated that they would support the Executive and recommend to the Planning Committee that the scheme be approved at their meeting on Wednesday 21st August. They could not find any reasons, on planning grounds to refuse.

Similarly as the Highways Authority had stated they had no objections to the scheme from a traffic position there was no reason to refuse on this score. Looking around from his Land Ends road vantage point at the hotch-potch of different styles of housing that could be seen, Cllr White indicated that there would be little sense in objecting to the planned style of housing.

As the residents dispersed there was an air of despondency.

The third Wednesday in August was the 21st day of the month, the heavens had opened overnight breaking the dry-spell we had been enjoying. As I drove into Hexham I reflected on how much water had passed under the bridge since February/March when an elderly Douglas Gardens resident had noticed surveyors clambering over the bank from Land Ends road to the Showfield. "Land drainage" were the erroneous thoughts of some.

The Public Galleries in the Council Chamber were quite full but the majority were there to hear the Newbrough Tynedale Councillor Phil Carr (LIB-DEM) speak against a planning application for additional housing in that village. Only two residents interested in the Showfield Housing proposal were there, they had a long wait ahead as it was item 11 on a packed agenda but before it some interesting stuff.

Our own Councillor Bill happens to be Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee who were recommending support of Northumberland Waste Management (NCC) proposal to construct a Waste Transfer Station, Civic Amenity Site and recycling centre for household, commercial and non-hazardous industrial waste. This was to be built adjacent to the the A69 at the Hexham roundabout on a site behind the demolished Fewster's garage. Other sites considered had been: Burn Lane, Hexham; Tyne Mills, Hexham; Frankham Quarry, adjacent to Egger Plant; Tait's Depot, Haydon Bridge; Acomb Industrial Estate. The majority of Councillors were against the proposal stating that it was ludicrous to suggest the placing of such a facility next to a bakery and proposed Hotel, it would also blight the adjacent sites for other development. Cllr Dodd (Con) amused all present causing laughter in the place when he opened his remarks by grinning outrageously at Bill (Lab) and saying "What we need here is not a Spin Doctor but a Bin Doctor !" After 45 minutes discussion the committee voted against the proposal.

The discussion on the 9 house Newbrough proposal lasted for 35 minutes with the Committee approving the application.

At about 3:20 pm the Showfield Housing proposal came up and was approved in about two minutes. Councillor Bill asked that the planners pay as much attention to the appearance of the buildings as they had agreed to for the Newbrough application (e.g. stone faced). The Cragside Stables application was then approved on the nod.

SBM

## STUBLICK OPENCAST MINING

The current situation is that the Countryside Commission have objected and Clay Collieries Ltd. are preparing proposals on how they will deal with the likely damage to the site's worm and bird population. Their proposals should be ready in time for Northumberland County Council to place their recommendations before an Autumn Committee meeting.

### METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

Due to improvements being made at our Church we are sharing services with the United Reform Church.

**Sept. 1st**  
10.00am Mrs B. Rowarth  
6:30 pm Circuit Service at Trinity

**Sept. 8th**  
10.00am Reader  
6:30pm Rev. D. Perkins (S)

**Sept. 11th**  
2:30pm Women's own meeting

**Sept. 15th**  
10.00am Rev. D. Perkins (Family Service)  
6.00pm Rev. J. Errington

**Sept 22nd**  
10.00am Rev. B. Yellowly  
6.00pm Rev. D. Arthur

**Sept. 25th**  
2:30pm Women's own meeting  
Speaker - Mrs. J. Appleby

**Sept. 29th**  
10.00am Rev. D. Perkins  
6.00pm Rev. D. Arthur  
United Harvest Festival

### PRAYERS

Every Wednesday 12.45pm - 1.30pm

### Haydon Bridge Men's Christian Fellowship

Opening Meeting - Tues. 8th October  
at 7.30pm in the United Reform Church.

Speaker - Mr H.E. Prested  
Subject - Videos and talk on  
'Organ Building'

Free Syllabus available from:

Mr. R. Todd  
25, Church Street  
Tel: 684 494

**HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB**

Autumn - Winter - Spring Programme  
1996 - 1997

Meetings held fortnightly on a Thursday at 7:15 pm in the  
Community Centre

1996

Sep. 17	Farming and Wildlife	John Miles
Oct. 3	World of the Police Wildlife & Conservation Officer	P.C. Henery
Oct. 17	Different ways of growing Alpines	A. Furness
Oct. 31	The Weird & Wonderful World of Birds	Keith Bowey
Nov. 14	North Pennines Heritage Trust	David Lush
Nov. 28	Landscapes of the American West	S & G Frazer
Dec. 12	Flora of Northumbria	Dr. A Lunn

1997

Jan. 9	Tyne-Tees Weather	Bob Johnson
Jan. 23	AGM & Scottish Fortifications	Dr. J Chapman
Feb. 6	The Life of Thomas Bewick	R. Browell
Feb. 20	The Changing Face of Gamekeeping	S. Maughan
Mar. 6	National Parks & Countryside of Western Australia	T. Hardy
Mar. 20	Catcleugh	B. Charlton
Apr. 3	Conservation in a Military Training Area	Col. Cross

**SUMMER 1997**

A programme of evening walks and excursions are arranged in the summer months

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: £7:50**

FEE FOR NON-MEMBERS: £1 per meeting

Indoor meetings include coffee and biscuits

**For further information please contact:**

**John and Dot Stefano. Allendale. Tel: 683124**

**Sheila Myers. Hexham. Tel 607267**

**L.C. Coombes. Haydon Bridge. Tel: 684416**

**ORIGINS OF 'GEORDIE'**

Kevin Smart writes: Why we're called Geordies, that's because of the Jacobites. When they rose up in 1715 they came down from Lothian down the east side in an attempt to enrol the good lads from the toon to help in their attempt to overthrow King George. However the boys point blank refused, so the Jacobites pressed on in disgust, labelling us "George's boys". I suppose in time this has distorted somewhat through Georgie's boys (probably how the Scots said it anyway) to Geordie boys.

**THE "PLEASE GO AWAY" 'V' SIGN**

It is believed that the 'V' sign has its origins from the famous battle of Agincourt. Apparently the French sent warnings to the archers of Britain that they would chop off the Brit's first and second fingers (the bow fingers) if they were captured.

Henry V, unlike his men, spoke French and warned his troops of their intent which is said to have inspired his men to victory which they duly celebrated by giving the 'V' sign to the defeated foreigners.

**THANK YOU**

Betty Cousin of the Haydon Hotel wishes to thank the Sunday morning football team for the presents she received. They were much appreciated Betty

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored the All Day Cricket Match held recently at Haydon Bridge High School.

The money raised by Haydon Bridge Cricket Club was £455 of which £305 was donated to Cancer Research (see letter below) and £150 to the cricket pavilion fund.

Special thanks to all who took part in this event.

**B. Hope  
Haydon Bridge Cricket Club**



Letter from the RVI Newcastle

Department of Haematology

20th Aug 1996

Dear Mr Hope

I am writing on behalf of Professor Proctor, who is on holiday at present, to thank you for the very kind donation of £305.00 which was raised by Haydon Bridge Cricket Club holding an all day cricket match. I would be grateful if you could pass on my thanks to everyone concerned.

All our research work here at the RVI is dependent on donations such as yours and you can be sure it will be put to good use in our future work.

Yours sincerely

**J Danskin (Mrs)  
Secretary to Professor S J Proctor**

**THE VICTORY 'V' SIGN**

Originated by a Belgian Lawyer during WWII. The Belgian Resistance used to daub the walls with RAF - the Lawyer thought it would be quicker and safer by just painting a 'V' which would irritate the Germans just as much .. it did ! The BBC took it up from Beethoven's 5th Symphony by using the morse code for V (dit dit dit dah) to prefix broadcasts to Europe. Churchill then took it up and the upraised two fingers became his trade mark



## Langley Castle

### A Brief History

Built in 1350, during the reign of Edward III, the castle has retained its architectural integrity and is regarded as one of the few medieval fortified Castle Hotels in England.

Over the past 600 years, the Castle has been owned, together with its estate, by Lords and Ladies whose names were frequently associated with the turbulent history of the Kingdom. During the 17th century the Langley estates became the property of the Earls of Derwentwater; Viscounts Langley. James, the third Earl and Charles his brother, played an active part in the 1715 Jacobite risings. They were subsequently executed at the Tower of London. A cross stands by the road from the Castle to Haydon Bridge commemorating their loyalty to the King of Scotland, which reads:

*In memory of James and Charles  
Viscounts Langley  
Beheaded on Tower Hill  
24th Feb 1716 and 8th Dec 1746  
For Loyalty to  
their Lawful Sovereign*

The property was confiscated by the Crown and its administration passed to the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich in London. Signs of the Admiralty's influence can still be seen in the area. For example the anchor motif on the front of a house at Langley and the naming of a pub in Haydon Bridge as The Anchor.

In 1882 a local historian, Cadwallader Bates, purchased the property. The restoration of the Castle to its original 14th Century structure became a life's work not only for Cadwallader, but also for his wife Josephine, who continued his work after Cadwallader's death in 1902. Josephine rebuilt the original chapel on the castle roof in memory of her husband and worked tirelessly until her own death in 1933. She was buried alongside her husband in the castle grounds.

## A READERS GHOSTLY EXPERIENCE

When I was a child in Yorkshire I was staying with my Grandma, who lived in what had been an old coaching inn on the A1 road. One evening I saw the figure of a woman in white dancing around the floor. This effected me so badly that I was ill and suffering from delirium for three days. When I told my grandma she explained that she had seen this apparition many times and she was never afraid - I took courage from here words and have never been afraid of ghosts since.

In the 1970's Langley Castle was used as a medieval banqueting hall where riotous fun was had by all in eating food with their fingers, using daggers to carve off their meat. Like many other ladies from the village I worked there for a time. One dark and dank November evening there was the silence you only get when there is heavy fog, it cloaked both the the village and the castle. In this deathly stillness I was helping set out the Banqueting Hall for the evening's festivities. For safety the daggers were kept in the unused second floor office, the light switches for the stairs and office were in this unused room at the end of the corridor. I made my way in the silent eerie darkness wishing I had one of this daggers in my hand now as I felt my way along the corridor lightly touching the wall with my right hand As I cautiously opened the door my mouth went dry as I felt the presence of something within, slowly and nervously I opened the door wide. There he stood a smiling figure dressed in the clothes of the 1700's, he was not old and wore a lovely dashing hat with soft feathers - he did not frighten me but disappeared to his eternal wanderings as soon as I switched on the light. When I returned to the Hall my friends said, "You look as if you've seen a ghost.", which of course I had. It was then that I started to shake all over from delayed shock. On another occasion a friend and I went to work early, we were the only ones in the Castle, entering the room we were both startled to see the apparition. again it disappeared as the light was turned on. To my mind it is one of the Radcliffes, his spirit returning to his old estate after such a violent death.

## HAUNTINGS

Your Editor has contacted Anton Phillips the Manager of Langley Castle who can confirm that there is indeed a ghost, or ghosts, wandering about the place. Whilst Anton has never seen the apparitions himself he is aware that there are tales of dogs being afraid to venture onto the upper floors of the Castle and various items being moved around the place. The resident ghost is purported to be another 'Grey Lady' and has been seen in the Greenwich Room, The Stuart Suite and on the Garderobe staircase.

Perhaps the apparition our readers saw was indeed that of James, the third Earl of Derwentwater who has been 'seen' on more than 300 occasions cantering through his old estate near Dilston followed by a troop of his men, all in high spirits unaware of the outcome to befall them. In August 1986 it was reported that Frances Docherty was driving near Dilston on her way to Hexham when she saw a group of horsemen, in period costume, cross the road behind her.

On some dark nights, standing on the battlements of Dilston Castle, can be seen the ghost of Anna, the third Earl's wife, wringing her hands in grief and anguish for her ill fated husband. Some say she is grieving more from the fact that the Jacobite Revolution of 1715 failed and with it her opportunity to rise to a high position in the new scheme of things. She died at Louvaine in Belgium on 30th August 1723

Perhaps on the November night of 20 years or so ago James had taken a ride over to one of his old haunts at Langley to get away from her incessant wailing and whining - who knows ?

### Biographical Note

James Radcliffe (Radclyffe), third Earl of Derwentwater, was born on June 28, 1689 in London. He was the eldest son of Edward Radcliffe, second Earl of Derwentwater, by Lady Mary Tudor, daughter of Charles II and the actress Mary Davies.

Derwentwater spent the greater part of his youth at the exiled court of James Edward, the Stuart pretender, at St. Germain. With the passing of the years, a deep friendship developed between the young Pretender and Derwentwater. With his father's death in 1705, Radcliffe set out on a grand tour of the continent and did not return to England until November of 1709. He remained in London until early 1710, when he set out to visit his estates in the North. There he settled into the manor house at Dilston Hall.

He was married on July 10, 1712 to Anna Maria, eldest daughter of the baronet of Odstock, Wiltshire, Sir John Webb. Derwentwater, a devout Roman Catholic in a predominantly Protestant country, was a generous if not somewhat impulsive, young man. To further complicate matters, he was related to the deposed house of Stuart, as well as being a boyhood friend of James III. In 1715, he blithely joined in the conspiracy to reinstate the Stuarts.

Upon hearing that Thomas Forster had raised the standard of the Pretender, Derwentwater gathered a small armed band on October 6, 1715 at Greenrig and joined Forster. Possibly due to a lack of experience in warfare on the part of both Forester and Derwentwater, the rebellion accomplished nothing. They surrendered to the forces of General Wills at Preston and were sent to London to stand trial. On January 10, 1716, Derwentwater appeared before the Privy Council. where he pleaded guilty and begged for mercy owing to his youth and inexperience. The plea was denied and he was condemned to death. Many people of note attempted to intercede on Derwentwater's behalf, but the King (George I) was unmoved.

Derwentwater was taken to Tower Hill on February 24, 1716 where he was beheaded. Perhaps of particular note, the young Derwentwater was one of only two peers executed during the Rising of 1715. Before his death, Radcliffe renounced his plea of guilt, affirmed his adherence to the Roman Catholic faith, and his undying loyalty to James III.

# Haydon Bridge Fair Day

## Monday 26th August 1996

### Haydon Bridge Family Fun Run

The first Haydon Bridge Family Run was held on the morning of Bank Holiday Monday, prior to the Haydon Bridge Fair.

A total of 38 runners took part with ages ranging from 2 years to grandparents, with everyone receiving a commemorative certificate.

The Run started on the Old Bridge with the route being along Shaftoe Street and Land Ends road to the entrance to Lees farm, returning by the same route, a distance of approximately two miles. Refreshments were available at half-way and the finish.

The organisers would like to thank all those who took part and those who helped with organisation both prior to the event and on the day. Thanks also to Maurice Armstrong, Charlie Williamson at the Spar and Harry Steele at the Fish & Chip Shop for kindly donating prizes. This meant that, in addition to specific prize-winners, all runners received a prize and spot prizes could be awarded for pre-decided finishing positions.

Prizes were awarded to the first 3 boys, first 3 girls and first 3 families (parent and child). The winners were:-

Boys	Time
1. James Norman	15:30
2. Philip Jameson	15:31
3. Matthew Green	16:03
Girls	
1. Lindsay Brown	16:01
2. Katy Burrowes	17:19
3. Philippa Green	17:34
Family	Positions
1. Chris & Matthew Green	5 - 4
2. Barry & Philip Jameson	13 - 2
3. Katherine & Lee Lowdon	10 - 15

An enjoyable time was had by all and the run was such a success that it is hoped that it may become an annual event. The excuses for non-participation were many and varied - your chances will come next year!

Overall results were: min:sec

1. James Norman	15:30
2. Philip Jameson	15:31
3. Lindsay Brown	16:01
4. Matthew Green	16:05
5. Chris Green	16:06
6. Katie Burrowes	17:19
7. Philippa Green	17:34
8. Alistair Burrowes	19:13
9. Stephanie Brown	19:17
10. Katherine Lowdon	19:51
11. Claire Batey	20:08
12. Nicola Jameson	20:12
13. Barry Jameson	20:13
14. Alan Batey	20:20
15. Lee Lowdon	21:24
16. Lee McVay	23:16
17. Thomas Armstrong	23:53
18. Emma Pender	24:26
19. Julie Williamson	24:28
20. James Armstrong	25:10
21. Gillian Armstrong	25:28
22. Coleen MacDonald	25:57
23. Edward MacDonald	25:57
24. Graeme Banks	26:13
25. Colin Banks	26:14
26. Jennifer Banks	26:21
27. Chloe Lowdon	26:25
28. Barry Hope	26:26
29. Georgina Robley	26:55
30. Jeremy Green	28:02
31. Gerry Green	28:02
32. Sam Shephard	28:03
33. Ewen Shephard	28:03
34. Michael Charlton	37:56
35. Tim Charlton	37:57
36. Colin Charlton	37:58
37. Maureen Brown	39:41
38. Melissa McVay	39:43

### BEST FLOAT

Only one float entered - Fair Float dressed with the help of the Rainbows

### BEST STALL

1st Footballers - Shirley Borthwick  
2nd Bric-a-Brac - Petula Thompson  
3rd Produce - Sandy Brough

### TREASURE HUNT

*MY GOLD is the hillside above smugglers Cave AND BELOW NORTH STAR TOPS CLIFF AT THE HIGH POINT OF A GULLEY NEXT A SMALL WHITE SPOT*

### Winners

1st Amie Rowland - Terry's All Gold  
2nd Max Elliot - Bag of Gold Coins

### TED'S BIRTHDAY

15th November

Closest was 17th November by Marion Howard

### THANK YOU

May we thank Raymond McVay for opening the Fair and also our judges Val Brown and Jacky Bell - they did a fine job.

Thanks also to all those who worked so hard; those who gave; those who collected; and those who came and supported us. Also the team who worked so hard on the day, cleaning, fetching and erecting and then came back to clear everything away.

This year's Fun Run was a great success, this proved to change an afternoon's pleasure into a full day for all the families who took part. This is the purpose of the fair - 'A Fun Day', the profits are a by-product which I am sure the two recipients will not mind accepting,

Thank You to you all.

Eileen Charlton

# Haydon Bridge Fair Day

## Monday 26th August 1996

FANCY DRESS WINNERS	Friends Of Haydon Bridge Raffle 1996 Prize Winners	ACCOUNTS
<b>5's and under</b>	1. Dinner for two at Langley Castle Mrs Ohlson, Brigwood.	Bowls Club Donation £ 60.00
1st - Jake Charlton	2. Food Hamper Doreen.	Haydon News Raffle £ 109.50
2nd - Susan and Sarah Blake	3. Bottle of white Lambrusco Mrs Jones, Chesterwood Barns.	W.I. Cake Stall £ 17.00
<b>6 - 8's</b>	4. Floppy Bunny Miss Laurenceson.	Dance Club Tombola £ 167.00
1st - Lee Lowdon	5. Three chocolate oranges Mrs Hill, Fourstones.	Bric a Brac - P & R Thompson £ 92.93
2nd - Lois Burn	6. Bottle of Frascati Mrs Green.	Produce - S. Brough £ 20.80
<b>9's and over</b>	7. Teddy bear D. McVay.	Bran Tub - R. Irwin £ 61.91
1st - Mark Duffy	8. Bottle of Vaucluse red wine Eileen Charlton.	Facepainting - K. Moor & A. Kirsopp £ 16.50
2nd - Lynsey Ferris	9. Framed, signed water colour Mrs Watson.	Barbecue - D. Charlton £ 67.00
" - Donna Fletcher	10. Two videocassettes Mrs D. Fletcher.	Stock - J. Taylor £ 2.00
<b>Overall Winners</b>	11. Bottle of German wine Joyce, Anchor Hotel.	Fortunes - Isa Newton £ 62.61
1st - Jake Charlton	12. A 1 litre bottle of Gin D. McVay.	Ted's Birthday - J. Sim £ 5.00
2nd - Susan & Sarah Blake	13. Glove and muffler set Carl Eales.	Skill Game - R. Philipson £ 9.50
3rd - Donna Fletcher	14. Bottle of QC cream Sherry Corinne Ord.	Nail Game - Haydon News £ 16.54
<b>7 GOLD STARS</b>	15. Bottle Kellermilch German wine Mrs. Laurenceson	Catch a Rat - E. Burgon £ 3.00
Go to the Scotch Arms	16. Box of Roses chocolates Mrs Marsh.	Pony Ride - Stables £ 14.00
Corner crowd - fantastic !	17. Four matching bone china mugs Carl Eales	Treasure Island - M. Nichol £ 6.00
They challenge a few more	18. Bottle of Asti Spumante J. Bright.	Books - Bill Howard £ 33.96
to get into the spirit of the	19. Four cans of Kestrel Lager Hazel Simpson.	Ice Cream fee £ 10.00
event next year.	20. Bottle of Lanzarote Moscatel Joyce Gillespie.	Teas - Church Ladies £ 102.70
<b>PICTURE COMPETITION</b>	21. Apple shower gel and shampoo Mrs Moore.	Footballers Cakes - S & A Borthwick £ 158.80
<b>Under 6's</b>	22. Elegance hand lotion and talc Violet Reed.	Fun Run - P & D Armstrong £ 41.55
1st - Kate Hall	23. Bottle of Emva Cream Mrs Rourledge.	- S. Brown
2nd - Nicola Ord	24. Bottle of white Lambrusco Jean Oliver.	Jackstraw - B. Wardle £ 34.11
<b>7 - 8's</b>	25. Box of Teddy bear chocolates Peter, Anchor Hotel.	<b>TOTAL INCOME £1112.41</b>
1st - Sally Greener		Expenses, Insurance, Silver Band, £ 282.26
2nd - Laurence Holmes		Advertising, Prizes etc.
<b>Over 9's</b>		<b>BALANCE £ 830.15</b>
1st - Beverly Lowes		
Only one entrant		

If your name appears on the list and you have not received your prize, ring Phil Carr on 688 551. The proceeds of the raffle came to £109.50; many thanks to all who bought tickets !

The Balance was shared between the Church Heating Fund and the Community Centre Kitchen Fund.



A BIT OF FUN - NO PRIZES - WHAT SORT OF DOG AM I ?

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Number 47

An independent supplement to the Haydon News

SEPTEMBER 1996

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## THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!

By the time most of you read this edition of the Haydon News, my family and I will have moved to Norfolk - or be in the process of moving. We have lived in Haydon Bridge almost exactly 11 years and I have had the privilege of being your parish priest throughout that time.

For most of my family, Haydon Bridge has become very much their home. It is here that they have grown up and enjoyed their childhood and teenage years. For Sheila and myself it has been the longest stay we have had in any one place throughout our life together. It is with very mixed feelings that we leave you all. We have shared in many sorrows and joys, in village concerns and in village life and our time in Haydon Bridge will always be in my mind, one of the most precious episodes of my life.

Six months ago I had no idea that we would be moving on, but I have been given an opportunity and a new challenge I never expected to be given and I count myself most fortunate to be able to leave Haydon Bridge for something to which we all look forward to and are excited about. All of the family are coming with us (their own choice) apart from Rachel who lives in Leeds.

I want to take this last opportunity to thank all those, in the Church, in the other churches, and in the community who have supported me with their good will and friendship and have helped to make our time here so happy. Fine church buildings are very nice, but it is the people of a parish that are most important. I have tried, in my own way, to be a priest and friend to the people of this parish and I appreciate enormously how well many of the people of this parish have received me as their vicar, whether they are church attenders or not. So my last word is to say a very sincere "Thank you" and "God bless you all".

Keith Fletcher.

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### **The New Job in Norfolk**

My new post is to be the Vicar of Ashmanhaugh, Barton Turf, Beeston St. Lawrence, Horning, Irstead and Neatishead and to be Prior of St Benet's Abbey - Horning.

It is no retirement post! I will be able to develop there the role of lay-training in which I have been very much involved in this Deanery and also (as Prior) to develop the understanding of the Benedictine spiritual tradition within the area.

All the parishes are in 'Broadland' and are connected with the boating fraternity and boats have been part of my life since I was 14 year old - so I am looking forward to that aspect of my work!

K.F.

### **What will become of the parish of Haydon Bridge?**

Haydon Bridge parish will continue its links with Beltingham & Henshaw and a new priest will be appointed, sometime after Christmas, to be The vicar of Haydon Bridge and Priest-in-Charge of Beltingham with Henshaw.

In the meantime, the parishes will be supervised by the Acting Rural Dean, who is Canon Michael Nelson, Rector of Hexham. He can be contacted at Hexham Parish Office 602031.

He will ensure that regular services take place at the Parish Church and that Funerals and Weddings take place as arranged by him.

K.F.

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**SPONSORED  
STEEPLECHASE**

**NORTHUMBRIA HISTORIC  
CHURCHES TRUST**

**SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 1996  
10AM - 6 PM**

Will **YOU** take part this year and visit as many places of worship as you can between the Tweed and the Tees.

**ALL** money raised is divided equally between **YOUR** church or chapel and the Trust.

For information and sponsorship forms contact the Churchwardens :-  
Mrs A Marshall Tel: 684454 or  
Mrs M Curry Tel: 684238

Diocesan organiser: Miss A Irwin 0191 285 7852

**CEILIDH**

Wednesday 11th September 1996  
In the Church Hall  
7.30 p.m.

Tickets £3 including supper (from the Churchwardens)

Everyone welcome - come and celebrate our 200th year!

**SERVICES AT THE PARISH  
CHURCH**  
*(including Beltingham & Henshaw)*

**1st September - Pentecost 14**  
8am Holy Communion  
*10am Holy Communion at Beltingham -  
Rite A*  
10.30 Worship for All  
6pm Evening Prayer - BCP - vicar's  
last service

**8th September - Blessed Virgin Mary**  
*9am Holy Communion at Henshaw*  
10.30 Parish Eucharist  
*6pm Evensong at Henshaw*

**15th September - Pentecost 16**  
8am Holy Communion  
*10am Holy Communion at Beltingham*  
6.30 p.m. Deanery Evensong at  
Hexham Abbey

**22nd September - Pentecost 17**  
*10am Morning Prayer at Henshaw*  
10.30am Parish Eucharist  
3pm Evening Prayer at Haydon Old  
Church.

**29th September - Pentecost 18**  
*10am Joint Eucharist at Henshaw*  
No service at Haydon Bridge

**Parish registers**

**Funeral**

23rd July :- Annie Mary Jewitt  
May she rest in peace and rise in glory

**Fletcher's new 'phone number**

Anyone who wants to get in  
touch with us in Norfolk can  
reach us on:-

01692 630216

**1796-1996**

# HAYDON & ALLEN MEDICAL NEWS

## LIES, DAMNED LIES AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

A general election cannot now be far off.

It is a frequently quoted fact that the first casualty of any war is truth. Insofar as a General Election is a form of civil war by proxy, we shall all soon be assailed by the usual evasions, half truths and flummery that pass for political debate at such times. The Chinese, though they do not have meaningful elections in the usual western sense, do have a wonderful ability to coin phrases which capture the picture that the author is trying to convey. I came across a beauty the other day which summarises the verbal seduction attempted in an election - "To hang noodles on your ears". (The Monster Raving Loony Party might hang Pot Noodles on your ears - in either sense of the word Pot.) The British Medical Journal recently published an editorial about a subject which ought to have priority in the next election, rationing health care. Health care has always been rationed, it was called waiting lists, but politicians rarely have the courage to mention or discuss it, specially before an election! The BMJ editorial concluded; "Britain's next government must take a lead on health care rationing."

Many countries all over the world have made a start on rationing health care, some by government action alone, many by involving the public in the debate. In the UK some small scale attempts to gauge public opinion have been made by researchers and local authorities. The Tynedale Total Fund is an honourable local example of trying to get the widest possible consensus on health care.

I offer the suggestion that the party or candidate that makes plain statements about their plans for health care, which include the word "rationing" (in its usual sense) and some commitment to engage positively with the issue are, perhaps, marginally less undeserving of your support than the rest.

## HEXHAM HOSPITAL - AGAIN.

Until the replacement hospital is fully built and operating do not believe any public pronouncement from any source about what might or might not happen. Seeing is believing.

This may be an opportune moment to resurrect a phrase from the previous decade concerning the direction of the Health Service - "Its not a local anaesthetic if its twenty five miles away!"

Local medical opinion is totally supportive of a new hospital with broadly similar facilities to those present now. Public support should not waver either. If it looks as though the RVI is going to pull the plug on Hexham we, with your support, can pull their plug too.

## BIRTHING PARTNERS

The other day I learnt, from her mother, of a woman in her early twenties (not local) who is due to deliver her first baby soon, whose mid-teens sister is to accompany her on trips to hospital, antenatal classes, labour and delivery. This was at the mutual suggestion of the sisters. The hospital and midwives are fully supportive of the idea.

The fashions concerning who is present at childbirth change constantly and at present fathers are the persons most often wielding the cool flannel and offering encouraging remarks. It was not always thus and in times past it was most often a woman relative, friend or neighbour who helped. Women often made agreements along the lines of "I'll come to you when you labour and you'll do the same for me".

The benefits to both women mentioned above will, I

am sure, be great. The pregnant woman will have the closeness and support of her sister and the younger woman will gain in knowledge and wisdom which will stand her in good stead in the future. At any one time there are several women pregnant locally who have women relatives - especially younger sisters - for whom this arrangement might be of great value. We would be very supportive of the idea.

## MUSHROOM PICKERS BEWARE

*Here is the article by Dr Bob High which was promised for this year's mushroom season.*

We are approaching the season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness" which includes the mushroom season. This "food for free" is appreciated by many people but its production varies greatly from year to year for reasons that are not clear although many theories abound.

However if you do like mushrooms, particularly those you have gathered, fresh (and they do have more taste when they are fresh) it is VITAL that you are absolutely sure that the mushrooms that you gather are safe to eat because there are a few around, I found some myself in the Bush Bends fields on 17 9 95, that are DEADLY, the so-called "Death Cap" or *Amanita phalloides*.

Looked at whilst growing this looks like the edible Common Field Mushroom, *Agaricus campestris*, with a white cap 2-4" in diameter. However when the cap is broken from the stem the gills are seen to be white or grey and the stem or stalk, which will have a frilly ring on it, does not come cleanly away from the ground like the field mushroom (which has a stalk that tapers at its base and, when picked, seems to arise from nothing but clean earth). The base of the stem of the Death Cap is bulbous and arises from a whitish cup or "volva" which is firmly attached to the soil.

On the continent, where they search for and eat a wider variety of fungi than we do, newspapers will carry reports every year of deaths, sometimes of whole families, from eating Death Cap mushrooms.

**BE SURE. IF IN DOUBT - DON'T!**

## THE NEW FANCIER'S GAZETTE

A big THANK YOU to all of those who provide such a constant supply of recent and tidy magazines for the waiting room. We can now provide something to while away the minutes for both men and women and for a wide variety of interests. We aim to have no magazines more than six months old if possible.

No matter how unusual the magazine (see title), you can be sure that it will have a good home for a few weeks and you would be surprised at what you catch people engrossed in!

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Pineapples from Prudhoe, coconuts from Kielder - its not as wild a thought as it appears. Climate change is happening - now. Reducing emissions from all forms of transport is a crucial part of the world response and will directly affect us all.

The National Cycling Strategy aims to quadruple the number of trips made on bicycles by 2012 and, if I have understood correctly, this is mainly to be on journeys under ten miles.

So - no more cars or buses to Hexham, Haltwhistle or Allendale - on your bikes please! Already some people cycle to work in Hexham. The health benefits cannot be overstated - all Haydonians could have the physique of Linford "Lunchbox" Christie and I would be out of work. SF.