

Haydon News

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



December 1996 / 10

In this issue: Policeman to move into the village. Haydon electoral boundary changes proposed. Decision on open-cast mining again delayed. Proposals for expansion of High School sports facilities. Editor's search for a Sunday lunch and drinks. Reader who takes Haydon News Crossword on holiday named. Limerick competition results. Parish Council jottings and much more inside.

HAYDONIAN W.M.C.
Federation Ales & Draught Guinness

Weddings - Birthdays - Funerals & Anniversaries catered for

Village fund raising welcome
Bingo: Sunday and Wednesday at 8:30pm
Tel: 684 383

Andy Shield - Quality Butchers
4, Church Street, Haydon Bridge Tel: 684 381

FINEST QUALITY LOCAL MEAT AND GAME

HOME MADE BREAD BAKED ON THE PREMISES
READY MADE MEALS FOR THE FREEZER
DISCOUNT FOR FREEZER MEAT ORDERS
HOME MADE SAUSAGES OUR SPECIALITY

Captain Peter and his crew welcome you
aboard the relaunched

Anchor Hotel

The Inn place of Haydon Bridge.
Cast your cares aside, with a selection of Beers, Lagers,
Wines and Spirits from Scottish Courage
Including the re-introduction of Scotch Bitter
Tel: Hotel 684227 Bar 684586

SPAR

4, John Martin Street
Groceries Cooked meats etc
Mon - Sat 8am - 9.00pm
Sunday 9am - 9.00pm
Off - Licence
Sunday 10am - 9pm
Free home deliveries

M. ARMSTRONG

13, Church Street
Haydon Bridge
For fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Groceries
Bread and cakes delivered daily
Friendly Service
Saturday half day closing

RAILWAY HOTEL

Bed and Breakfast
Pizzas to eat in or take away
Lounge available for functions
Tel: 684 254

**Langley Castle
Hotel**

Sunday Lunches
Morning Coffees
Afternoon Teas
Table d' Hote Dinner

Accommodation

**Not Only for that
"Special Occasion"**

For Reservations Call
01434 688 888

J & M CLARKE
11, Church Street Haydon Bridge
Mon - Sat 6.45am - 6.00pm
Sunday 7.00am - 1.00pm

NEWSPAPERS
WIDE RANGE OF MAGAZINES
Confectionery and Tobacco
Toys-games Birthday & special
occasion cards, stationery
Tel: 684 303

W & M MARSH

43, Ratcliffe Road
Haydon Bridge
Newsagent
&
Tobacconist
Confectioner & General Dealer

Come in for a drink at the
HAYDON HOTEL

S&N BEERS
BAR MEALS
Parties catered for and
Bookings taken
Tel: 684 468

?

**Reserved
for a new
Advertiser**

?

**THE ODDFELLOWS
LICENSED RESTAURANT & TEA-SHOP**

Oddfellows Hall Shaftoe St Haydon Bridge Tel:684 755

A FRIENDLY WELCOME - PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS
PERSONAL ATTENTION AND HOME COOKING

Serving : Drinks Snacks Breakfast Lunches Teas
High Teas and Evening Meals

Open: Wed - Sat 10am - 9.30pm Sun 10am - 5.30pm

We cater for: Vegetarians, Buffets, Parties, Outside Catering
Special Occasions, Valentines & Mothers Day, Easter,
Halloween, Christmas and Bank Holidays.

Children very Welcome
Garden with slides and Swings plus unusual Pets

Bed & Breakfast accommodation - £17.50 per Person
Four Poster beds available + Full English Breakfast inclusive

Proprietor: Anna Gabrielle Coulson

HAYDON BRIDGE FISH & CHIP SHOP

	LUNCHTIME		TEATIME & EVENINGS	
Monday	-	-	6.00	- 9.00
Tuesday	CLOSED	ALL DAY		
Wednesday	11.30	- 1.30	5.00	- 9.00
Thursday	11.30	- 1.30	5.00	- 9.00
Friday	11.30	- 1.30	4.30	- 9.00
Saturday	11.30	- 1.30	5.00	- 9.00

Tel: 684 289

ERNIE SWINBURN - PHOTOGRAPHY

3 Station Cottages, Haydon Bridge
WEDDINGS: SPECIAL OCCASIONS
STUDIO PORTRAITS

TEL: 684 489

The General Havelock Inn

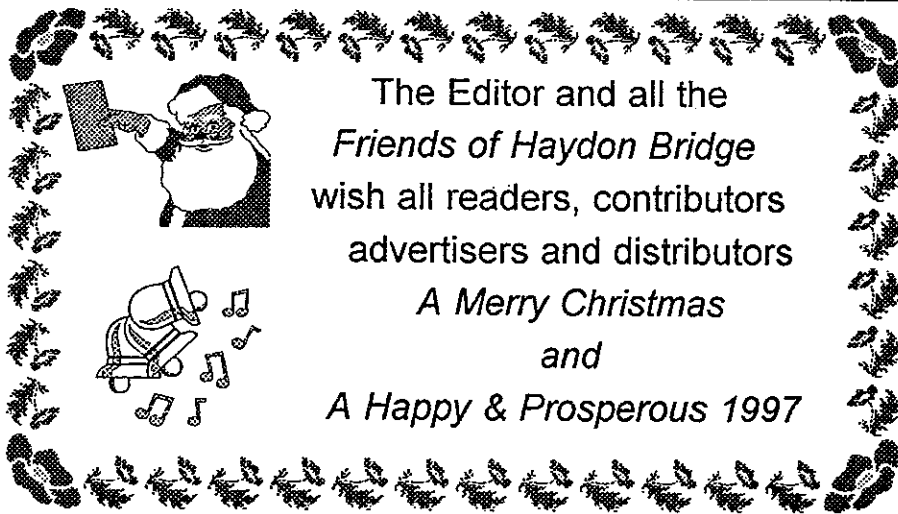
Haydon Bridge - Telephone 684 376

Lunch - Wednesday to Sunday

Dinner - Wednesday to Saturday

Fine Wines and a comfortable Restaurant
Tetley Bitter and Lager - Calders Best Scotch

Your Hosts Ian and Angela Clyde



The Editor and all the
 Friends of Haydon Bridge
 wish all readers, contributors
 advertisers and distributors
 A Merry Christmas
 and
 A Happy & Prosperous 1997

I ONLY HAD A TENNER

Reading through the November newsletter of Century Inns I came across the list of winners in the Pub in Bloom awards and saw the citation:

Bronze. Jackie Bell of the Railway Hotel, Hexham, [sic] has done wonders with a very difficult frontage which stretches around a corner on a main road. Good use has been made of window boxes, tubs and hanging baskets to achieve an attractive display on three levels.

I popped into *The Railway* and spoke with Jackie and Josie who are as pleased as punch with their award, along with a £100 cash prize they also received a certificate which reads:

**PUB OF THE YEAR
 COMPETITION
 1996**

This is to certify that
Jackie Bell

Tenant of the
Railway

Has been presented with the
Bronze Award

In the category of
PUB IN BLOOM

This award is in recognition of the hard work and high standards achieved in this public house which are a credit to the tenant and the staff

Jackie and Josie say that they will use the prize money to enhance their display even more next summer.

Many of you expressed appreciation of the *Railway's* fantastic display in Church Street and will wish to join me in saying "Well done and thanks again" to Jackie and Josie and also a big **THANK YOU** to the owners of businesses and homes throughout the Village who had such lovely displays on show for us all to enjoy during the summer of 1996. Perhaps we should all try and improve our own displays in 1997.

After my visit to *'The Railway'* I braved the sleet and popped across Ratcliffe Road to *The General Havelock* where the Sunday Club was in full session putting the world to rights. On this particular Sunday the talk was about a former resident of Haydon Bridge who, according to an advert in the Courant, was being hunted by a London company - speculation was rife as to why they were after him but no conclusions were drawn. After a while the aroma of the food wafting down from Angela's excellent restaurant got the better of me and hunger pangs started. Checking my pockets I found that I only had ten quid left which would have just about covered the cost of Sunday lunch but not enough for the meal and the two or three glasses of wine I normally have with my Sunday meal.

I said farewell to barman Michael and the Sunday Club and left braving the winter weather as I made my way across the old bridge. As I approached the south side I saw that the windows of *The Oddfellows Restaurant* were steamed up indicating that Anna had plenty of custom it also meant she couldn't see me sneaking past as her prices for a full Sunday lunch are about the same as Ian Clyde's in the *Havelock*. Of course I have had many excellent meals in both establishments but on this day I only had the ten quid and didn't want to eat anything other than a full Sunday lunch.

Entering the lounge bar of the *Haydon* the smell of the food was fantastic but as I looked around I saw that all tables were fully occupied and anyway it was by now twenty minutes to two. The barman putting on his posh voice, with impudent face he greeted me:

"Hello Michael and what can I get you today?"

I responded "Glass of medium white wine please Godfrey."

Now I know that many of you will be saying to yourself that the barman's name is Jeff and I am not called Michael. Well of course you're quite right, in fact to be precise Jeff's name is Jeffrey and mine is Stanley Brian, but I am only called that by ex-wives, Judges, Magistrates and the Police.

Handing over my last tenner I started sipping my wine. As the barman handed me the £9 change I put on my haunted look and apologetically asked in my rough quasi-tyneside accent "Jeff, thors nee chance uv a Sunda dinna at the bar is tha?"

With metamorphosed voice he replied: "Haad on Hinny aal just gan 'n ask Betty." He was back in 20 seconds with the reply "She'll be roond in a few minnits te tek ya orda."

A couple of minutes later Betty took my order which soon arrived piping hot with Yorkshire pudding, loads of veg, potatoes, and generously thick slices of succulent British Beef in lovely gravy. The meal tasted just as good as it looked and it took ages for me to get through it, this included another glass of wine of course. From a selection of half a dozen items on the sweet trolley I opted for the landlady's tasty home-made trifle.

After paying for the meal I still had enough money from my tenner for another couple of drinks so I made my back along Shaftoe Street to *The Anchor* where lunchtime diners were just making their way home - it's ages since I last had a Sunday lunch there so I must try it out again in the New Year.

Why not resolve to dine out more frequently in the village during 1997, menus are varied as are the surrounding. Prices are not expensive - in fact you can eat for less than a fiver in most places. Both the *The Railway* and *Haydon* do 'eat in' or take away Pizzas for about £3 - I've had many from both places - why not try one yourself.

Please support your local shops and eating places. **SBM**

EDITORIAL

It is 8 am on Friday 6th December 1996 and at the last minute I have decided to add a couple of extra pages as there was just too much material for the 'normal' space allocation.

When I am in Hexham and have time to kill waiting for someone or an appointment I invariably pop into the library and have a read of something. Earlier this week I was in such a situation so thought "lets have a read of the December 1946 Courant and see what was happening in Haydon Bridge 50 years ago" when yours truly was fast approaching the age of 10.

**TOWN HALL CINEMA
HAYDON BRIDGE**

Week commencing Dec. 9 1946

Mon. Tues.
Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall
in

TO HAVE NOT

Wed. Thu.
Carol Landis
in

BEHIND THE GREEN LIGHTS

Fri. Sat.
Bette Davis and Claude Rains
in

MR. SKEFFINGTON

Up at the Shaftoe Trust School Mr. R. Waugh, the Headmaster, was being presented with a briefcase to which staff and scholars had subscribed. The presentation was made by Mrs Telfer, one of the senior teachers. The Headmaster was off to Monkseaton to be Headmaster at the school there.

Meanwhile a well known Haydon Bridge airman by the name of Flight Sergeant Leonard West Shout was getting married.

However a particularly tragic event happened which some readers will sadly recall. A fatal shooting occurred in Haydon Bridge and P.C. Mitchell the, Village policeman, had to investigate appear and give evidence in Hexham Court.

Let us hope the new Police Constable taking up residence in the John Martin Street Police House this month does not have do deal with such events. P.C. Rick Humble will be a welcome sight around the place. Although his work base is Haltwhistle Rick has the

village as part of his responsibility. Although not a 'Village Policeman' in the old meaning of the word the fact that we have a policeman living on the patch for which he has responsibilities will give many residents, particularly the elderly, some reassurance. Let us wish P.C. Humble well and I'm sure we will see him about the area soon.

Yesterday morning I gave Northumberland County Council a ring to find out what had happened at the sub-committee planning group meeting the day before insofar as the open-cast proposals at Branch End were concerned. The Executive are still recommending refusal of the scheme. The NCC contact I have may have sounded a little exasperated when he explained that some 50 minutes before the Committee meeting a FAX had arrived from the applicants asking that the application be delayed as they intended to revamp their original proposals. Later enquiries indicate that Clay Collieries intend to make significant changes to their proposals - this could of course mean that it could possibly be treated as a new proposal. We would then be treated to another round of public consultation exercises. The Company have indicated that the revamped proposal should be received by Northumberland County Council before Christmas.

It is now two years since the original application was submitted, this begs the question: If a Company can string out an open-cast Planning Application for two years why such a mad rush to get the Showfield Housing through?

Site work has now started and when I was in Land Ends Road a couple of days ago I saw they were digging trenches for the drains down the bank to the mincing machine behind 10, Douglas Gardens. I wonder if this will mean a bigger mincer or switching the existing machine on for longer each day. Despite the article on page six I am no expert on sewage pumps and have no idea how they take the contents of a 4"-6" pipe and ram it down a 1" tube.

That's it folks, I'm off at the end of my two year stint thank you for the encouragement. Mitch

NEXT ISSUE OF THE HAYDON NEWS

February 1997

All copy to the former editor who will pass it on to the new editor

S.B. Mitchell, High Brindles
Heugh House Lane

or hand in at the Post Office

BY 21st January PLEASE

THE CROSSWORD

Only 9 correct entries to the crossword in November.

On the 5th of December the two winners were drawn and were:
A. Phillips and B&R Shout.

After eight competitions the status of winners credits are:

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

- # Nine correct entries
- ^ Eight correct entries
- @ Seven correct entries
- ~ Six correct entries
- \$ Five correct entries
- > Four correct entries
- + Three correct entries.
- * Two correct entries.

The remainder have one correct entry.

Ladies Writing Workshop

Conundrum

Last month's - *A Lancaster with RAF roundels was flying over Germany during the war, it prepares to drop a bomb. When they are over the dark-ened target the pilot gave orders to a man to press the button that releases the bomb. He presses the button but the bomb does not come out - Why?* (There were no disorders or defects with the aircraft).

Answer - THE AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING UPSIDE DOWN
There were no correct solutions

This month's - *Where am I?*

Go with the flow
to a richness of food
Follow the leader
his promise is good

Answers to the former Editor before the 21st of January 1997. £15 to first correct entry drawn out of a hat..

May I wish all my customers in
Haydon Bridge

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

R. Hubbock's
Decorating Service

HAYDON NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL PICKINGS

Thursday 28th November 1996

9 members in attendance

The meeting began with Mr Thompson, the Headmaster of Haydon Bridge High School, speaking to the Parish Council about future plans for the school. The school had two aims which have recently become three.

The medium term aim is to try and attract lottery money to develop sport, music and drama in the school, with an emphasis on school/community involvement. There would be an enlarged sports hall, a little theatre and better facilities all round for the use of the school and of the community. There would also be a lounge cum coffee-bar area to serve the new facilities and for community use in the evenings.

The long term aim is to attract E.U. funding to improve the library, I.T. (Information Technology - computers, Internet and all that to you and me) and the Careers Advice provision. These would have a community use. The school is presently working with British Telecom and the Careers Service along these lines.

A new Short Term Aim has appeared recently. The Government has come up with the *Sports College Initiative*. This follows on from previous initiatives for Technology, Music etc. in which schools submit bids and schemes for additional funding from Central Government. To qualify for this the school has until 13th December to have £100,000 committed to the school from non-statutory (i.e. Community) resources and to submit a detailed and comprehensive plan of what it proposes. If successful, the Government would then provide a further £100,000 and £100 per pupil in extra funding for three years.

Mr Thompson, the staff and the Governors have decided to go for it and have so far had about £50,000 promised.

The plan is to build another smaller gymnasium with which to develop dance, gymnastics and a number of sports which the school cannot at present provide. The idea is not to have more of the curriculum given over to sport but to provide a wider range of sports and a higher level. To this end, income would be spent on professional coaching, on a visiting basis and on transport for matches and competitions.

High School versus University: In high school, fire drills are planned by the Headmaster; in University, by the drunk students on their way home when the bars close.

The school would not have additional staff nor would their salaries be affected. First and Middle Schools would be involved and transport and coaching made available to them. The money spent on transport at present could then be diverted to other uses in the school. The aim is to have a local *Centre of Excellence* for sport and to increase the range of sports for all pupils.

To get £100,000 promised from a community without any large employers would be an outstanding effort. The P.C. gave the Plan its full support.

Road Barrier - A letter has been received from Railtrack in reply to the Parish Council letter of complaint. They point out that Railtrack has not authorised the gates which are preventing unrestricted access to the station car park and have written to the owners to say that the gates must be removed within 28 days (from 21st Nov.). If the gates are not removed Railtrack intend instigate legal action.

Cemetery tap - Mr Macdonald has agreed to sort out the cemetery tap when the weather improves.

Showfield Housing - It was pointed out that a barrier should be erected outside the Nursery School and that the builders of the Showfield had offered to build a lay-by at the entrance to the site. This lay-by does not appear in the plans. The Parish Council will pursue both matters.

Village Appraisal - Keda Norman gave a preliminary analysis of the questionnaire to the Councillors. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Bowling Green - A new scheme for the bowling green on land offered by the High School. The proposal is for two pairs of rinks separated by a pathway and space left for a pavilion.

Financial statement - Mostly as before, bins will be supplied at the riverside in which to place dog deposits; £1,500 to be pledged to High School initiative only to be given if scheme is adopted; the Councils support for the Youth Leader's salary will remain at £500.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.

Next meeting December 19th at 7:30pm in the Community Centre

WEN

YOU CAN BE PART OF OUR SPORTING FUTURE

To meet the High School's objectives outlined by the report (left) the High School needs to raise £100,000 in pledges of financial support/sponsorship by the 13th December.

Sponsorship may be offered as:

- Cash Donations (preferably)
- Goods, Equipment and materials relevant to the needs of the initiative.
- Sponsorship can be paid in more than one installment during 1997 and 1998.

Donations are deductible against Corporation or Income Tax

PLEASE CONTACT THE HIGH SCHOOL IF YOU WISH TO HELP

COLLATED FROM STUDENT EXAM PAPERS

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on the British thorn for 63 years. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel.

Handel was half German, half Italian and half English. He was very large.

Bach died from 1750 to the present.

Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures according to these students.

The first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked "Am I my brother's son?"

God asked Abraham to sacrifice Issac on Mount Montezuma.

Jacob, son of Issac, stole his brother's birthmark.

One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

English Teacher

HAYDON WARD

Proposed Boundary changes

In October the Local Government Commission for England issued their Draft Recommendations on the future Electoral Arrangements for Tynedale in Northumberland. This 32 page, easy to read and understand, document is available free of charge from the Legal Department of Tynedale District Council.

Insofar as Haydon Parish is concerned there is a recommendation for a significant change to the District Electoral Ward boundaries (but not the Parish Boundaries).

At the present time Haydon has 2 District Councillors serving an electorate of 1598 growing to an estimate of 1710 in the year 2001. The ratio of number of electors to councillors is 799 rising to 855 in the year 2001.

At the present time Bardon Mill has 1 District Councillor serving an electorate of 985 growing to an estimate of 1030 in the year 2001. The ratio of number of electors to councillors is 985 rising to 1030 in the year 2001.

The Draft Recommendation of the Commission is to merge the two electoral wards into one and they say in Paragraph 81 of the report:

As with some other parts of Tynedale the present district wards of Bardon Mill and Haydon appear, generally, to reflect well local community identities. However, in order to achieve improved electoral equality, a combination of these fairly similar rural wards (with good communication links) into a three-member ward, covering four parishes and 2,583 electors, is proposed..... Comments are invited on the proposal, which would comprise the parishes of Bardon Mill, Haydon, Henshaw and Melkridge.

This arrangement, if adopted, would, with today's electorate of 2,583, give a ratio of 1 councillor to 861 electors rising to 1 for 913 electors in the year 2001.

With other recommendations in the report the number of Tynedale District Councillors would rise by five from the present 47 to a total of 52.

At the Haydon Bridge Parish Council meeting on 29th November Tynedale Labour Councillor Mrs M. Howard expressed, in no uncertain terms, her opposition with the recommendations for both the merger and the overall increase of five Councillors. The next day your reporter spoke to John Skeggs the Conservative Bardon Mill Tynedale Councillor who said he was also against both proposals with no advantage to be gained by the proposed merger. Also pointing out, as did Mrs Howard, that with the present financial climate it is saving in the Tynedale budget we need not further unnecessary expenditure which could only be recovered by further increases in Council Tax.

TDC 1995 Election			
Haydon Bridge			
M.Howard	Lab.		488
W.Howard	Lab		446
T. Stephenson	Con		306
Bardon Mill			
J.A. Skeggs	Con		199
?	Lab		174
?	LD		80

There is a view that a Haydon/Bardon Mill merger would perhaps improve the chances of a non-labour candidate being elected in the 1999 District Council Elections. It is not my intention to comment on this view however to give you something to think about over Christmas here are the voting figures for the 1995 elections.

I recommend you read the full report yourself - it's also in the Library. You can express your views by writing to the Commission, before 3rd January 1997:

Tynedale Review, Local Government Commission for England, Dolphin Court, 10/11 Great Turnstile, London WC1V 7JU

SBM

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS)

by Clement Clarke Moore

'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;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

*"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER!
now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! on CUPID!
on, DONDER and BLITZEN!*

*To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"*

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,

That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,

And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

**"HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT"**

Readers Letters and Viewpoints - collated by the Editor

TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS

Towards the end of September, Doug and Miriam Stephenson offered to turn their walking holiday in The Dales into a sponsored walk for the Tuberos Scleriosis Appeal. They walked 93 miles and raised £504. A further £40 of raffle tickets were also sold.

Tuberous Sclerosis (TS) is a little known multi-system disorder with symptoms that can vary from mild dermatological problems to severe mental handicap.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to raise this money which has now gone towards the society's research costs into the disease.

Elena Parkin
The Rambler
Brigwood

ST. CUTHBERTS DANCE

St. Cuthbert's Dance held on the 23rd November raised £300 for Church funds.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us in any way. We all had a most enjoyable evening.

M. Curry
A. Marshall

Churchwardens

CARL PHILLIPS - Would like to thank everyone who helped him to raise £51 for the HB SPAR Under 12's Football Club, by sponsoring him to do the Junior Great North Run.

SHIRLEY & CLAIRE PHILLIPS - Would like to say a big Thank You to everyone for the flowers, cards and kindness they received during their recent stays in Hospital.

Special Thanks to Michael, Carl and **THE PUNKS!**

THE CHILDRENS SOCIETY boxes raised £428-13p. To everyone who has a box a very big Thank You. This amount is £69 up on last year.

Margaret Curry
Box Secretary

Dear 'Mitch'

Just a few lines to thank the people of Haydon Bridge, Langley and Ridley Hall for all the cards and good wishes I received for my recent retirement from the Post Office.

I've enjoyed the 17½ years I've been delivering in the area and am a little sad that after visiting some house six days a week for a number of years I'll not see some of the very nice people again.

I especially want to thank Rosemary for organising a surprise party which was attended by present postmen, ex-postmen and wives and many friends connected with Haydon Bridge Post Office, also Jackie in the 'Railway' for the use of the room and the many people who supplied the buffet. I had a lovely night and it was much appreciated.

Finally I would like to thank you as Editor for all the work you have put in over the last two years. The humour and comment have enriched the Haydon News and given rise to many favourable comments in the Village. As a regular contributor to the Crossword I congratulate you on your skill which created much head scratching and many talking-points in the 'Railway'. I hope that in future you may find time to produce one or two more crosswords 'just for fun' to keep our minds ticking over.

Thanking you all once again.

Yours sincerely

David Corbett

Thank you David for your kind remarks and also for the part you play in delivering in Haydon News to some of the more rural houses in the Parish, a task you have kindly offered to continue despite your 'retirement'. One of the main reasons the Haydon News has survived for eighteen years is because of the willingness of 'volunteers', like yourself, who trudge out in all sorts of weather to deliver this newsletter.

I am glad you enjoy the Crossword David and readers may interested to know that were the very first Crossword entrant and came very close to being the first winner in March '95. The clue was 'INSERTER' the answer was formed by the letters ST-P-ER. David, along with all the other entrants, put in STOPPER when the correct answer was STAPLER (I recall the crys of "unfair!" by those who thought I should have allowed STOPPER). The retired postman would have won twenty quid outright as he had no other incorrect answers. In the event there were no correct entries and the prize money was carried forward, in April '95 Terry Alexander and Philida Irving were the first winners sharing £30 between them. David did however win on a number of other occasions and won second prize in last year's special competition. So keen on the Crossword was David that he used to ask me for an advance copy to take on his holidays! With regard to continuing to provide crosswords in the future issues of the Haydon News I will be happy to do so if the new Editor decides to continue with the puzzle.



David also enjoyed the 'humour and comment'. Nearly all of the people I speak to say this is one aspect of the Haydon News that they really enjoy - there are only three people I know who obviously don't but you can't please everyone can you?

More of this 😊 and less of this ☹ say I.

Bye Mitch

😊 In a well known medical reference book *The Merck Manual* a whole chapter is devoted to *farting*. It concludes that tests on an average patient produced 141 farts on a daily basis with 70 occurring in a 4 hour period. They name three types of anal emission:

The Slider - noiseless but with a devastating effect on the nasal passages.

The Open Sphincter - A more aromatic higher temperature explosive pump.

The Staccato - This 'drum' beat wet sounding type is best enjoyed when alone.

December Garden

Alternative Fir-apy Many gardeners will have considered buying a live containerised Christmas tree instead of a sawn-off one which will shed its needles all over the carpet before the festivities are over. It's a good excuse to justify the expense of a decorative conifer from the garden centre. There are so many lovely firs and spruces to choose from that you don't have to restrict your choice to a traditional spruce. Spruces (*picea*) are usually easier to grow than firs (*abies*). *Picea orientalis aurea* is a shapely green spruce which surpasses itself in spring when the new pale gold shoots emerge. *Picea pungens* is the bluest of the spruces and would be a choice selection. Both these trees are slow growing which means you could keep them in pots for many years. They are also expensive - generally I find that the slower the conifer grows, the higher the price asked. But there are plenty of cheaper firs and spruces which will make excellent Christmas trees.

Keeping the tree alive over Christmas needs careful management. Keep the indoor period to the minimum. Store the tree in a cool place, e.g. garage, until it is brought into the house. The tree must be watered throughout its confinement. Ideally the foliage should be sprayed lightly with water twice a day so you can't have electric tree lights. Avoid positioning the tree near a fire or radiator. It is essential, if it is to survive, the tree does not dry out. As soon as possible get the tree into the garden. To protect the roots from frost, plunge the tree complete in its pot into the soil. Feed throughout the growing season and dig up the pot for next Christmas. You might, at this stage, decide that your new purchase is too precious to risk in the house. An excellent alternative would be to plant it outside, near the front door. The family can be soothed with the promise that, when large enough, in several years time, the tree will be decorated with outside coloured lights to provide a real Christmas spirit. And in the meantime, well, artificial trees are very realistic nowadays.

This Month

Shrubs/plants in outside containers should be lagged to prevent freezing. Frost will lift recently planted trees and shrubs - refirm them in and mulch. Protect outdoor taps with an old cloth or bubble plastic tied over them.

Shake off any snow lodged on conifers and hedges to prevent branches splaying out and breaking under the weight.

Melt a hole in the ice if your pond freezes over. Use a pump or heater to keep a hole clear.

Continue tidying borders when weather permits. Collect debris which will harbour slugs. Check alpines and heathers are not smothered with rotten leaves.

Plant lily bulbs in large, deep pots in John Innes no. 3 compost. Overwinter in a cool place and position outside when shoots appear in the spring.

James Chin



LANGLEY W.I.

Despite the weather, Langley W.I. managed to hold two meetings in November.

At the first meeting Mr. Ken Watts gave a talk and slide show on Modern Ferreting. The demand for ferreting nowadays is high as rabbits can devastate crops, with 40 rabbits eating as much as one cow.

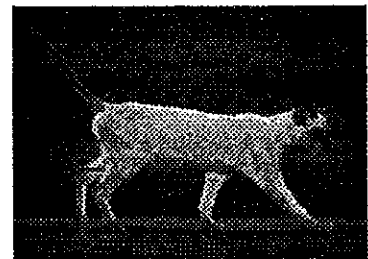
At the conclusion of his talk, he introduced three of his ferrets and members were pleasantly surprised at how tame they were.

The second meeting, the annual pie and peas supper, was once again a sell-out and as usual the entertainment was first class. Eddie Milligan as compere and Maurice Reed as auctioneer kept the audience in stitches all evening.

In their annual sketch members Frances Wise and Laura Gilhespy kept us up to date with local gossip and Eileen Martin found some more gems for her monologues. The entertainment was provided by singer Pat Dunn and singer/comedian Bob Bolam. This duo drew rapturous applause from the audience and many felt it was one of the most enjoyable evenings they had experienced at Langley.

M. Nagel

I'm Only A Cat



*I'm only a cat
and I stay in my place
Up there on your chair
on your bed or your face!*

*I'm only a cat
and I don't fink much
I'm happy with cream
and anchovies and such!*

*I'm only a cat
and we'll get along fine
As long as you know
I'm not yours - you're all mine.*

MISS J. TEASDALE BA

**State Registered Chiropodist
Member of the Society Of Chiropodists**

Treatment available at the Haydon Bridge Health Centre
and at 25 Burswell Avenue, Hexham
Telephone 608 612 for Appointments & Enquiries

Missing Cats

Several cats have gone missing from Tofts Bank over the last few months

If you have seen, or taken in, any
stray cat then please call us
- it may be one of ours
A reward is available for recovery

Telephone 684183

The Parish Council have asked for the following letter from Tynedale Council Department of Housing and Environmental Services be printed:

Safety and Security Measures for the Elderly.

With regard to the above I write to advise you that Tynedale Council now operates a scheme which enables persons over the age of sixty in receipt of an income related benefit to apply for grant assistance up to a maximum of £1,020, so as to have safety and security works carried out to their property.

Applicants for assistance must live in private accomodation and be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

1. Income Support
2. Family Credit
3. Housing Benefit
4. Council Tax Benefit
5. Disability Working Allowance

The works for which assistance may be paid are as follows:-

1. Improved front and rear doors and/or door locks to BS 3621
2. The fitting of locks to ground floor windows to BS 3621
3. Installation of mains wired smoke detectors with strobe effect warning light for the deaf or hard of hearing, and
4. External lighting at the main access to the dwelling in poorly lit areas.

In addition to the above work, it is also proposed that a basic home safety inspection will be carried out so as to identify obvious hazards that may exist which will require remedial action.

Upon receipt of an enquiry, it is proposed that an Officer from the Environmental Health Section will visit the property and carry out an inspection so as to determine what works are necessary, and to assist with completing the relevant application forms.

Following approval of the grant and execution of the works, a further inspection will be carried out so as to ensure all work has been carried out to an acceptable standard prior to payment, which may at the request of the applicant, be made direct to the contractor.

Should you be aware of any person who may benefit from such works, or if you require any further information please contact Mr. Philip Sonderquest of the Environmental Health Section.

David Hubbick

Assistant Director of Housing and Environmental Health

A BIT ON NONSENSE

Smoking pays the undertaker,
Hospital, cigarette maker-
Orphan Annie's parents smoked
Until they croaked-
Of course, they choked!

Smoking makes you really gone
Eight years sooner, or there along.
"Tis better to make love than smoke."
Or could this be a little joke?

But one thing certain, smoking stinks!
I wonder, should I switch to drink?
Or give up every vice? How nice!
To live a long, rewarding life!

How dull! The picture is revolting-
Me thinks me better go on choking.

D. A. B. George

IT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER

1988 - A Pan Am jet blew up over Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers aboard and 11 people on the ground; the terrorist bomb had been concealed in a radio.

1937 - Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was shown in Los Angeles. It was the first full-length animated talking picture.

1965 - A 70 mph speed limit was introduced into Britain.

1914 - The first air-raid was made on Britain when the Germans dropped a bomb on Dover rectory grounds.

1970 - 'You don't lead people by following them, but by saying what they want to follow.' Enoch Powell

1957 - Elvis Presley received his draft papers for the U.S. Army.

TEN THINGS TO PONDER OVER

1. Why do they call it quicksand when it sucks you down slowly?
2. If you tickle a cow, will the milk come out its nose?
3. There are 365 days in a year, yet there are 52 weeks consisting of 7 days each, which equals 364 days. Where does that extra day go?
4. Why is there only one company making the game Monopoly?
5. What would chairs look like if your knees bent the other way?
6. Why do men have nipples?
7. Why is there only one Monopolies Commission?
8. Why do they say new and improved...because how can it be new if it was improved?
9. If someone invented instant water, what would you add ?
10. Why do people look up when they think?

TEN MORE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

11. Why do women wear shoes that hurt their feet?
12. Why is it when you sit around the house you don't actually sit around the house ?
13. Why is abbreviate such a long word?
14. What do you plant to grow a seedless watermelon?
15. Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
16. Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?
17. If nothing sticks to TEFLON, how do they make TEFLON stick to the pan?
18. If you tied buttered toast to the back of a cat and dropped it from a height, what would happen?
19. If your vehicle is going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?
20. You know that little indestructible black box used on planes? Why can't they make the whole plane out of the same stuff?

Spans and Arches

"The summer seems to be well and truly over now." said the Old Bridge to the *New Bridge*.

"Yes indeed," replied the NB, "and those strong winds and night frosts have certainly played havoc with the leaves, the frost nipping them off the trees and the wind blowing them into all sorts of nooks and crannies."

"Isn't it strange," chuckled the OB, "to think that from spring through to autumn most trees dress themselves in an overcoat of leaves but during winter they stand out in all weathers in the nude."

"I never thought of it like that," said NB, "not that I've got a lot of time for thinking of those things - trees I mean - too busy looking after traffic."

"You know, this seems to be the only time we can have a chat," said OB "must be too much going on around us. Take the saga of bowling on the football field."

"Yes unfortunately that was a non starter from day one," responded NB "but let us hope that does not deter those who have tried so hard and for them to make it a reality elsewhere."

"How I agree," said OB "then the French National Football Team came but nobody could watch them train ..."

"And how about those houses a lot of people don't want - at least not on that site." chipped in the NB.

"Now let me sum that up." said OB "A football team nobody could watch; a bowling green we want but don't get and houses we don't want but get - a funny old mixed up affair."

"Or the car that overturned on the east end." said the OB "For in both cases they were near to crossings. The lorry that took out the railings could well have ploughed into push chairs and children. The City Fathers did try"

"Excuse me!" interrupted the NB "but you are showing your age now, City Fathers indeed went out ages ago."

"Yes, maybe so, but it's still got a nice ring to it don't you think?" asked the OB. "Now where was I before you interrupted, Oh yes - the Parish Council did try and get some ramps put into the subway but were informed it would be too costly, I'm surprised that they don't pursue for a ramp on the east end."

"And pray, where would that be?" queried the NB.

"Well, if a ramp were formed just east of the Police speed camera, down towards the river then left under you, then left again onto the existing path that comes out opposite the heather bed on John Martin Street." said OB.

"Sounds good to me," said NB "and then they could put up some steps to the west-bound bus stop."

"Talking about things going on around us, what about those breaks in's." asked OB "I'm surprised you didn't have anything to say about that."

"I dare not old chap," replied NB "Retaliation you know - retaliation. If I'd said anything they would have had traffic lights out and jack-hammers and Sihil saws would have been the order of the day. Still, I wouldn't mind if they would cut some of the bumps off my pavements."

"You're wanting bits cut off, fat chance you've got," said OB "for it took nearly six months to get a hole filled in on my back. However let's look on the brighter side - what about the floral display on the front of the Railway Hotel?"

"Yes it was something special." agreed NB "A real credit, and what about a Thank You to the High School Pupils who painted the subway?"

"Too true," said OB "they did a real grand job. Not like the replacement fence on my south side, it looks like parts one and two - still they may not be finished yet. I wonder if you have got any ideas why that very clever scaffolding machine spent so many days on your back?" asked the OB.

"They were just checking to see if my undercarriage is still in working order I expect." replied NB "I'll just have to ask the Bridge Inspector next time I see him."

"Lucky you!" was the broody reply from OB, he paused then added "Ask him to give me a check-over before it's much too late. Still with my luck his report would be 'INDEFECTIBLE'."

"Inde what?" asked the New Bridge.

"Oh never mind." chuckled the Old Bridge.

"A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS" "and all that."

Still smiling he went off to sleep for another year.

MAGNAM

Footnote. OB, NB will be pleased to see that work on finishing the fencing has now started.



ON SAFARI

Some months ago Dennis Telford made me somewhat envious when, in the lounge bar of the 'Haydon', he told me of the African Safari he'd just been on. Brave man, thought I, as he recounted dangerous exploits from his adventures in the Kenyan Rift Valley. He, as a life-Newcastle United supporter, has had many experiences with wild animals at Newcastle's more distant way matches. Anyway, as Dennis recounted these tales of Boy's Own stuff, pith helmet and all, I realised that I could never afford such an African adventure - my £10 Christmas bonus would not go far towards such a trip.

On Friday the 6th of December I received my ten quid bonus with my pension and made my way home from the P.O. As I opened the door of High Brindles there lying on the mat was an envelope, marked simply *Mitch*. The deadline for the crossword and articles for the Haydon News had already passed, all but this page were with Avril Kirsopp for printing. In essence the letter read:

Dear *Mitch*,

Mary told me that you would be interested in joining the Safari tomorrow, we do have one space left and Mary will act as your chauffeur. Incidentally the cost is £10.

Yours Margaret.

Margaret is one of my neighbours, who some readers may recall, had me running naked around the house one day in March after she had caught me unawares in the shower (Haydon News April 1996). I dashed upstairs to see if I still had the tropical kit from my last trip to the Far-East, I did, slinging it all into a suitcase I eyed up the net curtains to use as a mosquito net. Just about to ring up Dennis to see if I could take the Pith when the bedroom phone rang. It was Mary Nagel who explained that there would be 46 of us going on the Safari and this included Methodist Minister, Welshman the Rev. David Perkins. "Ah," thought I, "he must be going so as to bring Methodism to the natives of the dark continent".

Childhood memories of the lost *Faukawi* tribe in the dense interior came to mind as did the fact that one of my grandfathers was called David and the other Henry Livingstone. My two elder brothers were named Henry Livingstone and David, my own first name is Stanley. If your African colonial history is not good let me explain the connection: In 1871 Scottish explorer Dr. David Livingstone, lost in the interior of Zanzibar, was ailing, short of food and medicine. A Welshman, Henry Stanley, was commissioned to find Livingstone which he did in November 1871 at a place called Ujiji. When they met, Stanley greeted him with the immortal words "Dr. Livingstone I presume?"

Mary explained that the Safari I was going on was a one evening trip around the Parish of Haydon.

The Haydon Safari was a fund raising event for the Methodist Chapel re-building programme. The 46 of us were to be split up into four or five groups and starting 7:30pm on Saturday 7th December eat our various ways around the Parish having starters at one home, dinner at a second and all groups to end up at the Brokenheugh home of Sheona Wardle for pudding, cheese & biscuits followed by coffee.

Starters were to be provided at the homes of:
Maureen Brown; Barbara Rowarch;
Pauleen Smith; Claire Wardle

Dinners at the homes of:
Margaret Hindle; Moira Howard;
Patsy McDougal; Christine North;
Linda Thomas

The evening was a great success and by 10pm we had all arrived at Brokenheugh to finish off the evening after being treated to gourmet meals by our nine hostesses. It was past midnight by the time that the last visitors left Brokenheugh and 4am by the time I got to bed (thats another story).

Why don't you consider organising a SAFARI to raise finance for your own causes - it need not be expensive: Soup - Mince & Taties - Trifle, would get them queuing up. And please don't forget to invite me.

PS The hostesses' spouses were also in attendance. *Mitch*

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

An independent supplement to the Haydon News

DECEMBER 1996

Youth Advent Service

Friday 20th December 1996

6:30pm at St Cuthbert's Church

Please try to come along and support the children and their leaders

Methodist Church and United Reformed Church Services for December

December 1st

10:00am Mr M Fawcett
6:00pm Rev T Staniforth

December 3rd

7:30pm Men's Christian Fellowship
Speaker Mr K Bennion

December 4th

2:30pm Women's Own
Christmas Party

December 8th

10:00am Mr G Wilson
6:00pm Rev D Arthur (S)

December 15th

10:00am Rev B Cooke
8:00pm Praise, Prayer and Ministry

December 17th

7:30pm Men's Christian Fellowship
Christmas Meal

December 18th

2:30pm Women's Own
Carols

December 22nd

10:00am Rev D Perkins (F)

December 24th

7:00pm Communion Service

December 29th

10:00am Reader
6:30pm Service at Hexham Abbey

Henshaw WI Hall

Saturday 14th December 1996

7:30pm Candlelit Service
and Supper

Adults £1, children free.

December Services at Beltingham and Henshaw

December 1	10:00am Beltingham	Communion	Rev D Irvine
December 8	9:00am Henshaw 6:00pm Henshaw	Communion Evensong	Rev C Elliot-Newman
December 15	10:00am Henshaw	Carol Service	
December 22	10:00am Henshaw	Communion	The Bishop
December 25	10:00am Beltingham	Communion	Canon G Chadwick

Haydon Bridge Village Carol Service

Sunday December 22nd at 6:00pm

This year the village carol service will be held in the United Reformed Church.

December Services at the Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Haydon Bridge

December 1	8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am "Worship for All"	Rev D Irvine Mike Fry
December 8	10:30am Holy Communion	Rev C Elliot-Newman
December 15	8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Morning Prayer	Rev C Elliot-Newman Lindsay Gray
December 20	6:30pm Youth Advent Service	
December 22	10:30am Holy Communion	Rev A Beniams
December 24	4:00pm Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Communion	Mike Fry Rev C Elliot-Newman
December 25	10:30am Holy Communion	Rev D Irvine
December 29	10:30am Holy Communion	Canon M Nelson

So, what is Christmas really all about?

Fun and frustration; peace and panic; excitement and exhaustion; feasting and fattening; spending and spending and spending...

But then Christmas arrives. Frustrations fall away. The panic is over. We are left with wonder and joy. Children's faces light up, excitement is in the air.

Yet because of the rush we find it hard just to stop and think. After all, why do we follow these customs?

Just imagine...

If you had the whole world at your fingertips and you were able to choose where and how you were to have your first baby, what kind of place would you choose?

A first-rate hospital...?

Comfortable and warm surroundings...?

Or would it be a stable?

Saint Nicholas - the first Santa

The original Santa Claus was St Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra in Asia in the fourth century. He was one of the most overworked saints ever.

One story about him is that because the bishop was a shy man, he liked to give money anonymously to the needy. So one day he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney of a family of needy girls. The purse landed in the stockings which the girls had hung up by the fire to dry.

In memory of him it became customary to give gifts on the eve of St Nicholas Day, 6 December. In some countries this tradition has continued. In others this was transferred to 25 December, our Christmas Day.

Nowadays we tell children to hang up their Christmas stockings on Christmas Eve and ('as long as you go to bed early') the next morning they find their stockings filled with toys and sweets.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns!

Let men their songs employ!
While fields and floods, rocks,
Hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him,
Still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

The first Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree goes back to the eighth century, to a missionary from England called St Boniface.

He went to Germany to teach people about the Christian faith. There, one December, he came across a group of people standing under an oak tree ready to sacrifice a child to please their god.

St Boniface rescued the child and chopped the oak tree down. At its foot was a small fir tree. He cut the small fir tree and gave it to the people as a symbol of life. He called it the tree of the Christ-child.

In the middle of the nineteenth century the Christmas tree was introduced into England by Queen Victoria's husband, German-born Prince Albert.

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign;
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him-
Give my heart.

HAYDON & ALLEN MEDICAL NEWS

COMPETITION RESULTS

Thank you to all of those who entered my limerick competition. It achieved the biggest response that there has ever been to anything I have written in the Haydon News in the last six years - must be a message there somewhere!

Here are the best offerings:

Mr Editor Mitch:

There was a pair of fair buttocked sisters from Syracuse
Whom men from the village did mentally abuse
Depressed and distraught, doctor's advice they then
sought
"Callipyglanitis" he said, as he put them to bed
With six paracetamol tablets to use.

Ms. Angie Tinkler - a guest of Kate Jackson:

There was a pair of fair buttocked sisters from Syracuse
Whose spectacular backsides were headline news
But posterior fame
Led to sorrow and shame
When their sit upons started their beauty to lose.

- o o o -

There was a pair of fair buttocked sisters from Syracuse
Widely known for their radical feminist views
They wore sackcloth and ashes
And long false moustaches
To deter the attention of amorous youths.

N. Pretswell:

There was a pair of fair buttocked sisters from Syracuse
Who sat bare in the square of the hypotenuse
Gluteus maximus of Rome
Said "Can I walk you both home,
When Hippocrates has finished your pedicures?"

Jim & Jean, Haydon Bridge Antiques:

There was a pair of fair buttocked sisters from Syracuse
Who's ample bottoms broke all the pews.
They came to Haydon Bridge to find
A big broad bench for a buxom behind
To the Antique Shop, a chair to choose
Came the fair buttocked sisters from Syracuse

Jim watched in despair as they squeezed in each
chair

He said "These are antique, please treat them with
care"

Each bum weighed a ton, made upholstery tear
When one seat survived they wanted a pair
He said "These are unique and they don't come in
twos!"

So the fair buttocked sisters went back to Syracuse:

My own effort:

There was a pair of fair buttocked sisters from Syracuse
For whom were developed some diaphanous trews
Having defeated Versace*
They were built in Karachi
And afforded the most spectacular views.

* pronounced - VER SARCH EE - a famous Parisian
fashion house - my wife insisted that I explain!

I will be delighted to publish any late entries. Meantime
I would like to award prizes as follows:
To Mr Editor Mitch for taking such a balanced view of
my obsession with paracetamol, to Ms. Tinkler for Best

Effort by a Foreigner in these parts, to Mr Pretswell for
Most Pleasing Classical References and to Jim and
Jean for the Best Rhyming Commercial.

Having discovered that at least one of the winners is
tee total I shall enquire first as to what would be a most
acceptable prize for each.

FLU VACCINATION

There is a view developing that not enough people
are getting flu vaccinations each autumn. Some have
suggested all those over 65 years of age should be
offered the injection - as well as all those at special risk,
those with heart and lung or immune system problems.
We are very happy to put anyone's name on the list for
calling next year - just let Nurse Mary know if you are
interested.

BACK PAIN

One of the most common reasons given for absence
from work is back pain. Everyone will be familiar with
the occasional twinge following unaccustomed
exercise or following a fall or simply with age. Many will
be familiar with the endless search for a comfortable
position and with the pain reaching down from the
lower back, through the buttock, back of the thigh
and on down to the calf and foot - sciatica.

When the pain has a particularly penetrating, aching;
pins and needles quality it may well be that a vertebral
disc is bulging onto a nerve root in the spine. Discs do
not "come out" in the sense of actually moving from
place to place - they just bulge. When any nerve is
pressed on, whether by a bulging disc or anything else,
one often gets pins and needles, numbness and loss of
use or strength in the part affected.

With lower back pain, if it is associated with loss of
control of the bladder or bowels then the situation is
very urgent and admission to hospital is required.

Prevention is better than cure with backs as with most
problems. Good posture - especially whilst sitting at
work or driving, care when lifting and keeping to a
reasonable weight will all help.

Some of the most frequent referrals we make are for
back pain and to Mr Peter Lomax, the chiropractor or
the neurosurgeons in Newcastle. The results of
chiropractic are often good with the more mild
problems and some relief can be achieved for those
badly troubled. The neurosurgeons will arrange special
scans of the most badly affected patients and often
be able to perform surgery which will stop the
suffering.

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY AND
HEALTHY NEW
YEAR TO THE
WHOLE PARISH
from**

**All of the Health Centre
Staff and The Partners**