

# Haydon News

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April 1997 / 3

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The Threepwood Case - concluding part. Editor's Uncle causes rumpus. Doctor talks of exotic dancers. Heated debate at Parish Council Meeting. Comet Hale-Bopp. Local man visits Buck House and rides with Queen . . . and much more

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## EDITORIAL

Hi folks, hope you're in fine fettle this month and ready for more of Mitch's crazed ramblings with bits of news and tit-bits scattered around the pages. I trust that you've had a good month - if not try and ensure by your own actions April is much better. So however chronic your ailment remember that laughter is the best medicine - it may not cure your malady but at least you'll feel better. I read somewhere that the medical reason is believed to be that *'laughter induces the brain to release catecholamine hormones, which cause the release of endorphins, the body's natural pain-killers'*. Less analgesics and more endorphins say I and why are they called analgesics when we do in fact swallow them?

I gave the coffee morning (held in the Community Centre at 10:00am every Saturday) another visit in March. I'd just handed over my 50p and was scanning the room for a seat when a lady at one of the tables beckoned me over for a quiet word. Apparently some of you thought the little piece about throwing sand and other things into the bath to encourage the kids to have a bath was in bad taste - I'll do my best to make sure that in future similar pieces are toned down a bit. The cost of buying a day return from the village to the Hexham hospital was discussed apparently the person concerned was informed that the price of a cheap day return to hospital was £4:50 compared to the £1:80 cheap day return to Hexham bus station. I have been in touch with Northumbria Buses who advise that the £4:50 is the return price to Newcastle which is the next place in their fare structure to where you can buy a day return. To get to Corbridge there is no cheap day return but the single fare is £1:70 making a return £3:40. Northumbria Buses say that the cheapest way to get to Hexham Hospital is to buy a cheap day return to the bus station for £1:80 then a single fare of 30p each way to the hospital - total cost £2:40.

Perhaps, like me, you were disappointed to hear that the High School's bid for Sports College Status was not successful. Only six schools in the whole country have been given the go ahead. Over the next few weeks, the Headteacher, Mr. Thompson will endeavour to find out the weaknesses in the bid and strengthen these in the next proposal which has to be in on 16th May 1997.

The school is looking to the financial supporters to renew the pledges they made last year, if you haven't renewed yours yet why not pop it up to the school after the Easter break. Please contact the High School on 684 422 if you have any queries.

The Highways Agency have announced more local roadworks on the A69 from a point 300 metres west of the Elrington junction outside the village to a point 200 metres to the east of the entrance to Bush Farm. Traffic through the roadworks will be controlled by lights and are scheduled to start on Monday 14th April and will last about 5 weeks. I have been in touch with the Highways Agency in Leeds who have confirmed that it is their intention to re-open the old road by Haydon Spa all the way to the access opposite Bush Farm. Eastbound traffic will use this route with westbound traffic being routed via the open lane of the A69. A 30 m.p.h. speed restriction eastbound and 40 m.p.h. westbound will be in force.

One good thing about these roadworks is the prospect of having the old road cleared of all the materials and rubbish deposited there. If you want any further information you should contact Helen Forrest on 0113-283-5352.

Do you watch Mrs. Merton on TV? If you don't I should explain that on her chat show she has so called 'celebrities' who she enjoys putting in their place with amusing, and sometimes stinging quips, when they start acting big-headed and behave like they're really important.

She has a spot in her show which she starts by saying "And now let's all have a heated debate" Well, I don't know if the other member of the public attending the March Parish Council meeting and the Chairman of Tynedale's Environmental Services Committee are Mrs. Merton fans but I think that she would have enjoyed the coming together of minds at the Council meeting. As Chairman of this Committee Cllr Bill has responsibilities for keeping our streets clean.

Joe Public (a pseudonym) was particularly concerned about the mounds of grass growing like Triffids at the sides of the estate roads, blocking the free flow of rainwater to the drains. This had previously been brought up in the Haydon News in September 1996 and to the Council at about the same time by Mr. Joe Public. Cllr Bill responded with the same lack lustre reply as six months ago, the cause was a nationwide problem and was caused by the use of a different type of herbicide by the road sweepers. He also added that being strapped for cash the roads were not swept as often nowadays.

A heated two-way debate then followed and went on for about 15 minutes before the capable Chairman of the Parish Council, Michael Loyd, mindful that everyone else in the country was on their Easter break, and to the relief of everyone present, brought matters to an end. The combatants had by then reached an uneasy stalemate.

In last month's Haydon News the point was made about the bank dry-stone retaining wall in Lands End road having been rebuilt higgledy piggedly after installation of the Showfield drains. On behalf of the residents affected Cllr Eileen Charlton asked if the wall would be rebuilt - Cllr Bill tiredly responded that work had already started. Sorry to add to the pressure Bill but I park my car there regularly and can assure you it hasn't!

Mitch - 3rd April 1997

### NEXT ISSUE OF THE *Haydon News*

May 1997

All copy to

S.B. Mitchell  
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or hand in at the Post Office

BY 24TH April please

'To be or not to be: that is the question.'  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
And by opposing end them?'

William Shakespeare - Hamlet

#### Question

Why don't MAN. U. supporters eat pickles?

#### Answer

Because they can't get their heads in the jar.

### PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS

interested in offering help would be warmly welcomed by staff at

#### Allendale Middle School

Guidance will be given in supporting pupils with reading or other work.

### COME ON - GET IN TOUCH

Contacts: Lewis Bennington or Anne Brown

For more details please contact either of the above at the school. Tel: 683 214

PARISH COUNCIL PICKINGS

Ten Parish Councillors were present, together with two members of the public and County Councillor Purdue, at the meeting held on Thursday 27th March 1997 in the Community Centre.

This was the Annual Parish Meeting at which, by law, public participation must be allowed. We are fortunate that in Haydon Parish the Council allows public participation at the beginning of every meeting.

Mr McVay complained about the amount of grass growing in gullies in the village. He has mentioned this previously but felt that the Council were not doing enough to resolve the problem and wanted to know what can be done.

There was much discussion about what used to happen but it seems to boil down to the fact that previously used weed-killers are not now allowed, that the new ones are less effective, and that cuts in council funding do not allow for sweeping as often as previously. The District Council is trying to right the situation.

**Correction** - The date for the tricentennial celebrations at the Shaftoe First School is the week beginning 12th June and not the 15th as published last month.

The saga of Belway and the mess being produced in the Langley Road and Land Ends Road continue to exercise councillors.

The gate at the station car park and Railtrack's progress is still confused. Cllr Bill Howard has heard they are considering a new entrance but the Council agreed the if and when such a proposal came forward they will oppose it.

The Clerk has asked for two further tenders for repair of the bus shelter.

The Village Appraisal documents were handed to the Council. It is proposed to put a copy in the Library and that the Clerk will have full documentation and the report on file.

Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Garrow are going to attend the next meeting of *The Friends of Haydon Bridge* and will write a one page summary which will be included in the next issue of the Haydon News.

The Council decided that it will continue its support for the High School when it re-submits its bid for sports/community facilities. This will be in May.

The members agreed to give £500 to the Community Youth Department towards Youth Club activities as they had in previous years.

Notice was received that Frankham tip will be open in future as follows:  
October to March - 8am to 4pm.  
April to September - 8am to 6pm.

A letter received from Home Housing says that a Management Committee will be set up to decide on the allocation of the 12 rented houses on the Showfield site. This Committee will consist of a representative of Home Housing; Mr. T.A. Bates; A representative of Tynedale District Council and a member of Haydon Bridge Parish Council, initially Chairman Mr. M. Loyd will fill this post. Applications from people in the village or who perhaps previously lived in the village are keenly wanted. The rents will be:

- 2 Bedrooms - £57.38 per week (6 houses).
- 3 Bedrooms - £60.17 per week (6 houses).

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.

W.E.N.

THE CROSSWORD

I was pleased to see that there were a lot more Crossword entries in March and 13 were correct entries. After two competitions points standing is:

**2 correct entries:**

D.Corbett, P. Irving, R.McVay, A. Phillips, N. Pretswell, M.Robson, E.Rumney, B&R Shout.

**1 correct entry**

R.Armstrong, M.Hindle, M.Porter, A.M.Scott, P.Tomlinson

This month's winners were drawn by Pauline Tulip and Joyce Sim - they were: Maurine Robson and Pauline Tomlinson

TERRY ALEXANDER

Friday 4th April 1997 - It saddens me to have to report that Terry died this morning, Terry was a regular entrant to the crossword and never missed a month. More than that it was through his continuing support and advice that I was able to produce a decent xword at all for our readers. I will miss him.

My sincere condolences go to his family during this difficult time.  
Mitch

LISTEN TO A BOOK

Haydon Bridge Library now holds a stock of books on tape for both adults and children. With titles ranging from Wilbur Smith to Gerald Durrell, these have proved popular in other libraries with a wide variety of people. While of obvious interest to members with sight problems, the tapes can provide entertainment to other while ironing, commuting or even lazing in the garden!

The tapes, which cost 60p for each loan, are issued for three weeks - the same as the new loan period for books. Members registered blind or partially-sighted may use this service free.

N.C.C. Amenities Division

**GATE TO STATION CAR PARK**

We have been advised by Tynedale District Council to **INFORM RAILTRACK** if there are any problems with the gate being closed thereby preventing access to or from the station car park.

Please contact:  
**David Field at Railtrack**  
01904 524 807

**Question**

What does the Essex girl's sing when she's drunk?

**Answer**

"I'm an Essex girl,  
I'm an Essex girl,  
I'm an E.S.S....  
ah, oh well..  
I'm an Essex girl  
I'm an Essex girl..."

**AMUSING ANAGRAMS**

1. *I am a nice leech.* British actor
2. *A cool limp Hitler.* Tory Minister
3. *I'm an evil Tory biggot.* Minister
4. *That great charmer.* Former PM
5. *Inner kindness.* Labour MP
6. *I whirl aimlessly.* Former SDP MP
7. *Docile farts.* Communist leader
8. *This welfare ponce.* Royalty man
9. *Workable caramel lips.* Friend of 8.
10. *Needs a rest.* TV show
11. *Manure plot.* TV humour man.
12. *Fine tickle lady.* TV actress

Answers on page 10

Both folly and wisdom come upon us with years

## A RIGHT ROYAL STORY

As I wandered down the Langley road the other day a thin evil wind drove stinging hailstones into my face from a leadened sky. Through watering eyes I stopped to blink upon the new estate growing up in the old Show Field, houses seemed to have suddenly sprang up like mushrooms overnight. "What's happening to that place?" I thought. Factories in the Station Yard, a security gate stopped me getting my car to the tin and bottle bank, and a nice old Chapel to be demolished and then rebuilt (at least that's what I'm told). And the characters of the place, where have they all gone? The ones that used to be around in the salad days of our youth when we thought things in Haydon Bridge would never change.

Pulling my coat collar up and my hat down over my eyes, thoroughly depressed I set off in a slow wander towards 'The Haydon'. As I opened the door into the warm bar-room the heat from the coal fire radiated to every corner and the friendly voice of Jeff said "What'll yer hav saa?", as I sat down at a table beside 'Gerry Attrick' who was sitting with his eyes closed and far away howking hard wax from his lug with one hand while a Woodbine burned to a couple of nicotine stained fingers on the other, far too engrossed in his immediate task to be bothered with me. Old Sid sat beside the window acknowledging everyone that came through the door with a smile of recognition since he'd had his cataract done. He was talking to a tall bearded elegant comely chap who's polished vocabulary far outshone that of old Gerry and me. He dressed in a tasteful country fashion with the grace of check shirt, tweed jacket with leather patches on the elbows, cavalry trill trousers and brogue shoes.

"Wiys that owa there?" said old Gerry, nodding his head towards Sid and his company, now very much aware of my presence as he dumped the end of his Woodbine in the glass ashtray. "Wiys ya on about? Oh him wi Sid!" said I. "Wey thats him frae up the bank hinny, the editor of the Haydon News said I" as old Gerry wiped the drip from his nose on the shining sleeve of his well worn jacket and muttering something about characters in the Village as he went on to tell me a story about Philip.

"Philip? Philip who?" said I to old Gerry. "Wey him that drinks in the Railway" said he as he had another howk at his lug.

"What narks me about - about yon gadgy is that nee matter wiy thor on about in yon pub, Philip always said he knew them." went on Gerry. He continued. "One night Cliffie and Jackie [the landlady of the Railway] were on about the forthcoming show of Jimmy Nail (Crocodile Shoes) at the Riverside Place Newcastle, and sure enough Philip piped up from the far end of the bar saying that he knew Jimmy." Gerry Attrick paused to take his breath.

"Well, the outcome was that Cliffie and his wife bought tickets for the show and afterwards backstage they met Jimmy who hugged Philip and then invited all three into his dressing room for a drink."

"Haddaway, is that right?" said I as Gerry got up from the table muttering something about damned old age and creaking joints as he shuffled towards the bar as Jeff said, "Same again SAA?"

After lighting another Woodbine and carefully raising the glass to his thin lips Gerry continued. "A few weeks back aa gans into the Railway and taalk gets roond to the Royal Family, and once again Philip's voice could be heard above the rest that he *'knew the Royals very well indeed'* In fact Philip also said that when the Queen Mothers Uncle, Sir Francis Bowes-Lyon, lived at Ridley Hall he would send his coach drawn by a team of four black horses every Saturday evening to pick up his grandfather, take him to the Hall and they would play dominoes until the midnight-hour. They would have a few brandies in between hands."

Gerry once again paused had a long drag and mouthful before continuing - "Philip also went on to say that he can remember as a bairn being taken to a Garden Party at Ridley Hall and being nursed on the knee of Sir Francis Bowes-Lyon's niece, Elizabeth our present Queen, while Philips grandfather and Sir Francis had a natter about leeks."

"Haddaway man, that cannit be reet!" said I to Old Gerry as by now his voice was getting louder with the drink and behind the bar Jeff was beginning to cock his ear.

"Wheesht man! Wheesht a minute till aa tell ya the rest!" said Gerry as I drained my glass.

He continued: "By now Cliffie and one or two more of the Railway locals were determined to call Philip's bluff so they hired a mini-bus and a trip set off from the front of the Railway pub early one summers morning and head doon the A1 t' London."

I was, by now, totally absorbed in Gerry's tale as he continued:

"On reaching Buck House crowds were gathered from in front of the Palace stretching right down The Mall and no admittance was possible as rehearsals were about to commence for a special pageant of old England with the Lord Mayor and other high ranking dignitaries. Hearing this Philip got out off the mini-bus and quietly had a word in the ear of a police officer who directed him to the Chief of the Metropolitan who was standing by the Palace. Philip was last seen disappearing through the large ornate Palaces gates into the yard beyond."

Gerry Attrick continued:

"Half an hour later the band of the Coldstream Guards appeared followed by the Brigade of Guards, Household Cavalry, Pike Men and many other smart uniformed men closely guarding a magnificent gold coach drawn by a team of well turned out horses.

By now Cliffie and the rest from the 'Railway' had gotten themselves pushed back further and further into the crowd and couldn't make out who was who, let alone see the gold coach. Thoroughly frustrated now through lack of vision Cliffie said to a group of passing tourists.

"Excuse me, but cud yer tell us wiys in that golden coach?"

One tall American looking over the crowd turned to Cliffie and said:

"There is a woman sitting there in fancy robes and a crown on her head, and sitting next to her is little Philip Hubbuck from Haydon Bridge."



**OWLD TAWNY**  
April 1st 1997

**Shaftoe Trust School:** The Rev. John Shaftoe was the founder of the Shaftoe Trus School and the charity which bears his name. The foundation deed is dated 17th June 1685. Following his death at Carrycoats his will was proved on 9th January 1695/6. In July 1697 the necessary land was purchased, approximately 3 roods on Chapel Hill, for £10 from John Green, a blacksmith. The first school was almost certainly a single room, without a ceiling, with stone flagged roof and floor.

Reference: Shaftoe Trust School by L.C. Coombes 1981 Price £2.50 from Village Newsagents

*Readers Letters and Viewpoints*

Jackie Boden, Headteacher of Allendale Middle School kindly sent me a number of articles - I have selected just two for publication however I also read the well written articles by Leanne Bell, Peter Forster, Miranda Archer, Sarah Murray, Beverley Lowes and Lynsey Robson cleverly laid out there pieces as if they were actually in the Haydon News. Well done all of you and please remember, whatever your age, I am happy to print your letters or stories.  
Editor

**SING FOR PLEASURE**

My school and many other schools went to the City Hall in Newcastle to sing for pleasure. We travelled down on a bus provided by the Haydon Bridge Silver Band.

Our form teacher Miss McLaine went to get the sheets and music from the City Hall so we could practise the songs. We sang 9 songs. Most of the 6th year liked rocking and rolling around.

There were two days for the sing for pleasure. The 19th March and the 20th March. We went on the 20th March 1997.

We set off from Allendale Middle School at quarter to 12 a.m. We arrived at half 12. We went in and found our seats and listened to the band play.

The first song was 'Hello control can you hear me?' We got split up into 4 groups altogether.

Ellen and Miles sang the songs with us. Ellen sang the highest notes and Miles sang the lowest notes.  
We arrived back at Allendale at 4 pm

Vicky Haward

**City Hall Sing for Pleasure 1997**

We had been practising for half a term and finally on the 20th March we left for Sing for Pleasure at the City Hall in Newcastle. The Haydon Bridge Silver Band kindly paid the coach fee.

When I got there I was amazed at how many children had actually come. There was about 2,300 children. The people who ran the day were called Ellen and Miles. There was also a man called Peter Vostock who did lots of funny songs. I enjoyed the Freedom Train song the most. All in all I think it was a good day out.

Sam Wood

Daisy Thompson may be in her 94th year but she still has something to say about the village in which she was born and dearly loves, she writes:

*'Haydon Bridge will become a Chinatown if seventy houses are allowed to be built on the Showfield, it would be out of all character with the Village. Surely half of these houses could be built in other parts of the Village? This would ease the flow of traffic using John Martin Street and Shaftoe Street to the development. It's frightening to think of the amount of increased traffic using these access roads with the added danger for children walking to and from the Shaftoe Trust School. I would also like to point out that numerous accidents have occurred in the past at the junction of John Martin Street and the treacherous A69 main road. I think the plan is all wrong and something should be done about it before its is too late.'*

Mrs. Thompson, Jackie Bell, Dr. High together with a certain S.B. Mitchell have recently had letters printed in the Hexham Courant concerning the possibility of having surveillance cameras mounted in Church Street and the High School bus park - Daisy's letter continues:

*'To have spy cameras watching over the Church and War Memorial to catch youngsters late at night causing a nuisance would be out of all proportion and lower the tone of the village. However I agree something should be done about it. I can remember when the Station waiting room, with its huge coal fire was a meeting place for youngsters, the noise got to be so loud at times that the Station Master often threatened to put them all out. The next haunt was the Gas Works, now defunct, down the Ealing sub-way. I also remember that Louis Philipson, the uncle of todays Haydon News Editor was one of them! Louis thought nothing of walking back to Chesterwood at midnight. Skating on an illuminated Pandon Pool, now the football ground, was also a great attraction in those days.'*

**Last things first Daisy** - Thanks for sharing some of your memories with us. What you didn't say was if you and my mother, one of your best friends in those far off days were also part of the noisy teenager group getting chucked out of the Station waiting room - I bet you both were! With regard to my uncle Louis, I actually never met him as he was born in 1900 and I didn't appear on this earth until he was in his late 30's by which time he lived on the Isle of Wight.

I note that in this month's Medical News Dr. Steven Ford is suggesting that senior citizens write down some of their recollections for future generations to read, I will be happy to take any short stories and type them up for free. In fact if any reader wants them included in the Haydon News I will be more than pleased to do that. As the Haydon News is archived your descendants will be titlled to death in 200 years time to read about their great great great great great grand-parents

**With regard to the Showfield Housing** - the first phase of this housing is near completion. planning permission was only granted for these 20 'affordable' homes comprising of 8 shared ownership bungalows and 12 rented houses. The points you made have previously been well aired through these columns and at the Parish Council Meetings together with a special open meeting of people affected by this development, a roadside meeting was also held at the entrance to the site when Tynedale District Planning Committee members paid a site visit. I attended all of these meetings and observed that one person was notably absent from each important meeting where questions similar to your own needed to be answered. Someone asked me the other day who I thought would be at the ribbon-cutting opening ceremony - I wonder? It is now up to residents both for and against further expansion of the site to make their views known directly to Tynedale Council or one of our local Councillors. I am neutral on this subject but do offer one suggestion to the Langley landowner - why not consider separating the present site and any new housing development area with a 4 by 4 rink natural grass bowling green and pavilion - the Showfield is nice and flat! From what I have seen of the new development it seems to have been tastefully done and far from the 'Chinatown' image Daisy fears.

See you all next month

Bye for now ..... Mitch

**Q:** How do you make an Essex girl laugh on Monday mornings?  
**A:** Tell them a joke on Friday night!

**Q:** How do Essex girl's braincells die?  
**A:** Alone.

# The Threepwood Case

**The story so far:**

*William Bewicke of Threepwood Hall was sent to Millbank debtor's prison in March 1861 thence on to a lunatic asylum for failing to pay his lawyers bill and shooting at two bailiffs assistants who visited his home to recover property to the value of his debts. He was to be kept in penal servitude for four years.*

Once Mr Bewicke was despatched from the County following his conviction at the Northumberland Spring Assizes the Bailiffs did not take long before moving into Threepwood Hall to take possession of property to the value of Bewicke's debts. On 7th April 1861 Lancashire born Bailiff John Walker and his 32 year old assistant John Burn were in the house at Threepwood. Anne Lodge, Bewicke's 29 year old; Darlington born; widowed housekeeper and a 27 year old servant by the name of Mary Waugh were also living there. A Thomas Lodge (Anne's brother-in-law perhaps ?) was also there. Threepwood Hall itself had no one living in it - the whereabouts of Bewicke's 8 year old Bath born daughter is not known.

The Bailiffs set about their work and seized property to the value of about £1,700. Messrs. Anderson and Mack were the auctioneers and sold the lot for £430 at a public auction at the Anchor Inn.

Mrs Anne Lodge, Bewicke's faithful housekeeper, had been called to his trial, as a witness for the defence, but had become hysterical during cross examination and her evidence did little to help Bewicke's case in which he had defended himself.

The moment Bewicke had been dispatched to prison Anne had but one absorbing idea - that was to unmask a conspiracy against her master. With astonishing perseverance she set about the task to get her master freed. She was successful in collecting a large amount of evidence but unfortunately in those days they didn't have a Haydon News so she could not get the evidence published. Alone she went off to London and eventually persuaded an able Solicitor, Mr Joseph Ivimey of Staple Inn to look at the evidence, he was convinced that Bewicke was innocent and travelled up to Northumberland.

He at once obtained warrants against the two Bailiffs, Hutchinson and Dalgish who gave evidence at the trial.

A certain John Dodd who also gave evidence which helped convict Bewicke was unmasked. The end result was that on 28th February 1862, a year after Bewicke's conviction, John Dodd was charged that he, "*wickedly intending and devising to cause that individual to be falsely and wrongly suspected of having feloniously shot at Hutchinson and Dalgish, did unlawfully and maliciously lay, deposit, and hide a certain leaden bullet in a certain cart-shed ..... with intent that it might be found and be supposed and believed to be shot by the said William Bewicke.....*"

After a very long trial at the Moot Hall, Newcastle Dodd was found guilty and sentenced to two years imprisonment. The following day William Hutchinson, labourer, was found guilty of having wilfully, maliciously, and corruptly committed wilful and corrupt perjury on Mr Bewicke's trial for felony, and sentenced to four years penal servitude. John Dalgish, charged with the same offence pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 months hard labour.

The cost of prosecution of the three came to £800 and was paid for by Mr Bewicke as was the £300 costs incurred by the London lawyers. The judge did not order that costs should be paid to the unfortunate Bewicke who had, in fact, been brought up to Newcastle to give evidence at the trial.

A Queen's pardon was immediately given to Bewicke and he was released on 4th March 1862 *'without a stain on his character'*.

Arriving back at Threepwood Hall William was dismayed to find that most of his furniture had been seized and the Hall looked dilapidated. He tried to make a claim for financial compensation but the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital, as lords of the manor of Langley, ruled against it arguing that at the time the goods were seized Bewicke was a felon. They further argued that "You remained a felon while in prison and till you were released from your felony by pardon of the Crown; consequently, you have lost your rights of citizenship - you have *no locus standi.*"

The Greenwich Hospital Commissioners did, however, agree to refund the £430 minus £50 deducted for law expenses but no more. Bewicke decided to appeal to what he thought was a great injustice.

Now Mr Bewicke had contacts and through a friend had South Shields MP Robert Ingham, together with others and a Petition was presented to Parliament on 28th April 1863. A Bristol MP, Henry Berkeley, who probably knew Bewicke, who had lived in Somerset, raised the matter in the House. After considerable legal discussion the case for full compensation was put to the vote. The House divided and when the votes were counted there were 20 votes for the motion and 22 against. The motion was therefore lost by only 2 votes.

Mr Bewicke was a persistent man and one year later Mr Berkeley brought the matter up again before the House of Commons in a somewhat different form. It was agreed that a Select Committee would consider Bewicke's new petition. At the committee hearing Mr Berkeley proposed that Mr Bewicke should be voted the sum of £5,000 however the majority of the Committee agreed to a report suggesting to the favourable consideration of the Crown "*whether the full value of Mr Bewicke's goods and chattels at the time of forfeiture should not be restored to him, minus the net produce of the sale by auction already voluntarily paid over to Mr Bewicke by the Commissioners.*"

It is not known whether William received this 'favourable consideration' from the Crown.

Mr Bewicke was twice married - first to Miss Tweddel, of Threepwood; and second to a Welsh lady by the name of Jones, from whom he was subsequently divorced.

Some years before his death in May 1889 Mr Bewicke had erected in Hexham Cemetery a monument of Aberdeen granite, bearing the unfinished inscription:

*William Bewicke  
Threepwood  
Northumberland  
aged ----- years*

It was this story that caused a certain Stanley Brian Mitchell of Haydon Bridge to visit Hexham Cemetery on a wet and windy Monday 24th February 1997 his birthday. The monument still stands. You can read the full story in the Hexham Library in the book:

**NORTH-COUNTRY LORE  
AND LEGEND - July 1889**

SBM



March Garden

Sunny days and flowering cherries light up the garden and lighten the heart. Here are a few of my favourites. The flowering season starts at the beginning of April with *Prunus x yedoensis*, a large (up to 30') cherry tree growing in front of the police station in Hexham, displaying spectacular clouds of white blossom. By late April the four cherries in front of our Haydon Bridge Fire Station are at their loveliest with large clusters of double pink flowers produced in great profusion. These are *Prunus Kanzan*, one of the most popular of flowering cherries and suitable for an average size garden. *Prunus Amanogowa* is a beautiful cherry usually recommended for a restricted space because it is columnar in shape with branches to the base. The fragrant, semi-double, shell pink flowers are abundant in early May. Heavy snowfalls can open up the centre of this tree and make the branches splay out sideways. This happened to the nice specimen at the end of John Martin St. - now rather drastically pruned back. Use a soft binding - such as old tights - to hold upright branches together. Further along John Martin St. is a lovely flowering crab suitable for small gardens. It is *Malus Profusion* and in April it is smothered with eye-catching wine-red flowers. All these trees are hardy and troublefree. They need an open, sunny site to flower well.

**This month** - is the best month to plant conifers and evergreens.

Allow flowering bulbs to die down naturally. Divide snowdrops after flowering. Leave daffodils for six weeks before cutting leaves.

Remove dead flowerheads from rhododendrons and azaleas to ensure a good display next year.

If your roses are prone to blackspot you should be spraying now with a systemic fungicide to protect them. Don't wait until you see the fungus on the leaves as it is difficult to control once you have it. There are many roses available which are resistant to blackspot.

Keep hoeing borders to discourage weeds. Use a weedkiller like ICI Pathclear on paths and drives to keep them clear all season.

Plant up hanging baskets to get the plants established but keep them in the greenhouse or coldframe for a few weeks.

Hardy annuals can be sown any time this month

Lawns - Rake to remove thatch and moss. Warmer weather has encouraged the grass to grow intermittently. Promote healthy growth with a spring feed. Weeds will start to grow too so use a lawn weedkiller. Re-sow bare patches with lawn seed.

James Chin



A Priest and a Nun are on their way home from a conference and the cars breaks down and cannot be mended until the next day. The local hotel only has one room left and it is agreed that the nun sleeps in the bed and the nun on the sofa. They settle down for the night. Ten minutes later: "Father I'm cold" says Nun. Priest gets her another blanket. Ten minutes later: "Father I'm still terribly cold." Priest gets her another blanket. Ten minutes later: "Father, I'm still terribly cold, I think we should spend the night as man and wife." "Good idea." says priest, "Get up and get your own bliddy blanket!"

**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

LANGLEY W.I.



Members of Langley W.I. were joined by guests from Bardon Mill W.I. for their March meeting.

Mr. Pollard, who together with his partner runs Bywell Fish & Game Smokery, explained the origins of smoking and preserving food. He told members that they used U.K. suppliers as they had to be assured of the quality of the product and its suitability for smoking. Temperature is all important and England's climate is ideal as there are very few days of the year when the temperature rises above the optimum level. On these rare occasions, smoking has to be carried out at night when it is cooler. Members sampled portions of smoked duck which were delicious and were provided with a sample of smoked salmon darnes to cook at home.

After supper, member Mrs. Lyn Young, aided by Mrs. Marjorie Hingston, taught visitors and members to line dance - with a surprising degree of success.

Mary Nagel

**IT HAPPENED IN APRIL**

1973 - A poverty of spirit, of loneliness and being unwanted, that is the worst disease in the world: not tuberculosis or leprosy. **Mother Teresa**

1889 - Hitler born on 20th.

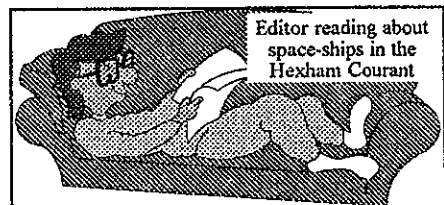
1983 - The one-pound coin introduced in England and Wales.

1949 - Eire proclaimed itself the Republic of Ireland.

1992 - Comedian Benny Hill died.

1951 - 75 people died when the British submarine Affray sank in the English Channel.

1975 - In view of the success if my economic revolution in Uganda I offer myself to be Head of the Commonwealth. **Idi Amin**



Q: Why are dumb Essex girl jokes so short?  
A: So Geordie girls can remember them.

**HAYDON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH - DEVELOPMENT**

Some time ago now the Methodist chapel reviewed where it was with its building and with its mission and where, in God's name, it was going with both.

As far as the building was concerned, essential repairs were required. As for its mission, it already reached out to the village and beyond through the Men's Meeting, the Women's Own Meeting, Youth Club and Sunday School, providing meals for visiting church coach parties and, most importantly, in providing opportunity for worship. However, the need for building repairs provided a spur to look at how we were expressing God's love for the village. Individuals and organisations were approached to try to assess those needs of the village which the chapel could help with - as there was no wish to duplicate already existing provision.

Out of those discussions came the chapel's vision - to provide care for the elderly, a drop-in centre for young people, office facilities for church and community use and an area for the sale of Christian literature and stationery.

There was a hope that it would be possible to acquire the land adjacent to the chapel and plans were drawn accordingly. Unfortunately purchase of the land was not possible and so the plans were re-drawn using the existing site of the chapel. The design is for a completely new building but it will retain the existing stained glass windows and use the same stones and slates to harmonise with its environment and to provide an important link with the past.

The theme of retaining that important link with the past will be continued inside through imaginative use of the wood from the pews and panelling of the old church and with the retention of the organ. But inside it will be wonderfully different from what was there before. There will be a multi purpose worship area with its dedicated sanctuary, a bath/shower facility for the elderly, a fully equipped kitchen, capable of catering for over 100 people, a coffee lounge area overlooking a small garden, an office for village use, a meeting room and provision for counselling.

Where are we now? The plans have been considered by both the Parish Council and Tynedale District Council and Planning permission obtained. Work on the site will commence in May for completion early in 1998 at a cost of approximately £300,000. So far, £250,000 has been pledged or given which includes £60,000 from the congregation and support from Shaftoe Trust. We need a further £50,000. If you feel you would like to support what we are doing do make contact with any of the following:

- Rev. David Perkins - Tel. 603139
- John Wardle - Tel. 684294
- Alan Howard - Tel. 684524
- Margaret Hindle - Tel. 684275
- Trevor North - Tel. 684757
- Michael Rowarth - Tel. 684207

Whilst work is progressing on the site, work will be going on simultaneously preparing for the day care for the elderly, the youth drop-in centre and the village office. Anyone who would like to be involved in any of these developments please ask for details from those mentioned above or any church member.

So that there is an opportunity for everybody to see the plans in detail they will be on display in the Community Centre on a date which will be announced in the next *Haydon News*. The stand will be manned throughout the day, with light refreshments (free!), so that questions can be answered and comments received. We are still at the planning stage with the sorts of additional activities that can take place in the new building. As long as they don't conflict with what other village organisations provide, all ideas will be welcome.

At the heart of all the planning and money raising that has gone on has been a desire to serve God by worshipping Him and by caring for our neighbours. We hope the village will be really pleased with the result and will make good use of all aspects of the facilities - from worshipping to faxing.

**Michael Rowarth**  
for the  
**Methodist Church Development Steering Group.**

The church is an anvil which has worn out many hammers

Poor men go to Heaven as soon as the rich

**R.I.P.**

1863 - 1997

*It's not of real importance, the planners did declare. So you can knock this building down and put a new one there.*

*Its architecture's not of note. Who'll miss it anyway? It's disposable. It's out of date. Take it all away!*

*Take away the pulpit, and pews of old pitch pine. Take away the window, stained for men who died afore their time.*

*Take away the organ, and the musty Hymn book room, and the choir stalls where proud young bairns would sing an anniversary tune.*

*Take away the school room, where happy days we had. The joy of Sunday parties, when I was just a lad.*

*Take away the Altar, where my daughter she got wed. "This place is always here for you" The local preacher said.*

*Take away the old oak rail, where my grandchild was baptised. Where my parents stopped a while, on their last journey - when they died.*

*So it may not be important, to those who sealed its fate. To be replaced by something new, more practical - and up to date.*

*But take away the old slate roof and walls of ancient stone. Take away my Chapel. Take away its soul.*

'D'

**RELIGIOUS HUMOUR**

An old village drunk who smelled like a brewery got onto the bus to go to the Hexham Hospital. He sat down next to the new village priest who had never had the unfortunate pleasure of meeting the old man. The old drunk had just been seen off at the bus stop by his girl-friend and his shirt and face were covered by gawdy deep-red lipstick. A bottle of Newcastle Broom was sticking out of the boozier's anorak pocket. He started reading his Journal - a couple of minutes later he asks the priest "Father what causes Arthritis?" The priest replied grumpily "Loose living, wicked women and too much alcohol and contempt for your fellow men!" "Oh aye" responded the drunk.

After a few minutes the priest reflected on what he had said and apologised: "I'm sorry about being so brusque - tell me how long have you had Arthritis?"

The drunk replied: "I don't father, I was just reading in the paper that the Bishop of Durham has it!"

A. SINNER



## COMET HALE-BOPP

Like the rest of the world we have been observing one of the solar systems cometary events. In earlier times the appearance of such a brilliant object in the sky would have been seen as a message of some forthcoming miracle or catastrophe. Most of us don't believe that comets are messengers. I say most of us, but we must remember those people in the United States who recently sacrificed their mortal lives to join the space-craft they believed was following the comet Hale-Bopp. You will recall that on 27th March 39 people gave up their mortal bodies to go to 'Heaven' which they believed was at an evolutionary level above human existence. They felt that the appearance and approach of comet Hale-Bopp was the sign that they had been waiting for. They tried to encourage many more to leave with them during this brief cometary window.

I read their message before they took the trip and decided against using this particular 'window of opportunity' preferring to wait until the spaceships land in my back garden and anyway they haven't yet found another Editor for the Haydon News. Some of you will be aware that my last job was at the European Space Agency where one of my last jobs, before retiring was being involved in the Giotto re-activation mission and retargetting to Comet Grigg-Skellerup.

Giotto was a British spacecraft which passed close by Halley's Comet on March 13/14 1986 and after being battered and bruised was redirected towards Earth for a sling-shot towards another comet. The spacecraft was reactivated on February 24th 1990 (my birthday) and its orbit was adjusted for an earth fly-by. Giotto passed within 23,000 km of Earth on 2nd July 1990 and received 'sling-shot' momentum from our planet. Orbit adjustments were then made and Giotto was retargetted to Comet Grigg-Skellerup and then switched off until 1992.

On 10th July 1992 the Giotto spacecraft passed within 110 miles of the comet which was then approximately 90 million miles from the Earth and just 12 days short of its closest approach to the sun.

On the night of July 23rd 1995 amateur astronomers Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp independently discovered the approaching comet, it was then a speck in the sky and hardly distinguishable against the backcloth of bright stars.

In October 1995 the thoughts amongst the astronomers was that the recently discovered comet would probably burn itself out and be a non-event. That was until they pointed the huge Hubble Space telescope at Hale-Bopp. The comet was then still beyond the orbit of the giant planet Jupiter, some 600 million miles from Earth and hurtling towards the Sun at a speed of 34,000 miles an hour.

Some of you may not be able to imagine these distances and speeds so I will point out that the Earth is about 90 million miles from the Sun, a Jumbo jet flies at about 600 miles an hour and Concorde at double that speed. You should also remember that all of the planets, asteroids, meteors, meteorites and comets orbit around the Sun. The whole of these are called the Solar System. It is believed that comets are generated from a loose belt of matter in the outer reaches of the solar system. This belt is called the Ort belt the theory is that for some reason material is dislodged and hurtles towards the Sun.

When discovered in 1995 it was calculated that Hale-Bopp was in an orbit which would take over 4,000 years to complete. The comet has however been slowed down considerably as it passes by the planets, the effect of the huge planet Jupiter slowing down the orbit period to about 2,400 years so it will be back again in about the year 4,400!

I doubt if any Haydon News readers will be about then so take this opportunity to take a peak before the comet is lost from view. Because of the street lights and smog the view from the Village is not as dramatic as it is from up here where if you let your eyes get accustomed to the darkness (about 15 minutes) you can see the 'tail' stretching 50 million miles from the comet.

The nucleus of Hale-Bopp is between 10 and 20 miles in diameter. The nucleus is believed to be similar to Comet Halley consisting of about 80% of water ice and other ices and grains of dust containing silicates of an organic nature - molecules with carbon atoms, the building blocks of life!

Comet Hale-Bopp passed its closest point to the Sun (perihelion) on 1st April when it was approximately 76 million miles from the Sun and a distance of 125 million miles from Earth. Its orbital speed was then about 88,000 m.p.h. and moving away from Earth at 26,000 m.p.h. Bon-voyage to the 39 mortal souls following behind - have a nice trip. **SBM**



## And now for something completely different

Not the uncertainty of a deep space mission but the dangers of the frozen arctic circle for our own traveller Sue Self (nee Nicholson) as she left Heathrow on a Canadian Airlines flight on Sunday 23rd March. Before she left Sue came up to High Brindles to let me know she had finished all of her training and would keep me informed, via the Internet, of the expedition to the North Pole. True to her word I received a note five days later saying she had arrived safely at the Resolute Bay base and was about to start her ice training with the other four team members. Sue does not yet know if she will be a back-up or actually take part in the trek north. Temperatures at the base camp are -29degrees centigrade!

The Penguin Alpha team were on the ice from 13 March to 29th March. During their trek one of the team fell into the icy water but suffered no ill effects. On another occasion the women were camped in their tent in the vast expanse of the frozen polar ice cap, when they heard the crunching of snow. The first thought was "polar bear" as they reached for their guns. Much to the relief of the women it turned out to be MEN from a joint New Zealand/Japanese expedition. After a couple of hours of exchange of stories, Penguin Alpha were left to wait their change-over.

The Penguin Bravo team is now on the northward trek and will be airlifted on 9th April when they will be relieved by the Penguin Charlie team who are scheduled to be trekking from the 9th to 24th of April.

Sue has everything crossed and hopes she is selected to go with the team. In any event she will be back in Haydon Bridge on May 1st. You can find out the latest on the team's progress on the Internet:

<http://www.dircon.co.uk/media/polar-relay>

**SBM**

### AMUSING ANAGRAMS

1. Michael Caine
2. Michael Portillo
3. Virginia Bottomley
4. Margaret Thatcher
5. Dennis Skinner
6. Shirley Williams
7. Fidel Castro
8. The Prince of Wales
9. Camilla Parker Bowles
10. Eastenders
11. Paul Merton
12. Felicity Kendal

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

An independent supplement to the Haydon News

APRIL 1997

## The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Haydon Bridge

### April 6th

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Canon S Prins  
10:30am Morning Prayer Canon S Prins

### Monday April 7th - Lady Day

2:00pm Holy Communion Canon S Prins  
followed by tea in the Church Hall

### April 13th

10:30am Holy Communion (ASB) Rev V Ashwin

### April 20th

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev V Ashwin  
10:30am Morning Prayer (Service to be arranged)

### April 27th

10:30am Holy Communion (ASB) Rev V Ashwin

## Methodist Church and United Reformed Church Services

### April 6th

10:00am Morning Worship Mr T Hindsley  
6:00pm Evening Worship Mr C Mitchelson

### Wednesday, April 9th

2:00pm Women's Own Meeting

### April 13th

10:00am Morning Worship Mr H Hedley  
6:00pm Evening Worship Rev D Arthur (S)

### April 20th

10:00am Morning Worship Rev D Perkins (F)(S)  
6:00pm Evening Worship Rev R Hutt

### Wednesday, April 23rd

2:30pm Women's Own Meeting

### Saturday, April 26th

7:30pm Special Home Missions Evening  
Speaker: Mr Peter Mitchell  
(National Home Missions Officer)  
Supper. Question & Answer Session to follow.

### April 27th

10:00am Morning Worship Mr P Mitchell  
6:00pm Evening Worship Rev D Arthur

Prayers 12:45pm every Wednesday.  
See notices for further details.

## Some Views from the Pews...

*Not from the clergy, but from the 'real people'...*

It has taken a long time to understand and even longer to accept that God is able and willing to forgive my sins and all I have to do is "repent."

It has always seemed a bit too easy to me - do what you like regardless of the effect on others, take what you want when you want it, live your life any way you please and then just a quick "Oops! Sorry!" to God and it would all be forgotten and forgiven.

Of course, it isn't that easy at all. Repentance is more than just *saying* that you are sorry. Firstly you must actually *be* sorry, then there is the understanding and acknowledgement that what you have done is wrong, the determination that you will not do the same thing again, the plea to God for forgiveness and the acceptance of that forgiveness.

To determine that you will not sin is one thing, to achieve it is another. We all sin, but we can all be forgiven.

Repentance is not easy but it is worthwhile.

Each spring reminds me of the following, well-known tale, normally attributed by the teller to their home region...

A retired local man had taken over a piece of garden which had remained wild for a number of years. After a great deal of effort the rewards of his labours were beginning to show. The borders were pictures of colour, the grass tidy and the shrubs and hedges carefully clipped and shaped.

The vicar of the parish was walking past and complimented the gardener on the accomplishment: "Yourself and God have created a splendid picture of beauty in this garden!"

The gardener replied, "God's nowt to do with it! Did you not see the state it was in when He had it to Himself?"

In a fictional parish it had rained and rained and the flood waters were rising ever higher. The vicar was forced to seek refuge on the roof of the vicarage where he prayed that the Lord would save him.

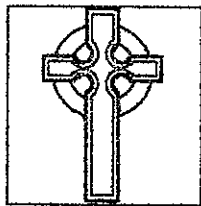
A rowing boat appeared and the men in it implored the vicar to join them, but he refused saying that the Lord would answer his prayers and save him. He prayed again.

The water rose still higher. A rescue helicopter hovered overhead and again the vicar refused their help saying that the Lord would answer his prayers and save him.

The vicar drowned and on arriving in heaven demanded to know why God had not saved him.

God replied, "I sent a rowing boat and a helicopter, what more could I have done?"

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES



### CIVIC SERVICE

A service for Tynedale District Council will take place in Haydon Bridge on May 4th. Organized by Councillor Mrs Marion Howard, it will be at St Cuthbert's Church at 11.0 a.m. Past Civic Services have usually taken place in Hexham, so this is a First for Haydon Bridge, and celebrates the two years that Mrs Howard has been Chairman of the District. All the churches in the village are invited.

Guests will come from throughout the District and County, including Viscount Ridley the Lord Lieutenant, and mayors from Gateshead and Sunderland. Councillor Howard told the vicar, Vincent Ashwin:

"I see this as a tribute and thanks to the people of Haydon Bridge for their support over the years that I have been a Ward Councillor."

The collection will be divided equally between:

- a charity that helps those with Multiple Sclerosis;
- the Marie Curie charity, which gives care to those with terminal illness;
- St Cuthbert's Church.

You will all be welcome!

### "Called to be One"

Thirty members of Haydon Bridge's Methodist and Anglican congregations met for a service of singing and silence last month. On March 16th at St Cuthbert's they met to pray especially for unity, and also to pray for the whole work of the Christian Church in Haydon Bridge. A full programme of five inter-church services as planned for the rest of the year. Full details in later editions of HAYDON NEWS.

## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

There are two events in the next month which need our attention - one much more important than the other. The first is the church annual meeting. The other is the General Election.

AGMs are often fairly dreary and routine affairs. The only excitement is when, at Shareholders' meetings, pressure groups come and ask awkward questions on matters of principle.

But for a Church, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (to give it its proper name) is a celebration of our life. We hear the good news about what has been happening, and hear the vicar dreaming his dreams about the future. To back that up, we elect the officers who will be a part of the team that carries out the Church's mission and ministry. We also think how it is to be paid for, in the treasurer's report. Major painting and improvements were done to the church. This will help us all to worship God better.

So I hope you will come to the AGM on April 17th.

What about the General Election? Clergy who talk about politics are walking on egg-shells! I only wish to state the obvious: that our vote on May 1st is informed by our Christian faith and our Christian conscience. Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa had a great influence on that country's comparatively peaceful road to freedom and justice. He was criticized for speaking about peace and justice in the pulpit. "Do they read a different Bible from me," he retorted, "when they say that there are no politics in the Bible?"

One can get the impression from the media that an election is about money - how the economy is to be run - and who will charge least taxes. Surely, for Christian people an election is about people. We first decide what kind of society God wants: how people will be cared for when they are ill and weak, how they will be protected from crime, how they will be educated and enabled to reach their full God-given potential in work.

Only then do we ask the economic gurus to say how much money is needed and how it should be raised.

I wouldn't dare to suggest who people should vote for. But there are plenty of passages in the Old and New Testament about the need to help the weak and needy. Times have changed in 2000 years; the Welfare State took over much of that care for the needy. The Christian in the polling booth would do well to ask: Who will best help the needy? Who will best work with us for a genuinely caring Society?

Yours in Christ's service,

Vincent Ashw

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Please write in your diaries the date of Christian Aid Week, May 11th - 17th. This is when, in theory, every house in the country is given the chance to give help to the poorest people in the world. Money we give is channeled through the churches in the receiving countries, for projects in health, education and farming, to help the hungry to help themselves.

## St Cuthbert's AGM

The Annual Parochial Church meeting at St Cuthbert's will take place in the church hall on Tuesday, April 22nd at 7.30 p.m. As well as electing church officers for the next year, the meeting will hear reports about the life of the Church, and hopes for the future. ALL members of the church are invited to this. In preparation, the Electoral Roll will be brought up-to-date. Please check the list to see if your name is on it.



"I TOLD YOU THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS WERE LIVELY, DIDN'T I?"

# HAYDON & ALLEN MEDICAL NEWS

## HEROES AND HEROINES

Ordinary people can have the most extraordinary tales to tell. Doctors are privileged in seeing the scars and having the chance to ask after their origins.

Knowing my interest in militaria it will be no surprise that I have a mental file of stories with a military bent - I should emphasise these relate to patients in places that I have worked in before HB and Allendale or are stories amended to make recognition impossible.

A 90s+ man looked after his severely demented wife in the most difficult and squalid surroundings, walking four miles to town each week to do the shopping. Once he fell and, despite pain in his hip, walked the four miles home with the shopping. Later the pain had not settled and he asked me to see him. He had a fractured hip! X-ray confirmed my diagnosis and he was duly operated on. The X-ray showed an enormous amount of shrapnel and some bullets in his body. Enquiry revealed that he had won the Military Medal for storming a machine gun nest single handed in WW1, being severely injured by gunfire and grenades in the process. This was a more dramatic version of the situation in which Col. H won the VC in the Falklands.

Examining a man's chest I found major scarring on both the back and the front. I asked after its origin. This man had been a fighter pilot in WW2 and received a German cannon shell (much larger than a machine gun bullet) straight through his aircraft and himself.

Examining another man I remarked on the strip of wounds down both sides of his body and limbs, sparing his head and central torso. He had been storming Monte Cassino when a bullet shattered one leg and he took shelter behind the only available cover - a rock barely a foot wide and high. Here he remained until nightfall when he was rescued. During the remaining hours of daylight however he was repeatedly wounded in those parts of his body which were visible, on each side of his rock, to the enemy.

Amongst the most poignant of situations, though much rarer now, is the elderly spinster with the faded image in a much polished frame at her side, of a handsome young man in uniform, or in a casual pose with a strikingly beautiful young woman, laughing together in the sun. This is the husband who never was with his bride to be, one of scores of thousands who were slaughtered in WW1. Such was the relationship and the norms of social behaviour at the time that the woman never married another and lived her whole life in enduring grief for her mate and their unborn children.

Modern women should heed the fate of their sisters from the early part of the century and before. I have spoken to women about their fifteen or eighteen children of whom only two or three lived to adulthood. I have spoken to women who cradled all of their children in their arms as they died, one after another, from what are now thought of as minor illnesses - measles, diarrhoea, chest infections, ear infections etc. Usually, these losses occurred in circumstances of the most devastating poverty. War often took whole families, father and all the male children too.

There are still small numbers of people with these memories though naturally their numbers shrink daily. I have encouraged many to write down some memories for their families or regimental or county archives. What they write may not be great literature but it has historical value and is a story worth recording since, God willing, no one else will have to endure the same. Cherish the elderly and learn from them.

When we who are left grow old we will find out whether we have imbedded the succeeding generations with values of care and respect for the elderly that we approve of - because we will be those elderly. Let us hope that we have done a good job.

## A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

Nurse Mary is finding a number of women who are falling behind on their regular smears. I am a fine one to talk - having never had one (and the first person to try will get a knuckle sandwich) but it is difficult to overstate the importance of keeping up to date.

The science of smears is developing all the time and refinements are constantly being made. At present one can say with confidence that most women who die of cervical cancer are from amongst those who have never had a smear.

There are four things known to increase a woman's risk of developing abnormal cells on her cervix:

1/ Early age at first intercourse - anything below 18-20. It is gratifying to find an increasing number of young women who are choosing to delay first intercourse until late teens.

2/ Multiple partners - ideally have a single partner for life who has himself had no other partners, this is achievable. It may have been thought by some that multiple partners was mainly a male claim but this is not so. Women, even teenagers, with partner numbers well into double figures are not in the least unusual nowadays.

3/ Sexually transmitted diseases, especially wart virus. Genital warts are common in both men and women and their effects can be detected on smears.

4/ Smoking - yes, it does seem a little odd doesn't it. We have all heard improbable sounding rumours of unusual smoking styles amongst "exotic" dancers in strange and far off lands but this risk refers to normal smoking. The news from America about the Liggett Company confessing to knowing about the addictive and cancer causing qualities of tobacco is wonderful - at last there is a real chance that smoking will finally be eliminated altogether and the whole population can be free from its malignant effects.

Risks 1,2 and 3 can be largely overcome by regular use of condoms. A combination of the pill, to prevent pregnancy, and a condom to prevent the other problems is recommended.

The message to be taken from risks 1 and 2 is that the development of cervical cell abnormalities may well have something to do with exposure of the cells to semen. When the cells are young and immature they may be less able to resist the harmful effects of semen and, if exposed to genetically and immunologically different types of semen, even the defences of stable and mature cells may be insufficient.

Any of the nurses or doctors will be happy to discuss the subject and answer questions. If you know someone who is too frightened or embarrassed to have a smear invite them to come with you to discuss it with one of us.

When should a first smear be done? This is controversial. At present few would argue with offering a smear sometime in the first year of sexual activity but whether this is the right thing to do is not yet clear. If I were a sexually active teenage girl now - but with my present knowledge and views - I would want to have regular smears done from as soon as someone was prepared to do them for me.