

Haydon News

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May 1997 / 4

In this issue: Editor consults Doctor Ford on your complaints Haydon Bridge resident pines for lost love. All change at Peelwell Residential Home. Parish Councillor blows her top. Girl Guides re-established in the village. Not many jokes in this issue and nothing about the elections. All serious stuff.

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HAYDON NEWS

EDITORIAL

Hi folks - One of the good things about being the Editor of the Haydon News is hearing the gossip doing the rounds and people seeking my 'expert advice' on the validity of the rumours.

One day recently I was sitting in the Anchor waiting for my turn to be thrashed, by old and young alike, on the Pool table. Now and again they let me win just to keep me interested - I rarely win and my competitors love it because the loser has to pay for the next game. On the day concerned I had just lost and paid for five games on the trot (£1), taking solace from my 90p bottle of alcohol free lager sat down to lick my wounds.

"Hello Mitch", said the auld gadgy as I plonked myself down next to him.

"I suppose you've lost again?"

I nodded in the affirmative.

"Never mind - you can only get better as you get older!" added the gadgy. As I'd just reached another decade a couple of months ago I wrung my hands in mock horror.

"What do you mean by older, at least I've still got my own teeth?" replied I in feigned sarcasm.

"Not ready to retire to Peelwell Rest Home then?" said the auld gadgy.

My mind wandered to the last time I was inside Peelwell, in the glorious summer of 1943. At that time it was the farmhouse where the Davisons lived and my uncle Tom worked the land as a hind. My mother a heavy smoker and only 41, unaware that this was to be her last summer, took 6 year old me to a fete at Peelwell. She tried to get me to stick my hand into a bran tub to get a prize - mindful of imaginary hidden horrors concealed in the bran ready to bite off the fingers of a wary young lad. In tears, I declined the offer. In the way that mothers do she dried my tears and put her arm in to the shoulder to get to a big prize in the bottom of the tub. She pulled out a bran encrusted toffee apple !!

"Hav ya hord the latest gossip about Peelwell?" said the gadgy, bringing me back, with a start, to April 1997.

"No, what's that about?" queried I.

"Wey its just bin sawld - an ther ganna hav anuther 16 rooms!"

Before I had time to consider this statement a loud voice boomed from around the corner "Mitch it's your torn on the Pool table, divvent forget your 20p." I won two games in a row and by the time I had finished the auld gadgy had left and I never did hear the rest of the gossip however

A few days later I received an invitation from the new owners of the Peelwell Residential Home, (which is just across the field in front of my home) they wanted to let you all know about the new ownership.

Audrey Kay and her son Chris bought the place in early April together with the house to the south of the Rest Home. I understand that it will continue to be managed by Fionna Hawkins. Audrey has a wide experience in looking after the elderly and his worked for a long time in Social Services and was a home care manager for a local authority.

In a friendly chat over a nice cuppa I found the Kays to be very enthusiastic about their new role. One of the first questions I asked was about the 'planned 16 new bedrooms' - they both laughed loudly when they heard this as they currently have no plans whatsoever to extend, their current priority is to develop the business and get all of the existing 24 rooms occupied. They stressed that they intended to have the Residential Home more closely linked to the community without usurping the activities of the Methodist Church's plans to provide community facilities. It is planned to provide day care facilities as well as the existing residential service provided. Fetes and coffee mornings are planned, links to schools and churches will be established as well as the setting up of a League of Friends.

The Kays have links with other Residential homes in Otterburn and Seaburn and plan to have outings for the residents. Keep fit classes for the elderly are being considered and it is intended to install a lift as soon as practicable. Also under consideration is the changing of the residential home's name to 'Haydon View'. The home employs about 16 people.

Audrey and Chris are having an open day of the residential home on Friday 9th May from 11am - 7:30pm and anyone wanting to visit and find out more are most welcome to attend. I will be popping along so why don't you come along and see what it's all about?

Just a final thought - if they're going to start fetes again I wonder if they'll have bran tubs with toffee apples - I've still got my own teeth!

For reasons I need not go into here I had cause to have a black and white portrait photograph done recently. Naturally I went to a Haydon News advertiser's studio to have it done. When I went to collect my prints a couple of days later the photographer's wife let me and my 'friend' in and over a cup of tea confided:

"Mitch I didn't really expect you to be like you are from the way you write in the Haydon News!"

"What did you expect then?" said I.

"Well," said she whilst looking to my 'friend' for moral support, "I expected a younger slimmer man and a sort of Jack the Lad!"

Of course the two women in the room were nearly wetting themselves with laughter following this remark. I said nothing, sulking I looked at the photographs understanding immediately what she meant. Mind you, little did they know that I may have deliberately fattened myself up to look distinguished for the photograph!

See you later

Mitch

NEXT ISSUE OF THE Haydon News

June 1997

All copy to

S.B. Mitchell
High Brindles
Heugh House Lane

or hand in at the Post Office

By the 22nd May please

METHODIST CHURCH

Plans of the new Church will be on display in the Community Centre on

SATURDAY 17TH MAY
from 10.00am until 3:00pm.

Members of the Church will be present to answer questions.

Light refreshments will be available

ALL ARE WELCOME

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Residential Home at Peelwell

ALL ARE WELCOME

to an

OPEN DAY

Friday 9th May 1997
11:00am - 7:30pm

REFRESHMENTS

PARISH COUNCIL PICKINGS
24th April 1997

10 members were in attendance together with two members of the public and the Hexham Courant reporter.

The meeting was addressed by a spokesman for the Tynedale Voluntary Action Team who spoke of the group's history and its aims which are to have a register of volunteers and of groups needing volunteers and to try to widen the base of volunteering. Between 12-16th May a double-deck bus will take information round the villages. The first week in June is National Volunteer Week.

During the public participation which followed, Mr. McVay asked why the Village Appraisal document was not in the library as promised. Council members were surprised to hear this as Mrs. Garrow pointed out that she had personally placed her copy in the library with instructions not to let it leave there. The discussion became heated and Mrs. Howard left to obtain more copies of the document with which she returned later. The discussion closed with the Chairman's assertion that another copy would be in the library as soon as it was open again.**

Information was received that the cemetery tap now seems to be fixed.

Three estimates for repair of the bus-shelter had been received. The Council agreed to accept the bid of West End Joinery.

There is a free-phone number for reporting street lighting faults ring 0800-616-792 and give the number printed on the lighting standard.

A Mr. Wright at Tynedale has informed the Parish Council that 'dog-bins' appear to be a big expense for Parish Councils but Haydon Bridge Council agreed to go ahead with the planned bins on the riverside.

Thanks were received for the donation of £500 towards the salary of Youth Club staff.

Since the 'grass in the gullies' affair reported in last month's Haydon News there have been meetings between Tynedale Council and Onyx (the private Contractor responsible for street cleaning). Consequences are that over the next six months, 3 applications of a herbicide will be made in affected areas. The herbicide kills only growing weeds. Residual herbicides are not legal. The County Council will be doing Haydon Bridge.

Mrs. Howard talked about the complexity of obtaining funding for projects in the Village Appraisal. Working Groups will reconvene to find out what is needed in Haydon Bridge Community Centre and the Village Hall at Langley. Other smaller projects will be costed. Suggestions to Councillors will be welcomed and can include structure, decoration, furniture, fittings and equipment. The order seems to be to bid for everything immediately.

Belway Homes affordable houses have already received many more applications than there are houses. The first houses will be allocated soon.

Two planning applications were received. One to change a shop front was accepted. The other to build three houses on land opposite Bank House, North Bank was held to have too many houses, too close to the road. The Council will support one bungalow, stone built, on the site.

Under any other business it was reported that work to make the new childrens slide safer was in hand. It was pointed out that this year marks the Centenary of Haydon Spa. During last year's floods the railings and a seat had been washed away. This seems like a good time to repair the damage. Councillors would like to know of anyone or any business who will help with repairs and/or sponsor the work.

Your reporter was asked to point out that repeated vandalism to the footpath sign at Peelwell, pointing down the beck side, was pointless and a poor reflection on Haydon Bridge in the eyes of outsiders.

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm

W.E.N.

** There is a lot more to this tale of the Village Appraisal, some details will, no doubt, appear in the Hexham Courant over the next few weeks. I have not yet been given sight of the document and cannot therefore comment on its contents. I understand that a summary of the document's conclusions will be attached to this issue of the Haydon News - the Village Appraisal Committee has seen fit not to let me see it before hand. I intend to write an article on this subject next month and seek an explanation why Councillor Mrs. Howard, in a fit of temper, accused the Haydon News of distorted reporting on the Village Appraisal.
Editor

CROSSWORD

I am pleased that the number of crossword entries increased again this month. The number of correct entries was 14. After three competitions points standing is:

3 correct entries:

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

2 correct entries:

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

1 correct entry

M. Moore, M. Nagel

This month's winners were drawn and are B&R Shout and M. Porter.

Arthritis & Rheumatism Council

The Haydon Bridge branch are now preparing for our annual expedition to Corbridge Car Boot Sale at the end of May. Any unwanted small items you think might be of use to someone would be gracefully received by us. Ring me on 684 335 and I can arrange to collect.

The Strawberry Teas will be on Saturday July 19th.

Hilary Rutherford

GATE TO STATION CAR PARK

We have been advised by Tynedale District Council to INFORM RAIL-TRACK 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

*Teaching of others
teacheth the teacher*

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

Lewis Bennington or Anne Brown

For more details please contact either of the above at the school.

Tel: 683 214

First Romance



Alan Sharpley was an evacuee from Pendower School Denton Burn, Newcastle, during the last war. He and his sister Ann lived with Miss Armstrong next door to Tosh Reay on Whittis Hill. He was dark headed with a shy smile and nice gentle brown eyes. He was usually dressed in a darkish jacket with the 'Pendower School' badge emblazoned upon the breast pocket where he kept a green fountain pen that made him look ever so important and a cut above the rest of us in the village and farm lads who were just beginning to get used to the scratchy pens and ink at Shaftoe Trust School. Sometimes he wore a green tweed jacket and matching short trousers (as all boys wore in those days) with rather skinny legs and scarred knees poking out. At least he stood out from all of the boys of my acquaintance who never had matching anything.

From the first we were inseparable - it was love at first sight, definitely ! He was NINE and I was EIGHT and a half. From the day he was evacuated to Haydon Bridge he attended Shaftoe Trust School and was in my class. He surpassed Matty Cowan in my affections immediately. I even gave him the red-handled pen in the pen box which had always been reserved for Matty Cowen when I was pen monitor. Matty promptly retaliated by withdrawing all support and help to me in Arithmetic lessons. I retaliated to that by not giving him any more apple gowks.

Living close at hand Alan Sharpley was able to cement our friendship further when we all played outside. Together we raided apple trees, the ancient pear tree beside the old gas-works, what is now Duffy's coal yard, and the California Gardens when the pea pods were ripe, which frequently resulted in being chased by irate adults. Six of us would play 'Catchee-Kissee' and I was always 'caught' by Alan Sharpley - by design.

It was when we exchanged soft children's kisses behind Huddleston's stables below Belmont Gardens that I first became aware of the smell of dockens, nettles and the wild grasses.

Alan used to write romantic notes and pass them to me in the classroom, hoping that Sally Brown the teacher would not see. Matty Cowin's ire was fearsome to behold on these occasions and dark threats would be issued about the unlikelihood of Alan Sharpley being able to walk again after the next playtime. Then I would flatter and cajole Matty into a more kindly mind, for he was a big lad and quite capable of all he threatened.

As time went on this war-time romance flourished. Then peace came and Alan Sharpley left. Back he went to Newcastle that seemed to my mind to be hundreds of miles away, but he continued to return to Haydon Bridge during the long summer holidays, and affections between us waxed and waned with proximity and distance.

For some years a half-hearted correspondence was begun and lasted a few months following the holiday period. In one letter I enclosed a recent snapshot of myself and some of the other girls of the Elmfield Methodist Chapel on the tennis courts behind the station and asked for his photograph in return. Back came a picture of a large group of Boy Scouts (taken on a 620 film, small snap) in camp at Windemere Lake district. Nevertheless the accompanying letter assured me that he was amongst the very large group in the picture.

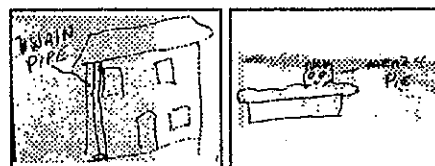
When I was fifteen he arrived one summer as usual, and I introduced him to a new girl-friend of mine from down Alexandra Terrace. That was the last I saw of Alan Sharpley. He never came back and I don't know what became of him. I was eventually married and have been living happily ever after in my home village of Haydon Bridge except every summer when the dock leaves and nettles grow in abundance I take a gentle stroll along the lane past Huddlestons's Stables and think back wistfully to that first schoolgirl romance with a boy from Newcastle.

Cathy ?

Name and address supplied [Editor]

A letter from Eileen Charlton

Two enthusiastic artists have jumped the gun on the August Bank Holiday Fair Art Competition. They have already put up their art work in the subway but they forgot to use paper! They must have thought the subject was caricatures of their own names. For those of you who don't use the subway I've made copies for you.



Unfortunately others have joined in with less entertaining efforts so our newly painted subway is full of graffiti.

I'm waiting for the results of the election to continue with our fight for a By-Pass. As soon as the new Minister for Transport is named we will inform him or her of our need and the unfairness of Haltwhistles success in being included in the 30 years contract with Roadlink and the oversight of the plight of Haydon Bridge. Our Committee really needs new members and new ideas - could we organise an effort on the opening day of the Haltwhistle By-Pass May 22nd to get publicity for our need of a By-Pass. Please get in touch with me on 684-505 if you can help.

Spring Cleaning Week - the skip is brimming over - well done. The river side was not hard work this time, nothing had been dumped and only rubbish brought up by the river needed to be moved. Full marks - at last people are respecting our village asset - a beautiful river bank.

Eileen Charlton

ACTION PLEASE

Numerous complaints have been received by the Editor now that the new grass cutting season has started, this is concerning the depositing of grass cuttings back onto the sward rather than disposing of it. If it is not already written into the grass-cutter's contract it should be. **SBM**

Deft Definitions 1

Bottle

A container used for bringing up babies and bringing down adults

Deft Definitions 2

Conscience

Something that makes you tell your wife before somebody else does

Deft Definitions 3

Feminine Instinct

The instinct that tells a woman she is right - whether she is or not



A Public Consultation

"Doctor Ford, as Editor of the village newsletter I receive many complaints about what some people in Haydon consider is a service which has deteriorated since the setting up of the joint Allendale - Haydon Bridge practice. To be fair I have also heard many good reports on the service you provide and many people have said that they appreciate the sympathetic and understanding approach adopted by you and your staff, particularly during times of great distress and anxiety. Before asking some specific questions do you have any general comments?"

"Despite very frequently repeated offers (not least in The Haydon News and the practice brochure) to respond to questions about the health centre we almost never hear from anyone. Why do people prefer to keep their questions and anxieties to themselves? Such feedback as there is, is nearly always indirect, as in this instance. I repeat my earlier offers to respond publicly or privately to any point raised - any point at all. All points of view are welcome and will be received with interest, considered carefully and responded to promptly and fully. Anonymous letters are perfectly acceptable if that would make things much easier.

The sole purpose of our existence, individually and as a practice, is to provide the highest standard of care of which we are capable. The method of delivery of care varies according to the situation. What would be ideal in Haydon Bridge would not go down well in The Scotswood Road. The community has a definite role in shaping the medical services provided. Help us to help you by talking to us and letting us know what you want or do not want.

With regard to the Haydon Bridge - Allendale merger: This is primarily a bid for survival - all small rural practices are vulnerable, just like any other small rural businesses. The first months and years of any new venture are bound to be turbulent though we have done our best to keep disruption to a minimum. I regard it as very important that medical services continue to be available in not less than the present form in both villages and a merger is the best way to achieve this. We hope that things will stabilise during 1997.

The Health Authority received a warmly complimentary letter about the practice shortly after the merger and was so taken aback, such letters being rarer than hen's teeth, that they actually wrote to say so. Things are obviously not all bad."

"Do you have a complaints or suggestion box - if so how often is it used?"

"There has been a large and serviceable suggestion box, clearly labelled, in the storm porch of the health centre, for about six years. This has almost never had anything in other than sweet wrappers and dead spiders.

Like all practices in the UK we have a properly documented and advertised 'complaints system'. No one has made use of it at the time of writing.

For the record: Since starting in general practice in 1981 I have been the subject of one official complaint which was investigated in the normal way and was dismissed, I had no case to answer."

"Many elderly folk living in the village are frightened of 'creating a fuss' fearing that treatment will be withheld because of their age - can you give this group of people some reassurance?"

"No group, whether identified by age, sex, colour, income group, creed, politics, sexual orientation or any other factor is discriminated against in any way. All are equally entitled to full and proper medical services. There is no 'policy' about treating elderly people differently."

"Have you ever failed to respond to an emergency call out?"

"I cannot call to mind a single instance in which the practice has failed to respond to an emergency call out. If anyone knows differently it is important that we should know in order that we can take action to prevent a recurrence. Our continuation of the practice based out-of-hours cover should be proof positive of our commitment to providing medical services at a local level. In maintaining our one in three rota we have foregone all of the funding for out-of-hours cover as well as much reduced workload."

"I know of one of your patients (who specifically gave permission for this question) who claims that following a sudden blackout at home at 10:30 on a Thursday morning called the Health Centre only to hear an answerphone reply. The frightened person concerned had to dial 999 and was taken to hospital. How can such a situation arise?"

"Thursday has been a half day for decades and the system for getting medical help is clearly stated in the practice brochure. Clear and unambiguous instructions are given on the answerphone which allow a doctor to be contacted within minutes.

The doctors and staff work on Thursday mornings until all patients have been seen and then the staff lock up and go. The doctors set out on visits before taking the rest of the day off - usually in meetings in fact. Rarely, all the work will have been accomplished by 10:30.

The reverse situation applies on Wenesdays when Allendale has its half day. At every moment of the day and night - with no exceptions - there is one of the partners on call, available within minutes to respond to emergencies.

Machinery breaks down from time to time. We have a spare answerphone which simply requires plugging in. As a routine I phone the surgery myself from time to time to check the message."

"I lived in Germany for eight years and it was normal to have the results of a morning blood test back within 24 hours - why does a patient have to wait so long for results here in England? Don't you think that it would be better if worried patients did not have such long delays waiting for any results?"

"Ha! At last we've got 'em beat! Deutschland is not uber alles after all. Significantly abnormal results are phoned back to the surgery as soon as they come out of the analyser. I have had results back in less than one hour before now and been back on the phone to the patient. This facility has been in operation since before I came to Haydon Bridge in 1989.

Continued on next page.

A Public Consultation -continued

Normal results from blood tests are back within 24 hours. Investigations of infections can take up to 48 hours or 72 hours but this is simply as a result of the technology necessary to provide the result - the technology being as advanced in this county as in any other.

Some exotic hormone tests can take a couple of weeks or, if they are only performed elsewhere in the UK, possibly even longer.

All smear results are sent in written form to the patients. Smears take between two and four weeks to process.

When taking tests from patients we ask them to make an appointment or phone in to discuss the results after they have been received. There is always the option for us to ring the hospital if a result is urgently required or mislaid within the health service postal system.

Soon all the results will be back by e-mail which will be quicker and easier."

"In a previous Haydon News Health Centre News you said that you would be connecting the computers at Allendale and Haydon Bridge together to enable records at each site to be accessible from the other location. Has this been done, if so how much did it cost and what security precautions have been taken to prevent illegal access. What are the advantages for the patient ?"

"The new computer system has been ordered, the premises measured up and training days arranged. The final bill is about £43,000. This is partly paid by the health authority and partly by the fundholding system.

Security is by multiple level passwords and dial back modems. It is a system which is as inaccessible to unauthorised persons as it is possible to achieve, short of strong encryption. It is at least as secure as any other medical system.

The advantages to patients are both direct and indirect. It will now be possible for patients to consult at either end. In effect, there is now no need to postpone a consultation until after a half day. Indirectly, there are financial and administrative benefits the effects of which should be to promote efficiency and save costs - which is to the benefit of patients."

"Don't you think that such a large sum of money would have been better spent on health care ?"

"The provision of medical services requires the investment of capital in premises and equipment. Continuous upgrading of both is essential to maintain quality, adequacy, reliability and flexibility. One could provide an 'aspirin and elastoplast service' from the bus shelter and keep records with a quill and parchmant but I believe that Haydon Bridge deserves and needs the best that can be achieved. The sum spent is actually quite modest for the level of performance and represents a tiny fraction of the total health budget."

"Thank you Doctor Ford for your answers so far. I have many more questions here but I think I will hold these over until next month. The answers you have given will perhaps generate further questions from Haydon News readers - your patients."

SBM

Mitch and the Ladies

"Where's Sylvia today then?" was the cry from some of the coffee morning crowd on Saturday morning 26th April. It was half past ten when I joined them at the regular weekly 10:00 - 12:00 event held in the Community Centre. "She'll be here soon" said I, "she had to take her daughter and grand-daughter into Hexham to get a few things."

Turning my back on the room I went to the serving hatch to be welcomed by the smiling faces of lots of little lasses of about 10 years of age. "I'll have sausage, eggs, bacon, mushrooms, black pudding and some toast please" said I with a dead pan look on my face. "Sorry but its all gone" replied one of the girls, "but you can have a cup of coffee and a biscuit if you want." I took her up on the offer and went and sat down at one of the tables with some of the regulars - nearer my age by far.

I had a good natter with the ladies and 'my friend' eventually turned up to join in the good hearted banter. After a while I noticed that my 'friend' had left the room. She returned after a while, plonked herself next to me and said, "Mitch - you ought to pop upstairs and see what Diane and the girls have done - its brilliant." Now I know many of you out there have never been in the Community Centre so let me explain. Downstairs there is a very large room where the indoor bowls club, dancing club, nature club etc. have their meetings. Also on the ground floor is a medium sized room which can take about 50 or so people - off this room is a small kitchen. Upstairs are two smaller rooms which were in a pretty shabby state.

As I climbed the stairs I could hear the excited chatter of the girls. Diane Lowes from Brigwood was there waiting for me. The first room's walls had been transformed from a dull battleship grey to a gaily coloured rag painted delightful design in purple, yellow, green and blue on a white base.

Diane explained that the Girl Guides had been reformed after a number of years, in September they started off with four members and they now have eight. All the painting had been done by the guides, under her supervision using surplus paints given by supporters. Work has started on the second room. One problem is the windows which have rotten frames - is there one of the Haydon News advertisers

The Girl Guides

- Sarah Brown
- Sally Greener
- Leann Haney
- Beth Johnson
- Jenna Kirkup
- Beverley Lowes
- Kirsty Stanners
- Rachel Telfer
- Lynsey Robson

who could help out by doing any necessary repair work for free to help in the establishment of this venture ? Similarly Diane asks for support in providing carpets and curtains and all things necessary to furnish the craft and social rooms for the children to use. The Friends of Haydon Bridge have donated £100 so that Diane can buy a portable Ghetto Blaster or something similar which can be taken to the club rooms when the guides meet.

What can YOU do to help ?

Ring Diane on 684-059 to find out

Go on ring NOW before you forget. It is important that we all support activities that benefit the youngsters.

SBM

GUIDES RAINBOWS AND CUBS

Would like to thank staff and customers of The Haydon Hotel who donated £32 to each unit after running a Domino Card on Burns Night

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

May Garden

I drove to Hexham via Fourstones a few days ago because of the traffic hold-ups on the A69 and found myself considerably cheered by the exuberant display of colour in the gardens that I passed. The main stalwarts of this display were mauve aubretia and yellow alyssum saxatile. These plants are easy, hardy, long-lived and extremely floriferous. They look very much at home tumbling over stone walls and this area abounds with stone walls. They are often planted together because they like the same conditions - a sunny, well drained site - and they flower at the same time. You can see them on the rockery at the Health Centre and in several gardens on the North Bank. They are, justifiably, the most commonly planted alpines. In search of the unusual it is sometimes possible to overlook the most simple, effective plants and even to despise them just because they are so reliable and easy. So this year I am going to find room for more of them. Propagation is the same for both plants. They are easy to raise from seed but the colours don't come true. Aubretia flowers are variable, from pale lavender to deep purple. You can see several different shades of mauve flowers at the John Martin Street roundabout. *Alyssum saxatile* is gold and there is a lemon yellow form called *citrinum*. Aubretia and alyssum can be divided this month or take cuttings in June. Root the 2-3" long cuttings in a sandy soil in a cold frame kept closed until they have rooted. Grow them as a border edging, on a dry bank or rockery - or best of all - pushed into a crevice in a wall. Clip well back after flowering.

This month - Cut back winter flowering heathers and topdress the soil with a mulch of peat.

Divide primroses - the sooner after flowering, the better. Lift a clump and wash the soil from the roots. Tease the clump apart, making sure each piece has some roots. Plant in rich soil and keep moist.

Dead-head spring bulbs but don't cut the foliage until next month. Lift and divide congested clumps of bulbs when the foliage dies.

Position supports for tall plants and tie in climbers like clematis and honeysuckle which are growing strongly now.

Apply a fertiliser to all rose trees and mulch with compost.

Lawns - mow more regularly now. Rake out moss and spike the soil to improve drainage. Time for a spring feed and a lawn weedkiller.

James Thin

In the 1600's male gynaecologists were required to enter an expectant lady's bedroom on their hands and knees to perform an examination so that the patient could not see the owner of the fingers probing her.



The Editor of the Haydon News recently visited the Health Centre to have a check-up. As soon as he'd left the Doctor's surgery one of the nurses nipped in to have some repeat prescriptions signed and noticing that the Doctor had a rectal thermometer stuck behind his right ear had difficulty in stifling a giggle.

"What's so funny then.?" asked the Doctor.
 "You've got a rectal thermometer behind your right ear." replied the nurse.
 Quick as a flash the Doctor leaps up and rushes out of the room shouting:
 "Hang on, I'm off to catch Mitch - I've just remembered where I lost my pen !!!"

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.

The speaker at Langley W.I.'s April meeting, Mrs. Marjorie Goodchild, was faced with a full house, as Langley members were joined by guests from the Sele Afternoon Club and Haydon Bridge W.I.

Mrs. Goodchild gave a cookery demonstration on starters and finger buffet and produced some tasty, but unusual dishes - not a sausage roll or vol-au-vent to be seen! These delicious items were raffled at the end of the meeting.

Mrs. M. Hindle reported back on a very successful spring council meeting and was also thanked for arranging a most enjoyable ramble in April.

Three new members were welcomed and plans were made for the open meeting in May when members and guests will visit Geoff. Jackson's workshop in Langley.

Mary Nagel
 Westley Bank
 Haydon Bridge
 Tel: 684-419

IT HAPPENED IN MAY

1707 - Union of England and Scotland proclaimed.

1926 - Start of great miners strike which continued until 1931.

1934 - Boxer Henry Cooper born.

1937 - The German zeppelin airship Hindenberg caught fire in New Jersey killing 36 passengers.

1812 - British Prime Minister Spencer Percival assassinated in the House of Commons.

1961 - The last journey of *The Orient Express* from Paris to Bucharest after 78 years service.

1902 - Boer War ended. 5,774 British killed and 16,000 died of disease. 4,000 Boers killed in the action.



It is good walking with a horse in ones hand
 The mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken

Haydon Parish Council

Parish Appraisal: Back Ground to the Appraisal.

In February 1995 a public meeting voted to start a Parish appraisal. As a result a series of meetings were held, at which local groups and interested villagers put together ideas under the following headings: Environment, Leisure, Tourism, Housing, Training and Economic Development Village Issues, Transport, and Youth Issues.

In the Spring and Summer of 1996 these were collated and used as a basis for a series of exhibitions, in the Community Centre, at the High School, Middle School and the First School. The Exhibitions produced new ideas that had not been discussed at the earlier meetings.

We used the ideas to put together the questionnaire which was distributed to every house within the Parish of Haydon.

When the questionnaires were returned early in 1997 the answers were analysed by an independent analyst.

The results of the questionnaire

Nearly 30% of the households in Haydon Parish responded. This is more than double the average response for this type of survey.

These households represented a wide range of family groupings.

Leisure, Sport and Recreation

33% households include a member who participate in sporting or leisure activities, with the Community Centre, High School and Sports Hall being the most popular venues.

While 80% of the respondents think the Sports hall is an important facility, only 15% use it.

Many people would like to have a swimming pool, sign posted walks, bowling green, hardstanding games area and children's play areas among future leisure facilities in the Parish

Transport

89% of the households suggest that Haydon Bridge will benefit from a by-pass.

20% use the bus services once or twice a week, and 13% use the train regularly. 48% highlighted the convenience or inconvenience as reasons which influence their choice of transport.

Tourism

Haydon Parish is well situated near Hadrians Wall and at the public meetings some people would like to encourage tourists to stop in the Village.

62% of our respondents thought that places for new tourist information boards should be identified, some people even suggested places for the boards.

It was widely felt that there should be better advertising of historical sites, village trails and other village facilities.

Although play areas are seen as an overall issue in the parish, they are also identified as a tourism asset.

65% that a new toilet block should be built, and the same group suggested it should be near the picnic area/ riverside.

Environment

Several ideas for improvement to open areas have been suggested. The most popular was that they should be lawned/landscaped. 37% would like to see the riverside areas landscaped, with 77% in favour of providing new seating throughout the Parish.

Dogs: 48% of dog owners would be prepared to use poop-scoops, while 74% feel that dog free areas should be created.

Litter Bins: 69% say there should be more around the Parish.

Parking: This is seen as a major issue, 57% felt there is not enough parking space.

Using these Results

Already the Community Association are gathering ideas that will enable them to cost the refurbishment of the Haydon Bridge Community Centre. This exercise is also being done by the Langley Hall Committee. Each in turn can use these results to find funding for their projects.

The Parish Council has set up sub-groups to identify projects so that ideas can be turned into plans that can be submitted as relevant funding opportunities are researched.

Although the Old Bridge was not addressed within the Parish Appraisal, the Parish Council are looking at possible ways to floorscape and generally create a more pleasing landscaped bridge environment.

Having gone through this appraisal process, we are now hopeful that we will be able to work up projects that will enhance the Parish for all to enjoy in the future.

49% felt that well designed, landscaped parking areas should be made on both the North and South riverbank areas.

Community Buildings

Haydon Bridge Community Centre was consistently discussed and 76% of respondents think it is an important facility, whilst 56% would be more likely to use it if it were properly refurbished.

Recent discussions have also shown possible developments at Langley Village Hall.

Housing

Responses indicate that mixed housing accommodation is needed in Haydon Bridge. 63% would like to see more property available for rent and 35% more property to buy.

147 out of 189 who answered the specific question feel there is a need for single person housing in the village.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

An independent supplement to the Haydon News

MAY 1997

The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Haydon Bridge

May 4th Easter 5

- 8.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 Civic Service Revd V Ashwin

Thursday May 8th Ascension Day

- 7.00 p.m. Holy Communion
7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

May 11th Sunday after Ascension

- 10.30 Holy Communion (ASB). Preacher: Mike Fry

May 18th Pentecost

- 8.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 Mattins (ASB) Dr L Gray
6.30 p.m. Deanery Evensong, Hexham Abbey

May 25th Trinity Sunday

- 10.30 Holy Communion and Baptism(ASB)
3 pm Evensong, Old Church Revd V Ashwin

May 28th

- 7.30 p.m. Mothers' Union meeting

2nd Sunday after Pentecost June 1st

- 8.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 Worship for All Mr Mike Fry

Methodist Church and United Reformed Church Services

May 4th

- 11.0 am United Civic Service C of E
6.00 pm Evening Worship Mrs M Gazzani

Wednesday May 7th

- 2.30 pm Women's Own Meeting
Speaker: Miss Charlton (Catton)

May 11th

- 10.00 am Morning Worship: Mr P Eavis
6.00 pm Service at Hexham Community Church

May 18th

- 10.00 am Family Service: Rev D Perkins
6.00 pm Praise, Prayer and Ministry

Wednesday, May 21st

- 2.30 pm Women's Own Meeting
Speaker: Mrs Thompson (Allendale)

May 25th

- 10.00 am Morning Worship: Mr D Hogg
6.00 pm Evening Worship: Rev D Arthur

St Cuthbert's Annual Church Meeting

The annual parish meeting of St Cuthbert's took place on April 22nd. It was a cheerful affair, attended by 22 members of the church. All agreed that there were plenty of strengths to be built on, and the new vicar shared some of his dreams for the future. He also said that the congregation had to find the best way to tackle the financial problem: only half our dues to the Diocese (mostly for the support of the Church's work in parishes, including clergy pay) had been paid in 1996. He plans to give special emphasis to young people and their parents.

The following were elected to office

Churchwardens: Mrs Margaret Curry, Mrs Ness Marshall
Church Council members: (Ex Officio: the vicar; the churchwardens; the Reader, Mr Mike Fry; the two Deanery Synod representatives: Dr Lindsay Gary, Mr Bill Tuck.)
Mrs Joyce Armstrong; Mr Leslie Carey; Mrs Helen Easby; Mrs End Garrow; Mrs Linda Heap; Mr Jeremy Housden; Mrs Mary Milford; Mr Charles Nicholl; Mrs Audrey Turnbull.

The treasurer, secretary, etc., will be elected at the first meeting of the Parochial Church Council on May 8th

News from the churches

CIVIC SERVICE

Tynedale District Council's Civic Service will be in Haydon Bridge this year. At the request of the outgoing Chair, Councillor Marion Howard, it will take place at St Cuthbert's at 11.0 a.m. on May 4th, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant, Viscount Ridley. Members of all Haydon Bridge's churches will be taking part; the Shaftoe Chorale will lead the singing, and sing some anthems; Marion Howard has chosen a reading which has inspired her in her public life.

The Anglican Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Revd Alec Graham, is retiring next month, and a farewell presentation will be made at Gosforth Racecourse on June 29th. (The venue is nothing to do with taking bets on the race for who the next bishop will be!)

Inter-Church cream teas The congregation of the United Reformed Church have been asked by their minister, the Rev David Arthur, to sell cream teas on July 6th, from 4.30. This will be before a United Service they will lead, at 6.00 p.m. All are invited.

The church page is edited by Vincent Ashwin; any information should be given to him on 684.307 by the 20th of the month. E.g. you may need to advertise your summer fete. We plan in the future to include a long-term calendar of events.

AR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

This month I am including in my letter some of the main points of my Vicar's Report given at the church Annual Meeting on April 22nd. It is a common practice for vicars to give a fairly lengthy report at the AGM, and I intend to do that each year.

"The first task of a new vicar is to get to know people in his congregations, and to be known by them. So my first goal is to have visited everyone in the congregation well before the summer holidays.

"It would be good to build on the variety of services in this parish. We shall continue to take seriously the needs of those who value traditional words and forms, but also to give a place to the children who come, and to those who aren't used to our old Church of England ways. I hope that we shall involve children more in singing, playing instruments and doing some of the readings at an All-Age Communion service; very often parents come to these services, and it is a way for them to see us in action.

"It will be good also to extend the reading list of those who read lessons at Matins and Communion. There is scope also, when we have ASB Communion, for a few people to take the prayers

"My dream for work among children is that five or six adults could undertake some kind of Children's Club, taking it in turns, in pairs, to lead a week.

"Meanwhile, I am advertising a Confirmation Group for

youngsters of 11 or over, and would also give preparation to any adults who were interested. If there were any adults, these sessions would be open to anybody who wanted to treat it as a refresher course.

"This is the so-called Decade of Evangelism. Evangelism is a gentler process. There's no doubt that after several decades of materialism, many people are looking for a deeper purpose to their lives. The task of a parish like ours is to provide accessible worship, and also occasional home groups where people can talk about their faith and their doubts. So I will be discussing later in the year whether there would be a place for such Groups here, perhaps five meetings over the autumn.

"Our financial situation is not good. We are not paying our way, and we only paid half our contribution to the Diocese last year; 80% of the Diocese's resources are spent on the payment, housing and training of parish clergy. We ought as church members to pay for the Church's mission and ministry. It is our responsibility as a congregation to meet those costs, and we are not giving enough to meet them. So again in the next few months we shall be planning what to do. Once people know the whole picture, and know that nothing is being hidden from them, I have found that they are more likely to trust those who ask them to increase what they give for God's work in His Church.

Thank you for the welcome you have given us. I look forward

to our years here as we take forward together the work of the Church in this parish."

Yours in Christ's service,
Vincent Ashwin

FROM ST CUTHBERT'S REGISTERS

Holy Baptism:

March 16th

Ryan Robley, 65 Victoria Terrace
Jayme-Lee Baugh, 37 Greenwich Gdns
Georgina Robley, 42 Ratcliffe Road

March 30th

Joseph Henry Easby, 5 The Terrace,
Settlingstones

Funeral

April 11th

Terry Alexander (52), 5 Strother Close

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week takes place this month, May 11th - 17th. This is when every household in the country is given the chance to help the poorest people in the world. Money we give is channelled through the churches in the receiving countries, for projects in health, education and farming, to *help the hungry to help themselves*. It is organized on behalf of all the churches in Haydon Bridge by Mrs Kathleen Armstrong of the Methodist Church. It has for many years been the most wide-spread house-to-house collection in Britain. PLEASE SUPPORT IT GENEROUSLY.

HAYDON & ALLEN MEDICAL NEWS

THE WELL BABY CLINIC

The well baby clinic, from 9 - 10 on Thursday mornings, is intended to be just that - a clinic for well babies. Our Health Visitor has asked me to re-emphasise the importance which she and we attach to not mixing well and poorly children. On Thursday mornings the doctor doing the ordinary surgery should be the one seeing the poorly children.

One reason for the distinction is that babies having immunisations should be free of infection at the time in order to minimise the risk of problems.

So please - only well babies at the well baby clinic. Poorly babies in the normal surgery. Thank you.

DRUG USE AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE

From time to time the head master of the High School asks me to speak with students who have been caught using or carrying illegal drugs of one sort or another. Usually they will have already been interviewed by the police, the school staff and the head himself. None of those who have been sent to have a talk with me have been shady or malevolent characters - just young people caught up in the normal follies of youth. The risks they are running are in some respects different to the risks that earlier generations have run but ever since James Dean gave immortal substance to the rebellious youth image - and actually for the whole of history - young people have tested the limits of their society's behaviour as they grow into independence.

My hope is that the mistakes they make are ones from which they will take little hurt but much education - sometimes they miscalculate. Hands up all those who have never done anything which was ill advised in retrospect....

Any of the doctors or other clinical staff would be delighted to talk to people worried about drug use - either for themselves or their friends or relatives. It is not a subject to be afraid of or secretive about.

HEALTH ON THE NET

Addictive stuff this Internet thing. I imagine that the novelty wears off in due course. The practice has had an e-mail address for a couple of years now and, courtesy of Brian Harrison, an Internet site containing much of our brochure.

In the last few weeks I have been delving into the net and discovered a wealth of health related material. Almost anything that you might wish to know about any aspect of health will be available somewhere.

Much of the material is written and presented for a general audience and is in more or less plain English. We would be delighted to help interpret anything if it proved too complicated. A well informed patient is a real boon - knowing about health is very desirable and inquisitiveness is to be encouraged.

There are publicly accessible libraries of images of many diseases, some very rare indeed. These are not for the squeamish however - I can imagine that sensitive souls would be quite terrified by some of them - you have been warned.

The Internet is very easy to use and even the most technophobic person will very quickly be whizzing around in cyberspace. It is not just for the young, or the obsessively propeller-headed.

PSORIASIS

The "P" is silent - as in swimming pool.

It is a condition whose name causes some confusion - the patches are called plaques not psoriasis - in much the same way one can have measles but each spot is

not called a measles.

Psoriasis is an incurable skin disorder which affects between 1 and 2% of people. Its cause is not clearly understood - yet. It frequently runs in families but can arise in someone with no affected relatives. It is a condition in which patches of skin - often on the scalp, elbows and knees - become thickened and start to flake. It can be limited to only a very small patch, or it can involve many large patches scattered all over the body. Very rarely it can involve the entire skin surface and then may prove fatal.

Occasionally it appears as very many tiny patches all over the body following an infection. This is called guttate psoriasis - guttate meaning like raindrops.

Research is gradually uncovering the cause of the disease and it appears to be something to do with a malfunctioning immune system. It has been noticed, for example, that people who have leukaemia and psoriasis (they are not linked in any way except chance) who have a marrow transplant are often cured of their psoriasis. Conversely non-psoriatics who have a marrow transplant for leukaemia may subsequently develop psoriasis. There may be a chance of developing a cure in the future.

Treatment is aimed at controlling the condition. Sunlight, either real or artificial, helps many, though the effect is unpredictable and there remain the well known problems of sun exposure. The creams and ointments used to help the skin contain either tar, dithranol, steroids or vitamin D like substances. Simple moisturising substances can often be soothing too.

Psoriasis is not catching! Many sufferers are too ashamed to let themselves be seen and wear concealing clothing. Even in the closing years of the twentieth century there are still those around who are prepared to condemn and criticise people with visible disease. So much unhappiness is caused to so many by so few thoughtless people - what a shame.

At the Health Centre we have an ultra-violet B source for which we have an agreed protocol for use with the RVI skins department. Anyone wishing to use this facility should be in touch so that we can see if they would be suitable for treatment - not everybody is.

STROKE

A stroke is the consequence of the blood supply to a part of the brain becoming disrupted - either by a blood vessel developing a leak or becoming blocked with a clot. Without an adequate supply of blood the part of the brain affected stops working, resulting in the familiar loss of use of a limb or loss of speech.

Tynedale is involved in a major project to improve the care of stroke. This involves GPs, hospital doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and others. It is hoped that by working in new ways the outcome for victims of stroke can be improved.

The best treatment for stroke is prevention, as with so many other things. This is why we make such efforts to control people's blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Smoking is known to be a major contributor too.

THE GREAT TWENTIETH CENTURY PAPERCHASE

The volume of paperwork that has to be processed daily is huge and growing. I receive a little over 20kg of post at home per month and a similar amount at the surgery. Amongst this flood are chits and forms for patients from insurance companies and the DSS. Please always read the form first before handing it in for signing - check whether we need to know dates etc or you need to complete your part first. Thanks. SF.