



THE HAYDON NEWS

**FEBRUARY
1998**

Published by The Friends Of Haydon Bridge

Editorial

Hi Folks - It has been a sad start to the year for the whole of the village as witnessed by the massive attendance's at the Funeral services held at the Parish Church. The mood of the village is reflected in this edition of your newsletter.

A decision has been made on the Public Local Inquiry into the disputed right of way from the A69 past Temple Houses and on to the existing river side public footpath. On 14th January the Inspector of the Inquiry, Mr. R.G. Brown issued his report which comes out in favour of those who believe that the footpath is a public right of way. The report reads:

"From the point of view of Section 31 of the Highways Act 1980, on the balance of probabilities, the footpath must be presumed to be dedicated to public use, and I propose to confirm this part of the order."

In making his decision the Inspector said that:

"the evidence I have heard and seen comes down heavily in favour of a public right of way on foot having been established over it by reason of its use by the public, as of right and without interruption for more than 20 years prior to this use being challenged."

The Inspector does not doubt that

Temple Houses lane is in private ownership, and the only vehicular rights over it are private. The question of access to the football pitch via the lane was not a matter for the Inquiry.

Now a decision has been made it remains to be seen if both sides in the dispute are now content to let the matter rest. One viewpoint is expressed by the former Chairman of the Parish Council in his letter on page 5.

I had to make a difficult editorial decision today, Saturday 31st January, concerning a letter from the late Dr High which he gave to me not long before his sudden and unexpected death. He specifically asked me not to publish the letter until after he had left the village. The letter is titled 'Thoughts on leaving Haydon Bridge' - after much consideration I have decided to publish the letter in its entirety and hope that most of you will agree with my decision.

I see that the new Methodist Chapel is nearing completion and those who have been inside the building have reported that they are favourably impressed with what they have seen - although the inside has yet to be fitted out. After spending half an hour this in the cold former URC building at the coffee morning I am looking forward to the first one in the new Methodist complex where they're to have new facilities Bye for now **Mitch**

THE FOOTBALL CLUB

Many thanks to all those who came and supported the coffee afternoon at the Church Hall on Saturday 29th November.

We raised £400 towards the hard court pitch.

Thanks to those who assisted on the day and those who gave generously to the cake stall raffle and tombola.

Shirley Borthwick
on behalf
of
H.B.F.C.

P.S. Well done to the young footballers who raised £571 packing bags at Safeway.

Shaftoe Educational Foundation

The Governors will meet on 12th March 1998.

Applications for grants for educational purposes should be delivered to the Charity's office on Shaftoe Terrace, Haydon Bridge by Saturday 28th February 1998. (Late applications cause considerable inconvenience.)

Advice and further information is available from:

The Clerk, John Richardson
684 298.



Come and enjoy the Northumbrian Traditional Music Nights Kings Head - Allendale

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Thursday 26th March 1998

PARISH COUNCIL PICKINGS

Thursday 22nd January 1998

Your usual reporter was not available for the meeting so I took on the role. There were about a dozen people on the public benches slightly outnumbering the 9 of 11 Parish Councillors present. The Hexham Courant reporter was also there.

Half a dozen people from Douglas Garden's were there complaining that a resident had apparently laid claim to what appeared to be abandoned land (a former swing park then Scout field and immediately adjacent to his own land) and had applied for planning permission for change of use into a garden. In the Village Appraisal recommendations this land had been earmarked as a possible recreational area. Following a long debate the Parish Council decided to inform Tynedale District Council that they intended to look after the area for the 'common good' in accordance with Village Appraisal recommendations. However the Chairman emphasised that Tynedale were not interested in legal ownership of land and the Planning Committee will only look at the application as a planning issue - the Parish Council Chairman will contact the residents concerned and inform them of the situation.

It was reported that the High School had not been successful in their last bid for Sports College status. However they intend to pursue their goal.

Village clock refurbishment to go ahead at a cost of £568 + VAT.

The PC had been informed by the water company all sampling carried out in Haydon Bridge had been satisfactory and daily sampling is carried out. This did not answer the question on what had happened to the water company's procedures the last time we had problems when not all houses were informed of problems with supplies - PC to pursue.

Because of the high quotation for putting a street light in Land Ends Road (£1520) it was agreed that Northumberland County Council should be approached and supply cost of installing the street-lamp on the opposite side of the road. A Cllr will obtain residents views.

Tynedale Local Plan - Public Local Inquiry will take place on Tuesday 23rd June 1998.

A £20 donation was agreed for the Community Council for Northumberland.

A skip will be available for clean-up week commencing 3rd April.

The Friends of Haydon Bridge have agreed to obtain funding for a permanent commemorative seat with plaque at the Spa Well.

Concern was expressed at large cracks in parapet of old bridge.

Bowling Green - More interest was now being shown - a second meeting of the group will be held in the Community Centre on 19th February at 7pm. **SBM**

CROSSWORD

18 correct entries for the December crossword were received. After 10 competitions the end of the year points standing was:

10 points: D. Corbett, P. Irving, E. Rumney, B&R Shout.

9 Points: R. McVay, A. Phillips, A.M. Scott.

8 points: R. Armstrong, M. Robson.

7 points: N. Gilholm, M. Nagel.

6 points: M. Hindle, M. Moore, P. Tomlinson, N. Pretswell, J. Tucker.

5 points: S. Stephenson, D. Telford.

2 points: E. Jukes, M. Porter, P. Tulip, M. Mitchell.

As a result some 22 special competition forms were hand delivered to homes before Christmas and 13 forms were returned. Three of the entries had crossword errors(s).

Time available has not yet allowed these ten entries to be checked further - this will be done in the next few days and the 22 individuals will be notified of the results as soon as possible.

HAYDON BRIDGE W.I.

Mrs M Bowen told members of 'Another side of Japan' when she visited her daughter who was studying at Kyoto University - she was there 4 years and being home-sick Mrs Bowen and her husband took separate visits to see her.

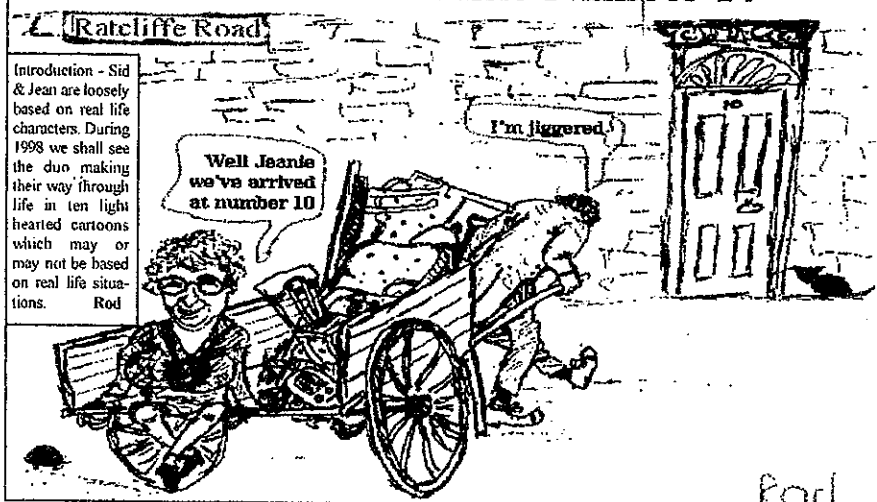
The air journey was an adventure in itself, via Manchester - Dusseldorf - Anchorage. The later journey was 11 hours leaving at 2:30 pm to arrive at the same time! - the time changes!

Kyoto was a colourful elegant city with original buildings - very expensive - learning the etiquette had been eventful. A visit to Hiroshima had left a lot of memories - the details of the memorial gardens were very moving - very much enjoyed by everyone.

Competition for calendar won by Mrs A. Turnbull. Raffle was won by Mrs M. Anderson.

Anyone interested in joining is very welcome. The next meeting is Feb. 9th 7 pm - Paper Flower Craft.

Sid and Jean move into Number 10



Introduction - Sid & Jean are loosely based on real life characters. During 1998 we shall see the duo making their way through life in ten light hearted cartoons which may or may not be based on real life situations. Rod

Letters to the Editor & Readers Viewpoints

A Potential Threat to Village Retailing

There is a strong rumour circulating in the village - even in the Co-op itself - that the latter is planning yet another internal re-organisation, this time to allow it to sell newspapers, stationery, etc. I am lead to understand that this 'big brother' decision emanates from regional or even national headquarters of the Co-op. It is yet another example of those retailers who believe they have the 'deepest pockets' seeking to gain total monopolistic advantage in a local market place, namely our village, without giving any thought to the longer term consequences of their actions.

The village is already well served with CTN (confectionery, tobacco and newspapers/magazines) facilities by John Clark and Werner Nagel. These two businesses have been around for many years and as such represent a 'balanced economy' in the heart of our village. If the Co-op deliberately destabilises either one or both of these businesses by seeking to supply goods that are already well supplied, in the long run the village will suffer. We have already lost our butcher, and there have been other retail closures in recent memory. If either John or Werner, or both, are driven out of business, the minimum 'critical mass' of available retail facilities will be lost, probably to the detriment of the Co-op as well as the village. In other words, there will be so few shops that no-one will shop in the village at all, including in the Co-op! Somebody should point out this danger to the Co-op before it is too late. Alternatively, if the Co-op strategy is successful i.e. they reduce or eliminate competition altogether for CTN products, we will all be the losers, because it will seek to maximise the benefits of its monopolistic position in terms of a poorer range of product, less personal service and almost certainly higher prices!

Peter Henriksen 'Highshield'
6th January 1998

Peter

I have printed your letter in full and invite the Co-op to reply as they think fit. In fairness I must say that many will say that the store provides a more economical range of products rather than 'poorer' as you describe.

Is it not we, the public, who are the cause of the closure of so many village shops by our failure to patronise them with our custom before it is too late? Werner Nagel and John Clarke's businesses will survive only if they continue to give us the friendly and personal service as they now do - however they also do need our continuing patronage. Similarly the Co-op (and other retailers), with or without newspapers, can only survive if more villagers would shop locally. The true cost of motoring is about 40p per mile so a trip into Hexham costs about £6:00 whilst a trip to the Metro or Newcastle costs a massive £24:00, I bet not many people take that into account when trooping off to the supermarkets.

Mitch

Suggestion of Inconsistency

An error seems to have crept into the reportage of the Temple Houses saga. It should be corrected, if only to negate the suggestion of inconsistency in the parish council's policy. The relevant minutes of the Parish Council when the County Council disclosed their intention to include the Lane on their Comprehensive Map would record the Parish Council raising no objection to the proposal, but in no way being the applicant for its inclusion.

There was some quiet satisfaction that the CC was taking a step towards settling this time-consuming wrangle which used from time to time erupt in the council's arena, though the council was always firm in its resolve not to take sides

I told Mrs. Thompson ad nauseam that the matter would be decided judicially if anyone could be bothered to press the issue. In that, I may have been right, and will make a further prediction; if the matter is not judged in accordance with Mrs T's point of view, she will not accept the verdict. I hope that if this should happen and Mrs. T does want to take it higher, that it will be done at her expense.

And to you Sir, I must say this. A more sensitive person that myself might have been irritated by your mild rebuke directed towards me for my failure to make a statement at the footpath enquiry.

What statement could I have made at a quasi-judicial hearing that would have carried any legal clout? You might have thought wrongly that I had presided over a Council that was the initial applicant. I hope I have clarified this. All I could have done was express an opinion and far too many without any legal know how have already been expressed in this matter.

T.A. Bates. Nilston Rigg
27th November 1997

Thomas (if I may be so bold)

The evidence given to the Public Local Inquiry held on 14th October 1997 section 4.1 of the Proof of Evidence states:

'In March 1981, the Parish Clerk on behalf of Haydon Bridge Parish Council applied for the addition to the definitive map and statement of a footpath from the A69 County road at Low Hall along Temple Houses Lane to join FP36 at the entrance to the sports field.'

The Parish Council made a second application in January 1985. Both applications are contained in the comprehensive 'Proof of Evidence' document.

At the PC meeting on 25th September 1997 there was initially only tepid support for the 1981 application however following debate the present council agreed to follow the line adopted by their predecessors. The Inspector's report was issued on 14th January 1998 and also confirms that the Parish Council applied in 1981 and 1985 for the footpath to be added to the definitive map.

Mitch

Letters to the Editor & Readers Viewpoints

To: Editor of Haydon News

How wonderful to find the Haydon News on the web. Until March this year, I used to live in the village. For 16 years on Heugh House Lane, then six months at Parkers Terrace. I moved down here to Ealing in London when my Australian girlfriend got a job here (although I still telework for TNL, a company based in Hexham). Life in London is very hectic, especially in the run-up to Christmas, and I miss the peace and calm of Haydon Bridge. My parents still live on Heugh House Lane, and I'll be visiting them for a week just after Christmas. Regards from the smoke. I look forward to the next Haydon News, which brings back good memories of the village.

Kevin Hawley - Ealing, London

Stan,

Have just subscribed and you may wonder why.

I was the Architect for the High School many years ago but still remember working on the school and with the never to be forgotten Eddie Waite!

I think I still have the brochure handed out at the Official Opening. I will look it out to refresh my memory - you will see from my date of birth that I am not as young as I was. Saw the article in the Courant. Just thought I would let you know.

Regards,

Steve Howarth - Hexham

Good Idea

Saw the pages on the Internet following the delivery of the latest Haydon Bridge Newsletter. I live in Haydon Bridge at the moment but will shortly be moving to Hexham to be closer to work. I work for an Information Management and Technology consultancy near Slaley and was pleased to see the Haydon News breaking new ground by being published on the Net. I look forward to keeping up to date with village news via the Web Pages when I move.

Mike Whitfield

Dear Mitch,

I am very impressed. I wish you all the success with the site and hope that many ex.residents of Haydon Bridge find the site and that it will give them a lot of pleasure finding out whats happening in the village.

Best regards

Anton Phillips - Langley Castle

When he wrote to become a mailing list subscriber to the Haydon News Ridley Coates of Northwich in Cheshire added: *'I never thought I would see Sid Thompson's name in print again! I went to school with him.'* I have spoken to Sid since and he recalls Ridley very well although he was generally known by his nickname of 'Tapkin' because of his prowess in goal playing football. Apparently there was a famous goalkeeper of the day called Tapkin - does anyone know who he played for?

Hello,

My wife Elizabeth and I recently gave birth to a son, to which we named Haydon. To be honest, we had trouble finding a boy's name that appealed to us. In the confusion following the birth, we chose the name Haydon because we felt that it sounded strong, traditional and matched well with our English last name, Clifton. Since then, Elizabeth and I have become curious and would like to know more about its old English origin, nervously hoping there are many great reasons being deemed a Haydon. We also are quite surprised that most people misspell his name as Hayden, and are concerned that maybe we should have chosen that version.

Any history that you could provide would be tremendously appreciated. I also enjoyed your website and I hope that we may some day visit your wonderful town.

Sincerely,

William Clifton

SW Seattle, USA

My name is Patricia Mielnicki and I'm writing from Florida U.S.A. In my family, my mother was born at 9 Rose Hill Gardens, Wallsend. Her father was Lancelot Henderson (we don't know where he was from) but he died at Wallsend in 1921.....

My great grandparents came from Hexham. Edward Robson(1833) and Sarah Wilson(1838). They married in Hexham in 1857.He was a shoemaker on Hencotes road. They had 13 children,two sets of twins that died. One of their sons William Robson (15 June 1868-1967) lived at Haydon Bridge.

He had two daughters Margaret and Edith.They never married..... I find this so interesting. Do you know of anyway I can find out more ?? Where can I write to ? Do you know any Robsons that might be related. It would be most interesting... Thank you for putting out your home page. I love seeing the area that my ancestors came from. Would love to see more of Hexham

Pat

Florida USA

Editors Note

I have sent interim replies to our two American writers. If any Haydon News reader can help on any of the two queries please let me know and I will forward your responses by e-mail to Pat and William.

A service on the Web for exiled Haydonians and other interested parties is provided by:

BrianHarrison: <http://www.badrise.u-net.com/haydon.htm>

Mitch : <http://www.haydonbridge.demon.co.uk>

Thoughts on leaving Haydon Bridge

By the time you read this I will have left Haydon Bridge where I have lived for 31 of my 74 years and where I have worked for almost half my working life, very happy and satisfying years they were.

Much of the credit for the work at the Health Centre is due to the high quality of service given by the reception and other ancillary staff which makes it so much easier for the doctors to do their jobs with a minimum of distraction and I would like to thank them all for the cheerful and efficient support they all gave me.

When I came here in 1966 I was to take on the work load being carried by two doctors, Dr Richard Bell in Radcliffe Road and Dr Ferguson in Tyneholme but to take on the combined work load of those two good doctors would have meant a list of about 2,800 patients which was too much for a rural practice so I drew a circle around the village and asked patients who lived outside that circle to find themselves doctors elsewhere, in Hexham or Haltwhistle. This created a smaller but concentrated list of about 2200 which I thought was manageable.

The next innovation was to introduce an appointment system, the first in Tynedale, but an appointment system that insured that everyone who asked for an appointment should be offered one on that day and if the receptionist couldn't find an 'official' space vacant they must refer the patient to me to resolve. Thus the system was to determine the speed at which I had to work and it seemed to work pretty fairly most of the time.

The third thing that I did was to send a letter to every patient explaining these changes and asking for their understanding and co-operation in their introduction. This I got in full measure and this laid the foundation of what has become a happy relationship.

I was getting into my car outside my house the other day when a young girl coming out of the school stopped, asked how I was and said she heard I was going to leave the village. I explained why and she said: "Well doctor, I hope you will be happy. We will never forget you!" I couldn't restrain my tears.

Thank you all, I feel to have been very privileged.

Dr High

Our former doctor supervised the removal mens loading of his furniture on Thursday 8th January. En-route to Yorkshire he decided to stay overnight in an Hotel where sadly he unexpectedly died.

We couldn't restrain our tears

Thank you for all your care for so many people in the Haydon Bridge area during your years as our doctor, and for all your campaigning for better health care for all.

HAYDON BRIDGE BOWL OVER ALLENDALE

Haydon Bridge Carpet Bowls Club clinched their second win of the season when they beat Allendale at Haydon Bridge Community Centre on Thursday 15th January.

Before I start describing the match I will briefly write about how the game is played.

Each team is split into four teams and four players. The teams are lettered A, B, C and D, and each team plays four games. There are two carpet numbered one and two. Every team plays two games on each carpet, consisting of four games. Haydon Bridge were as such.

A	B	C	D
Michael Rumney	Rene Wallace	Peter Tweddle	Gladys Henderson
Jean Oliver	Edith Benson	Winnie Golightly	Joseph Tulip
Dennis Bright	Doreen Taylor	Lily Pickering	Audrey Phillips
Susan Taylor	Ike Tallantyre	Edna Rumney	Mary Lockhart

The first name on every team is known as the skip. Allendale made the brightest start when their A team beat the Haydon Bridge A Team 7-5 on carpet one. When the two B teams met on carpet two, Haydon Bridge had a big lead after three ends, but could not stop the visitors 6 on the last win.

The best team of the night was Haydon Bridge C team, who won all four games, 8-1 5-3 5-3 and 6-0.

The D team made a good start by winning their first two games, but crumbled and lost the third game 4-1. A further defeat followed in their last game, when they were 8-0 down after victory was not enough for Allendale. The final score was Haydon Bridge 63 Allendale 62.

All Haydon Bridge players played very well and deserved to win, although it was close.

Everybody had a lovely supper and a very enjoyable evening.

If anyone would like to take up carpet bowls, just come along to the Community Centre on Tuesday nights. It starts at 7.30 and costs 50p. All will be made most welcome.

Joseph Tulip

HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB

The club meets on alternate Thursday evenings, from 7.15 to 9.15 in the Community Centre and has seventy members. During the winter months there is a programme of speakers on topics of local, general and travel interest. From April through the summer months there is a programme of evening walks and daytime excursions. During this winter we have had, for example, a talk on falconry and conservation of birds of prey with live exhibits of a kestrel and two buzzards, a speaker from the Environment Agency on river fish protection, a talk on gardening at Wallington Hall and landscapes of the American West. The February programme is as follows:

Thursday 5th February

The Great Whinsill in the National Park (Derek Proudlock)

Thursday 19th February

Local Mines and Quarries (Billy Nichol)

All are welcome to come along.

Sue Harley

A DIFFERENT WORLD

As the dusk of evening began to mantle the village a partridge's rasping call was the only sound heard, coming from the fields along Land Ends road. Thin clouds scudded across a pale moon as a warm glow of gaslight sprang up and gleamed through the lace curtained windows reflecting in the river at the Tanyard.



A small boy stood on the pavement in Church Street waiting for the lamp-lighter to come around "Granny Irwins" corner shouldering the pole which would bring life to gas lamps along the street. The great white face of the church clock struck six from its place of prominence far up amongst the inky blackness of night - or so it seemed to a small boy. Presently he arrived, expertly guiding the pole through the opening of the lanterns, freeing the pilot lights and leaving yellow pools of brightness before disappearing across the railway gates and on toward the lamps up the North bank.

Having watched once again the evening ritual in silence and solemnity befitting an event as important to him as when the Graf Zeppelin flew over Haydon Bridge with the roar of its great engines and a pervading smell of oil, the boy released his fists from the pockets of his grey shorts where rough scarred knees were prominent. Straightening out his holed pullover covering his grey flannel shirt, that was a size over big, he carried on with his game, making believe he was driving the local train from Newcastle to Carlisle as it steamed its way along the edges of the curb chugging with tacky boots clicking on the pavement as engine wheels over rail expansion joints-----"Klickety Klick - Klickety Klick - Klickety Klick", "Shush, shush, shush,shush, shush, his little arms and elbows going twenty to the dozen like connecting rods between huge wheels as he rattled past some girls playing hop-sotch on the chalk marked pavement in front of Vickers's the Bakers while others, chanting some Magic incantation skipped expertly in and out of the rope swung by two contemporaries. Thanks to the wonderful invention of coal gas we kids in Haydon Bridge had a ready lit stage on the pavement where we could play a little longer in the dusk of an Autumn evening until we were called tired, weary but happy to bed.

Haydon Bridge was first lighted by gas on February 2nd 1860, just three years before the Methodist and Congregational chapels were built in 1863. In the same year the great discovery of the Spa-Well was made with all its magical healing and curative health restoring powers for the benefit of mankind whether he be the humble peasant or the landed gentry.

As news spread to the towns and cities of Tyneside and the coast about the Spa a great influx of strangers would arrive in Haydon Bridge during the summer months to partake of the healing waters taking up residence for a week or more

with Mrs Wigham, proprietress of the Belmont "Temperance Hotel", or Mrs Weatherald. "Haydon Hotel"—1 sitting room and 2 bedrooms also furnished cottage, 2 rooms, or other apartments to let at Haydon Bridge.

After chapel or church on a pleasant summer evening it was the done thing to be seen taking a sedately stroll to-

wards the Spa-Well. The ladies of quality in all their finery and the well heeled gentlemen, composed, calm, unruffled in bowler hat, charcoal grey suit, spats and black fine leather boots, as they made their way breathing in the purity of air towards the beautifully situated Spa-Well overlooked by the Valley of the Tyne.

There they would partake of the medicinal waters before strolling back the mile long road with bottles of Spa water collected in pockets or beaver skin handbags, the gentlemen raising his bowler to the next party of young ladies met on the way, and with a twinkle in his eye and a sly smile on his lips would greet them - "*A most pleasant evening ladies.*" Really, what was in his mind was the newly discovered fact that tea brewed with Spa-Well water restored a man to his youthful vigour, recaptured that which was lost and, with the knowledge that Haydon Bridge had only recently got its own new gas supply, had brought his own gas ring with him so that he could brew up in secret amidst the stillness of his hotel room in The Belmont Temperance Hotel.

The Gas Works at Haydon Bridge was situated down river from the bridge in a location known as the "Ealand", A typical Victorian building of stone and brick and quite pleasing to the eye with graceful curves. A large chimney at the rear emitted fumes and smoke created by the great red hot fires in the retort-house attended by Albert Paxton and Anderson Robinson. The gas storage tank, or Ometer was situated on the other side of the railway lines in a field next to the Elmfield tennis courts and a Mr Mitchinson was the manager in the 1930s and a Mr Brooks in the 1940s until the company failed. A detachment of the Essex regiment billeted in the Old Church hall were nearly gassed one winter's night when a gas pipe fractured and soldiers in army vests and long johns tumbled out into Church Street spluttering and gasping for air.

When gas came to Haydon Bridge in 1860 it was soon found to have another use, the complete do it yourself Suicide Kit, safe, clean and sure - that is until things go wrong as was found by a Mr Murdo Cameron from Ballachulish in Scotland, an itinerant Quarry man living in the Tanyard who had fallen on hard times. He decided to gas himself by attaching a rubber tube to a gas tap and into a hessian sack that he put over his head where upon he sat down at the table with head in hands awaiting glorious oblivion. As he turned in the gas tap it hissed for a couple of seconds then . . . 'click' the penny ran out in the meter

No Gas ! so he decided it would be a sinful waste of another penny in the meter, for he would be dead within seconds and he wouldn't be around to make use of all that gas going to waste.

The small boy suddenly remembered that it was Friday evening as he sped along "*Clanking and Chugging*", --- "*Clanking and Chugging*", towards Tom Clemitson's Shop, **Saddler - Harness Maker and General Ironmonger**, where he had to call for a gas mantle before he closed at 6.30. As the little boy began to slow down the wide trouser bottoms of his shorts flapped less as his arms and elbows ground to a halt with a great "*Sheeeeeeeee*" as the engine let steam off.

There was a soft "*tinkle, tinkle, tinkle*", sounding of the bell on the door as the little boy entered the shop. Once inside his imagination ran riot! The shop smelled of dust, leather and saddle soap. Zinc buckets hung from the ceiling with a couple of Zinc bath tubs in the corner where shovels, spades, axes and stiff bristled brooms were all leaning at erratic angles. To one side stood a large black drum, containing paraffin oil, the pervading aroma from this constantly dripping drum was delightful. Walking sticks, fancy baskets, drinking horns lined the walls and shelves and ironmongery of every description cluttered the floor.

As the little boy eased nearer the counter the waxy smell of candles were predominant. There were boxes of Mouse traps, sticky little bags of fly-catchers, blocks of Donkey sandstone for scrubbing the doorstep and black lead for the grate, bags of "bluing" for a whiter wash and oh so many other things.

Away at the back of the counter out of reach of little boys, were the jewels of the shop --- the Gas Mantles! Packed with care, in white boxes, these gossamer knitted little domes rested on two ledges to protect them from bruises. They were so fragile that a delicate touch of the hand might make them disintegrate and you would have to spend another 2½d to replace the broken one.

Today as I stand and look along church street, the gas lamps are gone. Tom Clemitson's ironmongers is gone and even the butchers that followed in the same shop many years later has gone. But.....I wonder what M Armstrong, Grocer of 13 Church Street would think if he saw an old pensioner in his 70s flash past his shop window along the edge of the pavement curb, boots clicking as if going over rail expansion joints, old arms and elbows going ten to the dozen like connecting rods between the great green wheels of the 'Flying Scotsman' - puffing, spluttering, slaving and quietly breaking wind with the sheer effort of it all--- "*hush,,hush,shhhhhhhh, hush, hush, shhhhhhhhhh*"

But of course that was a long time ago, long "*before the War*". But I still get the urge..... I may have to try it one night after dark.

OWLD TAWNY

Some more letters

It is with some sadness that I pen this letter but I feel so sorry when I read the criticisms of the Haydon News and the Editor's 'style'.

First let me say I have been involved with the 'news' for many many years, both as a distributor, some time committee man and sometimes have taken time out to write articles to help keep it going. I have turned out in the snow and rain to deliver as few as three pages, one and a half of those adverts and oft times barely readable.

Successive editors have stuck to their task and we now have a very clear and well sponsored 'News'. Let us give the loyal advertisers the extra pages and should 'SBM' or 'Mitch' appear too often then perhaps the critics could attend the various events etc. and report in their own inimitable style.

Magna

Three young ladies write

We are responding to the recent criticism of Mitch's editorial style. We feel that his original style and sense of humour positively enhance the Haydon News, making it not only informative but also an entertaining read.

We personally would not have the courage, still time and dedication to edit this publication, whereas Mitch has given Haydon Bridge an international status on the Internet.

Perhaps more appreciation than criticism should be given.

Well done Mitch!

Ed's note: The editorial page of the Haydon News is now automatically translated into German, French, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish by one of the major Internet 'search engines'.

The Good Samaritan



Whilst waiting for the 10:04am bus on Tuesday the 2nd of December and an angel appeared at 10:45 crossing Ratcliffe Road with 10 cups of steaming hot tea on a tray for which we were all extremely grateful as we were all trembling with cold.

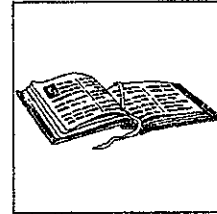


So on behalf of all of us present at the bus stop may I say a big **Thank You** - we all appreciated your kindness very much.

J.E.S.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

**AN INDEPENDENT SUPPLEMENT
TO THE HAYDON NEWS**



CLERGY MESSAGE

by the Reverend David Arthur

For many years Christians have worked together in Haydon Bridge. Sadly the United Reformed Church formally closed down at the end of last year. Their minister reflects on that closure, and on the future.

David Perkins in the November issue of Haydon News spoke of the need to plan well ahead, particularly in Methodism, but in all Churches, but that we had to live in the present, in the "now" situation as well. Of course with this I agree, but for my part, and for the part of the little URC congregation that has now ceased worshipping in Haydon Bridge, we have very much had to look to the past, the present, and the future.

There is so much in the congregation's past for which to be thankful - for families who have given their whole lives and energies into the welfare of the Church; for a long succession of ministers, all very different from each other, no doubt, who have served in Haydon Bridge. The congregation has not been a large one for a long time, but at one point in its history had a very large Sunday School which served the whole village.

I do feel that special mention needs to be made of the Rutherford family, for all their interest and support of the 'Cong's' as it then was ... including the building of the Church Hall in the late thirties I think. We are deeply grateful to them for all the love shown down the years, and we remember Will now in his frailty, and Kath as she cares for him.

We are thankful for our past; and we live in the present. Several years ago, four or five years ago, the Church was on the point of closure; (indeed some people in the village informed us that it HAD closed, which was news to me!) It was then decided to review the situation annually, and we had just been on the point of the final decision to close, when the Methodist Redevelopment Scheme came into being. They needed a home for some time while their site was redeveloped. We then resolved to welcome them into our under-used building, and they continue to use it for a few remaining weeks, before they move back across the level-crossing to their fine new premises.

Now we look to the future. The majority of the members are transferring to the Hexham URC, to an ex-Presbyterian Church of a different flavour, but where I am sure they will

find a spiritual home. I am minister there for these last few months, and this should make the change easier for them.

The 28th December when we held our last service was a sad day - in some ways inevitably. But the members are still Christians; the Christian presence in Haydon Bridge is in no way diminished. We were delighted that so many came and shared in that final service, including our guest preacher, Rev David Hannen from Ponteland, representing the Northern Province Moderator who this year is also Moderator of General Assembly, the Rev David Jenkins. We were glad too to have the Rev Roberta Rominger, Secretary of Newcastle District URC, who shared in the prayers, and representatives from District Council as well.

Now for me: it is the run-down to retirement in June. I have to look forward to a very different future ... a prospect which gives me pleasure, not dread! The picture we received at the final service in Haydon Bridge was in fact an aerial photograph on the URC. Thus we take with us a heavenly perspective of an earthly building and congregation! We were deeply grateful and touched to receive it.

We shall miss you. But thanks for the memory! May God go with you in your future work together.

WHO AND WHERE

The names and phone numbers of the clergy who minister in Haydon Bridge

Rev Vincent Ashwin, with St Cuthbert's C of E
The Vicarage, Station Yard 684.307

Rev David Perkins, with the Methodist congregation
39 Elvaston Road, Hexham 603.139

Father Leo Pyle, with St John's Catholic Church
St John's Presbytery, North Bank 684.265

**METHODIST CHURCH
CALENDAR**

Feb.1st 10.00 Mr Roger Jones
6.0pm United Service C of E

Feb.8th 10.00 Mr T Hindsley
6.0pm Prayer Service,
Mrs B Rowarth

Feb.10th 7.30 Men's Christian F'wship
Mr W Weller (metal detecting)

Feb.11th 2.30 Women's Own
Rev D Perkins

Feb.15th 10.00 Rev D Perkins (S)
8.00 Praise, Praise, Ministry

Feb.22nd 10.00 Mr T North
6.00 Community Hymns

Feb.24th 7.30 Men's Christian F'ship
Mr J Martin (Gilbert Islands)

Feb.25th 2.30 Women's Own Meeting
Rev V Ashwin

Mar.1st 10.00 Mrs S Lamb
6.00 Rev D Perkins
(Bible Teaching; Holy Communion)

**CALENDAR FOR
ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH**

Feb.1st: 4th Sunday after Epiphany
8.00 Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
10.30 Mattins/Sermon (Mr K Rutherford)
6.00 United Prayer and Praise (R Jones)

Feb.4th 2.30 Women's Fellowship

Feb.8th: 9th Sunday before Easter
10.30 Parish Communion & Sermon

Feb.9th and 11th: Study course begins.

Feb.15th: 8th Sunday before Easter
8.00 Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
10.30 Worship for All (Mike Fry)
10.30 Sunday Club for 4-10 year-olds

Feb.22nd: 7th Sunday before Easter
10.30 Parish Communion & Baptism
3.00 Deanery Evensong, Hexham Abbey
Preacher: Bishop Martin Wharton

Feb/25th Ash Wednesday
7.00 Holy Communion (Rev G Price)
7.45 Mothers' Union: Maureen Price

Mar.1st: 1st Sunday in Lent
8.00 Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
10.30 Morning Prayer & Sermon

**SERVICES AT ST JOHN OF
BEVERLEY CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

Sundays Mass every week at 9.30
Weekdays Mass most days at 10.00

CHURCH NEWS

METHODIST BUILDING PROGRESS:
The building has gone to schedule, and the first major event in the new church will be on Easter Day.

NEW ANGLICAN BISHOP
The Right Revd Martin Wharton is visiting West Northumberland only eight days after his enthronement. He will be the preacher at a specially arranged service in Hexham Abbey at 3.00pm on Sunday February 22nd.

PRAYERS TOGETHER
Members of all churches are invited to join in the Wednesday prayers at the URC/Methodist church: 12.30 (sandwich lunch; bring your own); 12.45-1.15, Prayer.

FULL HOUSE AT ST JOHN'S

It's a long time ago, but . . .
The Inter-church Christmas Carol service on December 21st gave us a full house at the Catholic Church. Men, women and children crammed the church. The Shaftoe Chorale and Methodist Choir both sang some solo carols. And children dressed as angels, shepherds, wise-men etc., made a living tableau. And there was mulled wine afterwards. A great night.

only introductory. Congregations must be consulted, and given the chance to share all that happened on 17th January 1998 at the consultation on the way forward for the Church in Haydon Bridge.

We plan that, on the evening of Easter Day in the newly-opened Methodist Church, Christians from all the village congregations will join in a service of Repentance, Reconciliation and Rejoicing, to confess our disunity in the past, the pledge ourselves to work together as Christian brothers and sisters in the future, and to rejoice with the Methodists in their new building, which is a sign of the hope and service that will be the mark of the Church's work in Haydon Bridge.

AGREED STATEMENT

Our consultation on the way forward for the Churches of Haydon Bridge

On January 17th 1998 a Consultation on the way forward for the Christians in Haydon Bridge was held at Bardon Mill WI hall from 11.00am till 3.00pm. The participants included the minister/ priest and three lay representatives from each of the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist Churches of Haydon Bridge. Representation had also been sought from other Christian communities which have members living in Haydon Bridge.

The Consultation opened with prayer, and then moved to Session 1, 'Getting to know you'. Each church gave a short presentation, to share one or two features of their church's life, with a visual aid to help a full sharing, and spoke of current work and future plans; each church also shared at least one anxiety.

The second session was led by Mrs Bernadette Askins, the Ecumenical Officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Bernadette helped us to 'dream dreams', by giving us

a 'Guide to Good Practice', and the 'Five Marks of Mission' which were put forward by the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops in 1988, and have since been adopted by all the mainstream churches in England.

We then listed the activities which we have done together in the past, and those which we still do: Harvest Festival, Women's World Day of Prayer, Carol Service, and other joint celebrations, works, and occasions.

But what would we wish to happen in our shared life as Christians in Haydon Bridge? Prayer; study; outreach to whatever need; communication: these were the appropriate headings to capture the wishes for a shared Christian life.

Turning dreams into practicalities was the final issue pursued by the consultants. With so much that can be done, with the problems of structures to achieve effective action, it became clear that the vision we had at our day's consultation must be shared in each congregation. Hence the Agreed Statement. The statement starts to share the vision, and is

HAYDON & ALLEN VALLEYS MEDICAL NEWS

BREAST SCREENING

The breast screening unit is now in the Wentworth car park again, as those of you who are not too burdened by the family shopping may have noticed.

All women between the ages of 50 and 64 should receive an appointment automatically in the post. The mammogram, an X-ray, takes only moments and you will receive the results in the post within three weeks or so. Most women are found to have normal breasts but some women will be invited back for a further examination. Although screening is carried out to find cancer at a very early stage it should be remembered that most abnormalities detected are NOT cancer.

If you are aged over 64 and would like to continue to be screened you should contact:

The Breast Screening and Assessment Centre
Newcastle General Hospital
Westgate Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE46 6BE

0191 272 5021

Remember to request an appointment every three years. All the screening is free, whatever your age. If I were a woman more than 64 years old I would definitely continue to be screened as there is some evidence that the benefits are greater in the older age group.

Women below the age of 50 are not usually screened unless there is a strong close family history of breast cancer, especially when diagnosed at an early age. The reason for not screening younger women is that because they will usually not yet have reached their menopause their breasts are much more dense and difficult to get X-rays through.

There are a number of features which are known to have some association with the development of breast cancer:

Family history (see below)
Starting periods below 12 years of age
First pregnancy after 28 years of age
Not having had pregnancies
Late menopause
Use of HRT for more than 10 years
High animal fat diet

???? Prolonged use of the "pill" before first pregnancy ????

Women at risk in their forties are those who have a first degree relative (mother or sisters) who developed breast cancer before the age of 60 years. Screening should start 10 years before the age at diagnosis of the affected relative. Women below the age of forty will very rarely gain benefit from screening, though this may change with improved understanding and techniques for diagnosing it. Women who think they fit into the above group should contact us for referral.

KERATOSIS PILARIS

This is a common condition, in fact so common as to be almost normal. I see one or two people with it each month.

Many people, old and young, male and female are aware of an area of roughened skin, sometimes a little dry and with small pimples on it, over the outer surface of their upper arms.

Treatment consists of a light "sanding" with a coarse sponge or flannel or "Buff Puff". Exfoliative scrubs are often helpful. Moisturising with any moisturiser or hand cream may help too.

DOWN AT THE HAIRDRESSER'S

My quarterly shearing at our village Salon is an excellent chance to get up to date with the hottest gossip in town. My last trip happened to coincide with a report published in the Christmas British Medical Journal which showed that men having an ejaculatory frequency greater than twice per week had a halving in mortality risk. This news was greeted with expressions of disbelief and even outrage by the staff and patrons of the establishment, all being, it goes without saying, persons of the most delicate and refined sensibilities.

In 1982 a 25 year study was reported in which it was found that FREQUENCY of sexual intercourse was inversely related to mortality in men and that ENJOYMENT of intercourse was inversely related to mortality in women. Inversely meaning as one goes up the other goes down - now how can I express that more discreetly?

In 1976 a study was reported in which it was found that sexual dissatisfaction in women was a risk factor for heart attack.

Health promotion has just become easier. Its no longer just don't smoke, drink moderately, take a high fibre diet with plenty of fruit and veg and exercise regularly.

CFC FREE INHALERS

The treatment of asthma has been revolutionised by the development of inhaled medication. Usually this has been given as a pressurised aerosol. Some years ago Bob High and I tried to get ahead of the trend by converting everyone onto the other kind of inhaler which contained tiny amounts of powder. This was done for two reasons; there was evidence that it was a more effective way of treating people and secondly because the aerosols contain CFCs - the chemicals that are leaving holes in the ozone layer.

My prediction has now come true - at the turn of the century all inhalers will change to a different non CFC propellant. This will mean that people with asthma will have to relearn how they need to use their inhalers.

Nurse Mary and the doctors will be pleased to see anyone who wishes to take up CFC free inhalers or some of the alternatives. This will save a last minute dash to convert everyone in a year or two.

BLOOD AND OTHER SAMPLES

At about 10.30 every morning a van from the hospital comes around all the surgeries collecting samples. This means that we must have them already by that time. Please ensure that any samples that you are asked to bring in arrive before that time. If you have to have a blood sample you should attend before 10.30 too - the lab needs the specimens fresh! SF