



THE HAYDON NEWS

OCTOBER
2001

Published by The Friends Of Haydon Bridge

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS! Or is it?"

I come back to my heading of last month but this time to raise the issue of why yet again things happen in Haydon Bridge which 'outsiders' feel is appropriate.

As you will see from the PC notes people are very concerned at the fencing which has sprung up at the station effectively cutting off easy access for those pushing prams/pushchairs, or the wheelchair bound, to the eastbound platform. No notification of this work was given. It was just done without apparently any consideration for those who would be affected.

The Library is still on the 'back burner' but the current feeling among Parish Councillors is that the High School has been rather naughty in putting forward the proposal to relocate it to their premises and, judging by the number of people who have signed the petition in John Clarke's, strong feelings exist. We await a consultation exercise as promised. In the meantime, you should have received a Library 'flyer' promoting our village's asset with the latest copy of the *Haydon News*.

And what is it about Haydon Bridge? A front page article in the Hexham Courant (26th October) concerning a possible temporary relocation of Tynedale Magistrates Court to Haydon Bridge has been branded a "nightmare" by the Police. "Travelling out to Haydon Bridge will be a nightmare for defendants and impractical for people trying to get to court for a 10am start". Taking this on board, I have done a bit of detective work using Arriva's current train timetable and its 685 Bus service but discounting private cars or taxis which I would have thought would be the preferred means of transport for defendants and others anyway!

Admittedly, there are only two trains from Hexham to Haydon Bridge arriving before 10am. The latest being 08.56 whilst there are three from Haydon Bridge to Hexham the latest being 09.14. However, there are five 685's from Hexham the latest being 09.41. There are only three from Haydon Bridge which arrive in Hexham before 10am!

Haydon Bridge is poorly served by the train service at the best of times with only eight trains going eastwards on any weekday compared with nine from Hexham so it is better to use the bus. But, how about the "nightmare" of Haydon Bridge people without access to cars/taxis not being able to get home on the train after 21.47? or 22.30 on the bus?

Let me know what you think about this, or any other issue which is getting under your skin.

Finally ... correspondence has been rather poor this month compared with our last issue. Might I respectfully remind those wishing to contribute that letters will only be published if I am in receipt of both name and address of the writer. Pseudonyms can be used of course, providing this information is given. So, to the writer 'Happy Shopper' of the letter passed to me by Staff at the Co-op, provide the above details and your letter will appear in next month's issue at the end of November

Richard A D Snowden (Editor)

*Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre (Haydon Bridge)
Thursday 25th October 2001 at 7.30pm.*

Present throughout were: 9 Councillors (apologies from 3), the Parish Clerk and 5 members of the Public.

The Chairman opened proceedings by welcoming Carole McGivern who would be replacing Susan Batey as Parish Clerk who had tendered her resignation in July.

Public Participation: (1) Church Street inspections were supposed to take place. When would this be happening?

(2) **Railway station.** New fences have been erected preventing pedestrian access across the tracks between the two platforms. Why has this been done and when was notification given? Cllr. Charlton wondered whether this was permitted.

Cllr Mitchell responded by indicating that a few years back in the time of Cllr Bill Howard a meeting had been held discussing the anticipation of changing the gated crossing to an automatic barrier type. For safety's sake, pedestrian access across the tracks would have to be denied.

Concerns were raised that wheelchair users and those with prams/pushchairs would find life very difficult because no ramped access was freely available to those wishing to use the service to Newcastle platform.

It was stated, however, that should such users need access

then the signalman would open the padlocked gates on request. Cllr Fletcher queried whether this would be the same signalman who rarely, if ever, informed the travelling public of changes to the timetable?

It was recommended that a very strong letter should be written to Head Office requesting an explanation for this change of use and outlining the hardships encountered.

Minutes of Previous council meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising: In response to the problems outlined by David McVay last month the Clerk reported that the Police would be enforcing the No Parking Order. Some scepticism was voiced at this. Also the Co-op had apparently applied to Highways for the construction of a layby.

Old Bridge parapet: No reply had been received.

Playground: This had been discussed by The Shaftoe Trust Governors who had agreed to the proposal. Cllr Mitchell would co-ordinate planning with Tynedale. It was stressed that plan should include space for adults.

Regional Appraisal: Cllr Charlton outlined the ongoing process in this wide region and that a document would be produced by the end of November showing a list of strengths and weaknesses with the Haydon Bridge appraisal as a tail-piece. Things are moving fast, a timetable has been set but there is really a lack of sufficient time to concentrate on issues.

Lighting: North Bank problem has been fixed and the one at Shaftoe is not required. Trees have been cut back.

Bridge: Loose handrail has been fixed.

Brown Signs: Cllr Parkin is not at all happy with the response that because the village is not bypassed, we can't have this type of sign! Because the village is not a 'business' they can not be erected. He did say that there were 'businesses' in the village – doesn't that count?

Library: Council requested that recently produced flyers could be circulated with the forthcoming issue of the Haydon News. Agreed by the Editor.

Tynedale Council Minutes: Cllr Mitchell reported that the development of Innerhaugh would be going ahead but that he had proposed that only 35 houses should be built. All 48 would go ahead!

Bellway had changed their plans to now include, stone facing, chimneys (false?), construction of a 1.4m wall. Also the A69 would be straightened to permit the construction of a proper pathway. Concerns expressed at likely increase in speed of traffic entering the village from the west. Reassurances given that measures would be taken to slow it.

Objections had been received for the construction of two houses on the **Old Foundry Yard**.

H.E.R.S: £50,000 is to be provided towards the completion of the scheme. Decisions on how to use this would be discussed at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday 14th November at the Methodist Church.

Cllr Mitchell has requested a FULL report, including audited accounts from TDC but this is still to appear. A full investigation is underway into the whole debacle, and the Chair suggested that comprehensive notes should be kept at this meeting.

Highways: A new Pelican crossing is now in operation. Cllr Charlton has been appalled at Road Link's attitude while work was underway. No consideration was given to pedestrians wanting to cross the A69. A strong letter should be written to Road Link at Stocksfield outlining these points and that they be made aware that people matter.

Lighting: Two lights are off, either side of the new Pelican crossing. Serial numbers not known.

Planning: Two dwellings at Heslop's Yard and more masts at Wharmley & Keepersfield for BT Cellnet.

Correspondence: Sustrans stated that use would be made of the Stanegate Road north of the village rather than coming through it.

Shaftoe Charities: Accounts were ready for perusal and that Cllrs Garrow and Stephenson be re-appointed to the Board. They agreed.

Northumberland County Council has produced the Annual Report as well as a book dealing with the last 50 years.

Monica Strell report (comparative study) has now been published and is in the Library.

Fire Safety: All households in Tynedale are to be visited to survey what fire precautions are in place. Recommendations will be made if necessary.

Spa Well: This item was raised by Mr Snowdon (Editor of *Haydon News*) last month, and was asked for his current views. He said that, arising from enquiries from visitors about the Haydon Spa, something should be done to rescue it from the current neglect. Yes, subsidence had occurred in two places preventing direct access to the well, and to the commemorative seat, but maybe access could be provided from the east side. It would be a terrible shame if the well was to be allowed to disappear as, given the present atmosphere of trying to give tourism a higher priority, it could be an attraction as once it was. Perhaps the owner of the land, the land agents and the Council should meet to look at the problem. This was considered, but in the meantime a Civil Engineer should be approached for an idea of what it might cost to put things right. An approach would be made to Brian Bell in the village.

A.O.B. Hadrian's Wall/National Park: Cllr Garrow indicated that a survey of 500 visitors had identified their needs. Local food, farmers markets and entertainment being high on the list. Comments?

"Writing on the Wall" An approach would be made to the Rainbow Writers in the village.

Foot & Mouth: The Blue Box zone may be lifted in a couple of weeks.

Disinfectant Spraying on Church Street: Less than adequate.

Unsafe Electrics in School Farm field: Recent reports of a cow being electrocuted through this faulty equipment.

Remembrance Service: Request that a lady be asked to 'read out names' as well as a gentleman. Cllr Garrow agreed to be the one.

Village Design Schemes: Cllr Mitchell felt that villagers should be encouraged to become involved with planning matters before things happened. Perhaps Innerhaugh might have turned out differently had this happened.

RADS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Please see the notice board, next to the Butcher's shop for the venue. The General Public is welcome as the first part of every meeting invites Public Participation. Have your say – Brickbats and Bouquets!!

HAYDON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr D Charlton	684 505
Mrs E Charlton	684 505
(Chair) Mr E J Faulks	Chesterwood Park
Mrs V A Fletcher	
Mrs E Garrow	684 324
Mrs L Gilhespy	684 632
Mr S B Mitchell	684 980 *
Mr M R Parkin	684 340
Mrs L A Philp	
Mr D C Smith	684 480 *
Mr T J Stephenson	

* also Tynedale District Councillors

PARISH CLERK

HISTORICAL NOTES OF HAYDON BRIDGE -- Dennis Telford

It often takes just one incident, chance meeting or name from the past to awaken the memory and inspire recollections of friends and events of earlier years.

Three such occurrences within the space of a couple of weeks recently had me searching for old school photographs and memorabilia.

The 34th Morpeth Gathering took place this year and an article in the Newcastle Journal referred to the figurehead, the Town Bailiff, the famous "Morpeth Gadgy" the retired Head Teacher Alex Swailes. A photograph accompanying the article confirmed that the "Gadgy" in question was Alex Swailes, or Mr. Swailes as he was to me then, who taught Woodwork and Games at Shaftoe Trust School in the 1950's. As I recall it Mr. Swailes took over from Arthur Robinson, a fine but very strict teacher, and a young Alex Swailes was for us like a 'breath of fresh air'.

My fondest memory of his time at Shaftoe Trust Concerned a combined Northumberland Schools trip to Rothesay and the Kyles of Bute. On the return train journey, Mr. Swailes entertained us throughout with Geordie songs and humour. I know that my own interest in traditional North East song was inspired by his performance on that train from Scotland.

It appears from the Journal article that Alex Swailes had lost none of his lively enthusiasm.

Do you remember Dorothy Bell? I'm sure that the boys at Shaftoe Trust in the 1950's will! Dorothy was a pupil from Haltwhistle and was at her best in tight-fitting polo-necked jumpers. On a recent visit to this country from her home in New Zealand, she sampled the culinary delights served up at the 'Haydon Hotel' and afterwards, just by chance, we met up again not having seen each other for forty-four years.

It was a joy to relive some of our Shaftoe Trust School memories, but I promised not to dwell on the liaisons which took place in the warm poultry sheds while on 'chicken duty'.

No doubt other pupils of that era will also have fond memories of that extra curricular activity!

Kevin Johnson was also a recent visitor to our village and we spent an enjoyable evening discussing his time as a young boy at Haydon Bridge.

The Johnson family moved into the house on John Martin Street previously occupied by Jack and Vi Leathard and their family, John, Ann and baby Vivien.

Kevin went to Hexham Grammar and will be remembered by others who went to that school. It is many years since the family moved from our village to North Northumberland. (I know that because Kevin told me that when he left, John Welton was a fine cricketer at the top of his form!)

Readers of the 'Haydon News' may well have clearer memories of Kevin's older brother, Barry, or 'Baz' who went to Shaftoe Trust. Barry lives in Australia now but has maintained contact over the years through Ann and our dear friend, the late Leonard Burrows. Barry has also visited Haydon Bridge.

From 1948, pupils from all over Northumberland had been selected by interview to attend our village school, to take part in the Agriculture and Horticulture courses introduced by Mr. Walker and further developed by Edward Waite. By 1955, Secondary pupils from our own and neighbouring Parishes were outnumbered by pupils from other districts across the county.

Remarkably, in my class of 1955, there were only two other village children, Linda Ridley and Ian Stewart, out of a total of thirty-three.

Pupils living away from home lodged at Haydon Park and in the homes of village people. Lizzie Philipson of Rose Tree Cottage, Mrs. Wilson of Park Style Cottage, Mrs. Moore, Colin and Mrs. Ward and Robin and Winnie Armstrong of John Martin Street and Mrs. 'Tosh' Reay of Whittis Crescent were among those who provided lodgings for boys and girls with whom we grew up in our formative years and made such memorable friendships.

During my search for Shaftoe Trust memorabilia I have come across my copy of a programme from the school Sports Day in 1955. I include the programme in this month's notes and hope that it brings back as many memories to you as it does to me. Mr. Swailes, Dorothy Bell and Barry Johnson all played their part along with others you are sure to remember.

The Sports Shield was won that evening by the Martin House with 114 points followed by Shaftoe, 102 points and Stephenson, 86 points. I have counted thirteen village children who took part. Do you agree?

Bob Stokoe of Newcastle United presented the trophies and he was a popular guest as the 'Magpies' had won the F.A. Cup just two months earlier, beating Manchester City 3 - 1 at Wembley.

A competitive team spirit was a dominant element of the school's philosophy in the 1950's and the following day, Tuesday 19th July was an 'Open Day' at Shaftoe Trust. Four hundred pupils were involved and the captains of the most successful 'houses' during the year received their awards.

For the Juniors; Trevor Stewart and Maureen Brown (Stephenson) and for the Seniors; Terence Pigg and Ann Hunter (Martin). The Head Boy in 1955 was Ben Atkinson and the Head Girl, Jill Ewart.

I feel very fortunate to have enjoyed almost every minute of my school-days at Shaftoe Trust in spite of the physical and mental reprimands dished out by Mr. Waite in his pursuit of excellence. In the end these punishments didn't do us any harm, did they?

My over-riding memory is of the very real quality and commitment of the Staff and the special friendships with other boys and girls from the village and across Northumberland. Failing the 11-plus wasn't such a disaster after all and I still got the two wheeler Raleigh bike I was promised!

(continued over)

So, did YOU wear a Blue, Red or Yellow shoulder tag?

If you come across the 'Haydon News' perhaps on the internet, where are you now?

Please add to our archive of Haydon Bridge's social history by dropping us a line or e-mail with your memories of time spent in our village.

If you seek further information on Shaftoe Trust School and the Reverend John Shaftoe's Charity, Mr. Coombes' fine booklet is still available and charts the history from 1697 to 1962.

EVENTS.	MARTIN.	STEPHENSON.	SHAFTO.
40. Long Jump Open Boys	D. Stevenson	D. Ferrow D. Ashworth	R. Lee I. Robson
41. High Jump Open Girls	J. Longstaff M. Fairbairn 2	E. Irving W. Longstaff	G. Baynes 3 I. Rowell 1
42. 1 Mile Open Boys	D. Stevenson 1	B. Atkinson 3 R. Stannard 2	D. Black G. Common
43. Relay Race Inter. Boys (4 x 110 yds.)	A. Brown R. Keenleyside C. Dobson D. Philipson	I. Stewart R. Thompson K. Hamilton B. Scott	D. Telford B. Rennison J. Worthington N. Keen
44. Relay Race Inter. Girls (4 x 110 yds.)	M. Worthington M. Bell V. Scott D. Tuanah	A. Davies A. Sinclair H. Harding A. Anderson	G. Baynes H. Connolly M. Holmes J. Tully
45. Relay Race Open Boys (4 x 110 yds.)	B. Hall T. Batey D. Stevenson D. Tait	L. Archer R. Gerry R. Stannard D. Ferrow	A. McNeillie I. Robson W. Nesbit B. Hogg
46. Relay Race Open Girls (4 x 110 yds.)	J. Longstaff A. Hunter A. Thomson M. Fairbairn	J. Adamson I. Stappard E. Banks A. Davies	J. Lowdon I. Rowell M. Little P. Rowland
47. Relay Race Mixed (4 x 110 yds.)	M. Fairbairn D. Tunnah T. Batey B. Hall	A. Anderson E. Irving L. Archer D. Ferrow	P. Rowland M. Little D. Telford A. McNeillie

Red Shoulder

SHAFTOE TRUST SCHOOL ATHLETIC MEETING MONDAY, JULY 18th, 1955, at 6-30 p.m. At Haydon Park.

Mr. BOB STOKOE (Newcastle United F.C.) will present the Sports Trophy to the Captains of the winning House.

OFFICIALS.

Clerk of the Course—Mr. E. Waite.

Gate-keepers—S. Trill, D. White.

Chief Whips—Mr. Forster, T. Batey, M. Proctor.

Judges—TRACK EVENTS—S. Smith, S. Skelly, K. Burn.

FIELD EVENTS—Mr. J. Waite, Mr. Nicholson, J. Sowerby.

Track Stewards—L. Dixon, C. Ushaw, A. Hutchison.

Referee—Mr. A. Swales.

Scorers—Mrs. E. Waite, Miss O. Dury, Miss K. Liddle.

Programmes—M. Hutchinson, B. Brown, R. Henderson.

Starter—Mr. C. Coombes.

Refreshments.

MARTIN HOUSE—Blue Shoulder Tag.

STEPHENSON HOUSE—Red Shoulder Tag.

SHAFTO HOUSE—Yellow Shoulder Tag.

POINTS—Field Events and Track Events—1st, 3; 2nd, 2; 3rd, 1.

Relay Races—1st, 6 points; 2nd, 4 points; 3rd, 2 points.

Age Groups—Under 13 years July 1st, 1955 (Junior).

Under 15 years July 1st, 1955 (Intermediate).

Open.

EVENTS.	MARTIN.	STEPHENSON.	SHAFTO.
1. 100 yds. Junior Boys	A. Graham 2 P. Dixon	R. Fox I. Leslie	T. Milburn 1 L. Lamb 3
2. 100 yds. Junior Girls	Ann Davies 2 M. Worthington	M. Niel 1 E. Irving 3	D. Bell M. Walton
3. 100 yds. Inter. Boys	A. Brown R. Keenleyside	I. Stewart 3 R. Lowe	D. Nuttall 1 J. Gibson 2
4. 100 yds. Inter. Girls	M. Bell 2 D. Tunnah 1	A. Anderson A. Davies 3	M. Blackburn H. Connolly
5. 100 yds. Open Boys	B. Hall 1 D. Tait 3	L. Archer 2	A. McNeillie G. Common
6. 100 yds. Open Girls	A. Hunter E. Ewart 3	A. Anderson	I. Rowell 1 P. Rowland 2
7. Throwing Cricket Ball Inter. Boys	J. Harbottle G. Bowran	R. Thompson 3 B. Scott 2	B. Rennison D. Nuttall 1
8. Throwing Cricket Ball Open Boys	T. Batey 3 I. Dodds	D. Ferrow 1 S. Skelly	I. Robson 2 B. Burn
9. High Jump Junior Boys	A. Graham 2 D. Anderson	I. Charlton 3 W. Keenleyside	T. Milburn 1 R. Clementson
10. Long Jump Junior Girls	E. Hill G. Leadbitter	M. Neil E. Gilchrist	D. Bell K. Hodgson
11. 100 yds. Inter. Girls	M. Bell 1 G. Dryden	A. Davies 3 M. Niel 2	H. Connolly J. Tully
12. 150 yds. Open Girls	A. Thomson M. Fairbairn 1	A. Anderson E. Irving	J. Lowdon 3 M. Little 2
13. 220 yds. Inter. Boys	J. Harbottle R. Swallow	B. Brown I. Stewart	B. Hogg 2 B. Rennison 1
14. 220 yds. Inter. Girls	G. Dryden V. Scott 1	H. Harding 2	G. Baynes 3 H. Connolly
15. 220 yds. Open Boys	B. Hall 1 C. Ushaw	L. Archer 2	A. McNeillie 3
16. 220 yds. Open Girls	M. Fairbairn 1 A. Longlands	D. Bell 2	M. Little 3 J. Lowdon
17. 220 yds. Junior Boys	B. Brown 3 D. Anderson	R. Duffy 1 D. Ritchie	J. Little L. Lamb 2
18. High Jump Junior Girls	H. Mack H. Emerson 2	E. Irving 3 W. Longstaff 1	M. Walton E. Hall
19. Long Jump Junior Boys	P. Dixon A. Graham	R. Duffy	J. Little L. Lamb
20. 440 yds. Inter. Boys	G. Bowran 3 D. Philipson B. Rennison 2	I. Stewart	D. Telford 1

EVENTS.	MARTIN.	STEPHENSON.	SHAFTO.
21. 440 yds. Open Boys	B. Hall	R. Gerry B. Atkinson	T. Milburn 1 B. Rennison
22. High Jump Open Boys		D. Ferrow 1 D. Ashworth 2	J. Worthington 3 T. Carnatfin
23. Throwing Rounders Ball Junior Girls	E. Hill 1 M. Worthington 3	V. Ridley 2 W. Longstaff	D. Bell J. Scalf
24. Long Jump Inter. Boys	S. Hodgson D. Bowman	I. Ledgerwood K. Churchill	D. Nuttall J. Worthington
25. Throwing Rounders Ball Inter. Girls	V. Scott 3 V. Bell	H. Harding	H. Newton 1 M. Holmes 2
26. Skipping Junior Girls	E. Bowman H. Emerson 2	D. Bowman 3 W. Longstaff 1	D. Bell M. Walton
27. 440 yds. Junior Boys	B. Brown 2 T. Robson	R. Fox 1 D. Tapson	T. Milburn 3 J. Little
28. Throwing Rounders Ball Open Girls	D. Tunnah 2 G. Longstaff	W. Longstaff	H. Newton 1 M. Gilchrist M. Holmes 3
29. Long Jump Inter. Girls	A. Hutchinson D. Weymes	A. Sinclair E. Banks	M. Holmes A. Turnbull
30. High Jump Inter. Girls	D. Tuanah 2 A. Hutchinson	A. Sinclair S. Broad 3	G. Baynes 1 M. Blackburn
31. 800 yds. Inter. Boys	J. Sowerby	I. Ledgerwood 3 B. Johnson	N. Keen 1 J. Worthington 2
32. 800 yds. Open Boys	D. Stephenson 1	R. Gerry R. Stannard 2	B. Hogg 3 G. Common
33. Skipping Open Girls	A. Hunter 3 E. Ewart	J. Adamson I. Stappard	I. Rowell 2 M. Little 1
34. Skipping Inter. Girls	M. Bell 3 V. Scott 2	H. Harding A. Davies 1	M. Holmes
35. High Jump Inter. Boys	J. Harbottle 1 R. Keenleyside 2	B. Scott 1 A. Pulford	N. Keen T. Forster
36. Long Jump Open Girls	A. Longlands G. Longstaff 1	J. Adamson I. Stappard	P. Rowland J. Lowdon
37. Throwing Cricket Ball Junior Boys	C. Hamilton P. Routledge 3	R. Fox 2 I. Charlton 1	R. Clementson J. Walker
38. Relay Race Junior Girls (4 x 110 yds.)	A. Davies E. Bowman H. Emerson M. Worthington	E. Irving J. Bates D. Bowman M. Noale	M. Walton D. Bell M. Pyle E. Hill
39. Relay Race Junior Boys (4 x 110 yds.)	A. Graham T. Robson M. Charlton B. Brown	R. Fox I. Charlton D. Tapson I. Leslie	J. Little L. Lamb T. Milburn R. Clementson

HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

Date	Competition	H/A	Opponent	Result	Score
Saturday 22 September	Division 2	A	Benwell	D	2 - 2
Saturday 29 September	LC r2	H	Chopwell Top Club	L	1 - 2
Saturday 6 October	d2 c	A	Otterburn	W	6 - 1
Saturday 13 October	Division 2	A	Newcastle B Tel	W	4 - 1
Saturday 20 October	Division 2	H	Northumbria University	D	1 - 1

'100 Club' Draw

OCTOBER

£30 141 Julie Burns
 £15 039 Keith Carruthers
 £10 041 Jeff Brown
 £ 5 147 Mary Marshall
 £ 5 052 Dan Clarke

HBFC '100 Club' There are still numbers available. If you'd like to take part in the Monthly Draw, just call in at J&M Clarke's on Church and ask for a '100 Club' number. The draw takes place on the first *Tuesday* of each month at the Railway Hotel, and for the price of a Lottery ticket it's a great way to support all the village football teams.

Haydon Bridge Frize Bingo & Presentation Night takes place at the Haydonian Social Club on 10th November starting at 7.30pm. Prizes include a Pair of Platinum Club Tickets for a Newcastle United match, Dinner for two at Langley Castle, Bottle of Gin, Radio Cassette and many more. There will also be the presentation of a large cheque to the Cancer Bridge Charity, and the Edward Waite Trophy will be awarded to one of the village's most promising young sportsmen.

There's a **West Tyne Junior Football Match** taking place at Low Hall Park on Saturday morning, 17th November. Several of the West Tyne team are from Haydon Bridge.

The '**all weather pitch**', with floodlighting and changing rooms are available for hire. For more details phone *Avril* on 01 434 684 745. Costs are around £15.00 per hour.

Alistair Burrowes

Editor's note.

Give the following - www.geocities.com/aliofhaydon/index.html - a visit. You'll be pleasantly surprised!

OVER 60's CLUB

The Over 60's welcomed a new member, Mrs Gladys Scott and wished Mrs Mary Lockhart a very Happy Birthday.

Future meetings will take place *every second Wednesday in the month* but time has been changed from the evening to the afternoon.

To avoid the dark nights the meet-

ings will be from **2.00pm to 4.00pm** in the Community Centre for the winter.

It was decided that the Over 60's would contribute a donation to the Autumn Fair and would make the refreshments rather than take a stall.

It was also decided, by a show of hands, that the Christmas Dinner would be a more formal one, the venue to be arranged.

The speaker at the November meeting will be Mrs Pauline Tulip who will demonstrate making Christmas Cards and Table Decorations.

LANGLEY W.I.

Due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak the Langley W.I. is still suspended.

Myra Bowen

*Tynedale Council,
Hexham House, Hexham,
Northumberland, NE46 3NH*

PRESS RELEASE

**IBIZA MANIA HITS
TYNEDALE**

Awesome sound and spectacular lights plus top DJ's and MC's are in store for North East teenagers when **IBIZA MANIA** hits Hexham's Wentworth Leisure Centre for the first time in Tynedale or Tyneside, on Saturday 10th November, 6.30pm to 11.00pm

A frenzied mix of the best hard-house, happy hardcore, trance and Ibiza classics will launch the biggest party Tynedale has ever seen.

What's more, if you're prepared to 'strut your stuff' on the night, you can audition in advance to be a stage dancer or guest DJ. Auditions will take place on Sunday 4th November, 1.00pm - 3.00pm at the Wentworth Leisure Centre. The best dancers auditioned will get free VIP entry to the event. If you're a talented DJ then turn up with your records and headphones and show the judges your mixing skills. Selected dancers and DJs will be given a spot on the night to perform alongside the professionals.

The event is jointly hosted by Leisure Tynedale and Mania Productions, the UK's leading under 18 dance event organizers.

Juan Latour from **IBIZA MANIA** said, "We are looking forward to presenting the first dance event of its kind in Hexham. The combination of a massive stage, brand new sound system, top DJs and sessions from local talent will create a great atmosphere and fun night out to remember. We have really big plans for future events which will include foam parties and other attractions. DJs for the opening event are coming from Liverpool, Whitehaven, Carlisle and across from Ireland. We pride ourselves at providing a stunning and very safe environment in which youngsters can socialize. I urge parents and their children to take a look at our website which has many pictures of our other events".

David Thompson, Chairman of Leisure Tynedale, which manages Wentworth Leisure Centre in Hexham said, "We are very excited that we can host such a spectacular event designed specially for 13 - 17 year olds. We are always keen to find events for this age group and **IBIZA MANIA** offers teenagers a different kind of experience to anything we have offered in the past".

The door policy will be very strict.

No thugs; no drugs; no cigarettes; no alcohol and no bad attitudes. Non-alcoholic refreshments and glow-sticks will be available inside.

Tickets in advance from Wentworth Leisure Centre, Hexham, or £6.50 on the door.

Ticket Hotline: **01434 607 080**.

For further details call Juan on: **07990 588 580**, or visit the website: www.ibizamania.co.uk. Ibiza Mania offer a free text messaging service. Join up on the website and receive information via your mobile phone before anyone else.

Juan Latour, the organizer for **IBIZA MANIA**, will be visiting the four main high schools in the district to give demonstrations on what is in store at the opening party night in the two weeks running up to the event. The schools will be Haydon Bridge High Ponteland High, Queen Elizabeth High and Prudhoe High School.

Coming soon: Pre-Christmas Foam Party at the Wentworth Leisure Centre, Hexham on Saturday 15th December.

**the
shaftoe charities**

*Shaftoe Educational Foundation
Almshouse Charity of John Shaftoe*

*Reg. No. 528101
Reg. No. 506598*

ALMS HOUSES ON SHAFTOE TERRACE

The Trustees invite applications for residence in an Almshouse on Shaftoe Terrace.

These one-bedroomed cottages are available for occupation by people who are: Aged at least 60, Resident in Haydon Parish and able to show a genuine need for more suitable accommodation.

Applicants are required to complete a questionnaire and to attend an interview before a small panel of Trustees.

Application forms are available from J & M Clarke (Newsagents) on Church Street or from the Clerk on request by telephone on: **01 434 684 298**

Clerk to the Governors/Trustees: J P Richardson, MA LIB FCIS.

THE ADVENTURES OF AN OLD AGE TRAVELLER – by S.E.P



Barbara's Breakfast

The fish wriggled frantically in Barbara's grasp, until it managed to slither free, and plop noiselessly back into the water.

Wisps of wiry hair shrouded Barbara's vision, so she pushed them back under the dirty woollen hat framing her wizened old face. Barbara kicked the dirt at the water's edge, then hoisting up her tattered skirts high above the knee waded back in again. Sludge up to her thighs she tensed her body against the icy flow.

Sometime later she emerged; one solitary fish clasped to her ample bosom. Grabbing the bank-side she hauled herself up onto dry land. Water seeped from her old worn boots; she moved her toes and listened to the squelching sounds break the dawn silence.

Barbara gathered up sticks from the ground and built herself a small fire. Lighting it with her tinderbox she watched as the flames flickered and danced, spreading their warmth right through her.

She threw the un-gutted fish onto the glowing embers where it sizzled and spat angrily. From around her neck Barbara took the black wood-smoked kettle and filled it to the brim with river water. Then she reached inside the folds of her long pantaloons and took out the bunch of nettles she'd gathered the previous day. Barbara leaned back against the river-bank and tapping her old clay pipe on the ground out it to her lips and smoked, long, and deep. She watched as the rosy dawn crept over the far away hills. Soon the land would burst alive with people, but now, just at this special time, there was only Barbara and her breakfast.

**HAYDON BRIDGE
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**



Reg Charity No. PH / 522069/R

AUTUMN FAYRE REPORT

Thank you to all who supported the the Autumn Fayre and Table Top Sale on Saturday 13th October in the Community Centre through which £650.00 was raised for Community Centre Funds.

Many thanks to everyone who donated goods to various stalls and to all the helpers who kindly gave up their Saturday afternoon to help run the event.

Lots of prizes were donated for the raffle and one or two are still unclaimed, so if you bought raffle tickets at the Fayre and you have one (or more) of the following numbers please contact **Jean Oliver on: 01 434 684 433** to arrange collection of your prize.

Pink 31 & 40. Yellow 923,786,726,794. Blue 515.

Valerie Bell

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT 'THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE'
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please find enclosed subscription of to 'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'

Name:

Address:

Minimum donation £1.20. Larger donations most welcome. Cheques payable to: 'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'.

You may leave your envelopes in Marsh's or John Clarkes Newsagents. Or, you can post them to:

The Treasurer, FOHB, High Brindles, Heugh House Lane, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6HJ

'THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE'**Dates and Times of Meetings**

Committee Meetings are held at 8.00pm on the **TUESDAY** following the fourth **THURSDAY** of each month.

Venue: The Community Centre, Haydon Bridge

Public Participation

Our invitation to members of the public to participate continues, but it must be remembered these are the monthly meetings of a constitutionally-based committee which are run on formal business lines (agenda, minutes, reports, etc). For this reason, public participation will in future be restricted to a maximum of the first 30 minutes of every meeting only. Items for discussion must be notified in writing to the Chair one week in advance of the meeting so that Committee members can be advised, enabling worthwhile discussion to take place. The Chair will then advise the person concerned of the right to attend.

After the allotted time we ask that you leave the meeting so that the Committee can continue with their formal agenda.

Charles Thomas, Chairman.

Tynedale Citizens Advice Bureau

We hold a free, confidential, independent advice and information session at:

The Health Centre, Haydon Bridge
on Monday afternoons
from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

We can give you advice and information on:

Social Security Benefits	Money Problems
Consumer Rights	Problems at work
Relationship issues	Housing
Employment	Legal Proceedings

And much more try us!

We can help you fill in forms, draft letters, negotiate by telephone or letter, and prepare Social Security reviews or appeals.

Ring the Health Centre (01 434 684 216) to make an appointment or, if required, to arrange for a home visit.

MUSIC and MOVEMENT

Calling all Mums! Did you know that there is a Music and Movement group running in Haydon Bridge?

We meet at the Methodist Church on Friday afternoons (1.10pm and 1.50pm) during term time.

This is a fun get-together for Mums and pre-school children alike which involves singing, instrument playing and movement with coffee and orange juice served afterwards.

Please contact **Susie Steven** on:

01 434 674 260 for further details.

ACHES and PAINS?

Do you or your pet suffer from aches or pains?

Why not wear a **MAGNETIC** product?

With a money back guarantee, it must be worth a try.

For more information contact:

Iris Stafford Four Winds
Heugh House Lane
Haydon Bridge
NE47 6ND

Telephone / Fax: **01 434 688 014**

**THE
RAILWAY
INN**

*Fourstones
Hexham
NE47 5DG*

Telephone/Fax: **01 434 674 711**
OPEN ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

Excellent Home-made Lunches (12 - 3)
& Evening Meals (6 - 9)

Bar and Restaurant menu available

Sunday Lunches our speciality (12 - 6)

Quiz Night every Thursday (8.30 on)

Regular live music from the NE's top entertainers

Contact **Malcolm or Rebecca** for information

**IAN BURROWS
Carpentry**

All types of work undertaken

** Purpose made joinery*

** UPVC Windows & Doors*

** Free quotations/ Estimates*

Tel: 01 434 684 623 Mobile: 07748 734 673

HAYDON BRIDGE JUDO CLUB.

Keep Fit and Have Fun!
Young and Old welcome.

On Tuesdays at Haydon Bridge High School

Juniors: 6pm - 7pm

Seniors: 7pm - 9pm

BJA Qualified Coaches

Contact Michael on: **01434 684 783**



Everest
FIT THE BEST

**Windows & Doors, Garage doors
Conservatories & Roof line.**

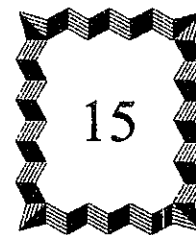
Kevin Welton Tel: 016977 41327

The £10 Crossword

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....



1.	2.		3.		4.		5.		6.		7.		8.	
9.									10.					
			11.											
	12.													
13.							14.				15.			
					16.									
17.											18.			
									19.					
20.			21.											
													22.	
23.							24.							
25.									26.					

Entries to be received by the Editor on or before MONDAY 19th November.

Best of luck

Please hand in your entry to:

any of the businesses indicated at the top of Page 2

or by post to: The Editor, Wheelsteads, Woodhall Mill, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6AS

ACROSS

- 1, 23. Comical mis-spelling of error in buildings. (6,6)
- 5. Real thug gives a response. (8)
- 9. Incredible amusingly linked with completely. (8)
- 10. Lola. (6)
- 11. Set off in boat. (4,3,2,3)
- 13. See 5 down.
- 14. Between Capricorn and Cancer. (8)
- 17. Hopeful. (8)
- 18. Writer. (4)
- 20. Film starring Zero. (3,9)
- 23. See 1 across.
- 24. eg 12 of 3 (8)
- 25. No street organised for routine. (3,5)
- 26. For sword. (6)

DOWN

- 2. Oh dear. (4)
- 3. Ireland water. (5,4)
- 4. Guard farmer? (6)
- 5, 13 across Not an early Beaujolais (4,2,3,6,4)
- 6. Loosen up. (8)
- 7. Greeting. (5)
- 8. Proved innocent. (10)
- 12. William's aim at Hasting. (3,1,6)
- 15. Unmoved apparently. (9)
- 16. A luxury car in France? Almost. (8)
- 19. Of the ball. (6)
- 21. Fold. (5)
- 22. Sharpe's landscape character. (4)

Solution to Crossword number 14 will be found on page 13

WHIST DRIVES

Langley Village Hall

**POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
DUE TO F&M CRISIS**

Solution to crossword (14)

*Eleven (11) entries were received
and all were correct.
Well done.*

- Joyce Douglas
- Susan Stephenson
- Rene Armstrong
- A. Phillips
- Dennis Telford
- B. Pearson
- Denis Bell
- Philida Irving
- Maureen Robson
- Rosemary Shout
- A. M. Scott

TINY TOTS

From Birth to 3 years.

The sessions, run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9.30 to 11.30 at St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, aim to provide a friendly environment where parents / carers can meet, have a coffee and chat, whilst the children play and have fun.

Cost: £1 for the first child, 50p for each additional child.

For further information contact

Genevieve Stone on: **01 434 684 537** or call in at one of the sessions.

PLAYGROUP

From 2 years 6 months

Playgroup currently runs on Monday and Friday mornings from 9.15 to 11.45. Each session provides your child with the opportunity to learn through play and to experience a wide range of activities. Children learn, through play, to communicate effectively and happily, at their own pace, with other children and adults. Playgroup is run by a qualified Nursery Nurse Teacher plus assistants.

Cost: £3 per session.

For further information contact Helen Easby on: **01 434 674 371** or call in at one of the sessions.

St Cuthbert's Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.



£10 winner out of the hat:

Rosemary Shout

P	S	B			A	C	A						
E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	P	R	O	M	P	T
E	A	T	U	P	M	P							
A	C	E	R	T	A	M	I	L	T	I	G	E	R
T				E	B	E	C	A					
K	R	O	N	E	R	E	X	P	O	S	U	R	E
U	O					R	I	T					
M	O	T	H	E	R	J	E	E	R	E	D		
		T	N	C				I	I				
S	P	L	I	N	T	E	R	R	E	P	O	S	E
I	N	H	I	E									T
T	A	N	G	E	R	I	N	E	S	F	L	A	T
N	H	O	A	E	A	N							
D	O	M	A	I	N	N	O	N	E	S	U	C	H
S	M	E						T	T	E			

EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE HAYDON NEWS

The editorial policy of the *Haydon News* is ultimately the responsibility of the Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge', although day-to-day responsibility is delegated to the Editorial Committee of the *Haydon News*. Our intention is always to ensure that the content of the *Haydon News* is as fair and factually correct as possible. Any complaints concerning editorial policy should be addressed in writing to the Chairman of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge', and will be considered by and receive a formal response from the Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'. Complaints other than those made above will not be entertained.

The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide which letters are to be published, and to alter or shorten letters when necessary. Anonymous letters will NOT be published. A nom-de-plume may be used provided that the Editorial Committee has been advised of the writer's name and address.

Charles Thomas, (Chairman)
South View, Heugh House Lane,
Haydon Bridge, NE47 6ND

DEADLINE: All contributions to the Haydon News to reach the Editor no later than Monday 19th November 2001.

CHURCH PAGE

CLERGY MESSAGE

Father Leo Pyle

Nothing can ever be the same. The horror of the after of September 11 in America are still a nightmare. And nothing can ever be the same again. In a world changing so fast in any case, September 11 is mega-cataclysm. Mind blowing! Spirit-zapping! Total discouragement! And our world becomes a desert.

But then our world has always been a desert. And this time is a desert time. Like the years our ancestors, God's people, spent in the desert searching for their own country. Like the days Jesus spent in the wilderness. Out of these times came life and growth and grace.

Hence our Haydon Bridge Mission 2002. We must be expectant in our faith and in each other. Even in our pain and puzzlement, we can read the good signs of the times. The drawing together of humanity. The universal prayer for justice and peace. And men and women of goodwill are letting go attitudes which are no longer appropriate, our divisions and our prejudices.

So Haydon Bridge Mission 2002 is about good news. We are going for the Gospel, that life is good and life is worth living to the full. We need to be open and trustful with each other, addressing the difficulties we all experience, learning from each other, looking for and sharing good Christian practice of prayer and care.

We need to affirm each other and be positive. Growth does not take place without warmth and nourishment. We are rightly concerned about our own life and faith, but we must be outward-looking also. It is God's work to which we are committed – that is, the salvation and well-being of all, whatever their religious, ethnic or racial background.

WHAT NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS HAVE SAID ABOUT SEPTEMBER 11 AND ITS AFTERMATH

The Most Revd Patrick Kelly, vice-president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference:

To let others' inhumanity diminish our own would grant terrorism a victory. Any war should be waged with legality, restraint and proportionality.

Christopher Mayfield, Anglican bishop of Manchester:

For all the tragedy that took place on 11 September, with the loss of nearly 7000 lives, that number is relatively small compared with the number of people who die each year through lack of clean water and poverty. Yet we do not marshal all our energy ... to support the relief of poverty in the world.

October / November 2001



CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN HAYDON BRIDGE AN INDEPENDENT SUPPLEMENT TO THE HAYDON NEWS

MORE ON MISSION 2002

At its executive meeting last month, **CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN HAYDON BRIDGE** agreed to events and programmes to help new people to hear the Gospel. People need to know that there is hope.

An open Prayer Group will be started by Claire Dawson, a member of St John's Roman Catholic church, and its first meetings will be held in the presbytery. At the same time, there are one or two spare spaces for members of all churches in the regular Thursday evening meeting of members of the Methodist Church.

An Alpha Course (like the one featured on Channel 4) will be run in the new year. Many men and women have found a new Christian faith by attending these courses; and others have found a new depth to their existing faith. Haydon Bridge Methodist Church ran an Alpha course five years ago. The training of leaders of the course – endorsed by leaders of all denominations – would take place in Advent.

WHO AND WHERE

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

Rev David Hasson, with the Methodist congregation
The Manse, Moorview, Haltwhistle 320.051

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

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

Mark Santer, Anglican bishop of Birmingham

The current conflict must not be used by any as a basis for division amongst our faiths.

METHODIST
CHURCH SERVICES

November 1st

7.30pm Quiet Garden Service
(Mrs Angela Ashwin)

Sunday November 4th

10.00am Mr Patrick Eavis
6.00pm Mr David Matthews.

Sunday November 11th

10.15am United Service, C of E.
6.00pm Service at Wall

Nov.13th 7.30pm Men's Fellowship

Nov 14th 2.00pm Women's Own

Sunday November 18th

10.00am Family Service: Mark Knowles
6.00pm Rev David Archer

Sunday November 25th

8.30am Rev David Hasson: Sacrament.
10.00am Rev Russell Hilborne
6.00pm Service at Acomb

Nov.27th Men's Christian Feil'sh, 7.30

Nov.28th Women's Own Advent Carols
at Trinity Church, 2.30pm

Sunday December 2nd

10.00am Rev David Thomson
6.00pm Rev David Perkins

David Matthews, the churches' youth worker write in September:

This autumn I am continuing working with Christian teachers at the High School, exploring ways to get me more involved in school activities, as a means of reaching the young people and developing relationships with them.

It was decided that an after-school activity would further strengthen relationships, so I am giving beginners' guitar lessons at the school after the school day has finished. This came at the school's request.

The Youth Club for young people over 13 has begun, with numbers increased because of the flow from the church youth club.

The junior youth club starts at the church on October 1st, on Monday nights, for 9-13 year-olds.

Planned for the not-too-distant future: as part of the churches' Mission 2002, I plan to run a meeting for 7-11 year-olds on the lines of the summer Holiday Club. This will take place monthly throughout 2002.

Angela Ashwin will be the guest speaker at a special service at the Methodist Church on November 1st, to give thanks for the Quiet Garden ministry -- where people can come for prayer and support. Our garden is one of 100s nationwide.

CALENDAR FOR
ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

Nov.1 All Saints Day; 7.30am Commun'n
Nov.2nd 7.00pm All Souls Service.

Nov.4th 4th Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)
10.30am All-Age Service of the Word

Wed. 9th 7.00pm Healing Service

Nov 11th Remembrance Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)
10.15am Remembrance Service, & to War Memorial for 10.55.

Wed.14th 7.30pm Church Council

Thu.15th 7.30pm Worship Group

Sat.17th 2.00pm WINTER FAIR

Nov.18th 2nd Sunday before Advent

10.30am Parish Communion & Sermon

Nov 25th Christ the King

10.30am Parish Communion & Sermon

Wed.28th 7.30pm Mothers' Union

Dec. 2nd Advent Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (Order 2)
10.30am All-Age Service

Remembrance Day will be observed by a service at St Cuthbert's at 10.15. The Rev David Hasson of the Methodist Church will preach. Names will be read at the War Memorial at about 10.55, so that the silence is kept at 11.00. The final 10 minutes of the service (and coffee) will be in the Methodist Church, where members of the congregation will re-dedicate themselves to live for the service of others.

John Carr will be welcomed to co-lead the All-Age service on December 2nd. John, Val and their son and daughter have recently moved to Bardon Mill, where they attend services. John is training to be a Reader, and had a lot of experience leading family worship in the family's former church in Harrogate.

Church Council report October 3rd

* It is taking a long time to get the necessary estimates for repairs to be done to the church, following the 5-yearly inspection, before launching an appeal.

* We discussed the policy of giving ½ of funeral collections to charities chosen by the family of the deceased. It was recognized that these collections are essential to pay insurance premiums, etc. (the church alone costs £1000), but half should be given away as a measure of good will.

* We learned about the plans for mission to be emphasized in 2002, and agreed to support it.

* We were on target to pay our £10,800 Parish Share to the Diocese this year.

SERVICES AT ST JOHN OF
BEVERLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am.

Mass at 11.0 at Haltwhistle each Sunday.

Mass on weekdays (except Mondays), at 10.00am, either at St John's or at St Wilfrid's, Haltwhistle.

Moving stories about Foot and Mouth

From Country Way, magazine of the inter-church national chaplaincy to agriculture.

Although he was speaking over the phone, the tension, depression and uncertainty in his voice were only too apparent. Like so many others who had phoned in, he was finding it difficult to admit how bad things were. He had always given to good causes, and now he had to ask for help himself. 'It's not for me or my family,' he said, 'but for my cattle, so I can keep them in decent fettle.'

Her voice was frail and elderly. She said she was a widow, with few savings, and lived in a flat in central London. She had seen reports about Foot and Mouth on TV. Deeply moved by what she had seen, she desperately wanted to do something to help. She asked for an address so she could send her cheque for £5 to someone who would help 'these poor farmers'.

Two individuals from very different worlds, brought together by disaster. By the end of August, the ARC Addington Fund, organized at the churches' Arthur Rank Centre in Warwickshire, had distributed £8 million to families and individuals affected by Foot & Mouth.

All the collections at Haydon Bridge churches' harvest services went to the fund. If you would like to contribute, send your cheque to the ARC Addington Fund, ARC Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ. If you need help, write, or phone 024. 7699.6460.



In preparation for Mission 2002, you are invited to join a weekly prayer group for open shared prayer to support the work of spreading the Good News. It will be at 7.00 each Tuesday, at the Presbytery at St John's Church, beginning immediately.

AUTUMN RAMBLES

FREE FOOD

The weather over the last year has been kind to the flora of the UK, resulting a bumper crop of free food hanging in the hedgerows just waiting to be picked and enjoyed by anyone with the time and inclination to gather it. We have had kilograms of Blackberries. Mmmmm!

Whilst filling a bucket with wild rose hips, with which to make rose hip wine, a thought occurred to me. Rose hips are very rich in vitamin C which is the vitamin that the olden time long distance sailors got from limes to prevent scurvy. The British seafarer's use of limes in this way resulted in our acquiring our nickname of Limeys.

It occurred to me that had our nautical forebears been more prescient they could have used rose hips instead of limes and then we would be a nation of Hippies! What a glorious flower filled vision that offers.

On a more serious note - be sure beyond all reasonable doubt that you know what you are doing if picking wild plants to eat. Some are fatal! There is a wonderful book called "Food for Free" by Richard Mabey that I warmly recommend to anyone interested in pursuing this topic. If it's not still in print then any competent secondhand bookshop should have no difficulty in locating a copy.

WELTSCHMERZ (pronounced velt-shmerts)

A wonderful German word meaning, literally, world hurt. More generally it can be read as world-weariness or melancholy and sadness at the evil in the world. Heavens knows there's enough wretchedness about to provoke a gloomy apprehension in the average citizen.

If we had any ethnic minorities, especially Afghans, Muslims or Arabs, in the parish, would we all be behaving toward them in the decent and civilised way that, in our hearts, we know we should? I hope so. To break the cycle of violence and retribution that seems to be consuming the world someone has to be the first to turn the other cheek. History will give the laurels to that person or nation - possibly posthumously.

Readers may recall that some months ago I mentioned my fears about a very rare but deadly infection in a patient. Anthrax was what was on my mind but, thank goodness, I was wrong. So please be reassured this practice is aware of such possibilities and knows the correct course of action - just in case. We have had a proper dry run already.

People do suffer from fear and apprehension about events in the world at large even when they are far removed from those events. I have known women delay bearing children because of their fears about what sort of world they would be bringing children into. If you need to unburden there are lots of people about who will listen - us, the parish priests, Samaritans, Child Line.....

FINGERS CROSSED

Have we seen the beginning of the end of Foot & Mouth? Like everyone else I am keeping absolutely everything crossed. As we get back onto an even keel can I ask that everyone consider supporting local shops and farms by exclusively buying local meat produce in local shops.

Please! The farmers need all our support.

ISN'T DAYTIME TV AWFUL! or the value of adult education.

Perhaps it's just because I'm a miserable tightwad (we don't have satellite TV) but isn't daytime TV just the pits. As I was leaving hospital I glimpsed a couple of minutes of it in the waiting room and decided to swear off it for life!

If anyone shows me a creature more windy than a doctor about to be on the 'receiving end' I will show them a fibber of the most flagrant kind. Happily I can report that the whole experience was truly straightforward and much, much less uncomfortable than I had imagined.

Having anaesthetised hundreds of patients in a former existence and having assisted at hundreds of operations on all parts of other people's bodies I had this curious back-of-the-mind suspicion that somehow I would be aware of all the slicing, hammering, chiselling and drilling - a very strange place my head! In fact, anaesthetic was just like switching a light off and straight back on again. Amazing.

For the first time in my professional career I can now say, with confidence, that I know what I'm talking about when discussing operations with patients.

THANK YOU

I am most grateful for the kindness shown by patients in sending cards and their best wishes for my convalescence.

THE ANTICIPATION OF A NEW LOVER'S ARRIVAL

As I have said before and as soon-to-be-announced government guidelines will make clear it is very important that everyone, especially teenagers and young twenties, gets checked REGULARLY for sexually transmitted infections, especially with every change in partner.

I renew my praise for all those who have taken this advice and asked for a check up. A new and very encouraging trend is also appearing in that potential new partners are being sent for checking BEFORE consummation. This is so much more sensible than repenting at leisure. Excellent!

CHAPERONES

Very rarely doctors and others in positions of trust are accused of improper conduct. Even more rarely these accusations are found to be true. This is the reason for offering to have chaperones present during any examination, whether intimate or not, and applies regardless of whether the patient and doctor are the same sex or not or which way round the genders are. This is NOT just about male doctors and female patients.

At every examination couch in the health centre, at eye level, there is a large-print notice offering the presence of a chaperone. The legal recommendation is that a chaperone should be present at ALL examinations. (Constant CCTV monitoring and voice recording of all consultations has also been nationally advocated.) I suspect that many patients would be unhappy with this and so my current *modus operandi* is to ask and abide by the answer given.

A chaperone could be a friend or relative, another doctor, a nurse or a non-clinical member of staff. Boyfriends some times take the role, which shows an encouraging level of support for the girl and a welcome maturity. I have never known a male patient request a chaperone but the offer is still there. As ever, the patient is in charge. SF