

The Haydon News



'The old bridge and weir'

by Tony Petts

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Issue 04

October
2004

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HAYDON NEWS contributions to:

Alastair Bowen,
11 Tynedale Cottages,
Ratcliffe Road,
Haydon Bridge
NE47 6EU
Tel: 01434-684-653

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PRIZE BINGO

Organised by
'The Friends of Haydon
Bridge'

**SATURDAY 27th. NOV.
2004**

7.00pm. to 9.00 pm.

Community Centre
Books of Tickets only 50p
each session of 5 games

Free tea, coffee and
biscuits at half time

Raffle

All age groups are most
welcome to attend.

The evening will be hosted
by
Sylvia and Pauline

'THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE'

Formal Committee Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the **MONDAY** before the fourth **THURSDAY** of each month at The Community Centre, Haydon Bridge.

(The General Public is welcome at the first part of every meeting.)

Any items for discussion must be notified in writing to the Chairman one week in advance of the meeting so that Committee members can be advised, enabling worthwhile discussion to take place. The Chairman will then advise the person concerned of the right

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 Anonymous letters will NOT be published.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 - please contact

Alastair Bowen,
11 Tynedale Cottages,

Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'

(Chairman - position vacant) Mike Parkin (Vice Chairman & Membership Secretary)
Elena Parkin (Secretary) Alastair Bowen (Treasurer and acting Editor)
Pauline Tulip Sylvia Mitchell Louis Parkin

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Another month! Time seems to be passing so quickly for me these days.

Another change! Charles Thomas feels that he can no longer act as Chairman of the 'Friends' and from October 20th has relinquished this position which he has held since before I came to live in Haydon Bridge seven years ago. For all of us I express thanks and appreciation for the time and effort that he has given to the 'Friends', to getting out issues of the Haydon News and to 'behind the scenes' help with the bingo sessions.

The bypass! The other week I kept hearing that a team of men were drilling quite deep holes in the ground in various parts of the village. I assumed that this had something to do with a possible bypass. So I trudged a long way across muddy fields to ask questions and ask whether one of the three men could provide a short written paragraph to include in this issue. I was told that under the terms of their sub-contract they were not permitted to issue statements to 'gentle men of the press' but to get in contact with Kevin Walsh of CVC-highwaysolutions. Five phone calls on successive days and no-one seemed to know where he was. Then, sud-

denly, a leaflet from the Highways Agency announcing – at very short notice - a public meeting on the subject.

For details, see below. Presumably plans for the bypass will not go to a public enquiry so this may be your last chance to exert any influence on details of the route. The turnout of visitors to the last exposition was dismal. Since the construction of a bypass will have many effects on life of the village, I hope that a large number of you will attend the meeting.

Once again I am able to use for the frontispiece a picture from an original coloured painting by Tony Petts. From such a painting a photographic print is made and 'scanned' optically. The 'electronic' picture is transferred to a computer by Malcolm Hogg and transformed by magical technology to a form suitable for printing in black and white.

Only certain subjects are satisfactory for this treatment. So I have started to try and track down photographs of 'old' Haydon Bridge. Have you got any? If so I will be grateful if you will let me know by note to my address 11 Tynedale Cottages, Ratcliffe Road or telephone (684-653). Then if it is convenient I will come round to see you.

Distribution of the Haydon News. A volunteer is needed. Details are on page 4 of this issue.

HIGHWAYS AGENCY A69 Haydon Bridge By-Pass

A review of progress.

Representatives of the contractors CVC HighwaySolutions of Carlisle will be presenting an outline of the present state of the development of the by-pass.

The open meeting will be held in the
Haydon Bridge Community Centre
at 7.30 pm. on Wednesday 3rd. November 2004.
and will be chaired by Esmond Faulks of Haydon Bridge Parish Council

The team will:

- describe the survey work undertaken during the summer
 - outline some of the design issues
- present the latest proposals and invite comments.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to know more about the project please contact
Kevin Walsh
Communications & Liaison Manager,
CVC-highwaysolutions.
Telephone: 01228 673099
Email: kevin.walshcvc-highwaysolutions.co.uk

Wanted!

Distributors of the Haydon News each month One volunteer is needed from January next year to deliver each month copies of the Haydon News to Shaftoe Terrace..

If you feel that you can help would you please let me know . Drop a note to John Clark or to me at

Future Events

From time to time an organization needs rejuvenating.

After a long period of stable membership the committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge requires new recruits. Come to the AGM to find out more. AGM November 22, 2004 at 7.30pm. Haydon Bridge Community Centre.

HAYDON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

SAT 20th. NOVEMBER 2004 2 pm. - 4.30 pm.

Usual stalls - cakes, bric-a-brac, bran tub, etc.

Guessing competitions, children's activities, teas.

Special Guest Appearance of SANTA
from 3 pm. to 3.30 pm. only

Admission - adults 25p., children free.

Proceeds for Church Funds

Everyone welcome - please come and join us.

NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Developing Skills for Early Years Practice

This course runs for 27 weeks (tutored time) and a placement of 40 hours in an under 8 years setting.

The course covers topics including the early years curriculum, play activities and providing a safe environment for children.

A free creche is provided and Sure Start Northumberland will pay the fees for those who do not qualify for a free course.

Free help is available for anyone who needs it.

Start date: Wednesday 10 November 2004. 1.30 - 4.30pm.

Venue: Haydon Bridge Community Centre

Tutor: Maggie Sinclair

Please contact Lesley Robson in the Community Department at Haydon Bridge High School (684422) to enrol/for further details

Birds

In response to my comment in an earlier issue that almost all the many birds that used to come to my garden no longer do so, Jean Ford has written

'Since the trees and shrubs have grown up in our garden, the wild life has moved in. Recently I have added several bird feeders and have been rewarded by squadrons of sparrows visiting us. We also have greenfinches, chaffinches, blackbirds, thrushes, wrens, robins and house martins to name but a few.'

A mystery solved!

Date / Time of next Parish Council meeting 25th. November 2004 at 7.30pm

PARISH COUNCIL

MEETINGS

Held on the 4th. Thursday of each month.

The meeting is usually held in the Community Centre but occasionally goes elsewhere. The notice board, next to the Butcher's shop on Church Street always shows the likely agenda for each meeting and the venue.

The General Public is very welcome at the first part of every meeting. Have your say
Brickbats and Bouquets!!

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr E J Faulks Chairman
Mr D Charlton 684 505
Mrs E Charlton 684 505
Mrs C Duffy 688 818
Mrs V Fletcher 688 872
Mr A Johnson 684 676
Mr M Parkin 684 340
Mr D Smith 684 480
Mr R Snowdon 688 871
Mr T Stephenson

TYNEDALE COUNCILLORS

Mr. S Mitchell 684 980
Mr D Smith 684 480

PARISH CLERK

Mrs. C McGivern 688 020
(after 6. 00pm. please)
E-mail:
carolemcgivern@aol.com

Future Events

Hank Wangford and Reg Meuross present

HEAD OFF IN 2004

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

continues its Autumn programme in Tynedale with a performance of

Head Off in 2004

by **Hank Wangford and Reg Meuross**

who will be appearing at **Haydon Bridge Community Centre**

on **Sunday 14 November at 8.00pm.**



Together with his singing and songwriting partner Reg Meuross, Hank Wangford continues to plough his unique furrow through the wastelands of Country Music – sharing a love of the dark heart of Country music. Featuring toetappers and tearjerkers such as 'Never wear Mascara when you Love a Married Man', that old spell-along-a-Gospel favourite 'S-A-V-E-D' or the egg-related 'If You Ain't Married Sunny Side Up – Try Divorce Over Easy' this promises to be an evening to remember.

Both Reg and Hank have been busy and have just released new albums

Hank's 'Best Foot Forward – Songs from the Ledge' and Reg's 'Short Stories'.

As well as songs, there will be book-readings, stories and even poetry. 'There are no strangers' says Hank, 'only friends we don't recognise'.

Tickets available from Valerie Bell tel. 01434 684705 or village newsagents

Adults £5, Children £3 and a family ticket £13.

Soft drinks will be available or if you prefer something a bit stronger you are welcome to bring your own



Highlights works in partnership with over 40 voluntary promoting groups, to bring high quality, professional theatre, music and dance events to village halls, schools and community centres. They organise over 80 events a year for villages in the North Pennines and surrounding areas, ensuring that people living in rural areas have access to exciting and entertaining professional events without having to travel long distances.

They also run a programme of participatory arts activities which anyone can join in. Over the last two years it has focussed on dance for young people in rural areas, which has included residencies, taster days, workshops and joint performances with young people working alongside professional companies.

Highlights is a member of the National Rural Touring Forum, the umbrella organisation which represents the interests of Rural Touring schemes throughout the country.

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

continues its Autumn programme in Tynedale with a feast of fantastic fiddling led by the internationally renowned Shetland fiddler, **Catriona Macdonald** who will be appearing at

Haydon Bridge Community Centre at 8pm. on Thursday 9th December 2004

Catriona, who fronts the well known band Blazing Fiddles, also teaches on the folk degree at Newcastle University and will be bringing along a group of the best fiddle students in their final year for a storming concert of fiddle music from around the world with some seasonal tunes and vocals thrown in. A chance to see some of the up and coming stars of tomorrow.

Adults £5, Children £3 and a family ticket £13

OLYMPIC HALL.

I think it is fair to say that no other transport accident has created as much fascination and folklore than the tragic story of the Titanic, sunk in mid-Atlantic after hitting an iceberg on the night of the 14th / 15th April 1912, on her maiden voyage. What may not be so well known is that the Titanic was the second of three of the largest ocean going liners of their time, owned by the White Star Line of Liverpool. The **Britannic** was launched on 26th February 1914 and sank on 21st November 1916 after striking a mine in the Aegean sea. The **Titanic** was launched on 31st May 1911 and the **Olympic** on 20th October 1910.

The **Olympic**, famous in its own right but never to be forgotten due to its relationship with its renowned sister, was the only one of the three liners to enjoy a full if not incident free career, until it was retired at Southampton in April 1935 and towed to Jarrow on our river Tyne, to be scrapped.

When the **Olympic** was broken up and the fixtures and fittings sold by auction in November 1935, the auctioneer apologised for, "Performing the last rites for this magnificent ship" he said, "It is impossible to be unmoved by helping to destroy such a monument to man's achievement"

Our neighbouring town of Haltwhistle was fortunate that Douglas Smith, the Great Grandson of the originator of Haltwhistle Varnishes, had the foresight to make a number of purchases at the auction in 1935. These historic items were incorporated into the factory built by Mr. Smith and his colleague Mr. Thomas Walton, the owners of Hadrian Varnish Works. Or the varnish works, as it was (and perhaps still is) known to those of us in the South Tyne valley.

Sentimental tears were shed on Saturday 4th September 2004 when the knowledgeable staff of 'Ocean Liner Auctions' dismantled a once proud institution in Haltwhistle and sold off the Olympic fixtures and ephemera from the varnish works to the highest bidders.

It was of no consequence to those responsible for Tynedale tourism, that the experts recommended that the collection be kept together.

"So where do historic notes of Haydon Bridge fit into this Halty. scenario?" I hear you ask. Only on the margins I have to admit, but it gives me a chance to re-live my mid to late teenage years.

As I sat through the September auction beneath the White Star ceiling in the Olympic Hall, the memories and emotions of a Haydonian were stirred.

In this same hall: 1958 I think, and I know that it was Easter time because the Haltwhistle Church Hall didn't accommodate dances on religious holidays, so we made our first visit to a Saturday night dance at the alternative venue, the varnish works.

We ?

Well: some, or all of the following.

'Baz.' Dennis. 'Didi.' Eddie. 'Flash.' Harry and Roy. Jeff. Joe. John B and Danny. John D. Raymond.

An impressive line up of eligible Haydonians. Don't you think ?

Alright; perhaps not, but fuelled by a pint or two of real ale from the Blue Bell, Grey Bull, Red Lion, Black Bull, etc. etc. and a large measure of false notions, we thought we were !

Smartly dressed in charcoal grey drape suits. Jacket length measured to the finger tips; roll collar; fastened by single link buttons. Trousers narrowed to twelve inch 'drainpipes'. Suede 'brothel creeper' shoes with wedge heels. Brightly coloured socks. White shirt with cutaway collar and narrow black tie. Or maybe red or black shirt with a white tie and white buttons. Hair chosen from a well thumbed book of glossy black and white photographs and styled by Geordie Fraser in Back Street at Hexham. (Did I say styled ??? All cut the same more like! Differences only noticeable through natural colouring and characteristics, the quantity of Brylcreem smeared on, and a personal choice of short or deep sideboards.)

None of us were 'well off', but we were in employment straight from leaving school.

On £3 a week we could just about afford to buy new clothes. This was made easier because, 'Debt' had become less of a stigma and with this change in attitude it had a new, acceptable name. 'Credit'.

We were no longer restricted to Will'am Waugh's clothing club upstairs in the Co-op, but could purchase more fashionable gear on 'tick' from Brysons' traveller, or even travel to Newcastle and agree to pay 2/6 a week for a made to measure suit at Jacksons the Tailors, John Collier's or one off the peg at Marcus Price's or the City Stylish.

One thing is certain, accompanied by Stan Hankin, (or was it the Bright Stars ?) we made lots of new friends at the Olympic Hall that night.

They sat together in two's or three's, or swirled hand in hand around handbags on the dance floor.

Flat shoes and bobby socks. Full floral skirts below the knee, over the bulk of layers of net petticoats. Thin at the waist,

(those were the days) supported by a wide belt. Bright single coloured blouse with upturned collar and fastened to within one or two buttons of the neck. In 1958, a sight of bare flesh above the waist was mostly only achieved after hours of love, devotionand flattery !

Introductions in the 1950's were cautious and hesitant. Thank goodness for the Bradford Barn dance then !

Some of these and later friendships which blossomed through pleasurable nights in the Church Hall, The Gem, the Westgate and the Olympic Hall, have outlived either the very structures where they were born and developed, or at least the purposes for which these buildings were used fifty years ago. Other, brief flirtations, were cast aside in favour of permanent relationships to the East of our village or further afield..... Aberdeen even !

OLD FLAMES.

Our first tentative moves towards anything approaching a serious relationship with the opposite sex, had been nurtured at Len and Molly Hepple's, in their atmospheric dance hall at the top of Battle Hill in Hexham.

Before climbing the wooden stairs behind Dentons' Newsagents, strategy for the night's amorous activity was a source of expectant discussion over a glass of steaming hot Blackcurrant cordial, at 'Charlies' in Back Street.

Introductions to prospective partners were seldom carried out in the spirit of bravado or confidence with which they had been planned however.

Whatever the feeling in our hearts or minds, a hardly stimulating: "Umm.....do you fancy getting up then ? " was the usual approach.

Presumably we thought that if a girl was swayed by a less than exciting initial advance, then anything resembling lively small talk at a later time would be a sure winner. (Or maybe, we were just lost for words.)

Our weekends in the 1950's and early 1960's alternated between Len and Molly's at the top of Battle Hill, and later just off Back Street, where the Bradford Barn dance was more appropriately called, 'The Cuddle'. The Queen's Hall, where the food of love was supplemented by a very tasty hot pie from the balcony café, and you had more chance of taking home a girl than the coat you had left in the cloakroom. Haltwhistle of course, and occasional village do's at Alston, in the Greenhead Women's Institute hut, the Allendale and Newbrough Town Halls, and the far reaches of the North Tyne where weekend activity would often be reminiscent of a scene from the wild west.

All such events, other than the early days at Len and Molly's, followed visits to public houses almost too numerous to mention here. Special memories remain however, of the Scotch Arms in Haydon Bridge and the Grapes Hotel and Robin Hood at Hexham.

How we enjoyed those immensely happy times; making dreams of the future, awakened now as echoes of my teenage years.....And for those who shared them and made them so memorable. Thank you !

Maybe it was inevitable that I should make lasting friendships at Haltwhistle. My family links were strong in the West and my Mother was from Halty. She must have been quite a catch in her younger days. She was wicket keeper for Haltwhistle ladies cricket team. Rode pillion on Ridley's 'Wall of Death' on the Military Road at 'Bognor'. Sang in the Haltwhistle St. Cecilia Choir, and above all she worked at the Co-op !!

Returning to my original link and the varnish works.

The panelling, ceilings, staircase, windows, furniture and ephemera that was bought for £800 in 1935 (equivalent to £48,000 today) and realised between £250,000 and £300,000 for Ray Cowell, its present owner, in 2004, could well have been reduced to ashes in 1966 had it not been for the part played by Haydon Bridge Fire Brigade when it attended what is possibly the most notable call out the Brigade has experienced.

The crew that attended the Smith and Walton incident on Thursday 2nd June 1966 was Station Officer Robin Armstrong , Leading Fireman Dave Jeans and Firemen, Jackie Boyd, Tommy Ord and myself. We left Haydon Bridge on call at 02.38 in the morning and signed off duty at 06.00 in the evening, almost fifteen and a half hours later.

My own vivid recollections are of tins and drums exploding and flying through the air over our heads. The fireman's helmet would have been of little protection from these projectiles had we been in their way as they fell to ground, but fortunately, as far as I remember, no one was hurt.

My brief if pleasant memories, and sadness at the Olympic Hall's demise, cannot be compared to the emotions of the Haydonians who gave their working lives to the varnish works. Margaret Thompson, who married Maurice Weightman, and William Veitch, come immediately to mind. Both still regular readers of the Haydon News and of course William is an occasional and welcome contributor. Perhaps we shall read about his working life at Smith and Walton's, in some future edition.

OLYMPIC HAUL

My wife and myself had a special reason for attending the auction at Haltwhistle in September 2004, as Betty owns a small item of RMS Olympic history, and we are very grateful to Ray Cowell and Paul Loudon - Brown, a Director of Ocean Liner Auctions Ltd., for adding to its provenance.

I am aware that a Haltwhistle auction may have limited appeal to many of our Haydon News readers, but there are intriguing stories associated with many of the items auctioned and I shall end with one or two which you may find particularly interesting.

The auction preceded an edition of the BBC's Antique Road Show which featured Haltwhistle and which many people from our village either attended, or watched on Sunday 12th September. You may remember the first items displayed on TV from the **Olympic**. (After Betty Cousin had opened the programme !)

- *Eight, 1st Class Smoking Room metal vents 19" x 9".....* They sold for £550 each.
- *Crystal glass light fittings.* Valued at £380 each by the 'Roadshow expert They sold for between £1500 and £2100 each.

- The piece of history I particularly wanted to bid for, was *the original 1935 auction catalogue used by Douglas Smith and including his pencil annotations.* This Lot, with a tatty front cover and introductory pages missing, made £2000....No ! I didn't buy it.

- *The original Smith and Walton engraved brass registered office sign,* was knocked down to a bid of £170. I hope it was bought by someone who used to work there.

- Finally, for perhaps the most interesting Lot of the lot ! We return to the Olympic's younger sister.
A single typed manuscript letter of less than 100 words. From the joint manager of the White Star Line, dated 17th April 1912, confirming the resolution that **the TITANIC's insurance cover had been backdated to the 1st April 1912.**

Did you know that the TITANIC was not fully insured when it sank on the 14th April 1912 ?
It appears fortunate that the chairman of the White star Line was also chairman of the company which provided indemnity for the loss of passengers' lives, their baggage and the crew. Otherwise the White star Line would have found themselves in serious financial difficulties.

This single sheet but highly important typed manuscript, was sold for £4500. _____

"All done ?"

"All finished in the room ?"

"All finished on the phones ?"

"For the final time.....All done ?"

After a short pause, the auctioneer's gavel crashed down onto the podium.

Lot 696, a piece of 16" mahogany beading from the first class staterooms on the shelter deck, was sold for £40.

The final Lot. _____

As I walked to the car park a short while later, fixtures and fittings were already being loaded into cars and vans. The Olympic Hall had been sold to the highest bidders from around the world.

So there you have it !

Len and Molly's premises are long gone.

The Gem is a housing development.

Haltwhistle Church Hall; empty and neglected, a parochial pawn in a local dispute.

The Westgate and the Queen's Hall are libraries. (commendable, but I wonder; what are the chances of a passionate encounter in a library ?)

All that remains are my memories of the young men from Haydon Bridge and the girls from Haltwhistle, going round in circles in the Bradford Barn dance.

*A few steps in,
A few steps out,
Go round the best you can.
Move on to another lass,*

Poetry Page

Hello readers, there is a feast of verse for you to enjoy this month. We begin with a lovely poem that sums up just what life is all about. Discovered by her family after her death in 1996 this is a truly memorable poem written by Christine Randle.

Life

Life is just an open book
Each page is just a day
Each year is just a chapter
Each chapter is the way.

The cover is our birthday
The back our life is through
The pages in the middle
Are completely up to you.

Thank you, Mo, for sending your sister's poem in to me. I know that many of our readers will agree how true the sentiments of her words really are.

Now then, does everyone around here but me know what or where is Muckle Moss? Well, now I know, after J Rix sent me this fascinating poem. In this month of October when Halloween is just about upon us what better way to get into the spirit of mysterious happenings than enjoying this chilling composition.

Muckle Moss

On Muckle Moss the sundews grow
And other plants you may not know
Beneath the surface dark and deep
Lie bones of horses cows and sheep.
Also I've heard the locals say
Some hikers who had lost their way
And if you dig there carefully
Some ancient farmer's bones you'll see.
Whose folks could not afford the fee
To bury him more decently.
Seeking an early dig to find
The Muckle Moss had called to mind.
Deep in the mire he lies at rest
A pair of cope stones on his chest.
If one day someone drains
The bog and finds his last remains.
Long arm bones still in their sockets
(seldom used to reach his pockets).
You may laugh or you may sneer
At the words I've written here,
But this advice is quite sincere
Never cross Muckle Moss.

Well, I can honestly say that I shall never walk that way. Thank you to J Rix for sending in this excellent poem which leaves the reader wanting more.

I was given this next poem 'Who Cares' by Brian Pearson. Now, here is a challenge for everyone, how about adding a few lines to this poem next month and the following months. to create the longest known poem around these parts. You can really get to grips with issues that rattle you, issues that you care about or anything as long as it is in the same rhyming style - with 'Who Cares' at the beginning of every first line. Each month verses will be added to the poem, only with your help of course, so go on, pick up a pen and keep the poem going. I cannot do it without your support.

Who Cares?

Who cares about the world's fatigue?
The Toon are gonna win the league.
Who cares if all the pits close down?
The pubs still serve Newcastle Brown.
Who cares about obesity?
There's burgers, chips and beans for tea.
Who cares where all the whales have gone?
My nag's just won at 10-1.
Who cares about the ozone layer?
I'll still squirt spray upon my hair.
Who cares if politics are tacky?
I can still get plenty baccy.
Who cares if forests are alive?
Where the hells the '685'.
Who cares about the OAPs?
We're fighting terror (by degrees).
Who cares about the Gulf Stream flow?
The By-Pass still has years to go.
Who cares about other papers views?
Now we've got back the Haydon News.

I am afraid that's all I have space for this month. To poets who have sent me their work, do not despair, unprinted items will appear in future issues of the Haydon News. Thanks to everyone who is supporting this page and please keep sending in your poems to me

Sylvia Mitchell

32, Ratcliffe Rd Haydon Bridge, NE476ET

Dr. STEVE FORD'S PAGE

ANY BETS ON SNOW THIS WINTER?

ONE IN EIGHT – AND RISING

The current estimate is that one in eight teenagers in the UK is now infected with chlamydia – the most common sexually transmitted disease (STD). About twenty per cent of the girls infected will become infertile. There is a horrible disaster looming and yet it's still up-hill work trying to encourage young people to get tested. Not only tested once but tested as frequently as they need to be too.

A handful of young people have got the message and turn up regularly for testing – Well done! Just as you automatically wash your hands before eating so you should have an STD check with every change of partner and if you have any symptoms – pain, discharge, unexpected bleeding etc.

This is a subject that young people need to be aware of and discuss amongst themselves. It is also a subject that parents should raise with teenagers whom they know or believe to be sexually active.

Testing is extremely simple and only takes a moment. Please give serious thought to turning up – you could bitterly regret letting fleeting embarrassment get in the way of good sexual health later – and the embarrassment quickly goes once you realise how little there is involved. Honestly!

WHY SO DIFFERENT?

As people age they become more vulnerable to a wide variety of ailments. Some problems are down to the ageing process from which none of us escapes, some are due to 'wear and tear', some down to changes in the efficiency of our body chemistry, some due to the influence of environmental factors and some seem to reflect mental attitude.

Get any group of older people together and you will see a huge variation in the degree of fitness. Some can walk miles effortlessly, some can barely stand, some are enthusiastic readers and hobbyists, some gaze at the same TV channel all day, some can bend and stretch just as well as ever and some are almost immobile.

The well-known expression – 'Use it or lose it' cannot be restated often enough. 'Never say never' is also a good one. It applies to both mind and body equally. No matter what ails you, keep going with all the energy you can – even if it hurts a bit. Try new things. Take on new challenges – even small ones.

If rising from the chair is a problem, try doing it a couple of times every hour. If you usually walk five miles daily – try six instead. If you enjoy reading Mills & Boon, try something a little more difficult, perhaps one of the classic stories. If you usually do crossword – try the cryptic one sometimes. Can't reach the top shelf because your shoulder is stiff – keep trying 'til you can.

Setting yourself a challenging but achievable target and then getting there will boost morale greatly. Then try something even more adventurous still. Whatever you can do now, try to do a little bit more every day.

Advice, help and equipment are available for the asking to help you to make the most of your abilities.

Join an exercise class.

A short parable – One day a concerned younger relative visited her ageing ancestor. To her great concern the aforementioned 'dear old thing' was teetering gamely on the upper reaches of a ladder, doing some minor repair. In tart reply to the swift rebuke of the stripling, the elderly DIYer said 'I am old enough to have earned the right to live dangerously!'

Don't place restrictions on older relatives, get them up and doing.

Two old friends were out working in the fresh air. They didn't want to sit on the wet grass, so they sat back to back in a wheelbarrow, while they caught their breath and admired the view. After five minutes the one turned to the other to suggest a resumption of work and found his friend quite dead. The survivor pushed his friend back to the house in the wheelbarrow before summoning assistance. What a wonderful way to go. True local story...

FLU AND PNEUMONIA JABS

By the time this edition is distributed we will have had our mass flu jabbing session in the Methodist chapel. All stragglers are most welcome however. Make an appointment with nurse or doctor or, if necessary, we'll visit you.

These injections really do make a difference. We very strongly recommend them.

If the avian flu, that is reported in the News in south east Asia, takes hold, there is likely to be the Mother of all public health problems worldwide. Very few people alive can remember the last great pandemic in the early twentieth century but viral illnesses are no respecters of national or any other boundaries. Fingers crossed.

DON'T MENTION THE WAR!

As has been reported in the press, many of the out-of-hours sessions are being done by German doctors. An illuminating incident was reported in the medical press recently:

A German GP over here saw a patient with very severe tonsillitis and promised them that they would be contacted by the hospital the following day and that they would have had their tonsils removed before the end of the week.

Jawohl Herr Obersturmführer! Pigs might fly and the trains run on time too.

Shall we all go and live in Germany? The beer's very good I'm told.

ON YOUR KNEES!

In 2001 the British Medical Journal published a piece of research purporting to show that retroactive prayer can influence the outcome of healthcare. It is not the only piece of research to have shown such an affect. Note that word – retroactive. It means praying now for something that happened before, in this case years before – and prayer seems to work as well for something occurring in the present too. Praying for non-human subjects

works as well, so it's not down to psychological effects. Ten out of nineteen studies showed a positive effect. How strange is that?

The inexhaustibly complex and little understood realm of quantum physics might hold some clues about what is happening. Einstein showed that the position and momentum of distant particles are correlated, regardless of the distance apart. If I have understood correctly (no guarantees!) this is currently termed 'quantum entanglement' and permits 'non-local events', it is an element in string theory.

We are familiar with three dimensions – height, width and depth. Time we cannot directly experience but we can indicate its passage with clocks. Bosonic string quantum mechanics works in up to twenty-six dimensions and these do not include consciousness or intentionality. Hypotheses exist that allow past, present and future to interact, they have yet to be disproved.

The fundamental unity of all human consciousness, and perhaps not just human, has also been proffered as a possibility.

There is so much to explore and so much to learn that could be of inestimable value – how much progress might we see in our lifetimes?

SMART COOKIE

An Einstein quotation:

'If relativity is proved right, the Germans will call me a German, the Swiss will call me a Swiss citizen and the French will call me a great scientist.

If relativity is proved wrong, the French will call me a Swiss, the Swiss will call me a German and the Germans will call me a Jew.'

Steve Ford

Colour prints

of some of Tony Petts' paintings can be found in
his illustrated

2005 Haydon Bridge Calendar

now available

from the two newsagents in our village –
J. and M. Clarke and W. and M. Marsh.

CHURCH PAGE

CLERGY MESSAGE

from

Leo Pyle

FAITH IN A TIME OF VIOLENCE

Many who wanted to believe that the atrocities of 11 September three years ago represented a nadir for humanity have been sadly disillusioned. The bloody outcome of the school siege in Russia – half of whose 330 or more targeted victims were children – has left the world choking in disbelief at the crossing of a new boundary of infamy. Russians believe that more – and worse – is still to come. Elsewhere both terror, and the armed response to it led by the United States, are escalating – evidence, if it were still needed, that war opens up new possibilities of what is illogical and irrational. And each time innocents die – as they have done in Beslan, and have done since 11 September in Bali, Madrid and Istanbul – the question of how to respond grows ever more insistent.

Russia's best choice now is to stand firm in adherence to pluralism and dialogue as France's Muslims have done in the face of provocation of the headscarf ban. For terrorist actions are designed to seek a response – the more self-righteous and angry the better – that will prove the terrorist case that the root of everything is power. But standing firm does not mean doing nothing. Russia must continue to make every effort to eradicate the sources of despair on which the violent Chechen rebels feed, just as much as Israel and Washington need to act on the grievances of Palestinians. Terrorism should only ever be

NOVEMBER 2004



WHO AND WHERE

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

Rev David Hasson, with the Methodist Congregation
Wesley Manse, Moor View, Haltwhistle 320051

Father Leo Pyle, with St John's Catholic Church
St John's Presbytery, North Bank, H.B. 684265

granted one success: the reminder of the need to seek peace with justice.

The role of true religion in this new scenario is becoming more sharply defined, even as attempts are being made to harness false religions to the logic of violence. The task of faith has been vividly on view in Milan, where religious leaders gathered by the Community of Saint'Egidio from 60 countries and all the main religions have declared their commitment to the sacredness of every human being and to dialogue and deeper mutual understanding.

The forging of such spiritual humanism will involve Christians helping Muslims to ask, as many of them are already doing, why Islam is increasingly being judged by terrorist acts. It will involve Muslims assisting Christians to grasp why Western cultures are perceived as inimical to their welfare. And it will prevent both sides from retreating behind the security of their religious differences.

(Continued on next page column 3)

**METHODIST CHURCH
SERVICES**

Sunday 7 November
10.00am Family Service
Mark Knowles
6.00pm Evening Worship
Sandra O'Neill

Sunday 14 November
10.15am Remembrance
St Cuthbert's
6.00pm Evening Worship
Father Leo Pyle

Sunday 21 November
10.00am Morning Worship
Patrick Eavis
6.00pm Evening Worship
Margaret Weatherson

Sunday 28 November
10.00am Morning Worship
Mike Rowarth
6.00pm Evening Worship
Rev David Archer

Sunday 5 December
10.00am Morning Worship
Rev Russell Hilborne
6.00pm Circuit Service
Trinity Methodist Church

**HAYDON
BRIDGE**

**CAROL
SERVICE**

**6pm on Sunday
19 December**

**Haydon Bridge
Community
Centre**

**Come along and join
us in this celebration**

**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
SERVICES**

Sunday 7 November
10.30am Service of the Word
Mike Fry

Sunday 14 November
8.00am Holy Communion
Rev Alan Currie
10.15am Remembrance
Rev Alan Currie

Sunday 21 November
10.30am Service of the Word
Mike Fry

Sunday 28 November
10.30am Holy Communion
Rev Dave Elkington

Sunday 5 December
10.30am Service of the Word
John Carr

Monday 1 November

**BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW
CHURCH SERVICES**

Compline
Rev Stanley Prins

Sunday 7 November
Henshaw 10.00am
Holy Communion Order 1
Rev Alan Currie &
Keith Rutherford

Sunday 14 November
Henshaw 10.00am
Remembrance Service
Keith Rutherford

Sunday 21 November
Beltingham 10.00am
Holy Communion
Canon David Elkington

Sunday 28 November
Beltingham 10.00am
Holy Communion BCP
Rev Alan Currie

Sunday 5 December
Henshaw 10.00am
Holy Communion Order 1
Rev Alan Currie

**ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY
CHURCH SERVICES**

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am

Mass each Sunday at 11.00am
at Haltwhistle

Mass on weekdays (except Mon-
days) at 10.00am either at St John's
or at Haltwhistle

(Continued from previous page)

Dialogue in order to build a new spiritual humanism, to which religious leaders pledged themselves in Milan, is now the invitation to each person of faith. As Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, the head of the Vatican's council for interreligious dialogue, told the priests of England and Wales, it is a task that falls to the parishes under their leadership. Dialogue does not take the place of proclamation, but is a constituent dimension of it. And the message that it carries is that peace is a gift that must be prayed for, and worked for by learning about others. Dialogue is not a solution to a world of violence, but the specific mission of people of faith who cannot be bound by its logic.

Remembrance Sunday

The village service this year is on Sunday 14 November in St Cuthberts at 10.15am.

Please take this opportunity of coming together as a village to remember those who have given their lives for our freedom.