



# THE HAYDON NEWS



SHAFTOE GREEN

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Thank you.

**EDITORIAL COMMENT.**

This is the first of our rescheduled Haydon News, being printed and distributed during the first week of the month rather than during the last, as previously. You should now receive your copy of the Haydon News in the month for which it is intended rather than it arriving, what sometimes appeared to be, a month late!

In this edition there's a fulsome report on the Parish Council's deliberations at their September meeting;

Dr Ford discovers 'loonies' and offers a CAGE questionnaire to those who may need to change their drinking habits;

M. le Vent responds,

and there are pictures of the official opening of Shaftoe Green a real, and much needed, asset to our village.

*The Editors.*

*editors@haydon-news.co.uk*

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**EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE HAYDON NEWS.**

The editorial policy of the Haydon News is the responsibility of the Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge, although day to day responsibility is delegated to the editors. 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 Editors reserve 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 Anonymous letters will NOT be published.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 Editors have been advised of the writer's name and address.

*Mike Parkin (chairman)*

**Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'**

Mike Parkin(chairman), Dennis Gilert (vice chairman),  
Elena Parkin (secretary), Alastair Bowen (Treasurer), Sylvia Mitchell, Dennis Telford,  
Catherine Hall, Storey Hall.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES. September meeting 2005.**

10 councillors were present.

Public participation.

The church clock problem was raised once again. The PC have made enquiries regarding the insurance cover for repair work and have also written to the Parochial Church Council requesting permission to change the clock mechanism. This letter has been past on to the relevant authorities. The council are now waiting for their decision before any work can go ahead.

The poor state of the riverside footpath beyond the picnic area was brought to the councils attention. Northumberland CC has agreed to look at the condition of the path. A site meeting with their representative was proposed to discuss improvements required.

Concern was expressed about the accumulation of rubbish in and around the bin at the old cemetery. The use of the cemetery by High School students during the lunch break was cited as the main cause. The High School head teacher, who was present at the meeting, agreed check on the student's use of the cemetery.

Following a question about whether or not the village would have Christmas lights again this year, it was confirmed that the local businesses are being canvassed regarding sponsorship to raise the necessary funds.

Serious concern was expressed about the condition of the cemetery, particularly about the continuing intrusion of sheep and the frequency of grass cutting. PC to fix wire mesh to existing fencing to prevent sheep access and a meeting is to be held with the person responsible for cutting the grass re. frequency of cutting and the adequacy of the present mower.

Pat Hurst, Haydon Bridge High School Chair of Governors then stood to give a short presentation on the proposed changes to the schools in Northumberland and in particular how these might affect the High School. She was particularly concerned about

the unfounded rumours that the High School would be closed as part of the schools reorganisation in the area.

There is to be a meeting in November with County Council officers to discuss proposals for change. She then went on to explain the current changes in practice being introduced to widen opportunities for course studies by High School students including the Tynedale High Schools Partnership and the setting up of the Tynedale Virtual College. This provides a link between the schools, giving students the opportunity to follow courses offered by the other schools that are not available in their own school.

Haydon Lodge is to be refurbished to accommodate this development in Haydon Bridge. A request was made for people to be more positive about the High school and its future particularly in the light of the improvements made in GCSE results this year. It was pointed out that it could be 2020 before any changes were implemented and that the local schools need to work closely together to present a strong case. It was felt the NCC had not made a sufficiently clear case regarding the need for change. It was pointed out that, under the three tier system of schools, secondary schools fared less well in funding than with a two tier organisation and that this disadvantaged schools in Northumberland compared with those in the majority of local authorities operating a two tier system. The parish council expressed their unanimous support for the High School and commented on the major contribution it makes to the life and economy of the village.

The PC then went on to discuss issues arising from the July meeting.

The pupils' bus shelter. The poor response received to a questionnaire sent out to parents last month about the bus shelter was taken as an indication of lack of concern at its loss. It was pointed out that at present the school bus is arriving earlier enabling the children to board without waiting. This was seen as a major improvement, making the requirement for a bus

shelter redundant, but only if this arrangement is made permanent.

The PC is to pursue compensation for the loss of the old shelter which it owned.

A meeting is to be arranged between the Environment Agency and the PC to discuss future flood warning and defence measures. It is hoped to organise a public meeting later in the year with the Agency and the other bodies involved in flood defence.

It was noted that the Environment Agency have now reinstated a flood monitoring point in the river at Brigwood. This replaces the one washed away in the January Flood. They have also reinstated the grassed path leading from the corner of Brigwood lane to the river.

Tynedale Council Report.

The PC was informed that the Egger development in Hexham has received planning approval. The redevelopment of the old stables at Belmont for housing has also been approved. The current level of service by the libraries is being reviewed as financial restrictions mean that cuts need to be made.

Continued on Page 7.

Parish Council Notes (cont'd)

### **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Esmond Faulks (chairman)  
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Mrs. E Charlton  
Mrs. V Fletcher  
Mr. M R Parkin  
Mrs. C Duffy  
Mr. D Smith\*  
Mr. A Johnson  
Mr. R Snowdon  
Mr. T Stephenson  
Mr. E Brown.

(\* also a Tynedale Councillor)

Parish Clerk  
Mrs. C McGivern

**STAWARD PELE**

When John Martin's youngest son, Leopold Charles Martin, provided reminiscences of his father for publication in the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle in 1889, his first recollection was that:

**'In early boyhood John Martin was remarkable for his devotion to and love of, the wonders of nature, in solitary rambles seeking all that was grand, romantic or beautiful in the lovely valley of the Tyne.'**

The early influences of the neighbouring Tyne and Allen valleys are recognisable in John's work and I have little doubt that the great artist wandered over the grounds of **Staward Pele** and marvelled at nature's beauty just as I do today.

Recreational walks by parties of like minded people are commonplace, a popular leisure pursuit visiting our wonderful countryside, the experiences often being recorded in our local press for us all to enjoy. This group activity is clearly pleasurable and stimulating, however to be **as one with nature**, the **solitary ramble** takes a bit of beating I'm thinking, as I sit in reflective mood by the narrow approach from the South East to the Staward Pele promontory.

The woodman's work far below on the banks of the Harsondale Burn is done for the day, and I am left in eerie silence to watch four Buzzards circle and soar on the thermals in a now clear blue sky, and to contemplate further the pele and its history, before I turn again to the Tyne valley and home.

---

**I wonder when this spectacular plateau high above the river Allen and within our Haydon parish, became important to those living in the vicinity?**

---

I have returned to **Staward Pele** in the early summer of 2005 and quite a considerable change is taking place. The entrance to the plateau from the East and the area within the two separate remaining ruins of the pele, are being cleared of trees under the watchful eye of Scott Dixon, The National Trust's senior forester Warden. This work will give a clearer view for

visitors of the promontory's ancient fortification as one feature, and once the native flora begins to carpet the new clearings, the area will return to the way it was in Victorian times when visitors arrived in their hundreds on foot, in brakes and coaches and by train to Staward station; attracted by its beauty, historic legend and the annual Staward picnic.

***But more of that later.***

Follow me first along the narrow causeway, over a medieval defensive ditch which extends across the promontory to the sheer drop on either side, and past an outcrop of smooth flat limestone which reminds me of the inclined slabs so typical of John Martin's work.

I cannot stop myself walking carefully to its edge, to look down to the river Allen far below and along the thickly wooded Staward gorge stretching past Park Wood, Crag Head, Blaeberry Crag and Dodd Bank to the Cupola and beyond.

***Let me warn you! This is dangerous and not to be recommended, one false move or slip and you will be in serious trouble.***

**My own heart beats a little faster here.**

This is the very spot where legend, passed down to me by my grandfather, has it that 16c Border reivers from Liddesdale and the Esk, caught red handed on their bloody incursions of burning and murder in the English Middle March, were given an unenviable choice.

Accept trial and sentence by the remaining family members of those slaughtered during the raids, and when found guilty, as likely as not be roped by the ankles from a sturdy Oak bough before having their bellies cut by sword or knife until their bowels spilled out, while they were still alive.

**OR;** admit their heinous crimes and take a voluntary step from these rocks overhanging a sheer drop, to the gorge below, in the hope perhaps that sudden heart failure or a broken neck would spare them from 'a fate worse than death'.

This story was related to me one Christmas in the distant past by William **Ridley** Telford, seated before a roaring wood fire.

As an impressionable young boy, it occurred to me that if my Ridley ancestors were capable of such deeds against those who got their dander up, I had better eat my brussels sprouts without further complaint!

Let us move on, and join me at the top of a gentle rise where I have reached the fragment of stone structure which formed an outwork of the pele.

**The remains of a gateway perhaps?**

***The National Trust has an interpretive panel here, so it is as good a spot as any to rest and consider this wonderful place's early history.***

In 1950, Professor Eric Birley suggested that the little plateau on which the pele tower itself was in due course built, may have been the site of a Roman shrine, isolated by choice from the fort four miles away at Vindolanda, the modern Chesterholm, in which the fourth cohort garrison was stationed.

Certainly, the masonry with signs of Roman workmanship and a Roman altar dedicated by the fourth cohort of Gauls, which was built into part of the later medieval structure, supported this suggestion.

It is possible of course that the masonry and the altar were transported to this site from Chesterholm at a later date.

Professor Birley argued against this however, citing the difficulty in leading dressed stone from Chesterholm on a long detour and having to negotiate a series of very steep gradients. Birley assumed it to be much more likely that the medieval builders made use of second hand stones from an earlier Roman construction, which were lying nearby.

**So I will rest content with the esteemed antiquary's theory, and day dream of the Gauls in the third century, occupying the piece of ground upon which I now sit.**

In a document dated **1271**, the place name is written as 'Staworthe' and in my

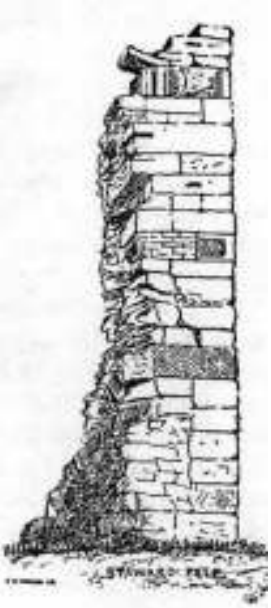
April 2004 'Notes, I provided the definition as a 'fenced or enclosed place'. The name is interpreted in some quarters however as, 'stone enclosure'.

**Does this indicate ruins of an earlier stone building when the site was first named?**

If so it may have been the Roman temple or shrine, built of stone quarried from the West side of the promontory, as suggested by Eric Birley.

**What is not in doubt is that if the Romans were seeking 'God's Country' in our parish, for a site of religious association, they could hardly have chosen more appropriately.**

*At the proceedings of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries in September 1885, C.C. Hodges exhibited this sketch showing a Roman altar from the first part of the third century, built as a quoin stone near the top of a ruined structure remaining at Staward Pele.*



When the altar, with a bull's head carved into the stone, fell from the wall, it landed on level ground by the side of the Harsondale burn, with the face clearly seen.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1950 a detailed study of the text was presented to the 'Society of Antiquarians by Eric Birley, indicating that the altar had been dedicated **'To Juppiter Optimus Maximus, the fourth cohort of Gauls....'**

**The altar was still in its position in July 1947; however one year later, part of the structure had collapsed and the altar had fallen to the bottom of the deep cleugh on the North side of the plateau.**



Interestingly, in 1950 Birley came to the conclusion that, 'There seems little likelihood of it (the altar) ever being removed – for it would require a greater labour force and more machinery than is ever likely to be available to hoist it back to the summit of the plateau; it would be out of the question to try to move it upstream or down along the bed of the cleugh, or up the still more tangled opposite slope.'

**So how did the altar arrive on the edge of the lawn at Staward Manor where it now stands?**

Maybe the earliest documentary evidence relating to Staward, is that which records **William Swyneburn's** estates here in the year **1269**. Swyneburn, a clerk in minor orders entered into the service of Queen Margaret of Scotland, sister of Henry III, eventually became her treasurer and acquired estates at Houghton, Chollerton and Capheaton, as well as Staward.

*The National Trust interpretive panel describes Staward as a 'Border Stronghold' in 1272. I don't doubt this, but up to now I have been unable to trace the source of the reference.*

It is recorded however that in **1272** these lands were the subject of a dispute between William de Swyneburn and the barons of Langley. 'Stawarth', being in the franchise of North Tynedale; and the Langley barony of South Tynedale being within the county of Northumberland, the case was submitted to the Kings of England **and** Scotland who agreed that the dispute should be heard by, 'a jury of persons, of whom one half should be men of North Tindale, the other of the county'.

The dispute was settled and in **1302**, '**Nicholas de Swyneburn**', a son of

William of Capheaton, was steward of the Langley barony and he demised his lands in Harsondale and Staward to a Walter Stodherd, for twelve years.

It may have been after Stodherd's tenure and following the death in **1314** of Edmund de Mauley, the Crown tenant for life, that the Staward **pele** was constructed here. Although historians have found it difficult to date the exact commencement of the building work, it must have been completed by **1316** and consisted of a 'timber blockhouse and palisade'.

**War was endemic on the Borders throughout the 14c** (Bannockburn and all that) **and records of war service claims, almost 700 years ago, make interesting reading.**

*For example:* in 1318 the King and Council were petitioned by our aforementioned Nicholas de Swyneburn, 'whose lands have often been burnt by the Scots and himself captured and ransomed'. Swyneburn sought, 'some preferment or maintenance in the Royal household in London or nearby, as the garrison of Staworth Pele have lived on the profits of his land these six years,\* thereby rendering him unable to serve the King in defence of the March.'

*So compensation culture is nothing new!*

(\* Note: This period of six years does not accord with the date of 1316, when the garrison was said to have been engaged. I cannot as yet account for this contradiction.)

The result of an English garrison living in the countryside was usually devastation, with much of the land being destroyed.

Swyneburn's request was supported and in July 1319 the King, 'at the request of Queen Isabella', presented Nicholas de Swyneburn to the church of St. John's in Perth.

**And another example twelve years later in 1330:** a claim was made 'from the Prior and convent of Hexham on the Scottish Marches, who are utterly impoverished by reason of war'. They sought a 'pardon of £63.10s being the remainder of a debt of £71.10s for victuals bought in Newcastle, in view of their loss at the hands of the Royal army at **Haydon Bridge**.'

Another claim that was endorsed.

**The de Lucy family**, heirs to the manor of Langley, relied upon Staward to keep the Scottish at bay, and in the November of **1316**, King Edward II engaged **Anthony de Lucy** to find a garrison of '**fifteen of his men at arms and forty hobelers**' (light cavalry), for the fortification.

In **1320**, the King is again recorded as being indebted to Anthony de Lucy for keeping Staward.

In **1326** Edward II contracted with **Thomas de Fetherstanhalgh**, to overhaul the building at Staward. At this time, Fetherstanhalgh had custody of the manor of Wark in North Tynedale, the boundary of which ran east and west, just south of the Stanegate and within the present day parish of Haydon.

The construction on the promontory was to be completed in four months and it would consist of 'a stone curtain wall 24 feet high to the battlements, 8 feet wide, over 40 yards long, and a gatehouse of three floors'.

*To sit here today surveying what is left of the 'fortress', one has to agree with our own historian L.C. Coombes, that 'this description is hard to reconcile with the remains seen at present'.*

For the work, Fetherstanhalgh 'would receive such timber as was necessary and the sum of £100'. The timber used consisted of, '400 Oaks from Benwell'.

By the end of **1326**, although it is difficult to date the request accurately, Thomas de Fetherstanhalgh was finding it difficult to keep to the terms of the contract, and sought emergency aid from the King in 'completing the pele at Staward'.

*How easy it is for a builder to underestimate the cost of his work!  
But how many builders can approach the King of England to authorise a change in the contract?*

Fetherstanhalgh's petition to the King, cites the difficulty in carrying timber and stone to the site, workmen being difficult to retain, and the prospects of profit slight since the term of his commission was running out.

The request was **not endorsed** but Fetherstanhalgh continued with the work until the re-building programme was completed.

Thomas de Fetherstanhalgh continued as 'keeper of the pele of Staward' until **1329** when he was ordered to hand it over to John Darcy. Darcy had been granted the pele for life.

*In January 1327, Edward II had been deposed, in favour of his fourteen year old son Edward; and murdered, probably on the instructions of his French wife Isabella!*

After David II of Scotland, son of Robert the Bruce, invaded England in **1346** and devastated the barony at Langley, Sir Thomas de Lucy received compensation from the Royal exchequer for the damage inflicted. Thomas decided to invest these proceeds in a more substantial fortification, and as a result a Border stronghold was no longer required at Staward.

**Staward pele was superseded for military purposes by the de Lucy family's new castle at Langley, built in 1350.**

*In 1328, King Edward III married Phillipa of Hainault in York, and they had thirteen children.*

The Queen, Phillipa, purchased the pele tower at Staward from John Darcy and Nicholas Swyneburn and in **1373**, 'Staward with the liberty of Tynedale' was granted to one of the sons of the marriage, Edmund Duke of York.

In **1384**, Edmund granted the property to the Friars Eremite of Hexham for 100 years for a yearly rent of five marks.

**The promontory and its buildings had returned to a site of religious contemplation.**

When the large shadow of Henry VIII fell upon Hexham in **1537**, resulting in the dissolution of the priory, Staward pele reverted to the crown.

**The story of 16c Tynedale** was a grim chapter of murder and mayhem as the reiving clans on both sides of the Border took the law into their own hands.

The part that Staward played in this drama is unclear. My grandfather's story apart, I have been unable, at this stage of my research, to find any specific records charting Staward's history for the seventy five years from 1537.

Given the pele's defensive position and its location, commanding wide views of the surrounding countryside, it is a fair guess that the constables of the barony of Langley made full use of these attributes to spot or repel raiders and to keep goods and inhabitants safe.

After James VI of Scotland ascended to the English throne in 1603, law and order was restored on the Border and in **1613** James I gave Staward to Lord Howard of Walden, as parcel of the manor of 'Playnmellor' and then in the occupation of William Ridley.

Lord Howard in turn conveyed Staward to John Sanderson of Healy, in **1635**, subject to a fee farm rent of 20s annually.

On April 28th **1664** the Sandersons sold Staward on, to George Bacon of Broadwood Hall in Allendale for £450. It became the property of the Bacon family who continued in ownership for over two hundred years.

*My notes following the history of Staward Pele (or is it Peel?), began with reminiscences of John Martin's rambles through our countryside.*

*I'll leave you with two verses from John's brother William Martin, who was born at Tow House in 1771 but lived with his grandparents at East Landends from an early age.*

Not far from (Ridley) up the water Allen,  
Stands Staward castle, on a rock so high,  
Surrounded with pleasant woods, and waters Clear,  
delights the traveller's penetrating eye.

How delightful, on a summer's morn, the  
Feathered songsters they loudly sing;  
The Blackbird and the Thrush likewise,  
They make the groves and valleys ring.

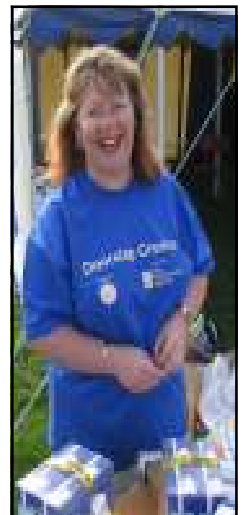
**I will continue the story of Staward Pele next month.**

## The official opening of SHAFTOE GREEN

Haydon Bridge  
September 24th 2005.



The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. T. A. Bates ably assisted by Gina, Isla and Elliott.



Mick Hall, landscape architect, designer of Shaftoe Green, and Pauline Wallis whose enthusiasm, energy and commitment ensured the success of the scheme.

### Parish Council Notes (cont'd from page 3.)

#### Bypass.

While the majority of letters received by the highways agency have supported the by pass development 10 objections have also been raised. Meetings are to be held with those raising objections to see if these can be resolved but it seems likely that a public enquiry will need to be called

before a final decision is taken on the proposed by pass for Haydon Bridge.

Environmental Champions are required for Haydon Bridge. Persons offering their services would report litter and other environmental problems that arise to Tynedale Council. If you are interested you should contact

one of our local Tynedale District Councillors, Dave Smith or 'Mitch' Mitchell.

Work on the Spa Well area is due to start shortly. This will see the restoration of the footpath to the well. Work is likely to take at least 18 months to complete.

### **LOOTING THE PIE SHOP IN THE CONFUSION.**

#### **The Canadian National Post amazes.**

When travelling abroad, a glance at the local paper can often be rewarding. Some years ago, whilst in The Gambia, in a serious local journal there appeared a report of a burglary, in which the occupants of the house declared that they had been aware of the burglary but been unable to intervene because of the spell that the burglar had placed on them.

Whilst in Canada this year I was browsing through The Canadian National Post, a reputable publication I am led to believe, when a headline caught my eye. It referred to 'the surging loonie -' and its effect on the national economy. Investigation revealed that the term loonie is the local vernacular for the Canadian dollar (in much the same way as we call the pound sterling a quid and the American dollar is termed a greenback) and that it had increased in value.

Imagine my surprise, nay alarm, when I turned the page and found a half page article by our very own, home grown, archetypal surging loonie – Boris Johnson. Two loonies in one edition – amazing!

Our refined European sensibilities took a bit of a battering when we glimpsed a building in Seattle bearing the proud title 'Pacific Rim Centre' – an *avante garde* concept, even by West Coast standards, we felt. Doubtless a manifestation of vibrant free market capitalism unbound.

#### **The National Clean Air Award.**

The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation has established a national initiative to promote clean air in the workplace. I am delighted to report that the Health Centre has been awarded a **Gold Award** for its commitment to providing a smoke free environment to protect the health, safety and well being of all who enter the premises.

My thanks to the staff, and Mary Douthwaite in particular, for this achievement.

#### **Conjunctivitis.**

Bacterial infection in the eye is very common in people of all ages. An itchy sore eye with pus and grot emerging from it, sometimes a little redness of the eye ball itself and the eyelids too, these are the main features. Usually it is treated with antibiotic drops or cream.

A recent report in The Lancet shows that the use of drops makes next to no difference to the speed of recovery. The experiment involved treating half of a group with antibiotic drops and half with inactive liquid – there was no difference in outcome between them.

Wiping the pus and grot off gently with clean wet cotton wool and letting nature take its course is, apparently, the thing to do.

#### **Antibiotics and cough.**

A report in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that people with a simple cough and no other signs of illness, were, if anything, worse off when they took antibiotics.

Most doctors don't take cough medicines for cough either – my children never had any.

It's becoming increasingly apparent that for many conditions 'wait and see' is a reasonable option. We are, by design, self-repairing but the process may take a little time. The trick is to tell when to wait and when to act.

A famous physician from long ago stated that the doctor's chief function was to amuse and distract the patient whilst nature healed them.

#### **Measuring up.**

In high and far-off times, dear reader, (the seventies, early eighties and before), the NHS was administered and functioned remarkably well despite the persistent shortage of cash. From the mid-eighties, roaring like dry rot through an old building, we have been infested by a burgeoning management system. Everything and everyone is persistently fiddled with, measured, evaluated, reviewed, reorganised and confused.

The NHS is now floating in the largest cash puddle imaginable, which is a good thing, but nobody knows what's happening, the new-fangled multitudinous systems are incomprehensible, vocationalism largely died some years ago and, though you could discover, to the smallest detail, the what/where/when and how of daily activity it would be generally agreed by the workers and patients that the net burden of problems is now greater than before.

The cash that is going in at the top of the machine is not arriving at the factory floor and the figures going back up the system, that take so much time and effort to collect, are never given more than a cursory glance – to judge by their effect on management.

A breathtakingly obvious course of action is now being spoken of in hushed and reverent terms, as one might whisper in awe on finding The Grail. Wouldn't it be a good idea to measure the broad well being of the population at regular intervals and see if there is a trend? Bob High, prescient in a number of areas, had several articles on the subject published in the sixties and seventies in the professional literature. He also strongly supported small-scale water and wind power developments.

#### **Missed appointments.**

42 missed appointments in July – but two people did make a point of ringing to apologise.

#### **Missing millions.**

Please don't hoard medicines. Both the pharmacy and the practice have large bins full of wasted medicines – this represents many thousands of pounds of your money! Only ask for those repeat medicines that you are about to run out of, always finish any course of treatment and take left overs and unwanted medicines to either the pharmacy or the health centre for disposal.

#### **Booze**

In recent weeks a number of people have asked advice about reducing their alcohol consumption. Some have achieved great success in changing their drinking habits and done their health and wallets a good turn in the process.



We are very sympathetic to people who experience problems with drinking.

Have you got a problem too?

The following test may help you decide –

#### CAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

The 'CAGE' questionnaire is a short list of questions that can indicate if alcohol dependence is a possibility. Two or more positive answers to these questions suggests dependence. Have you ever:

- thought you should Cut down on your drinking ?
- felt Annoyed by others criticising your drinking ?
- felt bad or Guilty about your drinking ?
- had a drink in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover ?(Eye-opener) ?

#### Food and its unwelcome consequences

In a recent letter to GPs in their area, a London Care Trust has been at pains to explain that the London Zoo does not, contrary to popular rumour, have a super-sized MRI scanner suitable for seriously overweight people.

They go on to give the names and addresses of two veterinary colleges in the Home Counties, specialising in horses and large animals, which do and which are prepared to scan people who will not fit into normal scanners.

#### Chlamydia – again.

Rarely am I taken aback but this week we were informed that in some parts of Northumberland one in every three sexually active women between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five has chlamydia. That's both a present and future catastrophe.

A national screening program for young people is about to come into action which will offer urine testing to all in the age group in question – on the basis that this will be more acceptable to many. The best test remains a swab taken from the cervix and I am delighted to report that a substantial number of young women locally are now coming for regular testing – they are the responsible and sensible ones, who are deserving of praise. Now, what about the rest of their age group...?

#### Another Bloody Century.

This is the title of a substantial book by Colin Gray in which an analysis of present trends is used to illustrate the possible causes and outcomes of 21<sup>st</sup> century warfare. The present tentative but growing alignment of Russia and China is amongst the topics covered.

International and global war feature alongside the growing menace of low-level guerrilla or 'terrorist'

inspired war. New kinds of war in both space and cyberspace and for natural resources, such as water and oil, are also discussed.

A concept new to me was that of Critical National Infrastructure or CNI for short. Although one might be able to draw up one's own list of vital features, here is the actual list: telecommunications, postal service, electricity, gas, fuels for transport, sanitation and waste disposal, roads, fire and rescue, water for drinking, weather information, fund transfers and railways.

Appreciable damage to any or all of these would undermine a nation's welfare and ability to respond to hostile acts but have you noticed that there is no mention of health care? Curious? Interesting? Worrying? You decide.

Plato, smart man that he was, observed – 'Only the dead have seen the end of war.'

#### For the full SP on wind power

All the questions you ever wanted to ask about wind power are answered on:

<http://www.bwea.com/ref/faq.html>

Steve Ford

## FLU JABS

For the patients of the Haydon & Allen Valleys Medical Practice.

**28th October 2005**  
**9.00am to 5.00pm.**

Methodist Church Hall, Church Street.

Surnames A to M in the morning-not all at 9.00 please.  
Surnames N to Z in the afternoon- not all at 2.00 please.

There will also be some catch up sessions at the Health Centre in November—details later

Highlights rural touring scheme presents.....



Haydon Bridge Community Centre

Friday 21st October at 8.00pm

Tickets £6 adult, £3 child/OAPs/unwaged,  
£16 family.

available from:

J. & M. Clarke (newsagents), Church Street.  
or Val Bell. Telephone 01434 684 705

'Batanaï Mariba are a six strong band featuring a groundbreaking pan-African line-up mixing the buzzing acoustics of traditional South African marimba and percussion with alto sax, bass guitar and soaring vocal harmonies. They celebrate both the past and the future of African dance music with a spectacular and vibrant stage show....'

**NOT TO BE MISSED!!!**

**CHURCH PAGE**

**CLERGY MESSAGE**

from  
*Leo Pyle*



“.....the heavens are as high above the earth as my ways are above your ways,” says the Lord,

“.....my thoughts above your thoughts.”

And when we realize its an expanding universe, that leaves an infinite difference between our ways and thoughts and God’s ways and thoughts.

So much so, when we are envious God is generous. But that is the difference between a small mind and an infinite intelligence, between us and our God. One is into envy the other generosity. (Some do say that envy is the least confessed fault but the most common human failing.)

And so we are left feeling, well ...utterly frustrated by the difference and distance between us and our God. “Never the twain shall meet!” But the Psalmist says, “Not so!” “The Lord is close to all who call him.” “The Lord is kind and full of compassion..... abounding in love.....good to all.....just in all his ways.....loving in all his deeds.” (Ps. 144.)

Despite the difference between us God is closer to us than we are to ourselves. There’s identity for you! Its called incarnation..... and God becomes man. God reaches across the divide and difference. God becomes man. And there we have him, Jesus the Christ, God made man. One of us!

St. Paul is so impressed that he says, “Life to me is Christ.”

And though, as Paul actually suggests, it would be nice to have it all over and done with and be totally glorious, that’s simply not the way life works. “....for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.” Paul says so. We all say so.

Each of us is unique, never has been before, never will be again (even when they **do** succeed in human cloning) Together we make up the body of Christ, each a precious indispensable member. And the difference is overcome, God and man at one.

And so “The world is charged with the grandeur of

WHO AND WHERE

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

Rev Judith Hampson,  
with St Cuthbert’s Anglican Church  
The Vicarage, Station Yard  
Tel. 01434 684307

Rev David Hasson,  
with the Methodist Congregation  
Wesley Manse, Moor View, Haltwhistle  
Tel. 01434 320051

Father Leo Pyle ,  
with St John’s Catholic Church  
St John’s Presbytery, North Bank  
Tel. 01434 684265

God.” We simply must not miss “the many splendoured thing” that is God in our midst. That is the God we are through Jesus Christ.

No place then for envy. Rather divine generosity rules. And this divine generosity is constantly celebrated and expressed in praise and thanks to God for the precious and unique life of each one of us. We are pro life, pro Christ, pro God, as God is definitely pro us. He calls each by name. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

**Christmas Fayre**

**Saturday 19 November  
2.00pm**

**Haydon Bridge Methodist Church  
Refreshments and various stalls.**

**METHODIST CHURCH  
SERVICES**

**Sunday 02 October**

**10.30am** Harvest Festival  
St Cuthbert's  
**6.00pm** Harvest Festival  
St Cuthbert's

**Sunday 09 October**

**08.30am Holy Communion**  
**10.00am** Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
**6.00pm** Evening Worship  
Fr Leo Pyle

**Sunday 16 October**

**10.00am** Morning Worship  
Acomb Choir  
**6.00pm** Evening Worship  
Rev David Hasson

**Sunday 23 October**

**10.00am** Morning Worship  
Rev David Hasson  
**6.00pm** Evening Worship  
Mr Charles Ford

**Sunday 30 October**

**10.00am** Morning Worship  
David Campbell  
**6.00pm** Evening Worship  
Rev David Hasson

**Sunday 06 November**

**10.00am** Family Service  
Rev David Hasson  
**6.00pm** Evening Worship  
J Wall

**Sunday 13 September**

**10.15am** Remembrance  
St Cuthbert's  
**6.00pm** Holy Communion  
Rev David Hasson

*Songs from the shows  
In Haydon Bridge  
Methodist Church*

**Presented by  
Jim Laidlow and Friends**

**Saturday 15 October  
7.30pm**

**Supper to follow  
Tickets £4.00**

**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

**HAYDON BRIDGE  
HOLIDAY CLUB**

This years holiday club was a suc-  
cess in spite of the hiccup which  
meant that people had to be ferried  
to Hexham. Next year we are  
returning to our usual practise of  
having the Holiday Club in  
Haydon Bridge. It will be under the  
overall leadership of Bobby and  
Rachel Martin from Sunderland.

Planning has already begun for  
next year—the dates are Saturday  
22 July to Saturday 29 July 2006.

For the Holiday Club to be suc-  
cessful Bobby and Rachel need all  
the help they can get. It is our  
children who will benefit but for  
that to happen we need 30 helpers  
for each session which takes place.  
Some of these can be occasional  
helpers, some more regular and still  
others to be there every day. It  
isn't always necessary to have  
specialist skills either although, it  
can help, as there are jobs cleaning  
and tidying up or providing drinks.

Now is the time to consider  
whether or not **YOU** can be  
involved. If you think this is a  
possibility then please get in touch  
with one of the clergy to register  
your interest.

Bobby and Rachel are giving of  
their time for our children we need  
to support them in that.

**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH  
SERVICES**

**Sunday 02 October**

**10.30am** Harvest Festival  
St Cuthbert's  
**6.00pm** Harvest Festival  
St Cuthbert's

**Sunday 09 October**

**8.00am Holy Communion**  
Book of Common Prayer  
**10.30am Morning Prayer**

**Sunday 16 October**

**10.30am** Communion Service

**Sunday 23 October**

**10.30am** Morning Prayer

**Sunday 23 October**

**10.15am** Joint Benefice Service

**BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW  
CHURCH SERVICES**

**Sunday 2 October**

**Beltingham 10.00am**  
Morning Prayer

**Sunday 9 October**

**Henshaw 10.00am**  
Harvest Service with  
Communion

**Sunday 16 October**

**Henshaw 10.00am**  
Morning Prayer

**Sunday 23 August**

**Beltingham 10.00am**  
Holy Communion BCP

**Sunday 23 August**

**St Cuthbert's 10.15am**  
Joint Benefice Service

*Quiz Night  
In Haydon Bridge  
Methodist Church*

**£4.00 admission  
Includes Pie and Peas  
Saturday 12 November  
7.30pm  
Quizmaster**

*The energy debate continues (but not for much longer) with this riposte from M. le Vent. One hopes all this hot air isn't a 'wind up' !!!!!*

### **MORE WIND NEWS**

Following Dr. Ford's response to the report on wind power last month, the Haydon News' energy special correspondent has E-mailed a copy of the doctor's August pages to its author, Jean le Vent, for comment. The following reply has been received:-

Cloches d'enfers my English chums! I was just enjoying my usual 'le petit déjeuner' of jus de pamplemousse et une Gitane at my summer residence, Château le Vent. J'ai été étripé when I read the first part of Dr. Ford's page. Tomorrow it must be jus de canneberge et une Gitane. No doubt the Dr. will be hearing from 'Les Amis du Pamplemousse' directly when they picket Haydon Bridge Health Centre!

As for a debate on alternative energy in the Community Centre 'en français', this will not be necessary as I broadly agree with the Dr.'s ideas! In any case much of the argument would be 'perdu dans la traduction'.

Yes, the small scale use of photovoltaics (PV) and wind power can help but you will need more than 1 kilowatt of power (a one bar electric fire?) to keep the water heating, dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer, refrigeration, space heating, lighting etc. going. What will you do when the winds don't blow, the sun don't shine and the battery is flat? Such small islands of power can also be problematic for your local distribution company should you wish to give them your 'excess'.

Lead selenium (rather toxic!) quantum dot and such nano devices are thought to have a 60% better performance than standard but are they commercially

available yet? And how long will they last? Bi-axial trackers are usually mounted on top of 7 metre high poles which might not go down too well with the neighbours.

The Dr. is correct when he says birds are not really a problem. Those affected are usually ducks and waders. However, new research shows that in your UK, each turbine may account for less than one bird per year. In Denmark's Nysted off shore wind farm, the migrating birds have also learnt to change their flight path by increasing their air corridors between the installations even at night.

The real enemy, killing in the UK more than 10 million birds per annum, is our old friend the motor car!

Dr. Ford and I should combine our efforts in reducing the numbers of this murdering, polluting menace to society! Perhaps there would then be no real energy problem for many years to come. Our friends in the Middle East and George Bush could even go back to whatever they did before oil.

Our naturalists also welcome renewable energy sources as the impact of climate change (from carbon generating energy methods) on biodiversity is a much greater menace. Your journal *Nature* (much more interesting than the *BMJ*) has even suggested a quarter of land and plant animals will not be with you in 50 years time if you do not heed the warnings.

Yes, your government is now supporting renewable schemes too (Carbon Dioxide emissions to be 60% reduced by 2050, energy to be 20% renewable by 2020) and, very strangely, your Ministry of Defence is now withdrawing many of its objections to wind farms e.g. in the

Scottish borders.

However, the Dr.'s efforts at renewables are a really 'une baisse de larme dans les océans' as we say. We, here in France, believe the large scale answer to all our energy needs will not even be with coal, wind, tide, PVs or nuclear fission but **fusion**.

With fusion you put 10 units of energy in and receive 100 out! Maintenant vous parlez! We have just had commissioned an international programme to host the world's largest fusion power reactor for a mere €10bn estimated funding, half supplied through the EU and thus your British taxes (tee hee). Will this International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) work? If you are quick you may get an evens bet with your bookie. However, you will need to wait 10 years to find out and thus for your money. If it works we will have 50% of the earth's electricity needs assured.

So please, my boeuf de rôti pals, wish us 'bonne chance' with this one rather than, possibly like Dr. Ford, washing your hands of this.

Jean le Vent  
p.s. I have been asked what type of turbine I proposed for the Heugh House Lane wind farm. It would be the tried and tested NIMBY 2005 of course.

p.p.s Dr. Ford, as a follower of the new technologies, have you considered a nascent technology carbon free building inter-seasonal heat transfer (IHT) scheme for Heugh House Lane? Check out London Based Company Icac for information:

<http://www.icax.co.uk>

You could get your money back from such an installation in 5-6 years. Just the thing for a new health centre with a big car park too.

### **Haydon Bridge Nature Club.**

6th Oct. BADGERS. Phillip Gray (East Cumbrian Countryside Agency).

20th Oct. THE HISTORY OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE NORTH PENNINES. Colin Simms.

3rd Nov. DIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN. Peter Horsley

Methodist Church Hall at 7.15pm. Non members £2 per meeting Annual Subscription £10.

Indoor meetings include coffee/tea and biscuits.

### **Can you help us?**

### **Shaftoe Young Farmers Club are**

Looking for someone to help direct our pantomime in the New Year.

If you can help please call Gayle on 684 034. If you would like to join Shaftoe YFC you can call Ailsa on 07780501125. Ages range from 12- 26, so if you want to have fun and get involved in all sorts of things come and join. You don't have to be a farmer to be a young farmer!!!!!!!!!!!!