



# THE HAYDON NEWS



Haydon Bridge Nature Group have enjoyed a successful season of summer walks

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**Issue 07**

**August  
2006**

**Published by The Friends Of Haydon Bridge**

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Addressed to The Haydon News

Thank you.

**EDITORIAL COMMENT.**

Last year 111 people paid membership/donation, or subscription to the Friends of Haydon Bridge. All the monies raised by the Friends go towards covering the costs of publishing the Haydon News. 940 copies of the Haydon News are printed each month, excluding January and September, at a cost of about £70 for materials and many hours of volunteer time writing, compiling, printing, collating and distributing. So far this year 62 people have made a cash contribution to the Friends. We thank those who have contributed and hope that many more will follow your example over the remaining months of the year. The distribution of the Haydon News isn't just limited to the Parish of Haydon. Each month 15 copies are posted to readers in other parts of Britain and as far a field as Bangkok and the USA. This doesn't quite put us in the same category as media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, but in the future who knows ? The next edition of the Haydon News will be at the beginning of October. We hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer.

*The Editors.*

*editors@haydon-news.co.uk*

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**The HAYDON NEWS is edited, published and printed by the Friends of Haydon Bridge. It is distributed free of charge to all but the most distant households in Haydon Parish.**

The committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge thank those members who produce the Haydon News, people who contribute items for publication, our advertisers and distributors.

**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/articles are to be published, and to alter or shorten letters/articles when necessary. Anonymous letters/articles 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.

*Dennis Telford (Chairman). West Rattenraw, Haydon Bridge, Hexham. NE47 6ED*

**Editors: Mike Parkin and Dennis Telford.**

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

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the meeting in July 2006

### Public participation.

A request was made to empty the dog waste bins more frequently as many of them are over full.

A member of the public reported a complaint received from a group of ramblers who had intended to picnic at the riverside picnic area, but had not done so due to the amount of dog dirt around the tables. It was suggested that the picnic area be fenced off to keep dogs away from the picnic tables and attention be given to the general state of the facilities.

The council was asked if it had received compensation for the loss of the Strother Close bus shelter, demolished to make way for the Foundry Yard development. The member of public was informed that the council had received no response to letters sent to the developers regarding compensation for the shelter or the replacement of the seat and waste bin removed from the corner of Strother Close/Church Street at the same time. A further letter to be sent.

Another member of the public asked about the future of the library. A councillor gave a report of the meeting held earlier in the month with the library services (see page 12 for a full report of this meeting). The council are to write to NCC to object to the proposed library closure.

A question was asked concerning the start date for work to commence on the area around the Spa Well. It is known that work is to be done to restore the path to the Spa Well and reinforce the river bank, but a start date has not yet been announced.

**Stop press. On the day we are printing the Haydon News traffic warning signs have been erected at the entrance to the Spa Well area. The start of work could be imminent.**

### Parish Council Meeting

7 councillors were present. The chair informed the meeting Cllr A Johnson had resigned from the council. Michael Zellas was co opted to the council to fill the vacancy created by Thomas Stephenson's resignation earlier in the year. There remains one vacancy on the council, to replace Cllr Johnson.

### Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

The council was told that an inspection of the Church clock mechanism had been carried out to ascertain the cause of the continuing problems. Repairs to the clock have cost the council in excess of £8,000, yet problems still persist. Following the inspection, the council was told that current problems are unrelated to the work recently completed. The clerk is to request a copy of the inspection report and to write to the church to ask for a contribution towards any further costs involved in carrying out repairs.

The council was informed of a meeting of village flood wardens held this month. The flood warden scheme was set up to help mitigate the effects of future flooding on properties in Haydon Bridge by helping people prepare for such an eventuality. A councillor asked about the outcome of a feasibility study, undertaken by the Environment Agency, looking at improving the flood defences in the village. As nothing had been reported on this, the council are to write to the agency to request information on the outcome of the study. Work has already been done in Corbridge and is currently being undertaken in Hexham to improve the flood defences there, following the 2005 floods.

Northumberland County Council (NCC) are to consider providing signs to direct motorists to the car park at the station. A similar request for a sign to the riverside car park has been rejected as the parking provision is too limited.

Enquiries regarding the provision of brown tourist signs to direct motorists to the village from the military road at Grindon and from the Alston road at Esp Hill are still being pursued.

A councillor expressed annoyance at a letter published in last month's Haydon News, from a correspondent using a non de plume, questioning the reason why three councillors abstained on the vote over the Haydon Hotel planning application. Had the correspondent used their name, the councillor would have been prepared to respond.

(See Page 7 in this issue for a response to the letter from 'B Mused' from another councillor).

A question was raised over the editorial policy of the Haydon News and the publication of correspondence. (The Editorial Policy is published in every edition of the Haydon News. See page 2)

### Tynedale Council Matters.

No report was available from the last full meeting of the district council.

### Planning Applications

The council received three planning applications including alterations to 19 and 19A Church Street and the redevelopment of the scout hut at Shaftoe First School, for use by the Little Badgers Childcare unit. No objections were raised to any of the applications.

### Correspondence

A letter was received from NCC Highways Department asking for the parish council's views on improvements to Ratcliffe Road once the by pass is constructed and Ratcliffe Road is 'detrunked'. The council are requesting a meeting with officers from the department to discuss the possibilities.

The outcome of the public enquiry into the by pass is still awaited but should be available for the next council meeting.

**The next council meeting is on September 28th at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.**

### PARISH COUNCILLORS

Esmond Faulks (chairman)  
Mr. D Charlton  
Mrs. E Charlton  
Mrs. V Fletcher  
Mr. M R Parkin  
Mrs. C Duffy  
Mr. D Smith\*  
Mr. R Snowdon  
Mr. E Brown.  
Mr. M Zellas.  
Vacancy

(\* also a Tynedale Councillor)

Parish Clerk  
Mrs. C McGivern 688020(after 6pm)

**ALL THE WAY FROM HAYDON BRIDGE**

The thickening fog that is ‘Manannan’s Cloak’ was wrapped around the island and all but obscured our view, as the Eastern Airways Jet Stream 41 propelled its way into Ronaldsway Airport after our forty minute flight from Newcastle. Richard Snowdon, Henry Swaddle and myself visited the Isle of Man in May 2006 as part of our parish’s ‘John Martin Heritage Project’.

It was from London, where he lived at Allsop Terrace, Marylebone and Lindsay House in Chelsea, that John Martin’s fame and popularity were achieved, but his birth and baptism in 1789, his schooling and his early inspiration were at Haydon Bridge. In the final six years of his life, John made regular visits to the Isle of Man. It was on the island where he took ill and in 1854, died and was interred at the age of sixty five years.

Our visit to the Isle of Man was to follow in the footsteps of our most famous son – a pilgrimage if you like – and make connections between the places of John’s birth and his death. **I invite you to join us as we search for clues to John Martin’s time on the Isle of Man.**

As we were driven from Ronaldsway airport to Douglas, we were hesitant to tell the taxi driver that the purpose of our visit was to look at a grave! We need not have been so cautious. He was the first person we met on the island and it turned out that he had graduated in Art at Manchester University and was most knowledgeable about the subject of our quest.

We stayed at the Castle Mona Hotel in Douglas, described a little unkindly on the internet as ‘tired’. It is true that it was built in 1801 as the home of the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Atholl and turned into an hotel as long ago as 1835, but it suited three historical researchers fine. What was good enough for the Duke of Atholl..... Oh! And by the way, the OKells ale couldn’t be faulted.

Richard, Henry and I were well prepared for our three day visit to the Isle of Man. After all, we have ‘lived’ with John Martin for over two years, since the beginning of our Heritage Project, and been involved in our individual research for many years before that.

The publications of Martin’s biographers, Mary L. Pendered (1923) and Thomas Balston (1947), and John’s son Leopold Charles’s account of his father’s life (1889), had been a starting point for our pre-tour research. Our success in achieving so much in such a short time in the Isle of Man however, was due to Manx man, Peter Kelly. Peter is a journalist, broadcaster, historian and a caseworker for the Isle of Man Victorian Society. And he also has a day job! Peter was good enough to allocate us two evenings of his valuable time, as a consequence of which we were able to add to our knowledge, visit all the important known sites, share in his earlier research and discover some new evidence.

**MANX NATIONAL HERITAGE**

Our first stop on our Isle of Man pilgrimage was the Manx National Heritage Museum in Douglas. One of John Martin’s later paintings, a 29” x 14” 1851 water colour, ‘Joshua Spying out the Land of Canaan’, hangs in the Art Gallery there. It was purchased from John Martin’s nephew in 1934 and according to Peter Kelly, may be the most valuable painting they own.



‘Joshua Spying out the Land of Canaan’ (Manx National Heritage Museum)

After we had introduced ourselves and our project, Mathew Richardson (Curator of Social History) kindly offered us a re-print of the painting, to hang in our John Martin Gallery in the Haydon Bridge Community Centre. Mr. Richardson’s willing response to our visit was typical of everyone we met on the island during our stay. As we signed the visitors’ book in the Museum’s Library and settled down to search through the Mann newspapers of 1854 (the year of John Martin’s death) Roger Simms, the Manx Museum Library Archivist, introduced himself. Roger has been in the Isle of Man for ten years and before that he lived at.....Corbridge.

Roger’s next visit to Tynedale in the summer of 2006, will include a ‘John Martin Trail’ at Haydon Bridge.

**4 FINCH ROAD**

Martin’s biographer Thomas Balston, cites an 1852 letter written by John’s daughter Isabella, in which she refers to ‘(John’s) sojourn in the Isle of Man’, as the first documentary evidence of John’s visits there. Although later, in 1863, Isabella is quoted as saying that her father formed the habit of spending his summers and autumn on the Isle of Man, after his move to Chelsea; which was in 1848.

So John’s first visit was at the earliest in 1848, or more likely 1849, and we know that he stayed with Thomas Wilson the leading draper on the Island. Thomas Wilson and his brother John had inherited their father’s drapery business which had shops in Douglas, Castletown, Peel and Ramsey. Thomas Wilson lived at ‘4’ Finch road and it was here that John Martin spent long periods each year between 1849 and 1854.

Thomas Wilson is described as, ‘a great social figure’ on the island and the gregarious Martin no doubt enjoyed Thomas’ company and associating with his circle of friends.



Number ‘4’ as it used to be is the right hand property of this semi on Finch Road

It has long been assumed that John Martin visited and died in what is now number ‘4’ Finch Road and earlier visitors to this address have described the property as detached. Thanks to Peter Kelly’s research, we now know that the Finch Road house numbers were altered in the latter part of Queen Victoria’s reign and the Wilson house was in fact, one of two pairs of identical semi detached villas, and it is numbered ‘12’ today. The semis, numbers ‘12’ and ‘14’ are combined now, and provide offices for

the financial services company, Trident Trust.

John Martin had never left these shores during his life, even though his paintings were hung in European galleries, his engravings sold worldwide and he was honoured by foreign Royalty. So why did he visit the Isle of Man in the summers and autumns of his later years?

### **There was a family connection between John Martin and Thomas Wilson in the Isle of Man.**

Thomas Balston (1943) states that Thomas Wilson married the sister of John's wife Susan (nee Garrett). In fact it was John Martin's cousin, Maria Alice Thompson that the Douglas businessman married. Indeed, there are no records of Susan ever having accompanied her husband during his Isle of Man 'sojourns'. It was their daughter Isabella who became his secretary and companion and was in the Isle of Man at the time of his illness and death.

John's mother Isabella (nee Thompson) was born in 1750 and you may remember that her father was Richard Thompson who lived and farmed at East Land Ends.

Maria Alice's father, another Richard Thompson, was almost certainly a brother of John's mother Isabella.

This Richard Thompson, born in Northumberland in 1758, and his wife Anne, also lived during their final years at '4' Finch Road with their daughter. Maria Alice's father died at Douglas in 1849.

Was that the reason for John's first visit I wonder?

Richard Thompson and his wife Anne are in the same Kirk Braddan vault in which their nephew John Martin came to be buried. (But more of that later.)

A further connection with the Wilson family was made after John Martin's death, when the artist's son Charles, married Mary Ann Wilson, Thomas Wilson's daughter.

This marriage proved to be a disaster for Mary Ann, when Charles deserted her in Paris. She was in 'a dying condition' when she was discovered there by her father.

A pleasant lady receptionist welcomed us into '12' (previously '4') Finch Road. She appeared unaware of the property's association with the Haydon Bridge

artist, although a large Martin engraving of 'The Plains of Heaven' hung on the wall behind her as a reminder.

Once again, the response to our visit could not have been more helpful. Annsley Ploughman, Managing Director of Trident Trust, welcomed us and we were shown throughout the inside of the building where John Martin ended his days.

It was here on November 12<sup>th</sup> 1853 that John, while working on a painting of 'The Meeting of Jacob and Esau', suffered a paralytic seizure which deprived him of his speech, the use of his right hand and eventually his left hand and his legs.

Our mood was sombre as we viewed the panorama of Douglas Bay from the property on Finch Road. Through the windows from where, according to John's son Leopold Charles Martin, our famous artist, "sat during the day and part of the night with a fixed gaze upon the sea and sky, watching the effects of light and shade. All power of his hands gone for ever."

John never spoke again after his seizure but his sight, his hearing and his mental faculties were unimpaired.

According to Leopold, John's Doctor in London, when informed of his illness, said: "I have known John Martin for years, and long made him my particular study. The attack was one to be calculated upon at any time, it being the result of an over wrought brain. With him, ten years were equal to a life-time of those with the average mould....."

The final comment will be no surprise to those who have studied the life of our Haydon Bridge artist. His capacity for work on his paintings, engravings, pamphlets, engineering plans and inventions, the inspiring social life he led and by no means least his unceasing loyalty to an always demanding family, especially his wayward brothers, was quite remarkable.

### **We should be very proud that someone of such commitment and renown was born and spent his early life in our parish.**

It appears that John finally accepted that his time was over and he may well have deliberately hastened his end. 'The Athenaeum' of the day states that, 'he ceased to take food except in the very smallest quantities.....nothing

would induce him to change this system of rigid abstinence.....and he gradually sank in strength and spirits'.

On December 26<sup>th</sup> John Martin signed his Last Will with a cross witnessed by Mary Ann Wilson. John's son Charles Martin and Henry Corbould (who was married to Thomas Wilson's daughter Ann) were appointed his executors.

Charles Martin was with his father through his illness, and it was during these final days that he drew the crayon portrait which was exhibited in the Royal Academy in 1854 and is now in the Laing Art Gallery.

The portrait was used as a logo for our John Martin Heritage Project.



### **At six o' clock on the evening of February 17<sup>th</sup> 1854, John Martin died in 4 Finch Road.**

His daughter and constant companion Isabella wrote. 'His end was most tranquil and beautiful. He passed away without effort or apparent pain, and was conscious to within an hour of his death. He seemed perfectly aware that he was dying but had no fear of death.'

As we left the building on Finch Road, we reflected on an interesting story recorded in my Haydon News Historical Notes (September 2000) and also available to read on Henry's web site [www.wojm.org.uk](http://www.wojm.org.uk) ('Today' / 'Writing').

A written offer was made by the great artist to provide examples of his work for the Library and Newsroom in Haydon Bridge, his native village. Eventually, when the committee got round to responding to the letter, it having been mislaid by the secretary, it was too late. The letter of acceptance from Haydon Bridge was received on the very day that John Martin died.

At least we have the knowledge that John was thinking about the place of his birth, as he neared the end of his days.

*Our Library and Newsroom committee did, in time, make a gesture in memory of Haydon Bridge's most famous son, by*

hanging a portrait of the artist on a wall in the ground floor reading room. I recall the portrait, as a young member of the Reading Room, one hundred years after John's death. The image was a depressing sight, it was torn, yellowed from the effects of years of tobacco smoke and it had been defaced by thoughtless vandals.

Hopefully, our new Martin Gallery, when complete, will provide a more fitting and a lasting tribute.

**We had two more properties to visit on our Isle of Man John Martin trail, before visiting Kirk Braddan cemetery.**

**Port Lewaigue** is to the north of Douglas and it is recorded that John Martin occasionally stayed in a house there, lent to him by a Dr. J.H.F Spencer. The narrow lane running down to the sea opens onto a beautiful view that would have been inspiring for the artist, and we took our photographs. Whether we chose the right Victorian dwelling for our lenses is open to question - we may have to go back to this lovely part of the island to check it out again!!

There was no doubt about the next imposing, castellated property.

**'Harold Tower'** is on the south side of Douglas harbour, overlooking the town.



**Harold Tower**

John's son Leopold wrote that his father died at 'Harold Tower' and this house is given by Martin's biographer Mary Pendered as the place where, 'John Martin was staying. . . . when his last illness put an end to his work.' Leopold in 1889 and Mary Pendered in 1923 were mistaken. The documentary evidence available makes it clear that it wasn't 'Harold Tower' but, as we have already seen, '4' Finch Road where John spent his last days and died.

'Harold Tower' does have a connection with the Isle of Man - Martin trail however, and maybe the errors of the earlier writers are understandable.

It was to here that the Wilson family,

with whom Martin was staying when he died, subsequently moved.

It was here also that Wilson's sons-in-law, Charles Martin (John's son and Mary Ann Wilson's husband) and Edward Corbould (who married the Wilsons' eldest daughter Ann in 1851, was art teacher to Queen Victoria's children, and was John Martin's executor) used to come and stay. There was no one at home when we visited, but the property, now owned by an American, is very desirable indeed if the view from the outside is anything to go by.

#### **KIRK BRADDAN**

**Seven days after John's death, on February 24<sup>th</sup> 1854, the funeral cortege left the house of Mr. Wilson on Finch Road and made its journey to Kirk Braddan New Cemetery.**

It says much for John's standing in the town, where after all he was only a visitor, that the solemn occasion was commemorated by a muffled peal from the bells of St Thomas's Church at the end of Finch Road.

The small, narrow Church within Kirk Braddan New Cemetery stands prominently on a ridge at the top of the gentle rise up the central pathway from the main gates. Its front elevation, brilliant white, contrasts sharply with the grey monuments that mark the graves on all sides.



**This is Kirk Braddan Cemetery where John Martin was buried in 1854.**

**In October we will 'attend his funeral' and continue our journey.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

In my March 2006 'Notes about the Staward-Le-Peel picnics, I asked whether any residents in our parish, or readers of the Haydon News, could remember the 'amusements' played out during the 19c in the shadow of the ruined peel. 'Jolly Miller', 'Bobby Bingo' and 'Driving the Pig to market'. Denis Fleming, Property Manager of the National Trust, from Beltingham, is one reader who is able

to enlighten us.

March 2006.

Dear Editors,

I enjoyed reading the piece in The Haydon News about the Staward Picnics.

Not one of the oldest residents in the area but I can recall Bobby Bingo. You form a circle with someone in the middle (some played it with someone walking around the outside) and you sing:

"There was a farmer had a dog and he called it Bobby Bingo" and you spell out "B-I-N-G-O". As you sang you would touch the others in the circle and the one you touched on the "O" would be out. You continued until one person was left, who won the game.

This was a street game played in the North East and possibly elsewhere, up to the 1950's.

My mother also remembers the game (82 years old) but my kids (6 and 8) do not.

Some called it Bobby Bobby Bingo.

Doreen Davison from 'The Vauce' is another reader who remembers 'Bobby Bingo' well, as a song and a game. Doreen is also able to provide a description of 'Jolly Miller', a game with a similar theme.

Doreen continues:

"A circle was formed with everyone holding hands and someone in the middle. the circle went round to the song.

"There was a jolly miller and he lived by himself, as the wheel went round he made his wealth.

With one hand in the hopper and the other in the bag, as the wheel went round he made his grab."

On this last word of the song, the person in the middle makes a grab for someone in the circle - and they take their place in the middle.

It is interesting that Billy Davison, Doreen's husband, remembers temperance picnics at 'Sillywreay Farm' perhaps seventy five years ago. Was this a continuation of the Staward Peel event?

'Driving the Pig to Market' is still a mystery, but maybe there is someone out there who will be able to enlighten us.

Thank you to Doreen and Denis for their recollections. The simple pleasures so much enjoyed at the Staward Peel Picnic and early to middle 20c school and Sunday School parties, may no longer

meet the demands of today's generation, but I can assure you that the tune and words of 'Bobby Bingo' are still a firm favourite in our family.

All our grandchildren are taught by their granny to sing:

“There was a farmer had a dog,  
His name was Bobby Bingo,  
B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O,  
His name was Bobby Bingo.”

Last month, a correspondent questioned the value of parish councillors, who fail to vote 'one way or the other' on important issues.

One of our readers replies.

02/07/06

Dear Editors,

Re. B. Mused's letter (H.N. July issue)

As one of three councillors who chose to abstain during the Haydon Hotel's planning application, I feel B. Mused needs to be informed on several points.

1. Having heard both for and against arguments in my personal opinion I could see appropriate points on both arguments which lead to my decision to abstain. The Haydon Hotel had already ceased trading and the occupants were retiring age.

2. As for having plenty of time to prepare, we meet once a month and this application came to light at the previous meeting. We were given a document of feasibility for the business and questions to read. There were several inaccuracies in this document regarding local facilities. I also received an anonymous letter urging me to vote against the application which I had to ignore, if the person had signed the letter I would have considered their points on the application.

3. I was co-opted onto the council four years ago as there were several vacancies and I was asked to consider standing as a councillor by Mrs. E. Charlton.

4. As councillors, we are unpaid volunteers. Many of us work in the village and so are accessible to many of the villagers, to voice their worries, concerns and complaints. We campaign for village improvements i.e. dropped curbs currently being installed in the village, better street lighting, safety issues, access for disabled people as well as actively tidying the old cemetery and cleaning the riverside.

5. All councillors do their best to help the people of Haydon Bridge. However when you read such a letter in the Haydon News you wonder why do you

bother to attend meetings, make phone calls and meet with various officials from the Police, Environment Agency to Milecastle Housing to try to help the community.

Finally as there is a current vacancy on the parish council, perhaps the person hiding behind a pen name would like to apply having shown us the error of our ways and show us exactly how things should be done. I await the outcome of this challenge.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs. C. Duffy.  
(Haydon Parish Councillor.)

### THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

The new football season will get underway this month (did last season ever end?) and we offer our best wishes to Haydon Bridge youngsters Dan Kikup and Michael Liddle. Eighteen year old Dan has been with Carlisle United since he was sixteen and after impressive displays as a central defender for the youth team, which he captained, and the reserves, he has signed a one year professional contract with the Cumbrians.

Sixteen year old Michael plays left fullback and has been at Sunderland's football academy since he was ten years old. Still at Haydon Bridge High School, Michael has played for Sunderland's under 16 and under 18 teams and now has a place on the club's two year scholarship scheme.

Our village can boast a number of connections with football league clubs over the years.

The Haydonian who probably enjoyed the most successful career in the game, was George Anderson. Born at Haydon Bridge in 1889, George was a goalkeeper who signed for Sunderland in 1910 and made 20 appearances for them. George was then transferred to Aberdeen in season 1914, and in Scotland he was a success as both a player and a manager. As manager of Dundee, his team won the Scottish League Cup in 1950-51 and 1952-53 and got to the Scottish Cup Final in 1952 only to lose 4-1 to Motherwell. *(More about that day in a future issue.)* George Anderson eventually became a Director of Dundee.

In a Scottish newspaper recently, Haydon Bridge's George Anderson was voted 47th in the top 50 Scottish football managers of all time.

Ken Lax, another goalkeeper and a stalwart of various Haydon Bridge sides lived at Willow Gap. Ken played professional football for Carlisle. Alastair Burrowes has consulted his archive of Haydon Bridge footballers and tells me that Ken Lax played for our village team in 1935 until the war years. intervened, although it is from the 1950's that I have memories of his playing days for Haydon Bridge.

In the 1970's, George Hope, from Haydon Bridge, played for Newcastle United Juniors and signed professional forms for the club in 1972. I saw all George's six games for the Magpie's first team. Three of them in the (most) famous number 9 shirt, and in the others playing alongside Malcolm McDonald and John Tudor.

George's game for Newcastle that will be best remembered, was against Manchester United at St. James' Park on November 17th 1973.

Newcastle won 3-2 and George scored the winner to tumultuous applause.

I recall an amusing story from that afternoon.

George's younger brother Barry was at the match and when the winning goal was scored and the crowd chanted:

'George Hope - George Hope - George Hope' Barry turned to me with a puzzled look and a question.

"Dennis. How do all those people know my brother's name?"

*Forgive me Barry, but I love that one!!*

George left Newcastle in May 1975, and went to Charlton Athletic and from there to York City.

Our village footballer who has had the most successful professional playing career to date is undoubtedly Shaun Elliott. Shaun made 368 appearances for Sunderland and scored 11 goals. He made his debut at the age of nineteen against Leicester in 1977 and eventually became captain. Shaun also played three times for the England 'B' team.

Those of you who know me will not find it strange that **I didn't** see all Shaun's games for Sunderland! Although I did go 'incognito' to Roker Park on a few occasions, to follow Shaun's career. Shaun left Sunderland in 1986 and continued his successful career at Norwich, Blackpool and Colchester.

So we hope that Dan and Michael are both successful this season at Carlisle and Sunderland, but most importantly, we hope that they **enjoy** the beautiful game.

### ♪♪ RIDING ALONG ON YOUR PUSHBIKE HONEY...♪♪

#### RIP CAB

Due to loss of funding the CAB sessions at the health centre have ceased. This withdrawal of support from rural services is very much to be regretted. Whether any new funding will become available is unclear but if anyone has any clout with any influential person then this would be a good moment to apply said clout.

#### A GRAND TOTAL

Mary Douthwaite and Sonia Armstrong had a stupendous result from their carefully arranged Men's Health Saturday morning special session. Two blokes turned up – well done them.

This was a significant lost opportunity for many. We recognise that working people cannot get to the health centre easily in the week and we have given some thought to establishing regular Saturday sessions again but this turnout has been a definite dampener. Even when we were open on Saturdays there was only ever one or two people to be seen which was why, amongst other reasons, we ceased to offer the service.

#### PEDALLING FOR HEALTH

Bicycling is good for you and for the environment. It is very good to see people using bikes to get around the village and some using them to go to work too. Modern bikes, with suspension and decent brakes and gears, are really easy to use and do not have to be that expensive. They come in all shapes and sizes and, for those who doubt their ability to balance, there are adult tricycles.

Sheer, buttock caressing, Lycra shorts are not required and comfortable saddles, in a wide variety of styles to suit both genders, are available. Recently, in the BMJ, a measure of doubt has been expressed about the value of helmets. No firm conclusion was reached but intuition suggests that they ought to be of some benefit and because of the personal experience, of a friend who took a header off a bike and died, I choose to wear one.

In the past I have written about the desirability of being visible on the road, whether as pedestrian or cyclist. It still

amazes me how many people expose themselves to the risk of injury and death by wearing dull colours whilst near traffic. Wear something very bright – glaringly bright – ideally fluorescent.

By the time this article appears in print, we will have returned from a bicycling holiday in Germany. We tried to encourage the children to stay at home by telling them that lederhosen were compulsory but they saw through the ruse. The information supplied for the journey is fulsome and lends emphasis to the perception of the Germans as dedicated carnivores – one menu item caught our eye in particular - *Schlactplatte*, translated as 'slaughter plate'.

Apparently almost every village and hamlet in Germany has someone who can sort out bike problems. I wonder how long it will be before the same applies here.

#### PIDDLING FOR HEALTH

The variety of containers in which we receive urine samples is stunning. Tiny scent bottles and liqueur miniature bottles (must be a real aiming challenge) to two litre pop bottles and everything in between. Note to all: jam jars almost always leak! The ideal containers are those that we supply. Most importantly they are sterile. Please ask at the desk for them whenever you need one.

The first observation is the colour. Urine should be gin-clear, with only the faintest yellow tinge. Cloudy urine is suspicious. If your urine is darker in colour, then you can be sure you are not drinking enough – everyone should aim for an absolute minimum of 2 litres of assorted fluids daily, more is definitely better. In any clear liquid a little blood can go a long way – what appears at first to be a terrible haemorrhage may be, in fact, only a very small loss of blood – don't forget the effect of beetroot either.

Smell – if the container is not faultlessly clean then the previous inhabitant, whether pickled onion or Chanel No. 5, will be the predominant note. Infected urine does smell more pungent than other samples but is not a

reliable guide to problems. There are some illnesses with characteristic odour but they are rare.

Everyone will have seen us dip thin plastic sticks covered in little coloured squares into urine samples. This simple test provides a wealth of information and sometimes leads direct to a diagnosis. The tests can show:

Protein – think kidney problems,  
Sugar – think diabetes,  
Specific gravity – how concentrated,  
ph – acid or alkali,  
Leucocytes – think infection,  
Nitrites – think infection,  
Ketones – think starvation or diabetes,  
Blood – infection or stone.

Various other sticks can be used for other purposes.

New research is showing how essential it is to check urine samples routinely for protein, especially in diabetics and those with raised blood pressure. There is a clear relationship between the amount of protein leaking from the kidneys and prognosis. Accordingly, we are hoping that we can encourage everyone to follow the example of many elsewhere around the globe who take a urine sample to the doctor every time they go to see him or her.

#### THE WHOLE NINE YARDS

Summarising patient notes for entering data into the computer often reveals major gaps in the recorded history. Before long, with nationwide access to everyone's notes on-line, having an accurate and complete list of the problems you have had will be especially important.

We would be delighted to show you what we think we know about you so that you have the chance to adjust or add things as required.

Some may hope to delete things from their record but please pause before doing so. That item of information that upsets you now may be vital at some point in the future. A book with even the odd page missing is not something to rely upon.

Any item that is plainly wrong must be taken out – obviously.

### ROYAL WARD ROUND

Prince Charles is visiting an Edinburgh hospital. He enters a ward full of patients with no obvious sign of injury or illness and greets one.

The patient replies, "Fair fa your honest sonsie face, Great chieftain o the puddin' race, Aboon them a ye take yer place, Painch, tripe or thairm, As lang's my airm."

HRH is confused, so he just smiles and moves on to the next patient. The patient responds, "Some hae meat an canna eat, And some wad eat that want it, But we hae meat an we can eat, so let the Lord be thankit."

Even more confused, and with a rictus grin, the Prince moves on to the next patient, who immediately begins to chant, "Wee sleekit, cowerin, timrous beastie, O the panic in thy breastie, Thou

needna start awa sae hastie, Wi bickerin' brattle."

Now seriously troubled, Charles turns to the accompanying doctor and asks, "Is this a psychiatric ward?"

"No," replies the doctor, "This is the Serious Burns Unit."

### IMPROVE YOUR LOTTERY CHANCES

This is a serious point and not a joke!

To substantially increase your chance of winning the Lottery it is vital that you buy your tickets at the last possible moment before each draw. The reason being that your chances of a win are far smaller than your chance of death from accidental causes. Leaving too many hours or days between purchase and draw reduces your chance of surviving to collect the winnings.

### CHOOSE AND BOOK

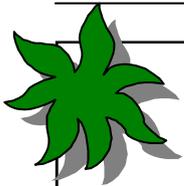
Prior to 1990 we could refer anyone to any hospital in the UK without any fuss at all.

Now we are wired in to the national 'Choose and Book' system and starting to make use of it. You will, when the bugs are ironed out, usually be offered about five choices – maybe more later. Ah Progress! Don't you just love it!

The Government will be independently surveying patients, apparently, to check that they have been offered a choice and we will be required to enter a code in the record to confirm that a choice was offered.

Oh that Orwell and Kafka were still around!

Steve Ford



## THE RAILWAY HOTEL, HAYDON BRIDGE. FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH.

**£2 PER ENTRY. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE BENCHED BY 10AM  
JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11AM. CASH PRIZES.  
RAFFLE.**

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT WITH JOHNNY HANDLE, DENNIS TELFORD &  
HENRY ROBSON.

**FREE SUPPER**

**RAFFLE DRAW**

**AUCTION OF ENTRIES AT 12 NOON ON 27TH AUGUST  
MONEY RAISED TO BE DONATED TO NORTH AIR AMBULANCE.**

### **RAILWAY HOTEL FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW ENTRY FORM.**

CATEGORIES. (PLEASE TICK CATEGORIES YOU ARE SHOWING)

- **A COLLECTION OF 3 VEGETABLES.**
- **BLANCHED LEEKS.**
- **FLOWERS. 6 BLOOMS, SINGLE FLOWER TYPE OR MIXED.**
- **CHUTNEYS AND/OR JAMS.**
- **POTATO FACE COMPETITION (UNDER 12S ONLY)**

NAME  
.....  
.  
TELEPHONE  
.....  
Return entry form with fee to  
The Railway Hotel by  
**August 19th.**

**CHURCH PAGE**

**CLERGY MESSAGE**

From

*Father Leo Pyle*



Jesus taught in parables to help the listeners understand.

Let's look at the Weeds in the Wheat Parable and see what we can learn. We learn not to be too quick to judge anyone. The compulsive weeders among us do untold harm. Even God's justice always topples over into mercy. So rash judgement has no place in our Christianity. Leave the sorting out to God. It takes all sorts to make our Church and the attempt to purify the Church and make it a community of only the righteous is a highly dangerous game. It results in injustice, and behaviour clean contrary to the gospel.

Just think about that expression "Witch Hunt". The consequences of witch hunts were terrible, as we know only too well from our own national history.

Certainly, there is no place for witch hunts in our Church. So much then for the parable of the Weeds in the Wheat. Then there is the parable of the mustard seed. We all think in terms of splendid and unexpected growth from humble beginnings when we read the parable of the mustard seed. Actually, the instance of the enormous tree which gives shelter to the birds is found in the book of Daniel. There it applies to the cedars of Lebanon which grow to the height of the Californian redwoods. So in that case the simile is accurate.

In Daniel chapter 4 the tree represents Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful ruler of the Babylonian empire which destroyed Jerusalem. The same image is used in the vision of the restored kingdom of Judah after the exile in Babylon. (Ezek. 17. 22-24.) Both uses of this image of the enormous tree suggest worldly power and splendour.

In fact the mustard plant is a small, insignificant shrub. It will never grow into a tree which dominates the landscape. So Jesus may be turning the Old Testament example on its head. Taken with the simile of the yeast and the dough which has to disappear to bring about its intended effect, the answer is "Yes". Jesus is turning the O.T. example on its head.

So the Kingdom is not a Kingdom with the trappings of empire and splendour. Rather it is lowly, humble and might not even be noticed, but which has an effect, a crucial effect on the society around us. Dough is not made up

**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 Les Hann, (from September)  
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

exclusively of yeast but neither can it become what it is intended to be without it. So consider: what kind of Church does the Lord wants us to be with our falling attendance and changes in the make up of our population? Certainly it is not a time for fatalism. *Gaudium et Spes*, the courageous Vatican II document written during the Cold War reveals us moving closer to God. The world **is** changing, it says, and that change is making the world more, not less, accessible to the good news the Church has to preach. It is then a time to recover a sense of the Spirit. The Spirit which is working all unseen as the power which vitalises us and all the disciples of Jesus. That way lies the Kingdom we all yearn for, the life and the larger life. Thanks be to God

Leo Pyle

**METHODIST CHURCH  
SERVICES**

**August 6**

10.00am Rev. Peter Wright  
Communion  
6.00pm Rev David Flavell

**August 13**

10.00am Morning Worship  
Mrs Joyce Short  
6.00pm Special Service lead by  
Mr & Mrs Michael Armstrong

**August 20**

10.00am Morning Worship  
Mrs Evelyn Charlton  
6.00pm Evening Worship  
Mr Raymond Rutherford

**August 27**

10.00am Morning Worship  
Mr Graham Wilson  
6.00pm No Service

**September 3**

10.00am Morning Worship  
Rev Les Hann  
6.00pm Circuit Service at Trinity  
Hexham. Rev Leo Osborn  
Welcome of Les Hann, Stephen Caddy  
& Marian Olsen

**September 10**

10.00am Family Worship  
Mrs Brenda Mearns  
6.00pm No Service

**September 17**

10.00am Morning Worship  
Mrs E Walton  
6.00pm Holy Communion  
Rev Les Hann

**September 24**

10.00am Morning Worship  
Mr Doug Hogg  
6.00pm No Service

**Sunday 01 October**

6 pm Combined Harvest Service

**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

**BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW  
CHURCH SERVICES**

**Sunday 6 August**

**Beltingham**  
10.00am BCP Communion

**Sunday 13 August**

**Beltingham**  
10.00am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 20 August**

**Henshaw**  
10.00am Communion  
**Beltingham**  
6.00pm Evensong

**Sunday 27 August**

Service at Haydon Bridge

**Sunday 3 September**

**Beltingham**  
10.00am BCP Communion

**Sunday 10 September**

Service at Haydon Bridge  
**Beltingham**  
6.00pm Evensong

**Sunday 17 September**

**Henshaw**  
10.00am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 24 September**

**Beltingham**  
Joint Family Communion

**Sunday 1 October**

**Beltingham**  
10 am BCP Communion

**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH  
SERVICES**

**Sunday 06 August**

8 am BCP Communion  
10.30 All Age Service

**Sunday 13 August**

**10.30am** Communion

**Sunday 20 August**

**10.30am** Morning Prayer

**Sunday 27 August**

**10.30am** Joint Family Service

**Sunday 03 September**

8 am BCP Communion  
10.30 All Age Service

**Sunday 10 September**

10.30 Joint Family Communion

**Sunday 17 September**

10.30 Communion

**Sunday 24 September**

Joint Service at Beltingham

**Sunday 01 October**

8 am BCP Communion  
10.30 All Age Service  
**At Methodist Church**  
6 pm Combined Harvest Service

**HAYDON OLD CHURCH  
SERVICES**

**Sunday 06 August**

06.00pm Evensong

**Sunday 03 September**

06.00pm Evensong

**Sunday 08 October**

6 pm Harvest Service

**New Monthly Pattern of Services for the Anglican Churches**

Due to a change in availability of ministers the following scheme has been worked out for September to December in the Anglican Churches.

Sunday Services at Haydon Bridge begin at 10.30 am. Sunday Services at Beltingham/Henshaw begin at 10 am

Two Joint services per month in the benefice. At Haydon Bridge on the second Sunday of each month and at Beltingham/Henshaw on the last Sunday in each month.

On the first Sunday of each month there will be BCP Communion at 8 am Haydon Bridge and at 10 am Beltingham/Henshaw.

Third Sunday will be 10 am Morning prayer/Matins at Beltingham/Henshaw and 10.30 Communion at Haydon Bridge.

When there are five Sundays in the month there will be Morning Prayer at one and Communion at the other to restore any imbalance.

Evensong will take place provided there is a reasonable number in attendance.

This gives a variety of services in each of the churches.

## HAYDON BRIDGE LIBRARY

The future of twelve libraries within the current Northumberland Library Service is under review. From Belford and Kielder to Newsham (Blyth) and Haydon Bridge, they are spread across the county. At present a consultation process is underway to look at possibilities, but it is quite clear that retaining present provision in Haydon Bridge is not one of the options. The present library is not cost effective and doesn't give value for money; important criteria when making judgements about services nowadays.

The problem.

Only 18% of the adult population of Haydon are members of the library. The county average is more than double at 39%. Children (under 14yrs) fair rather better with 49% of them having library membership. However, when it comes to active membership, regular users of the library, the overall figure for adults and children is 19%, a total of 387 people out of a parish population of 2,033. During one week an average of 73 people visit the library.

At present Haydon Bridge Library has a stock of 3,043 books and 112 videos/ DVDs with a value of almost £25,000. For most of the week these are not accessible to the public as the library has limited opening hours. On average 156 items are borrowed from the library each week.

In addition to the cost of the stock the annual running costs amount to £24,239. A considerable sum for 12 hours opening per week. The building does not belong to NCC but is leased from Network Rail for £2,350 per year.

There is also a difficulty staffing the library, as staff have to be taken from Hexham Library to cover the opening hours of Haydon Bridge. This results in staff shortages at Hexham, often in busy periods.

Over a six year period there has been a dramatic decline in the use of Haydon Bridge Library of 44%. Although nationally there is a reduction in the use of public libraries this is nowhere near the level recorded for Haydon Bridge.

The Solution.

Northumberland Library Services do want to retain a presence in Haydon Bridge but the form that will take has not been decided. This is what the 'consultation process' is about. In the first round of consultations held in early July, the managers of the Library Service outlined a number of possibilities.

In some communities libraries have been incorporated into local business premises e.g. pubs, shops etc. or into the library of the local school. Many areas have a mobile library service. In some places increasing use is being made of computers, to enable readers to browse a catalogue of available books and order them on line, for delivery to the village later in the week. This could well operate in conjunction with a mobile library service.

What's the answer for Haydon Bridge ?

We are being asked for our ideas to take to the second consultation meeting in early August.

If you have any thoughts on the form of future library provision in Haydon Bridge please contact the editors who will pass on your ideas to those who will make the final decision.

What's happening to other libraries in South Tynedale?

The Northumberland Library Services are developing a policy of providing improved library facilities on an area basis. Using a system of identifying 'belonging communities' Hexham is seen as the centre for Haydon Bridge and Corbridge. (yes, even Corbridge library is under threat ); Allendale as the centre for the North Pennines; Haltwhistle for Bardon Mill, Greenhead, Gilsland etc. It is to be hoped that the improvements made in these three libraries will be some recompense for the loss of our under used local library.

I wonder how many Haydon Bridge residents use Hexham Library on a regular basis already? It does, of course, already offer a considerably more enhanced service than our small local library ever could.

## CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU.

The Citizens' Advice Bureau have withdrawn their weekly information and advice session from the Health Centre. For many years their services have been available on a Monday afternoon to the people of the village. Due to 'financial restraints' this service is no longer available in Haydon Bridge.

CAB continue to run a weekly session at Haltwhistle Library on Thursdays, 10am—2pm

Their regular sessions continue at Hexham Community Centre, Gilesgate at the following times ;  
10am– 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

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While we're considering loss of services in the village, there's the Haydon Hotel, not so long ago considered by many people the best pub in the village, now lost to development. And just last month we heard that the last shop south of the river has applied for planning permission for change of use from shop to flat accommodation.

Mutterings have been heard for years casting doubt on the future of our local fire station, though this should be more secure with the recent opening of the 'Sure start' pre school scheme, using rooms in the station. Then there's the NCC secondary schools reorganisation and the prospects for Haydon Bridge High School. The school needs the full support of the village to ensure its future.

On the other hand it's good to note that our local chemist and farm goods dealer has found new ownership. It is so often the case when businesses come up for sale, that closure, due to the lack of a purchaser, follows.

It's also heartening to see a new investment in our tourist trade future with the opening of 'The Reading Rooms B&B'.

And, what's more, the Co op's recent refurbishment, I forget how much it cost, is a reassuring investment in Haydon Bridge.

However, as with all local amenities and businesses, it's up to us to use them. Without our custom they cannot survive.