



THE HAYDON NEWS



The High Level Ranters at Shaftoe Trust First School

Cover notes : see page 7

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Issue 05

**June
2006**

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

As part of their annual report (see Parish Council notes) Road Link(A69)Ltd have a section on litter and the requirement placed on them by the Dept of the Environment to carry out a litter pick several times each year. As a frequent traveller to Hexham, I have noticed workmen litter picking on this section of the A69 on three occasions so far this year. The company have certainly made the effort to clear the litter and improve the appearance of the road between Hexham and Haydon Bridge. For short periods of time they appear have succeeded and by short, I really do mean SHORT! Sometimes it has only been a matter of a few hours between the collection of the black bags of litter and the appearance of fresh road side rubbish.

Many motorists seem to view their car window in the same manner as they view their dustbin lids. It's just a matter of open it up and throw it out/in. Their home may be their castle but the roadside is their dump. This view is reinforced by those motorists who, having filled a carrier bag with traveller's debris, neatly tie the bag handles and ditch it in a lay-by. I suppose those people carrying out the litter picking can be guaranteed a job for life, if they want it.

It certainly strikes me as rather odd that a considerable number of motorists have red and white flags flapping above their vehicles, in support of England's football team in the World Cup Finals, when so many of them use their country as a waste disposal site!

PLEASE TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME.

The Editors.

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CO-OP LATE SHOP
Ratcliffe Road

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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

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the meeting in May 2006

Prior to the start of the main meeting the council held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the Haydon Hotel's planning application for a change of use to residential dwelling. There was no public participation at this meeting, although the two members of the public present were invited to comment from time to time on what was being said by the members.
8 councillors were present.

The chairman explained that this meeting was being held to give councillors the opportunity to discuss the planning application as this had not been possible at the previous council meeting. Councillors were invited to give their views on the Haydon Hotel's application. Several points were raised including the unique character of the pub; its potential as a viable business; its past popularity and its value as a village facility at a time when the council are working to promote tourism in the village. Following a long discussion, during which the previous licensee's commitment to the pub was recognised as being a major factor in the Haydon's popularity and success, councillors were invited to vote.

4 councillors objected to the application
3 abstained

1 voted no comment.

The meeting then went on to discuss how best the parish council could deal with planning applications when so many received by the council have to be returned before the date of the monthly meeting.
Several ideas were suggested such as holding additional meetings; setting up a sub committee to deal with applications; circulating applications to members before meetings but no decision was taken on the way forward. It was recognised that the time allowed for parish councils to receive and comment on planning applications had been reduced to speed up the planning process and help Tynedale Council meet government targets regarding the time taken to reach a decision on applications. Under the circumstances the council decided to ask Helen Winter, the chief planning officer, to come and talk to the council on how best to resolve the consultation problem.

Parish Council Monthly Meeting

9 parish councillors were present and one NCC councillor.

Public participation

A resident of Church Street, who has taken a particular interest in the workings of the church clock, reported that since it was repaired the clock had been gaining time and was now several minutes fast. The council agreed to recall the repairer to regulate the clock.

A question was asked about the replacement of the seat and litter bin at the corner of Church street and Strother Close. Both had been removed prior to the housing development in the Foundry Yard. The council are to write to the developer to enquire when the replacements will be provided. It was also noted that the parish council had not yet received compensation from the developer for the loss of the council owned bus shelter, demolished to make way for the now completed housing.

The councils' attention was drawn to a large pool of water gathering at the south end of the old bridge after heavy rain. It was suggested that this may be due to blocked street drains. Tynedale Council to be informed.

Matters arising from the previous meeting.

A meeting was held last Tuesday evening at the Railway Hotel with people prepared to act as flood wardens in Haydon Bridge. This is part of an Environment Agency scheme aimed at reducing the amount of damage done during flooding by helping people prepare beforehand. A follow up meeting is to be arranged with Environment Agency staff to get the scheme underway.

No further progress has been made regarding the interactive speed signs the council wish to erect on Ratcliffe Road to help reduce the speed of vehicles passing through the village. Further contact is to be made with Road Link to press the council's case.

Although some people remain sceptical about the signs, their effectiveness in other parts of the country has been proven.

The Spring Clean of the village in early May had seen many parts of the village cleared of rubbish/litter particularly along the riverside picnic area.

The wall near Langley Castle, dismantled by Northumbrian Water for work in the area, is to be reinstated in the next six weeks. The company are to investigate the reason for the delay.

In its attempt to encourage people to make better use of the local rail services, Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership are to erect notice boards outside the Railway Hotel and the Library to advertise services, fares and special offers.

Tynedale Council Notes.

The Tynedale councillor present said that there had not been a full meeting of Tynedale Council in May. He had attended a talk by an official from the Post Office aiming to reassure councillors that every endeavour was being made to keep small rural post offices open and that there was no agenda to close them. However to ensure they remained open they did need to be used by the local population.

A parish councillor did note that, while there may be no agenda to close post offices, many services were being withdrawn from them, eg; pensions, TV (Cont'd on page 12)

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. A Johnson
Mr. R Snowdon
Mr. E Brown.
Vacancy

(* also a Tynedale Councillor)

Parish Clerk
Mrs. C McGivern

Down The Back Of The Station.

**I continue the journey
I started last month,
through the history of the
California Gardens.
And anything else that I
come across along the
way!**

**My photograph shows the
California Gardens in 2006.**



Before continuing with my 'Notes from last month, I'd like to take a few steps back and record information about the California Gardens that has come to my attention since our last issue.

Firstly, the words of the 19c chronicler of Haydon Bridge history, William Lee.

July 7th 1852: A violent thunderstorm visited Haydon Bridge. The thunder and lightning was something awful, with such a deluge of rain as has seldom been witnessed, the streets in the village being completely flooded, and the water came rushing down some fields (known as the Cootshields), totally flooding **California Gardens**, the road leading to them being rendered impassable.

Next, a step forward fifty years to 1902 and efforts by Haydon Parish Council to secure California Gardens from the Admiralty for the village.

In November of 1902, following discussions with the Admiralty, the Parish Council offered £600 for the gardens. The Admiralty's response in February 1903, was to offer the **California Gardens** to our council for £830, on a twenty year lease. The council decided that it would be difficult to find tenants at the increased rent necessary to cover the terms of the lease. *"The rent asked now practically places them beyond the reach of the working classes,"* was one reaction. The length of the lease hardly seems to me to be fair either, and it appears that the resolve to purchase the gardens at that time, ended following a Parish Council meeting in March 1903.

Now forward to 1929.

If you read my Historical Notes in May, you will recall that: 'A new agreement for holding the California Gardens' was published in

September 1929, came into force in March 1930 and replaced an earlier 1879 document.

The 1929 agreement was sent from the Greenwich Hospital Estates' office in Alston and the receivers and agents were Drivers Jonas & Co.

This agreement was between the Landlords, 'The Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom,' and the 'California Gardens Committee.' The 1929 committee members of the Haydon Bridge 'California Gardens' were John Turnbull, James Robinson, Thomas Ridley, Thomas Brown and the secretary, George Temperley Brown. The committee's signatures were witnessed by J.S. Armstrong, an assurance agent of 'Riverdale', Haydon Bridge.

Additional clauses added to the California Gardens 1879 agreement included: brushing and keeping clean and trimmed the north fence, and erecting a post and single wire fence to the east.

This fence would form a boundary between the allotments and a piece of land removed from the original gardens. Probably an area of swamp land at the east end, which as a garden was almost unmanageable and had become overgrown, although Miss Bury, our Shaftoe Trust School science teacher, did eventually keep a few hens on it.

A Block Plan of the ground is included with the 1929 documents, and the California Gardens cover a piece of land measuring 3.5 acres. The annual rent was set at twelve pounds per annum, three shillings less the 1879 agreement, maybe reflecting the reduced acreage.

The tenancy was a yearly agreement

and the rent had to be paid six monthly in advance on Lady Day and Michaelmas.

I will digress here for a paragraph or two, as it occurs to me that it may be of some interest to reflect on the reasons for the stipulated rent days.

Lady Day, in the Christian calendar is the 25th. March, nine months before Christmas; the feast of the nativity of Jesus. I understand that until 1752 and the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar, Lady Day was the beginning of the legal year in England and in many cases is still a recognised 'Quarter Day' or date for the payment of quarterly rates or dues.

As is **Michaelmas** on September 29th. A great religious feast which coincided with the harvest in much of Western Europe. In England it was the custom to eat a goose on Michaelmas, which was supposed to protect against financial need in the next year.

(That's where Betty and I went wrong. We should have had goose on the menu at our wedding reception on 29th September 1962!!)

The available documents for 1931 provide the first indication that parts of the California Gardens were being used as poultry runs, initially by plot holders Frank Elliot, Joe Irving and Frank Johnson.

It may have been this additional use that was responsible for an increasing number of rats seen on the allotments, and during the 1930's there were complaints and questions to the Health authorities from some residents.

Other villagers apparently enjoyed the 'sport' of rodent watching. I quote from a Hexham Courant report:

'For some time now it has been a pastime for many people to walk down the Fourstones road (at Haydon Bridge) and watch the rats disporting themselves near the many henhouses which occupy some of the California gardens – just at the fall of dusk seems to be the best time. I heard the other day of several chickens having disappeared from the depredations of these rats, and when a ferret was introduced under a hut, as many as twenty rats emerged and ran in various directions.'

My own 'rattng' memories as a young boy in Haydon Bridge were also 'down the Fourstones road', but well beyond

the gardens, at the old tip opposite Springfield.

The parish Council had acquired the old West Mill Hills quarry in June 1920 and on January 13th. 1921, the Haydon Bridge public were informed that they had to take all their refuse to the tip. It was hoped by this means, to stop the dumping of rubbish on the riverside.

The steep sides of the wide excavation leading to a deep dark pool at the bottom were infested, and a source of grand 'sport' after school and at weekends for boys from both the north and south sides of the village. One or two of the older boys were lucky enough to have air rifles, but for most of us our weapons against the rodents that scuttled about amongst the heaps of household waste far below, were stones, old bricks and heavy objects that had been discarded on the tip.

I don't recall my own efforts at hurling missiles down the sides of the quarry having any effect on the Fourstones road rat population at all, but roars of approval from those around, greeted every stone that was thrown close enough to its intended target, to send it scurrying to a safer hiding place amongst the rubbish.

I remember the tip as a meeting place for many people from the village, as they scoured the dump for 'useful' materials or objects, pushing or pulling them home along the back of the station in wheel barrows, old black prams and home made bogies.

Recycling is not something new in Haydon Bridge. It existed long before Europe and Tynedale Council set us 'targets to achieve'!

The Wesleyan Methodists' tennis courts had no direct connection with California Gardens, other than occupying a neighbouring piece of land, behind the gasometer to the east of the gardens and belonging to the Wardle family from Brokenheugh. But as I am reminiscing about this part of our village, down the back of the station, it is worth recalling the opening of the new Wesleyan tennis pavilion on the June 7th 1930.

I have two photographs of the event, one of which shows a group of about eighty Wesleyan supporters on the day, but it is unlikely that the quality of photographs produced by our Haydon News printer would do that one justice. *(It's a pity that we cannot afford the capital and revenue costs for a copier, rather than a printer, to produce the Haydon News.)*



Back Row: Cecil Telford. George Wardle. William Thompson. Mr. Richardson. Stan Armstrong. John Willie Hamilton. **Front Row:** Ted Armstrong. Willie Lamb. Mrs. Ridley Mitchell. Herbert Burns.

**Opening
The
Wesleyan
Methodist
Tennis Courts
Pavilion.
June 7th 1930.**

The other, printed here, shows the committee of the Wesleyan Guild and the Recreation Club, with Mrs. W. Ridley Mitchell of The Hollies, who opened the pavilion.

There will be many who remember the Tennis Club's wooden pavilion. It was painted green and white, with red asbestos slates and a veranda the full length of the 25' frontage. Inside were two main rooms and being well away from village 'facilities', 'calls of nature' were catered for by two Elson chemical lavatories located at the rear. My father, Cecil Telford, built the pavilion, working long hours into the night to make sure it was ready, and it cost the Wesleyan Guild £70.

Funds were raised through a members' subscription and £11 from entry fees on the day of the opening. The afternoon consisted of teas, tennis, putting, clock golf and foot race competitions. Winners of the events, some of whom have family living in Haydon Bridge today, will be well remembered. Ernie Harrison, Billy Cooper, Alec Bates, Margaret Birnie, Lexy Burns, Edith Hamilton, Kathleen Usher and Mrs. William Thompson.

My two overriding memories of the Wesleyan tennis courts as a youngster are not, as might be expected, the sight of my father and mother playing in the regular competitions held there, but more a *taste* and a *smell*!

The *taste* of egg, tomato and cucumber sandwiches, beautiful home made cakes and scones, and seemingly endless supplies of lemonade. All provided for the teas on wonderfully warm summer evenings or weekends. The *smell* was somewhat less pleasant, never overpowering and yet always pervading the air around a watercourse turned open sewer, running down past

Alexandra Terrace and behind the tennis pavilion.

Bill Foster tells me that the source of this stream was the dam above Peelwell. Designed to turn a water wheel at the farm, the stream flowed down the Dene through the grounds of Linton House and into Belmont from where it was piped eastwards towards the Mill Hills, apparently picking up bits of stray sewage on its way.

Mention of Bill Foster reminds me of one of his many stories, and I'll relate it before leaving this brief mention of a Methodist Tennis club.

Bill was, and still is of course, committed to St. Cuthbert's Church in Haydon Bridge, nevertheless he applied to join a Methodist tennis club in the village. Not the Wesleyan club about which I have written, but the Primitive Methodists, whose courts were behind their chapel, on part of the land that is now Strother Close. In those days, you had to be proposed, seconded and have your application vetted by the committee before being accepted into the Methodist fold. Bill tells me that as a member of the Church of England, his early attempts to join the non-conformist social scene were unsuccessful. Eventually however, the Church of England opened a tennis court of their own in the gardens of the vicarage.

So there you are.
No 'Churches Together' in those days then!

Interestingly, I believe that there were tennis courts in at least six locations in Haydon Bridge about that time. The Church of England court; the Primitive Methodists', behind Church Street; one at Belmont, next to the Temperance Hotel; one at 'The Craggs'; another at 'The Rambler' down Brigwood and of

course the two Wesleyan Methodist courts next to the California Gardens.

The last service of public worship in the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Ratcliffe Road was held on January 9th. 1946, after a union of the Wesleyans and Primitives had been agreed.

The 'Methodist' tennis club down the back of the station continued for some time after that however, until it folded in the mid 1950's, a victim like so many other social activities, of the widespread ownership of television.

Alan Burrows tells me that after the closure, his dad Ronnie took over the one acre tennis club plot. Ronnie kept his hens and pigs there.

The pavilion which had been a venue for so many happy times that were part of my younger days, was eventually taken down and moved to the top field at the 'Lowhall Farm', where it continued for a number of years in its new role, as dressing rooms for our football team.

And now, a return to the California Gardens!

With the onset of the Second World War, the government's 'Dig for Victory' campaign and the need for home produced food, the California Gardens were again vitally important to our village's food supply; as they had been during 1914 -18.

A combination of lower rents paid to the Greenwich Hospital from 1930, and regular payments from every one of the five shilling plots, had allowed the gardens' committee to build a healthy Bank balance during the 1930's, and in 1946 following the war, twenty pound was spent repairing fences. Only twenty four pound had been spent in total during the previous twenty seven years.

The names of those gardening on the California in the middle to late 1940's, recall many established Haydon Bridge families of those years, including:
Dr. R. Bell. Tot Birnie. Chas. Brown. John Brown. Stan Brown. Tommy Clemitson. Jack Graham. Tommy Heslop. Willie Kent. Ronnie and Jeff Marshall. George Mellish. Ernie Mitchell. Kitch. Moore. Dent. Oliver. George Osselton. Andrew Paxton. Ted Raine. Andy Robinson. Peter Spooner. Billy Thompson. Tommy Teasdale. John Waugh, and one lady, Mrs. Robson.

By the early 1950's these gardeners were joined, or in some cases replaced,

by among others:

Maurice Brown, Miss Bury, Bill Foster, Billy Phillipson, George Robinson, Tony Havard, Jack Milburn, Eddie Moffat, Fred Pearson and Tommy Thompson.

In 1951 a water tap was paid for and installed, and by 1954 the California Gardens committee had a balance in their Bank account of forty two pound sixteen shillings and seven pence. That was more than enough to pay Willie Creer for timber, Alfie Kent to repair the allotment gates and Edward Kirsopp to rebuild the road wall.

I'll continue this stroll down the back of the station next month.

ENCLOSURE

Our village historian Mr. Coombes has pointed out to me that my use of the word 'enclosure', in my Historical Notes in last month's Haydon News, could be open to misinterpretation. I am pleased to put the record straight.

According to Mr. Coombes, a strict historical definition of the word 'enclosure' relates to the tenancy of common land following the Act of 1797, and land allotted to those with a claim over the commons.

If farm land was fenced or divided for whatever reason prior to 1797, as were the town fields at Chesterwood and Elrington, this action would not have been generally described as enclosure.

Thank you for that Mr. Coombes. My 'Notes in the archived copy of May's Haydon News, will be altered to reflect your comments.

HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED, 1971 Haydon News May 2006

In the photograph in last month's Haydon News, the player in the back row, second from the left, is Ronnie Whitfield. (Not Ronnie Blackburn.)

Perhaps in future, David Kirsopp and I should discuss photo captions over a glass of Haydon Spa water, rather than three or four pints of Deuchars Best!!

Finally in this column of confessions

Maurice Armstrong tells me that the 21 year old wine he sampled at Jill Rogan's, one New Years Eve (See HN April 2006), was prepared by Jill's grandfather.....Not John, her father.

REQUIEM ?

(to the Haydon Hotel)

My old friend stands forlorn,
On the banks of the great River Tyne.
The colour has drained
From Her painted face.

Her once lively and vibrant disposition
But a distant memory.

Her heart and soul allowed to perish
By those most recently in Her charge.

Where are those willing to rouse Her?

To revive the spirit,

For which She was once famed.

Where are those who would prepare Her

For a new life; For new friends?

Calling in as they pass-by,

On a new highway to the South?

Her last will and testament,

Lodged with those who will determine

Her fate,

Pays no heed to Her vibrant past and

Her popularity with those from near and far.

The sumptuous food She shared,

(The jewel in Her crown)

Warrants not one mention.

The sport and pleasure,

Which She encouraged and nurtured,

Are treated as matters of no regard.

Christened more than 155 years past,

She is now but a number.

(20060453) in Her undertaker's log.

But wait!

Is there yet a glimmer of hope?

My old friend is not giving up

Without a fight.

Can our Parish Masters (and Mistresses)

Delay Her demise?

See a brighter future for Her?

Or will the memories remain only

In the music and songs of an

Old acquaintance?

THE GARDEN STATION

The former Langley Railway Station hosts a wide range of courses and events, and visitors are welcome to wander through the unique and tranquil wooded gardens.

To quote Jane Torday, the owner of this private garden, one of the few to which visitors have access for free:

'When the first passenger train came to Langley on March 1st. 1869, a band played and flags were flying.

We are still celebrating this delightful Victorian country station today, but the service we provide now is not for railway passengers but for garden lovers.' (01434 684391 For more information)

HAVE YOU HEARD A BETTER STORY THAN THIS CHARVER?

If the amount of time people spend talking about you after you die, is in some way a measure of the impression you created when you were living, then Philip Hubbuck's contribution to our village's social scene has been memorable to say the least.

I'm certain that the writing down of Philip's escapades and stories cannot do them justice. You really had to be there, or in a group of like minded people telling and re-telling his tales.

Whether true or imagined, Philip has left us with a host of humorous memories. (And some of them **can** be repeated in a family news sheet!)

Like the time when Philip got lost in London before Newcastle's 1974 cup final, and couldn't understand why the metropolitan policeman wasn't more helpful when asked:

"Have you seen anything of Ivan and the rest of the Haydon Bridge lads?"

Philip loved to tell the tale of his return home from that trip. How he was walking up the A1 when the Newcastle United team coach pulled onto the hard shoulder, and Joe Harvey the Newcastle Manager opened the door and shouted: "Divvent worry Philip, jump in and we'll give you a lift home."

I remember Philip telling me that he had enjoyed a summer holiday in Majorca, but there was something that puzzled him. He had eaten tomatoes for breakfast and tomatoes for dinner and tomatoes for tea, and yet.....he'd never clapped eyes on a greenhouse!

A few cans of beer from the Co-op and a night in the house satisfied Philip in recent years. How disappointed he was then when the electricity power supply to the village was cut off.

"A'll have to watch the tele in the dark now charver!"

Philip has left us with scores of entertaining memories. Some good and it has to be said, a few bad. But none forgettable.

Philip Hubbuck died on April 19th, aged fifty five and wherever he resides now, there's no doubt that 'Matty' will be the jester. It is just as certain that for many years to come, his tales will enrich our pub crack.

Who will ever forget Philip's response to the **Spanish** Doctor's diagnosis that Ivan would need a local anaesthetic for his injured mouth.

"**Local** anaesthetic !! But that'll cost a fortune. He lives at Haydon Bridge!!"

Now! Have you heard a better story than that charver?

LOCAL ARTISTS' SUMMER EXHIBITION

This annual event opens to the public in the Haydon Bridge Community Centre on Sunday June 18th and continues until Saturday June 24th 10.00am. to 6.00pm.

Members of the public of all ages and abilities, who would like to exhibit their work, will be made most welcome.

Apply before Saturday June 10th to Robert Ford, Telephone 01434 684486.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

In previous years this event has proved to be a wonderful showcase for the works of local artists. Please show your support for their work, by visiting the exhibition.

I'm sure that you will enjoy the displays.

RAILWAY HOTEL FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

Still another two and a half months to go before the Railway Hotel Show.

This gives you all, time to prepare your exhibits.

The show takes place on Saturday August 26th and the produce will be auctioned on Sunday 27th.

Further enquiries to the Railway Hotel or individual committee members:
Joyce Brown, Cliff Eales,
Michael Smith and Ronnie Youngman.

HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE GROUP Summer Walks

8th June:

Permo-carboniferous rock walk
Toddle Crag, Cat's Elbow. Chishillway.
(4 1/2 miles)

Meet at Barrasford village hall
GR 917734.

Contact: Henry Swaddle **22nd June:**

Dukeshouse Wood. (3 1/2 miles)
Meet at lay-by, close to Dukeshouse
Wood Outdoor Centre. GR 945630.

Contact: Ruth Robards

6th July:

Portgate, Moor House, East Allen.
(3 1/2 to 4 miles)

Meet at Allendale town centre.

Contact: Ann Nicholson



COVER NOTES

On Monday the 24th. of April ,
Shaftoe Trust School Hall echoed to the
traditional North East music and song of
Johnny Handle

Colin Ross and Jim Hall
The High Level Ranters

The concert, attended by all the pupils of the school, was an introduction to the musical heritage of Northumberland. Judging by the pupils' enthusiastic clapping, in time with the tunes, and the interest shown in the various instruments and songs, the children will be looking forward to the traditional music/song workshops to be tutored by Johnny Handle, that follow this event.

Maybe today's pupils will help to compose a song or a piece of music, during their workshops, that will be performed by Haydon Bridge children far into the future and will in itself become part of our tradition.



A MEN'S HEALTH SPECIAL!

On Saturday 17th June between 9.30 and 11.30 A.M. Mary Douthwaite and Sonia Armstrong will be holding a special session for men who find it difficult to get to the Health Centre in a working week.

General health checks (blood pressure, weight/height, smoking advice and a variety of other items) will be available as well as an opportunity to discuss anything of concern.

Please take this opportunity to consider your health. Wives and significant others please encourage your men to turn up.

A lazy, hazy, crazy summer daze.

Do as I say, not as I do!

Some months ago Jean and I, being donors to the funds, were invited to a Grand Opening of a new lecture theatre and refectory at my old medical school, Birmingham. It's a magnificent new structure with all mod cons and excellent food.

The Medical School was changed almost beyond recognition internally – the pathology museum, with it's thousands of preserved body parts in jars on shelves, used to be a three storey echoing mausoleum-like place in which we sat reading our textbooks and writing longhand notes. Now it has been divided into three stories of computer terminal work-stations, both Apples and PCs – over three hundred, with banks of network printers. Almost the entire syllabus is now on-line and from sources all over the world.

When Jean and I were students she used to complain that I permanently reeked of formalin that had soaked it's way into my skin, hair and clothes from the long dissection sessions amongst scores of preserved bodies. Not any more, the dissection rooms have been converted into offices.

During the opening ceremony the current leader of the student body had a chance to address the assembled donors. She was especially grateful for the new catering facilities and mischievously pointed out that the most popular menu item was the 'Full English Breakfast'.

Ouch!

It was a hot day and I was working with

my shirt off. One of the garden tools had broken and I was using an industrial strength contact adhesive (called 'Sticks like Sh*t' – no, really!). I bent forward over the bench where I was working and accidentally spread adhesive all over my chest.

Well!

Why anyone would actually pay good money to attend one of those increasingly popular dagging parlours, for the privilege of sudden and violent hair removal, is entirely beyond me.

Porridge

Having never been to prison before I was surprised at just how neat and tidy the whole place was. Not a single stony faced warder in sight.

Some weeks ago I had been pursuing a manufacturer of small wind turbines and asked whether there were any of his products installed locally that I could go to see and hear. The nearest turned out to be Deerbolt Young Offenders Institute at Barnard Castle where they have a number. The works chief of the prison was very happy for us to go and admire his latest acquisitions and formally invited us to attend an exhibition of Green products and services.

Though only small, the exhibition was quite diverse. Water and energy management and saving, organic foods, composters and sunlight harvesters were present, amongst others. The sunlight harvester was a parabolic reflector that tracked the sun

around the sky and focused the light on fibre-optic cable ends which then distributed the light anywhere in a building.

The

salesman even talked of multi-storey greenhouses – think about it!

The turbines themselves were perfectly silent and vibration-free – a situation possibly not wholly unrelated to the dead calm conditions.

On the return journey we saw two medium size turbines powering the GlaxoSmithKline factory on the outskirts of Barnard Castle. Local to Haydon Bridge there are several domestic scale turbines, both commercially produced and home made, the most recently installed being a 6.5kw device that has reduced the use of the old diesel generator to almost nothing.

I have seen the future, it is wind and sun powered and it works.

Fat man walking.

As has been widely reported recently, a fat man has just completed a walk across the whole of the continental United States. An aphorism of his struck me as particularly worthy of repetition: -

'Cure the mind and the ass will follow!'

Once people make their minds up they can accomplish almost anything – stopping smoking, drinking, eating to excess etc.etc.

Hair today, gone tomorrow.

When I was a very small boy my Mum pointed out to me a man in the street of the city in which we lived. His hair was bright white, even though he was barely in his forties. He had been a Battle of Britain fighter pilot, one of 'The Few', who had had a particularly narrow escape and, it was rumoured, his hair had turned white literally overnight.

I have now found an explanation for this. All mammals, including humans, moult. When the process gets out of hand the scalp can become bald in patches or all over. However, studies have shown that the pigmented hair will be lost preferentially, leaving the white.

A recent study, reported in *Medical Hypotheses*, shows that hair dyes containing hydrogen peroxide, amines and phe-

nols produce more rapid hair loss. Probably best avoided then, unless the slaphead look is just 'sooooo you'. Anecdotally, people who put many chemicals on their hair seem to fare worse ultimately, whether dyes, dressings, bleaches, straighteners, perms – anything really.

Chinese developments.

Three items relating to China have caught my eye:

Just how little we understand the Chinese point of view is very readably summarised on Boris Johnson's website. He relates what he saw and heard on a recent trip to China – fascinating. Read it.

The Chinese get through cubic kilometres of wood per year in the form of disposable chopsticks. Whole forests are consumed. There is now a growing official enthusiasm for the use of Western style eating utensils – just as well really as I loose weight rapidly whilst using chopsticks.

In a recent copy of *Neurology* a large Chinese study was reported that showed a 20% increased risk of mental deterioration in those who watched television rather than engage in mentally and physically demanding pastimes - especially social interaction. So switch off the box and talk to the person next to you or better still get up, get out and mix.

Flying this year?

If you are flying anywhere this year you might like to give some thought to paying a small voluntary 'carbon offset' contribution to one of a number of organisations that will use your contribution to undertake activities that at least partly offset the damage to the environment that your holiday causes.

A summary statement has just been issued by the British Heart Foundation about the risks of clots (thromboembolism) whilst travelling by air:

Summary

- For the majority of healthy air travellers the risk of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolus is very small
- The risk of symptomatic venous thromboembolism increases with flight duration
- Most air travellers who develop thrombosis have additional risk factors for venous thromboembolism
- Patients at risk of venous thromboembolism should be warned of the dangers of long haul flights
- Compression stockings reduce the incidence of deep vein thrombosis
- Low molecular weight heparin is effective, but should only be used in those at highest risk
- There is currently no evidence that aspirin is effective

If you have any questions please ask. I would add three recommendations – plenty of non-alcoholic fluid intake, pedal vigorously with the feet every few minutes when seated and march

up and down the aisle regularly.

Flashing

Mothers of new babies may recall that when we examine the child at six weeks we look into it's eyes with a bright light from a distance of about two feet. The purpose of this is to elicit a red reflection from the retina (the back inside surface of the eye). If both eyes gleam bright red then all is well. If there is an absence of reflection, then the child needs to be seen by a specialist to find out why – the implication being that something inside the eye is getting in the way of the reflection and needs dealing with.

The same effect may occasionally be seen in flash photography. Everyone is familiar with the bright red eyes of people caught in the flash whilst looking at the camera lens. If you find a photograph of someone with one eye red and one some other colour then that person needs to be seen by a doctor or optician quickly.

Steve Ford

ALLEN VALLEY STRIDERS

Where we RUN 4 FUN.

Meeting point: *Deneholm, Allendale.*

When: *Monday and Wednesday at 7 pm*
Sunday at 8am

VISITORS WELCOME.

For enquiries/membership contact
Brendon or Claire

HAYDON LOCAL ARTISTS'

SUMMER EXHIBITION.

Including a display of children's art work from Shaftoe First School

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE -SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2006

10.00am-6.00pm each day.

at

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Admission free. Refreshments available.

CHURCH PAGE

CLERGY MESSAGE

From

Judith Hampson

Some of you may know when Jesus used the image of a vine in a parable. We all know that a vine has to be tended and pruned if it is to continue in healthy growth, sometimes having to graft pieces in if we want to be sure of its survival. This is true also of the church. As the world changes we have to reach out to draw people and resources in towards the sustaining central branch of our faith or we will wither away. Each year in worship, we must achieve that joy and uplift which inspires us to continue in that faith, despite any difficulties. Hopefully we live in the present and prepare to grow on into the future stronger and nourished through our corporate faith. It begins for each of us at baptism and grows from there for the rest of our lives.

We are all responsible for tending this branch of the vine and making sure it grows healthy and strong. The way we act and speak will show Christ to the people we meet here in Haydon Bridge and beyond. The welcome we produce will encourage our church into either growth or decline.

It is obvious that any aged community would be greatly encouraged and enriched by reaching out to the young people. There are firm links with the schools and they have been positively encouraged and welcomed when they have used the churches. We need, however, to welcome all people whenever they feel a need of the church's ministry, not **just** the children, not **just** the parents, not **just** the elderly but **all ages**. Especially those who are NOT members. All it takes is one visit, a wedding, a funeral, a baptism and the seed can be sown. Our occasional visitors see our enthusiasm and care for each other and are drawn in. Christianity is not a do-it-yourself activity. It cannot be pursued without considering others. **Our lives are I nter-linked**, just as the branches of the vine. We still need new vigorous young shoots that will be providing the fruit in future years and the body of Christ will continue to grow. The way that we do that depends upon all of us. It depends upon a variety of skills and vocations all working to the same purpose. At times it may prove a painful process but such is life. At times other people will prove a stumbling block for us and at other times our actions will cause others to reject our welcome. Jesus shocked many by his teaching. He made them squirm and re-examine their values. He was persecuted and rejected by many. God

JUNE
2006



WHO AND WHERE

The names of the Clergy
who minister in Haydon Bridge

Rev Judith Hampson,
with St Cuthbert's Anglican Church
The Vicarage, Station Yard

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

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

invites us, **each and every one of us, saint along with sinner**, to shoulder the burden of this process of healthy growth. Being a good neighbour, (shopping, helping, talking, listening, sharing) is part of being a Christian. It is widely known that people regard the Church as an important element in village life. Many villagers look to the Church at crucial times. This is shown by large congregations at weddings, at funerals and at special celebrations. The Church isn't there just for those of us who worship every Sunday. It is for anyone and everyone, and it is up to us to continue to make sure that what they find is worthwhile. We all need to ponder wider issues, and look ahead. Where and who will the Church be in 2012? The answer to that depends a great deal on what we do in June 2006.

Many blessings

Judith Hampson

**METHODIST CHURCH
SERVICES**

Sunday 04 June

10.00am Family Worship
Rev David Hasson
6.00pm Pentecost US
At St Johns

Sunday 11 June

10.00am Morning Worship
Mrs M Ridley
6.00pm Evening Worship
Mr D Campbell

Sunday 18 June

10.00am Morning Worship
Mr Brian Elstob
6.00pm Communion Service
Rev David Hasson

Sunday 25 June

10.00am Morning Worship
Mr Douggie Hogg
6.00pm Evening Worship
Mr Mark Knowles

Sunday 02 July

08.30am Communion Service
Rev David Hasson
10.00am Morning Worship
Mrs Margaret Weatherson
6.00pm Evening Worship
Mr Brian Scorer

Haydon Bridge Holiday Club

Haydon Bridge Holiday Club will meet this year 24-28 July 2006. The new leaders, Bobby and Rachel Martin from Sunderland, are certainly doing a lot of work getting things ready for July. They have held several meetings in our Methodist Church and on Saturday 22 April, held a training day for those helping. The theme of this year's week is Pyramid Rock - looking at the life of Joseph and how he was faithful to God. Each day of the week we follow Joseph's life and at each stage we see something different about God as well and how he is there to help in many different ways in our lives today.

Haydon Bridge Holiday Club is affiliated to Scripture Union which is a non-denominational Christ-centred international movement founded in 1867 and which works in partnership with individuals and churches across the world. Their aim is 'to make

**ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY
CHURCH SERVICES**

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am

Mass each Sunday at 11.00am at
Haltwhistle

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

**BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW
CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday 04 June

Beltingham
10.00am BCP Communion

Sunday 11 June

Beltingham
10.00am Matins

Sunday 21 May

Henshaw
10.00am Special Family
Communion

Beltingham
06.00pm Evensong

Sunday 25 June

St Cuthbert's
10.00am Joint Service

God's good news known to children, young people and families and to encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer'.

Haydon Bridge Holiday Club started off in the early 1990's as a part of the Hexham Holiday Club but quickly become an independent mission. We are fortunate to enjoy the strong support of the local Churches who work closely to reach out to the community of Haydon Bridge and the South Tyne Valley.

Key dates:

Sat. 3 June 10am-12.30pm :
Holiday Club Fun Day at Haydon
Bridge Methodist Church

Tuesday 6 June 7.30pm :
Team meeting at Haydon Bridge
Methodist Church

Saturday 22 July :
Team arrives in Haydon Bridge

**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
SERVICES**

Sunday 04 June

10.30am All Age Service

Sunday 11 June

08.00am BCP Communion
10.30am Communion

Sunday 18 June

10.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 25 June

10.30am Joint Service

Sunday 2 July

10.30am All Age Worship

**HAYDON OLD CHURCH
SERVICES**

Sunday 11 June

06.00pm Evensong

Sunday 2 July

06.00pm Evensong

**Christian Unity &
Pentecost & Service**

This year this service is to be
held in

St John of Beverley
at 6.00pm on
Sunday 4 June

All are welcome to share in
this service

We are always looking for people to join in and help with this work - if, when you read this, you feel that God is asking you to come and help please contact Bobby and Rachel at 68 St Mark's Road, Millfield, Sunderland SR4 7EG Tel 0191 565 8660
Email robert_dj_martin@btinternet.com or speak to me (01434 684412) or any of our Church members.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3.

licences etc. and with such a reduction in services offered, it made many post offices less viable and likely to close.

The council was informed that there is a full Tynedale Council meeting every two months and that nowadays most business is done by council members in scrutiny committees.

Highways.

A complaint had been received by one councillor about cars parked at the foot of Whittis Road near the corner into Whittis Row.

A councillor requested car parking signs be provided on the A69 at the junction to the riverside picnic area and at the Church Street junction, with a further parking sign at the north end of Church Street directing motorists into the station car park. A letter is to be sent to Road Link and NCC with this request.

Correspondence.

A copy of a letter sent by a North Bank resident to the police was received by the council. The resident, whose relative had been caught by the Haydon Bridge

camera exceeding the speed limit, was complaining about the position of the camera at the edge of the village and the difficulty keeping within the speed limit, with a quiet clear road ahead.

The council received an annual report from Road Link (A69) Ltd. The report outlined the work undertaken by the company during the 10 years that it has been responsible for the maintenance of the A69. Future maintenance work will include; road and bridge maintenance work between Wylam and Throckley starting June 3rd and lasting 8 weeks; carriageway resurfacing work at Scotby, Warwick Bridge, Scarrow Hill and Melkridge in May and September.

Village Projects.

The council was informed that the John Martin Heritage project is now finished. Nearly 2000 John Martin Heritage Trail leaflets have been distributed and a further 2000 ordered. A small group of the project committee members have spent three days in the Isle of Man researching the John Martin connection. Reports on this visit will appear in future editions of the Haydon News.

Any other Business

A councillor reported that complaints had been received from the Methodist Church in Haydon Bridge concerning a possible variation to the plans of the housing development next to the church in Foundry Yard. This has been taken up with the planning department of Tynedale Council and concerns the boundary wall between the church and the new development. Part of the stone wall has been replaced with a fence allowing the ingress of water from the development site into the land at the side of the church at or above the church's damp proof course.

A water problem in the land acquired by the parish council for the cemetery extension was reported to the council but no resolution arrived at.

Date and time of next council meeting;
THURSDAY 22ND. JUNE AT 7.30PM

THE PARISH COUNCIL NEED TO CO-OPT A MEMBER TO FILL A CURRENT VACANCY . IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A COUNCILLOR PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH EITHER THE CLERK OR A COUNCILLOR.

HAYDON BRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

LORNA WOODWARD talking on HEALTHY LIVING

TUESDAY, 20TH. JUNE at 7.30
COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Lesley Philp
Contemporary Silverware



Opening Hours
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Sunday 1pm - 5pm
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SPORT, FITNESS, AND EXERCISE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES.

OPEN DAY

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

THURSDAY 8TH JUNE 2006

9AM-5PM

Come and register for new classes.

DEMONSTRATIONS:

- 9. 15am Kids' Activities.
 - 10am Movement and mobility
 - 11am New Age Kurling /Boccia
 - 1pm Kids' Activities
 - 2pm Movement and mobility
 - 3pm New Age Kurling and Boccia
- FREE**

TASTER SESSIONS; RAFFLE; TEA/COFFEE.