



# THE HAYDON NEWS



OUT WITH THE 'OLD' (*year*) IN WITH THE NEW!

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**Issue 01**  
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## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the meeting in December 2006

### Meeting held on December 17th 2006.

#### Parish Plan.

A presentation about Parish Plans was given by Peter Fletcher. He explained that funding for Parish Plans is available from Defra via the Community Council of Northumberland, who administer applications and grants.

The council would need to set up a steering group with parish council representatives and members co-opted from the general public.

One of the first tasks would be to organise an initial public meeting, to explain the process more fully, create interest, co-opt group members and identify initial areas of need to be addressed in the parish plan.

This meeting should take place in February and work on the plan begin in March.

The council agreed to proceed with a parish plan as outlined and two councillors were selected to serve on the steering group.

#### Public Participation.

A question was asked about the Christmas lights as they have not yet been hung. It was explained that the recent high winds were the cause of the delay but that the lights would be hung at the weekend ready for switching on over the Christmas period.

A report on the meeting with Network Rail on the planned changes to the level crossing in the village. (See full report on page 14)

**Meeting.** 7 councillors were present.

#### Matters arising.

The council are still awaiting running cost details and further information from Northumberland Library Services before they can discuss and decide whether or not the PC is to run the village library.

The flood warden scheme is to get underway in the new year with an introductory training session for the volunteer wardens taking place in February. Anyone interested in becoming a flood warden should contact Vera Fletcher.

#### Tynedale Minutes

None.

#### AoB

In response to a question the council was informed that no compensation had been received following the demolition of the council's bus shelter as part of the Foundry Yard development by Design Matters. The seat removed at the time has not been replaced either. A further letter is to be sent to Design Matters hoping for an early settlement of the issue.

It was noted that a new car park sign has been erected at the corner of Church Street/Ratcliffe Road directing vehicles into Church Street. The council is to request a second sign on Church Street directing vehicles into the station car park.

The council is to write to NCC Countryside Dept to request the levelling of the path across the landslip area to the Spa Well. (see report in December's HN).

The road between North Bank and Pelewell is to be closed for a period in the summer during the reconstruction of the culvert carrying the stream beneath the road. For many years the culvert has not been adequate for the job and consequently the road has flooded after heavy rain.

In early December there was a problem further north along the stream where it is dammed in the field south of Heugh House Lane. Following a long period of wet weather the water in the reservoir began to back up and fears were raised about the possible failure of the dam. The Haydon and Hexham fire services were called to drain the reservoir.

**Date of next meeting Jan 25th 2007**

**Parish Council Notes  
for the meeting held on  
January 25th 2007  
are on Page 15**

MP

### Haydon Parish Council. Meeting dates for 2007.

All meetings will be held in Haydon Bridge Community Centre at 7.30pm, except for the April meeting, which will be in Langley Village Hall.

January 25th.  
February 22nd.  
March 22nd.  
April 26th Langley Village Hall  
May 24th  
June 28th  
July 26th  
August no meeting  
September 27th  
October 25th  
November 22nd.  
December 19th.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings.  
There is time before the council meeting begins for 'public participation'.

### 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

Any resident of the parish wishing to put their name forward for co-option to the Parish Council should contact the Parish Clerk on the number below.

(\* also a Tynedale Councillor)

Parish Clerk  
Mrs. C McGivern

**These are my first 'Historical Notes' for 2007 and a chance to wish you all the very best for a healthy and happy New Year.**

**I can hardly believe that I have been writing this column since October 1999. Time really does 'fly' when you're enjoying yourself.**

**(Or is it once you're on the old age pension?)**

**HOW MANY MILES IS IT FROM HAYDON BRIDGE TO STAWARD?**

Near Cyper's Lin, a deep pool overhung by trees on the River Allen from where John Martin gained much of his early inspiration, tradition has it that the first of the Bacon family who came into our neighbourhood, forded the stream with his wife on his back and spoke loudly to himself, "Hold thy foot Bacon, for all thou hast is on thy back."

Many years later, in 1664, George Bacon of Broadwood Hall in Allendale, eventually purchased the Staward estate in our parish, for £450.

Whether he lived in Staward Pele or it was a ruin by then is unknown, but it is most likely that he lived at Low Staward or what is now Colonel Bell's Staward Hall. The Staward estate was ultimately in the Bacon family for over 200 years. (My research into the Bacon pedigree is recorded in The Haydon News, November 2005.)

John Bacon was the original purchaser's second son and he was a trustee to John Shaftoe's School Foundation Deed in 1685. In 1683, John was High Sheriff of Northumberland and between 1698 and 1731, four of his daughters were married in St. Cuthbert's Old Church at Haydon. John Bacon died on November 25th. 1736 and was buried in our old church. An inscription in marble on the north wall records his death.



**My link to the Bacon family this month is through John Bacon's fourth son Joseph Bacon.**

Joseph Bacon was born at Staward in 1694 and in 1724 left his family's estate in our parish to settle on the Isle of Man.

Joseph married Elizabeth Christian, daughter of Captain James Christian of Milntown near Ramsey and they had one son in 1728, he was christened John Joseph Bacon.

*Mutiny!*

*It is of passing interest that Fletcher Christian, leader of the mutineers on His Majesty's Armed Vessel the 'Bounty', was related to Joseph Bacon's wife's Manx family. (There are further interesting connections in this regard, which I shall refer to later.)*

Joseph Bacon senior died on May 14<sup>th</sup> 1728 at Lezayre on the Isle of Man, and is buried at Conchan near Douglas.

Joseph's son, John Joseph Bacon was born on June 8<sup>th</sup> 1728 and grew up to become a well known merchant and ship owner in Douglas and he was twice married there.

He had five sons and six daughters through his first marriage to Jane (nee Johnstone), and a second marriage in 1791 to Ann Cosnahan, produced a son, Ceaser Bacon.

After advancing two mortgages on the Ballabrooie estate in the north of the island, in 1806 John Joseph Bacon eventually took possession of the estate himself, so Ballabrooie near the village of Sulby became a Bacon property.

The link between the Northumberland Bacon family, the Parish of Haydon and the Isle of Man, was firmly established when John Joseph changed the name of his Isle of Man estate to 'Staward' after the family's original seat at Langley.

John Joseph died on the island on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1809, in his eighty first year.

*On the Bounty!*

*John Joseph Bacon's daughter Elizabeth from his first marriage, married into the Heywood family. Peter Heywood, was a Midshipman on the Bounty and also, Heywood's family had links with the Ballabrooie estate before the Bacon's took possession.*

Ceaser Bacon, John Joseph's son and the grandson of our Northumbrian Joseph Bacon, was well regarded on the Isle of Man. He married Frances

Hale Smelt, the daughter of Cornelius Smelt, who for twenty seven years was a Governor of the island. Ceaser fought at Quatre-Bras and Waterloo where he was wounded in 1818 and retired from active service. He returned to the island and shortly afterwards was elected to the House of Keys.

As a considerable land owner, Ceaser used modern methods, doing much to improve agriculture on the island. Ceasar Bacon is remembered as, 'a man of strict integrity and honour and had a keen interest in Sulby and its affairs'. In 1838, Ceasar Bacon gave a parcel of land from his Isle of Man 'Staward' estate, to build a church (St. Stephen's) and a school. Apparently, two brass plates bearing the name Staward, adorn two pew ends in the church today, although I cannot vouch for this as the place of worship was locked and barred on my visit.

Captain Ceaser Bacon died in 1876 and along with other members of the Bacon family and Governor Cornelius Smelt, is interred, in a leaded coffin, in the Bacon vault by the main entrance to St. Peter's Kirk in the ancient parish of Onchan near Douglas.

*A final link with the Bounty:*

*On February 4<sup>th</sup> 1871, Mr. William Bligh (Later to be Captain William Bligh R.N.) married Elizabeth Betham in St. Peter's Kirk.*

**So Joseph Bacon moved from Staward in Northumberland to the Isle of Man in 1724, and the male line of the Bacon family on the Island came to an end in 1916, but reminders of the Bacon – Isle of Man – Haydon Bridge connection remain today.**

**-In St. Peter's Kirk at Onchan, two memorials in the form of wall tablets fashioned in marble, are dedicated to the Bacon family.**



To 'John Joseph Bacon, only son of Joseph and grandson of **John Bacon of Staward in Northumberland**. Born 8<sup>th</sup>



June 1728. died 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1809. Also his wife Ann died 27<sup>th</sup> February 1855, aged 75 years.'

And to 'Frances hale, wife of Major Ceaser Bacon. Died 1862 aged 60 years. Also Catherine Mary Bacon – Ceaser's daughter – died 1870 aged 41 years.'

- **And at Sulby** where farm buildings erected at the former Ballabrooie farm by the Bacon family can be seen today with the Bacon crest (a boar) built into the stonework.

- **And finally at Staward Farm, Sulby. 100 miles from Haydon Bridge and the Bacon family's original seat at 'Staward' in our parish.**

The photograph below shows one of the two 'Bacon' wall tablets in St. Peter's Kirk, Isle of Man,



The 'Bacon' crest built into one of the farm buildings at 'Staward.'



**'Staward'**  
The Bacon property on the Isle of Man, named after 'Staward' in the Parish of Haydon, Northumberland.



No more will I be 'invited' to number 4 Belmont to discuss something I have written about or alluded to in my Haydon News 'Notes.

Like a schoolboy summoned to the Geography Master, I would turn up dutifully and there would follow an academic discourse on some aspect of the history of Haydon parish, when my mentor would willingly share his extensive knowledge.

Oh how I will miss those enlightening conversations, Charlie's company and the information shared.

**Leslie Charles Coombes** died on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006 aged 91 years, having lived in our village at the Tan Yard and Belmont for almost sixty years, and it is so sad to lose our renowned parish historian.

Charlie's knowledge of the history of Northumberland, and in particular his essays on Haydon Bridge and its locality, are especially significant because whenever it was possible he insisted on primary sources as his references and he usually carried out the meticulous research personally. Not for Mr. Coombes the rumour and gossip that occasionally finds a way into my columns!

Our former teacher didn't **just** research and record our parish history; he is also very much a part of it.

Living alone since his wife Marian died in January 1979, he entered wholeheartedly into our community activities.

Charlie was a fine cricketer who opened the batting for our village team; a member of our California Gardeners' Association; a hard working independent parish councillor; the first secretary of our Community Association – a position he held in its various forms from 1959 until 1991; and he was a knowledgeable founder member, Chairman and eventually President of the Haydon Bridge Nature Club which has flourished for over thirty five years.

It is testament to the esteem in which Mr. Coombes was held that his former pupils of fifty years ago and more journeyed to Haydon Bridge on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December to pay their respects. In our Methodist Chapel I sat alongside Richard Taylor from Corbridge, just as I had done in Mr. Coombes' Geography class in the 1950's, and we shared memories of

our former teacher and Deputy Head.

We recalled the pride we all had in the weather station that Charlie established at Shaftoe Trust School, and the accurate measurements and records of daily sunshine and rainfall taken in Haydon Bridge and reported nationally. We soon learnt that Mr. Coombes demanded the same commitment and attention to detail from others that he himself practised. We talked in quiet reverence of the 'field trips' we undertook with our inspirational, if demanding, teacher. Charlie's classroom was the ever changing countryside around us, not just the comfortable Geography room adjacent to the main hall at Shaftoe Trust.

It was on these educational visits that we were introduced to the geology of High Force in upper Teasdale, and during our residential weekends at Langdon Beck Youth Hostel we explored Cauldron Snout and the Whin Sill at High Cup, on what is now the Pennine Way.

On Muckle Moss, we were fascinated as we watched the Sundew digest its prey and closer to our school, in Robbs' Dene, we scrambled up the sides of the cleugh to map every bird's nest and to count the number of eggs that were laid, returning there the next year to make comparisons.

This was the 'Coombes' method of encouraging his pupils to develop inquiring minds.

A teaching strategy he employed many years before it became a 'fashionable' extension to the national curriculum.

Much of our former teacher's life's work has been dedicated to close scrutiny of the documentary evidence that reveals the history and nature of our locality and its place in the story of Northumberland. It is appropriate then that the memory of L.C.Coombes will live on in perpetuity, thanks to his unique notes and observations written for a variety of publications, including the Newcastle upon Tyne Society of Antiquarians' annual journal 'Archaeologia Aeliana'. Published since 1822 and so often overlooked on the shelves of our public libraries, in the rush for the family sagas of Catherine Cookson or the imaginary world of J.K. Rowling, the Archaeologia Aeliana is **the** true history of North East England.

Why not seek out Vol. 36 1958 (Lead Mining in East and West Allendale), or Vol. 43 1965 (The Survey of Langley Barony 1608), or Vol. 44 1966 (Wigham of Coanwood).

Through his scholarly contributions to

this literary treasure, 'L.C. Coombes' will exist for ever.

Mr. Coombes will also be remembered of course for his own publications. Especially perhaps in our village for, 'The History of Shaftoe Trust School and the Rev. John Shaftoe's Charity' published in 1981. But just as significant, in his role as an educator, was his co-authorship of the pioneering young people's history book, 'The Land of the Three Rivers'. It was published in 1958 and became recommended reading in schools across the north.

Almost certainly however, of even greater importance in shaping future generations, was the advice, knowledge and enthusiasm he shared with those in his charge, in the geography lessons or during the naturalist club meetings, at Haydon Bridge Shaftoe Trust School, and in his role as Headmaster of Corbridge Secondary Modern School.

Our thoughts are with Mr. Coombes' close family; sons Christopher and David, their wives Margaret and Ethne and their children, and it is with their permission that we include in this issue of The Haydon News, our respected teacher, naturalist and historian's typical thought provoking observations, encouraging us to get out and about into a part of our countryside which he loved perhaps more than any other.

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**ALLEN BANKS**  
**Written in 1974**  
**by**  
**L.C. Coombes**

**W**hen winter is drawing to a close, there comes a day when the incautious are apt to declare that spring has arrived.

Yellow crocuses open fully to the sun and the early bees. Gardeners stir themselves and loads of manure appear overnight at allotment gates. To dispel the prevailing economic gloom, BBC announcers display hazel catkins on their screens and mistakenly call them pussy willow.

The signs of spring are a very welcome sight, but no cause for euphoria. Many a burgeoning Northern spring has fled in headlong retreat back into winter.

On several occasions during the winter I have visited the National Trust property of Allen Banks near Ridley Hall. The new car park, discreetly sited and laid

out, is a model of its kind.

**The pleasure of Allen Banks lies in the mature woodland clothing the steep and often rocky banks. There is much sheer visual pleasure, and also much that is hidden and needs searching out.**

Years ago there was a summer house, high above the river, known locally as the bone hut but it has now vanished and I cannot even remember the exact location.

The hut had a heather thatch roof, benches inside and a table, but took its name from the floor which was neatly constructed of bones.

**W**here did all the bones come from?

Thomas Bates of shorthorn fame, owned Ridley Hall estate between 1812 and 1830. He was not only a pioneer cattle breeder but a very progressive farmer.

He built a bone mill at Ridley, collecting bones from far and wide, which he crushed and applied to the land - one of the first ever to do this. Whether there is a link between the bone hut and the bone mill can only be a matter for speculation.

**A**part from the well known main paths, there are a number of paths, particularly across the suspension bridge on the east bank, which are worth exploring.

Many have become overgrown and are gradually being cleared. Others reveal their presence by mossy steps disappearing under a growth of rhododendrons or by a strand of wire to give hand support in a steep descent.

There are ways down which seem near impossible when viewed from below.

**F**or most visitors a walk through Allen Banks is a satisfying experience in itself, but an increasing number of people today look for more than just a pretty scene; hence the popularity of nature trails.

Allen Banks is a nature reserve in the sense that its continuity as woodland is assured.

Roe deer are there, so is the red squirrel. I have made the acquaintance of hedgehogs and slow worm, but no badger. The woodland birds would be a chapter to themselves. The trees and flora another.

**G**eology is sadly neglected these days

as a popular branch of natural history. Birds fly away, plants die, geology is there all the time.

Let me suggest a simple exercise in field geology for your next visit to Allen Banks.

Stand on the west bank, just above the suspension bridge, where you can get a clear view of the rocks forming the opposite bank of the river.

You should be able to distinguish three fractures or faults where the rock layers have been displaced by vertical movement. Then cross the river and follow the path until you stand exactly on the position of these faults - you can't miss them, there is a seat at one.

If you are really keen and prepared for a scramble, look for an outcrop of limestone above your head. Follow its course.

Suddenly it comes to an end as if chopped off.

**T**ake a good look around — there is bound to be an explanation.

**I did say at the very beginning that there is much at Allen Banks that needs searching out.**

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**HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB**  
**2007**

**1st February:** Trevor Bridges.

'Volcanoes in the Western U.S.A.'

**15th February:** Archie Ruggles-Brise.

'Tyne Rivers Trust.'

**1st March:** Dr. Peter J. Garson.

'Searching for Wildlife and finding People in the Western Himalayas.'

**7.15 pm**

**In the Methodist Church**  
**every other Tuesday**

**Coffee/tea and biscuits provided**

**All are welcome**



The total collected in the  
Church of England  
Children's Society boxes  
during 2006 was

**£560.77**

**THANK YOU**  
**TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED**



## THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Haydon Bridge took place in the Community Centre on Monday January 22nd. Another successful year was reported.

The main focus of The Friends' was again the publication of The Haydon News. A minimum of 960 copies have been printed and delivered each month in 2006. (10 months excluding January and September.) This will increase to 980 copies in 2007. There are also 16 postal subscribers to The Haydon news.

In addition to the normal pages of The 'News, a supplement was included in the April 2006 issue (Haydon and Allen Valley Medical Practice brochure). From November 2006, The Haydon News was increased to 20 pages to allow for regular updates from the Highways Agency and the contractor for the bypass, CVC Solutions. These organisations have chosen The Haydon News to keep residents informed about the Haydon Bridge Bypass.

The Friends of Haydon Bridge continued to support local groups by publicising their events in the Haydon News and, in addition to the regular features, The Haydon News reported on issues of importance for the future of the parish and its residents. (e.g. The Bypass; the Tyne Valley Rail Study; Haydon Bridge library consultations; Spa Well engineering works and plans; the Shaftoe Green development.)

During the year, the Friends of Haydon Bridge felt obliged to express their concerns to the Tynedale planning Authority over the loss of village amenities.

The John Martin Trail was opened on April 6th 2006. A permanent reminder of the successful John Martin Heritage Project, organised by a sub-committee of the Parish Council and The Friends of Haydon Bridge.

## THANK YOU

It is certain that The Haydon News could not be printed, collated and delivered free, to over 900 dwellings in our parish, without the help of our many volunteers and contributors, and the financial support of our advertisers and those who choose to donate or subscribe. Thank you all for your continuing support and a special thanks to the committee members who oversee the activities of the Friends of Haydon Bridge.

### HAYDON BRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 2007

#### Tuesday February 20th.

Kevin Moore: With some simple DIY advice and some music.

#### Tuesday March 20th.

Ann Fenwick: 'Through The Vicarage Window' (Part 2)

**Meetings 3rd Tuesday of the month at  
7.30 pm  
In the Community Centre**

## CHRISTMAS PICTURE QUIZ - DECEMBER 2006 HAYDON NEWS



### SOLUTION

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. The Craggs, North Bank. | 9. North end of old bridge.                       |
| 2. 47 Ratcliffe Road.      | 10. 13 Church Street.                             |
| 3. 14 Ratcliffe Road.      | 11. St. Cuthbert's Church.                        |
| 4. Burswell House.         | 12. Old Scotch Arms.                              |
| 5. Old Foundry. Court.     | 13. Langley Road cemetery.                        |
| 6. 2 Station Cottages.     | 14. Langley Road seat.<br>(opposite the cemetery) |
| 7. John Martin Street.     |   |
| 8. 20/22 Shaftoe Street.   |   |

### COMPETITION WINNER.

The competition created lots of discussion but **no entries**

Oh well. We thought it was a good idea at the time!

## HAYDON BRIDGE BYPASS

Most of our readers living in the parish will be aware that preparation work for the cemetery road main site compound, just below Crook Hill, got underway at the beginning of January. The road from this compound to the Langley road junction will be closed from the end of March for the rest of this year, although access to the cemetery will always be available along Shaftoe Street.

At the public exhibition in the Community Centre on January 19th and 20th, we were given an opportunity to discuss the works with members of the Highways Agency, the contractor, CVC Solutions, and the Capita Symonds design team and to examine the programme for the works and the effect it will have on our community.

Mal Sinfield, Asst. Project Leader for the Highways Agency, tells me that the exhibition was very well attended and well received locally.

The screening of the virtual bypass was of particular interest as we were 'flown' in both easterly and westerly directions along the 'completed' bypass and were able to see its main features and how the new road and new bridges will fit into our landscape.

In the next few weeks, preliminary work such as clearing trees and land will continue with the major earthworks planned to start in March.

Depending upon progress of the works, the opening of the Bypass could be November 2008 at the earliest, but it is programmed for April 2009.

During the works, construction traffic will be prevented from accessing Church Street, John Martin Street, Shaftoe Street, Cemetery Road (to the north of the bypass compound) and Land Ends Road.

The cemetery road will be closed for much of 2007 and the footpath through Gee's Wood and access along both banks of the River Tyne at the West Rattenraw junction will also be closed, for the duration of the works.

Two further possible closures, that we don't need to worry too much about at the moment, are the Land Ends' lane for approx. 4 weeks in January 2008 and the A686 for approx. 12 weeks in June 2008.

As we go to press, we do not yet have a date for the 'sod cutting ceremony' that will signal the official start of our long awaited Haydon Bridge Bypass. According to my records, seventy eight years, after a diversion of the main road away from our village was first contemplated.



**Ken and Joan Benson, of Ratcliffe Road, discuss the design of the bypass with Warren Rocca, Project Manager of the 'Capita Symonds - Carlisle' design team, at the January public exhibition.**

### **CVC Highways Solutions Haydon Bridge Bypass**

#### **SITUATIONS VACANT**

The following positions will be available from the end of January 2007 for a period of approximately 18 months.

**STOREMAN/VAN DRIVER** - MONDAY - FRIDAY 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.  
Must have a full driving licence

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY**- MONDAY - FRIDAY (Hours negotiable)  
Part time or full time

**CLEANERS (2 No.)** - MONDAY - FRIDAY (Hours negotiable)  
Part time or full time

**CHAINMEN (3No.)** - MONDAY - FRIDAY 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**If interested, contact:  
ANDREW HARDING 07713 877937**

Brentwood,  
Essex.

to: The Friends of Haydon Bridge,

Please find enclosed my subscription for the coming year, plus a donation.

I cannot fail to enjoy reading 'The Haydon News' as my dearest memories stem from my time at Haydon Bridge in the 1920's, my school years, and part of the 30's.

Times were hard, but as my memory serves me, people got by without visible fuss, and obesity was an undiscovered condition!

Thank you for the service.

Sincerely,  
Harry Veitch.

**Thank you for your welcome donation Harry.  
Pleased you enjoy The 'News. (Ed's.)**

Church Street,  
Haydon Bridge.

Dear Editors,

They say that there's no such thing as a free lunch, but we along with more than 30 other pensioners enjoyed that at the Railway Hotel in December, very kindly provided by Sue and Mick Zellas.

We would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of everyone there, to Sue and Mick and to their staff, for the Christmas lunch. We all enjoyed it very much.

Thank you again,  
Rene and Maurice Armstrong.

#### **WOULD YOU CREDIT IT ?**

What is going on at our village Branch of the 'world's local Bank', HSBC ?

You can no longer open a Bank account there, so you if you want to open a new account you will have to go to Hexham. **And**, the Bank is now charging £10 if you transfer funds over the counter to another account **and** there is also a £10 charge if you pay a bill over the counter. Each of these procedures were free of charge previously .

And why the changes?

"So we can clear the counter. We want our customers to use the 'phone or the internet." Is the response of our helpful Bank staff.

Not so that the HSBC have an excuse to close the Branch because fewer people are using it of course.

Mmm! I wonder!



## **CALLING EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND WORKS IN HAYDON PARISH**

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW TO DEVELOP OUR NEW PARISH PLAN**

10 years ago Haydon Parish Council published our Village Appraisal. It's time to do it again. The last Village Appraisal resulted in a Plan which could be used to demonstrate the needs of our village, and strengthen funding applications made by individual groups.

Village achievements over the last 10 years include: the redevelopment of the Community Centre; the floodlit hard standing games area at the football club; signposted walks; the new play/adventure area at Shaftoe Green; more housing for rent and sale and for single people; the bypass (soon), and lots more.

#### ***What is a Parish Plan and why do we need a new plan now***

Parish Plans (the new name for a Village Appraisal) give a voice to everyone – young and old, people living in the village itself and in other parts of the parish such as Langley and Grindon, local shops and businesses. People will have the opportunity to talk about all the important issues and opportunities within our community. A Parish Plan sets out a shared vision for how the whole community wants to develop, and the practical actions to turn the vision into reality. We need a new plan because:

- The parish and its population is changing and we are facing new and exciting challenges and opportunities
- Village Groups and the Parish Council might not be able to access funding for the things we might want to do without having a plan to provide the evidence

#### ***How we are going to develop the Parish Plan***

To start with, we are going to:

- Build up a contact list of local groups, services and businesses and then make contact to ensure everyone can be involved
- Hold a Public Meeting in the Community Centre to get everyone's ideas about the issues and priorities the plan should cover and ask for volunteers to join the Steering Group to work on the plan

In the next 6-12 months the Steering Group will pull together information and ideas from surveys, meetings and other events. A further public meeting will then be held to agree the priorities and areas for action which should go in the plan.

The Parish Council has nominated two Parish Councillors – Eileen Charlton and Richard Snowdon – onto the Steering Group and asked Peter Fletcher to co-ordinate the plan.

There will be regular updates in future editions of the Haydon news about the Parish Plan – see the next edition for the date of the public meeting.

### **ACTION NOW**

**Could everyone who chairs or is secretary of a local group or runs a local service or business PLEASE CONTACT US WITH THEIR DETAILS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so we can build up a contact list.**

**We'd also like to hear from any individual who is interested in being involved in developing the plan.**

***H o w Y O U c a n m a k e c o n t a c t***

***E mail:***

At the dedicated Haydon Parish Plan **e mail address:**

[haydonparplan@fsmail.net](mailto:haydonparplan@fsmail.net)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### CHOOSE AND BOOK

This new system for directly booking hospital appointments is starting to work quite well. Today I have booked an appointment for 72 hours time – just enough time to get the letter to the hospital.

The system will list an enormous number of available hospitals, starting with the nearest. Whilst everyone is free to choose any hospital on the list, most people choose Hexham, Newcastle or Carlisle. Quelle surprise!

It is rumoured that a random selection of patients across the UK is going to be contacted to check that a choice of hospital was offered. So, if anyone asks you, you were offered at least four hospitals to choose from – even if only three were of practical use to you.

Thank you for your help.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

The tragedy of the two small children who died in a hotel bedroom because of a badly maintained heating appliance should prompt us all to check the fires and boilers in our homes. The need to check is made all the more urgent when you learn that more than FIFTY people die each year from the same cause in the UK.

Burning any sort of fuel (gas, coal, oil, paraffin, petrol, diesel etc.) produces carbon monoxide gas. It is poisonous and even breathing in a small amount can cause loss of consciousness and death. Carbon monoxide is hard to detect because it has no smell or colour. It is therefore easy to breathe in without realising.

Carbon monoxide is produced when fuels such as gas, oil, coal and wood don't burn fully. When a fire burns in an enclosed room, the oxygen in the room is gradually used up and replaced with carbon dioxide. Following a build up of carbon dioxide in the air, the fuel is prevented from burning fully, and starts releasing carbon monoxide instead.

When you breathe in carbon monoxide, it gets into your blood stream where it mixes with the haemoglobin – the red stuff. When haemoglobin mixes with carbon monoxide it produces a compound called carboxyhaemoglobin that we can measure. Haemoglobin is the part of the red blood cells that carries oxygen around the body. Carbon monoxide gets into the red cell's haemoglobin much more efficiently than oxygen and so your body is gradually deprived of oxygen and eventually you die.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dizziness and confusion.

Some years ago I was called by the police to an incident in which someone had connected a hose to the exhaust of their car, then poked the hose through the car window and started the engine. Even if I had not witnessed the scene of the death I would have been able to suggest the cause of death because the dead person's lips were an unnatural bright cherry red – a diagnostic feature of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Over the years I have sent off a number of samples of blood for analysis when I suspected carbon monoxide poisoning and within the last week I have found my first definite case. The cause, a malfunctioning stove and chimney, was not hard to spot and the air in the room was so polluted as to be almost unbreathable because of the smoke and fumes.

Householders and landlords should not only be scrupulously careful about installing and regularly maintaining heating appliances but also install and maintain good quality carbon monoxide detectors – as well as smoke alarms. The cost in life, health and legal liability of badly installed or maintained heating appliances of all descriptions is very high.

### AN APHORISM

Not everything that counts can be counted. Albert Einstein.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Over the last few weeks we have had scores of coughs, colds and diarrhoeas reported to us. These are the sorts of problems that most people deal with very well on their own or with the simplest of advice. The Internet and family health books are excellent sources of help too. Don't forget your pharmacist – they know a lot too!

Every quarter we get a report on other infectious diseases in the North of Tyne area and it makes interesting reading. Whilst the area has had no recent cases of cholera, typhoid or more exotic illnesses we have had TB, malaria, hepatitis A B and C, several sorts of meningitis, measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough and at least seven sorts of diarrhoea – the most 'popular' being campylobacter and salmonella.

The overwhelming majority of these illnesses could have been prevented by immunisation and/or basic hygiene in the home – like regular hand washing and care in food preparation.

Not mentioned in the report are the sexually transmitted diseases but rest assured that they are all doing very well in the area – HIV, syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, non-specific urethritis, crabs, herpes etc. – again, all avoidable with the right precautions.

Still lurking in the background is bird flu and the most recent reports suggest continuing changes in the organism, any of which might spark the now long overdue pandemic.

Decades ago, when people's only defence against infection was good hygiene and avoiding infection by any means possible, their observance of all feasible precautions was understandable. Now we have people getting avoidable diseases because of poor standards of hygiene and fear of immunisation. This is most unwise and a reckoning is always just around the corner – microbial life may not be intelligent in the usual sense of the word but it has the unpleasant habit of overcoming our best scientific efforts just the same. There is no reason to suppose that the microbes won't eventually win and it is a racing

certainly that they will out live our species ultimately.

#### 'PRETTY WOMAN' WAS NOT A RECRUITMENT VIDEO

The grim news from Ipswich and it's surrounding area, about the murdered prostitutes, should give everyone pause for thought.

Prostitution is not at all uncommon in ANY community – to the contrary, it is so common as to be almost routine. There's no point in pretending otherwise. It's title as the 'oldest profession' is quite possibly accurate. There are thought to be 80,000 street prostitutes in the UK (there's approximately 40,000 GPs) – add those working in massage parlours, for escort agencies, as porn actors or solo and then add both genders, all orientations and those who have 'retired' and one reaches the suspicion that more than one per cent of the population is or has been engaged in sex work.

A few years ago there was an exceptionally well-written account in The British Medical Journal about a doctor who had spent some years as a sex worker before qualifying. There is no section of society or economic bracket that is exempt. In The Independent recently there was a report from Poland of senior politicians, at Cabinet level, who could only gain and

keep their positions by providing sexual services to even more senior members. The UK is not exempt from comparable behaviour – as witnessed by published memoirs. The film 'Belle du jour' and the books 'Belle de jour' and 'Ma Vie Sexuelle' amongst others provide some insight into the subject. Not all prostitutes are drug addicts or mentally ill, although some are. Some make a long-term job of prostitution, others engage occasionally and some just dip their toe in the water. Some of those 'on the game' do so out of choice or curiosity and the temptations, as well as the risks, are obvious - £200 per hour was the sum mentioned to me a few years ago and that was the Middlesbrough rate, not central London.

The health needs of sex workers (physical, psychological, social and sexual) must not be ignored and we would like to reinforce the message, in case there was the slightest doubt, that we wish to be seen as approachable on **absolutely any topic whatsoever.**

Particularly sensitive personal information, usually but not always items to do with sexual issues, is not recorded anywhere – not in written form or in the computer. This explains why we may ask the same questions on successive consultations – for example: number of partners ever or since last STD screen. It's not just idle

curiosity – we just cannot commit such details to memory. Readers may care to speculate about the best response to prostitution. Prohibition, even on pain of death, has never worked. Fining or imprisoning users has been suggested in Scandinavian countries. Legalising and regulating has its proponents but there would be a host of objections to overcome. Would providing free drugs reduce the problem? If the law were changed, how would you react if a brothel were proposed for the village? In centuries past there will almost certainly have been one or more here but, to the best of my knowledge, there is not one at present.

#### CHRISTMAS PRESENT RELATED INJURY

With the development of interactive computer games, in which the users play golf, tennis, football or whatever with their TVs, there is a growing awareness that a whole range of new and exciting injuries will emerge over the next few years.

Have fun and lose weight carefully please!

Steve Ford

A message from  
Lorna Woodward of Bee-Active Sports.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported Bee-Active Sports in my first six months of trading. The ladies and gentlemen who joined the Aerobics class and Movement and Mobility class have been great and improved their fitness, stamina and general well-being (they no longer feel like collapsing in mid class). The kid's class is brilliant fun just to see them enjoying being introduced to new sports and old games. (One of their favourite warm up games is Bobby Bingo; take note Dennis Telford). We have more places available in all classes and I can offer one-to-one fitness training for those who do not want to come to class. Please contact me on 01434 684424 if you need more details.

A 'WELL DONE' message  
from Mike and Yvonne  
Dennison of Ratcliffe Rd.

Can we through your pages thank the young boy who informed us early on Thursday morning (14th December) that the chimney pot from the cottage next door to us had fallen down and was balanced on the edge of our roof!

The chimney pot was perched precariously above the pavement, creating potential danger to pedestrians and motorists. He obviously realised that there could have been a serious accident had it rolled further .

His quick thinking enabled the Emergency Services to deal with the hazard quickly and effectively.

#### **HAYDON BRIDGE FLOOD WARDEN SCHEME.**

**MEETING FOR FLOOD  
WARDENS AND OTHER  
PEOPLE INTERESTED IN  
THE SCHEME  
AT**

**HAYDON BRIDGE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**ON  
WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 21st.**

**AT  
7.00PM**



**CHURCH PAGE**

**CLERGY MESSAGE**

From

*Judith Hampson*

Television soaps portray the developing relationships between people in a community. The scriptwriters wouldn't think of these relationships as having anything to do with love — except when the romance of courtship or the commitment of marriage is involved. And yet, according to St Paul, every one of the incidents mentioned in the above outline is about love's presence or absence. In fact, if we go through verses 4-7 of 1 Corinthians 13, we find that Paul's list of love's characteristics matches perfectly the list of incidents in the soap outline, from Paul's claim that love is patient to the fact that love perseveres.

St Paul understood that it is the presence or absence of love that determines the development of all personal relationships. This is what makes 1 Corinthians 13 so revolutionary. Paul doesn't portray a mythical personification of love and her divine escapades, as in classical writings centuries before; neither does his description dissolve into sugary sentimentality, such as the Romantics indulged in centuries later. Christian love, according to St Paul, is tough-talking, kitchen-sink stuff.

These words of Paul are often read at weddings, where we all recognise their relevance to the love of the bride and groom, but Paul is challenging us to see love's relevance in every single aspect of every single personal encounter we have. Paul is telling us we can't push love down a siding marked "boyfriend" or "girlfriend", "husband" or "wife", and then go speeding down the track of our life, mistreating everyone we meet because we assume love is not expected to play a part in our relationship with the checkout girl, our teachers, the pub landlord, fellow members of the congregation, work colleagues and so forth. Paul's opening verses about love draw a stark contrast between high-flying spiritual gifts and the mundane, humble nature of love.

In T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*, Becket wrestles with the temptation to do the right thing (martyrdom) for the wrong reason (self-glorification). Paul would say love is the only reason for doing any action, however spiritually powerful or morally beneficial that action may be. Paul was qualified to write a treatise on the nature of divine love, which created and now sustains an entire universe. And yet much of his ministry involved settling disputes between individuals, trying to get ordinary people to swallow their pride, suspicion, intolerance, and so forth, and exercise a bit more love — which is surely what inspired him to write this chapter.

**FEBRUARY  
2007**



**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 Les Hann,  
with the Methodist Congregation  
Wesley Manse, Moor View, Haltwhistle

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

God is love. When we finally see God face to face and see the perfection of divine love, then we shall recognise, in a flash of remorse, all of the times when we have been satisfied with the imperfection of our selfishness. We will know, and perhaps feel, the consequences of our lack of love, from broken hearts to broken families. Moreover, we will acknowledge how temporary all of our unloving goals were, from power over others to worldly success, and in contrast we will find blossoming into eternal life all the occasions when we did manage to put self last and raise others up with acts of practical loving. Perhaps we should read 1 Corinthians 13 before the start of every day and resolve to live by the love that St Paul describes.

Send some lovely person a card on Valentine's Day

Love from

*Judith Hampson*

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**LOVE IS ?**

**METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES**

**February 4**  
10 am Morning Worship  
Jim Errington  
6.00pm

Marian Olsen  
**February 11**  
10.00 am Family Worship  
Joyce Short  
6.00pm No Service

**February 18**  
10.00am Holy Communion  
Leslie Hann  
6.00pm Evening Worship  
Caddy

**February 25**  
10.00am Morning Worship  
Jim Robinson  
6.00pm No Service

**March 4**  
10.30am United Service  
**At Trinity, Hexham**

**BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW CHURCH SERVICES**

**February 4**  
**Henshaw**  
10.00am BCP Communion

**February 11**  
10.30 Service at Haydon  
Bridge

**February 18**  
**Henshaw**  
10.00am

**February 21**  
Ash Wednesday  
**Henshaw**  
2 pm service with Henshaw  
School - all welcome  
6.30 pm Communion

**February 25**  
**Beltingham**  
10 am Joint Family Service

**March 4**  
**Beltingham**  
10.00am BCP Communion

**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 St John's or Haltwhistle

**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH SERVICES**

**February 4**  
10.30 Morning Prayer

**February 11**  
8 am BCP Communion  
10.30 Joint Service

**February 18**  
10.30am Communion

**February 21**  
Ash Wednesday  
7.30 pm Communion

**February 25**  
10 am Service at Beltingham

**March 4**  
10.30am Morning Prayer

**HAYDON OLD CHURCH SERVICES**

Monthly Services resume in May

## **THE SPA WELL** **REVISITED**

Following December's Parish Council meeting the Parish Council wrote to Northumberland County Council (NCC) offering to make a contribution towards the cost of restoring the path to the Spa Well.

In the last edition of the Haydon News we reported that NCC did not have sufficient funds available to restore that length of footpath removed in the second landslip.

The proposal at that time was for the provision of ladder type steps at each end of the landslip area, to enable pedestrians to cross to the Spa Well. This was viewed as rather unsatisfactory as many people would have found negotiating the steep steps and the rough rock strewn landslip area particularly difficult.

After receiving the letter from the Parish Council, officers from NCC revisited the Spa Well to reassess the situation.

Following this visit they revised their proposals but are not able to level the path to reinstate it as it was before the landslip. This would cost considerably more than the money available for path maintenance.

The new proposals are to provide graded wooden steps at each end of the landslip and to remove the larger rocks from the area affected by the landslip to make a pathway. This would certainly improve accessibility.

In addition, the wooden fence alongside the remains of the old path is to be renewed.

The cost of this work will be met from NCC's footpaths maintenance budget. The money put aside by the Parish Council could be used, if needed, to improve the area of the Spa Well, much neglected since it was made inaccessible when the landslips removed most of the path.

It is hoped to have the work completed by summer 2007. MP



### **LEVEL CROSSING GATES TO BE REPLACED.**

The level crossing gates in Church Street are to be replaced with barriers similar to the ones in the picture above.

The present equipment is worn out, according to Mr Ian Evans, NR Crossing Work Manager. During a five year period (2000—2004), there were 104 occasions when the equipment failed. Faults and failures continue to increase and are causing more delays to both rail and road traffic.

In the proposed new scheme, warning lights will be placed on either side of the crossing and also on Station Road, Strother Close and on the private road by Belmont Lodge. The light signals will be accompanied by a siren to warn motorists and pedestrians. There will be a footpath on both sides of the road at the crossing. The new crossing will be realigned to create space alongside the signal box for the footpath.

Some work will be done during weekend periods this year but most of the work will be done over a two/three week period early in 2008.

This will require the road to be closed. Arrangements are to be made for pedestrians and emergency vehicles during the closure period.

These will be finalised later this year.

Work will be completed by the end of February 2008.

MP.

## **HAVE YOU VISITED THE VILLAGE WEB SITE YET ?**

**[www.Visit-Haydon-Bridge.co.uk](http://www.Visit-Haydon-Bridge.co.uk)**

We would welcome accommodation providers to add to our listings (hotels, B&B, self catering etc) and items of interest to visitors or residents for our other listed chapter headings.

Please contact the Haydon News editors at the address given on page 2.



Public participation

Several members of the public complained about the state of the village cemeteries. A councillor explained that the cemetery at Alexandra Terrace was closed and was therefore, the responsibility of Tynedale District Council. However, the cemetery to the south of the village is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The main complaint concerned the general appearance of the cemetery, with grass cuttings left lying and the frequency at which the grass is cut. It was suggested that the person employed to cut the grass be paid also to rake up the cuttings or, the council consider purchasing a 'sit on' mower, with an attachment for collecting grass cuttings. It was pointed out that the second option would be the most appropriate especially when the cemetery is extended southwards, following the completion of the by pass. The council agreed to cost both options. A councillor did explain that once the by pass is completed paths will be laid in the new part of the cemetery and the old ones renewed. This would help improve the overall appearance of the site.

Some residents from The Showfield complained that the area was overrun with rats, following the start of work on the by pass. Rats had been seen in gardens and found scavenging in waste bins. They explained that Tynedale Council had been informed and Rentokil has been contacted to deal with the problem. Concern was raised about possible charges made by Rentokil for this service. As pest/vermin control is the responsibility of the district council the parish council advised that any further concerns be directed to Tynedale Council.

A further complaint from the Showfield residents concerned the number of cars parking in the area when dropping off or collecting children from Shaftoe First School. They were advised to inform the police if a car was obstructing the road or pavement. The council agreed to write to the school about the concerns expressed.

The over full dog waste bins was brought to the attention of the council. Emptying these bins is the responsibility of Tynedale Council who are to be

contacted about the issue. A request was made by a Ratcliffe Road resident for the waste bin, removed sometime ago from the north end of the old bridge, to be replaced. The council agreed to consider this.

Council Meeting

9 councillor present.

The Parish Plan.

Peter Fletcher told the council about the progress so far. The Parish Plan Team have produced a notice to inform people about the plan . (See page 9) They are hoping that representatives of the many groups and businesses in the village will make contact to find out more about the parish plan process and how they can support this. A public meeting will be held in March, date to be given in next month's Haydon News. The team hope that volunteers will come forward to help produce the plan. At present the team are gathering background data about the village, eg population, age profile, work and travel statistics.

An application is to be made for a grant, available from Defra, to produce the plan. The parish council are required to contribute £93.75 towards costs. A separate bank account is to be opened for the plan funds. **(A separate report/notice will be published in the Haydon News each month to keep people informed on the plan's progress).**

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

A letter is to be sent from the Parish Council to Northern Rail to express concern about the height of the barriers to be installed at the level crossing and that they will not be visible from the path across the line at Hordley Acres. (See report on page 14).

The council was informed about a meeting with Northumberland Library Services regarding the proposals for the village library. No details are available yet about the lease or the cost to the parish of running the library. The parish council require these figures before taking a decision on the

future of the library. The council was informed that the Library services will continue to supply books, maintain and fund the computer link with the central library service, pay insurance premiums, train volunteers and organise the police checks for volunteers working in the library. Some money is available from the government to fund the change over costs and for improvements to the building/service.

A meeting for flood wardens has been organised for Feb 21st (See notice on page 11).

A question was raised about the car park sign, requested by the council, erected at the Ratcliffe Road/Church St junction in December, but removed a few weeks later. It was pointed out that a directional brown sign had been removed, without permission, to accommodate the parking sign. When this was re erected it obscured drivers' vision at the junction so the parking sign was removed. The council are to write to NCC to request the parking sign be re erected but either as part of one of the directional signs already in place or above the signs at the junction.

The council was informed about the proposals for reinstating the Spa Well path. See report on page 14).

Tynedale Council Minutes.

Tynedale District council has made its submission to the government on proposed changes to local government organisation. The proposal, made by Lib/Dem council members, to use money held by the council ,from the sale of houses, to give a council tax free year would make little difference to people's council tax bill, according to a local district councillor. It was pointed out that the money would only be used to cover the Tynedale element of the tax which amounts to about 10% of the total council tax bill. The twin wheelie bin scheme recently introduced to rural areas of Tynedale is going well.

**Parish Council notes are continued on page 16**

LANGLEY WI.  
a report from Cathy Duffy.

The December meeting was a very sociable and enjoyable meal provided by the committee members. Two guests were present and judged the decorated drinking glass competition. First was M. Hodgson and second C Duffy.

January's meetings found two new members joining our group. Names were taken for the meal at Langley Castle on January 23rd. Ceri Gibson, from the conservation charity BTCV North Pennines, was our speaker for the evening.

Ceri explained the aims of the charity, a better environment where people are valued and included. With the help of a computer presentation she showed some of the projects including, dry stone walling, allotments and hedge laying. She explained the Green Gym Project which involves GP referrals to gentle exercise programmes that can involve walks, or some conservation work, depending on what volunteers feel comfortable with.

Ceri also explained how warm up exercises are done before starting any project and even persuaded WI members to join the demonstration.

Ceri also told us of BTCV involvement with the Spring Watch TV programme at Kielder last year and of the Natural Breaks Holidays, where paying customers are involved with specific projects, such as building an otter holt, combined with sight seeing and social activities.

Ceri Told us of her involvement in an international break in Kenya which involved taking a survey of monkeys. She was such an enthusiastic speaker and several members spoke to her of local projects involving owls and red squirrels.

The meeting closed after supper with the competition winners being 1st. J. Brown 2nd. P. Dakers. The raffle was won by E. Martin and P. Dakers.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th. February at Langley Village Hall. This will be an open meeting—all welcome.

HAYDON BRIDGE WI.  
a report from Karen Lumsden

Mike Fry, drama teacher at the Haydon Bridge High School, was our guest in January. He came along expecting a small group of us but ended up with 22 willing participants. Guests from Langley and a few visitors from Bardon Mill WI joined in the fun of experiencing Shakespeare on a different level.

Amid much laughter we got to know each other a little better, and all ended up wondering why Shakespeare was never this much fun at school. It is, of course, because Mike didn't teach us ! He's not that old !

The drama was followed by a very healthy supper, well we all think those vegetable crisps must be good for us. Please nobody spoil it by telling us otherwise.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th February in Haydon Bridge Community Centre, when Kevin Moore will be on hand to entertain with a bit of music and to give us some handy D I Y tips.

**Some hae meat an canna eat  
And some wad eat that want it:  
But we hae meat, and we can eat,  
An sae the Lord be thankit.**

I recall the occasional Burns' night in the Haydon Hotel when the great chieftan o' the puddin-race did its damndest to escape the trencher.

Our Scottish Haydonian and one time landlord of the 'Haydon', Tom Buist, had the answer on January 25th this year.

"Cut its legs off before dropping it in the pan!"

And so, Carol at the Railway Hotel was able to control the warm-reekin rich beastie, before her knife cut wi ready slight and served it up wi neeps and tatties, followed by Sue's 'Burns' puddin, all washed down wi a glass o' complimentary whisky.

Angus Gardiner and Henry Robson, accompanied by more than a few Northumbrian songs, entertained the Burns devotees at the Railway Hotel until the early hours when auld guid men and women tottered out onto Church Street and hame.

Parish Council Notes  
(cont'd from page 15)

Highways

Work on the by pass has begun to the west of Cemetery Road. A complaint about the amount of mud being left on the road by the contractors vehicles was made by a councillor. This was dealt with quickly by the contractors. If there are any problems people are encouraged to contact CVC Highway Solutions at the site.

Correspondence

The redevelopment of the play area at Langley gardens is to be the subject of a public meeting in April.

The council's request for a brown sign on the military road, at the Old Repeater Station, has been turned down by NCC as the location is more than 3 miles from the village. The request for a similar sign at Esp Hill on the A686 was approved. Changes in legislation governing the use of tourist/brown signs will see many signs to individual facilities removed over the coming year as they do not attract the required number of tourists.

The bill for the Church Street Christmas lights was £1642.89. £350 was collected during the year towards this cost. Next year the council are to seek several estimates for the lights.

It was noted that the lights had not yet been taken down.

The council was informed that Northumbrian Water require an estimate for the work needed to reinstate the riverside picnic area, following work carried out by them and the Environment Agency two years ago. Estimates for this work are to be requested from local contractors.

It was noted that a reply had not been received from Design Matters regarding compensation for the bus shelter, demolished as part of the Foundry Yard development. It was suggested that the council could pursue the matter through the small claims court.

Following several complaints about the over full litter and dog waste bins the council are to request a collection timetable from Tynedale Council. The parish pay over £2,000 per year to Tynedale for the dog bin emptying service.

The council received information about the Red Squirrel Protection Partnership. (More on this issue in the next edition of the Haydon News)

Next Meeting February 22nd. MP.