



THE HAYDON NEWS



Last hope for the red squirrel. See page 14
(From an etching by Sylvia Lynch)

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Issue 02

**March
2007**

Published by The Friends Of Haydon Bridge

EDITORIAL COMMENT

FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE
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J.& M. Clarke (newsagents) for collection.
Addressed to The Haydon News

Thank you.

Is Britain fast becoming just about the dirtiest place in Europe? Don't we have the infrastructure to deal with the levels of waste we produce? Perhaps not, but surely those motorists, and other road users, don't need to deposit their waste onto the verges. We are told that we live in a beautiful country. Some people are determined to prove otherwise. I am sure no reader of the Haydon News is guilty of littering our road side verges, but perhaps we should be pointing out the alternative to those that are. TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME.

Then of course there's the irresponsible dog owner. The one gazing over the wall of the bridge and admiring the fantastic river views while, at the other end of the lead, their dog defecates onto the bridge. Doesn't even notice the mess left behind. Then there's the one that does notice but still leaves the mess for others to tread in.

This topic comes up time and time again at parish council meetings, not only in Haydon Bridge but all over England. Perhaps the time has come for the responsible dog owners; the ones who clear up after their dog, to join forces with the non dog owners and report dog fouling incidents to the dog warden. The number's given on the next page.

Is it a coincidence, that as Mary and Werner Nagel move out of their newsagents on Ratcliffe Road, the Co op starts selling newspapers again? Perhaps it's not just Tesco that put small shops out of business! I thought the Co op supported 'fair trade', maybe it does in its dealings with producers in developing countries, but it doesn't appear to in its approach to other local retailers.
MP

HAYDON NEWS

contributions and crosswords to:

editors@haydon-news.co.uk

or handed in to J & M CLARKE (newsagents) Church Street.

Addressed to The Haydon News

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE HAYDON NEWS.

The editorial policy of the Haydon News is the responsibility of the Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge, although day to day responsibility is delegated to the editors. Our intention is always to ensure that the content of the Haydon news is as fair and factually correct as possible. Any complaints concerning editorial policy should be addressed in writing to the Chairman of the Friends of Haydon Bridge, and will be considered by and receive a formal response from the Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge. Complaints other than those made above will not be entertained.

The Editors reserve the right to decide which letters/articles are to be published, and to alter or shorten letters/articles when necessary. Anonymous letters/articles will NOT be published. A nom-de-plume may be used provided that the Editors have been advised of the writer's name and address.

Dennis Telford. chairman@haydon-news.co.uk

Editors: Mike Parkin and Dennis Telford.

Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'

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

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the meeting in February 2007

Public Participation.

Several members of the public complained about the general state of the cemetery. Compared with other cemeteries in Tynedale the level of maintenance at Haydon Bridge cemetery appeared poor with bins overflowing with rubbish, the grass long and the overall appearance rather unkempt. One member of the public commented that the grass could have done with a late autumn cut and that the grass cuttings need to be collected. It was pointed out by some members of the council that the wet autumn and winter had encouraged grass growth while making cutting the grass difficult. However the council are to check the maintenance schedule and consider getting a mower with grass box or extending the hours of the maintenance worker to allow time for raking in the cuttings.

Concern was expressed about the wheelie bins kept by the seat on Land Ends Road opposite the track to Lees Farm. The proximity of the bins made the seat unusable. The council are to write to request the bins are stored elsewhere.

Once again there were complaints about dog fouling in public places, particularly on the old bridge. The parish council do provide several bins for dog waste and pay for them to be emptied but can do nothing about those people who allow their dogs to foul the pavement, verges and other public areas. **HOWEVER, TYNEDALE COUNCIL CAN TAKE ACTION AGAINST OFFENDERS.** It is up to the public to report these dog owners to Tynedale Environment Services on **01434 652 200**. One councillor was pleased to note a report in this week's Hexham Courant about a dog owner being fined £50 for allowing his dog to foul the pavement.

Council Meeting

10 councillors were present.

After two amendments the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

(The agenda of the meeting had been changed so that 'matters arising from the previous minutes' were dealt with under the agenda headings)

Tynedale Council Minutes.

Nothing to report.

Highways.

The clerk to the council had written to the head teacher of Shaftoe First School to pass the concerns expressed by members of the public at the last meeting, about the number of parents dropping children off at the school and parking their cars in the Showfield. The head teacher is to write to all parents regarding this problem and requesting them to park elsewhere.

The car park sign provided by Road Link at the junction of Ratcliffe Road and Church Street was removed at the request of the police, as it blocked drivers view to the west when they were turning out of Church Street. It is to be re erected above the directional signs already in position at this junction.

Planning applications.

Councillors considered three planning applications but raised no objections.

Accounts.

Approved with the addition of a parish council contribution of £95 towards the cost of producing the parish plan.

Correspondence.

After the January meeting the clerk wrote to the owners of the field adjacent to Shaftoe Green. This was in answer to a complaint received from them about dogs straying into their field from the Green and increasing amounts of litter evident since Shaftoe Green was opened last summer. Having received a reply the council are to arrange a meeting with the owners to try and resolve the problems.

A letter was received from a freelance library consultant about the services she offers to support local libraries.

The Highways area maintenance officer wrote to the council to complain about the bags of dog excrement thrown into the gulleys along Station Road.

The council were informed of a meeting arranged for parish councillors about the Single Unitary Authority proposals for local government.

The organisers of the Hexham Selefest event requested a donation from the council to help meet costs. This was turned down.

The parish council was asked to put forward a councillor's name for selection to attend a Royal Garden Party. No member of the council wished to be nominated.

Village Projects.

The Parish Plan.

Funding has been granted to meet the cost of producing a parish plan. Posters are to be displayed round the parish and a notice placed in the Haydon News (see page 9) to inform people about the initial meeting to be held on March 21st. The council was informed that the meeting would be informal and participative as it was important to identify the main issues of concern to the people of the parish. **(Parish Council Notes continue on page 8)**

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

The Long Haul to Low Hall.

(Part one of a history of Haydon Bridge AFC's football grounds 1881-1981)

Haydon Bridge football club has been part of our village's social scene for 125 years and yet it was not until 1969 that the club reached agreement for a ground of their own.

While those living in our towns and cities, surrounded by bricks and concrete, had parks and play areas provided by their local authorities for sporting and leisure activities, our Haydon Bridge footballers, with green fields in every direction, had to go cap in hand year after year to various farmers and landowners in the locality, pleading for an area of grass on which a football pitch could be marked out for the season.

Haydon Bridge Association Football Club was formed in 1881, to provide sporting activity **all the year round** for young men in the village. Our village cricket club had been established earlier and was already providing recreation during the summer months.

The first Haydon Bridge football matches were played in a riverside field lent by James Davidson of the Anchor Inn. This was probably the field where in later years Tom Barron and his son Tot kept cows for milking, and where 'Martin's Close' council houses were subsequently built.

Shaftoe Trust School field was another early venue and our village team also played at various times on the old Show Field.

Incidentally, the Haydon Bridge cricket team also played on the Show Field before moving to their present home at Haydon Park.

This may explain Bill Foster's oft told and apparently extraordinary story, that prolific Haydon Bridge batsman Billy Pittar, who lived up the North Bank, hit the ball so hard during one match that it ended up in the middle of the River Tyne.....Still a canny clout from the Show Field mind, but infinitely more believable than a slog over the boundary at Haydon Park!

Bill informs me that the Haydon Bridge cricket team also played at Low Hall, just to the east of the 2007 football field.

Other fields where football has been played within living memory include two at the bottom of the Threepwood

road, on the left and right hand sides. Maurice Armstrong remembers playing his first football for Haydon Bridge before the war, in the first field on the right hand side of the road going up to Threepwood and our local team was back there, on the other side of the road, in the 1950's. The players at that time, changed in a first floor room at the rear of the 'Scotch Arms Hotel' and walked via John Martin Street, Whittis Hill and through Gee's Wood to reach their 'home' ground and to return at the final whistle. Just a little closer to the 'dressing rooms' was the pitch marked out many years later in the corner of Geoff Duffy's field at the top of Whittis Hill, on the west boundary of Gee's Wood.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's our football club was back playing on the Show Field. Jeff Marshall has clear memories of when he was a small boy, walking with Raymond McVay from Raymond's parents' house on Shaftoe Street to the Show Field, with a tin can full of hot tea for the players' half time cuppa!

The McVay family lived in one of the four houses and a flat on the south side of Shaftoe Street, known locally as 'Tittlecock Alley'.

Bill Foster tells me that a builders shed belonging to the owner Joe Armstrong was also erected there.

Look at the site now: can you imagine room for five dwellings and a builder's shed?

After the dilapidated properties were demolished, the land was eventually sold by the Armstrong family and a single detached dwelling, number 14 Shaftoe Street, was built on the vacant site by Mrs. Gina Richardson.

The field next to the A69 at Low Hall Farm, and immediately south of today's pitches, was a popular home ground for many years for some of our most successful Haydon Bridge football teams. (see photo below) Supporters, often in their hundreds, packed along the touchlines for Saturday matches; touchlines that had been marked with sawdust earlier in the day by the groundsman Anderson Robinson and his helpers. The referee's whistle at half time was a signal for dozens of youngsters to invade the pitch, to play kicky-in at one end for ten minutes. We all chased the leather ball emulating our heroes, determined to score, and it took three or four 'Ronnie Simpsons' or 'Johnny Mapsons' to keep goal. It was on the Low Hall field where the pavilion, bought for £40 from the Wesleyan Tennis Club in April 1955, was erected (see HN June 2006) and visiting players I have spoken to remember the 'mod cons' in this pavilion. Well! It wasn't every local club that provided a tin bath for ablutions!

There were always difficulties in persuading landowners to provide a field for the football season and when the club lost its pitch at the Low Hall in 1960, the pavilion was taken down and stored in the Land Army Hostel until it was sold in the September to Mr. Kirsopp.

It was farmer Charlie McCaig of the Wood Hall Farm who came to the football team's rescue this time and during the next few years he made two fields available between the River Tyne and the A69, east of the Alston road junction.

In January 1961 a wooden box, made by my father, was secured to four posts sunk into the ground and left padlocked



A Successful Haydon Bridge Team and Officials of the 1950's

in one of the fields so that the club's footballs and the goal nets, which had been dipped in creosote to extend their life, could be stored there during the week between matches. Of course the three inch square goal posts and the cross bar were made from heavy straight grained Columbian Pine in those days and before a match started they had to be bolted together, then the players and supporters lifted them into position and dropped them into creosoted boxes dug into the soil. They were lifted out again and stored after the final whistle.

As a result of Charlie McCaig's gesture, he was invited to be President of the football club, a position he held until 1970.

In the 1950's our football club was relatively wealthy, thanks to the popular weekly 'twenty one goal buster' sweep run by the Supporters' Club, in which many families in the village had a stake. In 1959 the club had £630 invested in the Haydon Bridge Co-op Society and the Hexham Building Society. On July 27th 1959 a committee meeting chaired by Robert Harding and including Lance Spooner, John Chamberlain, A. Brown, Frank Brown, John Heslop, Dennis Oliver, Noel Oliver, Billy Pickering, David Tulip and Jackie Wardle, had enough confidence in the financial position of the club to consider the acquisition of a permanent home for Haydon Bridge AFC. Following a lengthy discussion, the meeting passed a proposal by Jackie Wardle and seconded by Lance Spooner that: 'The Parish Council be approached regarding the provision of a football field and children's playing field within the village. And that the council place this matter on the agenda at their next meeting and a request be made that they accept a deputation from Haydon Bridge AFC to discuss this matter in its broadest aspects.'

The committee members appointed to meet with the Parish Council were Robert Harding (Chairman), Lance Spooner (Vice Chairman), John Chamberlain (Secretary) and John Heslop (Secretary of the Supporters' club).

To be fair to earlier residents and parish councillors, it is worth recalling here that they were well aware of the need for a playing field in our village and did make efforts to find one.

As far back as **November 1920** the parish council received a letter from a

Haydon Bridge resident Mr. Carrick, Commandant of the Comrades of the Great War, in which he asked the council to provide the village with a football field.

In **May 1925** the Governors of the Shaftoe Trust indicated that they were prepared to receive an application from the parish council to take over two fields near the school as a recreation ground. Although the fields were deemed, 'very suitable', the council could not meet the Trust's terms.

In **June 1925** the parish council considered a request from a public meeting held in Haydon Bridge that they acquire two fields behind Church Street for a recreation ground. The council decided not to proceed with this request.

I cannot be certain of the exact location of these fields, except to say that they are certainly covered by the Strother Close estate now. Originally the fields were ancient (14c?) burgages, running north and south from today's Ratcliffe Road to beyond the 19c Newcastle to Carlisle railway. In living memory, part of the land was Geordie Laverick's garden (Geordie sold vegetables in his shop at 14 Ratcliffe Road), part the Primitive Methodists' tennis courts and part was owned by the National Union of Mineworkers. This 'Rec.', as it was called locally, became a venue for informal village sports and activities. The ground was no longer required by the N.U.M. after the pit at Whitechapel closed on June 22nd 1935, and it was bought by Jack Routledge, who had worked at Whitechapel, and he kept poultry there. (As an aside, it is of interest that Jack was our village's 'bookie's runner' on a part time basis, an activity that was given legal status when his son Ronnie opened an official bookies at number 23 Church Street.)

In **June 1929** the question of the provision of a recreation ground was again drawn to the attention of the parish council and a sub committee was formed, together with the 'Playing Fields Association', to look into the possibilities of acquiring a field.

No further official parish action appears to have been taken until **October 1938** when it was decided that the most suitable area for a playing field was at 'Hordley Acre' and the councillors decided to ask Mr. Thompson, the occupier of Hordley Acre House, how much he would take for his land. Eventually, council

houses were built on the plot.

It was on **September 10th 1959**, almost seventy eight years since its first match, when our football club set in motion a process, albeit one fraught with difficulties, which would in time result in the fine facility that exists for our soccer teams in 2007.

The football club's representatives, Robert Harding, Lance Spooner and John Chamberlain met with the parish council and made it clear that they **did not** need financial assistance but did seek the council's help in finding a piece of land suitable for a football pitch of their own and, if it was large enough, a playing field for the public with apparatus for children.

The search for a permanent football ground in Haydon Bridge was underway in earnest.

The club's early hopes that their first choice location might be made available were dashed when Mr. Thomas Bates made it clear that he was not able to consider selling the land known locally as the Show Field; although he did offer to recommend to Mr. McDonald, his tenant, that he should allow the football club to rent the field if they were unable to find anywhere else.

Other fields considered appropriate, if they became available to purchase, were those belonging to the Catholic Trust on Hungry Haugh next to the main Carlisle road at the west end of the village, and the unoccupied space at the east end of California Gardens, owned by the Greenwich Hospital.

The secretary of the parish council agreed to approach the Director of the Greenwich Hospital Trust for his views on the sale of the land.

By September 1960 little progress had been made in securing a permanent ground, although Jasper Stephenson had been approached about a field above California Gardens at West Mill Hills and Mr Bates was asked about another field in his ownership, south of the new cemetery below Crook Hill; or Hill Sixty as older Haydonians will know it.

It is of interest that this land was at one time in the distant past one of three golf courses in the village, and many years ago I walked the 'course' with Lance Spooner who pointed out where the shape of some of the tee boxes could still be seen. Of course we are hopeful that within the next two years it will be traffic driving down the fairways, on our new Haydon Bridge bypass.

Frustrated with what were seen as un-cooperative landowners and their own inability to secure a permanent home for the football club, on September 12th 1960 the committee authorised the Chairman Robert Harding to approach Mr. Joe Anderson, the owner of Low Hall Farm, to make an offer to purchase part of his land to the east of his farm. The Chairman's response that he was not very hopeful and that he could see little hope of purchasing a ground in the near future, had a negative effect on the club as I recall it.

Things were not going too well on or off the pitch.

A failure to encourage planned progression from a successful junior team into an ageing first team curbed the local young players' interest and enthusiasm and was partly responsible for the club being unable to field eleven players each week. On some occasions as few as eight players would turn up for matches.

Off the field, a failure to progress the 'new ground' strained the relationship between the football club and the Supporters' Club. There was dissatisfaction at the way F.A. Cup Final tickets had been allocated; the chairman stated that it was becoming increasingly difficult to run the club due to lack of support; the management blamed the players; the players blamed the management, and by 1962 discussions were held in committee questioning whether there was a future for football in Haydon Bridge at all!

On a positive note, two cups were won by Haydon Bridge Juniors in season 1961/62.

It was July 1963 before the football club committee returned once more to the subject of a new playing field and the Chairman was again asked to approach those who may be able to help. One year later Robert Harding, the Chairman, was able to report that he had entered into negotiations with Mr. Joe Anderson of the Low Hall Farm with regard to the possible purchase of a field for the football club. He further stated: "Although a little progress has been made it will take some time before any more information is available." And it did take "some time", five more years in fact as it was not until 1969 that the negotiations reached their final stage. Five years during which the asking price for the land at Low Hall had risen in stages from the initial figure of £1,200 to £1,600, then £2,100 and finally £2,600; a figure which the committee was told

would cover the vendor's capital gains and land development taxes!

Mr. Harding was also able to report a Department of Education and Science grant of £2,035

The eventual positive outcome, outlined at committee meetings and the AGM on **September 29th 1969**, had a galvanising effect on players and supporters, and although it was likely that a large sum of money would still have to be raised by the football club to complete the project, no one was in any doubt that this could be achieved given the amount of support in the village.

From 1969 onwards, Haydon Bridge Football Club's money raising and social activities for purchase, development and maintenance of Low Hall Park have been very much a part of our village life.

Haydon Bridge AFC had a new permanent home under construction and significantly, a new President, when Edward Waite OBE replaced Charlie McCaig in August 1970. Lance Spooner was Vice President; Robert Harding remained Chairman and was also Secretary and Treasurer, Dennis Oliver was Vice Chairman and

the General Committee appointed to take the club into a new era comprised Derek Armstrong, Anthony Atkinson, John Brown, Norman Heslop, Norman Heslop Jnr., Kit Routledge, Jackie Thompson and Peter Wylie. They were joined later by Ernie Edwards, Harry Fitzsimons, David Kirsopp, David Tulip and Joe Worthington.

When the AGM took place on February 29th 1972, apparently the only meeting since August 1970 for which there are minutes available, the football club had taken a massive leap forward and the chairman reported that all grants had been received and all monies had been paid to contractors involved with the new field project, except for additional drainage for which an estimate was awaited.

On Saturday September 9th 1972, many years of meetings, negotiations and hard work were rewarded when Haydon Bridge AFC played their first game on the new pitch. Our village team beat Kielder 4 – 1 with goals from Tony Atkinson, Terry Bell, Alan White and Derek Armstrong.

To be continued next month

CORRESPONDENCE

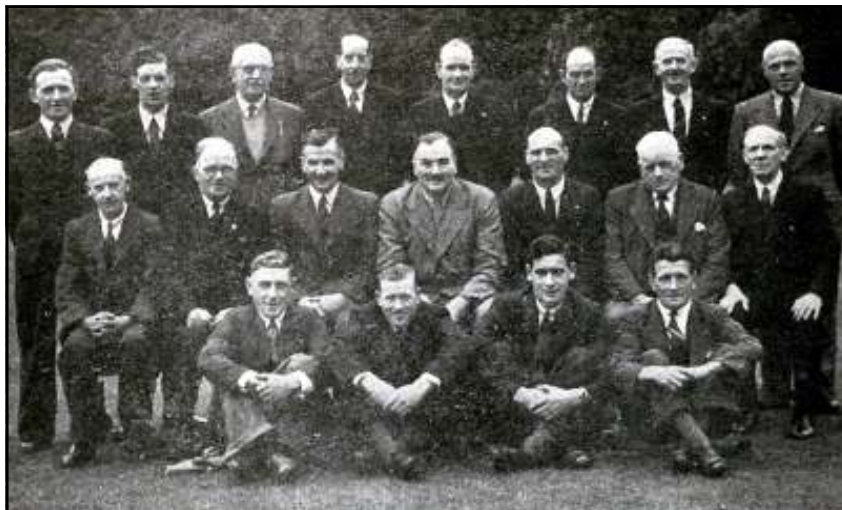
Darwen,
Lancs.

Dear Editors,

In an effort to sort through old photographs etc. I have come across a schedule for the Haydon Bridge Flower Show and thought it might be of some interest. I have happy memories of the show of which my father was Chairman. An exciting weekend - the Saturday fancy Dress Parade led by the band, meeting old friends and the Sunday afternoon Band Concert.

Yours sincerely,
E. Wren

Thank you Eileen. A history of the Haydon Bridge Show will appear in a future issue of The Haydon News. In the meantime we are pleased to publish a photograph of the Show Committee of 1950. Eileen's father, Alan Moffatt, is third from the left in the middle row. I wonder how many others our older Haydonians recognise?



HAYDON BRIDGE BY PASS PROGRESS REPORT February 28th 2007

It is now seven weeks since work on the Haydon Bridge by pass commenced. Over that period a great deal of preparatory work has been carried out, particularly to the south of the village where the main compound is sited. Preparatory work continues along the whole route of the by pass.

Work on the main compound on 'Cemetery Road' at Esp Hill is almost complete. The fourteen units that form the site offices have a reception area, meeting rooms, offices etc connected by a corridor running the length of the units. The staff and visitor car parks and access road have been surfaced. This will provide the operations centre during the two years building programme for the by pass.

The final stretches of the by pass route and construction area are being fenced and the route cleared of trees, hedges and shrubs. This work, it has been progressing for two/three weeks, was timed to take place before birds start nesting and should be completed in the next few days.

The path through Gees Wood has been closed to allow for the felling of several trees. This path will remain closed until the by pass is completed. The anglers' path along the north bank of the river from the 'tunnel top' west towards 'the limestone' has also been closed and will remain closed until construction is completed. The route has been cleared of trees in this area and work begun to make an access road into the compound situated between the A69 and railway line to the south of West Rattenraw. A gap in the tree line above the railway indicates where the viaduct will cross the railway and river.

Topsoil is being removed from the by pass route and stored for use in the landscaping work that will take place in the final stages of the construction.

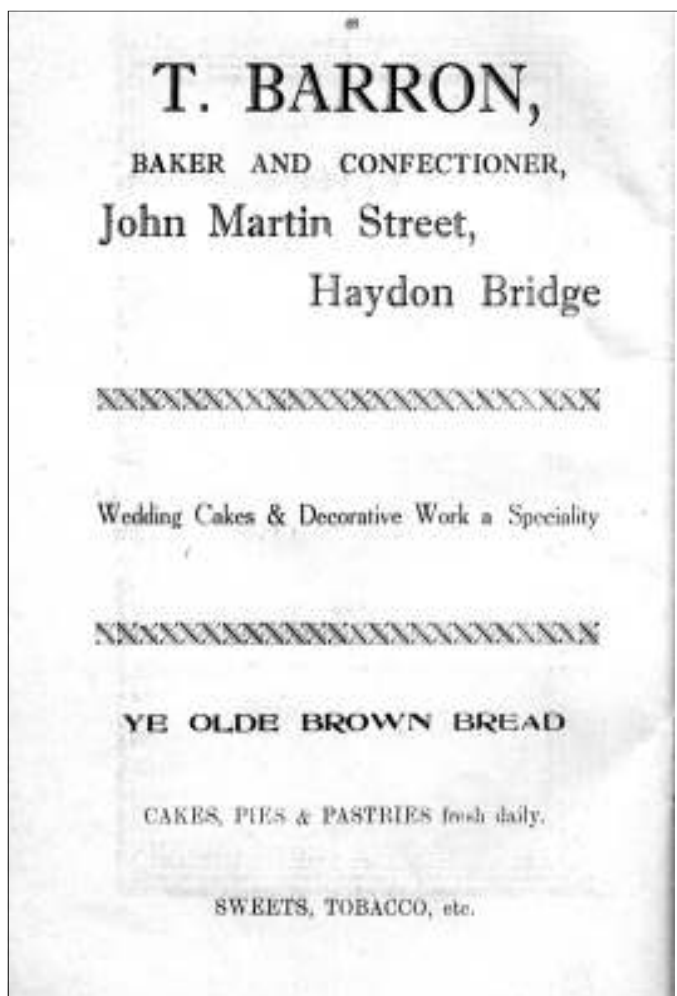
Some drainage work is being carried out west of East Land Ends Farm, where a dip in the land acts as a gathering ground for water.

The stone abutments to the old aqueduct at Esp Hill are to be dismantled and the stone stored for use elsewhere in the by pass scheme.

At present there is only a small work force on site but as work progresses and construction gets underway, as many as 90 people will be employed.

Thanks to Andrew Harding, project manager, for the background information used in this article.

MP



Barron's shop advertised in the 1950 Haydon Bridge Floral, Horticultural and Industrial Society Centenary Show Programme



Barron's shop sign revealed during work to convert the Premier Express shop to accommodation. February 2007.

Parish Council Notes continued from page 3.

The meeting is planned to begin with a brief introduction after which people attending will be invited to walk round the hall to look at a number of table based displays on a range of issues and identify those issues of importance to them, their business or their family.

It is hoped that a number of people will come forward to help compile the plan.

The point was stressed that the greater the number of people that participate in the plan process the more weight the plan will carry when bids for funding are made to implement some of the issues identified.

It was noted that the public response so far has been poor .

Riverside Picnic Area.

Following work laying new sewer pipes along the river bank, Northumbrian Water said that they would reinstate the area. The council have now obtained an estimate for the work and are sending this to the water company for funding.

Brown Tourist Signs.

The application to NCC Highways dept for a brown tourist sign at the Esp Hill road junction to direct tourist to the village has been approved. The sign will indicate that there is accommodation; places to eat; a picnic area and woodland walk available in Haydon Bridge. However, as the road from Esp Hill into the village is to close next month for the remainder of the year, the sign will not be erected until the road reopens in December. An application by the council for a similar sign on the military road at

the Old Repeater Station was rejected as it is more than the allowed 3 miles distance from the tourist attraction.

The council have made a request to NCC for a directional sign to Haydon Bridge on the Military Road in advance of this junction to encourage visitors into the village.

John Martin Trail.

The council are to provide two diversion signs for walkers following the John Martin Trail. As the trail route into the village via 'Cemetery Road' will be closed from April to December, walkers are being diverted down the track from Castle Farm to the Land Ends Road.

Library.

Information has now been received from NCC Library Services on the annual running costs of the library in Haydon Bridge. The parish council are to seek further information on the lease of the premises from Network Rail as the current lease expires in 2008. The conditions of the lease also require clarification.

We reported in last month's edition of the Haydon News that money was available from central government for improvements to library facilities. This is not correct. The money is available from the lottery fund but would require an application for funding by the parish council.

Any other business.

In response to a request for information on the emptying of waste bins in the village, Tynedale Environment Services informed the

council that they are emptied every Tuesday. This includes dog waste as well as rubbish bins.

Members of the council are to check that this is done following several complaints from members of the public about bins overflowing with rubbish/dog waste.

Tynedale Council are to consider providing a waste bin to replace the one that was taken from the north end of the old bridge.

The chair of the council is to write to Design Matters seeking compensation for the bus shelter and seat removed when the Foundry Yard was redeveloped.

The council was informed that the flood warden scheme meeting was well attended and the village now has 6 flood warden volunteers.

Following the expense incurred by the council over the past year repairing the church clock, a request was made to the Diocese for a contribution towards costs. This was turned down as the Diocese does not have a contingency to cover such expenditure.

Howard Oliver was co opted to the parish council to fill the vacancy created when Mr A Johnson resigned from the council last year.

**Next meeting;
March 22nd at 7.30pm.
Haydon Bridge Community Centre**

MP

**The Wonderful Knitters
of Hexham.**

Go along on any Tuesday afternoon to the Café Nero and you will meet up with a very sociable group of women with a passion for knitting and chat. Formed two years ago they have been welcoming knitters of all abilities, happily exchanging ideas and resolving woolly problems.

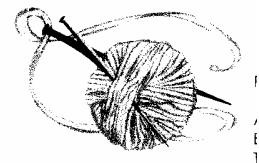
The group has been involved in fund raising for Age Concern and Water Aid.(Check out the Water Aid website and see how they 'knit a river').

In June they will be doing the 'Half Moon Walk',(13.1 miles around Edinburgh) to raise money for breast cancer research and have just opened an account at the Hexham branch of the National Westminster Bank, for anyone who would like to make a donation.

Occasionally they may meet in each others houses at weekends, usually to learn a new skill.

On Sunday March 4th. Annie Harrison is hosting a Knitting Day at Kaymanton, Elvaston Road, Hexham. Please take food to share and needles to click from 12.00 onwards.

For more information ring Kate on 07761657632.



WEDNESDAY, 21st. MARCH 2007

7.30pm.

COMMUNITY CENTRE, HAYDON BRIDGE.

**A warm invitation is given to everyone who lives and/or works in Haydon Parish
to attend a meeting to launch the new**

HAYDON PARISH PLAN.

**[Parking, litter, flooding, housing, transport, local shops and businesses,
tourism, education, health and care, leisure/sport facilities, dog fouling,
sense of community.....]**

ARE THESE THE MAIN ISSUES

- **FOR YOU?**
- **FOR YOUR FAMILY?**
- **FOR YOUR GROUP OR BUSINESS?**

DO YOU HAVE OTHER ISSUES?

**WHAT VISION DO YOU HAVE FOR
HAYDON BRIDGE?**

Further information from Richard Snowdon
haydonparishplan@fsmail.net

MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD!

Building site safety.

We've got a magnificent view of the new bypass from up here on Heugh House Lane. With binoculars we can watch progress in some detail. A friend has offered us an astronomical telescope to improve the things still further, so we should shortly gain a clear view right down the foreman's left nostril and in glorious Technicolor too.

Though we are only a few weeks into the project, already we have Northumberland's biggest mud pie and a growing shantytown development on our doorstep. What could be a greater attraction to young and old alike than to take a walk up to and maybe around the site at a weekend or evening when no one is about?

Could I put in a special plea to everyone to avoid the risk of embarrassment, injury or worse by staying clear of the whole site and all the equipment, stores and buildings? Look from a distance by all means but remember that the building industry has many dangers, both obvious and hidden. On the sort of project we have around us now there will be very heavy equipment moving about, deep holes, deep water, flowing water, some unpleasant chemicals and steep slopes.

I would hate us to gain this most desirable of developments for our community at the expense of someone's life or well-being – we want a bypass not a memorial.

Eating for health

On the TV recently there has been a number of interesting food related programmes. In one there was a strong recommendation for soups - because they leave you fuller for longer.

My first experimental soup, whilst very simple to prepare, tasty and wholesome, did nothing for global warming. More work is required to perfect the recipe. Jean was subsequently greatly amused to read in a newspaper a description of a typical English husband – 'monosyllabic, flatulent and fond' – but I can be quite chatty and stand-offish if I concentrate. Honest.

A transgressive thought occurred to me later. Perhaps, to encourage the menfolk to broaden their culinary skills and take an interest in dietary matters, we could arrange an annual village competition for the 'Most Devastating Soup of The Year'. The scope for invention and variety would be enormous but the judging could be problematic, not to say flammable...

The second point was that, generally speaking, the nutritional value of foods is reflected in their colourfulness. A vibrantly colourful plate of salad, vegetables or fruit is both better for you, better looking, better tasting and often cheaper than an everything-a-different-shade-of-brown fried heart attack swimming in lard.

The third point that struck me was the possibility of improving and preserving eyesight by adjusting diet. The condition being discussed was macular degeneration.

At the back of the eye is the retina that turns light into signals that are sent to the brain. At the centre of the retina is a special patch of cells called the macula that gives us our most detailed central vision – where we focus the thing we wish to concentrate on.

Age, being a woman, smoking, diet and too much sunlight all seem to be risks for damage to the macula resulting in reduced ability to see fine detail and colours.

Increasing the amount of lutein in the diet seems to have a useful effect in delaying the onset of macular degeneration and can even reverse it somewhat. The foods with the greatest amount of lutein are: Kale – all sorts, spinach, cress, chard, chicory, parsley, okra, red pepper, lettuce, endive, celery etc. Basically, all green leafy salad and vegetable crops. Our own experiments reveal that kale, briefly stir fried with a tiny sprinkle of salt, is an exceptionally tasty new vegetable option – cheap too.

Simple things 1

In recent weeks a number of women 'of a certain age' have complained of upper back and neck pain and one made a special point of mentioning the development of a bit of a hump where neck and upper back join. This was a typical 'Dowager's hump' caused by developing osteoporosis and age related deterioration of the spine.

Everybody, bar nobody, gets back pain to one degree or another. There are however several things that you can do to limit the problem. Simple things that cost nothing and have no side effects.

The most obvious step is to improve posture. Look around you and what do you see? Women (and men – but less so) with rounded shoulders and a stooped posture, carrying heavy bags in both hands, banana shaped when sitting and in uncomfortable shoes. As the years go by bad posture becomes more and more difficult to correct so developing the habit of good posture at an early age will pay dividends later – but its never too late.

A very long time ago, when girls were taught deportment at school, they had to walk around with books balanced on their heads. The resulting posture is one of great elegance, authority and élan. I have heard a physio encourage patients to adopt a better posture by telling them to imagine being held up by a hook attached to the top of the head. My own advice is to 'think military' – chin up, head up, shoulders back, chest out, tummy in, lower back nicely inwardly curved and knees straight.

Besides relieving back pain, a good posture can work wonders for the figure – a source of concern for a proportion of women. Standing up straight pulls the tummy in dramatically, so much easier than dieting. 'Shoulders back and chest out' can win arguments, deflect criticism, disconcert the enemy and lead to fame and fortune.

Simple things 2

The chaos that is many people's stock of tablets never ceases to amaze me. The manufacturers go to great trouble and expense to package the tablets tidily and

conveniently and then users pop one out from here, three out from there and then start on a wholly different pack on the third day. No wonder there is such a great waste of medication going on.

We are very keen to help people get their tablets all synchronised so that new packets all start together and finish together – just let us or your pharmacist know that you want to get things straight and we'll help.

Reasons to feel more cheerful

The World Question Centre at the Edge Foundation has asked over 150 luminaries to write short pieces on things that they felt optimistic about. The results can be found at www.edge.org/q2007/q07_index.html

There is a huge range of topics covered and some striking views expressed.

Relate

Problems in relationships are enormously common and a source of great anguish to many. The organisation that most people have heard of is Relate. The services they offer are wide ranging and the prices they charge reflect people's ability to pay.

Find them at www.relate.org.uk or email them at enquiries@relate.org.uk

A small survey

One of the pieces of information that we are now required to get onto the computer for everyone is waist circumference.

Having flipped the tape measure around the patient and got it snugged into place I say 'Breathe!' and then after a few seconds I add 'Normally!' and then after a few more seconds I add 'Relaaaaaaax!' So far, the greatest increase in girth following these simple instructions has been 13cm – and No! I am not going to say who it was!

I wonder what the record will be for the year?

Steve Ford

HAYDON BRIDGE WI.

Kevin Moore was our guest at Haydon Bridge last month with an enlightening evening of DIY and the safe use of electricity around the home. With handouts on how to wire a plug correctly, lessons on changing fuses and making sense of the fuse box, it made a most electrifying evening! One handy tip I can pass on is, get yourself a wind up torch. Invaluable during power cuts (of which we have had a few this winter) the great thing about them is you never run out of batteries, or have them run out on you!

If that wasn't enough, whilst we all enjoyed a welcome and refreshing cup of tea Kevin entertained us with his singing and guitar playing. Now that's what I call versatile, not only would he be good around the house but he's entertaining as well.

This month's meeting will be on Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm, when Ann Fenwick will be delivering part 2 of Through the Vicarage Window. Last years part one was a revelation of just how varied and funny life can be as not only a vicar's daughter but also as a vicar's wife. Now it doesn't matter if you missed part one just don't miss part two. Members and guests most welcome.
Karen Lumsden.

LANGLEY WI.

Dr Alan Donaldson transported WI members to 'The China you don't see' during February's meeting. He explained how he was asked to accompany a party of young Chinese people to visit an area of China. This has only been possible in recent years as rules in China have become more relaxed. We were shown slides of how China is changing. Huge concrete buildings are replacing more traditional buildings.

Dr Donaldson showed many slides of intricate rock gardens, temples and people wearing traditional dress and playing traditional music. He explained that he had been the only European person in the party and in some small villages he was the first European they had seen. WI members were amused by some of the dishes on the menu of a small café Dr Donaldson had visited. They included pig's ear with hot chilli oil and porridge with chicken entrails (they looked as bad as they sounded). We were shown a beautiful sample of blue cloth, which was hand printed using mud to draw the patterns, then dyed using traditional methods.

One of the things that showed up frequently was the amount of pollution in China and how blue skies are seldom seen because of it. Dr Donaldson finished by saying he hopes to go back to China as it is such a vast country and there is more he wants to see.

After a delicious supper (no pigs ears in sight) members discussed where they would like to go for their summer outing. More details to come later.

The competition—a cream jug.

First.. Shona White

Second.. Dora Fletcher

This month's meeting... 13th March 7.30pm

Cathy Duffy

A PRAYER FOR THOSE GROWING OLD

Lord, thou knowest I am growing older, keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea that I must express myself on every subject.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's affairs.

Keep me from the recital of endless detail, give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains, they are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong, make me thoughtful but not nose-y, helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom and experience it does seem a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Amen.

Thank you to our contributor Josie Hutton, for this reminder

CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

CHURCH PAGE

CLERGY MESSAGE

From

Les Hann

**MARCH
2007**



Dear Friends,

Its March and we are in the middle of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year was on 21st February and ends at Easter.

Many years ago a friend of mine was asked, "What are you giving up for Lent". He replied that instead of giving things up, he would do extra things. He would fill his life with 'busyness', but had he missed the point of Lent?

In the Christian tradition, Lent is a time to reflect on the meaning of the Easter story and that through Christ's death and resurrection our lives can be renewed .

It is a time to reflect on the fact that we usually fall short even of our own modest standards of love and fairness and that God forgives.

It is a time to examine the motives for our actions.

At the heart of lent is reconciliation with God, which includes reconciliation with our neighbours.

It is about choice.

Choosing to give up or leave behind jealousy, anger and harbouring grudges. Getting rid of violence, discrimination and the persecution of those we consider different or unimportant.

Choosing to fill the space in our lives and our world with love, justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Love is not just about having nice feelings about another person it is really an act of will, it is giving up the thoughts feelings and actions which destroy human relationships and choosing to concentrate on the things which make for peace and reconciliation and build up human relationships.

A personal reflection yes, but as nations and in the United Nations these things need careful consideration and reflection. We need to be reconciled to one another.

WHO AND WHERE

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

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

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

I found this just the other day perhaps for reflection

A little more kindness, a little less creed,
A little more giving, a little less greed,
A little more smile, a little less frown,
A little less kicking when a person's down,
A little more "we", and a little less "I",
A little more laugh and a little less cry,
A little more flowers on the pathway of life,
And fewer on graves at the end of the strife.

Les Hann

Global Warming

Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" will be shown in mid-March in churches or church halls in Tynedale. The film is a 90 minute presentation of the facts about climate change. It is spellbinding providing a background that can enable us all to decide on sensible ways to respond. Afterwards there will be an opportunity for those who wish to stay behind to discuss the issues. There will be no entrance charge.

Friday 16th March 7.30 pm
Haltwhistle Methodist Church

Saturday 17th 10.00 am
Trinity Methodist, Hexham

Saturday 17th 7.30 pm
Prudhoe Parish Hall, Front Street

Sunday 18th 7.30 pm
Riding Mill Parish Hall

Monday 19th 7.30 pm
Hexham Abbey



METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

March 4
10.30am United Service
At Trinity, Hexham

March 11
10.00 am Family Worship
Les Hann
6.00pm No Service

March 18
10.00am Morning Worship
Russel Hilborne
6.00pm Holy Communion
Leslie Hann

March 25
* clocks change
10.00am Morning Worship
David Applegarth
6.00pm No Service

April 1
Palm Sunday
10.00am Morning Worship
6.00 pm Evening Service

BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW CHURCH SERVICES

March 4
Beltingham
10.00am BCP Communion

March 11
10.30 Service at Haydon Bridge

March 18
Henshaw
10.00am Matins

March 25
* clocks change
Henshaw
10 am Joint Family Service

April 1
Henshaw
Palm Sunday
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

March 4
10.30 Morning Prayer

March 11
8 am BCP Communion
10.30 Joint Service

March 18
10.30am Communion

March 25
* clocks change
10 am Service at Henshaw

April 1
Palm Sunday
10.30am Morning Prayer

HAYDON OLD CHURCH SERVICES

Monthly Services resume in May

