



THE HAYDON NEWS ON LINE



Jeff Marshall, Gordon Brown and Sid Bell visit the remains of Whinnetley Drift where they each spent part of their working lives. (See Historical Notes)

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THE HAYDON NEWS ON LINE

The Haydon News was Established in 1979 and preceded on and off for over forty five years by a church Parish Magazine, The Haydon News is published by the Friends of Haydon Bridge and is written, printed, collated and delivered by volunteers.

Around 1,000 copies of The Haydon News are distributed free of charge, ten months of the year, throughout the parish of Haydon in Tynedale, Northumberland.

The Haydon News on line doesn't replace this traditional publication but allows those living outside our delivery area, who have a connection with or an interest in the parish, to keep in touch.

Welcome then to The Haydon News On Line, a web site that will build throughout the coming months and already includes an archive of earlier editions.

Contributions to The Haydon News in the form of articles or letters are welcome, especially from those with a family connection within the parish.

Please email us:

email: editors@haydon-news.co.uk

**Dennis Telford. (Chairman)
Friends of Haydon Bridge.**

**IF YOU ENJOY THE HAYDON NEWS, PLEASE HELP
US PAY FOR A NEW PRINTER BY MAKING A
DONATION TO THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE.**

EMAIL THE EDITORS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

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THANK YOU.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It's summer 1989.

The proposed conversion of the Land Army Hostels to an Aluminium Processing Plant worries Woodhall residents. The Council is concerned about the polluted state of the river. The printing machine has broken down so August's Haydon News will appear in October.

Andy Shield has taken over the butcher's shop in Church St.

The recently completed Health Centre is now in use.

In one of his occasional articles for the Haydon News, Dr High is fulsome in his thanks for the generosity of local people in their response to the Health Centre Appeal. He also announces the departure of Dr Graham from the Practice, bound for New Zealand, and the arrival of 'Steven Ford, his wife Jean and two young children on August 14th'.

It's summer 2008.

The departure of Dr Ford from the Health Centre is imminent.

In this edition of the Haydon News we publish the final 'Dr Steven Ford's Page'.

From brief reports on Health Education Meetings at the Health Centre in the 1990 editions of the Haydon News, to the introduction of the first dedicated Health Centre Page in December 1991, Dr Ford's regular monthly contribution to our village magazine has become something of an institution. I am sure that for many readers it has been their first port of call when they receive the Haydon News.

Not one to mince his words, or avoid often sensitive subjects, I know that on occasions eyebrows have been raised at some of Dr Ford's forthright offerings. However, his page has always been essential reading, topical, informative and peppered with humour.

On behalf of our readers and the Haydon News editors, past and present, we wish him a healthy, happy and active retirement. Thank you Dr Ford. MP

Back editions of the Haydon News, including all Steve Ford's articles, can be read online at www.haydon-news.co.uk.

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF HAYDON, NORTHUMBERLAND, ENGLAND



HAYDON BRIDGE BYPASS, A69.

31st July 2008



As the mist rolls in across the Tyne valley, the steelwork for the first lift of the South Tyne Viaduct is placed in position.

The lift takes place at midnight on Saturday 2nd August.

Technical details:

Height of crane with jib: 120ft

Weight of first lift: 237tonnes

Length of steel: 50metres

The Friends of Haydon Bridge is a voluntary organisation and is responsible for the publication of The Haydon News.

Some of the revenue costs of publishing around 1,000 copies of The Haydon News, ten times each year, are met by advertising fees.

To support the revenue costs and provide capital expenditure for new equipment etc., The Friends of Haydon Bridge rely on donations

If you have enjoyed our on line magazine and would like to make a donation, please email the editors in the first instance

editors@haydon-news.co.uk

Thank you

Editors: Mike Parkin. Dennis Telford.

**THE HAYDON NEWS
www.Haydon-News.co.uk**

Site construction by Henry Swaddle.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the meeting in July 2008

Public Participation.

A replacement for the seat at the corner of Church Street and Strother Close was requested once again. The Council is to consider using the money given to the Council by the builder of Old Foundry Court to provide a seat. The money was given as a goodwill gesture following the loss of the Council owned bus shelter and seat during construction of the flats.

The poor condition of the pavement and curb at the corner of Church Street and Strother Close, and the overgrown condition at the start of the path from Page Croft to the Old Church were drawn to the Council's attention. Both these issues are to be reported to NCC Highways Dept.

A Showfield resident asked if the Council had received a response to the letter sent to the ombudsman and Planning Inspector about the decision to grant permission for the development of 40 houses at the Showfield. No response has yet been received.

The Council have however been informed that the Planning Inspector can only deal with appeals lodged by the developer against planning decisions

Concern was expressed about the Showfield construction traffic using the Alston road and negotiating the difficult right-hand turn into the Langley road at Esp Hill. The dangers presented by the hidden dip beneath the bypass bridge across the Langley road just south of the entrance to the Showfield were also mentioned.

The clerk read out a letter sent in response to the Council's correspondence with NCC Highways last month regarding the hidden dip. In the letter it was suggested that 'hidden dip' signs be erected and 'slow' markings painted on the road. The Council felt that this would not be adequate and that further measures should be taken including; moving the 30mph signs further south to include the approach to the dip, painting double white lines on the road to prevent overtaking etc. NCC Highways to be contacted. *[Eds' note. CVC construction vehicles have used the Alston Road route and negotiated the Esp Hill junction to access their site during the building of the bypass.]*

A request was made for a handrail by the steps on the path beneath the railway between the riverside and Station Road.

Council meeting.

7 councillors were present.
A Tynedale councillor arrived later in the meeting.

Tynedale Minutes.

As no Tynedale councillor was present at the meeting at this point there was no report on Tynedale Council matters.

Highways.

A letter had been received from a Chesterwood resident regarding water flowing onto the lane near Chesterwood Grange. It was reported that local residents have the matter in hand.

Following the erection of the tourist signs for Haydon Bridge on the Alston road at Esp Hill, a query was raised about similar signage for Langley. A councillor is to approach the North Pennines Partnership about requesting a tourist sign for the North Pennines at the bypass junction with the Alston road. However, it is the responsibility of individual businesses to request their own tourist signs.

Correspondence.

The Council was informed that the Highways Agency has issued a road closure notice for the A686 Alston road at its junction with the A69, to allow the bypass junction to be constructed. The notice covers the period August 26th to 19th December 2008. It is likely that the road will be closed for a continuous period between August 26th and October 10th.

The Council received letters from Tynedale Council and Northumberland National Park Authority requesting information on sites for Strategic Housing Land availability. There was also a request for the Council to consider its Local Transport priorities for 2009/10.

The Boundary Committee is to look at the wards in the new unitary authority to ensure elected members represent populations of similar size.

Parish Projects.

Parish Plan.

The Parish Council was informed that members of the Parish Plan

Development Group are to have a meeting with Tynedale Council officers and with the North Pennines Partnership to look at ways in which they can support the implementation of the priorities identified in the Parish Plan. Hadrian's Wall Heritage Group are coming to the village on August 4th to discuss the support they can give to businesses and to advise on how tourism can be promoted in Haydon Parish.

Library.

NCC Library Services have taken on the lease of the library building for a further year. This will give the Council time to complete the necessary enquiries before deciding on whether or not it will take on responsibility for the running of the library.

Shaftoe Green.

The Council was informed of the progress made, and problems incurred, in restoring the Toddlers' Play Area. (See report on page 15).

Spa Well.

It was suggested that the Council consider asking the Community Police about using offenders, sentenced to carry out Community Service, to improve the path to the Spa Well. The Council is to follow up this idea.

War Memorial.

The bayonet on the War Memorial is to

(Parish Council Notes continue on Page 15).

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Esmond Faulks (chairman)
Mr. D Charlton 684505
Mrs. E Charlton 684505
Mrs. V Fletcher 688872
Mr. M R Parkin 684340
Mr. D Smith* 684480
Mr. R Snowdon 688871
Mr. E Brown* 684084
Mr H Oliver 688856
Ms J Males
Mrs J Thompson 684376
(* also a Tynedale Councillor)

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

I left you last month with the thought that there is no better way of recording our history than listening to those who were part of it.

This month I hope you enjoy my extended Historical Notes, reflecting on Whinnetley Drift in the company of three Haydonians whose working memories there cover a period from the late 1940's to 1964.

Where possible I have avoided duplication in this record of their individual experiences. The stories overlap of course so you will recognise a familiar theme throughout.

SID BELL

Having joined up on Christmas Eve 1939, Haydon Bridge resident Sid Bell, now ninety two years old, came to Haydon Bridge in 1940 as a member of the Royal Tank Corps on training exercises in readiness for the Second World War. Sid was stationed in the Elmfield Methodist Church school room, and Langley Castle and Ridley Hall were also commissioned. The Town Hall was the Corps' headquarters. Sid was to meet Haydonian Peggy Brown during his stay and they married in 1942.

Sid and Peggy settled in Haydon Bridge after the war, initially at No.4 Smith's Terrace. Sid's neighbours on the row included John Waite and Kathy (nee Usher), Tommy Usher, and the Curry and Duffy families.

Sid was a butcher by trade but as a married man sought employment that paid better wages than could be expected through butchering. A short time at Fourstones Paper Mill, where twelve hours day and night shifts were not to his liking, was followed by a spell at Langley Coal & Fireclay Company - or Langley Barony as it was generally known.

Sid worked as a kiln man at Langley and among his fellow employees were Geordie Briggs who was in charge, Jack Leathard, Lance and Peter Spooner, Harry Swallow and Ken Lax, chief kiln operator.

After a confrontation between Ken Lax and Geordie Briggs, Ken was sacked on the spot and eventually Sid was offered the top job of head kiln man, with the promise of a £2 a week increase in wages. Sid however, encouraged by Billy Philipson who lived in Whittis Crescent, had by then accepted an offer

to work at Whinnetley Drift Mine and it is there where his experiences are relevant to these particular 'Notes.

The journey from Haydon Bridge to Whinnetley was made by bicycle unless Ernie Hall, coalman and haulier from Hall Bank, was in the village, in which case the Whinnetley employees would climb up onto the back of his lorry with their bicycles and make the journey to work "in style". Apart from the section from Standalone to Chesterwood, the return journey was almost wholly free wheeling.

Sid's colleagues when he started in the late forties at Whinnetley were: Jack Routledge and Frank Johnson who were on bank and in charge, having been responsible for re-opening the pit. Billy Brown, Bob Hodgson (Butt Bank), Billy and Jackie Philipson, Billy and Tot Pickering, Kit Routledge and Archie Thompson.

By the 1950's Whinnetley was privately owned by P.W. Sharp of Haltwhistle and traded under the name of Whinnetley Coal Co. Ltd. and Charlie Brown (who eventually took over from Barnie Dabb as licensee at the Scotch Arms) was manager.

Sid describes the drift at Whinnetley as running downwards to the north and being over half a mile underground and like the veins on a leaf.

"There was such a lot of water that had to be pumped out with an old fashioned diesel pump afore we could go in."

Each miner had his own winning, or "low" off the main drift and they were allowed to mine the coal there until they reached the boundary with land owned by Prior House to the west and Hill House to the east. Once they reached the boundary the "low" was closed and they moved down the drift and opened another section.

"And after a few weeks you would get mebee fifteen yards in."

The little limestone seams were 18" to 24" high and occasionally as low as 12" and, especially in bad weather, they would be very wet on the bottom, although a pump was in permanent use.

The miners would blast out the winning and then lie on their sides with pneumatic drills - "windy picks"-

and dig out the coal from below the limestone. A putter would shovel the coal from behind the miner to the main track and then each miner had to do his own filling into his tub.

There were seven tubs lowered down the drift on a steel rope and each tub held 7cwts., the employees were paid per cwt. on the number of tubs they filled.

"When the tubs were pulled up to bank again and if the coal had vibrated down in the tub and it wasn't filled up to the line, and so didn't look as if it held the full 7cwt. for which we expected to get paid, we soon got to know that Jack Routledge wasn't a happy man and he would hold back some of our money!"

Each miner had a token fixed to a chain which they put into the bottom of their tub before filling the coal over it. In this way when the tubs were emptied at bank each individual miner's output was recorded. Sid expected to fill about ten tubs each day.

"Married blokes tried to get ten tubs a day out, but a single bloke like Archie Thompson was happy with seven tubs. Billy Brown was another that wasn't bothered that much. We only had quarter of an hour for bait but Billy would have his bait then fall asleep and Charlie - his faather - would have to kick him up the backside to get him to wake up again."

But one thing was for certain.

"If we didn't get the coal, we didn't get paid owt."

This meant that even in bad winter weather when snow was piled high, the miners would do their utmost to get to work, walking through drifts of snow from the village to get to Whinnetley.

"If the North Bank was blocked we'd try to get a lift along the main road to Lipwood Hall and then we walked up the fields to the pit at Whinnetley. It was hard work but I will say we were on a canny shift. From eight in the morning to quarter past three, when six of us would pile into the last tub and get pulled up to bank - even though it wasn't allowed really! Mind nobody had a watch in those days, except mebee Kit Routledge, and if we came out early by mistake, we were soon telt about it."

"On a good week we could make mebee £13 and that was good pay compared to most labouring jobs."

Each miner had to timber his own

winning although it was the spare man, Frank Johnson or Jack Routledge, who was responsible for providing them with their timbers. Occasionally a miner would cut corners with the timbering in order to speed up his production and increase the quantity of coal won and for which he was paid.

Sid tells of one day when going for his bait he noticed that Billy Brown's winning had no timbering at all and when they all got together for their bait they heard the stone above the mined coal, slip.

"Billy's winning had collapsed completely and his windy pick was lost under the fall. Had he been working in there he would certainly have been killed.

The mine was inspected every few weeks mind, by independent safety people. You never knew when they were coming and if you didn't have your timbers in properly you would get fined. But most miners valued their own safety and didn't cut corners very often. Especially those men with a wife and family."

There are no fatalities recorded at Whinnetley although Sid recalls an incident when he was very lucky himself.

"I was in the dip in the drift and heard a great roaring sound that was getting louder and louder. It was obviously a tub that had broken loose at bank and coming at a tremendous speed down the drift on the rails. I pulled myself into the 'low' and just got me legs in when it came crashing past full of coal. By mind, I was gay lucky that time. The tub hit the bottom with such force and the heavy steel sides just crumpled up and the coal flew out everywhere. I found out later that the banksman was uncoupling the tubs near the hopper and one got away. It should have had a safety rope fixed to it."

According to Sid, the mine owners did very little if anything to improve the lot of the workers and this didn't improve when P.W. Sharp of Haltwhistle took over the pit, although there was a ready customer for as much coal as they could get out. The coal from the seam was good quality and very clean and Sharps' sold it to Carlisle Power Station.

"Other than a few folk from the village, all the coal went to Carlisle Electric. A six ton wagon would come and fill up two or three times a day. But Percy Sharp wasn't the best to work for you know. You always had a job on

to get your pay."

Sid eventually left the privately owned pit at Whinnetley to go to the Bardon Mill NCB colliery.

"Still hard work, but a cake walk compared to the way we were treated at Whinnetley. And we got a guaranteed wage as well as getting paid for the coal we got out."

Bardon Mill pit closed on November 5th 1973 and Sid retired then to concentrate on his hobbies, particularly gardening and the Haydonian Workingmen's Club.

Sid Bell is the oldest living member of the 'Club and was a founder member. Along with other miners or ex miners, his experience was put to good use in the early days by digging out the earth below the floor behind the Bar to make the cellar.

"We took up the floor boards, behind the Bar you know, and just dug and dug to get rid of the soil. Then Sammy Gilchrist built the walls and supports. Sid Thompson, Tot and Billy Pickering, meself and one or two others were on over two weeks digging it out."

"Aye; the club. It's been good for Haydon Bridge!"

Aye. And that's another story for another day Sid!

GORDON BROWN

Gordon, or perhaps as likely to be known by old Haydonians as 'Nipper', left Shaftoe Trust School in 1952 as a fifteen year old and went straight away to work at Whinnetly Drift where his father Charlie was manager, having moved there from Bardon Mill Pit a short time earlier.

"When aa started, the pit belonged to a fella called Mr. Glass. R.W. Glass. He used to come to the pit every now and again; mebee once a month. Aa remember he used to come with a black Labrador and we used to have to put a bag of coal in the barrow and wheel it across to his car. Sharps' of Haltwhistle took it over when Mr. Glass packed in."

(It is interesting that Robert William Glass does not feature in the scant official records of Whinnetly Drift, although his name does appear in records of Priestman Collieries Ltd., and pits at Axwell Park, Swallwell: Blaydon Main: and Watergate at

Whickham. Gordon's recollection suggests that "Mr. Glass" is a forgotten short term link at Whinnetley, in the early 1950's, between Frank Johnson & Partners and P.W. Sharp.)

Gordon's first impressions of his early days at Whinnetley, where he worked on bank, were underwhelming.

"The drift wasn't owt special you know. It looked as if it had been put together in kind of a hurry. And they had old wooden hoppers, that's all they were and you had to sho'el the coal into the wagons by hand.

We had an old petrol hauler or winch when aa started and it had four tubs on. They eventually got the electric in and then you could put six or seven tubs on the hauler."

Gordon described to me his work on bank.

"There was an embankment and the tubs were pulled up it by the hauler onto a flat bit on the top, where we unhooked the line of full tubs off the steel rope. Then we put a line of empty tubs on it and sent them down to the 'dip' end for the putters to send them to be filled up where the blokes were working. We would push each full tub into a cradle thing that used to tip itself up and the coal would go down the screens. - The screens didn't shake or owt you know. We just had to push or rake the coal along like. - The big bits would gan into one hopper and the small coal would gan into another. The big coal fell onto the bottom and when the wagons came in we had to load them by hand. When we got a bit more mechanised like, (an ironic laugh from Gordon here) the wagons would come under the hopper and they would be filled up from there."

Although Gordon worked on bank at Whinnetley there were occasions when it was necessary to go into the drift; to help move a fall of stone that had jammed the rope from the hauler or winch, or if the tubs had come off the track.

"We just had to guess what was happening on the rope underground mind, by a change in the sound of the electric hauler. Sometimes we would gan doon and there was nowt wrong. Just too heavy a load mebee."

Water in the drift at Whinnetley seems to have been a regular problem and one hundred and fifty yards down from the

entrance to the drift there was a dam, just off the main track in an old working.

"There was a lot of water used to come out of old workings from years ago, and if it rained, water would run down from the drift mouth as well. So we had a dam made of wooden boards and a pump just in front of it, to pump the water out and save it from gannin doon to the bottom of the drift. We had to gan doon and start this pump, and a big electric pump at the bottom an aa'l."

Gordon also describes a second air tunnel running alongside the main drift.

"It was blocked off at the entrance and incorporated a big fan that used to suck the air out of the drift, and it was replaced by good air from the top, outside."

According to Gordon, by the time he left Whinnetley it was nearly a thousand yards from the entrance of the drift to the underground 'dip' on the main track.

"Beyond that aa think they hit a 'hitch' as it was called; when the coal disappeared and the stone had to be blasted away with gelignite, then the coal would suddenly appear again.

It was dangerous down there in the main drift mind. Just old wooden props and the conditions were really difficult. Aa mean, Sid Bell, Kit Routledge, Terry Noble - who lived up on the Military somewhere - Archie Thompson and Billy Pickering, all biggish fellas lying on their sides working on the face in seams no higher than 19". They all worked with windy picks when aa started, but me faather organised to get a coal cutter down and that made a big difference for some of the blokes. It had like a swordfish blade with teeth on and it just went from side to side cutting into the coal.

By they earned their money down there mind!

As well as the face workers, there was Billy and David Brown, Clive Calvert, Bob Hodgson, Matty Irwin, Raymond Nixon, Albert Ridley and a Danish fella called Axel Ankelberg from Allendale. He was the electrician and when he left, George Broughton came in."

It is interesting to me that Gordon remembers another abandoned drift at Whinnetley.

"In another little field about a couple of hundred yards from where our drift was there must have been another little drift there 'cos you could see the embankment where the tubs used to go

down. It was mebee just for the farmer to get coal for himself."

*Or maybe the original 19c drift from where coal was mined to be used at the Honeycrook Lead Mines?
I wonder?*

Gordon Brown's first pay, working at Whinnetley, was "about £2 - 8shillings a week." He travelled there and back like almost everyone else, on his push bike; unless there was deep snow in the winter - as there often was in those days - when they would go by bus to Lipwood Hall and walk to work from there.

Gordon laughs now as he recalls the return from a shift, waiting for a bus at Lipwood.

"Sometimes we'd all be waiting at the bus stop in mucky clothes and all black with the coal dust. The bus driver would just give us one look, turn away, and gan straight past. No; he wouldn't stop and we used to have to set off walking to Haydon Bridge then."

On a more serious note, it seems to me that a miner's life at Whinnetley was never without an accident of one kind or another and Gordon knows he is lucky still to be with us after a frightening incident with the tub hauler on bank.

"It was Tuesday 13th April 1954. The steel rope from the drift came up the embankment at an angle and to keep it in line we had to stand holding a big pinch bar against it when it was pulling the tubs. like everything else at Whinnetley the rope was in poor condition and bits of steel wire were sticking out where it was worn through. - We called these sharp spikes, 'hedgehogs'.

Aa was holding the pinch bar against the rope keeping it in position this day. The wind was blowing and aa had an old coat on. As the rope came past, a 'hedgehog' caught on me coat and dragged us in towards the hauler wheel that was pulling the steel rope in. Me brother Charlie was there - he worked at Whinnetley for a while when he came out of the Navy - and if it hadn't been for him aa would have just been mangled up.

Luckily, aa was pulled on top of the rope but me head and around me mouth and chin was all bust open. When Charlie saw what was happening, he knocked the thing off straight away and the force of the tubs coming off the track, when it came to a

stop, hoyed me oot onto the top of the embankment.

Aa was rushed to Hexham Hospital and patched up with stitches. There'd been a few fellas hurt at Whinnetley but aa'm sure that was the worst accident.

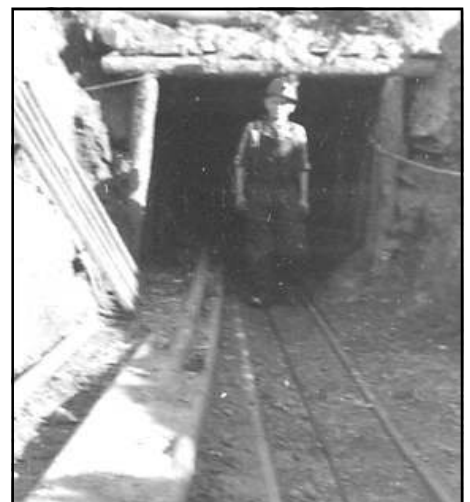
Mind aa was determined to go back to work as soon as aa could, but when aa did aa was kind of nervous 'cos the system was just the same. Aa still had to stand with the big pinch bar forcing the moving steel rope, with the 'hedgehogs', into position."

When Gordon's father, Charlie, left Whinnetley to run the Scotch Arms public house in Haydon Bridge, Gordon soon followed. In September 1961 Gordon and Joyce married, after they had met in the Scotch Arms and in 1962 Gordon joined Marsh's, the contractors who were putting in a cross country water pipeline. Gordon tells me he was pleased that he wasn't going to have to spend the rest of his working life at the pit.

After eighteen months, Gordon joined Newmans' the builders and had five happy years there before going on the railway, where he worked with Dennis Ayre, Geordie Hope, Eddie Johnson, Alan Moy, and Lennie Tait. After twelve years on the railway, Gordon started for Hexham Council where he became a well known and most popular figure on the streets of Hexham until his retirement in 2006.

Gordon now divides his time between his California allotment and his family and grandchildren, the traumatic days at the pit a distant memory; but now part of the recorded history of Haydon Bridge's Whinnetley Drift. And rightly so.

Thanks so much Nipper!



A young Gordon 'Nipper' Brown coming out of the Whinnetley Drift in 1953. The rails, steel hauler rope and pipes from the water pumps can just be seen

The open, unattended entrance of a drift mine, leading to the wildly imagined mysteries of a dark tunnel burrowed deep into the earth, was an irresistible invitation for a ten year old to EXPLORE!

And so it was that on my regular visits to my grandparents' house at Haltwhistle, my instinct frequently led me up the Haltwhistle Burn, following the path of the narrow gauge mineral lines that had served the South Tyne Colliery and Cawfields Quarry, to the fireclay drift where I would 'dare' to enter; a box of matches as my only means of lighting the way.

My early if unauthorised experience underground, pressed tightly against the sides of the adit as a line of clay filled tubs drawn by a pit pony rattled past in the gloom, was no doubt a dangerous way for a young lad to spend an afternoon and my parents would have been mortified had they known where I was. But what a thrill!

The South Tyne Fireclay Company 'up the burn' was managed by Haydonian Alan Moffat. Alan, who had previously worked as clerk/accountant for builder Adam Nixon, lived in 'Lynwood', one of the houses on the south side of John Martin Street built by Nixon, whose business went bankrupt in doing so. The Haltwhistle works were on the site of the 500' deep shaft of the South Tyne Colliery, one of our area's best known coal pits until its closure in 1931. Incidentally, the Haltwhistle Burn has a remarkable industrial heritage involving woollen mills, quarrying, coalmining and 'Alan Moffat's' fireclay / pipeworks which remained open until finally unable to compete with PVC drainage pipes.

By the late 1950s early 60s however, the Haltwhistle Burn's historical association was less important for the lads from the 'Bridge, than the wooded seclusion provided in the gorge for those who chose to do their courting there. — You know who you are! More 'at it' than 'adit'. More 'cuddles' than 'buddles'. More 'petting' than 'putting'. And by the way; more 'losing' than 'winning'!

Again, another story for another day - but this one will probably never be told!

Anyway; this tale leads me onto my second (and last) visit down a working mine; at Whinnetley from where I related Sid Bell's and Gordon Brown's experiences earlier. My unofficial underground 'tour', made possible by Haydonian and Whinnetley employee Jeff Marshall, was guided this time but

no less exciting and heart stopping for that.

JEFF MARSHALL

In the early 1960s and just married, a chance to save a few bob on fuel (or anything else for that matter) wasn't to be sniffed at and I would take my old Ford van up to Whinnetley on a Saturday morning when Jeff was working at the drift there. Jeff would be manning the pumps to keep the 'tide' from Haresby and Whinnetley Moss at bay.

It was on one of those visits, after two or three good cwt. measures of Whinnetley coal had been bagged up, that I followed Jeff into the drift.

Not until that Saturday morning in 1963, half a mile underground, did I fully appreciate the stories of pain and hardship endured by my coal mining ancestors. Stories that many years earlier had been repeated time after time as I sat on my grandmother's knee in No.3 Meadow Terrace, Haltwhistle; my grandfather in his early grave having worked underground in South Tyne and Fell End collieries.

Jeff Marshall was to spend more than six years at Whinnetley Colliery until its closure in February 1964, but not before he had been employed at one of our other famous industrial sites.

Jeff left Shaftoe Trust School in 1955 to work for Mineral Treatment Ltd., at the Honeycrook site of the former Langley Barony Lead Mines site, trawling through the waste heaps, or gangue, from the old workings, searching for lead and zinc that was then transported to rail wagons in the Haydon Bridge goods yard. Jeff's fellow workmen at Honeycrook included Jack Milburn, Bill White, Geordie Osselton, and Wilf Marsh.

"Wilf would come up to work with a little box, selling cigarettes and all kinds of stuff brought from his shop on Ratcliffe Road."

(For a Brief history of the lead mine, see The HN Feb. and March 2008 editions)

When the Mineral Treatment company moved on from the Leadbitter and Joicey Shaft spoil heaps, Jeff spent six months at Crindledykes Quarry, with John Rogan, Charlie Frankland and Freddie and Robert Stanners.

"The work at Crindledykes was so

hard it nearly killed us. By they were hard workers at Crindledykes; especially John Rogan. He just worked away on his own, never bothering anybody."

After joining up with the Mineral Treatment Company again for a short time, at Carrshield, it was on his seventeenth birthday on 11th November 1957 that Jeff started work at Whinnetley; having heard from Lance Spooner, an employee there, that they wanted somebody to work on bank.

"Whinnetley belonged to Percy Sharp from Haltwhistle, but Charlie Brown was in charge and we never hardly saw Percy. Aa think aa got £2 -10shillings a week pay when aa first started."

Charlie's son Gordon 'Nipper' was already working on bank when Jeff started and there were seven on the face: Archie Thompson, Billy Brown, Billy and Tot Pickering, Frankie Brown, Sid Bell and Kit Routledge, - who always had the wettest place and always had to wear waterproofs, according to Jeff. There were two putters: Peter Brown and Dennis Ayre and the others underground and on maintenance were Harry Swallow, Lance Spooner, Bob Hodgson, Percy Charlton and electrician George Broughton.

"They were all hard workers mind, and they were happy days. We all got on well together and we all got into the 'Club for a pint at the weekend. We all used to bike to Whinnetley, except for Charlie. He had an old Morris Shooting Brake and used to travel up and down in that. You probably remember it. Charlie used to park it outside his pub. The Scotch Arms. *(I do Jeff. And I could tell a story or two about boozy trips in it as well!)* Mind later on aa sometimes got a lift on Raymond Nixon's Velocette motorbike. It cost us a packet of tabs a week!"

Later, Ken Lattimer took over from Charlie Brown when he left; and Richard Marshall, Colin Edwards, George Barron, and Geordie Beswick, Alan Stokoe and 'Haver' Bell from Haltwhistle also worked at Whinnetley Drift during Jeff's time there.

"We were on a flat rate but the face workers were all on bonus. That was the only pay they got. They all had their own bits of the face in gateways off the main track and they all had to fill their own tubs. There were often arguments about their tokens that were fixed to the tubs, 'cos that was how their coal was measured and how they got paid. And

mind, they had to fight for every penny they got! When aa started aa think the face workers got five shillings for a full seven cwt. tub, and the coal sold for five shillings a cwt.”

Jeff Marshall’s work on bank included emptying the coal down the screens, sharpening ‘windy picks’ and controlling the electric winch to set the tubs up and down the drift.

I was fascinated by Jeff’s explanation of the system for passing messages from underground to those on bank.

“To send a signal from the face to the winch hut, they had two bare electric wires. Aa suppose they should have had a button or switches really, but they just crossed the two live wires underground and the controller of the winch on bank, knew the code when the bell went. Crossing the wires once was for; stop the tubs going up or down. Crossing the wires twice was to tell us to send the tubs lower. And three times was to bring the tubs up. We had no other contact with the men underground except for any written messages on the side of the tubs or the tram. Timber or props used to come from Jacksons and the tram was used for sending the timbers down the drift. The men underground would write messages on the side of the tram to let us know what they wanted sent down.”

Jeff described his work on the winch to me.

“It was a gentle slope in until you got nearer the bottom, then there was what we called ‘the dip’. When aa was on the winch you always knew when the tubs were getting into the dip. They used to slow down and you used to have to let the brake right up so the tubs would go faster to get up the bit incline on the other side of the dip.”

It is a mystery - and a delight - to me that there weren’t any serious accidents, other than Gordon Brown’s, at Whinnetley Drift. That there were only relatively minor incidents must have been down to a large slice of luck and the resourcefulness of the men, rather than any serious attempts by the owners to provide a safe environment. I still recall my amazement, during my first visit there in 1963, at the primitive method used to stop a runaway tub. A piece of iron rail fixed to the back of the last tub in the line, trailed along the sleepers as the tubs were being winched up the slope and out of the drift. If the steel winch rope snapped or the tubs

rolled back for any reason, the iron bar or ‘the bull’ as Jeff calls it, was expected to dig into the track and bring the line of tubs to a halt or off the track. Lives of those underground, ‘hanging by a thread’ comes to my mind.

Fortunately, while neighbouring pits had their share of fatalities, there were only narrow escapes at Whinnetley.

Jeff related one such escape when he was underground helping lift a de-railed tub back onto the track.

“If the tubs came off the track aa used to go down and help to lift them on and then Geordie Broughton would splice the rope. One day aa was down putting a tub back on and aa said to Colin on the winch, ‘mind don’t send them tubs back down until aa come out’. Once it was fixed and the line of tubs winched up, aa started to walk away up to bank and aa got so far when me lamp went out. Aa was in the black dark and suddenly aa heard this bloody rumbling and aa thowt, ‘the stupid bugger he’s sending them back in!’

There used to be little archways along the sides of the track where you could get in and let the tubs past. Luckily aa had an idea where aa was and feeling me way up in the dark aa just got into the side when the tubs came shooting past. By aa was lucky!”

Whinnetley seems to have been a much more difficult place to work in after the 1960 closure of Morwood pit.

“The water used to build up overnight after they closed Morwood and the two pumps could hardly cope. That was why aa was in on a Saturday. Nipper and me used to share weekend work on the pumps to keep drying it out ready for the men going in on the Monday; and we used to help Lance and Percy with the maintenance on a Saturday as well.

Once onto bank, the screened coal was tipped into the hoppers and loaded from there into wagons.

“Sharps’ had two of their own wagons. Small stuff used to go to the Carlisle power station and the good coal was shared between the power station and local coal men like Geoff Duffy and Ernie Hall. - Other people, individuals like, would come in for a bag or two as well. Like the folk from ‘Seldom Seen’ and they would always bring us home made scones, so aa would put a bit extra coal in the bag for them! -

Geoff Duffy would take a load away and bag it himself away from the pit, but not Ernie. Ernie would let it all drop on the ground and he had a drum with no top or bottom in it. He would put the drum into a cwt. sack and shovelled the coal into it. When the drum was full Ernie would pull it back out of the sack and start another. By what a strong fella Ernie Hall was. And what a worker! Mind what a grubber he was as well. Ernie’s bait box was a lot bigger than anybody else’s aa’ve ever seen.”

According to Jeff, most of the workers at Whinnetley carried their bait wrapped in neckerchiefs and their tea was made up in tin cans and they would warm it up with a candle down the pit at bait time. Jeff carried his own tea in a Murrays’ pop bottle, well wrapped up to act as a flask.

Although the conditions were appalling and there was an apparent disregard for the workers’ safety and well being - For example, according to Jeff, until the later years, “There was no office, no phone, no nowt.” And until later on, “The men even had to buy their own carbide for their lamps, from the Co-op store in the village” - Whinnetley was clearly a happy place to work.

It seems to me that despite the hardships and a recognition that their lives were in constant danger - or perhaps because of that - there was a strong bond between the men. It’s doubtful, unless you have worked down a pit, whether you can fully appreciate the camaraderie that gets the miner through the most difficult of circumstances.

Whinnetley Drift closed on February 3rd 1964 and the underground water that was partly to blame for its demise remains on the surface to this day. Marking the spot where our local 20c miners toiled for over twenty years.

Jeff Marshall finished work at Whinnetley on February 3rd 1964 and on Monday 6th he started work on a Northumberland County Bridge Gang with Billy and Tot Pickering, with Haydon Bridge’s Billy Adamson in charge. Other Haydonians who worked for the council, repairing and building the county’s bridges, were Derek Beavers, Maxi Beavers, Matty Brown, Jack Davies, John Oliver and Geordie Brown from Plankey.

Jeff had left Whinnetley and was working for the bridge gang when he met and married Margaret, at Aberdeen in 1965.

From leaving school until his retirement in 1997 Jeff had only one week off work through illness.

“There were plenty of times aa should have been off but you had to go to work or you didn’t get paid.”

Jeff is sure that there were those who didn’t appreciate this situation. For example after an accident at Whinnetley, when he was lifting a tub onto the track and crushed his hand when the roof came in, he was determined to get back to work as soon as possible. Doctor Bell was most sympathetic. “Have yourself another week off Jeff. And then have another week off, and another.”

“Aa said. Aa cannot man. Aa’ve got no money and if aa stop off aa divvent get paid!”

That was how it was in the good old days!



Jeff Marshall at Whinnetley Drift in 1960 (ish)

My sincere thanks to Sid, Gordon and Jeff, for allowing me to share with you their memories of Whinnetley Drift and those who worked there. And thanks to Gordon and Jeff for their original photographs.

PIT OWNERS

I am aware that the owners of our coal mines do not come out too well in my recent Historical Notes and perhaps the directors of Stublick, Mid Tyne, and Whitechapel Collieries. R.W. Glass; P.W. Sharp and others would view the situation differently. However, I spent a year at Huddersfield in 1967 and recall the impressive buildings, parks, terraces of old folk’s houses and the civic pride generated in memory of the Yorkshire mill owners.

As far as I am aware, there was no such philanthropy shown by the pit owners of Tynedale - nor perhaps right across the Northumberland and Durham coal fields - and other than Shaftoe Trust School and Shaftoe Terrace, built in memory of a religious benefactor, our original community buildings in Haydon Bridge, such as the Odd Fellows Hall, the Town Hall, the Reading Room and the Wesley Hall, were each the result of public subscription and involvement in raffles, jumble sales and the like.

Perhaps the coal owners thought that their commitment to the population was satisfied by providing employment, however dismal the conditions were for their workers.

Or perhaps they just didn’t think!

TIMES PAST

I note with amusement that three legged races and sack races have been banned during Beamish’s Edwardian themed sports’ days. ‘In case those children taking part fall over.’

What is the world coming to?

They’ll be stopping us throwing jumping jacks and penny bangers at each other next. And as for stone fights on the river side!!!

THE HAYDON NEWS

The Haydon News is not published in September so we wish you all well until our next issue in October.

CORRESPONDENCE

I wonder! Do we really appreciate the attractions on our own door step?

Our next contributor reminds me of a holiday in Italy where we visited Venice, Florence, Assisi, Pisa and its leaning tower, and Rome.

Standing in the shadow of the awesome Colosseum, our reverent Italian lady guide informed us that it was her life’s ambition to save enough money to enable her to travel to England and visit an historic site of which she had dreamt about for years.....Vindolanda!

I had to admit, with just a hint of embarrassment perhaps, that I lived but a few Roman miles from Vindolanda and yet hadn’t set foot in the place for five years or more. An omission I put right immediately on my return, incidentally.

Canberra,
Australia.

Dear Editors,

Last year when visiting the U.K. with a friend, we walked from Haltwhistle to Vindolanda (in all that rain!) along Hadrian’s Wall.

This year I have returned and am having two weeks at Vindolanda, doing what I have always wanted to do, excavation of an archaeological site.

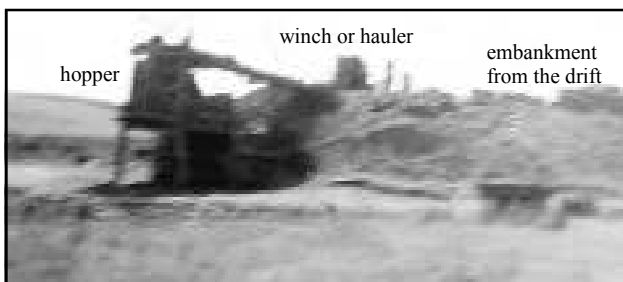
Although my days at Haltwhistle this year have been spent back and forward on the bus to Vindolanda, I have enjoyed my stay. God willing, I will be back from Australia again next year for a longer stay of four weeks, getting dirt under my finger nails finding things from the past at Vindolanda.

Finding coins, brooches, nails and small pieces of pottery and other items gives one the feeling of opening up the past for future generations to see how the Romans could make such beautiful buildings and craft objects for everyday life, without modern technology. I am sure that digging up any items from the past gives the volunteers satisfaction.

To be part of uncovering history for all the world to see is worth travelling half way round the world.

Yours sincerely,
Fay Tarlo

This month’s correspondence continues on page 16



The original wooden hopper and built up embankment at Whinnetley Drift.

The tubs were hauled up the embankment out of the drift and pushed up to the hopper and tipped.

THE FINAL LOAD OF GLITTERING CODSWOLLOP

Eating oddly.

There is a condition called 'pica' which affects children mainly. It is diagnosed when a child persistently eats materials that are largely or entirely non-nutritive or even actively harmful-usually soil but it could be almost anything. One of the more consistent causes for the disorder is iron deficiency.

In a recent copy of The British Medical Journal there appeared a report by a retired doctor who had developed a striking habit of crunching up ice cubes from his drinks with remarkable regularity, enthusiasm and vigour. Sure enough, it turned out he was short of iron and he lost his urge to crunch ice when it was replaced.

Sit and suffer.

A survey in New Zealand has shown that the risk of clots in the leg veins increases by ten per cent for every hour sat. Immobility is actively bad for you! Keep moving at all costs!

If you must sit down for long periods of time then get your feet elevated, preferably above your heart (which is more or less under your nipples-if you're a bloke). Reclining chairs are readily available nowadays and don't have to cost a fortune.

There is a major campaign going on in New York at present to encourage everyone to walk and use the stairs rather than drive or use lifts.

If you were told that sitting still increases your chance of getting a broken leg by ten per cent per hour I bet you'd make more of an effort to walk about every ten minutes or so. A clot in the leg is, of course, very much more dangerous.

Hmmmm!

The following questions were set in last year's GCSE examination in Swindon, Wiltshire. These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds).

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep, and canoeists.

Q. What causes the tides in the oceans?

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight.

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed.

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets on the stairs.

Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A. Premature death.

Q. What is artificial insemination?

A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow.

Q. How are the main parts of the body categorized? (eg abdomen).

A. The body is consisted into three parts-brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels. A,E,I,O,U.

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.

Q. What does varicose mean?

A. Nearby.

Q. What is the most common form of birth control?

A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium.

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'.

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor.

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport.

Q. Give an example of a fungus. What is a characteristic feature?

A. Mushrooms. They always grow in damp places and they look like umbrellas.

Q. Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to show you understand what it means.

A. Hands that judicious can be soft as your face.

Q. What does 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Shriek wears on his head.

Hazards and benefits of smallholding.

There's no doubt about it. Home grown eggs, from chickens enjoying a very natural and fully organic lifestyle, taste a great deal better than those that are commercially available.

Our two chickens produce an egg each day, usually. One of them is consistently producing eggs in the ninety gram range-that's super-extra-jumbo sized.

It's easy to tell which of them it is because she has that fashionable

wide-eyed look that is so often encountered on maternity wards.

We briefly had a third chicken, adopted from Debbie our extra practice nurse who has now decamped to Dubai, but something broke into the run and made away with it. A trail of feathers lay across a neighbouring field to the small hole in the netting. We are considering the purchase of a bazooka!

Apparently the edible plant with the most iron in it is nettles. Try some fresh nettle tips-just the tender new leaves from the top of the stems in spring-cook them like spinach.

No excuse soon

On our summer trip to Germany this year we again noticed how almost everyone either walks or bicycles around towns and villages-young and old, male and female, fair weather or foul. Tiny children either get towed in trailers or on their own attached saddle-on-wheels. Tandems, tricycles-both upright and recumbent and recumbent bicycles were also in evidence. When our bypass is

finished it will be so easy and so much safer to get around the village on foot or by bicycle. I really hope that as many as possible will take the opportunity of becoming more active.
How about a village sports day? Doesn't have to be in the least bit serious. Any ideas for weird and wacky races that we could hold? Welly wanging and cowpat throwing are popular in some rural areas. What could we wang/throw here?
Another idea we have brought back from Germany is the 'Kalorienweg' or 'Calorie path'-lots of references to it on the internet and translations readily available from Google.

At Inzell, in the town centre, there is a large map of the surrounding area with paths showing typical diet items marked out in metres. To burn off coffee and cake so far, to burn off a hamburger and fries a good deal further and so on. Whilst bicycling round the area we found signposts along the paths with pictures of the individual diet items at the relevant distances from the town. A thousand metres for a glass of wine will give you some idea.
Perhaps we could recalibrate the John Martin Trail in calories.
We really do eat vastly too much (and the wrong things) and exercise too little-it's no surprise that we ail so often and so predictably. In some parts of Glasgow the life expectancy of males is 54 but in the wealthy parts it is 84. These are shocking Dickensian statistics that ought not to be tolerated.
It will be interesting to see what, if any, effect the rising cost of food has and what, if any, effect the Prime Minister's thoughts on food waste have.
Have a think about your own eating habits and take a glance in your larder and fridge-is there scope for improvement?
Are you wasting money and/or eating less thoughtfully than you could?
Our Parish is heaving with rabbits and grey squirrels-let's eat 'em.

Ahhhh!

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'It makes my teeth cough.'

DJ (aged 4) stepped onto the bathroom scales and asked, 'How much do I cost?'

MARC (aged 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad, 'Why is he whispering in her mouth?'

JAMES (aged 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read; 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked, 'What happened to the flea?'

TAMMY (aged 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her Mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and asked, 'Why doesn't your skin fit your face?'

The sermon I think this Mom will never forget...this particular Sunday sermon.. 'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. 'Without you we are but dust...' He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old voice. 'Mom, what is butt dust?'

Memo to self-organize your spare time:

Serving wench brings tea in bed with morning paper-freshly pressed.

Leisurely bath.

Full English with all the trimmings.

Stroll around the estate to collect eggs from hens and give the ornamental peasants their days orders.

Fresh coffee and biscuits whilst scanning the post.

Check emails and the markets, instruct brokers.

Sherry.

Light five course luncheon.

Siesta on the stoep.

Sunny cycle ride round the Parish admiring the flower strewn meadows and listening to drowsy birds calling in the bosky glades.

Compose a few light hearted stanzas on the moral improvements work brings.

Cocktail and exchange of witty epigrams before-

Dinner.

Fall into a light coma in front of TV.

and so to bed.

An endless vista of brainless hedonism beckons...

Well timed.

You know how it is. Aunt Agatha starts reminiscing again and, with a ghastly inevitability, the same old story starts-'When I was a gel...'

I have strived to avoid repeating myself in these epistles and, until the other day, I thought I'd succeeded. However, it has been drawn to my attention, that the poem that appeared last month-'When I born, I black...'-seemed suspiciously familiar.

You know it's time to go when you start to repeat yourself.

Thank you for having me.

Steve Ford.

A POEM FOR DOCTOR FORD.

The pen is mightier than the sword
Or so the saying goes,
I believe that may be so,
Having read the words of Doctor Ford.
You tell it just the way it is
On health and better food.
Although at times, I must admit,
You get a little rude.
But all is taken in good fun,
You give us all a lift,
To put a smile on any face
Is a very special gift.
You've helped so many people
For quite a lot of years
The moans and groans you've listened to
And often dried the tears.
Your patients all will miss you
It just won't be the same,
No twinkling eyes and lovely smile
To ease away the pain.
I think I speak for most of folk
That's on the practice list,
Good luck, Good health and happiness
You will be greatly missed.
Whatever future plans you have
We hope you will succeed
As a doctor you've been great
A special man indeed.
There's only one thing left to say
With pen and not with sword,
For all the help you've given us
We THANK YOU DOCTOR FORD.

Mrs Eileen Porrett
Haydon Bridge.

CHURCH PAGE

CLERGY MESSAGE

From

Les Hann

Dear Friends,

As I write this the sun is shining. One of those rare days this year but we live in hope.

It's July and those who take holidays are perhaps anticipating days of relaxation and thinking of all those things they are going to do during the fine weather.

Some one said to me quite recently this life is not a rehearsal for the real thing, this is the real thing. Some one else remarked this is the only chance we get. It's not best out of three. We need to live every God given day with enjoyment of his world, encouraging and caring for one another and being thankful to God for what he has given us in scenery and people.

We make a positive effort to "enjoy" our holidays, to do things and perhaps see people. We can also make a positive effort in the ordinary days of our life.

In the past, perhaps the not too distant past, Church and chapel folk were seen by others to be against everything for God sake.

Like all generalisations this was not the whole picture, but impressions remain.

Do you remember the old story of the preacher who was leading worship in a chapel, somewhere, and a villager asked a member of the congregation about the preacher's subject.

"He spoke about sin" came the reply.

"And what did he have to say on the subject" was the next question.

"I don't know, but he was against it".

In a conversation earlier in the year, it was not a sunny day the cloud was down and it was wet and cold, a visitor remarked how do you manage through the winter in weather like this. He was told "You should see it when the sun shines it transforms the place, it's beautiful.

A smile transforms the human face it becomes welcoming, encouraging and beautiful. So go and enjoy the goodness of God..

Les Hann

**AUGUST & SEPTEMBER
2008**



WHO AND WHERE

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

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

Rev Les Hann,
with the Methodist Congregation
Wesley Manse, Moor View, Haltwhistle
Tel. 01434 320051

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

**ST. JOHN OF BEVERLEY
CHURCH SERVICES.**

Mass each Sunday

9.30am. Haydon Bridge

11.00am. at Haltwhistle

Mass on weekdays

(except Mondays)

10.00am. St John's or Haltwhistle

**METHODIST CHURCH
SERVICES**

August 3

10.00am. Morning Worship
Joyce Short
6.00pm. Evening Service
Rev Janet Flawn

August 10

10.00am. Family Service
Valerie Anthony
6.00pm. Evening Service
Rev John Wall

August 17

10.00am. Morning Worship
Patrick Eavis
6.00pm. Evening Worship
Christine Caddy

August 24

10.00am. Morning Worship
Joan Histon
6.00pm. Evening Worship
Kevin Williams

August 31

10.00am. Morning Worship
Doug Hogg
6.00pm. Evening Worship
Margery Gazzani

September 7

10.00am. Morning Worship
Rev Les Nevin
Evening United Service
6.00pm at Wylam

September 14

10.00am. Family Service
Rev Les Hann
6.00pm. Evening Worship
Daniel Foreshaw

September 21

10.00am. Morning Worship
Rev Jim Errington
6.00pm. Evening Worship
Rev Marian Olsen

September 28

10.00am. Morning Worship
Rev David Perkins
6.00pm. Evening Worship
Evelyn Charlton

**BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW
CHURCH SERVICES**

August 3

Henshaw
9.30am. BCP Communion

August 10

11.00am. Joint Service
At Haydon Bridge

August 17

Henshaw
9.30am. Communion

August 24

Beltingham
9.30am. Joint Service

August 31

Beltingham
9.30am. Joint Service

September 7

9.30am. BCP Communion

September 14

11.00am. Joint Service
At Haydon Bridge

September 21

Beltingham
9.30am. Communion

September 28

Henshaw
10.00am. Joint Service
Harvest Communion

October 5

Henshaw
9.30am. BCP Communion

Methodist Church
Sunday School
has a Summer Break

Next meeting
7th September 10.00 am

**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
SERVICES**

August 3

11.00am. BCP Communion

August 10

11.00am. Joint Service
Family Communion

August 17

11.00am. Communion

August 24

9.30am. Joint Service
At Beltingham

August 31

9.30am. Joint Service
At Beltingham

September 7

11.00am. BCP Communion

September 14

11.00am. Joint Service
Family Communion

September 21

11.00am. Communion

September 28

10.00am. Joint Service
Harvest at Henshaw

October 5

11.00am. BCP Communion

**HAYDON OLD CHURCH
SERVICES**

31 August
6.00pm. Evensong

28 September
6.00pm. Harvest Evensong

Life Cycle Challenge

From 16th to 25th August 2008, David Armstrong will be taking part in a mountain bike challenge from Lourdes in France, through east-central Spain to Gibraltar and on to Casablanca in Morocco, to help raise funds for those suffering from kidney failure.

This is a genuine extreme challenge, involving a distance of **1,350 miles** over **10 days**, through **4 countries**, **2 continents** and crossing **4 mountain ranges**. It will require an average of **10 - 12 hours cycling per day**; one day will involve 250km (155 miles).

To put that in perspective, the longest stage of the Tour de France this year was a mere 210km. And they are on super-lightweight hi-tech road racing cycles!

Evenings will be spent on the floors of local sports centres and village halls along the route. With mid-August temperatures expected to reach 40° centigrade, as an (ex!) ginger-haired 48 year-old, with asthma, you may think he is a bit mad to attempt this!

Well, maybe, but there is a close personal reason for doing it.....

The origins of Life Cycle Challenge....

Many of you will know a fellow native of Haydon Bridge, and lifelong friend of David's, Alan Curry. Alan was born and bred in the village and his father Ralph and sister, Helen Easby still live here. For those that don't know Alan, a bit of background may help put the challenge into perspective.

Whilst serving in the RAF, Alan met and married a Maltese girl, Carmen. For many years they lived in the UK as Alan's career with the RAF and MoD

evolved, eventually returning to live in Haydon Bridge, for several years. Many of you may remember Carmen from that time.

Carmen unfortunately suffered deteriorating health and eventually they felt that she would benefit from a move to Malta. Following that move, Carmen suffered renal failure. She spent a considerable period under dialysis treatment, before eventually receiving a kidney transplant. Happily she has since been able to return to a normal life.

Alan and Carmen were so appreciative of the attention and care that she received from the renal unit and its staff that Alan was determined to give something back so that others, suffering as Carmen had, could receive treatment and have the chance to return to a healthy life.

Those who know Alan will also know that he never does anything in halves. So in 1999 to raise funds for the renal centre he decided to cycle from his home in Malta, through Europe and back to his birthplace and family home in Haydon Bridge. He was joined on the adventure by five other cyclists, a van driver and a volunteer cook.

Having arrived late at night in Haydon Bridge, following a cycle from Hull on the final day, the team received a heroes' welcome from village folk and they were provided with free accommodation in the village; Alan stayed with his family and the remainder of the team stayed with David & Pam Armstrong, Steven & Christine Brown, Audrey Phillips and Rene & Maurice Armstrong.

Life Cycle Challenge was born!

Life Cycle Challenge has captured the imagination of the Maltese people and each year since, a demanding cycle challenge has taken place and it has grown in stature and numbers as the years have progressed. It has even been endorsed by the Prime Minister of Malta.

This year is the 10th Anniversary of the inception of Life Cycle Challenge.

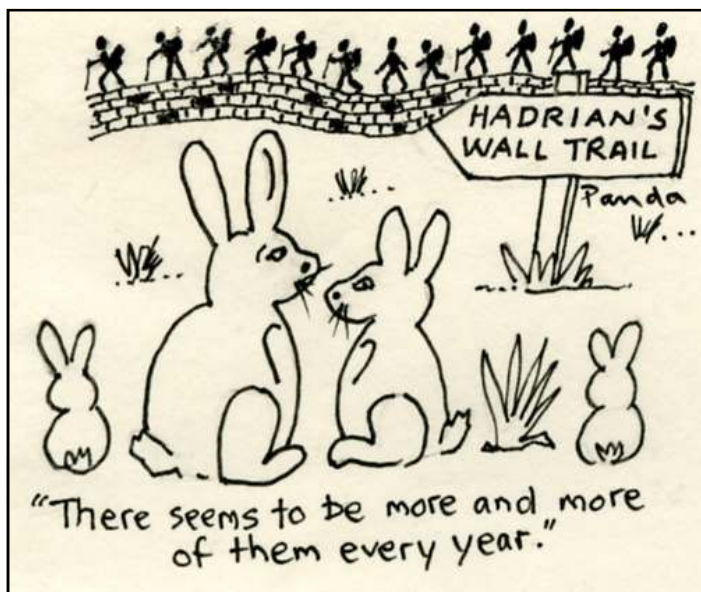
The Challenge visited Haydon Bridge again a few years ago, when the route took it through England and Scotland but as yet, despite Life Cycle Challenge's strong links to the village, no-one from Haydon Bridge has participated in the event. In fact no-one from outside Malta has participated. David Armstrong feels that it is time for someone from Haydon Bridge to take up the Challenge and give the village the opportunity to show its support for a tremendous cause, started by one of its own, and which has become a vital source of funds for the local renal unit in Malta.

David is hoping villagers will support the cause by sponsoring him for the Challenge. Any sum that you feel able to donate would be greatly appreciated. David is paying his own flight costs to and from Malta to join the Challenge and so 100% of the amounts raised will go to the charity.

Anyone wishing to support the Life Cycle Challenge can contact David directly on:

davidarmstrong@tinyworld.co.uk

Or you can find a sponsor form at Claires Newsagents on Church Street.



HAYDON NEWS DELIVERY

The success of The Haydon News's unique circulation, free of charge to the majority of houses in the parish, is due to our volunteers who distribute the ten issues each year. We are grateful to all those who deliver The Haydon News, but a special thanks this month to Maurice Gamble, who took over the delivery area previously covered by Mrs. Garrow. Mr. Gamble regrets he is unable to continue with the delivery and we thank him for his support in the past. For those residents living in the Springfield, West and East Mill Hills and Altonside areas, we are pleased to report that we can continue our delivery service. Gordon Liddle has volunteered to distribute the monthly copies of The Haydon News to your doors from this August edition, and for that we are most grateful.

Many thanks Gordon and to all our distributors.

Dennis Telford (Chairman FoHB)

CVC HIGHWAYS HELP REPAIR SHAFTOE GREEN PLAY AREA



After being closed for several months, work began in mid July to get the Toddlers' Play Area at Shaftoe Green open in time for the summer holidays. The Play area was closed having been vandalised earlier this year. CVC Highways, at present constructing the Haydon Bridge bypass, stepped in to help, providing equipment and the workforce, when the full cost of making good the damage to the Toddlers' Play Area became known. Without their support the full cost of repairs would have had to be borne by the Parish Council, whose income is provided by the residents of Haydon Parish. However, the Council did purchase the new play quality bark costing about £1,500.

At the time of writing the work has not been completed as the new bark delivered is of poor quality, totally unsuitable for a Toddler's Play Area. The Council are still waiting to hear from the suppliers about getting it changed. Hopefully the job will be completed in early August.

Our picture shows workmen from CVC Highways removing the glass strewn bark.
MP

Parish Council Notes (cont'd from page 3)

be repaired by a local metal worker in the near future.

Councillors were informed that the names on the War Memorial Plaque are now difficult to read as they have faded over time. The Council is to contact the War Memorials Trust to request a grant to renew the plaque.

Christmas Lights.

A councillor gave a report to the Council on enquires made about Christmas Lights in Haydon Bridge this year. It was pointed out that this will be the last Christmas that traffic on the A69 passes through the village and that this was an opportunity for Haydon Bridge to present itself as a welcoming and friendly location.

Approval has been given to line the Old Bridge with free standing Christmas Trees decorated with small lights. The councillor said that it would need the

support/help of many people in the village to make it a success.

The following points were made; Sponsorship would be required to raise funds to cover some of the costs; The Parish council have set aside about £1000 to help towards costs; Christmas trees may be donated by a local land owner; Lights and cabling have been sourced and costed;

Barrels or similar large containers would be required to accommodate the trees;

The Anchor Hotel has provisionally agreed to run the power from the Hotel but it will need a meter so that the Hotel can be reimbursed for the electricity used.

More on this in the October Haydon News.

Any other business.

A councillor suggested that the small corner wall near the Co-op could have a planter set into the top rather than

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Langley WI

Alan Anderson returned to Langley with the clay pigs members had made during the March meeting. When each pig had been reunited with their maker the choice had to be made as to which base colour the pigs were painted. Once painted and dried various coloured spots were painted on the pigs. Alan then took them away to be finished and they will be returned next month completed.

Plans have been made for a summer ramble in August. Exploring locally this time. Members will be exploring the path ways at Langley Garden Station before enjoying a meal together. 9th of September is the AGM.

A grand total of £1042.14 was raised at the plant sale on 26th May. This will be shared between Langley WI, Langley Village Hall and Langley Chapel. Many thanks to everyone who helped or supported the sale.

Cathy Duffy

replacing all the dislodged stones. The council have discussed the repair of this wall on several occasions in the past and it is hoped that repairs will be carried out soon.

The Council was informed that the roots of the tree set into the pavement near the old bridge are lifting the paving stones. Someone had recently tripped on the raised paving. It was thought that the tree may have to be removed.

Work has started on repairing and replacing the stones set into the riverbed beneath the Old Bridge. Repairs to the Old Bridge itself will not start until the bypass is open as the bridge will need to be closed for several months. All pedestrians will be required to use the new bridge to cross the river during this period.

**Next meeting. September 25th at
7.30pm in Haydon Bridge Community
Centre.**

MP



BYPASS UPDATE



The compound at the west end of the bypass is a scene of much activity as the steel is being prepared and the jib of the crane pieced together, in readiness for the 'super lift' on August 2nd.

South Tyne Viaduct

At midnight on Saturday 2nd August, the contractors' 1,000 tonne crane will be commencing the opening operation of the 'super lift' that positions the first steelwork of the South Tyne Viaduct. Working day and night, all the steelwork should be in place by the end of August and further construction will continue throughout September; this will also include some night working. Andrew Harding, Project Manager for the contract, apologises for any inconvenience caused to residents, but will ensure that night working is kept to a minimum. Spectators will not be allowed on the site during the construction of the South Tyne Viaduct but we expect to have photographs of the 'super lift' for our next issue (October).

East End Tie-In

Immediately following the August Bank Holiday, work will commence in earnest on the east end tie-in. From this date until Christmas there will be traffic lights on the A69 at the east end of the bypass and the Alston A686 road will be

closed for up to 12 weeks. The contractors will do their best however to reduce the number of weeks the A686 is closed.

In the meantime the contractors and NCC Highways Dept. will meet to determine the best way to minimise traffic congestion on John Martin Street, Shaftoe Street and the Langley (Cemetery) Road.



The jib of the crane has been erected in the West Rattenraw compound.



The river and embankment piers are in place ready to support the structure forming the South Tyne Viaduct of the Haydon Bridge bypass. This rural scene, virtually unaltered for hundreds of years, is about to change for ever. Author and historical researcher Nancy Ridley once informed her readers that the view south from the unclassified road from 'Peelwell' to 'The Buildings', was one of the finest in the county. After tomorrow (2nd August 2008) it will take a little more imagination to justify Miss Ridley's famous words.

The residents of Haydon Bridge need a bypass, of that there is no doubt. But let's be clear, there are winners **and** losers in most construction projects, including this one.

CORRESPONDENCE cont.

LAND ARMY GIRLS

We have a request from Mr. Dick Reed of Northumberland this month, for information about the Haydon Bridge Land Army and its home at the junction between the Eltrington Road and the A69.

Mr. Reed's wife's mother, Kathleen Nairn, spent the war years in the Land Army at Haydon Bridge and Dick would be grateful for a photograph of the old Land Army buildings and any memories of Kathleen.

Information in the first instance to the editors please.

HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB

AUTUMN AND WINTER TALKS 2008/09

18th September: Sarah Bennett and Scott Dixon.

'Allen Banks.'

2nd October: Ruth Robards.

'Kapiti Island and South Island New Zealand.'

**Talks are at 7.15 p.m.
in the Methodist Church
every other Thursday**

Coffee/tea and biscuits provided

**HAYDON BRIDGE NATURE CLUB WILL
CELEBRATE ITS 40th YEAR IN 2009**

**ALL ARE WELCOME INCLUDING
NEW MEMBERS**

POETS' CORNER

Here is a poem for the kids, based on
the antics of six stoats observed
on the grass borders
and the stone walls of our street.



Six Spinning Stoats

In and out and
Round about
Sleek amber bodies
Twine and twirl
Whirl like dervishes
Pause for skirmishes
Coiling and pouncing
Stretching and prancing
Four kits, brothers and sisters,
Give Mum and Dad
A twist of their whiskers
As they zig-zag like mad.
Off they all shoot
Along the dry stone wall,
Born sure of foot
Impossible to fall
As they wind over capstones,
Through nooks and crannies,
No time for mousey
Or his gramps and grannies.
Leaping off moss,
Ripping along the ditch,
Down round a post,
Diving head first
Right into the most
Enormous tunnel
Deep underground
Through a long, long funnel,
Noses twitching in sidings
White bobtails scattering
Screeching and scrabbling,
As the bunnies form a phalanx, but ...
With a huge burst of energy
Out they all shoot
This has just been a warning
They've got no loot!
Black tips a waving
The posse makes off;
The long grasses fall in -
Bunnies splutter and cough
With relief as the spin
And speed recede,
Peace once more prevails.
The stoat brigade leave
Just a quiver of seedheads
As the conies creep back
To their beds.

June Henriksen 28-06-08



THE RAILWAY HOTEL HAYDON BRIDGE



3rd ANNUAL FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23rd

£2 PER ENTRY.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE BENCHED BY 10.30AM

JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE AT 1.30PM

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SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST

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3 TOMATOES (2 SECTIONS - CHERRY & ORDINARY)

BLANCHED LEEKS

VASE OF FLOWERS (SINGLE FLOWER TYPE OR MIXED)

CHUTNEY - JAM

HOME BAKING (Any description)

ENTRIES ACCEPTED UNTIL 10.30 a.m. ON SATURDAY AUGUST 23rd.

RAILWAY HOTEL'S POTATO CHALLENGE AND TASTIEST TART COMPETITIONS

The Potato Challenge on the 6th July was won by Mick Smith with Tommy Cunningham and Cliff Eales second and third. Carolyn Pigg's Strawberry and Raspberry Sundae and Brulee with Walnut pastry won the 'Tastiest Tart' competition on the 13th July.

Thanks to all who entered.

Donations from the events were made to the RNLI.



Mick's trophy is
'Majestic' and
Carolyn's tasty berries
come out on top
at the
Railway Hotel



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NOTICES

HAYDON & ALLEN VALLEYS MEDICAL PRACTICE

(Haydon Bridge Health Centre)

Monday to Friday: **The Health Centre is open continuously from 8.00am until 6.00pm** (except for the afternoon of the second Wednesday of every month)

Doctors consult between: **8.00am and 11.00am**
 3.00pm and 5.30pm

All phone calls for appointments and visits, including 'out of hours': **01 434 684 216**

All phone calls for dispensing or prescriptions: **01434 688351**
E-mail address: **Admin@GP-A84045.NHS.UK**

THE MEETING PLACE

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HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

HBUAFC hold their monthly meeting on the first **Thursday** of every month at **7.30pm** in the Lounge of the **Railway Hotel** where representatives of every football team in the village are invited to attend.

This meeting is also open to members of the public.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Calling all parents/carers! Did you know that there is a Music and Movement group running in Haydon Bridge?

We meet at the Methodist Church on Friday afternoons (1.10pm and 1.50pm) during term time.

This is a fun get-together for parents/carers and pre-school children alike which involves singing, instrument playing and movement with coffee and orange juice served afterwards.

Please contact **Julie Finch** on: **01434 607 490** for further details.

WEST TYNEDALE JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 6yrs–11yrs

TAG/CONTACT RUGBY

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PLAYGROUP - From 2 years

Playgroup runs on Monday and Friday mornings from 9.15 to 11.15 at **Haydon Bridge Fire Station**

The sessions give children a chance to learn through play and to experience lots of different activities. Playgroup is lead by a fully qualified Playgroup Leader & assistant(s). **Cost per session is £5.**

Haydon Bridge Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance

For more information on the above sessions or an informal chat please contact **Kathryn McHarg** on Tel; **01434 688718**



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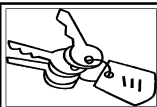
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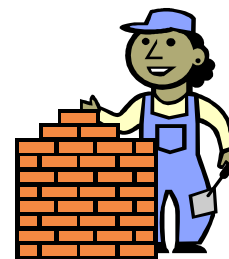
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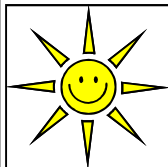
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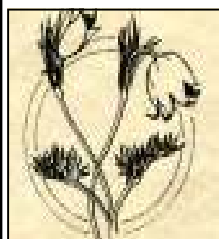
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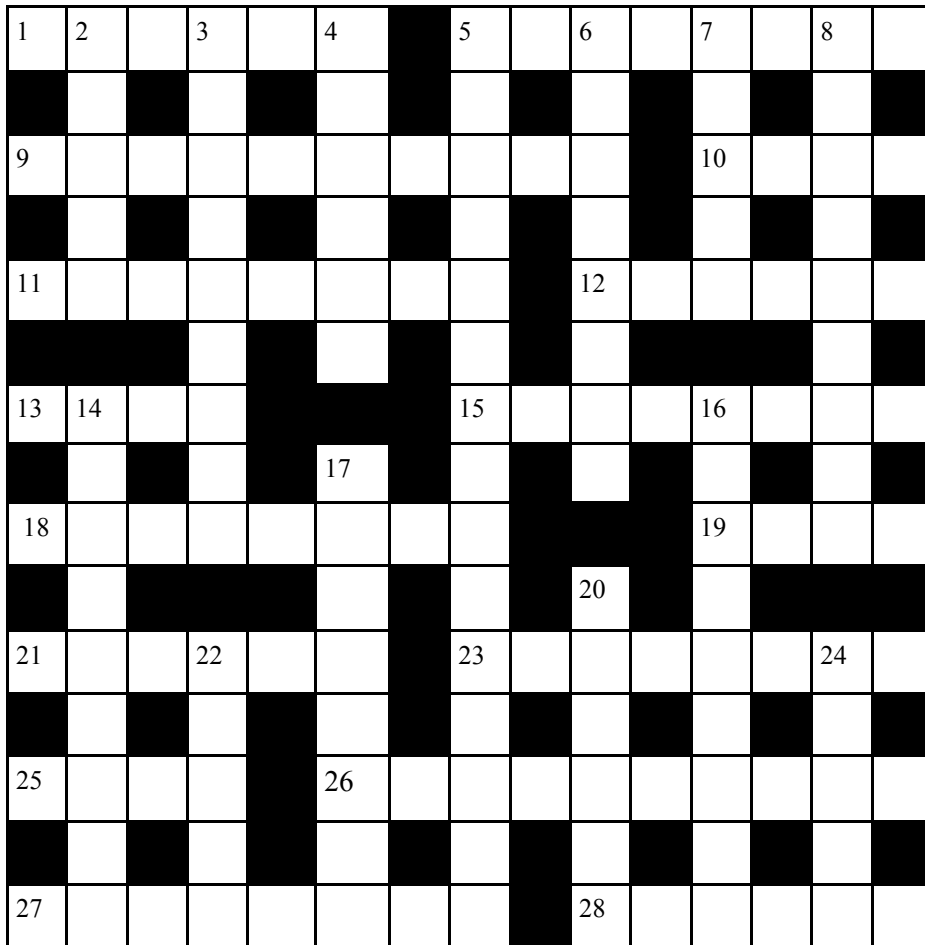
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The £10 Crossword

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ACROSS

1. I snore explosively and get older.(6)
5. Traced around me and was reduced to ashes.(8)
9. Inmate can meet toff for deputation.(10)
10. Widespread and common in Tenerife.(4)
11. Agent went to Rhode Island the night before to get pardon.(8)
12. Abridge a creed you affiliate with.(6)
13. Rode around Germany and Poland going to the Baltic. (4)
15. A rich and confused creature.(8)
18. Current drawback gives direction to the islands.(8)
19. Spiritual person who is, animatedly, smarter than the average.(4)
21. Very dry man becomes vicious.(6)
23. American agents are absolute rockies.(8)
25. A single thing, a small part of the exquisite multitude.(4)
26. Two animals and a singer get the fender.(10)
27. Some star about old models.(8)
28. Desuetude issued wrongly(6)

SOLUTIONS TO JULY'S CROSSWORD. (34)

ACROSS.

1. Dabchick
6. Wigeon
9. Paraphernalia
10. Social
11. Prelactic
13. Re-entrance
15. Scar
16. Ebor
18. Scrimmages
21. Stewards
22. Diedre
23. Easter bonnets
25. Intent
26. Eventual

DOWN

2. Approve
3. Carrion crow
4. Impel
5. Knee pan
6. Winged elm
7. Gal
8. Ocarina
12. Assuagement
- 14 Resurrect
17. Bittern
- 19 Risible
20. Eurasia
22. Dante
24. Sue

DOWN

2. Arouse when well in the night before.(5)
3. Reproduced in the group between bishop and socialist.(9)
4. Chartered from a different edifice.(6)
5. Brave clowns lend medley to football team from Teesside, no, over there.(9,6)
6. Ten relax about being outside.(8)
7. Primitive instincts after crashed car can become bitter.(5)
8. Feign about force etc. and become influencing.(9)

14. A GI tried a blend to find the grace of God.(3,6)
16. Giant old wrestler stays around with confused journalist.(9)
17. Conductor will take endless care for rising transport.(5,3)
20. Golfers find bunker hard around Arizona.(6)
22. I am, in short, in setback for the period.(5)
24. Hears about American birds.(5)

NUMBER OF ENTRIES
2 (both correct)

THIS MONTH'S WINNER
T. Corbett

*Entries in by **SATURDAY, 20th. SEPT 2008**
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