

THIS ISSUE FREE

No 6

NOVEMBER 1979

A CHALLENGE ANSWERED

Thanks to a truly magnificent response to the call for volunteer helpers for the 'Day Centre' project there is every chance that this will get off the ground in the near future, perhaps before Christmas.

Well over 100 people have offered to help, so don't be disappointed if you are not asked to help on the opening day !. We don't want more Chiefs than Indians and might need the 'Albert' rather than the 'Church' Hall if we try to accommodate all our helpers and all our clients at one time !

A Management team has volunteered, if that is the right word ! with the assistance of Miss Parker and Mrs. Hall of Age Concern, to organise working parties of helpers, getting the furniture and equipment together and generally tackling the many practical jobs that need doing to make the project work happily and well.

This team consists of Mr. Charlie Coombes of Belmont, Haydon Bridge, Tel. H/3 416 who has already done great things for the village with the Community Centre, Meals on Wheels Service, and in the field of Local History, Nature Club Walks - "Thank you Charlie" for all these endeavours which have given so much pleasure to so many.

Miss Susie Clarke of Saw Mills Cottage, Langley, ex Matron of Dene Row Hostel for Haydon Bridge High School, an enterprise she ran with happy and calm efficiency for many years and whose expertise should be a great asset.

Mr. Keith Lees of 1, Langley Gardens Tel H/3 331 who is involved with the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Outward Bound Association and other good works.

Mrs. Halkier of 37, Strother Close, well known to the over 60's and others in the village, Sadie Pickering of 34, Ratcliffe Road, renowned for her cooking abilities and hearty laugh, anything she is associated with should be fun. Mrs. Porteous of 10, Greenwich Gardens, Tel. H/3 404 ex Occupational Therapist, Parish Councillor and another person who does an enormous amount of work for the community.

The Task Force from Haydon Bridge

High School will also be represented on the Management Team, as many pupils at the school are anxious to help with this type of project in the village.

Others may be 'co-opted' in time and anyone who feels that they could make a contribution to the running of the Centre with fund raising schemes, ideas, gifts etc. should contact Mr. Coombes or one of the Team.

Already we have two dart boards and a Shave Ha'penny Board and people offering to bake biscuits etc.

Anyone who would like to offer food with biscuits or cakes should, similarly, contact 'The Team' and they will be reimbursed, if they wish. Others may have ideas for activities such as making soft toys, knitting squares for bedspreads etc. or be willing to entertain with music, talks, filmshows etc. and should let the Team know.

I have been wondering about names both for the Centre and for the people who are associated with it and feel that this may be of some importance in giving the right character to the project and make these suggestions. A reasonable title that expresses the aims I have in mind might be, 'A Social Club for Handicapped & Lonely People of Haydon Bridge and District'

Such a title makes it clear that, though it is not restricted either to clients or where they live but it should be available in the widest possible way.

I suggest that those who attend the Club should be called 'Members'. 'Clients' sounds rather cold or clinical and I would like the 'Members' to feel that that is exactly what they are; that it is their Club and they have a part to play in the way it develops and is run.

Those who help should be called 'Helpers' and I think those are the only titles we need. If anyone has alternate titles or suggestions let us hear them.

If the initial response is sustained and if the need for this Club is as

great as I think it is then one session a week for 20 people is not going to be enough and I look forward to it being extended to other days. Variety in the teams of Helpers and Members should allow experiments with different types of activities, entertainments, competitions, fund raising schemes, outings etc. which should stimulate and foster enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Finally, may I thank, once again, all those who have helped and have offered help. Be patient, so that the Management Team can get the Project organised well and if you would like to be a "Member" or know of someone whom you think might benefit by being a "Member" whether they are patients of mine or not, please write to me at the Surgery, or to the Management Team, and we will try to accommodate them. The more the merrier, let's hope!

R. HIGH

THE DAY CENTRE

Following the meeting about the proposed day centre, more than 80 people volunteered their services. Perhaps having heard nothing since they may be thinking that they are forgotten. This is not so: in due course they will be contacted.

Two committee meetings have been held since then, attended by a representative from Age Concern. This committee consists of Mrs. Porteous, Mrs. Lals, Mrs. S. Walkier, Miss S. Clark, Miss S. Pickering, Mr. K. Lees and myself.

Mrs. Porteous and Mrs. Lals will take on the duty of organiser, that is either one or both will be present so that there is continuity from week to week. Miss Clark will act as treasurer and I will take care of the rota of duties and arrangements for transport.

It is now almost certain that the mid-day meal will be provided by Hexham General Hospital. We will have to provide transport. Transport for those attending the centre is another consideration. There are certainly volunteers willing to do this, but private cars are not always easy to get in and out of by handicapped people. There is the possibility of a minibus belonging to the Social Services being used. This again would require our own driver. Social Services will provide utensils but cannot provide chairs. We do need chairs with arms and this

means that money has to be found. There are a number of sources for grant aid and an approach is being made.

The practical experience of Miss Parker and Mrs. Hall of Age Concern has been invaluable and a great deal has been learned about the minutiae of running a day centre. In addition Mrs. Porteous has spent a day at the Centre at Haltwhistle. We do not anticipate an attendance of more than 20. When we know the names of those recommended by the doctor and nurse most likely to benefit, they will be visited by members of the committee.

It is unlikely that the Centre will open before Christmas. Apart from not being ready December and January are perhaps the best months to entice people out. So please be patient. The excellence of the response from willing helpers is a guarantee that a centre will be got going.

L.C. COOMBS

DAY CENTRE - LATE NEWS

We now know that the Shaftoe Trust has agreed to purchase the chairs for the day centre. For this prompt and willing help we are most grateful.

We would like to make clear that the Day Centre is for the district and not just for Haydon Bridge. Although we are well informed of those who would most benefit from the centre, anyone is free to suggest names for consideration.

REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 27.9.79

Langley Gdns/Railway Line

In the preliminary public participation members of the public brought to the Council's notice that the fence between Langley Gardens and the Railway, east of the public crossing, was damaged and that children were playing on the line and putting stones on the track. It was agreed that Tynedale District Council should be notified the next morning so that the fence could be mended immediately.

Station Cottages

As there has still been no activity on restoring the road leading to the Station Cottages, Mr. Waite agreed to contact the contractor to find out what was going to be done and when.

Public Seats

Public Seats

Three new seats have been chosen to replace damaged ones on the North Bank, by the new bridge and by the cemetery. It is hoped that these will be in place before too long. The five wooden ones are to be revarnished before winter.

Picnic Site

A 'Deep Water' sign is to be erected by the picnic area sign warning of the dangers of the deep pool by the bridge.

St. Cuthbert's Old Church Yard

With winter nearly here concern was expressed over the inadequate drainage from the old cemetery which causes flooding in Alexandra Terrace. Although Task Force North plan to do the necessary clearance work when the labour is available, it was felt that Tynedale District Council should be asked to deal with the drainage problem as a matter of some urgency.

Conversion of Langley Gardens homes to Solid Fuel.

This work should start on the 18th October and should take 9-10 weeks to complete.

Best Kept Village Competition

We missed getting into the final by a whisker! The committee paid tribute to the way the green spaces, river banks, gardens and verges were kept. It felt that the Co-op with its obtrusive stickers in the windows rather detracted from the appearance of the village, and found the telephone directories in the telephone booth in a deplorable state.

Donations

£30 was agreed to be given to the Northumberland Theatre which travels all over Northumberland bringing live theatre to remote areas.

£300 was given to the Scout Group to help them in the purchase of a vehicle. It was reported that they have already managed to raise £1,000. Tynedale District Council has agreed to donate an amount equal to the Parish Council donation.

A library in the Village

The possibility of a library in Church St. was considered, with the emphasis on self help by the village. The

premises would need to be put into suitable shape for the library's needs but it was felt that enough volunteers would be found to do this and that the council should give the project its full approval.

BILL TAIT'S NATURE FILMS

Bill Tait's nature films are outstanding. They compare favourably with any nature films both artistically and from their natural history content.

Mr. Tait has kindly agreed to show his film "The Wood" in the Methodist Church Hall - Wednesday November 21st - 7.30 p.m.

Parish Council - October Notes

Public Session

Road in Deplorable Condition

Mr. T. Scott said that the road to the station yard cottages was in a deplorable condition. He asked for the Council's help. After lengthy discussion the Council decided that it would make representation to the Northumberland and Durham Trust, who were responsible for the area in question, and to the English Industrial Estates Corporation as heavy contractors vehicles had used the area during factory construction.

The Old Graveyard

Mrs. D. Thompson asked if any work was to be carried out in the Old Churchyard north of Alexandra Terrace, as had been discussed at Council Meetings earlier in the year. Councillor A. Beniams suggested that the Council should write to Tynedale Council reminding them of the situation. The original scheme was that Tynedale would supply materials and the Manpower Services Commission would carry out the work. Like the General Election the Commission had had its budget cut.

The main problems are the overgrown state of the Churchyard and broken drains. The state of the drains causes much inconvenience to residents of Alexandra Terrace.

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Library

Mrs. Thompson asked about the scheme to have a library in Haydon Bridge. Councillor E. Waite provided points of information and a progress report. He has written an article elsewhere in these pages about this item.

Pedestrian Subway

Mr. Scott pointed out that the subway was often to be found in such a filthy state that it was a health hazard. It was suggested that perhaps the County road sweeping gang could clean and disinfectant the subway. Councillor Beniams pointed out that the frequency of road sweeping was to be cut by half and would be eventually once a month.

Council Session

The bus shelter had been repainted at a cost of £120.00. Vandalism since painting perhaps means it was not worth the money. It would also have to be decided if it were a good idea to board or brick up the window area of the bus shelter east of the A69 bridge now that the glass had been broken again.

Scouts Minibus

The Parish Council had given £100 to date. When the Chairman and Vice Chairman were satisfied as to the type and reliability of vehicle the Scouts had in mind the balance of £200 would be forwarded.

Pelican Crossing

Councillor J. Gumney asked if the traffic census had been carried out. Councillor Beniams said that the Department of the Environment's answer was no. He suggested that the Council should write to the Department asking for the census to be carried out and a Pelican Crossing for Catcliffe Road.

Comments

Haltwhistle now has a crossing on the same busy A69. Why not Haydon Bridge? The answer is that children cross the A69 at Haltwhistle to reach the Railway Station as part of their school jour-

ney. In Haydon Bridge there is a school crossing patrol in Church Street and the subway under the A69. The Department of the Environment takes into account not only the number of vehicles but also the number of pedestrians in its decision making over Pelican Crossings. We must have a census.

ONE YEAR ON

"It seems the village has quite happily accepted the factories about which there was so much fuss last year. They don't even look as bad as all that."

"As bad as all what?"

"Well, I mean they are not as hideous as some people made out they were going to be."

"Whether they are hideous is a matter of taste. They are as tall or taller than the surrounding houses, they are made of brick and green corrugated sheeting, they are in the middle of the village next to the church and by no means do they match the surrounding buildings!"

"On the other hand you must remember that the station yard used to be a bit of a dump and is tidier with factories than cluttered up with trucks."

"Maybe. I don't think we ought to forget that there are still some people in the village who are suffering as a result of the factories."

"Who are you talking about?"

"The people who live near them of course. Instead of a very beautiful view up the hillside, they are looking at brick, corrugated green stuff and bright red doors. I don't think we should ignore these people."

"What makes you think they will be ignored?"

"At the last Parish Council meeting someone complained that the road to station cottages had never been put right as promised and was in a shocking condition. English Industrial Estates undertook to make good the road and they have not done so. The Parish Council, in my opinion, attempted to side step issue by telling the complainant to write to the Northumberland and Durham Trust, who own the road."

"Well it is not the Parish Council's responsibility to do anything is it?"

"Not directly but a letter from the Parish Council would bear more weight. The Parish Council, furthermore, fought for the factories and you might say

ONE YEAR ON
cont....

that they have a moral obligation to back up anyone who suffers. Many of the councillors served on the previous council. Another thing; if I have got the story right, English Industrial Estates were told by Northumberland and Durham Trust that the road was O.K. so presumably it is going to be hard work to get them to do anything about it."

"Slippery customers. I would have thought the condition of the road was a matter of fact and could be checked by the council."

"Well lets hope that it will be. Then there is the promised 22 trees and 200 shrubs."

"Whats all that about?"

"That is what English Industrial Estates promised to plant on the factory site. When the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge' asked the council about these, they received a mild rebuke because they could not be planted until the back end."

"Quite right to, November onwards is the right time for planting trees."

"I know that, but are English Industrial Estates going to do as much about planting trees and shrubs as they did about the road?"

"Only time will tell."

"It will indeed. By the way, did you hear the rumour, and it's only a rumour, that the last factory was going to be a glue factory?"

"I don't beleive it. They wouldn't dare allow anybody to make glue in the middle of the village. There would certainly be a stink about that."

"There surely would. The whole village would smell it."

EDITOR'S NOTE

We have survived six editions of Haydon News and circulate 800 free copies to all dwellers in the Parish. We were nurtured from the concern aroused by the building of factories in the station yard. The last article, I am determined to mention about the factories appears in this edition. I am surprised at the lack of interest shown by many organisations of the Parish in our publication. Perhaps

they receive sufficient support and publicity for their functions without wishing to receive publicity in our pages. If not then I would like to urge secretaries, chairman and leaders to send us items about their club, association or group. The same applies to schools and churches. We hope to continue printing in the middle of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

We had problems with printing in the early days but these were resolved. We miscounted the September edition - apologies if you did not receive a copy. In thanking all those who have contributed, typed, and delivered Haydon News special mention must go to Keith Lees for printing the paper. The cost of production is met by the Friends of Haydon Bridge, so please support their fund raising efforts. I trust we are not a case of "He who pays the piper will call the tune" The editor's work has been easy to date - we have included all the items you have sent. This is hardly a Christmas issue but "Haydon News is what you make it"

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

NEXT DEADLINE JANUARY 9th, 1980
Dale Cottage, North Bank

LETTERS SECTION

Will The Classes Survive?

To be or not to be that is the question that has to be considered since the government has cut all the subsidy for night classes, this cuts out the payment for teachers, and their travelling expenses to and from the classes. It also effects the hiring of halls and other social buildings, except for schools which at the moment require no fee.

Lots of classes have been cut out through the rise to £12.50, so this means a loss to some of the teachers who may have retired early knowing that they could have made a little money in the winter nights to see them through, thus giving an opening to a younger teacher. Some areas have had funds saved for equipment which they bought earlier in the year not knowing that the government would cut them off.

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Part of the tax we pay is to help to support night classes, but this year with no help, a class of 10 students taking the full winter course could cost you about £25. The fee for pensioners has also risen, but it is still less than half the full fee. But for some pensioners the classes are a means of keeping in touch with friends as well as having something useful to do. For some of them it has been a way of life for some years. In outlying areas where the community is very small there is not much chance of keeping the classes going, therefore the village social life suffers and some are left with nothing to do but watch television or visit their local, and in some cases it could even lead to vandalism. My view is that if government subsidies are not granted for future years, the night classes will eventually collapse altogether.

P. G. Parker
Ratcliffe Road

STRANGE EVENTS BEYOND THE WALL

With reference to the mysterious flying object sighted on Sunday 23rd September, which according to one witness was silent, according to another made a robing sound, and reported in the Courant of October 5th, May I crave a few inches of your valuable space to recount an unusual experience I had on that very same day. I was out for a days walk in the country beyond Hadrian's Wall, which as you well know is full of sheep and empty of people. Oddly enough the weather was perfect. The hour being about lunchtime, I settled myself against a solid stone dyke and got out my tomato sandwiches which turned out to be badly crushed but nevertheless edible. I was half way through my third sandwich when I noticed three people approaching over the brow of the hill directly ahead and making northward. It was some time before I could clearly distinguish them, but as they drew nearer I saw that they were small in stature, something like myself but more so, but bright green in colour, with large ears like a donkey's, broad ~~in~~ in the middle and tapering to a point. They seemed to be able to move these appendages in any direction

desired. By the time I had assembled the fragments of my fourth sandwich they were near enough for me to greet them - "Grand Day" I said, as if my wont. They nodded in an odd sort of way but said not a word and passed on, not climbing the wall but seeming to dissolve right through it. Almost instantly I dismissed the meeting from my mind and continued for some time to enjoy the sunshine and drink in the view until finally I fell into a sound sleep, not my usual practice but attributable to the weather and the untroubled solitude of my surroundings. Not until reading the report in the Courant did I recall the events of that day. All this, Sir, may seem to you stranger than fiction (science) as they say, but I assure you that the facts I have recounted are absolutely true. Or why would I be telling you? There is the merest possibility that I went to sleep before I saw the little green men. But I don't think so. Furthermore I never dream about little green men.

I remain yours, Puzzled

HAYDON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

1979

- Nov. 21st - 2.30pm Womens Own
 Speaker Mrs. Marcia Robinson
 (Haltwhistle)
- 24th - 7pm Annual Gift Night
 Social Evening
- 25th 10.45am Mrs. McConway
 6pm Rev. H. Rushworth
 (Sacrament)
- 27th 7.30pm Men's Fellowship
- Dec 2nd 10.45am Mr. A. Dickenson
 6pm Mr. A. Duncan
 3rd Coffee Evening and Film - in aid of
 Social Responsibility
- 5th 2.30pm Womens Own
- 9th 10.45am Toy Service
 Rev. H. Rushworth
 6pm Mr. H. H. Henderson

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HAYDON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
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Dec. 11th 7.30pm Mens Fellowship
 16th 10.45am Miss V. Little
 6.00pm United Village
 Carol Service
 19th 2.30pm Womens Own
 Xmas Party
 23rd 10.45am Mrs. Swann
 (Corbridge)
 3 4.00pm "Carols by
 Candlelight"-
 followed by
 Carol-singing
 around the vill-
 age.
 20th 10.45am Mr. A. Common
 6.00pm Rev. H. Hushworth

1980

Jan. 13th 10.45am Family Service
 20th 6.00pm United Service
 on United Refo-
 rmed Church -
 Week of Prayer
 For Christian
 Unity.

Feb. 10th 10.45am Family Service

March 8th & 9th
CHURCH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

COMING EVENT

Showing of Bill Tait's film, 'The
'Good' will take place in the Methodist
Church Hall on Wednesday 21st November
at 7.30 p.m. There will be refreshments
and a 'Bring and Buy' Sale. Admission
30p. Friends of Haydon Bridge members
-15p. The proceeds will go towards
production costs of HAYDON NEWS

Haydon Parish Council

Mrs. G. Robley, 19 Church Street
has agreed to allow her shop
premises to be used to house a part
time library to serve Haydon Bridge
on a temporary basis.

Haydon Parish Council has indicated
that it is prepared to subsidise

the cost of hiring the premises,
including an amount for heating and
lighting. The upper limit of this
support would be defined as the prod-
uct of 1/3 of a penny rate, approx
£470 per annum.

Northumberland's County Council's
Amenities Committee has been
asked to provide shelving, books and
heating appliances and to provide
a part-time librarian so that the
library could be open to the public
for at least eight hours per week
including one evening session. The
County Amenities Committee will
reach a decision on Thursday, 5th
December.

Members of the public within
the parish of Haydon who
wish to make known their views on
the question of a temporary library
supported by the Parish Council are
asked to contact the undersigned or
any member of Haydon Parish Council.
The next meeting of Haydon Parish
Council is due to take place in the
Community Centre at 7.30p.m. on
Thursday, 22nd November.

A temporary library in Church
Street would not interfere with
visits of a library van to outlying
villages.

Signed:- E. Waite, on behalf of
Haydon Parish Council.

Subscriptions- Friends of
Haydon Bridge.

These subscriptions are now payable
either by using the slip at the
bottom of this page or to the
following Committee members:-

- W. Cruddas. 1 Nichols Court.
- S. Beer. 18 Smiths Terrace.
- K. Lees. 1 Langley Gardens.
- P. Sharp. 7 Ratcliffe Road.

Members will pay reduced
admission prices at future
functions.

Members are also reminded that
they should also be members of
the Community Association.

TC MR. L CAREY, TREASURER, PARK COTTAGE, CHESTERWOOD, HAYDON BRIDGE.

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER/ RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS OF
HAYDON BRIDGE AND ENCLOSE £1 (one pound) SUBSCRIPTION.

NAME ADDRESS

SIGNED

DATE