

### THE DAY CENTRE

The Day Centre has now been open for nine weeks and thanks to the willing help of many people, too numerous to mention by name, can be confidently declared a success. An average of fifteen people attend and at the end of each visit they are already looking forward to the next.

Transport is perhaps the most difficult thing to arrange. So far we have managed, but with one volunteer having to withdraw in May we could do with more volunteers, not only to fill this vacancy, but to be called upon in an emergency.

Those providing transport can claim a mileage allowance so that no cost falls on them. If you think you could do this will you please let me have your name, address and phone number if any.

C. COOMBES, 4 BELMONT, H.B. 416

### 'A DREAM COME TRUE'

Dr. High has for many years spoken out about the lack of facilities in Haydon Bridge for the aged and lonely folks living here. Many such people are house bound, and can only get about with extreme difficulty. He has pressed for the need for a Day Centre, among other things, and at last his dream has become a reality.

After a lot of hard work, plans were worked out by the committee with:-

Mr. C. Coombes as Secretary  
Miss S. Clarke as Treasurer  
Mrs. M. Porteous  
Mrs. R. Eals

It got underway and opened in the Parish Hall on 31st January, when 15/20 Ladies and Gentlemen arrived.

The Centre is open every Thursday from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. On arrival our Guests received a warm welcome from Mrs. Porteous and her helpers, six of whom are in attendance all day. A cup of Coffee or Tea is at hand. Followed by an excellent Lunch available at 12.00 noon, and Tea is served before going home about 4.00 p.m. Transport is available to all if required.

One may ask what they do all day! Why not come and see? Well, we are indeed fortunate in having with us Mary Porteous. A Lady with much experience of this type of care and work. Her expertise is now being put to good use. Coat-hangers, stools are being assembled. Various items of knitwear, crochet etc. are the most popular of the activities. All articles produced will be available for sale in the near future. However, more about that later.

On the lighter side, games galore including cards, chess draughts and the most popular dominoes. There is plenty of reading material available, and a limited number of books, which can be taken home on loan.

Visits to the shops are arranged, with a helper in attendance. Medical attention is readily at hand with Nurse Stamford called every Thursday and Dr. High made a call later in the day. Mrs. Porteous informs me that it is hoped that a Chiropodist will be in attendance shortly.

Finally, the opening of this project has been a great success. Thanks to all those Drivers, Helpers Members of the York Force who have rendered a great service to a great cause. We must continue our efforts with the aim of gradual expansion as there must be many more folks who would like to avail themselves of this great scheme which already is fully appreciated by those who attend.

If you want to hear more about it, why not drop in some time and see for yourself what is being done.

A. DUNCAN

MAY 1ST, 1980

PIE & PEAS SUPPER

Community Centre

Tickets 35p

TICKETS FROM: Mrs Porteous

THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION is having its annual sale on SATURDAY 24TH MAY. The Friends of Haydon Bridge plans to have a produce stall and would be grateful for all contributions either on the day or in advance to any of the Committee members.

Football Club

Mr. Waite explained that the football club intend to use the extra ground for a small pitch for practice, junior matches and for youngsters to kick a ball around on. There would be no extra accommodation for parking, and fears about the footpath were completely groundless. The footpaths officer had examined the plan and was happy about the siting of the path. This would be the subject of a future planning application, but Mr. Waite wanted to make it clear that the football club did not mind where the footpath went. There was a lot of discussion about the access to the ground and it was eventually decided that the Parish Council should send a letter to the Football Club suggesting that if they put up a notice at the top of Temple Houses to stop people going down that way to the ground, they would have the full support of the Parish Council.

PARISH COUNCIL - FEBRUARY NOTES

There was no public participation.

Highway Matters

The pot-holes in Church Street are to be filled in; drains and ditches will be attended to in the spring. The District Council are to press the Dept. of the Environment for a decision on the By-Pass routes for Haydon Bridge and Haltwhistle. In view of the need for cuts in expenditure, concern was expressed at the possibility that the route going straight through the middle of this village would be decided upon, as it was the cheapest.

The tip inspector at the refuse site has been asked to make sure that the road leading to the tip is kept clear of mud.

It was reported that the road leading to the picnic site was full of pot-holes and the grass had a lot of flotsam on it.

Water Matters

The Low Hall culvert is to be cleared and the drains in the old churchyard have already been cleared which should alleviate the flooding.

Footpaths

The Northumberland Water Authority are to be asked to reinstate the footpath along the river bank. Twenty-seven of the fifty-three footpath signs to be erected will be put up shortly.

Trains

With effect from May, there will be 3 less trains stopping at Haydon Bridge daily and revision to the times of others.

Station Yard

The District Council intend to sell off the land behind the factories and not build on it.

Citizens Advice Bureau at Hexham

£25.00 was donated to help meet their expenses for the next financial year.

OPERATION DRAKE

On Wednesday 6th February in the Methodist Church Hall, Chris Richardson gave a talk, illustrated with colour slides. Operation Drake is an adventure tour for young, specially selected people on a sailing vessel around the New Guinea area. The description of his adventures among some of the world's more primitive people together with his excellent slides provided a fascinating evening's entertainment.

FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE

The Friends of Haydon Bridge are well into their second year now. At the time of writing, the paid-up membership has fallen from last year's 80 to 50 this year. The most important thing we do (we think it is important otherwise we would not do it) is to publish and deliver the Haydon News to as many people in the Parish as we can. I say as many as we can because there have been occasions when we have been short of copies. The reason why we think it is important is because since the demise of the excellent 'Haydon Herald' there was a breakdown in communications between various bodies in the Parish (particularly the Parish Council) and the people of the

Parish. Where there is trouble between say, workers and management or people and authorities, it can very often be traced, not to bloodymindedness on either side, but to a simple lack of information. Information has to be put before people before it can be taken up. Human nature being what it is, people, because they are pre-occupied with leading their lives, don't bother to seek information. This trait can be used and is used by authorities to hide unpleasant facts, sometimes on a high level. For instance in 1976, the then Secretary for Energy, Tony Benn, was not informed by his top civil servants about a leak from a nuclear waste silo at Windscale. Naturally this made Tony Benn angry. In the same way if there is a lack of information in a village like ours, the people get angry. The information may be available but people may not bother to seek it. So the primary object of the Haydon News is to make it easier for information to get around.

With a few exceptions there is little indication that the Haydon News has been greeted with anything except a wave of indifference. So far there have been few contributors to it except by people who have been asked to contribute. Perhaps this is due to lack of information on our part. The Haydon News is there to be used. Contributions are welcome: articles, letters, short stories etc. If you don't use it you might lose it. It may not be a great loss but it would be a shame.

P. SHARP, VICE-CHAIRMAN

PAST CHARACTERS

The most distinguished son of Haydon Bridge to date must be the painter John Martin. He was born at East Lands in 1789 and in due course attended the Haydon Bridge Grammar School, where he spent most of his time drawing instead of working at his lessons. He often played truant to sketch with a stick in the smooth sand by the river and would draw with a burnt stick on the schoolroom wall. (The teacher's reaction to the wall drawing activity is unrecorded as far as I know.) As an adult he did most of his painting in London where he became friends with most of the chief writers and scientists of his day. Towards the end of his

life he left London and died of paralysis on the Isle of Man in 1854.

He had two brothers with some claim to fame. William was an inventor who styled himself the Philosophical Conqueror of all Nations. He was working in a ropery on Tyneside in 1794 when he invented metal rails for coal wagons. He joined the army and after discharge in 1802 invented a harpoon, a pneumatic life-jacket and a fan ventilator and new method of conveying coal at Percy Main Colliery. In 1814 he received a silver medal from the Society of Arts for his invention of the Spring balance with circular index (whatever that is/was!) He was very proud of this medal.

Poor crazy Jonathan - John's other brother with a claim to fame - but of a less worthy variety - is remembered as the person who started a disastrous fire in York Minster.

Another native of Haydon Bridge was Ned Coulson. Born in 1784, he became a watchmaker with somewhat eccentric habits. He would walk along the parapet of the bridge carrying a heavy sack of corn, and run along the roads playing a violin hanging behind his back. He was also in the habit of going to the old church at midnight, putting on the parson's surplice and reading aloud a chapter of the Bible by candlelight.

It makes us not seem rather dull by comparison!

LETTERS

What a pity the unsatisfied customer had nothing better to do than complain to your Magazine about the Co-op Store as after all the Store is doing a good job as far as the Community of Haydon Bridge people are concerned as it is saving people lots of money with their cut prices as for the complaints:

Do you know there are other shops on the main road who have no access to their back doors for delivery so the vans take advantage of the Co-op front to park and deliver the goods. If you were in such a hurry to be served why did you not ask the Staff or the Manager to serve you as after all that is what they are there for? As for the bills on the window; unless they were up, one would think the shop was closed and they are at least bright and attractive and draw people into the shop and what

about other people's posters? Have you had a walk around? Have you seen empty shelves, prices going up and having to wait in long queues, but I have always received pleasant and obliging service.

As an elderly person I have always found the Manager quite pleasant and obliging as after all there is quite a bit of work to be done in a shop like that, so nobody would expect the Manager to speak to people in a queue. He already serves on the Butcher Bacon and Fruit counter.

I don't suppose you complained when the Thorkly shop was there and when it had bills up, boxes and baskets out side. All I can say is you must be very petty frustrated person to write such a petty letter to the Magazine.

**L.H.** Before anyone says Maurice Armstrong's windows are never untidy, he never has anything on offer, well, just his wise-cracks and pleasant service.

Dear Dissatisfied Customer, May I through the 'Haydon News' reply to your statement made in the February issue. The point you raise about service at the Co-op; I myself can complain about many things, sometimes from behind the cover of a 'nom de plume'.

J. BROWN, 17 CHURCH ST, HAYDON BRIDGE

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Parish Council. 27th March.

This meeting was also the Annual Parish Meeting. Public Session.

Mrs. D. Thompson said that the old cemetery was still in a deplorable state. In the past there had been donations for the upkeep of the cemetery and that there were volunteers in the village prepared to help with the work.

Mr. Bates said that the Parish Council would give support to any pressure group she could organise and that volunteers had permission to start work. The Council required details about donations. The District and Parish Councils were jointly responsible for the cemetery.

In answering a question about the proposed library in premises in Church Street Mr. E. Waite said that things were progressing well and that the library should be open in the near future. A donation for floor covering would be appreciated. Finances.

A letter of thanks had been received from the Haydon Bridge Scouts. The Parish Council had given £200 towards the cost of their minibus. This year the Parish Councils

Community Council were to be sent £20, The Northumberland Playing Fields Association £10, The Citizens Advice Bureau £25 and the Workers Education Association £25.

Temple Houses Lane The erection of bollards between the end of the lane and the Football Club land would stop through traffic but would mean that vehicles would have to reverse out of the lane. It was decided to take no action at present over alternative signs at the A69 end of the lane.

Travel Tokens.

Mr. Rumney asked that a similar arrangement as last year should happen so that tokens could be obtained in the village. If pensioners had to go to Hexham to collect them it would cost almost £1 in fares. The Council said it would investigate.

Definitive Map.

Any comments or suggestions regarding footpaths and rights of way that might be considered for the 2nd review of the map should be brought to the May Parish Council Meeting.

NEXT HAYDON NEWS, MID JUNE.