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No 18 March 81

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Council Meeting

A member of the public complained that the litter bin outside the Community Centre was still not being emptied. The smell was very unpleasant and rats had been seen near it. Also the channels in Ratcliffe Road were not being swept. It was agreed that Tynedale District Council should be asked again about these items.

The poor state of the level crossing was discussed and a letter from British Rail read out indicating that it could be 2 years before improvements were made.

The name of the person causing damage to the grass outside 26 Greenwich Gardens is to be given to Tynedale District so that he can be charged with the reinstatement.

A sign is to be erected to indicate the whereabouts of the telephone box and a drainage scheme is to be carried out to prevent the flooding at the bottom of Stephenson Bank.

The Council approved the purchase of 7 tons of logging to be spread on the road to the picnic site, but members were concerned at the damage to the grass apparently caused by cars or motor cycles using it as a skid pan.

An appeal for financial support has been received from the Girl Guides for improvements to a Centre at Whettonstall and the Council agreed that if Guides from the Parish use the Centre it would be worthy of support.

The Peelwell Hostel is soon to be declared surplus and if the Parish has no requirement for it it will be offered for sale.

It was agreed that the new metal seat would be sited on the road to the Old Church and the one donated by Mr Tait outside the Community Centre. The grants to the Community Centre at Haydon Bridge and Langley were increased to £560 and £190 respectively.

The Great Telephone Box Debate

Some weeks ago, you may remember, the Parish Council discussed the siting of the Public Telephone Box at the North side of the Bridge. It appears that a motorist in trouble late at night had knocked someone up to ask if there was a phone box in the village because it cannot be seen from the road. Anyone who watches Nationwide on television will know that they have been running a "Great Telephone Box Debate", that is if they have managed to stay awake. The issue, whether British Telecom should paint our telephone boxes bright yellow, has been greeted with a wave of indifference. Any late night motorist wishing to show interest in this important issue is invited to attend a meeting in the phone box (if they can find it) on April 1st. A capacity crowd is expected.

Pat Sharp

A Creature of the Nightby Bill Tait

Night was falling fast as I set off across the fells for home. It was a lovely summer night with mist lying in the hollows, and the whistle of the curlew and the plaintive cries of the tumbling lapwing on every hand. Lights began to blink cheerfully from scattered farm and cottage windows - farms with strange names, like Seatside, Gibbshill and Gallowshield Rigg.

I had been far out on the fells this day photographing kestrels beyond Bells Crag, and now tired, I still had a long walk ahead of me to Sewingshields where my car stood. I took a few moments rest and for a while I sat alongside the old stone wall just beyond the gate, looking west toward the four road ends and the Twice Brewed, as cars appeared and disappeared as they topped the rises and dipped into the hollows on the Military Road.

Sheep grazed among the bents as I meditated on what Nick Snaith had related to me earlier in the day as I met him by Greenlea. "Lost another lamb last night" said he as he filled his pipe with knarled fingers shredding the twist . . . "That makes three in two weeks" said the old shepherd, as he tried to figure out what was killing his lambs . . . "Looks like the work of foxes" said he . . . "yit aa divn't knaa . . . part of the neck and shoulders are eaten and if it war foxes they wad cum back and eat till only the bones and skin left, then aa cud poison the carcass an git me fox . . . But man, whin I went back with the poison . . . carcass bones, skin, all gone, nout left . . . can't figure it oot" said he, as he vanished over the ridge.

I sat long, thinking about what he had said, and in my meditation, my eyes had wandered from the sheep to the ridge of the Roman Wall now beginning to stand out sharp in silhouette as evening crept on, the only sound now being the distant wail of a curlew away towards Sewingshields.

I was about to get up from my seat against the wall, when suddenly I became aware of another sound . . . it was shuffling amongst the grass on the other side of the wall to where I sat . . . I then heard a snorting sound, rather like that of a hunting badger and also a strong musk-like smell. Yes, a badger, I thought, as I directed my gaze toward the gate. In silence I watched . . . then suddenly, appearing and climbing through the gate was the most wierd creature that I had ever seen. It stood about 3' 6" in height with the most powerful arms and shoulders that I had ever seen; its body, like that of a man, was covered in fine grey hair and its loins were girded about with the skin of a badger. Long grey matted hair clung shoulder length and its teeth were black and broken . . . but what

made me shrink into silence was the fact that this thing was carrying a dead lamb over its shoulders.

Hardly daring to breathe, I watched it go before I decided to follow in silence as it made its way toward Sewingshields, occasionally losing sight of the creature as it vanished in pockets of mist in low hollows, then to appear again. Twice it stopped and looked around, as if knowing it was being followed. As I rounded Dove Crag I lost sight of the creature completely, and for a brief moment I surveyed the tumbled rocks and decided that somewhere on the vastness of the Crag the creature had vanished. The light was failing fast now, as I began my climb to the top of the crag. A star or two blinked in the sky as I found the crag heavy going with camera and tripod and a long day behind me, as I stopped to catch my breath I became aware of a strong smell of musk close at hand . . . suddenly from a narrow dark opening in the crag something leapt at me. All I remember seeing was an evil grin that framed a mouth full of black and broken teeth. Long dirty finger nails tore at my leg as I fell backwards amongst the rocks. Half stunned from the fall, I remember desperately tugging free my leg from its terrible grip . . . but it just kept on pulling me over the rocks . . . kept on pulling my leg . . . just like I have been doing with yours for the past two minutes. TRUE.

### Looking Back

In the Hexham Courant a few weeks back, in the "Looking Back" section - 50 years ago - there was a reference to the first ladies fixture of the Haydon Bridge Golf Club played over the Chesterwood course.

The following week there was a mention of the Haydon Bridge Improvement Society, whose reported aim was to turn the village into a picturesque inland spa resort. To further this end the Society had persuaded the London and North Eastern Railway Company to include the station on its list of weekend and tourist halts.

Do any residents remember either of these Societies and would be willing to provide some information about either or both? Any information would be most welcome.

### PRIORITIES

In Church Street stands a soldier brave  
 In memory of those who gave  
 Their lives to save this land of ours  
 From conquest by invading Powers.

The soldier's ears must often burn  
 When Parish Council meetings turn  
 To talk of acid baths or brine  
 To rid him of his coat of grime.

But now we're told by those who know  
That statue makers long ago  
Deliberately induced that sheen  
Or Patina of dirty green!

So let us save our hard-earned pence  
To save a path or mend a fence  
Since soap and water is the clue  
To make our soldier "Good as New".

Village Bard

P.S. I would be prepared to join a cleaning party.

Bertha's Bonny Carry On

A one sided dialogue

SCENE:- The Community Centre. Secretary enters stealthily. Gives nervous jump at the sound of a voice.

"Now then, there's a bonny carry on here"

"Bonny carry on?" I said "you mean the badminton club."

"No, I mean the rats."

"Rats! wjat rats?"

"There are rats in the building."

"You've seen them?"

"No I haven't. But I've seen their droppings."

The droppings, carefully preserved, are than produced.

"How do you know these are from the rats? Billy Tait told you I suppose.  
s eye for nature."

"No he didn't. Mrs Hogg says they are."

"Did she now. She must be an expert on rats. Put some traps down. After all they may be nice."

"We've tried that but it's no good."

"Alright. I'll get the rat catcher or the rodent operator or whatever he calls himself these days."

At this moment Lizzie enters and fixes her eye on me with the intensity of a laser beam.

"These doors," she says, "you fellows not much of a joiner. I can't lock the doors now."

"Now doors can be a bit difficult at first" was my soothing reply.

"There'll be a bonny carry on if I can't get them locked."

"That'll be two then."

"Two what?"

"Two bonny carries on. But don't worry. You could always sit outside all night to see that nobody gets in."

"Umph! And another thing - there are fag ends - people stubbing them out on the floor."

"Yes I know. There's an awful lot of people with no sense at all. A few of them live in Haydon Bridge too!"

"Oh! I don't mind that so much."

"What do you mind then?"

"You know what happens on Friday mornings when the playgroup comes in?"

"No tell me."

"The kiddies pick them up and eat them."

"Well they must like them."

"Like them! Wait until I see these smokers tonight!"

"You'll see them?"

"Yes I will. There's a bonny lot to do without picking up fag ends."

I agreed and slipped quietly out of the door.

And the moral of this is that caretakers care: some others don't think.

#### Haydon Bridge Day Centre

The Centre has now been running for twelve months, and with the help of the transport drivers, and all the ladies on the rota, it has proved a great success. It is giving great pleasure for one day of the week, to the members who attend. On the 29th of January we celebrated our 1st birthday with a party provided by both members and helpers, we had a lovely birthday cake made by Mrs E Dodd, and decorated by Mrs Irwin ending up with an impromptu concert finding some very good talent. A few people came in answer to my invitation to drop in for a cup of tea, that invitation still stands for any Thursday.

I would like to make an appeal through this News Letter for a few more names to add to the rota as we have lost a number of helpers, also any car owners could help with the transport.

Please contact:

Mary Porteous

6 Langley Gardens (Tel 404)

I would like to thank all my friends who visited me when I was in hospital and for their lovely flowers, also all the kind people who have helped me since I came home, with my shopping, I would like to say a special thank you to the Haydon Bridge Brownies who came to my door with a lovely bunch of daffodils.

As I do not have anything to do with the organisation I was greatly touched by this thought

M Porteous

Northumbrians for Peace

Your local disarmament group. It exists to provide a forum for discussion and to campaign round the issues of disarmament.

Programme of events so far:

March 7th	3.00 pm	Trinity Methodist Church Hall Hexham SATISH KUMAR Buddhist monk, editor of "Resurgence" and life-long campaigner for peace
April 10th	8.00 pm	Queen Elizabeth High School Hexham ANY QUESTIONS ON DISARMAMENT? Geoffery Rippon MP and Frank Blackaby
May 21st	8.00 pm	St Aidains U.R.C. Hexham Rev Brian Vernon

Within the group there are several special-interest sections for people who want to get more involved than just attending public meetings

These are:- Youth group  
Theatre group  
Discussion group  
Publicity  
Fund-raising  
Letter-writing

Contact:- Caroline Westgate, Secretary NFP  
Southcote  
Elvaston Drive  
Hexham (Tel 604747)

Have a Heart and Help to Save a Life

By attending and subscribing to a Coffee Evening, to be held in the Community Centre Haydon Bridge on Friday, April 3rd commencing at 6.30 pm. Your help will be greatly appreciated by the patients of the Freeman Hospital as all proceeds are to go towards the provision of a new heart machine.

There will be home made cakes and preserves for sale. Also a tombola with numerous prizes.

Contributions will be gratefully accepted by Mrs George Banon "TRURO" Belmont Haydon Bridge and Miss Elsie Watson, "Glencoyne" Park Stile Haydon Bridge.

Mens Fellowship

The visit of Councillor Waite proved a great success. It proved to us all that local affairs can be put over in an attractive manner and from the useful discussion I wish we had more of them.

This was followed by an account of a recent visit to Israel in the form of slides Miss Hilda Foster ably assisted by her camera man Bill of the same ilk gave the members a grand evening.

March brings fresh hopes of an early spring and of better things to come, and we look like having our share with a newcomer to the circle.

The Rev Peter Wright with his guitar. That will be on March 10th at

7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Thursday on the 24th at the same time and place we have a visit from Mr Dinnis of Corbridge with a film show of a recent visit to Sri Lanka.

As always a welcome awaits all men of this district.

### Dogged Days

There's an amorous beastly in our village, who doesn't rob and doesn't pillage.

Fearing no one he will wait, for hours at your garden gate.

He'll sit all day and half the night, until his lady friends in sight.

Then with determination on his face, he shows off his doggy grace.

Rex by name and his only aim, is to join the reproduction game.

A four legged friend with a heart so bold, who conquers all for love untold.

J Senior

### W I

Mrs F Turnbull presided at the monthly meeting at Haydon Bridge which was a Pie and Pea Supper. Followed by a demonstration on faberge eggs given by Mrs Fairless of Allendale. The competition for a jar of marmalade was won by Mrs Joyce Thompson. Mrs Horne was proposed to attend the spring council meeting. The hostess for the evening were the Committee.

FM Turnbull  
21 Ratcliffe Road Haydon Bridge

### Haydon Bridge Methodist Church

March	1st	10.45 am	Mr P Eavis MA LLB
		6.00 pm	United Service in Parish Church
	4th	2.30 pm	Womens Own Rev Eric Wright BD
	6th	2.00 pm	Womens World Day of Prayer Miss A E Garbutt
	7th	7.30 pm	Church Anniversary Concert by Ryton Gleemen
	8th	10.45 am	Rev T Blakey (Greenhead)
		6.00 pm	
	15th	10.45 am	Mr J Scott Rev H Rushworth (Sacrament)
		6.00 pm	
	18th	2.30 pm	Womens Own
			Rev H Rushworth
	22nd	10.45 am	Rev H Rushworth
		6.00 pm	Rev A Beniams
	24th	7.30 pm	Mens Fellowship Mr Ivor Dinnis
	29th	10.45 am	Miss E Gittus Reader
		6.00 pm	
April	1st	2.30 pm	Womens Own Rev H Rushworth



Recipe

Next time you fancy a change for Sunday teatime, why not try an upside-down cake?

Mix your usual sandwich-cake recipe, enough for a deep 8" or 9" tin. Well butter the tin and sprinkle thickly with brown sugar. Dot the sugar lightly with tiny knobs of butter. Place a layer of fruit on top of the sugar and butter (try drained pineapple rings and glace cherries, or any tinned fruit; bananas, sliced and tossed in lemon-juice; any fresh fruit in season (except oranges) - raspberries and black-berries are particularly good; or cooking apples, peeled and sliced and sprinkled with cinramon and lemon-juice). Cover carefully with cake-nix, bake for 5 minutes longer than usual. Turn out upside-down. Delicious hot with custard or cold with whipped cream.

Film Show

Although Bill Tait's new film "An Eye for Nature", has already been shown once in the village, we are hopeful that many people will not have seen it yet. Bill Tait has kindly offered to show the film in the Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday March 18th. The Friends of Haydon Bridge will be providing refreshments and there will be a Bring and Buy stall. Make a note of the date, we look forward to seeing you there.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

NORTHUMBERLAND THEATRE COMPANY

Alan Ayckbourn's Hilarious Comedy -

"Relatively Sneaking"

at the Community Centre on Friday

29th May 1981

FOR SALE

Car Cover (unused) for medium car £30

1 single bed £20.00 on

2 arm chairs £20.00 and

1 drop-leaf kitchen table £10.00

All in excellent condition - contact

Mrs V Renney - 20 Strother Close

Haydon Bridge

Membership of Friends of Haydon Bridge and Community Association

May I once again remind Members of the Friends that we are linked to the Community Association and that they should also pay a subscription to the Community Association. To join the Friends of Haydon Bridge, use the tear off slip below. Subscriptions to the Community Association (75p) should be sent to Mr Coombes at 4, Belmont, Haydon Bridge.

Teenage Disco

Saturday March 28th Community Centre Haydon Bridge, Admission 50p

Dancing to Freight Express.

Gardens Rotavated - Phone Haydon Bridge 507, or call 15 Langley Gardens.

Photocopying and Duplicating service - very competative rates. Call 43 Ratcliffe Road.

DEADLINE - The deadline for the April issue of the Haydon News is Tuesday 31st March!



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