



haydon news

No 30 March 82

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Best of Both

Living in the country: working in the city. The first is the furtive romantic dream of the hard-nosed city-dweller, the second is the aspiration of rural-raised youth. Doing both, I thought, would give me the best of both worlds. The pace of the city through the week - the shops, the theatre, the colour and the shimmer. And at home, the quietude of Arcadian bliss. The close-cropped hills, the placid sheep, the smell of new hay and the sparkle of the Tyne. All this, and the opportunity to travel.

I have always wanted a job that involved travel, although the original intention was more ambitious than merely being a commuter. Nevertheless, I have had the privilege of travelling on one of Europe's most interesting and picturesque railway lines, with the added bonus that the British Rail drivers (when not on strike) drive especially slowly on the Tyne Valley line. This, I presume, so that the passengers have ample time to savour the view. (Indeed, each time the new timetable appears, there are two or three minutes added on to the time from Haydon Bridge to Newcastle!) This peaceful hour's trundle to work in the morning is infinitely more relaxing than the Towny's four minute burst on the Metro.

And if the train palls, why not come home again by bus? There is a clever system which works particularly efficiently in the evening. It is called 'Integrated Transport' and means that whenever a train leaves for Carlisle, there is a bus leaving for Carlisle at the very same second. After this, the next bus does not leave for Carlisle until precisely the same second as the next Carlisle train pulls out. A stunning example of complete co-ordination. So if you miss the train, there's not much point going for the bus instead ...

The buses, being not quite so swift as the trains, I reserve for special occasions when I feel up to the excitement of a comprehensive tour of the hamlets of Northumberland. Somewhat quicker is do-it-yourself transport, when I can wrest the car from my husband's clutches ... Driving to work has several attractions. Firstly, if you really can't face another Monday morning, you can do a U-turn on the A69, and head back home. Secondly, there seems to be a universal law that at every stretch of single carriage-way a slow lorry will beat you to it and force you to crawl for miles, asphyxiated by diesel fumes. This presents many exciting challenges such as overtaking on blind corners, or driving into the ditch trying to pass on the nearside.

Then somewhere near the Stamfordham turn-off you cross a climatic boundary. Whatever the weather is doing in Corbridge, you can be sure it's not doing it in Throckley. Many's the morning I've left a bright, sunny Haydon Bridge only to crash into a wall of smog by the Stamfordham Road. And often I've marvelled at a radiant Newcastle sunset and disappeared into a curtain of driving sleet by the Stamfordham turn-off. The only thing that is constant is that the good weather is always behind you.

And so, for three years I've rushed to the city for my daily fix of sulphur dioxide, and wended my way home in the evening to the sweet fogs of the South Tyne. I have sipped lager by the old bridge, I've watched new-born lambs stumbling about, I've nurtured my vegetable patch and produced miniature leeks and brussels the size of Birds Eye peas. I have fallen in

love with Nature, and listened for hours to birdsong. I can now even tell the difference between an oyster catcher and an RAF Jaguar ...

And yet I've got it all wrong.

What is the good of having a little cottage nestling amongst green hills if it's dark when you leave in the morning and dark when you get back at night? The hills may have turned bright orange, or even disappeared altogether, for all I know. And what about the city: all the excitement and vitality - the shows, the parties, the vice, the rints - all happen at night or at weekends, when I'm out of town.

So my solution is: get a house in the city, and commute to work in the country. The city only lights up at night, and in the country it's only light by day.

Young Towny

Film

'The Hiding Place' at Hexham Queen Elizabeth High School on Friday and Saturday 19 and 20 March at 7 pm.

OAP and under 16 £1.00
Others £1.50

When the Nazis overran Holland Corrie ten Boom, her father and sister, chose to risk death by making their quietly respectable home a haven for refugees.

Finally, the Gestapo came - and during months in concentration camps that followed, Corrie ten Boom shared suffering and torture, watched her father and sister die.

Yet she survived, mind intact, soul still free. Where did this gentle, undemanding woman find the courage to resist ... to suffer ... yet to endure?

This film contains the answer. It reveals a belief in Christ that carried an innocent woman through some of the worst agonies man can devise. Here is one of the most tragic, yet finally most inspiring and faith-giving true stories of modern times!

The Worm

The worm called Winston stretched and yawned and slithered slimilee;

The dickie-bird upon the branch said "Goodness! There's my tee."

The bird (called Bert) upon his branch thought worm-thoughts hungrilee;

Poor Winston saw Bert perching there and shook most fearfulee.

"Why do you look upon my person from your high-up tree?"

Said Bert "Well, birds have always eaten worms on Saturdeee!"

"I beg you, don't devour my form - I ask respectfulee!"

"All right, I won't" said Bert, and off he flew, regretfulee.

Haydon Bridge Methodist Church

You are invited to the following services and meetings:-

- 2 March 10 am - 12 noon Coffee morning and ceramic seconds - cake stall - home made biscuits. Admission 25p
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship Mr L Irwin (Haltwhistle)
Film show (including Queen's visit to Hexham)
- 3 March 2.30 pm Women's Own Mrs H Clark (Haltwhistle)
- 7 March 10.45 am Miss Vivien Little
6 pm Rev A Wignall (Sacrament)
- 13 March "Gift Day" - Rev A Wignall will be at the Church from 10 am to 12 noon to receive gifts
7.15 pm Concert by 'The Pilgrims' (a youth group from Wrekenton). Chair to be taken by Mrs M Rowarth. A special invitation to all young people to come and hear the gospel message
- 14 March 10.45 am Chapel anniversary. Special preacher -
and Rev John Mitchell (Chairman of Newcastle on
6 pm Tyne District)
- 16 March 7.30 pm Men's Fellowship Mr J Bowes - 'Railways'
- 17 March 2.30 pm Women's Own - Members Day
- 21 March 10.45 am Rev Eric Wright (Sacrament)
6 pm Mr J E Green
- 24 March 7.15 pm 'Sponsored Knit' in aid of Methodist Church funds. To be held in the Methodist Hall. Sponsor sheets available from members. Please bring your own needles - no 8s. Refreshments will be served and prizes for 1st adult and 1st child will be awarded. Come and join your friends and natter while you knit.
- 28 March 10.45 am Rev Peter Wright
6 pm Mr N Fullard
- 30 March 7.30 pm Men's Fellowship - Annual General Meeting
- 31 March 2.30 pm Women's Own Mrs Pat Staley (Slaggyford)

A Life of Christ by Richard Cooper

Produced by Northumberland Theatre Company and to be performed in Haydon Bridge Parish Church on Friday 5 March at 7.30 pm.

Tickets: £1.50 Adults

£1.00 Children, OAPs and Unemployed

Available from Mr Clarke's (Newsagents)

A True Story

Crossing, one night, the old bridge after tea
Who on earth, in the distance, is that I can see?
He looks rather like Mr Turnbull going to fish
In his deer-stalker hat, and looking quite 'lish'.

Whoever it is, he's coming my way,
And I expect that we'll meet down in the subway.
Still wondering who the person could be
I descended the steps and thought "Soon I will see!"

We met in the subway - struggling through litter -
Broken glass bottles - it made me feel bitter
To think that civilised people (so called)
Could leave such a mess - I was really appalled.

Just think of the children - should they happen to fall
On these jagged glass fragments left there by the wall,
Or little dogs' pads being cut as they run.
For them - poor things - it can't be much fun.

When my friend in the subway advanced through the mess
I knew who it was - I didn't need guess.
He was armed with a broom, a bucket and shovel.
Determined to improve the look of the hovel.

You may be wondering who it could be.
This man, by his action, that night after tea
Seemed to say to us all "Let us each do our bit
To keep Britain tidy - let's make it a habit."

The man whose example I would like you to know
Is well-known in the village for his 'get up and go'.
So, here's to the Vicar who has shown us the way
To enjoy our village and improve the subway.

Now - little empty bottles should be dropped into the bin,
Not broken and made dangerous - I think that is a sin -
And paper bags and pop cans should also follow suit
So for the sake of all of us in Haydon Bridge - please do it!

"Cleanliness to godliness is next" I've heard it said
In days gone by, when I was young, but now I'm much afraid,
Although we are so mechanised, and the Council wagons call,
It seems a losing battle, so let us, one and all,
Get stuck into this cleaning job, and proudly sing our song
"Northumberland, Northumberland - the land where I belong."

R.R. Todd

Women's World Day of Prayer

On Friday 5 March at 2 pm in the Catholic Church.

Speaker - Miss Lishman (Langley)

Transport available from Railway crossings from 1.30 pm

Day Centre

Now that we have lost that terrible cold, wet and snowy weather, the Day Centre is getting back to normal. Our members were very pleased to see each other again after five weeks absence - some of them are housebound and only get out on a Thursday.

But once they get into the Church Hall and have their morning coffee all the helpers have to be on their toes. The demand from all around the room comes fast for work. At the moment most of the members are knitting covers for coat-hangers and keep one lady, who has only the use of one hand, busy stitching the covers on to the coat-hangers. We then sell them for 25p. It is very good for the members morale to know that they are helping the Centre.

At 11.45 am they down tools, and start musical exercises with Debbie. It is a treat to see how keen they are.

On behalf of the Centre I wish to thank the Young Farmers' Club for their donation of £17 towards the Wheelchair Fund, raised by carol singing at Christmas; also the task force from the High School for £50 which we divided - £30 was put into the Social Fund towards the day out in the summer, and £20 went into the Wheelchair Fund.

The Wheelchair Fund now stands at £115 but we have to find nearly £300. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped.

I am now going to ask for another kind of help. Do we have any car owners who could spare half an hour in the morning and another in the afternoon to bring the old people in to the Centre and take them home? The three ladies who are doing it now would like a break as they have been doing it every Thursday for two years. If I could get a few more volunteers we could make a rota with the drivers called on, say, once a month. You can find me at 6 Langley Gardens, or phone HB 404.

Mary Porteous

Haydon Bridge Cricket Club

Applications are invited for Groundsman at Haydon Park for the 1982 season. Remuneration negotiable. Please apply to the Club Treasurer David Armstrong at 13 Church Street, Haydon Bridge.

For Sale

Pifco electric under-blanket, single bed size £5.00

Oak bedside cabinet with three drawers £8.00

Hotpoint automatic washer, top loader, perfect working order £60.00

Damask table cloth, 2½ yds x 1¾ yds, ecru, never been used

Ring Haydon Bridge 404

The Over 60s Club

The Over 60s Club held a most enjoyable meeting in the Chapel Schoolroom. Miss Hilda Foster gave us a very interesting slide show of the Holy Land. As the Community Centre is not available at the moment our meetings will be held here until further notice.

We had a very successful coffee morning, which we held with the kind permission of Mrs Saunders, in the lounge at the Railway Hotel. Our next coffee morning will be on 20 March - also at the Railway. Thank you very much Helen.

Mary Porteous

Disco

There has, until recently been a disco for the younger members of Haydon Bridge run by Mr Tom Baker. It is hoped that when the Community Centre is back in operation these monthly discos will continue.

Would anyone who is prepared to help Mr Baker on future Saturday evenings please contact him at 17 Langley Gardens, or phone HB 627. As many parents of younger children will agree, your time will be well spent.

Council Meeting - Thursday 25 February 1982

There was eight members of the public present.

Highway Matters

An unsatisfactory pot hole repair was reported outside Willoughby's shop, also nasty holes in the trunk road at the entrance to Brigwood. There was still no date for the work on the joints on the bridge to be carried out, however this is a job for the County Council and a requisition for this work has been put in. The need for repairs to the road where Ratcliffe Road joins the bridge would be again stressed. Work carried out included a repair to the path at 25 Village Gardens and a sign erected at the Public Telephone. It was reported the the Red B route had been chosen for the new by-pass, but unfortunately no date had been fixed for work to commence.

British Rail

A letter was reported from British Rail stating their intention to review train services with a view to economies. Comments had been invited from the County Council by 22 March. It was reported that the 11.20 train from Newcastle to Carlisle would leave 10 minutes later to connect with the 11.23 arrival from Kings Cross.

Voluntary Workers

The choice of two representatives from Haydon Bridge to attend the social evening at Hexham was discussed. It was agreed Mr Coombes should be one of the representatives and a member of the Meals on Wheels service.

Church Clock

It was reported the the Church clock was not striking and needed attention. The weather vane had been removed for repairs.

Community Centre

It was reported that a study was being carried out on the future use of the Community Centre. The Parish Council affirmed their intention to return to the Community Centre for Parish meetings when repairs were complete.

Factories

A complaint was made regarding dirty water being pumped out at the factory at the top of Station Yard. It was stated that this waste was non-toxic, but the matter had been brought to the attention of the new tenants.

Lament of a disorganised housewife

Didn't hear the clock go off and hubby's late for work,
Fused the lights and stumbled on a train set in the murk.
Kids all yelling, lost their shoes and socks, where can they be?
Missed the bus and had to walk - what can they have for tea?
Cupboard's empty, go out shopping, ring up for the coals;
Dropped an egg upon the cat - she tore my tights to holes.
Have a bath, the water's cold - forgot to switch the heater;
Made a date for lunch with Val - forgot just where to meet her.
Looks quite dull outside today - or are the windows hacky?
Ashtrays full of ciggy-ends, the bedroom smells of baccy.
Haven't done the dishes yet and crumbs upon the floor -
Kippers left from yesterday and someone's at the door.
The tea not made, the family back; all clamouring to be fed -
I've got migraine, the TV's bust - I wish I was in bed!

Letter to the Editor

I would like to thank you for the article by Awld Tawny about baldness (February issue). It works. I have been bald for many years and now a fine fluff is showing on my dome.

The only problem I had was finding coccouts - Wiggy had sold out and so had the butcher, as there had been a rush on them.

Thanks again.

Satisfied
Haydon Bridge

The Holiday

We left when it was drizzling, a soggy sort of fog.
It might fair up by Scotland - and did we pack the dog?
We ran right out of petrol just north of Carter Bar;
The kids were starving hungry - "Where's the supper, Ma?"
We pitched the tent in darkness; the grass was full of snails,
The dog had wet the bedding and the tent was leaking pails.

At five o'clock next morning; our camp site we could see -
 It was a bloomin' golf course and we'd pitched upon the tee!
 So off we crept quite quietly and didn't see a soul -
 The dog, of course, was missing, but we found him down a hole.
 By four we'd got to Oban; the bairns had both been bad,
 And Jimmy had a headache with all the cries of "Dad!
 What's that policeman doing? He's waving like a friend."
 (He'd stopped and got our bumper bar, which dropped off at the bend.)
 We finally reached our camp site and the sea was gusting higher.
 The tent blew off; we caught it quick but ripped it on some wire.
 That night we huddled closely, the bairns, dog, Jim and me -
 The wind howled like a siren and it rained till half past three.
 Next morning they went fishing; young Chris got sunburned legs;
 My frying-pan caught fire and a hedgehog pinched the eggs.
 The weather'd changed so quickly, the next days were too hot.
 We loafed around and blistered, and didn't do a lot.
 A week of heat's a nuisance - the butter turned to oil;
 The milk went sour daily and poor Karen got a boil.
 By Friday we were ready for the dreadful journey back -
 Our faces were all peeling and so Jim said "Right. Let's pack."
 We couldn't find the car keys and the dog got lost again,
 Karen jammed her finger but we got away by ten.
 For lunch we tried a cafe but the meal cost fourteen pounds -
 I got indigestion and the car made funny sounds.
 The brakes had gone by Jedburgh and the wipers both dropped off;
 The rain was belting down again and Jimmy caught a cough.
 When we got home by teatime, my nerves were raw as silk -
 I couldn't find the key. Jim said "Who didn't stop the milk?"

"How was your camping session; have you turned to outdoor freaks?"
 "Well, no - we're off to Blackpool for a couple of quiet weeks!"

The deadline for the April issue is Friday 26 March 1982. All
 contributions should be sent as soon as possible and not later than
 that date to

Martin Scudamore at The Anchor Garage (tel 345)

or

Lintley, Belmont Gdns (tel 587)

H A P P Y E A S T E R

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