



# Haydon News

No 53 May 84

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| THE FISH SHOP  | Lunch | Tea-time   | Evening              |
|----------------|-------|------------|----------------------|
| PLAYING TIMES  | Mon   |            | 7.30-11.00           |
| QUALITY        | Tues  | - - CLOSED | - -                  |
| FISH 'N' CHIPS | Wed   | 11.30-1.30 | 7.30-11.00           |
|                | Thur  | 11.30-1.30 | 7.30-9.30            |
| M & R DOBSON   | Fri   | 11.30-1.30 | 4.30-6.00 7.30-11.30 |
|                | Sat   | 11.30-1.30 | 7.30-9.30            |

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Parish Council Pickings

8 Councillors were present on 26 April. Two absentees sent apologies.

The Bypass: Dr. Gordon Adam, MEP, has responded to the Council's request for his support. While roads are not strictly an EEC matter, it seems that the EEC is very keen that people shall be able to travel quickly and easily between Sunderland and Stranraer. This means that the whole of the A69 should be dual carriageway, and that Haydon Bridge and the rest of Haltwhistle should both be bypassed. Dr. Adam will press this point of view on the Regional Controller of the Department of the Environment, who is apparently newly appointed. What is meant by Mrs Chalker's initiative (as reported in the Courant) in having consultants review the Haydon Bridge proposals is anybody's guess. Certainly, Tynedale District had not been informed at the date of the meeting.

Noise Insulation: Cllr. Beniams did his best to explain the incomprehensible and tell the meeting why some people in Ratcliffe Road do not qualify. Contrary to last month's understanding, the insulation grants do refer to the river bridge - the legislation which triggered them off is on a very slow fuse. Whether a house qualifies seems to depend on whether you can draw a straight line from the bridge-end to the house without crossing some other building. If so, OK. If one house in a terrace qualifies, they all do, but any gap between one house and the next means that individual qualification is necessary. (I am sure I make myself clear!!)

The Church Clock: Payment for a year's winding was agreed. The cost of lighting the face is going up by 2%. As it is a flat rate charge, steps will be taken to see that all the fluorescent tubes are actually working.

The Library: Construction is completed. The walls have been sealed against damp on the outside, and the stonework has still to dry out. Opening date is now June: probably for a total of 11 hours a week over 1½ days.

Nuisance: The litter bin at Haydon Spa has been removed because Tynedale Council could not fulfil the legal requirements for emptying it! Langley Gardens has received attention from the mechanical sweeper, but there are still complaints of broken glass there and at Greenwich Gardens. (There still seems to be a chequer-board of responsibility for street cleaning within the village between Tynedale and the County.) Wire mesh is protruding from the pedestrian barriers at the end of the old bridge, and may snag some passer-by. We are not quite sure whether the trespassing hens in the cemetery have been completely restrained.

Minor financial encouragement was granted to the Citizens Advice Bureau, Keep Britain Tidy and the Northumbrian Association of Local Councils.

\* \* \*

The Bypass

With the passing of each week the mystery of the Haydon Bridge bypass deepens with a plethora of double-speak from all concerned. Just consider this letter from Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of Transport, received by Miss M. Procter via Mr. Geoffrey Rippon, MP. The letter is dated 10 April 1984. I quote - "I can appreciate Miss Procter's concern about noise and inconvenience caused by traffic passing through the town. But as you probably know the route favoured by the majority of local people includes expensive river crossings and cannot be justified on economic grounds."

You will be pleased to note that Haydon Bridge has been elevated to town status and that the reference is to river crossings, not a single crossing. Both no doubt

minor slips on Mrs Chalker's part but revealing a woeful lack of local knowledge. I wonder if she really knows where Haydon Bridge is? Probably in that vague region north of Potters Bar. The crucial remark is that the route chosen cannot be justified because of the expense of building a bridge. So it follows that if a bridge cannot be built for this reason then there will be no bypass. Unless of course they use the route which after crossing the present bridge scythed through the bar of the Railway Hotel, clipped off part of Mrs Dr. Bell's garden and demolished several council houses in the process.

Mrs Chalker is a considerate person and goes on to say "I accept of course that something needs to be done and I have decided to ask a firm of consultants to carry out a fresh feasibility study of the whole problem to try and find a solution which would be acceptable to all concerned."

Consultants? There are consultants for everything these days. I've even heard of a barbed wire consultant. What is there to consult about? How to cross the river without building a bridge, I suppose. We thought all the consultation had taken place six years ago. Engaging "consultants" is camouflage for doing nothing.

In the Courant of 27 April there was a column headed "DoT hits back at critics", in which the regional department of the DoT denied that they were looking for a different route but made no reference whatsoever to the new river crossing which is at the nub of Mrs Chalker's veto.

Councillor Robin Birley (as quoted in the Courant) seems to think that the alterations proposed for the Allendale-Hexham junction at what was once Watsons Garage are part of the bypass scheme, but then runs out of his stock of Plain English so that in the end it is not at all clear what he means.

We have a new bridge. We have an underpass. People nagged on until they got a pelican crossing. Now some houses are to have sound insulation. So thinks Mrs Chalker there is no need for a bypass. So if you really want a bypass, keep banging away at Mr. Geoffrey Rippon MP, thus ensuring he has something to think about other than his 29 directorships. Inundate him with letters. He passes them on to Mrs Chalker who in time may get so fed up as to relent. What a hope!

(PS. There was once a plan to build a canal to Haydon Bridge. It too never came off.)

L.C. Coombes

\* \* \*

Haydon Bridge Nature Club - Summer and Autumn Programme 1984

|           |      |    |   |              |
|-----------|------|----|---|--------------|
| Thursday  | May  | 24 | Allendale (meet at Allendale Square 6.30 pm)  | Dr G Chaytor |
| Thursday  | May  | 31 | (Meet at Bardon Mill Cricket Club 6.30 pm)    | D. Reay      |
| Wednesday | June | 6  | A Woodland's Secrets                          | W. Tait      |
| Saturday  | June | 9  | Berwickshire Coast - Siccarr Point - St. Abbs | L.C. Coombes |
| Thursday  | June | 14 | Steel Rigg - Crag Lough                       | L.C. Coombes |
| Wednesday | June | 20 | Sewingshields Crag                            | W. Tait      |
| Thursday  | June | 28 | Haining Head Moss (9 miles west of Wark)      | L.C. Coombes |
| Sunday    | July | 1  | Farne Islands (limited numbers)               |              |
| Wednesday | July | 4  |   | W. Tait      |

|           |           |    |  |              |
|-----------|-----------|----|--|--------------|
| Thursday  | July      | 12 | Williamston Nature Reserve                           | L.C. Coombes |
| Wednesday | July      | 18 |  | W. Tait      |
| Thursday  | July      | 26 | Ridley - Allensgreen -<br>Willimotswick              | L.C. Coombes |
| Wednesday | August    | 1  |  | W. Tait      |
| Saturday  | August    | 4  | Garrigill - Crossfell -<br>Kirkland (Eden Valley)    | L.C. Coombes |
| Thursday  | August    | 9  | Monkwood, Whitfield                                  | L.C. Coombes |
| Wednesday | August    | 15 |  | W. Tait      |
| Thursday  | August    | 23 | Cupola Bridge - Wide Eals -<br>Oak Pool - Bishopside | L.C. Coombes |
| Saturday  | August    | 25 | Crag End (afternoon)                                 | W. Tait      |
| Thursday  | September | 20 | Ornithology (WEA Lectures)                           | B. Galloway  |
| Thursday  | October   | 4  | " "  | "            |
| Thursday  | October   | 18 | " "  | "            |
| Thursday  | November  | 1  | " "  | "            |
| Thursday  | November  | 15 | " "  | "            |
| Thursday  | November  | 29 | " "  | "            |
| Thursday  | December  | 19 | (to be arranged)                                     |              |
| Thursday  | January   | 3  | <u>1985</u> A.G.M.                                   |              |

Unless otherwise stated, all evening walks will depart Church Street, Haydon Bridge at 6.30 pm PROMPT.

These walks, the venues of which are not specified, are led by Mr. Tait and are dependent on the progress of the season; details will be announced nearer the time of the walk.

Any member wishing to join the walk at the venue must check with the appropriate leader in case the arrangements have altered.

The two Saturday excursions will be by bus leaving Church Street, Haydon Bridge, at 3.30 am (pick up in Hexham by arrangement). Reservations please to the Treasurer.

Reservations for the Farne Islands direct to the Secretary.

New members always welcome.

J.P. Brogdon  
Hon. Sec.  
Vine House  
Catton  
Hexham  
(Tel. Allendale 383)

D.V. Orton  
Hon. Treasurer  
Greenbanks  
Westwood  
Bardon Mill  
(Tel. 219)

\* \* \*

### South Tyne Angling Club

A free fishing competition will be held on Saturday June 2nd. Start 12 noon and weigh in at 8 pm at the Fish Shop. Names to be given to Jo Moore anytime before start. Good prizes.

Permits can be obtained from 24 Strother Close. Juniors up to 16 - £2, Adults £10 and OAP's £2. PLEASE DO NOT FISH WITHOUT A PERMIT OR COURT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

Result of Draw: 2465 2491 2823 3342 353 3419 465 656 3161 2493  
1358 1569 1542.

Jo Moore

\* \* \*

South Tyne Angling Club - Notice to Members

Permit holders can now fish as far down as Brokenhough on the North bank of the river.

Jo Moore

\* \* \*

More Diggings from the Dust of the Past

The buildings of Threepwood Farm stood dark and black, silhouetted against the brightening morning sky. Amy Oliver had risen early and the smell of fried bacon lingered in the large farmhouse kitchen as her brother Willie sat by the fire finishing his pot of tea. The creak of the back door on its hinges penetrated far in the still morning air as Willie Oliver crossed the yard towards the outbuilding to get stock ready, for it was Tuesday, a Mart day in Hexham, and now in mid-December 1936 things were beginning to look up after the depression of the Twenties.

Silence reigned over Threepwood save for the soft murmur of the burn as it wended its way amongst woodland below the Hall where a wisp of blue wood smoke rose from a chimney towards the clearing morning sky. A white frost had gripped the countryside overnight and with the coming of the sun the jewelled vegetation sparkled bright to the eye. Meggie Laing's donkey snorted, its breath visible as it vapourised in the sharp frost laden air of the morning, as it followed the track from the fell behind Dinnetly towards the road at Threepwood.

"By, what a job Ah hev gittin that donkey under that tunnel", said Meggie to Willie Oliver as she pulled donkey and cart to a stop by his gate.

"Whàt's up wid?" said Willie, looking Meggie up and down as she sat on the cart with a scarf around her head to keep her old felt hat on and an old Army greatcoat fastened with binder twine that had belonged to her brother from the 1914-18 war. "Wey," said she, "Ah've jist bowt the animal at Kelso horse sales and man, ees gat langer lugs than any other donkey Ah've ivor seen, and when he feels his ear tips touch the top of that tunnel then he'll jist not gan under,"

"Nuw that's gey queer. Ah divvent knaa what ti diy aboot that," said Willie, "but as yer gannin doon ti Haydon Bridge fer yer groceries, call in ti Stigums Cycle Shop and ax him, for Ah diy believe he had summik ti diy wi akwad horses in the Forst War and he wandered off to get the stock ready for the Mart.

Now Meggie Laing lived in a cottage out on Humbleton Fell (it still stands to this day) and the nearest way into Haydon Bridge and the shops was by way of a cart track that led along the fell and under the stone-built arch that carried the Hexham-Allendale railway line close by to Dinnetly where Miss Lambert lived - the problem being that over the years soil and clay had gathered in the arch as is often the case where cattle and sheep are concentrated when being driven from one pasture to another and this soil/clay thus deposited reduced the headroom.

The church clock struck ten as Meggie, donkey and cart trundled off the bridge into Church Street. The only frost that remained was in the shadow of the headstones in the churchyard where the morning sun had not reached as Meggie fastened the donkey to a metal ring in the wall of the Railway Hotel.

"Good morning, Miss Laing," boomed the voice of the Rev. Salsbury as he came out of Harry Harding's paper shop with his 'North Mail'. "I see that young Edward has abdicated, he must be going to marry Mrs Simpson after all - Ho, ho, ho ho - it was a woman that dropped us all in in the first place, why should he be immune," he laughed in his deep voice, for indeed the Rev. Salsbury was a powerful man and a master at fisticuffs if the need arose. Connie Clark was just opening the door to her hairdressing shop as Meggie got her eye on Stigum peering out of the doorway of his shop with a Woodbine smoked down to the dump and wiping his hands with an oily rag.

"Ah want a word wi ye, Stigum - Ah'll pop efter Ah've bowt me bobbins o' thread at Appleby's next door," said she.

Stigum stood with a king-sized grin on his face after Meggie left his shop, he peeped at her through a tangle of cycle frames and wheels as he watched her press down the brass door handle that opened the way into Tom Clemitson's, Saddler & Ironmongers, whose shop smelled strongly of leather and paraffin oil.

"Ah'll hev a gallon o' paraffin, Mr. Clemitson, and yen gud sharp cowld chisel," said Meggie.

"That will be 2/3d, Miss Laing - but what in earth are you going to do with the chisel?" said Tom.

"Oh, Ah hev a bit stonework ti dress," replied Meggie counting out the 2/3d onto the thick cork mat which always lay on Clemitsons counter.

George Robinson, who worked for Lamb of Low Hall as a hind, was just turning the corner of the bridge with a pair of heavy horses for shoeing at Robbie Brown, the blacksmith in Radcliffe Road as Meggie set off back home after picking up her 'messages' from John Sparks, grocer, and as she drove her donkey up Threepwood Lonnen she knew in her mind what she had to do that night.

A bright moon shone down on the frost-gripped countryside that night as Willie Oliver creaked open the back door; a shaft of light from the farmhouse kitchen glinted on the frosted cobbles as he made across the yard to bar the hens in. For a moment he stopped and listened.

"Damn ... that sounds like - it is - a hammer and chisel tapping on at this time of night," said he, setting off through the woods to investigate the source of the noise. As he approached Miss Lamberts the sound got louder until through the darkness of the wood he could see a hurricane lamp lit and hanging under the railway arch. Upon creeping up he found Meggie standing on a pair of step ladders cutting a couple of ruts along the length of the tunnel, about 12 inches apart, 2 inches deep and 3 inches wide; the dinkey was fastened to a tree on the far side of the arch. "Ooooooh! Wat a fright yer gi me, Willie Oliver," shrieked Meggie, nearly falling from the steps.

"What on orth are yer diyin, woman, and at this time o' neet?" asked Willie.

"Wey, Ah telt yer about the donkey's big lugs catchin the top o' this arch and wadn't gan under, and yer said axe Stigum - Wey - Ah axed um and, this is wat he telt ma ti diy," replied Meggie.

"BUT," said Willie, "wad it not have been easier to have browt a shovel and shovelled some of the muck away fra underneath?"

"Rubbish," snorted Meggie. "Hev yer ivor hord owt si daft. It's not the donkey's legs that are ower lang, IT'S HIS LUGS!" she shrieked as Willie stood shivering with mouth agape.

Willie Oliver couldn't stop shaking his head as he wandered back through the darkness of the woods to the sound of owls hooting. Down in the village the church clock struck midnight, and all was silent apart from a distant tap-tap-tapping beyond the darkened wood.

(A story for the older generation who may well remember this event, people and shops in that far gone year of 1936.)

Owld Tawny

\* \* \*

Dear Editor

May I, through the columns of your newsheet, express my feelings of disgust to find the artificial flowers had been taken from the vase in the entrance at the Community Centre.

To help brighten the Community Centre, and I thought to give a little pleasure to the users of the same, I left in the entrance a bunch of artificial flowers - last month they vanished and two members of the Over-60's club apologised to my husband

because they felt sure one of their members had taken them. One week later, with the same idea in mind, I distributed on the coffee tables several small posies of primroses - once again after the Over-60's coffee morning the flowers were all gone.

If this selfish person requires any more flowers could they contact me directly and I will supply both flowers and vase if this would ensure that the decorations at the Centre remain untouched.

Yours sincerely  
Joyce Brown  
17 Church Street  
Haydon Bridge

\* \* \*

For Sale

Stair Carpet (new). 8 yds x 1 yard wide. £35.  
Apply: 10 Strother Close, Haydon Bridge.

\* \* \*

Tribute to a Special Lady

At Peelwell Rest Home where we stay  
There is a lady who brightens our day  
As she starts her day and grants our wishes  
She then produces some beautiful dishes.  
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Her tarts and pies.  
Open one's eyes.  
At 4o'clock the gong will sound,  
All the Peelwell ladies gather round  
The plates piled high. As you will see -  
Tally Ho! - we will enjoy our tea.

Now our tea is finished,  
All the goodies diminished.  
And so we give thanks for that great girl,  
She surely is a pearl.  
We wish her joy all through her life -  
She has made someone a very good wife.  
We all say Hip-Hip-Hurrah for our Elly.  
But now if you will excuse us  
We are off to see the telly.

Peggy Warwick  
Peelwell Rest Home

\* \* \*

Haydon Bridge Methodist Church

You are cordially invited to the following services and meetings:

- |    |      |                      |  |
|----|------|----------------------|--|
| 3  | June | 10.45 am<br>6 pm     | Rev. T. Blakey<br>United Service                   |
| 10 | June | 10.45 am )<br>6 pm ) | Sunday School Anniversary - Miss Kay Metcalf       |
| 13 | June | 2.30 pm              | Womens Own - Rev. R. Wylie                         |
| 17 | June | 10.45 am<br>6 pm     | Mr. R. Tipping<br>Rev. A. Beniams (United Service) |
| 24 | June | 10.45 am<br>6 pm     | Dr. P. Severs<br>Rev. A. Wignall (Sacrament)       |
| 27 | June |                      | Womens Own Trip                                    |
| 30 | June | 10-11.30 am          | Womens Own Coffee Morning                          |
| 14 | July |                      | Summer Gift Sale                                   |

\* \* \*

Great North Run - Sunday 17 June

I shall be running this year in aid of the Tyneside Leukaemia Research Association. This is an entirely voluntary organisation which raises money to provide more research, better equipment and better facilities for hospitals and patients here in the North East,

I realise that this is an expensive time of year and there are so many causes asking for sponsorship but I would be very grateful for any amount, however small. If you would be willing to sponsor me or would like to know more about the Association please get in touch with me. Thank you.

Susan Beer

\* \* \*

Dear Friends

The last issue of the Haydon News did not contain a letter from the Editor. This was partly due to time, ie. the lack of it. Mainly however I just had nothing to say.

The Committee of the Friends of Haydon Bridge wish me to express their sympathy to the family of Mr. John Bowes. We also wish to pay tribute to this quiet, gentle man for his work within our community.

Marion Howard

\* \* \*

Friends of Haydon Bridge

We wish to thank all those friends who helped to make our fund raising event a success.

The amount raised after expenses had been paid was £100.

A special thanks is extended to Pat from Leck and Telford who donated the cake



was raffled, and more importantly for supplying the buns, Hot Cross Buns and cakes which everyone enjoyed.

To our wonderful Silver Band - Thank you.

\* \* \*

Haydon Bridge Cricket Club

For the first time the Cricket Club will be holding their Jumble Sale sometime during August or September.

\* \* \*

I hope to have the next issues of the Haydon News printed and in your homes by June 21st 1984. Please let me have all your literary contributions to me at 10 Radcliffe Road by Tuesday 12th June 1984. *Home 5'35'*

We wish to thank the Rev. Benjams for allowing us to print this issue of the magazine on his duplicator.

Marion Howard

\* \* \*

THE HAYDON NEWS WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT

THE ANCHOR HOTEL  
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RIVERSIDE LOUNGE available FREE for weddings, Parties, Meetings, etc., Morning Coffee and Meals served in Riverside Lounge. Dining-room available for that Special Pre-booked Party.

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