

# newton news



## Operatic defied all superstition...

"Calamity Jane" successful

Despite being the 13th Show, opening on April Fools Day and bearing a title "Calamity Jane," the Operatic Society's show held last week was a tremendous success.

Vera Davison in the title role was superb. When she was on stage everything else faded into insignificance. A real star performance carried through to the final curtain. "Wild Bill" played by school teacher Dave Powell came over well as the dry, unconcerned marshal. He was, however, a little too stiff and appeared, at times nervous, quite unlike the character he portrayed in school productions.

No one could fault the quality of Dave's singing and the songs he had fitted his deep baritone voice.

Supporting roles were all well cast and performed faultlessly.

Best character performance must go to Arthur West who lived his part as 'Rattlesnake' with a little of Gabby Hayes thrown in, even to the extent of growing a very scrubby beard.

The dancing girls brought

an extra sparkle to the show, but they were hampered a little for space.

There seemed at times to be far too many ladies in the saloon and it stretched the imagination (conditioned as we are to the Hollywood image of the West) to expect all the ladies of the Operatic to be saloon girls.

To the audience it mattered little anyway and they received each chorus enthusiastically.

Scenery and stage props let this show down a bit. It seems odd that the Society should spend a sizeable amount on costumes and evidently very little indeed on the props.

I understand a higher standard of scenery will be possible next year as the Society have obtained their own premises in order to prepare scenery throughout the year. Up to now it has been all prepared in the fortnight before the show.

After the final curtain Society chairman Joyce Walton, gave her annual vote of thanks to all supporters and helpers and in a special presentation, made stage manager Harry Clark a 'life member' in appreciation of the work he has done for the Society over many years.

"Calamity Jane" like other shows will run at a loss, and patrons were asked to support the 'Fair' on 7th June and "Palace of Varieties" in the autumn, the proceeds of which go to keep our operatic society solvent. S.H.



Grandparents, 62 year old Robert Hall, and 70 year old Georgina Payne were married at St. Clares Church on Saturday March 29th. The couple are residents at Shafto House. The officiating vicar was the Rev. H. Hall.

Photo: Sonny Steele

### NEW HALL FOR GREENFIELD AREA

Over the past two years a group of people have initiated and carried through the organisation of the Greenfield Community Association. They have done this because they are interested in the place where they live and also because they have felt that the Western part of the New Town has been partially forgotten with regard to facilities and amenities.

The Community Association has held social functions, encouraged new groups, and now distributes a monthly magazine. Largely through pressure from the Association a Meeting Hall is now being built by the A.D.C. in Ladybower.

The Association is holding its A.G.M. on Wednesday 16th April at 7.30 p.m. in Byerley Park School, when plans and drawings of the Meeting hall will be on display. Mr Jim Ewing, the Corporation's Social Development Officer will also be speaking about the new building. This meeting will be open to the public and the Association hopes for a good attendance. The Meeting Hall is for the benefit of all the community and a great deal of help will be needed if the building is to serve as many people as possible.

The election of officers of the Association will also take place at the meeting, any person being eligible upon becoming a member of the Association.

### Activity afternoon

Great Aycliffe Town Council are holding an Activity afternoon in St Oswalds Park on Sunday 20th April at 2 p.m.

2 p.m. Display of open Keep Fit.

2.30 p.m. Five a side football.

2.50 p.m. Display by the Newtown Area Dog Training Club.

3.20 p.m. Display by the Grenadiers Jazz Band.

3.45 p.m. Five a side football.

4.10 p.m. Display by the Monarchs Jazz Band.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

3 p.m. Display by the Aycliffe Model Flying Club on the football ground at the end of the skating rink.

3.30 p.m. (Provisional) Punch and Judy show by Prof. W. Llewellyn, against the putting green.

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### Town Band active

Newton Aycliffe Town Band is pushing for its usual share of honours this year by entering competitions both near and far.

Travelling to Manchester's Belle Vue in May is a highlight of the year for the band but they do not neglect their home town.

Last month they provided part of the entertainment in the Old People's Concert at the Recreation Centre.

On 7th June they play at Elmfield School and then of course, they will be out as usual, on Carnival Day 28th June.

The Junior Section continues to thrive and any youngsters interested in playing an instrument should make contact with Mr V. Saville, 45 St. Godrics Road.

Bandsmen and women are also required and can be assured of a warm welcome.

Newton Aycliffe can be proud of its band, which has achieved many distinctions since its formation.

Its success in competitions around the country does great work in promoting Newton Aycliffe. Long may it continue.

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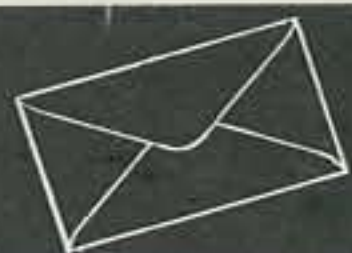
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Miss Christine Carr married Mr Donald Thompson at St. Clares Church on Saturday 29th March, both come from Newton Aycliffe. The officiating vicar was Rev. H. Hall.

Photo: Sonny Steele



**LETTERS**

**Injury on the rates? - Never!**

Dear Sir,  
Re "Pro Bono Publico" (Newton News 29th March)  
If Pro Bono Publico would like to sit inside a big bass drum while I beat the outside of it, he will know what it is like to live in an end house next to a small green while our little ones kick a football onto the gable and wall.

As for playing ball games in the streets, I have seen at first hand what a football can do to a garage door. One such door collapsed on the occupier whilst he was lifting it to garage his car, and the workman who came to repair it ended up in hospital with a very deep cut requir-

ing stitches from the jagged metal.

**INJURY**

As a shift worker who has family responsibilities and two children, lack of sleep does not make me a friendly neighbour, and I certainly would not like the inconvenience of having my windows put out or the risk of injury to my children should they be on the receiving end of flying glass. Who would pay for the windows or for the heavy compensation that I would press for should any member of my family be badly disfigured? Surely "Pro Bono Publico" does not suggest that it comes out of the rates. That would mean I was contributing towards paying to have my windows put out and my family disfigured. It would also mean coming back from a holiday and finding my home in a mess.

I personally do not object to little ones up to say seven years old playing on these small greens.

Your suggestion of school playing fields would have to be under supervision (more rates) but it may help to stop the high number of school fires we have had in the County of Durham.

"Mandlenkool"  
(Name and address supplied)

**THANKYOU**

On behalf of the committee and children of the Horndale Stars Labour and Trades Juvenile Jazz band I wish to express sincere thanks to the Labour and Trades Club (who have now adopted the band) for Mel Jones and supporting artists who put on a very good charity show on Monday 24th March to raise funds for the band. The entertainment was very good and the company relaxed.

Donations of perfume from Goya and 50 cigarettes from John Player and Sons were raffled during the show.

Another show will be held in the Labour Club on Monday 28th April.

Once again may I say a very big thankyou to all concerned.

Audrey Bates, Sec.

The Mayor, Mrs Win Dormer, having the silver cups etc, in the Council Chamber cleaned by members of the 2nd N/A Scout Group as part of their 'Job Week' fund raising efforts. Photo: Sonny Steele



A few of the 600 Easter Eggs that Aycliffe Hospital received from various organisations to give to the patients.

Photo: Sonny Steele

**SOUTHERNE CLUB LADIES SECTION**

The AGM was held on 26th March and the new committee elected are: Chairman Joyce Stewart, Asst. Chairman Susan Brown, Secretary Ros Higgins, Treasurer Vera Ward. Committee: Sandra Edwards, Sheila Wilkinson, Jean Freeburn, Jean Simon, Ann Parnaby, Helen O'Donnel, May Conlon, Alice Raine.  
Forthcoming Programme  
23rd April Mock auction.  
30th April Visitors from Ferryhill C.W.C.  
14th May Chicken Chip supper.  
21st May 'Gala Night' invitations to local club, ladies, also Northallerton, Navy Cub, Coundon.  
11th June arranging visit to Rancho Del Rio, M. English, P.R.O.

**Visual arts Exhibition**

WANTED—two dimensional and three dimensional works of art by local artists (i.e. anything from painting to sculpture, pottery to tapestry) for an exhibition of local work to be organised by Aycliffe Arts Council in the Rec. Centre from Monday 16th June to Saturday 21st June 1975.

Believe it or not there is a wealth of artistic talent in Newton Aycliffe which is very rarely seen or appreciated by the population at large. The Arts Council is hoping to go some way to rectifying this with an initial exhibition which, with your support, is bound to be a great success.

To provide an added attraction a small number of professional works will be shown via the Northern Arts Exhibition Service.

The exhibition is open to artists of all ages who wish to submit work, be it old or new, so blow the dust off your brushes, bring out the clay and look through your works.

We hope it will be possible to show all works submitted in appropriate sections but obviously much will depend on the space available and response.

Should you wish to submit any work please complete the form below and return to Mr A. Belton, Aycliffe Arts Council, 9 Isherwood Close, or hand it in at the Information Centre. Work should be submitted before Monday 9th June 1975.

Name .....

Address .....

Type of work .....

Size of work .....

No. of works .....

Watch this paper for further details

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**Adventure Playground!**

Concern is growing due to increased instances of vandalism and burglary in Town Centre Shops.

Shop windows are being broken regularly, doors slashed, paints sprayed with aerosols and disgusting slogans painted on walls.

The Town Council initiated talks and we understand the A.D.C. have now commenced an investigation into ways to combat the menace. Later the two bodies will meet and it is hoped a plan will evolve to halt the costly wave of vandalism.







Winners of the Union Car-bide Easter Egg Competition receive their prizes.  
Photo: Sonny Steele

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# Pupil's Choice

An interview by three students from the Avenue Comprehensive School

On one of our interviews we talked to Mr Pryce, Mr Gowland, and Mr Cowperthaithe of the Neville Male Voice Choir. They told us that the first meeting of the Choir was held on 5th March 1953. At one time there were 54 members, but now, due to various circumstances the numbers have diminished to 25.

The only qualification you need to join the Choir is a good voice, so it seems a great pity that only a few people from this town show any interest. In fact, 50% of the Choir come from surrounding areas such as Darlington and Shildon etc. Support from the Town is badly needed. One member, Mr J. Robinson, has a job as a porter in Darlington, but is so keen to be with the Choir, that he has been known to go to work from practice still in uniform.

One of the former young members, Mr G. Pearce, is now in the London Royal College of Opera. Another young member who joined at the age of 14 was Nicholas Kettingham and he has already made an important contribution to the Male Voice Choir by arranging three pieces of music for them to sing.

The Choir makes an effort for the town. During the last seven years over £1,000 has been provided for celebrity concerts alone. The Arts Council provides a guarantee against loss for the professional performers who perform in the annual celebrities concert. There is usually a very good response to this with about 400 people attending.

### VARIED

The Choir has quite a varied repertoire of music, from pop to comedy to classical and Gilbert and Sullivan, which always seems to go down well with most audiences.

The Choir is still remembered by people who left the district years ago. They have received letters from people as far away as New Zealand. It seems a shame that people closer at hand, in Newton Aycliffe, are not more interested.

The fee for joining is not very great, it works out about 3p per week. This is paid when members attend their practise on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 p.m. in the Avenue Comp. School, where new members would be very welcome. Before they had the School, the Choir had been known to practise in Church halls, and once in a cafe! The practises are held all through the year even though in the Summer, numbers are often low.

### CHARITY CONCERTS

The Choir members always practise hard and hope to entertain their audiences. They give concerts to various audiences, from the Over 60's to the people at Aycliffe Hos-

pital. At Christmas time they quite often give charity concerts for the old people or a special club.

As well as appearing locally in Churches and Schools they also enter competitions and have done very well in them. At the moment they are the holders of the Darlington Choir Cup, but unfortunately were unable to enter this year due to a previous engagement. During the year they were placed 2nd in Stockton out of seven choirs and 2nd in Stanley, being only one point behind the winners. Not bad going for a local choir is it?

Anyone interested in finding out more about the choir should contact Mr E. W. Pryce, 49 Cumby Road who will be only too pleased to help.

Finally we would like to express our thanks to the choir for supplying us with interesting information during the interview.

Margaret Thompson  
Helen Richardson and  
Anthony Parken

## 'Everybody out'

Well, it's a show about the General Strike in 1926 as it was in the East Midlands, produced by EMMA Drama Company. "Not a penny off the pay, not a second off the day" the mines leader Arthur Cook answers to the mine owners' demand for lower wages and longer hours. "Nationalisation" said the miners, "Lower pay" said the owners. The Government prepared for the clash—it came on May 3rd 1926. The T.U.C. called a general strike. Britain came to a standstill — it might have been a revolution, it lasted 9 days.

The show is about what happened in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Derbyshire based on the stories and experience of those who lived through the strike. See Bartons bus overturned; the policeman struggle with a reluctant donkey; the battle of Palais De Danse and lots more. A show with songs and stories to make you laugh and cry.

On the same programme 'Passion, Poison and Petrification' by Bernard Shaw. It's a farcical comedy and concerns Fish Slices, Fataj Soda Syphons, Plaster Bust (I did say plaster), Thunderbolts, Mysterious Angels and Troubled Policemen. Guaranteed to make you roll with laughter.

Well, come along to the show, sponsored by the Aycliffe Arts Council, on Monday 21st April at Woodham Comp. School at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are only 50p for adults, 30p for senior citizens and under 16's are available from the Information Centre and Wesley Community House in the western area of the town.

Harry Armstrong (centre), Chief Nursing Officer at Aycliffe Hospital for 11 years, receives a typewriter from Mr Mitchell on behalf of the hospital staff, on the occasion of his retirement.  
Photo: Sonny Steele



## Festival '75

### news

Great steps are being made by the Festival Committee for this year's Festival, and for the first time, the new area of the town is being specially represented. A sub committee has been set up to arrange special events in that area, and also to work in conjunction with the main committee.

At a meeting with Mr John Murphy, the amusement caterer, it was arranged that Murphy's Fair should come the week before the Festival, as he was unable to come on Festival week. It was also arranged that many pre Festival events should take part near the fair ground and that the Festival Queen should open the Fair.

### FESTIVAL PRINCESS

Among the new plans will be a competition for a Festival Princess. Girls too young to enter the Festival Queen Competition will be able to take part and there will be prizes and engagements for the winner.

Other events will be junior talent contests, Mini Olympics Pop Festival, and many others now under discussion.

The Mini Olympics will be for young people up to the age of 18 and they will be put into age groups for such events as long jump, high jump, 100 metres, etc.

The pop festival will be held with local groups providing enough are willing to take part. Judging by the number of groups now on the town this shouldn't be difficult.

Would people interested in the Mini Olympics and the pop festival please contact me at the under mentioned address as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to hold them during Festival fortnight — June 14th to 28th.

We always welcome new ideas, so let's have them now.  
Chris Jacques,  
Press Officer  
5 Mellanby Crescent

### CAN YOU ENTERTAIN?

Do you sing, dance, act, tell jokes etc? Why not join in with the Labour and Trades Club Dicky Bow Section on a Sunday lunchtime and help them to raise money for local charities. Professionals, amateurs, all are welcome. Please contact Mr Bob Graham, Telephone Aycliffe 4719.

Next Issue from  
Newton Press  
is due out on  
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## TRADE ADS

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

N/A Playschool Parents Committee Annual Spring Fair on Sat. 19th April. 2 p.m. in St. Clares Church. Proceeds to childrens summer outing.  
**D.C.C. Adult swimming** classes. Beginners, ladies enrolment on the night. Mon. or Tues. 14th, 15th April 7 p.m. Stephenson Way J.M. school (pool)  
**Monarch Supporters Club** Jumble Sale, raffles 72 green (groceries) 126 salmon (tea set). Name the Doll (Marie)

**YOUTH THEATRE WORKSHOP**

Youth Theatre Workshop for 10-14 year olds re-opens on Tuesday 15th April at 7.20 p.m. in St Mary's R.C. Primary School.

There are still a few vacancies for children who are interested in acting. Please remember to bring soft shoes and suitable clothing.

**ATTENTION**

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Mrs Beetons cookery book 1902 old fashioned coloured illustrations 40p Tel: 4265

**CARS FOR SALE**

1971 Mini 1000, Aqua, 42,000 rec. miles, 5 good tyres, etc., radio, taxed, tested, garage maintained. Offers. View at Newton Press, Greenwell Rd., between 8 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

1973 'L' reg. Ford Cortina 1300L, sapphire blue, blue int recent full service (£13) new exhaust, heated rear window Averages 32 mpg, taxed end May. Bargain at £895 ono (HP can be arranged) 194 Alston Walk.

**WANTED**

Embassy coupons 16p per 100 36 St Aidens Walk

Spin dryer reasonable price 63 Gilpin Court

Dog basket for small boxer Telephone 3591

Good quality car radio, Motorola or similar, neg. or neg/pos. earth Tel: 4760 after 5.30

Lady wanted to mind boy age 6 from Woodham Infants School for approx 1/2 hour per night, must live in area or Burn Lane. Mrs Bainbridge, 10 Hardinge Road

Old furniture and pictures Tel: Dinsdale 2571 after 6.30 p.m.

**Congratulations**

**BLAND**

Congratulations mam and dad on your Silver Wedding, April 8th. Love from all the family.

**DOUTHWAITE**

Congratulations on your 18th birthday Jacky, April 4th. Much love from Mum, Dad, John and Kathy.

**SMITH**

Congratulations George and Anne on your Silver Wedding March 25th 1975. Best wishes and good luck for another 25 years from Ray and Audrey, Derrick and Maureen, and Nancy.

**EVANS**

10 Simpasture Court  
 Congratulations and best wishes Annie for your 70th birthday, 7th April. From Margery, Ken, David and Carolyn.

**THANKYOU**

Royal Lancers Jazz band wish to thank all members who took part in their recent event and also the people who sponsored the members — Committee.

**FOR SALE**

1971 Honda 90cc quick sale £30 ono needs attention 39 Shafto Way after 6 p.m.

Gas cooker (converted) £15 Telephone 4081

Loabster pot playpen £4 ono. Large baby bath and stand £4 ono. 71 Greathead Crescent  
 Sale or exchange 18 budgies also 4 breeding cages, offers Box No. MA2 Newton Press  
 Black and Decker D520 2 speed drill, new, still in box £9.72 Tel: 3075

Mothercare cot, spring interior sheets, blankets, nappys £10 Tel: 3932

Rolls twin tub electric washer £15. Suffolk Colt motor mower £8 Tel: 2066

Singer straight stitch electric sewing machine £15 ono Tel: 3953 after 5 p.m.

White cot and mattress £4. 28 St Godrics Road

Hoover Junior upright cleaner good order £4 Tel: 5930

Blue Triumph 20 cycle good cond. £20 Tel: 4126 after 5

Swallow pram detach. body excellent cond. £7 Tel: Dinsdale 2571

Intertech 13" steering wheel to fit 1100 £6 9 Honister Pl.

125cc Vespa super scooter 1972 K reg good running order used daily £80 ono 42 Kirkstone Place

Gas fire, Flavel Debonair 3 burner £10 ono. Teak fire surround new £10 ono Tel: 2078 53 Cumby Road

Pedigree Cairn terrier dog to good home. Navy school skirt blazer 36 chest £3. New navy trench coat £3. Stylophone £6 Philips Health lamp £8 Tel: 5804

**FOUND**

Gents tribby, blue/grey, 8 Hatfield Road

Unfortunately, due to lack of space, some 'Free Ads' have had to be held over until the next issue.

**It's Hoover Star Time Now**

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**Gardens Competition 1975**



**ENTRY FORM**

Please enter my garden in the 1975 Gardens Competition

Name .....

Address .....

N.B. For the purpose of the competition the town has been divided into eight sections which includes School Aycliffe, Middridge Village and the Yuill development and ALL houses in the designated area of the New Town whether rented or privately owned are eligible for entry. In each of the eight sections prizes of £7, £6, £5, £4 and £3 are offered for the best kept and attractive gardens whether decorative, vegetable or combined. Similar prizes are also offered for the best kept gardens of Old Peoples Dwellings which includes 15-19 Kenny Walk and 1-5 Faber Close but excludes the bungalows in Clarence Green and Travellers Green.

The Lady Beveridge Rose Bowl will be awarded for one year for the garden adjudged to be the best in the town and the owner of that garden will also be awarded a trophy to keep as a memento.

APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DEPARTMENT BY TUESDAY 8th JULY 1975

The final judging will take place on Friday 25th July 1975

**SWIM . . . for health's sake**

**ADULT SWIMMING INSTRUCTION**

TUESDAY, 9 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.  
 15th APRIL to 17th JUNE 1975  
 THURSDAY, 9 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.  
 17th APRIL to 19th JUNE 1975

Instruction Fee £3.25 per Course of 10 lessons plus normal swimming and admission charges

**JUNIOR SWIMMING INSTRUCTION**

MONDAYS, 4.30 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.,  
 14th APRIL to 16th JUNE, 1975  
 FRIDAYS, 4.30 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.,  
 18th APRIL to 20th JUNE, 1975

Instruction Fee £2.20 per Course of 10 half hour lessons, plus normal swimming and admission charges.

INSTRUCTION FEES ARE PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF ENROLMENT.

Telephone Bookings are not acceptable

For further details Telephone:

AYCLIFFE 3387

**THE NORTH BRITON**

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE Telephone Aycliffe 2281



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 Saturdays — Bookings only

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SOUL DISCO - Friday 7 - 10.30 p.m. ★ POP DISCO Sunday 7 - 10.30 p.m.  
 Members only — Applications for membership now available

DINNER DANCE ★ SATURDAY 17th MAY ★ Price £2.50 per head