

THE NEWTONIAN

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EDITORIAL

Exams! A recent report issued by P.E.P. (Political & Economic Planning) on the subject of Secondary-Modern Schools, was somewhat disturbing in that the opinion expressed was that these schools showed a distinct lack of uniformity of purpose. We are all inclined to be critical of modern educational methods, more particularly so with regard to the younger children. But parents can be justly proud of the Sugar Hill Junior School which, at the last 11 plus examinations, gained for its pupils no less than twenty-one places in the County Grammar and High Schools. Last year the number was eight, and that, in all the circumstances, was good. One factor which creates serious difficulties for both teachers and scholars is that for many of the latter their education has been interrupted due to their parents moving into the town, and nothing is more upsetting to a child than having to face a new school, with new teachers and new classmates. Furthermore, the competition in the County is intense. Many thousands of children sit annually for perhaps only 2,000 odd places. So far as Sugar Hill School is concerned, it is a modern school with a modern concept and curriculum, and results such as these, after so short a life, are a very great credit to all concerned. At the same time, one cannot help wondering how many really worthy children have had to suffer a bitter disappointment through the operation of the present doubtful competitive system.

Road Safety. Grave attention is drawn in the report of the Committee on Road Safety published last week, to the ever increasing number of accidents to child cyclists. It does make various recommendations designed to lessen the toll, but at the same time it points out that the present figures of over ten thousand accidents per annum may well be doubled within ten years! Various ideas are expounded for 'tests' to be put into operation on a voluntary basis, but these will be of little help if children are not fully aware of the Highway Code and trained diligently in road-usage. Even that will not protect them from certain types of fools who regard the roads as racing tracks.

Dogs! (Again) It is to be hoped that a present Bill in the Committee stage in the House of Commons will become law, for it makes it an offence for dogs to be taken out without a lead and under proper control. This town is lousy with uncontrolled canines of every conceivable lineage. Just take a walk around sometime and count the number of strays which litter the streets. To say you will be amazed is putting it lightly. More than likely you will be appalled. People seem to have no conscience whatever in the matter of their dogs and the nuisance they cause to other people. Why on earth have a dog if, when the bairns have tired of it, the animal is to be turned loose on the streets all day and every day? Its no good calling these animals 'house dogs' - they are never in the house! The local police would do us a service if owners of strays were brought to book for their inconsideration in allowing pets to become pests.

Trading? Womenfolk in the town complain continually that so far as some of the local traders are concerned, they are being 'taken for a ride', so much so that they infer that it is cheaper to go to outside towns for their supplies. (After all the odd pennies here and there soon pay the fare.) It is fully appreciated that, like everyone else, the traders are paying high rentals, but they must realise that in the long run overcharging will lead to loss of custom as soon as more adequate shopping facilities are available. Another rather ludicrous feature of local trading, arising apparently from the terms of the shop lettings, is that certain shops suddenly find that they are not permitted to sell certain commodities, for instance, a child's dummy. Being accustomed to getting them at one shop, a mother suddenly finds that they have been transferred to another shop, presumably one with 'dummy rights', only to find that this shop does not stock the usual type of instrument for her off-spring's contentment. Irritating, irrational, firstly for the deprived infant, and secondly for the harrassed mother who has then to make a further 'dummy-run' across the town in search of the essential comforter! The same applies to all sorts of minor commodities, many of which are price-controlled by the suppliers. Why on earth in 1956 can't we have unrestricted trading in the town? On the one hand successive governments set up Monopoly Commissions, and the other the Corporation create monopoly privilege which, in a town where there is little or no competition, is only serving to butter the bread on both sides. Let us have business, competitive business, and then there will be less frustration and fairer prices, and any trader who can create a market for his goods should be free to dispose of them to his own customers. This is 1956 not 1986, and even if it is not a popular trading idea, it is rapidly becoming apparent that the customer is determined to be right!

MUSIC SOCIETY - There will be no meetings in June, July or August. The first meeting next season will be on Thursday, the 13th September, in the Clarence Hall at 7.45 p.m. New members are welcome. Members who are going to the Opera at Stockton will meet at the Neville Parade Shops at 6.15 p.m. on Friday, the 15th June. Details from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E.M. Tomlinson, 12 Simpasture Gate.

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BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY - A 100% pass was recorded by the Detachment in their recent First Aid examinations. A short course of lectures on First Aid in Civil Defence will commence on 6th June in the Committee Room of the Beveridge Hall at 7.30 p.m. The Detachment would welcome any new members who are interested in joining the Red Cross Society at these meetings. There is a great demand for welfare work for both trained and new members in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding villages, added to which, a most useful training in Home Nursing and First Aid will be given to each member to enable them to extend their help to the local hospitals if they so desire. We again appeal for any useful articles that may be added to our Medical Loan Depot. Requests for Medical Loans or enquiries re membership and the work of the Red Cross Society should be addressed to Mrs. Wright, Acting Commandant, 6 Lowery Road, Newton Aycliffe. Please make a note of the Red Cross Flag Day, 7th July, and give generously.

JUNIOR RED CROSS CADETS - In the recent First Aid Exams all sixteen girls taking part were successful, the following obtaining Proficiency Badges for exceptionally high marks in both their practical and oral exams: Ann Teesdale, Moira O'Neill, Sandra Ruddick, Miriam McGoldrick. This brings the total of Proficiency Badges in the Unit to nine.

The Cadets are presenting their concert 'Red White and You' once again, this time at Shildon in aid of the Newton Aycliffe 'Over Sixty' Club's new hall. This will be the seventh and final show the Red Cross Cadets have given for charity.

Members of the Cadet Unit are now helping on the wards of the Sedgefield General Hospital each Saturday, in groups of four. This gives the girls excellent opportunity to further their Home Nursing Training, courses of which are now in progress.

The Red Cross Cadets now have quite a proficient Netball Team and would welcome a match with any junior opposing team any Monday or Friday evening. Enquiries should be made to Miss. Pamela Walker, 45 Skirlaw Road.

Two of the Senior Red Cross Cadets are visiting the Red Cross Training Centre at Barnett Hill, Guildford, Surrey, for training as Cadet Officers. The girls, June Edgar and Pamela Walker, leave on Thursday, 21st June, for a four day course.

Any girls wishing to join the Red Cross Cadets would be welcome at our meetings in the Beveridge Hall on Thursday evenings at 5.45 until 7.45. Only girls of 10 years or over can be admitted into the Unit.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following children who have qualified for admission to a County Grammar School:-

From: Sugar Hill Junior School

Linda Anne Heslop, 32 Bury Road.
Anne Christine Armstrong, 4 Bede Cresc.
Jill Fergus, 33 Sheraton Road.
Sandra Fielding, 8 Bury Road.
Wendy Foster, 8 Greville Way.
Kathleen Pamela Keenan, 18 Bickford Terr.,
Aycliffe.
Olwyn Pryce, 22 Neville Parade.
Wendy Roche, 12 Finchale Road.
Carole Lesley Stokes, 85 Greathead Cresc.
Marian Joan Strahan, 4 Lowery Road.
Heather Anne Wright, 6 Lowery Road.

Kenneth Stewart Hand, 7 Brough Close,
Aycliffe School.
Eric Ainsworth, 15 Anne Swyft Road.
David Michael Brown, 23 Lee Green.
William Laidler Dobson, 4 St. Godric's
Road.
Brian Robert Downing, 8 Baliol Green.
Robin Victor Griffiths, 12 Palmer Road.
Leonard John Milner, 6 Lyon Walk.
John Moss, 3 Henderson Road.
Allan Suddess, 26 Tunstall Road.
John Arthur Walker, 66 Biscop Cresc.

From: Timothy Hackworth School at Shildon

Janice Cowie, 20 Clarence Green.

Philip Coxon, 11 Bewick Crescent.
Allan Foster, 19 Greathead Crescent.

ENQUIRERS' CLUB - The last meeting of the season will be held on Friday, 2nd June, at 7.30 p.m. in the 'Upstairs Room' when the speaker will be Dr. Digby W. Burridge, T.D. Dr. Burridge, who was formerly a police surgeon, will be speaking on 'The Doctor and the Coroner'.

1ST NEWTON AYCLIFFE AIR SCOUTS - The 1st Newton Aycliffe Boy Scouts Troop has become the first in the County to change over to the Air Scout Branch. This is not an entirely new side to scouting (it was started in 1941); it embodies all ordinary boy scouting plus an elementary knowledge of aeroplanes, airfield procedure, meteorology and aircraft recognition. The R.A.F. help us in every way they can, e.g. by letting us visit the aerodromes, and first class scouts are allowed to fly in service aircraft, but they have no control over the troop or the training and WE ARE NOT PART OF ANY MILITARY MOVEMENT. The whole idea is for boys who are interested in aircraft, space travel etc., and we feel that this type of knowledge adds that little extra to the old fashioned scouting.

Sixteen members of the troop with the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster spent three lovely days under canvas at Ovington on the banks of the River Tees; the time passed only too quickly in hiking, climbing, swimming etc.

The troop are now very busy constructing a Soap Box Derby car, which we hope to enter in the International Soap Box Derby, the semi-finals of which are held at Sheffield. The car is a large pedal type, it is to be driven by one of the scouts, it must be made at a cost not exceeding £7.10.0d., and must be the boys' own work. We are having a lot of fun building the car and we hope to have a good time racing it.

Boys who are interested in joining the new Air Scout Troop will be welcome at the Scout Hut any Friday evening at 7.30 p.m.

1ST NEWTON AYCLIFFE BOY SCOUTS - PARENTS GROUP COMMITTEE - A meeting of the Committee will be held in the Scout Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th June. Parents of cubs and scouts are invited to attend this meeting, also any person interested in the Scout Movement. We need your support. Please come along and join in.

OVER SIXTIES' CLUB - The club is going exceedingly well and new members are being enrolled almost every week. The membership now totals 160. The second birthday party was held on the 9th May and the members are now looking forward to a full day's outing to Redcar on the 25th June or 2nd July. The chiropodist will be in attendance at the Upstairs' Room at the Community Centre on Saturday, the 9th June, from 2.30 p.m. Any member or pensioner wishing to see the chiropodist should make arrangements through the Secretary, Mr. J. Edgar, 6 Clanny Road. New members for the Club will be welcome on Wednesday evenings at 6.30 p.m. in the Beveridge Hall.

R.A.F. ASSOCIATION - A meeting to inaugurate a R.A.F.A. Club for Newton Aycliffe will be held in 'The Oak Tree' Inn at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 20th June. All ex-R.A.F., ex-W.A.A.F., serving members and National Servicemen are eligible to join. If you are one of these, don't forget the date and the time. Come along and ensure the success of this new venture. Anyone interested and unable to attend the meeting should contact Mr. E.T. Hutchinson, 19 Shafto Way.

CORPORATION NOTES

Television Aerials - All tenants with television aerials are reminded that the 1/3d insurance payable under the agreement with the Corporation fell due on the 1st April 1956. In cases where this insurance has not yet been paid, tenants are warned that they are responsible for any damage that may occur either to Corporation property or to any third party as a result of accident, damage, storm, tempest etc. In their own interests, therefore, tenants are advised to see that the amount is paid to the Rent Collector on his next visit.

Gardens Competition - Arrangements have been made for the judging of gardens in connection with the Corporation's Annual Gardens Competition during the first week of August. For the purpose of the competition, the town will be divided into two areas, i.e. east and west of St. Cuthbert's Way. The final judging of the gardens will be carried out by two independent horticultural experts. Prizes of £3, £2 and £1 will be awarded for the three best gardens in each of the two sections and, in addition, the tenant of the garden adjudged to be the best in the town will be awarded the Lady Beveridge Rose Bowl to be held for one year. The gardens attached to aged persons' bungalows in the town will be treated as a separate class and prizes of £2 and £1 will be awarded to the two best gardens in that class.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION - Although we are far from the sea at Newton Aycliffe, some families must have contacts with seafarers, and everybody with imagination must surely applaud the valiant work of our lifeboat men. The Institution is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. A house-to-house collection will be made this month, and all contributors will receive a flag; please try to give something, however small. New members will be very welcome in the Ladies' Life-boat Guild; please give your names to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Currie, at 87 Bewick Crescent, or telephone the Chairman, Mrs. Froude, at 78 Hatfield Road (Aycliffe 3268).

NEWTON AYCLIFFE DRAMATIC SOCIETY - At the Annual General Meeting on the 3rd May, Miss. D. Wootton was elected Secretary of the Society and any correspondence should now be addressed to 22 Skirlaw Road, Newton Aycliffe. The Society will be holding a Dance, with entertainment, at The Gretna Green Wedding Inn on the 29th June. Tickets, price 3/6d, will be available from members of the Society.

THE HARD-OF-HEARING FELLOWSHIP will meet in the Corporation Canteen on Fridays, June 1st, 15th and 29th. Special features this month are a visit from Capt. R.W. Annard V.C. of Finchale Abbey, on 15th, who will give a film show and speak on vocational training for the disabled; and on the 29th the Youth Club will provide entertainment. All hard-of-hearing and their friends welcomed. Enquiries to the Secretary, Mrs. Foster, 4 Tunstall Road.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE YOUTH CLUB - The first summer trip will be to Scarborough on the 17th June. The date for the concert has unfortunately had to be changed from May to sometime in the Autumn, but the members are keeping in practice by entertaining the 'Hard-of-Hearing' Club

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on the 29th June. Friendly competitions of table tennis, darts etc. are to be held in the near future between members and boys of the Aycliffe School.

GARDENS GUILD - Members of the Guild are reminded that the hut on the Allotments Field (behind Clarence Chare) is open for sales on Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. New members welcome. Annual subscription 2/6d. Will any members who would like to visit the School of Agriculture (Horticultural Section) at Houghall near Durham early in July, please send their names to the Secretary, H. Bilton, 3 Clarence Close. The visit will probably be on a Wednesday or Thursday evening.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND, PARISH CHURCH OF ST. CLARE - Services: Sundays, Holy Communion 9 a.m. Children 11 a.m., Evensong 6.30 p.m. Weekdays, Holy Communion 7.30 a.m., Mattins 10 a.m., Evensong 7 p.m., with the exception of Fridays, when there is Holy Communion only at 7.30 a.m.

The Churchmen's Guild will meet at the Vicarage on Monday, 4th June, at 7.30 p.m., when the Rev. G.R. Gostelow will talk on 'Methodism Today'.

The Parish Family Outing will go to Frosterley on Saturday, 9th June, leaving the Church Hall at 1.30 p.m. Children must be accompanied by their parents. The 'bus fare will be 4/6d for adults and 2/3d for children. We take our own food for tea, but tea, milk and sugar will be provided. At Frosterley we shall be the guests of the Vicar and shall have the use of the Parish Hall. Names must be given in by Sunday, 3rd June.

A Garden Party will be held in Clarence Hall and garden on Saturday, 16th June, and will be opened at 2.30 p.m. by Mrs. Gilbert (Dr. Phillipson). Gifts for the stalls will be gratefully received - sewing, knitting, embroidery, fancy goods, bring and buy, flowers and produce, sweets, lemonade, ice-cream, teas, games and pony rides. All will be welcome. No charge for admission.

A Church Cub Pack will have its first meeting in the Church Hall on Tuesday, 5th June, at 6.30 p.m. The Pack will be a sponsored pack, which means that we may not take boys who are not members of the Church of England. Also, since we have not yet a Scout troop to pass Cubs up to, we are beginning with boys of 8 and 9 years only. The Pack will be run by Mr. J.R. Gordon, but the Commissioner has suggested that application for membership should be made to the Vicar. The Pack (and eventual Group) will be known as St. Clare's, Newton Aycliffe.

METHODIST CHURCH (near Neville Parade shops) 10.45 a.m. Morning Worship, 2.30 p.m. Sunday School. In the Church, Beginners from 4 years, Primary from 5 years. In the Beveridge Hall Juniors from 8 years and Seniors. 6.30 p.m. Divine Worship.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - Sundays, Mass 8 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. in the Beveridge Hall. Weekdays, St. Mary's Presbytery, 131 Shafto Way, Mass 7.30 a.m. Confessions, Saturdays 11 a.m. - 12 noon and 7 - 8 p.m. Baptisms by arrangement.

THE DURHAM EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP (Inter denominational) are again conducting a campaign in Newton Aycliffe. Meetings will be held in the Beveridge and Clarence Halls from 22nd to 29th July, and are to be led by Mr. John Coleman of London, the Evangelist who is conducting similar campaigns during the summer throughout the county. Details will be published throughout the town, but in the meanwhile, if anyone is interested in the campaign and would like to assist, please contact Mr. G.D. Steele, 6 Merz Road.

CRICKET CLUB (Burn Lane ground): Home fixtures: Saturday June 2nd, 1st XI v Etherley; Monday June 4th, 2nd XI v North Bitchburn; Saturday June 9th, 1st XI v Evenwood; Saturday June 16th, 2nd XI v Stanley; Saturday June 23rd, 1st XI v Waterhouses; Monday June 25th, 2nd XI v Lands; Saturday June 30th, 1st XI v Ushaw Moor; Saturday July 7th, 2nd XI v Whitton.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE BOYS CLUB - 40 members spent the weekend May 12th and 13th at Bedburn Camp. Usual camp games were enjoyed and members are looking forward to their next visit. Training is now in progress for the Annual Sports Day of the West Auckland Youth Clubs, which is to be held on June 9th at the West Auckland Clothing Factory sports ground. The general public will be welcome, admission 6d by programme.

M. COLLINSON, NEVILLE SHOPPING PARADE. Ask for a demonstration in your home, at your convenience, of any HOOVER appliance or PYE radio and television. Our 24 hour T.V. maintenance costs £4. 10. 0d. per year only and covers everything. This scheme applies only to new sets supplied by us. Ask for a ROBBILAC colouriser shade card. 999 colours in undercoat, super gloss enamel, suede finish wall paint and egg-shell enamel. 99 colours in emulsion paint. PARAZONE, the super bleach, in stock. QUALCAST lawn mowers and quality garden tools stocked. RALEIGH AND TRIUMPH cycles from £1 deposit. Credit accounts opened on production of usual references.

Edited by Mr. N. Blackburn, 15 Watson Road, and printed and published free of charge by the Aycliffe Development Corporation.