

# THE NEWTONIAN

NEWTON AYCLIFFE COUNCIL OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS  
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Hon. Editor : Mr. R. T. GREENBANK, 17 Bede Crescent, Newton Aycliffe,  
Tel. 742

MARCH, 1964

## PERSONALITIES OF THE TOWN No. 3



Mr. J. R. Wallace, this month's subject, presents a different angle of approach for, with his labour and tenacity of purpose thousands of people have been entertained and amused. He is a native of Nottingham with a keen interest in sculpture and rowing. Moving into the town some ten years ago he joined the Newton Players in their very early days. His flair for sculpture aided him with his many sets designed for the plays that have been produced over the years, and he has played a major part in practically every pro-

duction, either as lead or stage manager. The pantomime "The Sleeping Beauty" recently staged in the Beveridge Hall gave delight and amusement to approximately 2,000 children in addition to their parents.

Can you compare the amateur with the professional stage? of course not. Mr. Wallace is a man of decided views with regard to amateur and professionalism and considers that the amateur should not aim to imitate the professional and though some attempt it the result is usually failure, because the amateur cannot acquire the skill of the pro. The amateur living in closer contact with the world of reality has the opportunity to present a fresher and more forceful representation of the character he is called upon to play. Mr. Wallace visualises an ideal dramatic society that would contain people of all ages and temperament. The Newton Players could well do with a wider selection of types even if they were prepared only to play characters similar to themselves. With the influx of so many people to the new area of the town it should be possible to turn the vision into reality.

## EDITORIAL

65 visitors, husbands, wives and children who came to the town on a goodwill visit on Friday, 7th February were agreeably surprised to find that the North of England has much beauty and charm in its make up and is not as so many think a land of smoke-blackened skies, huge pit heaps, and choc-a-bloc with back to back houses, and overall presenting a dismal picture. The visit was arranged by their employers who are extending their factory on the Industrial estate, and the week-end was spent in getting to know some of the people who are likely to be their neighbours at no distant date, and viewing the surrounding countryside. Middleton-in-Teesdale was chosen; the weather was perfect, the country looked beautiful and the distant views magnificent. The lack of traffic when off the main highways surprised the visitors and Barnard Castle particularly appealed to many of them; the river with its ancient bridge and castle capturing their imagination. A tour of Newton Aycliffe was made on the Sunday so that they might see every type of house and decide where they would like to live if they are called on to

move from Coventry. The general impression gained in many lengthy discussions with the visitors was that, if they have to move, a high percentage will settle in this town.

EDITOR.

## WHAT IS ROUND TABLE?

Perhaps you do not know. However, this energetic and purposeful group of young men in Newton Aycliffe, who are part of a National Organisation, intend to raise sufficient money to provide one or more containers for the use of the "Meals on Wheels" service operated by the W.V.S.

To this end, therefore, you will receive through your letter box, a leaflet asking you to give a tin of any household commodity, including foodstuffs.

We would ask you please, not to ignore this circular, but to give generously to this most deserving cause, assisting those who are unable for the most part to help themselves.

The tins which you are asked to provide, will be collected on the date stated on the leaflet, by a member of Round Table, and will be sold, on a specified date at a stall in the shopping centre.

We repeat, please give generously, and **HELP THOSE WHO MOST NEED HELP.**

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## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1963

As some people may already know, in 1963, Durham County Council had a private Act of Parliament passed. To quote the short title it is :-

An Act to confer powers on the Durham County Council and on local authorities in the administrative County of Durham in relation to industry, lands and highways and the local government, improvement, health and finances of the county and of the boroughs and districts therein; and for other purposes.

Section 86 of this Act deals with the return of library books and for the first time gives Durham County Library the indisputable right to charge fines on overdue books.

For many years now there has been a question mark over the legality of charging fines in rate-supported libraries. The Act of Parliament permitting the establishment of rate-supported libraries stated that books should be made freely available. There was no mention of fines. Most library authorities introduced fines under the Rules and Regulations but since these have very little legal force the legality of fining was certainly in doubt.

In recent years the introduction of byelaw 16 (i) gave Durham County Library the right to prosecute readers for the non-return of books and to back this up a maximum fine of £5 for each book not returned could be imposed. But again there was no mention of fines for overdue books. Thus although readers were often black-listed and fined for the non-return of books there was never any attempt made to recover out-standing fines.

Since the passing of the new Act this will no longer be so. The Library Authority now has the power (if it wishes to use it) to recover fines and also any expenditure incurred in sending overdue reminders.

Putting Byelaw 16 (i) and section 86 of the New Act together, it would seem that Durham County Library intends to take a tougher line with its habitually lax borrowers.

The Durham County Council Act is available for consultation in the library.



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## R.A.F. ASSOCIATION NOTES



By the time the March edition of 'The Newtonian' is in your hands, the Annual General Meeting of the Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will be over. Moaners, groaners, stalwarts and stirrers will all have been pacified (we hope) and the newly elected committee have settled in.

Mr. Ron Manning (Hon. Secretary) tells me that the balance sheet for the past period has excelled all other years. This is great news indeed, let us look forward to our continued success. In the past, little or nothing has ever been mentioned about the club steward and stewardess, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Reed. Doug. and Rhoda are very often taken for granted, part of the fittings shall we say. Since the opening of the present club and premises, the branch has experienced many ups and downs, but this couple have always remained very dependable and totally unchanged. At the R.A.F.A., Doug. and Rhoda are not just 'staff,' they are now regarded as highly efficient workers for the branch, doing an excellent job. Many thanks Mr. and Mrs. Reed, keep up the good work, without the right kind of people assisting, our balance sheet would be going down instead of up.

## Notes.

Members are once again reminded that subscriptions are now due, those who have not already renewed are requested to contact the Secretary or Treasurer as soon as possible.

H.G.S.



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## TOWNSWOMENS GUILD



**Present**—Ever been to Hong Kong? No? even if you have your memories may not be as fresh as those of Miss J. V. Lonsdale a junior school teacher who has recently returned to Newton Aycliffe from the island, and has accepted the guild's invitation to give an illustrated talk dealing with her impressions of this fascinating, cosmopolitan colonial possession, on the next guild night March 2nd. A 'quiz' in which everyone can take part has been set for the social half hour.

**Future**—"Drama Production" is to be the subject of a talk by Mrs. F. W. Gunter at the meeting on April 6th. Home made biscuits will be on the sales table (these never stay long on show, being eagerly bought by members). The competition is quite an easy one—the prettiest Easter card. Mrs. Lowther presents the surprise parcel and the evening will conclude on a musical note, a member will give a gramophone recital

**Past**—Pot dogs, papier mache objects and Victorian bric-a-brac, plus folk dancing, may seem an odd mixture but at the February T.G. meeting they provided a stimulating evening for the 58 members and 10 visitors. Mr. Tony Ellis of the Bowes museum gave a lively talk on the subject of collecting antiques, surprising his audience by suggesting odd items that could be classified as ANTIQUES, early electric light bulbs for instance, and every day articles from our grandparents day that are now obsolete. His advice was—never throw anything away that is old just because it is ugly or you have no use for it, it may be a very desirable object for someone else to own. Mr. Tony Foxworthy of Newton Aycliffe was equally entertaining in an entirely different way, for the audience rose to its feet and tripped the light fantastic to his music, when he gave a practical demonstration of folk dancing, everyone joined in following his directions most carefully. At the end of a really good evening most of us were exhausted.

**Special Note**—The April Fayre is to take place on the morning of Saturday, April 18th.

Mrs. Bellis, 15 Lowery Road will hold a coffee morning on Thursday, March 5th from 10-30 to 12 noon.

M.M.G.

## PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED ASSOCIATION

A 'red letter' day in the affairs of the association will be the Spring Fayre arranged for April, the full details of this event will be given in the next issue, and if the same degree of support is obtained from the townspeople as has been given in other years this annual event is assured of success.

Mrs. Crake, 45 Eden Road, Tel. 772 has succeeded Mrs. Smith as Secretary and all correspondence in connection with the association should now be addressed to Mrs. Crake.

We are most sorry to lose the services of Mrs. Smith, but as she says, family ties prevent her from giving the attention to the work that the position of secretary entails.

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The Arts Council Opera Group will present  
"ORPHEUS" by Gluck  
(a complete story in 3 acts)

"A DINNER ENGAGEMENT" by Lennox Berkley  
both Operas in costume

at Aycliffe Approved School on Friday, March 6th at 8 p.m.  
Tickets 5/- each, Students and Old Aged Pensioners 2/6d., can be obtained from the school or from 17 Cumby Road, Newton Aycliffe.



## NEWTON AYCLIFFE MOTOR CLUB

These days everything seems to happen either too early or too late for the current issue, more often the latter, and let's face it, even recent history is hardly news. All this brings me round to the report on the annual dinner-dance held on January 16th. This function was such a success that several members were trying to fix a date for the next one half way through the last waltz. The two trophies were presented by Mrs. Skerry, the 'Hocking and Peacock' to Messrs. E. Nelson and G. Butterfield, and the 'Harold Taylor' to Messrs. R. Adamson and J. Snowdon. Mrs. Greenbank drew the 'Extended Raffle' which was won by Mr. M. O'Reilly, and a riotous time was had by all.

The 5th February saw the Quiz and Social Evening at the 'Gretna' the winner of the male section of the quiz was Mike O'Reilly while the bright member of the fair sex was Pat McKinney.

Please note that the Whist Drive originally planned for the 4th March will now be held on the 11th March other details remain unaltered.

The first planned Sunday run will be on the 5th April, destination Druids Circle, venue Town Centre car park 10 a.m. Other runs planned for the near future are to Keilder Forest, How Stean Gorge, Brimham Rocks and The Strid, the latter taking in Bolton Abbey and Trollers' Ghyll, so if you want to see the best bits of local beautification keep your eyes on this column. As I am not in a thinking mood there will be no thought for the month this time, just a statement culled from Paul Frere's "Competition Driving" . . . . 'the merit of a driver is inversely proportional to the number of times he applies his brakes unnecessarily for a given mileage' . . . . Be seeing you.

ERIC.

## Notice - -

From Monday, 2nd March, to Saturday, 14th March, we are open each day for the sale of Fresh Fish and Frozen Foods only.

**FRYING will Recommence on  
Monday, 16th March.**

With Six Pans

No Waiting

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## WOMENS COLUMN

**Topical Tip**—cut small circles from an old felt hat and glue to the bottom of chair and table legs, trim so that they fit and do not show. This will prevent the floor getting scratched and also helps to eliminate unnecessary noise.

**Rhubarb**—Now more plentiful and therefore less expensive so instead of the eternal custard; spend a little extra and try the following: melt six marshmallows in a double saucepan or easier still in a basin over a pan of boiling water, when melted add a stiffly beaten white of egg and pour over the dish of rhubarb. If a pie is made, serve separately.

**County recipe** — Nottingham—Mushroom and bacon pudding. Line a basin with suet pastry fill up with sliced mushrooms and pieces of streaky (rather fat) bacon, season well and pour in cold water until the mushroom and bacon level is reached. Put top of suet paste on, cover with greaseproof paper or floured cloth and steam for 2 hours. This gives a good first course for a meatless day.

## NEWTONIAN DISTRIBUTION

The response to the request for voluntary people to undertake the house to house delivery has been most gratifying and barring earthquake, hurricane, typhoon, rainstorm, duststorm or sandstorm, there is no reason why this distribution should not be completed within three days. To everyone who is helping with this job—**THANK YOU.**

EDITOR.

## JOINT EFFORT FOR OXFAM

The Ladies Choir and the Town Band are joining to give a concert in aid of OXFAM. Book the date now!—Wednesday, May 13th. Further details will be given in the next issue.

## FOUND

9th February well trained tortoise-shell cat obviously a pet—being cared for by Mrs. Martin, 105 Bewick Crescent, to whom the owner should apply.



## MEN OF ACTION

find

## ADVENTURE

in their spare time in the

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

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— Do it NOW — Join The Newton Aycliffe T.A. —



**N.A.C.O.L.O. CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

The response to N.A.C.O.L.O.'s appeal for funds to offset the running expenses was most gratifying, a number of Societies and Clubs have sent donations and others have given a verbal promise of financial help. N.A.C.O.L.O., like any other group needs money with which to carry out its obligations, and we are indeed grateful to the subscribers for their generosity.

A plan is in hand to make the week of June 7th to 13th an outstanding seven days. This period will be known as COMMUNITY WEEK, it opens on the Sunday with an open air service in Woodham Burn Park. A barbecue and a large variety of entertainment is to be provided each evening, the planning is in the hands of a capable committee, having as President: Col. H. H. Peile, O.B.E., T.D. Chairman of the Development Corporation, and W.T. Strahan, Esq., Chairman. Saturday, June 13th the final day of COMMUNITY WEEK will be spectacular; a Carnival, Sports and other attractions will be held on the Simpasture Playing Fields. Should you wish to help the sub-committees with practical assistance in the organisation of the various events you are invited to contact the Chairman: 12 Aylmer Grove, Tel. 488, the Secretary, 27 Washington Crescent or myself 41 Pease Way.

A change in the 'lay-out' of the Newtonian is contemplated; the Editor will be pleased to have material of general interest. If you have ideas, suggestions, criticism, or just an observation put it on paper and send it to him, but please avoid the two most controversial subjects: your politics and your beliefs

On March 17th at 7-15 p.m. in the Over Sixty Club the next Welcoming Party for new residents is being given. Those people who were unable to get to the previous party are invited to come to this one; if you wish to attend will you please give your name to any member of the Corporation Staff; just so that those responsible know how many to cater for.

N.A.C.O.L.O. wishes to prepare a history of the town; should you have any material, written or pictorial, will you please send it to J. N. Davey, 41 Pease Way, copy and photographs will be returned if so requested. The type of thing required is newspaper cuttings, photographs of particular interest, such as the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip and other well known celebrities who have been to the town, in fact anything which you think might help with the preparation.

J.N.D.

£

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and it is a business we know well. Our customers use their accounts for their ordinary day-to-day transactions, but they come to us also for a variety of other services. We provide them with travellers' cheques when they go abroad (travellers' cheques are often useful for travel in England too), we obtain investment advice for them, we act as their executors and much else. There are a great many Barclays customers in your neighbourhood; they will confirm that we do know quite a lot about money.

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**AYCLIFFE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION****EASTER HOLIDAY**

The Corporation's Offices will be closed on the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th March.

The Rent week will close at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 25th March.

The Cashier's Office will remain open until 6 p.m. on Thursday, 26th March.

Tenants will be notified beforehand of any change in Rent Collections.

**R.A.S.C. TERRITORIALS 511 Coy R.A.S.C. (Mot Amb) TA**

The "Barnard Armoury" (The new T.A. Centre at Newton Aycliffe) is now being occupied by :-

511 Coy R.A.S.C. (Mot Amb) T.A.

511 Coy (Mot Amb) Wkshps R.E.M.E. (T.A.)

511 Medical Platoon R.A.M.C. (T.A.)

6 Cadet Battalion A.C.F.

The opening ceremony will be performed by Major General T. H. Birbeck, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Director, Territorial Army and Army Cadets, on Thursday, 19th March 1964 at 8 p.m.

At the annual Prize Giving and Colour Ball held by 150(N) Tpt Colm R.A.S.C. (T.A.) at Hull on 29th February, the following awards and presentations were made to this Company :-

**(a) To the Company :-**

The Column Efficiency Cup for 1963/64.

The Colonel Erskine Trophy (Annual Range Competition)

The Colonel Ricardo Cup (Open Range Classification).

The Hygiene Cup.

**(b) To individuals :-**

S.Sgt. P. Geaney, T.A. Efficiency Medal.

Cpl. J. D. Shields, T.A. Efficiency Medal.

CSM A. Hayman, G.O.C.'s Commendation Card.

L.Cpl. J. Land, The Somerset Trophy (for Safe and Skilled Driving Competition.)

S/Sgt. J. Brookes, The Northumberland Cup (Annual Range Competition.)

Dvr. E. Scoones, The Junior Ranks Shooting Trophy.

Lt. E. Welsh, The Small Bore Rifle Comp. Trophy.

L/Cpl. A. Fraquet, The R.A.S.C. Association Cup for Motor Cycle Trials.

March is the month for an intensive Recruiting Campaign for the Territorial Army and no doubt you will see our advertisement in this copy of "The Newtonian," on Television and in the press. This Company's effort will include arranging a mounted march past and salute and the organisation of a Safe and Skilled Driving Competition for all T.A. Units in the Darlington Area on Feethams, Darlington Market, on Sunday, 15th March at 10-30 a.m.

**Thought for the month**

*It is strange that we have to learn so much before we realise how little we know.*



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### THE NEWTON PLAYERS

It gave the Players a great deal of pleasure to stage the pantomime 'The Sleeping Beauty' for the Physically Handicapped. A special performance for the patients of Aycliffe Hospital has had to be put forward to early March; however, although the date is changed it will in no way affect their enjoyment or our delight in giving the show.

We are happy to report that as a result of the financial success of the panto it is our intention to use part of the money to extend the rehearsal room of the 'Hut.' Like the building of the 'Hut' in its entirety, the new extension will be carried out by the members, one of whom, a familiar figure in the town is the subject of this month's personality. Details of this further milestone in the progress of the Group will be given at a later date, and this is only one of a series of long-term projects envisaged to accommodate more members, larger casts, and other facilities. April's Newtonian will give details of our end of season play. In the meantime rehearsals are in progress and anyone with a spark of interest in the drama is invited to attend. The venue 'The Hut' behind the Beveridge Hall every Thursday at 8 p.m. Pay us a visit and join a vigorous forward-looking Drama Group.

### PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

The concert given in aid of funds for the association by the Sacriston Road Show at the Methodist Hall was an enormous success, raising over £17. Our thanks to the concert party who gave the show entirely free, and to all who helped to make this evening such a success.

There will be a coffee morning on March 3rd at the home of Mrs. Flowers, 86 Shafto Way. Physically handicapped children, and there may be some, among the many new families moving into the new part of the town who would like to join the association should get in touch with the secretary, Mrs. M. Hill, 11 Maling Green.

M.H.

### CORRECTION

In the January edition under the heading "Junior Achievements" the following should be substituted :-

Alan Gordon	Grade IV	Pass
Gail Lodge	Grade V	Merit.

### BEVERIDGE ROLLER DANCE AND FIGURE SKATING CLUB, NEWTON AYCLIFFE

On February 8th the committee and members celebrated the club's fourth birthday, by holding what turned out to be a very successful birthday party. Tea was set in the Clarence Hall, and we all enjoyed a first class feed which included a slice of birthday cake made by Mrs. Pratt of Darlington. After tea we moved to the Beveridge Hall where we all had a lot of fun watching a collection of talkie comedy films, and playing party games. To add to the entertainment The Cossacks guitar group from Darlington made use of the stage, and supplied most of the music for the dancing, and twisting. A gift for each member was provided out of club funds, and it was arranged to supply each member with a 6d. ice cream—but guess what—the ice cream man did not turn up. Never again will we rely on this ice cream company. Wish we could name them.

EVERYTHING at the party was free, absolutely free to all our members. Mr. Godfrey Bennett, club secretary presented gifts on behalf of the club to Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Macdonald, Mrs. Peacock, and Mrs. Walker. These good Newton Aycliffe ladies did a grand job with the sit down tea arrangements, and our sincere thanks must go to each of them for their kind help and efforts. A special thank you to Mr. C. Shield the caretaker who made sure that seats and tables were ready in good time. Mr. Shield also received a gift for his help. Also on the thank you list is Mrs. V. Henderson, who made all the cakes, and Mrs. S. Bennett who made all the sandwiches, and trifles. (A grand job Mrs. H. and Mrs. B. not forgetting the help from the other committee members Mr. G. Henderson, Mr. G. Bennett, Miss J. Walker and Mr. E. Nelson).

The Annual General Meeting of the above named club will be held in the Beveridge Hall on Tuesday, March 17th at 6-45 p.m. All members and parents will be welcome, and if you are not a member this will give you a FREE opportunity to find out just what goes on at the skating club—See you at the meeting.

G.A.B.

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**NEWTON AYCLIFFE PARISH CHURCH, ST. CLARES'**

While the real strength of the Church lies in the normal daily worship and witness and the work of the various organisations, yet there are times when special opportunities come to stir us to greater efforts.

This month is in the season of Lent and ends with Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter.

Sunday Services are 9 a.m. Parish Communion; 11 a.m. Morning Prayer; 6-30 p.m. Evensong.

There will be Holy Communion on Mondays at 9 a.m.; Tuesdays at 7; Wednesdays 7-30; Thursdays 9-30; Fridays 7-30. On Wednesdays at 7-30 p.m. there will be Evening Service with an address and discussion. Children—Wednesdays at 3-45 and Thursdays at 4-15.

On Good Friday—Morning Service at 9; Children at 10; Devotional Hour at 2 and at 7-30 a United Service with the members of the Methodist Church.

Easter Day—Holy Communion 7-30 and 9, Morning Prayer 11, Evensong 6-30.

We invite you to these services and to those who have only recently moved into the town we send greetings and a sincere welcome to what is now your Parish Church.

The Church Council is engaged in the preparations for the extensions to the Church. These take some considerable time for there are consultations with authorities and architects and of course, on Finance. Yet we shall proceed as rapidly as is possible to the actual building.

**BRITISH LEGION**

**Come Dancing**—The British Legion Dancing Club invite the residents of the town who are over 18 years of age to join the Club and learn, or improve their knowledge of dancing. A session for this purpose will be held every Thursday from 7-30 to 9 p.m. and a qualified instructress will be in attendance. The membership fee will be 2/6 per annum plus a weekly subscription of 1/- for instruction. General dancing follows after 9 p.m. at no extra charge. Should you require further information please apply at the British Legion Club in Macmillan Road. any evening between 7-30 and 9 p.m.

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**OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

The Society will stage their second musical comedy next month. The Production is Gilbert and Sullivan's ever popular "Gondoliers," and it will be performed from Monday to Saturday, April 6th to 11th at 7-15 each evening in Marlowe Hall School, Central Avenue. The Society has been rehearsing hard all winter and is confident of putting on a good show. The producer is Mr. John Land and the Musical Director Mr. Robert Hymers of Bishop Auckland. The Stage Manager and his team are busy making scenery and props which are extremely professional. We are hoping to get good support from our many friends in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding towns, so will you please get your tickets soon and avoid disappointment. Tickets will be available from members of the Society or from Mr. Harry Cox, who has again allowed us the use of his Hairdressing Salon as our booking office.

"The Gondoliers" was the last opera in which Gilbert and Sullivan collaborated before their famous quarrel which kept them apart for four years and was their last great success. In the Gondoliers the composer (Arthur Sullivan) is on top of his form, and as Dr. Dunhill has said his score contains "perhaps the gayest music England has ever produced." So please do not miss this musical treat.

J.B.

**MUSIC SOCIETY**

The next meeting of the society will be held at 17 Kendrew Close on Thursday, 19th March at 7-45 p.m. Mr. Humphries will continue the theme which has proved so interesting—"Instruments of the Orchestra". The talk will be illustrated by gramophone records. Please come along.



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### NEWTON AYCLIFFE CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

"Persons of Scottish Birth or Descent—and their wives or husbands shall be eligible for membership." So read the Constitution of the Newton Aycliffe Caledonian Society when it was drawn up in 1958.

Since then this Society has led a full and active life. It has held many an enjoyable social evening, it is in a sound financial position, and yet, there is reason to be concerned. The sad truth is that the Caledonian Society has never had the loyal support of the persons of Scottish Birth or Descent who have come to live in Newton Aycliffe. It has been forced to open its membership, and even its committee, to Sassanachs and other weird breeds, and the point has now been reached where it lacks sufficient Scottish influence to retain its character.

Recently a lady from out of Scotland was heard to say that Scotsmen who come south of the Border had a tendency to hide their nationality. What a terrible statement, and I for one, cannot accept it. Surely I can hear the rattle of claymores in the distance as Scotsmen everywhere rally to give the lie to that statement made by the lady from out of Scotland. The stirring words written by Sir Walter Scott come to mind.

*"Breathes there the man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself had said,  
"This is my own, my native land."*

There must be hundreds of Scottish people here in Newton Aycliffe. They don't have to go trailing up across Carter Bar to find a bit of their own country, they could create it here through the Caledonian Society. The Society is holding a Tartan Dance in the Gretna Hotel on Friday, 20th March, 1964, tickets may be obtained from the following addresses :- 18 Barrington Road, 76 Pease Way, 50 Bury Road, 89 Bewick Crescent, 28 Macmillan Road, 1 Carileph Close, 12 Aylmer Grove.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Iron Horse Hotel on Wednesday, 3rd April, 1964, at 8 p.m.

W.T.S.

### NEWTON AYCLIFFE & DISTRICT CANINE SOCIETY

Newton Aycliffe & District Canine Society will hold a 20 class Sanction Show in the Beveridge Hall on Saturday, 11th April at 2-30 p.m.. The judge will be Mr. W. E. Forster of Harrogate.

People who wish to enter their dogs should obtain a Schedule from any Committee member or from the Secretary, Mrs. M. Rickaby, 12 Castlereagh Close. The closing date for entries is April 4th.

### BOOKMARKS

... that's the third yawn in less than a minute. You really will have to put the light off and go to sleep; as good as the book may be it will have to wait until tomorrow night before you can finish it. And meanwhile how do you mark the place?

Anyone who has worked in a library for any length of time can tell you of the diversity of objects which are made to serve as bookmarks.

Perhaps you just turn in the corner of the page—although I sincerely hope not. This is, without a doubt, the favourite method and one which never proves popular with librarians as it soon makes books look dog-eared. Another favourite method is to use a spent match-stick—and leave a charcoal stain at the top of the page! I've even seen a cigarette end used! Less harmful but equally popular are lady's hair-grips. If I was to keep all those that were returned to us in books and give them to my mother she need never buy a hair-grip again.

Actually a hair-grip is one item that I find, with a little adaptation, can make a really good bookmark. Merely attach a piece of twine or ribbon or even a piece of thread to the grip and clip it to the spine of the book. The ribbon or twine can then be pulled over to mark the place in the way that the ribbons in a Bible or Missal mark your place. There is no danger that the grip will damage the spine since it is so thin.

Of unusual items used as bookmarks I have seen a kipper bone, the inner-sole of a shoe and a baby's bootie. One of the assistants at the library remembers once finding a pair of kippers being used—they were, however, still in their polythene packing! On another occasion he recalls a £1 note being used as a bookmark. This is, of course every library assistant's dream of a bookmark except that in the dream it is usually a £5 note.

For me, last week, the dream nearly came true. I was doing a routine stock-check and came across a book with a letter inside (another popular bookmark). As usual I opened up the letter to see whether it could be thrown away or whether it was important enough to be posted back to the owner. Inside the envelope was a cheque for £5!! It was returned to the owner who claimed to have been looking all over for it and was very relieved to have it back. ... so I'm still looking for my first £5 bookmark.

If you cannot afford to use £5 as a bookmark, before you turn down the corner of the page, or use a spent match please look round for something more suitable or use the fore front flap of the book jacket if there is one—it's quite effective.

J.H.

### FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

The Family Planning Clinic is open every Wednesday from 6-30 to 7-30 p.m. in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Dalton Way. A lady Doctor is **always** in attendance to advise and help with any problem that may arise. All enquiries are strictly confidential. Information may be had, and appointments made through Mrs. Wells, 55 Cumby Road, Tel. 249.

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## NEWTON AYCLIFFE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

The 'Newtonian' hasn't been overburdened with reports of the Rugby Club's activities this season, chiefly because, as soon as I put pen to paper and recall some of our recent performances, a feeling of acute nausea overcomes me. I'm not criticising the lads (much!) they do their best in the face of the greatest difficulties; but when a team is saddled with a lot of old (. . . .censored—Ed.) who call themselves a selection committee, what else can you expect?

Everybody knows that I ought to be playing for the first team, but with all this prejudice and bigotry at the top, it is influence that counts, not ability.

I do not want my readers to run away with the idea that we've done badly, although it must be admitted that some of the stuff served up as Rugby Football has been a bit ropey, for we have had some splendid games and have actually won two or three. But I am forgetting the main purpose of this piece. Will citizens of Newton Aycliffe please mark April 15th in their diaries for on this day we can promise you some real football. Our president Tom Rawle is busy gathering together some of the districts outstanding players with a number of guest internationals for what should be the biggest sporting attraction yet seen in Newton Aycliffe. All the details next month.

THIRD RESERVE.

## FRIENDS OF THE TOWN BAND

The Friends of the Town Band are meeting next at 15 Bede Crescent on Tuesday evening March 10th. In addition to planning to help with the May concert there will be guessing competitions and light refreshments. Newcomers are most welcome.

## GIRL GUIDES COFFEE EVENING

'Girl Guides' Local Association—the next coffee evening will be at 15 Bede Crescent on the evening of Tuesday, March 3rd. Parents of Brownies and Guides will be very welcome, as well as helpers; just come along.

## A CHANGE OF NAME?

Aycliffe Industrial Estate is not a name that rolls easily off the tongue, it lacks the pleasant sound and easy rhythm of its neighbours; Newton Aycliffe School, Aycliffe, Aycliffe Village. A shorter and more attractive description is required. The first that come to mind; 'Business Aycliffe', 'Commercial Aycliffe', 'Oakleaf Aycliffe' do not possess the necessary easy flow of words. The Industrial Estate should have a title that is instantly recognised; give a true word picture of its business; be easy to pronounce and rhythmical. The present postal address is:- Aycliffe Industrial Estate, near Darlington, Co. Durham. Much better were it known as 'so and so' Co. Durham and have an individuality.

The reason for seeking a change of name arose from a discussion on place names, it being suggested that a more pleasant sounding means of identification might be found. The few trying to find a solution were unable to reach a conclusion, so it was decided to consult the townspeople through the columns of the 'Newtonian' and obtain their ideas, for it is a reasonable assumption that someone in the town will be able to think of an apt title. Please give this question some thought and then send your suggestion to the editor.

## W.V.S. CHILDRENS HOLIDAY SCHEME

W.V.S. is appealing to any family who can give a child a holiday or offer hospitality for two weeks during the Easter or August holidays. You may find it hard to believe, but there are many children who would never have a holiday but for the kindness of those who take them into their homes during the summer, often they are the elder children who before they are in their teens are made responsible for looking after their younger brothers and sisters and for doing the housework and cooking. A child can have a wonderful time on a housing estate; it is not necessary to lay on elaborate entertainment, it is sufficient to be able to play in a garden, possibly with other children, and to be welcomed into the home. More hostesses are urgently needed and if you are interested in helping will you please get in touch with the W.V.S. Centre in Finchale Road.

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## Child Welfare Centre

Monday: 2 p.m.—3 p.m. Registrar

Wednesday: 2 p.m.—3 p.m. Registrar

The Registrar is also available as follows:-

Darlington Mon., Wed., Fri., and Sat—11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Sildon Tues., 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1-30 to 4 p.m.

„ Thursday 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

„ Sat., 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Darlington Address of Registrar :-

„ Craiglea, Uplands Road, Darlington.

## Child Welfare Clinic

As from December 2nd, 1963 sessions will be as follows :-

Tuesday, December 3rd and every alternate Tuesday

9-30 to 11-30 a.m. } Health Visitor Sessions :no doctor)  
1-30 to 4-00 p.m.

Alternate Tuesdays from December 10th

9-30 to 11-30 a.m. infant Injections

1-30 to 4-00 p.m. Ante Natal Clinic

Every Thursday

9-30 to 11-30 a.m. } Child Welfare Clinic

1-30 to 4-00 p.m.

Welfare foods are on sale at all the above sessions



## G.E.C. TO MAKE TELEPHONES IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

The General Electric Co. Ltd. has taken over factory premises on the Aycliffe Industrial Estate and already 150 people are producing telephone equipment there. By the end of this year it is anticipated that around 1,000 will be employed on this work.

The new Aycliffe Works will be the sixth production unit within the expanding G.E.C. group specializing in the design and production of telecommunication equipment; which includes everything from the domestic telephone to sophisticated, ultra high-frequency, radio-link networks. It is an industry of increasingly rapid growth.

The G.E.C. has made telephones since the turn of the century and has always been in the forefront of developments. Telephones were very much a novelty in those days and the equipment was only one of many more basic electrical devices to be manufactured at the Company's Works at Salford, Manchester. Then the Company began to produce telephone exchange equipment, hitherto always imported, and when the Post Office took over the country's telephone service in 1912, expansion became urgent. The 1914/18 war, with its new developments in rapid communication, increased both the scope and the urgency of the demand.

In 1920, a Works was established in Coventry, to concentrate entirely on telecommunications. A few key personnel came down from Coventry to establish production and within a year 1,500 people were employed. Today, in a district known principally as the centre of motor car manufacture, the G.E.C. is actually the biggest single employer of labour in the area. Over 15,000 are now on the Company's payroll and the industry has never suffered from seasonal variations that disturb car manufacture. In fact, the organisation is now so complex that another 'growing point,' or production unit, had to be found before further expansion could be undertaken. That new unit is Telephone Works, Aycliffe.

Following the previous pattern, only a minimum of key personnel will be transferred to the new Works, to bring the essential expertise and train those who have had no previous experience in this kind of work. For one thing, people with established homes are often loathe to move; for another, the space and personnel are needed urgently for further expansion in Coventry.

Less than a dozen people from Coventry are among the 150 already working at Aycliffe and another 24 families will be moving up very soon, but the Company hopes to find all the personnel it needs from those who live in the district.

The transfer of special plant and equipment from Coventry to Aycliffe will be carefully phased, to avoid disturbing vital production, but it is expected to be completed by the end of this year. As more people acquire the new skills and techniques the payroll will rise and it is hoped that 1,000 will be employed in the new factory by the end of 1964.

If the plans and negotiations already being developed mature satisfactorily, the number employed could rise within the next few years to between 3 and 4 thousand; and this is a stable industry, not usually subject to violent fluctuations. It is also an industry which employs more women than men; because the work is light and clean and best suited by deft fingers.

Two features quickly become known and respected wherever the G.E.C. becomes established; the quality of its products and its consideration for its workpeople.

The late Lord Hirst, one of the founders of the G.E.C., had an unshakable belief in respect for the individual. His trust in his fellow men is reflected today in the tremendous loyalty that is found

at all levels of this huge undertaking. There is a happy working atmosphere, a spirit of comradeship, and differences are ironed out before they develop into discords.

Aycliffe is the second production unit to be established in the north east by G.E.C. In 1947, a Works went into production in Middlesbrough, for the manufacture of cord-ends, coils, relays and subscribers' uniselectors. Also known as Telephone Works, this modern factory, surrounded by well-kept lawns and rose beds, now employs 1,000 people and will doubtless have its links with Aycliffe, for wherever G.E.C. people meet they set up social connexions and engage in friendly rivalry at sport.

And so the needle swings full circle. The manufacture of telephones, which started in the North half a century ago and emigrated South to the Midlands, returns once more to the North; but this time on the other side of the Pennines!

## NEWTON AYCLIFFE LABOUR PARTY (Neville Ward)

On Tuesday, 4th February, 1964, an extremely well attended Inaugural meeting of Neville Ward Labour Party was held in the Oak Tree Inn, Newton Aycliffe.

There was a wide range of discussion, from the Tory Party's position in Newton Aycliffe—which caused a great deal of amusement and merriment—to more serious problems such as the growth of the Town and Urbanisation.

Anyone interested in joining the Neville Ward Labour Party should contact the Secretary, Mr. George Shotton, 7 Hunter Road, Newton Aycliffe.

## BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

The Women's Section have a very interesting programme for March. On the 3rd we have a cookery demonstration given by the Electricity Board. This should prove of interest to all our members. March 13th brings us a concert party from Crook. This party have a good reputation and we look forward to an enjoyable evening. On the 31st we are holding our Birthday Party, an event we all look forward to. We hope to see as many members as possible at all these events.

T.M.F.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

24 WESTMORLAND WAY,  
NEWTON AYCLIFFE,

Sir,

May I through the Newtonian appeal to the residents of the New Town to keep their dogs off the roads, especially at school time. I am a Traffic Warden on one of the School Crossings and this morning there were no fewer than five dogs all running backwards and forwards across the main road and amongst the children. Most of the smaller children are terrified of these dogs and often run into the road, into the path of on-coming traffic to get away from the dogs. The Warden has enough to do to keep her eyes on the traffic, which is heavier at these times, owing to people going to and from work, and on the children, without having to worry about dogs. I hope that we do not have to wait until an accident occurs before something is done about it. I feel sure that the other wardens on the town have the same problem. So please "dog owners" look after your dogs and keep them off the roads.

D. A. NELSON, (Mrs.)

Sir,

May I on behalf of the Newton Aycliffe and District Round Table, express sincere thanks to the many people who contributed so generously to make the booksale held on Saturday, 25th January a success.

Over £36 was raised and in accordance with Round Table this will be directed towards local charity.

Several more ventures are planned for this year, when it is hoped everyone will respond in the same magnificent manner to help those people living in Newton Aycliffe who are less fortunate than most.

W. C. RAINE,  
*Newton Aycliffe Round Table.*

Sir,

With reference to the letter published in the February issue of "The Newtonian" in which a reader complains against the use of a footpath as a cycling track.

For two years this organisation has been agitating for positive action to be taken against the culprits but, to date, very little seems to have been done.

In fairness to the Development Corporation "NO CYCLING" notices have been placed at strategic points around the town but within days they have been removed or defaced.

More recently "NO CYCLING" notices have been painted on certain foot-paths and it is to be hoped that they will prove effective. At one time the Development Corporation had considered placing posts to limit paths to pedestrians only but these would have prevented the passage of perambulators with the obvious inconvenience to housewives when proceeding to or from the shopping areas.

Unfortunately the only really effective way seems to be for the police to apprehend and prosecute, the thoughtless offenders, but this can only be done when the foot-path is covered by local bye-laws.

The County Council, as Highway Authority, already have bye-laws relating to side walks on main roads but what is needed is positive action to bring into being a bye-law covering all footpaths in Newton Aycliffe.

Both the Development Corporation and the Great Aycliffe Parish Council have been contacted by this organisation and surely it is time that they took matters into their capable hands before as your correspondent states, it is too late and an accident is caused.

FREDERICK WARRENER,  
*Hon. Sec. Newton Aycliffe Tenants' Association.*



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## CHILDREN'S COLUMN

### BRINGING UP BLACKIE

When I found a baby starling that had fallen from its nest, I was warned that it would be difficult to raise. However, I couldn't leave it to die so I took it home to see what could be done.

First I tried giving it milk by means of an eye dropper. It accepted this greedily and begged for more. I wasn't sure what to do about food—I wasn't eager to dig for worms—but I tried it on pieces of scrambled egg and this seemed to suit it quite well. I found that the important thing was to push the food well down its beak so that it could swallow. I also had to remember not to overfeed it. A starling will always ask for more and can die from an overloaded stomach.

I found a deserted bird's nest in a hedgerow and put it into a forked branch which I then fastened to a flat board to keep it upright. This stood in a corner of my cottage sitting-room by the fire. Blackie, as I called the bird, settled down happily into his new nest and flourished on his egg and milk diet. As he grew he became very cheeky and self-confident. If I was reading a newspaper he would hop from his nest on to my foot, up my leg, and on to my knee, from where he would peck furiously at the newspaper squawking for attention.

All too soon Blackie grew from a fledgeling into a young bird and began to fly about the house. Though the door was often left open, he made no attempt to investigate the outside world and I began to think he would become a permanent member of the household. As a grown starling can make rather a mess in a small sitting-room I didn't welcome the idea but I hadn't the heart to turn him out.

At last the time for my annual holiday arrived and I had to make up my mind. I couldn't take Blackie with me, but I could hardly ask anyone else to mind him. He wasn't used to being caged and no-one I knew would want him loose in their house. The day before I left I put him, protesting noisily, into a box and carried him into the country. In a large field near some woods I opened the box and took him out. For a moment he stretched his neck and peered about him, beady eyed. Then with a flap of his wings and a goodbye squawk he soared off into the sky and disappeared from view.

I only hope he didn't find it too difficult to adjust himself to the natural life of a wild bird.

S. F. W.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FIRE STATION,  
NEWTON AYCLIFFE.

Sir,

On behalf of the Officers and men of this station, I would like to thank the people of the town and the surrounding villages for the wonderful support which was given to our appeal for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund.

The Grand Total raised during 1963 was £186 0s. 7d.

We would be very grateful if through the medium of the 'Newtonian' the public at large could be thanked for their grand support.

J. H. JONES.

### Advertising Pays!

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