



# THE NEWTONIAN

NEWTON AYCLIFFE COUNCIL OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

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Hon. Editor : Mr. R. T. GREENBANK, 17 Bede Crescent, Newton Aycliffe,  
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APRIL, 1964

## PERSONALITY OF THE TOWN No. 4



Mrs. Marjorie Spark, local press correspondent for three daily papers, "The Northern Echo," "The Northern Despatch," "The Evening Gazette," and one weekly, "The Auckland Chronicle" and being quite capable of making the 'sparks' fly when the occasion demands, assures me, that contrary to general usage there is no final "S" to her name,

A Kentish Maid by birth and a northerner by adoption, (her husband being a Darlingtonian) is amused but none

the less flattered to be chosen as this month's personality. To be interviewed was a curious experience, as the boot is always on the other foot.

Although not keen to return to the South she has an urge to travel, this urge still awaits satisfaction, for the last nineteen years have been spent in Co. Durham, seven in Durham City before coming to Newton Aycliffe in 1952. The restlessness of her nature is apparent from her varied career which started in domestic service, followed by a spell as a hospital receptionist, then for a complete change she took a job egg candling and grading (in the days before the little lion made his mark). The silent egg having little appeal the next step was a complete contrast; telephonist with the GPO, the strain of one extreme to the other proved too great, and in seeking the happy medium joined the American Red Cross. When the end of the war brought this job to a close she accepted the comparative quietitude of an office.

Marriage followed, and it seemed as if the future would be the usual "peaceful" life of the housewife. Then coming to live in Newton Aycliffe in its formative years with her small son and daughter, now in their teens, Mrs. Spark undertook the job of newspaper correspondent, and this of course gave her an interest in everything connected with the town. Soon after her arrival she joined the Newton Players, producing, stagemanaging, and acting; was also a committee member of the Townswomens Guild, the Community Association, and still retains the distinction of being the only woman member of the Gardens Guild Committee. Other committees and organizations for which she has worked, and still is working, are Oxfam, NACOLO, the Welcoming Party, and the Boys Club. In her job with newspapers it is essential to give the utmost publicity to all local activities and matters that affect the town. "The Northern Despatch" carries her Newton Aycliffe View column every Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Spark dislikes to hear the town referred to as an "estate" "It is a town" she says "and it is individual." She also considers it time that commercial enterprise came in to provide social amenities on a large scale for the young, the in-betweens, and the senior citizens of Newton Aycliffe. Ten Pin Bowling, Swimming Baths,

and a Theatre-cum-Dance Hall with a Cafeteria. Perhaps with continual plugging through the press these ideas may become concrete facts; if they do you can, to a great extent, thank Marjorie Spark.

Editor.

## NEVILLE MALE VOICE CHOIR

The membership now numbers 53 and the choir is stronger than ever before and it is expected to increase this figure during the next few months. The Treasurer reports that the choir is financially sound mainly due to functions and jumble sale during the past year. Mr. C. Grahame, the conductor for the past years considers that the Celebrity Concert given in November last was technically the best ever but considers that if improvement is to be made much hard work lies ahead... Miss Norma Proctor; contralto, has been engaged as one of the soloists in the Annual Celebrity Concert to be given on November, 21st., and negotiations are proceeding for a second singer. The programme for the concert will be decided upon in the very near future and then intensive practice will commence. Among the many people moving into the town there must be a number of men with an ear for music and a desire to express their feelings in song, to them is extended a sincere invitation to join the choir, and it is pointed out that this is the right time so that new people can practice with long standing members and learn the new numbers together.

J.T.R.

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**EDITORIAL****Traffic Census.**

The Traffic Census which has been underway since the beginning of February, has in some way or another affected every adult in the town and the organisers wish to thank the residents who have co-operated in every way with the investigation.

Newton Aycliffe is unique in that the shopping census is the first of its type to be carried out in the British Isles.

The questionnaire sent by post forms a very important part of the survey because it gives information of journeys within the town. An appeal is made to those who have not yet returned the form to do so as soon as possible. The factual information required relates to your travel habits on a typical working week day morning; The exact day on which you complete the form is not too important.

The interviews with both shoppers and drivers were completed without mishap although one lady objected to being asked where she shopped for childrens clothes when in fact she was unmarried! Another refused because she suspected T.V.s Candid Camera. A driver, in a car (which would be described by small boy's as "smashing") accompanied by a "blonde" (of whom their elders would use the same adjective) on being asked whether his journey was for business or pleasure raised his eyebrows high enough for them to disappear beneath his hat, thus rendering the continuation of the question superfluous.

Now that your needs are known the designing team can proceed with the master plan for the expansion of Newton Aycliffe in the light of facts related to your travel and shopping habits. They can design a town which will be fit for future traffic conditions and also safeguard the amenities for residents of all ages.

Editor.

**GIRL GUIDES LOCAL ASSOCIATION**

Mothers of Guides and Brownies as well as the members are invited to the next coffee evening which will be at 7 Kemble Green North, by kind invitation of Mrs. Clements, from 7-30 p.m. on Thursday April 30th.

**"WANT ANY HOME MADE CAKES?"**

If so, buy them in aid of the Guides and Brownies on Saturday April, 18th. during the Over Sixties coffee morning (by their kind permission) at the Club in Dalton Way.



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**TOWNSWOMENS GUILD**

Two dates to remember in April are the 6th and 18th, the first for the usual meeting in the Beveridge Hall, the second for the April Fayre which will be held in the Boy's Club Central Avenue, 10-30 a.m. On the stalls there will be books, including childrens, home-made cakes and biscuits, groceries, garden produce, needlework, and a 1/- dip, from which you can be sure to get good value for your money. Coffee and biscuits will be served during the morning and the Fayre is open to everybody. There will be NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION. Please call and see us on your way to the town centre. Make a note of the date Saturday, April 18th. from 10-30 a.m.

Mrs. Gunter of Newton Aycliffe will be the speaker on the night of April 6th. she is to talk to the members on "Drama Production" a subject of wide possibilities, and of particular interest to the guild's drama group. There should be many entries for the competition which is seasonal, the Prettiest Easter Card. Mrs. Corner will, we hope be kept busy at the sales table with home made items, the proceeds will boost the April Fayre funds.

**STOP PRESS**

Townswomens Guild. Speaker: May 4th Mrs. Johnson. Subject: Millinery.

May 4th. the speaker for this meeting is given in the stop press of this edition. The sales table will be Stationery: and what a wide variety is now available, pretty cards for all occasions small note books with most attractive covers, flower post-cards, notelets, picture postcards, table napkins, and doylies, If the majority of members support this we shall have a sales table worthy of the name. The Guild Drama Group will entertain during the social half hour with the performance of a one-act play.

Mrs. Greenbank wishes to thank all T.G. members and their friends who helped to make her coffee morning and evening so very successful.

M.M.G.

**NEWTON PLAYERS**

Rehearsals are in progress for the end of season play "Miranda", a comedy by Peter Blackmore. How would you like your husband to bring home a mermaid? Paul Marten, the 'hero' in the play did. What happened then and what followed the initial impact of this strange intrusion on family life is sure to dissipate the evening 'blues'. Is your husband a fisherman? If he is this situation is quite likely to happen to you, and could you cope better than Clare, Paul's wife. One way to find out is to come and see for yourself. "Miranda" will be staged in the Beveridge Hall on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 6th. 7th 8th. The 'Players' experienced great pleasure to present the panto "Sleeping Beauty" to the patients of the Aycliffe Hospital on Saturday, March 7th. and appreciation is expressed to the Hospital Staff for their co-operation, kind assistance, and a most enjoyable supper.

We had anticipated that the Hospital performance would be the final but in response to an appeal made by a representative of St. Mary's Orphanage, Tudhoe, who was present at Aycliffe Hospital it has been agreed to repeat the 'swan song' of this years pantomime. Please remember that a welcome awaits anyone interested in the Newton Players, at the 'Hut' behind the Beveridge Hall, every Thursday evening at 8 p.m.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In June 1962 a section of the tenants of Lee Green petitioned the Development Corporation to have their front area's enclosed. This was done not only to create privacy and beautify the Green, but to produce uniformity in all the houses surrounding Lee Green. Due entirely to the efforts of the Tenants Association this has at last been done. I would like to express my gratitude to the Association for their prolonged efforts which resulted in satisfaction for a small section of the community. May I also draw the attention of both the Development Corporation and my fellow 'Newtonians' to the clause in the tenancy agreement which relates to the general upkeep of gardens — much needs to be done before some of the plots of land in this town can be called gardens.

A.M.

Dear Sir,

Short and straight to the point, two things this town needs—a day nursery where mothers can leave their children on wash days, and a bowling green where they can leave their husbands in the summer evenings.

Harassed Housewife.

## CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU NEEDS INTERVIEWERS

The NEWTON AYCLIFFE branch of the Citizen's Advice Bureau is urgently in need of voluntary workers to assist with interviewing, on rota, or to assist with the varied clerical duties involved in running this type of organisation.

The bureau is aptly named, for here the people of our town are able to come for advice and authoritative information on most of the problems that beset them — interpretation of various rules and regulations, hire purchase agreements, and personal problems, such as pensions etc. Full information will also be furnished about legal aid and advice schemes and interviews arranged with solicitors on the legal aid advice panel.

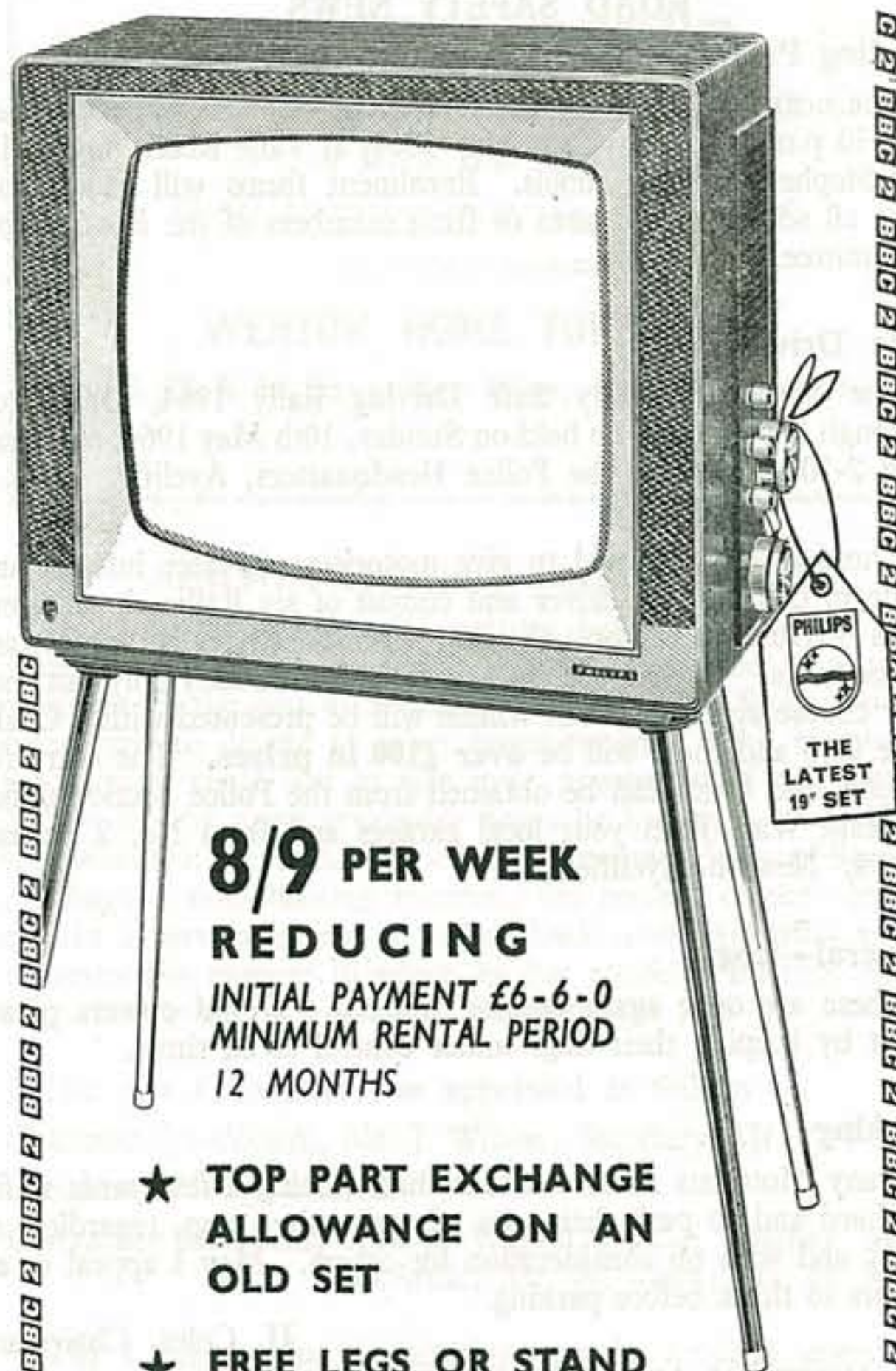
This is a most rewarding type of voluntary work and the most essential qualification is the capacity to treat all interviews and information as strictly confidential.

It is a service which should appeal to married women who have done a professional or secretarial job and are now available to do interviewing and / or clerical work for one or two sessions weekly.

A form of application can be obtained from the Secretary :-

Mr. R. Moore, 10 Watson Road, Newton Aycliffe.  
which should be returned to him as soon as possible.

The bureau has a strong supporting committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. T. E. SIBBALD, 1 Carileph Close, NEWTON AYCLIFFE, which includes representatives of the local Authority, Churches and Voluntary Organisations.

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**FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION**

The Family Planning Clinic is open every Wednesday from 6-30 p.m. 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 244.



## ROAD SAFETY NEWS

## Cycling Proficiency

The next Children's Cycling Proficiency Course will commence at 6-30 p.m. on Friday, 8th May 1964, at Vane Road, Sugar Hill and Stephenson Way schools. Enrolment forms will be available from all schools in the area or from members of the Road Safety Committee.

## Safe Driving Rally

The Durham County Safe Driving Rally 1964, Darlington Borough Section, will be held on Sunday, 10th May 1964, commencing 2-30 p.m. from the Police Headquarters, Aycliffe.

These Rallies are held to give motorists a greater interest and pride in being a safe driver and consist of six Rallies in different areas of Durham County; the first ten of each rally go forward to the finals. Drivers are allowed to enter one rally only but they may choose any area. The winner will be presented with a Challenge Cup and there will be **over £100 in prizes**. The entry fee is 2/6d. and forms can be obtained from the Police Section Office at Pease Way, from your local garages and from No. 2 Aylmer Grove, Newton Aycliffe.

## General—Dogs

These are once again causing concern. Would owners please assist by keeping their dogs under control at all times.

## Parking

Many Motorists must consider that walking a few yards is far too hard and so park their cars wherever they stop, regardless of safety and with no consideration for others. May I appeal to all drivers to think before parking.

H. Coles, Chairman,

NEWTON AYCLIFFE ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE.

## NEWTON AYCLIFFE MOTOR CLUB

It's sack-cloth and ashes all round this month, a large helping for yours truly to begin with; in last month's issue I said that the Harold Taylor Trophy for 1963 was awarded to messrs. R. Adamson and J. Snowdon, this should have read Messrs. R. Adamson and F. Charlton, my apologies to both parties. The second helping of the afore mentioned "S-C" and "A" goes to the "Newtonian" for not publishing the photograph of our "Dragon Rally" lads braving that beastly black stuff that seems to be all over the place at 4 a.m. yes A.M. (*Picture so dark reproduction on small scale impossible Ed.*) However, by the time you read this the photograph will be available on club nights. It seems a bit ironical that the main subject of the photograph in question is once again F. Charlton. I just can't do 'nuffin' right.

The brightest star on the immediate horizon is the return to the old system of Newtonian delivery, the volunteers, bless 'em. This prompts me to mention our first road trial which is to be held on the 1st of April. First man away from the Town Centre Car Park at 7-30 p.m. prompt and having had a say in the route myself I can promise you a good run (considering the date that is). Before I close, I must tell you a story I came across the other day.

"A woman driver came round a corner rather fast and shouted "PIG" to a driver coming in the opposite direction. This innocent driver was furious. He wound down his window, shook his fist at the lady and shot round the corner... to damage his radiator on a large pig that was sleeping in the middle of the road..."

Be seeing you, ERIC.

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## GOOD NEWS FROM NORTH EAST ENGLAND.

Government's Industrial Estates are very busy.

1. At the 31st January the Industrial Estates Management Corporation for England had 23 building projects under construction in the North East for the Board of Trade at a cost of £2,000,000.
2. Within the next two to three months practically all this work will be completed. The five largest factories which will then be ready for occupation are — 100,000 sq. ft. for F. Perkins Ltd. of Peterborough, at Thinford, Spennymoor: 80,000 sq. ft. for David Brown Industries Ltd. on the Pallion Estate, Sunderland: 90,000 sq. ft. for E. N. V. Engineering Co. Ltd. on the Aycliffe Estate: 50,000 sq. ft. for Crane Ltd. at Aycliffe: and 30,000 sq. ft. for Tallent Engineering Ltd. at Aycliffe. At the end of June the 80,000 sq. ft. factory for Pitch Fibre Pipes Ltd. at the Harlepoons will also be complete.
3. There are now 27 further projects being planned for starting dates within the next three to six months. These projects will provide 900,000 sq. ft. of new factory space. 75% of this space is for existing firms and is evidence that the firms concerned have done well in the North East. This should encourage other new firms to come.
4. It is confidentially expected that by the second half of 1964 the total space under construction for the Board of Trade will have increased from 900,000 sq. ft. to 1½ million sq. ft. i.e. **twice** what is now nearing completion (see para. 1.). The cost of such a programme would be over £4,000,000.
5. In addition several firms are at present building premises on the Estates at their own cost: a total of approximately £1,750,000. Further projects of this kind are expected.
6. Work to which this note refers is estimated to provide 10,000 new jobs.
7. Employment on the Industrial Estates and sites (including in factories purchased or built at the cost of occupiers) was 69,000 at the end of January 1964. This is 11,500 more than on the 1st April 1960 — the date of the Local Employment Act.

At the present rate of growth employment is expected to rise to 75,000 by the end of 1964, over 80,000 by the end of 1965, and be nearing 100,000 in 1968/9.



## OXFORD COMMITTEE FOR FAMINE RELIEF

The recent appeal to the townspeople to provide clothing for the needy was an outstanding success, and as local secretary of Oxfam I should like to express grateful thanks to all who gave so generously, and to the following individuals and organisations who helped with the actual collection, sorting, storage and transportation of the full sacks to the Oxfam depot in Manchester :-

St. Clare's Church and Youth Club.  
 St. Mary's Catholic Church.  
 St. John's Ambulance Cadets.  
 The Methodist Church and Youth Club.  
 The Salvation Army.  
 The Boy's Brigade.  
 The Townswomen's Guild.  
 The Newton Aycliffe Boy's Club.  
 The Territorial Army Cadets.  
 The 1st. and 2nd. Newton Aycliffe Boy Scouts, and Girl Guides.  
 The Young Conservatives, and Young Socialists.  
 Mr. Sydney Wood.  
 Mr. T. W. Cracknell (Darlington).

Many schools held Oxfam collections, and to them and all who have given generously throughout the year I can but say "Thank you". And special congratulations must go to Mr. John Maw for his splendid hike from Alnwick to Newton Aycliffe during which he collected £20 for Oxfam.

Oxfam has decided to initiate a Quarterly Box Collection in the town to swell the subscriptions already being sent by the residents. Will any reader who would like to have a collecting box in their house please contact me at 46 Gilpin Road. Oxfam relief is normally distributed through such organizations as Salvation Army, Catholic and Friends Relief Services, Anglican and Methodist Missions and the Red Cross. From each 1/- donated only 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. is expended on administration and fund raising activities, the remaining 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. reaches those in need of help.

J.R.

## APOLOGY

Being inundated with copy for the April edition it is regretted that some items must be carried forward to the May edition, this is absolutely unavoidable and apologies are extended to the contributors.

Note to contributors — please write your name and address on your copy; when a query crops up, a name and no address is of little use. The Editor asks; that so far as is possible will every contributor please have their copy typed. Will J. E. Sanders please let the Editor have his address.

## Thought for the month

*The world is full of willing people; some willing to work the rest willing to let them.*

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## NEWTON AYCLIFFE ARCHERY CLUB

At our 4th Annual General meeting, held recently in the Moore Lane Sports Clubhouse, Mr. J. Nelson announced his intention of giving up the post of Secretary to the Archery Section to allow more time to devote to other commitments. The members of the section would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Nelson for the many invaluable hours he has given to us and for the meticulous way he has carried out the onerous duties of Secretary. Although a non-shooting member, the success of the section is due in a very large extent to his 'back room' activities and the conscientious manner in which he has attended matches both at home and away. Once again 'Many thanks Joe.'

The new Committee was appointed as follows:

Chairman (re-elected), Mr. J. Wilson; Secretary, Mr. T. Pinkney; Treasurer, Mr. J. Nelson.

Committee Members; Mrs. A. Walton; Mrs. E. Pinkney; Mrs. E. McArdle; Mr. N. Clark; Mr. H. Walton.

The Chairman in his opening speech, touched upon many facets appertaining to the past season's activities mentioned that the membership of the Section had substantially increased and was pleased to note that the finances were in a healthy condition. He congratulated Mr. Bob Freeman's success in being chosen to shoot for the County Team and Mr. Tom Pinkney for gaining a 6 Gold Medal. At the 1963 Tees-side Championships, Bob Freeman became the New Tees-side Champion and the Newton Aycliffe team became the Tees-side Champion Team.

Two important fixtures have been arranged on the Sports Club field:

Sunday 16th August Inter-County Match.

Sunday 13th September The 1964 Tees-side Championships.

Three more shoots are being arranged, including a Novelty Shoot, but the dates have not yet been fixed. Members of the public are invited to these shoots which should prove to be very exciting as some of the finest archers in the area will be participating. Binoculars or telescopes would be helpful as the ranges are 100yds., 80yds., 60yds. and 50yds.

It was decided at the meeting that, owing to the increase in membership, the following conditions would apply to intending Junior members. The minimum age limit would remain at 10yrs. but is now restricted to the children of members of the Sports Club only. The Club's archery equipment was maltreated last year and we regret that juniors, after having one 'free shoot' and being given advice regarding equipment, must purchase their own bow, arrows etc. We strongly advise against buying equipment before taking advice regarding bow weight and arrow length.

E.P.



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## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. CLARE.

Two important events this month which only occur annually. On the 3rd. there will be the Annual Vestry and Parochial Meetings at 7-30 p.m. At these, Churchwardens and Church Councillors are elected, the accounts are presented, reports given and plans for the future discussed. All parishioners are invited, but only those who have added their names to the Electoral Roll (particulars at Church) may vote. Then on Tuesday 28th the Lord Bishop of Jarrow will conduct a Confirmation Service at 7-0 p.m. We hope to have about fifty persons Confirmed at this service and we are looking forward to welcoming them into the full membership of the Church.

Other important gatherings are every Sunday at 9-0 and 11-0 a.m. and 6-30 p.m. and during the week according to times given on the notice boards.

The Womens' Fellowship, is one of our organisations which meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. It begins with a short service which is followed by an item of special interest to women e.g. a demonstration, or film, or display, really it is surprising what a variety of programmes are presented. A sincere welcome awaits new members including, of course, newcomers to our Town.

J.J.G.

## NEWTON AYCLIFFE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

Early in April it is hoped to resume the weekly swimming lessons for the children, and on Saturday yet to be announced there will be a Jumble Sale and Coffee Morning. Posters will be displayed throughout the town giving the full details. On Tuesday April 7th there will be a Coffee Morning at the home of Mrs. Hill, 11 Malling Green, who extends a welcome to everyone.

M.H.

## RENT INCREASES

The Corporation has received a number of enquiries as to the reason for the recent increase in house and garage rents, and it has been thought advisable to publish the following statement explaining the reasons for the increases :-

When rents were last increased in 1961 the point was made that if costs and interest rates maintained the then current trends the housing revenue account would be in considerable deficit by 1964.

The position has not eased; indeed the reasons for the increase in rents in April 1964 are much the same as those which brought about the 1961 increases, i.e.:

1. Wage rates in the building trade have risen by approximately 22% average since 1961.
2. Price increases in building materials have exceeded 5% average in the same period.
3. Interest rates have continued at the same high level.

These increases not only affect the costs of new construction, but also of house repair and the maintenance of greens and amenities in the town generally; indeed repairs and maintenance are affected to a greater extent because the labour element is generally greater in such works.

It is on these grounds that the Corporation, in common with virtually all new towns and local authorities in Britain operates a rent pool and in this way spreads the burden of increased costs over all houses in the town.

To alleviate any exceptional cases of hardship, the Corporation has instituted a rent rebate scheme and details of the scheme have been circulated to each tenant for information.

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**511 COY RASC (MOT AMB) (TA)**

We are now getting round to the elegance of the "BARNARD ARMOURY", our recruiting figures are rising and our activities are proceeding apace.

During April we have booked BATTLE HILL Ranges, near BOWES for the 5th and 12th to give as many as possible a chance to fire their Range Classification as well as driving instruction and Motor Cycle training. There will be an Exercise for Officers at YORK on 11th and 12th April.

150 (N) Tpt Comn, HULL, are holding a 2-day Exercise on 18th and 19th April, and this Company will be taking part and set up HQ at GANDALE Camp in WENSLEYDALE, and carry out their role as Motor Ambulance Company.

On 25th April, we have invited the RASC Recruiting and Display Team and besides setting up a Recruiting Display, we will hold an "At Home", followed by a Social Evening.

To encourage social activities at the Barnard Armoury the following committee has been appointed:-

Cpl	Miskelly	Newton Aycliffe
L/Cpl	Meredith	" "
Pte	Peach	" "
L/Cpl	Willesden	" "

**FRIENDS OF THE TOWN BAND**

Several members could not attend the March meeting as the Band was giving a concert in Shildon on that date. The competition prizes were won by Mrs. Pluse and Mrs. Bruton. Will those who were absent please note that the next social evening is to be at Mrs. Bell's house, 20 Baliol Green, on Tuesday April 14th. Just come along . . . we are helping with the arrangements for the concert in May.

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**CORPORATION NOTES****No Parking**

Tenants and their visitors are reminded that cars must not be parked in garage enclosures so as to block the entry for the tenants of the garages in question. In most cases there is a painted sign on the roadway, but in any case it should be obvious that the approaches must be left clear. May we also appeal to drivers not to park their vehicles at the end of a flagged path across a verge, as this forces all pedestrians to walk over the grass and thus wear it out.

**Newly sown grass**

May we again appeal to residents to help the new grass to grow by restraining children from playing on newly sown greens and verges and by refraining from crossing them until they have been cut for the first time by the Corporation.

**Lodgings**

With the welcome growth of the Industrial Estate the Corporation is receiving more and more requests from employers to find temporary lodgings for their employees, both male and female. If any tenants have a spare room and would be willing to take in a boarder for at any rate a limited period, would they please let the Housing Manager know. The Corporation leaves tenants to make their own financial arrangements with lodgers.

**NEWTONIAN DISTRIBUTION**

The team of voluntary distributors is doing an excellent job and it is hardly likely that any house is being omitted but it is just possible that an awkwardly placed one might be missed. Should you know of such a house not getting a copy of the Newtonian each month will you please let the Editor have the address.



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**CITIZENS  
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**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

at

**Community Centre, Finchale Road.  
Open twice per week Wednesday and Friday  
2-30 to 3-30 p.m. and 7-30 to 8-30 p.m.**

**NEWTON AYCLIFFE TENANTS' ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held in the upstairs room of the 'Oak Tree' at 7-30 p.m.  
on Tuesday 25th February 1964.**

The Chairman (Mr. G. Kimber) gave a review of the years work, giving a brief outline of the varied cases dealt with by the Committee. Good co-operation with the Development Corporation had been maintained (and it is to be hoped that this will continue). All cases brought to the Corporation's notice had received prompt attention, not always to the complete satisfaction of the complainant perhaps, but decisions were just and reasons for refusal were always stated clearly. (Invariably with a promise that the case would be reviewed if circumstances changed.)

Rent increases were discussed, The Development Corporation would be approached with a request for a statement setting out the reasons for the increases, and why they were considered necessary. (*Full Statement on another page. Ed.*)

Reports of vandalism by youngsters, dog nuisances and, more recently, stray cat nuisances were debated. A member present expressed a desire that a more definite line be followed and that the vandals should be prosecuted. The Chairman, in reply, stated that the police were doing their utmost but that their hands were invariably tied. In most, if not all, of the cases of vandalism and domestic animal nuisances the blame could be placed at the doors of the parents and owners. These tenants must assist by carrying out stricter controls over their children and domestic pets and not be oblivious to the inconvenience they cause to their neighbours and fellow tenants.

The Chairman expressed regret that more members had not attended the Annual General Meeting. In his opinion it certainly was not apathy, as Committee Members had met much enthusiasm during their subscription collecting rounds. The Chairman also said that members should not become too complacent in their outlook; it was, and always had to be, a go-ahead organisation. Members are asked to look around for improvements, suggestions etc., and approach their nearest Committee Member to discuss any points which they consider interesting enough to bring to the notice of the Development Corporation.

After the Treasurer's report, which showed a healthy balance, the Chairman said that it had been decided to reduce the yearly subscription, instead of investing the surplus, as it was felt that there was no purpose in accumulating a large reserve fund. Sufficient

funds were held to pay for any legal costs which may possibly arise in the defence of any tenant/member.

Members were again reminded of rule 10 in their membership rules which states that matters to be dealt with by the executive committee **MUST** first have been presented to the appropriate authority by the member concerned, before any action can be taken.

Members were still complaining of thoughtless acts of parking in narrow streets. This is of course a matter for the police but residents are reminded that it is an offence to obstruct and that a little thought will save a lot of bother. The Development Corporation had constructed lay bys which should be used wherever possible.

F.A.W.

**LIBRARY**

Thoughts of summer seem to come earlier every year. It seems no sooner do you finish the Christmas pudding than someone starts talking of making plans for the summer holidays. By the end of January the majority of people are already booked up and just waiting for the summer and sunshine.

As there is not a travel agency in Newton Aycliffe it may be of interest to many people to know that the library has a selection of holiday guides which are available on short loan. Although the selection we have is not yet comprehensive we do have guides for resorts both in this country and abroad.

If your holiday is being taken abroad this year and you are already all booked up, you may well want to read up on the areas you will be visiting. Travel books are available from the library, and if we don't have anything in stock on the place which you are visiting we will make every effort to obtain something. Guides (such as "Fodor's") can also be made available.

Changing the subject completely I should like to take this opportunity of mentioning the "Recent Additions" list which we produce at the library every month. This list has become extremely popular in the last couple of months - a fact which we find very gratifying. However, inherent in this popularity are one or two drawbacks. Inevitably some of the more popular books gather long waiting lists for themselves, and since we seldom have duplicates of new non-fiction this means that some readers will be waiting a long time for some of the books which they have requested. I can only add that all requests are recorded and that no-one need think that we have or will forget them.

We have started to issue a small book-mark/reminder with books which have waiting lists. This asks readers to try and return the book before the date due. It would be greatly appreciated both by me and all those other readers lower down the waiting list if this could be done.

S.H.

**HAVE YOU BOOKED MAY 13th?**

On that Wednesday evening remember that the Ladies Choir and the Town Band are combining to give a concert in aid of "Oxfam". An added attraction will be comic monologues by the Choir's President, Miss Eileen Young. Watch out for posters with the details.

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## R.A.F. ASSOCIATION NEWS



The Annual General Meeting of the Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association was held during February at the Canopus Club. The meeting was very well attended and a number of friend members were also present. Those who attended were welcomed by the Secretary Mr. Ron Manning, who stated that he was delighted to see so many friends taking an interest in what was going on both in the club and branch.

Nothing of major importance was discussed, the meeting being rather uneventful. Mr. Bert Cornley, Welfare Officer, asked for assistance during the forthcoming Wings Week Campaign, and gave an outline of the welfare work performed over the last year. As one chap said, "These Annual General Meetings follow the same pattern. If the place is going down the 'nick' you have a stormy meeting. If the place is going on wheels, no one has anything to say". Pearls of wisdom indeed.

Officers elected were Mr. B. T. Chisholm, President, Mr. C. Attwood and Mr. J. Hobson, Vice Presidents, Mr. W. Carr, Chairman, Mr. A. Belton, Vice Chairman, Mr. C. E. Manning, Hon. Secretary, Mr. K. Hancock, Treasurer, and Welfare Officer Mr. Bert Cornley. Mr. G. Smith was appointed Battle of Britain organiser, and Mr. H. Naylor in charge of Wings Day Collections. A full list of committee will be displayed on the notice board in the entrance to the Canopus Club.

One night recently, we sat in the Queens Lounge, our topic of conversation being 'air force days'. Someone said, "They're cutting all the bull nowadays. It's not the same anymore". For the uninitiated, the expression 'bull', as any ex-serviceman will tell you, covers a vast field, taking in ones actions, duties, and most important of all, ones personal appearance. 'Bull' covers all aspects of air force life, from sweeping ones bed space, making a neat blanket pack, spit and polished boots, cleaning pots and irons, pressing pants, hair cuts, saluting, doing billet orderly, room jobs, cleaning and squaring webbing up, cleaning your 'gun', polishing brasses, and making frequent use of the word 'Sir'. It is really most remarkable that after all that lot, the R.A.F. even had time to do any flying. Smashing! I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

A poster appeared on the club notice board the other week which read as follows :- "For Sale, three genuine glider engines, cheap if quick sale." One or two chaps standing by thought the poster very humorous. Nits, if these glider engines are really so cheap, they could be a bargain for someone. Never look a gift horse in the mouth, thats what I say. (Many thanks to Mr. Paul Sharpe for his witty poster, at least it made some people look at the notice board).

A welcome newcomer to the branch is Mr. Norman S. Roe, of 2 Wheler Green, Newton Aycliffe, who joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1915. Mr. Roe sports the service number 8276. When I first met Norman, I had to ask him if he had forgotten the rest of this number. Mr. Roe must have been one of those who were in the air force when 1250's weren't needed, there were so few of them they all knew each other! Good to have you with us Norman.

H.G.S.

### NOTES :-

The Newton Aycliffe Branch of the R.A.F.A. has increased its membership for the fifth year running, and because of this, the branch will be awarded a silver certificate at the next Area Annual Conference.

## NEWTON AYCLIFFE AND DISTRICT BRANCH PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

A Spring Fayre, our main event of the year, is to be held on Saturday April 25th at the Over Sixty Club and will be opened by Lady Starmer at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1-50 p.m.). Among the many attractions will be stalls of Home Baked Cakes and Pastries, Grocery, Handicrafts, Toys, Remnants, Handkerchiefs and many others. Side Shows and Competitions carrying some excellent prizes, the majority of which have been donated, will add to the entertainment. Tickets for the Draw, (in which 20 prizes can be won), that will take place at the Fayre are now on sale from members and the committee at 6d. each. Admission to the Fayre will be by ticket or at the door at a modest cost of 6d. There will be something for everyone, young or old, so please come along and be sure of an enjoyable afternoon, regardless of rain or shine, and you will also be aiding a very good cause.

We give our grateful thanks to the Neville Male Voice Choir, and the Newton Aycliffe Ladies Choir, who provided a splendid concert on March 13th and to Mrs. Clark and her helpers who organized a Fashion Parade on March 19th. These good people too numerous to mention individually gave their time and talent freely to aid our funds.

The members are now looking forward to a performance of the "Gondoliers" on April 10th.

A welcome is extended to any physically handicapped person who wishes to attend our meetings held every alternate Friday at 7 p.m. in the Marlowe Hall School, the next being April 24th. Further information can be had from any member, or the Secretary, Mrs. Crake, 45 Eden Road, Telephone 772.

M.C.

## A GUN CLUB

Mr. Karl Roe is desirous of starting a Gun Club in Newton Aycliffe and asks all enthusiasts who think upon the same lines to contact him at his home address 39 Stephenson Way. Space does not permit the full aims and intentions of the club in this issue. Fuller details will be given in the following edition.

### 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.  
 Shildon 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





**NEWTON AYCLIFFE  
BLOOD DONOR PANEL**

## **Important Notice**

Due to continuing expansion the panel will in future hold four sessions each year and each donor should have received a letter explaining the re-organisation.

**MORE NEW DONORS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED—Will you be one of them and come along to the Boy's Club, Woodhead Hall, Central Avenue, on FRIDAY, 17th APRIL, 1964 between the hours of 2-30 and 4-30 or 5-0 to 7-0 p.m.**

*For further particulars write to or call on—*

**MRS. A. B. JENNINGS, Hon. Local Organiser,  
6 LOWERY ROAD, NEWTON AYCLIFFE**

### **NEWTON AYCLIFFE YOUNG CONSERVATIVES**

To a great number of people the word politics has little meaning or interest, but I suspect that deep down we know that it should mean more to us than it does. We all like to air our views on different subjects, and as long as we have an attentive audience, we talk all night!

During the day we have little time to dwell on subjects other than the work we do, and the most important things that concern us are left to come out at some later time. These are, in fact, politics of the kind that have a bearing on our daily lives and on the way the country is to be run in the future. These matters are of VITAL importance today, particularly during the TV era, when the lives of TV personalities mean more to us than the decisions taken in the House of Parliament! We do know that these decisions are important, particularly when they concern ourselves financially.

It is up to all the younger people to avail themselves of knowledge concerning our wellbeing and the future way we are to live. To this end there exists in NEWTON AYCLIFFE a very successful Young Conservative Party. They have been in existence for about two months and their meeting place the Iron Horse Hotel. Since its formation and through the hard work of the Secretary, Miss Betty Eyre, and other helpers, things have gone well since its beginning. The evenings commence with a talk or a showing of Civil Defence films etc. Visits to breweries, fire stations, factories and bowling alleys have all been carried out and the future programmes are very interesting. In fact politics are NOT the main theme of any meeting, but because of the nature of the association an interest is taken concerning 'whats going on' in the Conservatives.

After the first half hour or so, the record player comes into action, drinks are served, the Beatles are placed in position, and the rest of the evening is your own!

You will meet your friends there, and sections from Darlington, Middleton-St.-George, Ferryhill, etc. attend on most nights. Just pop along on Monday evenings, or check with Betty Eyre (Newton Aycliffe 702), bring your records, and your ideas, and you will get all the help you want to plan your summer programme with the Young Conservatives.

There will be a Dance for all Young Conservatives and their friends at the Gretna Wedding Inn on 10th April 1964 from 9 p.m.

to 1 a.m. Tickets 5/- each single. The fabulous Tempests will beat it out.

Tickets available at 31 Vane Road, or at all Young Conservative meetings at the Iron Horse on Mondays at 8-0 p.m. also 10 Bruce Road, Newton Aycliffe.

W.K.E.

### **WOMANS COLUMN**

How fashions change! and I don't mean clothes; without our really noticing things which were unheard of 15 to 20 years ago and are now part and parcel of everyday life. Thinking on these lines one thing that comes to mind is "Coffee mornings", these social get togethers have to a great extent taken the place of Sales of Work. In these days it is much more friendly to visit a private house or small public hall, meet friends and neighbours and welcome newcomers to the district; have a cup of coffee, a biscuit, a cigarette, or both depending on personal taste.

Often there is a sales table with quite interesting things displayed; whether one buys or not is up to the individual, but one thing is certain . . . coffee mornings are a very popular method of raising money, whether for charity or an organization in need of a little extra in it's 'kitty' and no-one need ever feel bashful about going alone, for that person will not remain alone for very long for everyone joins in the conversation and the hostess or her helpers introduce newcomers all round. How much easier it is to spread ones spending throughout the year instead of all in one fell swoop at an annual 'sale of work'. Although Easter will just have passed when you read this you may like to be reminded of the origin of easter eggs, which started with fertility rites lost in antiquity. Our present Easter egg custom was popularised by a German influence the Prince Consort introducing an elaboration of the English custom of distributing "pace" or "pasche" (the Latin for Easter) eggs decorated by vegetable dyes. King Edward VII gave Queen Alexandra the most lavish bejewelled eggs at Easter and thus set the fashion for the exotic creations we see in the shops to-day. It is also recorded that Edward's predecessor, also an Edward, in 1307 had 450 eggs boiled hard and covered with gold leaf at a total cost of eighteen pence; a far cry from the prices of 1964. An odd fact—the British Parliament passed an act in 1928 providing for the stabilising of Easter on the Sunday following the second Saturday in April. This was to come into force on a date to be fixed by Order in Council. 1964 . . . 36 years later, and still no date has been fixed.

### **County Recipe . . . Devonshire Potato Cake**

#### **Ingredients:-**

1 lb. boiled and sieved potatoes. 2 oz. butter. 2oz. sugar. 2oz. dried fruit. 6oz. self raising flour pinch of cinnamon.

#### **Method:-**

Sieve the potatoes while hot, add the fat, the sugar, the fruit and cinnamon and mix well. Knead in the flour to make a good stiff dough and roll out to about 1½ inches thick. Shape up into a round with the hands, then mark into segments across the top but do not cut right through. Bake in a hot oven for about 30 minutes. Sprinkle with castor sugar and serve hot.

M.M.G.



## OPERATIC SOCIETY

*"All is right and nothing's wrong".* (G.S. The Gondoliers)

A cold dark night, the sky heavy with clouds, a seemingly empty house, mysterious comings and goings, a flickering light from room to room, sounds of hammering and sawing, Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, and men's voices. The setting for a ghostly thriller? No it is actually happening, and has a simple explanation. In that house, a joiner, boiler maker, technical representative and his son are working against time making the scenery and 'props' for the Newton Aycliffe Operatic and Dramatic Society's next production the "Gondoliers" which goes into production on April 6th.

Except for one room the house is in darkness hence the occasional flickering light. Enter the house and you are liable to fall flat on your face among rolled canvas and planks of wood in the hall, upon recovering your equilibrium the first thing that will strike your eye (unless you take extreme care) on entering the room where all the carpentry is being done is the magnificent prow of a gondola. Propped against the wall are parts of the interior of a ducal palace, a landing stage, and some odd looking shapes.

In charge of this mammoth operation is Joe Irwin of 30 Sharp Road, a joiner for A.D.C. He designed and helped to make the set for the "Mikado" the Society's first production, staged last year. Joe says that the producer, Mr. J. Land tells him what he wants, "and I set about designing it, but our labour problem is terrific. We are terribly short of help and we are working against time. But as usual it will be alright on the night"

The Society cannot afford to pay for such labour, and it seems that people who could be of use are not prepared to give voluntary help. However two people who heard of Mr. Irwin's predicament and offered their services were Mr. F. Smythe 43 Sheraton Road, and his son Adrian, who has recently celebrated his seventeenth birthday. They joined forces with Joe and are putting in as many evenings as they can, and say they "we shall probably come down after church on Sunday" Both enjoy the job as a hobby and make furniture in their spare time. Adrian says he is the odd job man, and Mr. Beedle of Stead Close is Joe's right hand man, the boiler-maker ("I have never made a boiler in my life") Last year he made a number of 'props' and was stage helper. He was amused when he commented "We don't half make a row, good job we've no neighbours" Its hard work making the flats, (scenery to you) but it has its funny side, as was the case when it was necessary to bring the flats from the kitchen into the hall. "We got stuck, and had to back out and go right round the house and in at the front door." Reflecting on the gondola Ernie (Mr. Beedle) said "that had to be made in two parts otherwise we'd have had to take the house down to get it out." One of the other helpers who was not present when our correspondent called is Mr. Trevor Abley, 66 Shafto Way, he works on the Industrial Estate, and his wife is the secretary of the society. These back stage workers, without whom the show would not go on, are not just slapping together bits of wood and cardboard, they are taking great pride in producing a substantial and well designed set.

The man whose real task will come later, Mr. George Park, a technical representative, of 13 Dixon Road, and whose original interest was in the dramatic side of the Society, has undertaken the job of stage manager, work that he has not tried before, but he is confident of success. His wife Barbara was wardrobe mistress for the "Mikado", this time although she has made one or two costumes for the Gondoliers" is mainly engaged, with the help of three or four other ladies in painting the scenery.

The Society is most grateful to Councillor H. Dent of Sadberge who has kindly loaned this old house in Aycliffe Village in which to make the set and props. This year's production "The Gondoliers" looks as if it will surpass the success of last year's "Mikado" should this be so then everyone, backstage and front will be rewarded for the long hours of real hard work that has gone into making this show possible.

M.S.

## NEWTON AYCLIFFE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

On Tuesday, March 3rd., an extremely well attended Committee Meeting of the above party was held in Churchill House. Business on the agenda included forthcoming elections, the rapidly increasing party membership and general problems associated with a growing town.

People who would like to join the party should contact the Secretary:-

Mr. G. Pinchin,  
68 Biscop Crescent.

## THE MUSIC SOCIETY

The Music Society is giving another Party for members of the Choirs and the Operatic Society, and for other music lovers. It is to be in the Over 60 Club on the evening of Thursday April 30th. Dancing, musical competitions, solos and choral items. Licensed bar, light refreshments. Tickets from committee members.

## CHILDREN'S COLUMN

### FRITZ'S WINTER COAT

Dachunds are delicate creatures and their thin coats provide very little protection against the English winter, so at the first hint of frost in the autumn air I hurried off to the pet shop with my own dachhund, Fritz, to buy him a warm coat. The only one that fitted him was bright green with yellow binding and I thought myself that he looked a little odd. Not Fritz, however. He was obviously delighted with it and wore it proudly home, his head held high.

At home the family were assembled in the livingroom and all eyes turned towards us as we stood in the doorway. Fritz posed expectantly, waiting for the cries of admiration he felt were due. For one moment everyone gazed in astonishment at his long sausage-like body enveloped in green and yellow — then the silence was shattered by a hoot of laughter in which everyone joined.

Poor Fritz! His ears drooped, his tail disappeared between his legs and with a sorrowful glance from his brown eyes he turned and slunk off to the kitchen.

Nothing would console him. We apologised, tried to make a fuss of him and offered him tit-bits but his feelings were too deeply hurt to allow him to accept. He perked up a little when I took off the jacket and put it away and by next day seemed his usual happy self until it was time for his morning walk and I thoughtlessly brought out the green and yellow jacket. Again his tail drooped between his legs and he huddled miserably against the wall, refusing to move until I had put the offending object back into the hall cupboard.

And there it stays. After all I suppose I would feel much the same if everyone had laughed when I first presented myself in my new coat. But I do hope the winter is not too cold this year!

S.F.W.



## NEWTON AYCLIFFE RED CROSS

Holiday time is nearly here, this is the time when children are free to roam the countryside, and accidents WILL happen. Mothers! Could you cope with emergencies such as cuts and bruises or even broken limbs.

Why not join your local Red Cross and learn first aid?

It has been said that a little knowledge is dangerous, but if you learn from experienced people a little knowledge could save lives.

Our Newton Aycliffe team entered the Annual First Aid Competition at Durham on March, 7th and came second. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 7-45 p.m. in the small hall of St. Clare's and a cordial invitation is extended to both men and women.

K. Allen, Commandant.

## PLACES OF LOCAL INTEREST

Barnard Castle . . . the gateway to upper Teesdale, but NOT a gateway just to pass through but one to linger in, to wander round and see the history making buildings, walk along the Durham Yorkshire divider the rippling, sparkling river Tees, visit the magnificent Bowes Museum, stroll round the ancient castle walls, and walk through the trees in Flatts Woods beside the river, it is delightful on a warm summer's day to sit in the shade of the trees and watch the glinting water, it provides a sense of absolute tranquility.

Barnard Castle, locally known as 'Barney' is steeped in history; little of the great castle built by Bernard or Barnard Baliol in the 12th century high above the river now remains, but the round tower of Barnard still stands sentinel over the twin arched 16th century bridge of stately stone. The town has literary associations with Charles Dickens, for he stayed at the famous 'King's Head' while gathering material for his attack on the frightful conditions existing in the North Yorkshire boarding schools, which he exposed in the novel Nicholas Nickleby. A small watch-makers shop in the town inspired his story Master Humphrey's Clock. Sir Walter Scott stayed for sometime at nearby Rokeby during which he wrote his descriptive poem of the same name. A pleasant way in which to while away an hour or so is to walk through the fields following the river downstream and join the road a few yards from a wonderful single span bridge (until recently a toll had to be paid to cross). Stop in the centre of this bridge and look both up and down stream, for the view is most beautiful, continue over the bridge and turn right onto the Startforth road and in a very short while on the left can be seen the ruins of the once stately Egglestone Abbey, founded in 1189 by the White Canons, now, alas only a few walls remain, but what a wonderful site upon which to build a sacred edifice. The beauty of the river at this point, looking up towards Rokeby Woods and westwards to Barnard Castle is almost unsurpassed. Continue walking to Startforth then re-cross the river and continue on for a few hundred yards to the 'T' junction, turn left, and as you climb the hill you will see the market cross, not just a stone column but a substantial circular structure presented to the town in 1745 and now used as a traffic roundabout, at this point most visitors turn right to see the Bowes Museum (which will be dealt with in the next edition as it is a subject in itself) instead continue along the main street to the post office and look right along Galgate and notice the width of the road and its parklike quality due to the many trees that flank each side. The town has little industry to disturb its peace and charm, its market held every Wednesday attracts farmers and villagers, from a wide area. "Barney's" great asset is its parking space for cars, there always seems to be plenty of room for everyone.

By travelling across country from Newton Aycliffe through Heighington, and Staindrop, Barnard Castle can be reached in 16 miles. From Darlington two bus services operate, one via Staindrop, the other through Piercebridge and Gainford.

M.S.

## TRADE NOTICES

Rate 2/- per line.

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**DOZENS** of Part Exchange Bargains at Wentons Mart. Greenwell Road, behind Woolworths.

**WENTONS** for Fitted Carpets or Carpet Squares Kessett, Velmar, Durham, Crossleys etc.

**WENTONS** for Modern Furniture.

**TO CLEAR** Hoovermatic washer. £59 only was £84 terms available. View at Timothy Whites, 22 Beveridge Way.

## "MEN OF ACTION"

Find new friends and new interests, Learner Drivers wanted, also men to learn Male Nursing, and a few cooks, Come to our 'AT HOME' and see a display by the KAPE R.A.S.C. Display Team on Saturday afternoon 25th April, 1964, at the Barnard Armoury. Tel. Newton Aycliffe 206.

**J. W. GILL, Taxi Service** Private Hire for Weddings and all occasions. Please enquire of Return Fares to Darlington Dances, etc. 28 Dalton Way, Newton Aycliffe, Darlington. Tel. Newton Aycliffe 298.

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Weddings Portraits, etc. colour and Black and White processing. Colin, 37 Eden Road, Newton Aycliffe.



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