

newton news

Twice Monthly Journal featuring News of Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Industrial Estate Free Distribution of 7,800

Will you vote?

On May 5th the electorate off Newton Aycliffe have the opportunity to choose their councillors for Darlington Rural District Council and Great Aycliffe Parish Council.

How many will take the trouble to cast their vote? No doubt you will have received through your door the election leaflets and perhaps even had a visit from your prospective councillor.

At the County Council Election held recently approx. 23% of the total eligible turned out to vote.

Not only is it important to vote the right people in, it is necessary to show the Councillors they have public support, and a good poll will show them we are interested.

So please make an effort on May 5th. These people are doing their best for you



Printed and Published by
Newton Press, Greenwell
Road, Newton Aycliffe.
Telephone Aycliffe 2893

Big turn out for St. George Parade

St. Clares's Church was filled to capacity for the St. George's Day Parade when approximately 450 Scouts, Guides and Cubs from all over the district held their Annual Service.

The address was given by the Rev. Harold Hall and the lesson was read by Venture Scout Kevan Willey. The British Legion Pipe Band led the parade.

THE NEWS GOES TO THE VILLAGE

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE IS A NATURAL PARTNER OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE. SO — "NEWTON NEWS" HAS ONCE AGAIN EXPANDED ITS CIRCULATION AND STEPS OVER THE ROAD.

DISTRIBUTION of this issue will be by hand door to door. Arrangements are now being made for distribution Points in the Village where readers can collect their copies in the future.

The Editor wants your NEWS — VIEWS — OPINIONS — CRITICISMS. Just Telephone AYCLIFFE 2893 or call in at the "News" Office in Greenwell Road (behind Town Centre) ... or write in.

PUBLIC MEETING

St. Clare's Hall
Monday, 4th May
7.30 p.m.
Speakers:
Mr. GEORGE FOWLER
(Parliamentary Secretary to
Minister of Education)
Mr DAVID REED
(Prospective Labour M.P.
for Sedgfield)

Remplo 25th birthday



Celebrating the 25th anniversary of Remplo's progress on Friday April 17, the employees and their guests gathered at the Aycliffe factory for dinner and dancing to the music of The John Snow Trio.

The function was attended by Mr. Shaw, the Area Liaison Officer and Mrs. Shaw. The Rev. Harold Taylor, Vicar of St. Clares, Newton Aycliffe gave a demonstration of mind reading on the Chad Canasta

style—a display of sleight of hand and mind which fascinated the whole assembly. It would appear that our Vicar has talents which enable him to mystify the mind as well as clearing it.

Factory Manager Mr. Alan Marshall spoke about the favourable progress by Remplo for the benefit of the disabled—"the next twenty five years would see continued prosperity for the disabled."

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Pretty Newtonian

GILLIAN KEIRL

15 years of age, lives at 13 Bewick Crescent. Attends Ferryhill Secondary School and her hobbies include Badminton and Tennis. She is a member of the Youth Centre.



COFFEE EVENING IN AID OF HANDICAPPED

The Catholic Handicapped Fellowship Association are holding a Coffee Evening on Tuesday, 19th May at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary's School Hall.

There will be other refreshments and it is hoped to have some entertainment arranged. Entrance 1/- at the door or by ticket obtainable from the Convent.

THE "NEWS" WANTS GIRLS

Would girls wishing to be included in our "Pretty Newtonian" series please contact us at the "News Office", Greenwell Road, or telephone Aycliffe 2893 (after hours 3276).

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LETTERS

BAN ON CHILDREN—BEST THING

Dear Sir,

Recently, it has come to my knowledge, that children have been debarred from our Handicapped Club, and I am very grateful that such a decision has been made, and I hope, will be accepted by Members and Officials alike.

We are fundamentally an unhealthy class of people, and there are disease carriers even in the healthiest class, therefore it is only natural we are more aware at a Handicapped Club, of infections.

Disease carriers do not know they are carriers, as they remain perfectly immune to the bacteria they carry, or may be carrying. I've often wondered at the hazards of health those children have been exposed to quite innocently.

I do entreat the mothers of these children, not to take offence with the Club, and still to remain a member, as it is my belief that it's the best thing all round.

I believe all reasonable people will accept this decision.

Yours faithfully,

HANNAH GRAHAM
6 Buddle Walk.

DOGS BETTER MANNERED THAN OWNERS

Dear Sir,

While applauding your efforts to bring to notice the messy appearance of our town, I must take issue with you about your main target for attack, the canine population.

It is fairly obvious to me, as it must be to most people that if all the dogs in Newton Aycliffe converged on Beveridge Way at 3 o'clock on any Saturday afternoon, and at a given signal, defaecated in unison, the resultant contamination would be lost in the filth and rubbish already there produced not by dogs, but by men. As they do not, and the fouling you complain of is spread thinly round the town, I think you will find that our Canine friends are among the cleanest and tidiest of the town's inhabitants.

Consider, Sir, if any dog of your acquaintance scrawls unmentionable graffiti on bus shelter and lavatory walls. Dogs are the sufferers from, rather than the producers of the rich manure of broken glass, cigarette ends, discarded bus tickets, partially consumed ice cream and other rubbish which decorates our sidewalks.

No Sir, by all means attack the attitude of mind which produces such a sordid mess in our town, conspicuous for its empty litter baskets and filthy streets, and refrain from criticism of dogs, most of which are far better trained and better mannered than the people who own them.

Yours faithfully,

K. M. SCOTT,
9 Hylton Close.

GRENADIERS HAPPY TO ACCEPT

Re-statement in your last issue concerning the Grenadiers declining the offer made by the Monarchs for us to participate in their carnival on 30th May, 1970. This offer was left pending until 30th April, 1970, as if our association, that is the Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire Association, had a booking for us on this date we would be obliged to accept. We the Grenadiers would be only to happy and pleased to accept the Monarchs invitation on the provision they accept our final date of acceptance.

D. C. NETTLETON, Sec.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

BOWLS CLUB

They say no news is good news, but in this case the only reporting would have been of regular defeats. Since the club joined the indoor bowling league at Spennymoor three months ago, we have played against some of the best players in County Durham. The games have been very enjoyable and instructive. As the weeks passed, members were gaining experience of playing on the carpet and the team was gradually improving.

On our very last game a week ago, we went out in a blaze of glory by beating Bishop Auckland 57 points to 48.

The new outdoor season commences early in May provided the winter weather terminates and the groundsmen are able to prepare the green. A comprehensive fixtures list, comprising league, friendly and veteran matches has been compiled.

The committee are expecting a good turn out of members at the practice matches as the first league game is on 13th May, 1970.

Bowlers who have just moved to the town will be made very welcome as will all newcomers to the game. An announcement will be made later concerning the opening date of the green at St. Oswalds Park.

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Saturday Deliveries

NEW YOUNG SOCIALISTS DEMAND CHANGES

Dear Sir,

Like the Suffragettes of over 50 years ago, young people are today establishing many privileges previously reserved for the over 21's. Young people today become officially 'ADULT' at the prime age of 18 years. The birthday should be taken seriously by all young people. The Young Socialists of Newton Aycliffe and District campaigned for the right to vote at 18. We will now campaign for adult wages for all adults over 18 years of age. Employers have been exploiting young people, just as they have by paying women workers at a lower rate. Now women are hitting back and demanding equal pay. Young Socialists want to see an end of exploitation; we have prepared a charter aimed at a better deal for youth at work.

These are some of our demands (we are quite sure all young people will agree with them):

- * The Adult Rate for all workers at 18.
- * A minimum wage for all under 18.
- * Equal pay for work of equal value.
- * For Apprentices—A scale of wages based on the total pay of an Adult skilled worker (including bonus etc.)—Say 60% at 15 and 95% at 18. We are also demanding:
- * Big increases in places at school and college to provide for all who want them.
- * A fully comprehensive school system.
- * Living wage for sixth formers and college students.

You people can join us in our fight for these demands, by attending branch meetings (address supplied below).

Yours faithfully,

PET M. LUXTON.
(Hon. Sec.)

5 Villiers Place.

Photographs in the news by

Bill Roberts

available for

WEDDINGS

PORTRAITS

PASSPORTS

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HARDINGS

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Monarchs Jazz Band Jottings

A house to house collection on the town raised a total of £36. The Committee thank all who contributed and wish to apologise to anyone who did not see them. As you know the weather was terrible that week and the Band was unable to get round all the areas they had hoped, but thanks to the supporters who helped with the collecting boxes.

At Doncaster Carnival on May 25th, The Monarchs will be in action for their second time, and hopes of another success are high.

The Monarchs own Carnival at Newton Aycliffe on 30th May, and they will compete at Ferryhill Carnival on June 6th. The Band will also appear at the Association Carnival at Crimdon Dene on June 14th,

when 17 to 20 Bands will take part.

Four beautiful Silver Cups have been donated by Mrs. E. Verdon for the "Monarchs" Carnival and Geo. A. Williams, the music shop, Darlington, have stated they will present a cup to the Band. These are in addition to Cups already ordered.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Mrs. DOROTHY BUCKLEY

The "news" this issue meets the stewardess of the Workingmen's Club. A gay and lively personality with a definite liking for Newton Aycliffe and her work.

Mrs. Buckley, you appear to be happy in Newton Aycliffe. How did you come to be here in the first place?

Well, I'm from Preston in Lancashire and my husband is from South Moor in Durham. He used to work for Wm. Press the civil engineers and when he was moved to this area, we found it fairly easy to get a house in Newton Aycliffe. It's a nice place.

Do you find the time to do things outside your jobs as a Stewardess and a housewife?

Yes. I'm the Secretary of the Ladies' Club. I used to do work for the physically handicapped.

Do you nurse any secret burning ambition?

No. My only desire is to be a good citizen of wherever I live.

If you won a fortune—where would you build your ideal home?

Near here, on the outskirts of Newton Aycliffe.

Are there any improvements you would like to see in the town?

Oh yes—but some of them I'm told, are on the way—such as swimming baths, a better bus service through the town. I know that there is now a cinema for children on Saturdays. This should be extended, even if only once a week to a good film show for adults. And I would like to see more interest aroused in recreation for elderly people.

When you vote at the General Election, will your vote be decided by yourself or by your husband?

Well, I listen to what he says and I read the newspapers and then I decide myself who to vote for.

Who, in this country, is your favourite personality?

Frankie Vaughan and Jimmie Logan. They are both excellent entertainers and both have an active interest in boys clubs and in work for the physically handicapped.

JAZZ BAND ELECT NEW COMMITTEE

A new committee was formed for the Grenadiers in January 1970 which consists of the following: Credit: £71 13s 8d, Debits: £138 14s 4d. 2nd April, Total Credit 81 13s 6d, Debits: £60.

Chairman, Mrs. I. Morgan, 86 Elmfield Place, Tel. 4249; Secretary, Mr. D. C. Nettleton, 218 Rowan Place, Tel. 4329; Treasurer, Mrs. I. Nettleton, 218 Rowan Place, Tel. 4329; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. M. Mooring, 88 Elmfield Place, Tel. 3900; Committee members, Mr. and Mrs. G. Summerson, 8 Hunter Road; Mr. A. Orr, 12 Sharp Road; Mrs. R. Mooney, 5 Hunter Road; Mrs. D. Percival, 55 Welbury Grove, Tel. 3733; Mrs. R. Caile, 106 Linden Place; Mrs. B. Jenkins, 3 Palmer Road. Trainers, Mr. R. Cowan, 17 Pease Way; Mr. A. Orr 12 Sharp Road. When the present committee

Anyone requiring further information please contact the Treasurer. Sincere thanks to the following Grenadiers who raised funds: Miss A. Mooney and friends £2 2s; Miss J. Percival, and A. Cochran £1 7s, raffle winning No. 451; Miss K. Nettleton £1, raffle winning No. 49; Miss S. Morgan, £1 15s, raffle winning No. 59; Mrs. I. Nettleton £4 18s 9d, Raffles held and drawn at GEC.

Proceeds from Jumble sale held at St. Clares New Church Hall on Saturday, 21st March, £23 15s 3d. Grateful thanks to all who helped make it a success.

Spring Scoops at BRUCE MOORE

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SERVIS 41M Auto	89½ GNS
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HOTPOINT 1504 (Top loading)	108 GNS
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BENKSON PORTABLES	52/6
Our Price, complete	
AJAX "FLAMINGO"	99/6
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FERGUSON "CARAVELLE" 3156	22 GNS
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BUSH TR.130	15½ GNS
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ELECTROLUX 160	27½ GNS
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● OPEN NIGHT
AT
O.A.P.A.

The Newton Aycliffe Old Age Pensioners' Association who meet in the Beveridge Hall each Tuesday evening gave a Concert at their Open Night this month.

The entertainment given by the members proved most enjoyable to the audience. Our photographs show the members on stage and a glimpse of the audience.

● DELIGHTFUL
TIME FOR
SENIOR
CITIZENS

by W. A. Bell

A delightful afternoon was spent by the Newtonian Senior Citizens in St. Clare's Church Hall on Friday, April 10, when Mr. J. Pegg of Bishop Auckland gave a film show dealing with his travel round the world. The films took in Egypt, India, Bangkok, Hongkong, along the border of Red China, Japan and Hawaii.

The takings in several countries were well chosen, compelling a sustained interest as panoramic scenes rolled by, ancient buildings and monuments fixed in view for a while and strange customs of the East actually taking place. An amusing incident took place in Japan when Mr. Tebb was espied taking sneak shots of wedding celebrations, and to his surprise he was invited to join the party for group shots, and snips standing with the bride and bridegroom.

Mr. Pegg related an experience which had its own lesson. As he stood enthralled by the scene before him a complete stranger sharing the experience intimated a film was to be had of the volcanoes in action. Confidence inspired, the stranger agreed he would try and obtain the film and post it to the England address. A sizeable sum of money changed hands and as Mr. Pegg journeyed home with cherished hope of receiving the film he confessed he couldn't suppress the thought it was goodbye to his money. Long after exceeding the delights of travel, was the joy to have the film delivered to his address.

Mr. Tom Jordan, Secretary, welcoming Mr. Pegg expressed his warmth for him as near fifty years ago he had rescued his (Mr. Jordan's) daughter from a pond. Mrs. A. E. Johnson had given and presented the prizes for a successful raffle.

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1967 Reg. Cortina 1200 ('66 mod)	£395
1965 B.M.C. 1100	£325
1968 Hillman Super Imp	£450
1965 CORTINA in White	£295
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The street where you live

Continuing our feature on the history of the persons whose names are used in Newton Aycliffe Streets.

Barrington Road

SHUTE BARRINGTON (Bishop)

Shute Barrington was born in 1734, the youngest son of the first Lord Barrington. He was educated at Eton and Merton College Oxford. He became Chaplain to George the III in 1760 and successively canon of Christchurch, Oxford. He moved on to be Bishop of Llandoff in 1769 and of Salisbury in 1782, this progress attained him his position of Bishop of Durham in 1791, a position he held for thirty five years. Although not an outstanding scholar his enthusiasm for education is reflected in the "Barrington Schools" throughout the Diocese, and in the Barrington Fund which assists Educational advances among the poor.

He improved agriculture in the County by encouraging everyone to possess three acres and a cow. He was estimated to give away £100,000 in social work. A fine portrait of Barrington painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence can be seen in the Bishops Palace at Bishop Auckland. Also in the south transept of Durham Cathedral is Chantrey's lifesize kneeling figure of Barrington who died in AD1826 at the age of 92.

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'68 Triumph 13/60. Any trial. Imperial Maroon. Show-room condition throughout £115 under list and genuine A snip at	£460	'65 A60 Est. as new. Grey	£325
'65 Guilia G.T. Sprint (Alfa Romeo). 5-speed gearbox. Radio. £2,000 new. Current list price £800. Our price	£699	'65 101 Super Vauxhall. A pip Blue	£300
'68 Cortina 1300. Metallic. Black trim. Any trial offered. The most popular car today at £110 under list. Our selling price	£499	'65 Austin 1100. A choice motor. One owner. Blue	£350
'69 Cortina 1300. Immac. £595		'65 Anglia. To clear	£135
'67 1100's choice of two	£399	'64 Cortina Super 1500. Green	£275
'68 Viva S.L. One owner Blue	£525	'64 Spitfire. as new. White	£350
'66 1100. One owner 21,000 miles. Green	£370	'64 1100. 2 to clear	£199
'66 Triumph 2000. Grey. One owner	£570	'64 Super Minx. Green	£290
'66 Vogue Estate. A snip. Grey	£475	'64 Anglia Est. To clear	£185
		'62 Ford Taunus. (F Reg.) Mint	£150
		'66 Oxfords choice of 2	£375
		'65 Anglia Super. White	£260
		'65 Viva De-luxe. Radio Green	£255
		'65 Cortina 4-dr De-luxe. White	£275
		'65 Zephyr 4. One Owner	£260
		'64 Cortina 1500 Est. A Must	£265
		'63 Cambridge. Maroon. T. & T. Very good runner	£150
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From : NEWTON PRESS, Greenwell Road,
Newton Aycliffe. Phone Aycliffe 2893.

THE NEWS IN INDUSTRY

Featuring Industrial and
Social News of Aycliffe
Industrial Estate

● BEERMAKING CLUB AT U.M.M.

U.M.M.—beermaking is one of the clubs recently formed at Underground Mining Machinery. Our photographer, Bill Roberts, was asked along to judge a competition. We are pleased he took the photograph before the tasting and judging as we understand he was in no fit state afterwards to do anything.

U.M.M. Sports & Social Club

Notice to all members and guests
Dancing every Saturday
8-11 p.m.
Associate membership open
Contact Sec. J. J. Wilkinson

● CRIPPS INVITE EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES

Cripps International presented a gay picture on Thursday, April 23, when they gave an exhibition of construction equipment to invited civil engineers, plant hirers and builders on the eight acre works and demonstration site at the A.I. entrance to the Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

And then, in the evening, it was 'Open House' for the employees and their families.

This was a fascinating show of mighty machinery and a close up view of how the earth gets moved around in quick time. An impressive show, even to the non mechanically minded.

From a small Drott to giant tractor shovels, excavators and Rolls Royce Diesel engines.

Cripps of Aycliffe supplies contractors across the country from Ripon to the Scotland border and is only one branch of the firm, based at Nottingham, with other branches at Manchester and Leeds.

● TRAVELLING? WHY NOT LIVE ON THE TOWN

In Churchill House at the Newton Aycliffe town centre there is a team of experts in town planning which also means house planning. And they are there for the benefit of people who are looking for a home and especially those who work on the Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

The town now houses about twenty three thousand people and is to be developed to accommodate 45,000. A town with nearly all amenities you could wish for.

What are the advantages of living in Newton Aycliffe for those who work on the Industrial Estate? Well, the obvious one to begin with is that near (but not too near) to the daily work.

And then there are the schools, churches, boys clubs, youth centre, children's cinema, clubs, supermarkets, attractive shops, sports fields, tennis courts, bowling greens, skating rinks and associations covering every field of welfare.

If you decided on a house in Newton Aycliffe would you want to rent one or buy? And how long would you have to wait?

Guidance here can only be given in general terms because of the variation in the types of houses. If you were willing and able to pay £5 a week you could have a house in a week or so. This would be a three bedroom house.

People in the front line



VALERIE ANN GODDIN

Aged 24, unmarried, moved to the North-East in June of last year, from Cambridge. Likes living in the North, and finds the countryside in Co. Durham vastly different from the flat, dark soil of Cambridgeshire.

Her boyfriend lives in Durham City, and reason for moving to the North-East, and they plan to marry in June of next year. She is interested in driving, dancing and hairdressing.

Recently took up the post of Secretary to the Association Manager of S.W. Durham Engineering Training Association. "It's very satisfying to see young apprentices making a good start in life," she told the "news".

"The many other courses run at the training centre are usually geared to industry in some form or another, and it is very interesting to meet the

many delegates from all walks of life who attend these courses," she added.

Her boyfriend lives in Durham City, and reason for moving to the North-East, and they plan to marry in June of next year. She is interested in driving, dancing and hairdressing.

TYRES TYRES
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THE REPAIR SPECIALIST
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Election addresses from some candidates

● MRS TAYLOR EX-LABOUR —NOW INDEPENDENT

I have in the past stood as a Labour Candidate. Two years ago I resigned from the Labour Party. At that time the Chairman of the Local Labour Party was actively supporting a Communist in a Union Election. I proposed that this man be expelled from Labour Party refused to take the party, but the Divisional any action on this matter. I therefore felt that I could not remain a member of a party who allowed such activities to take place. This man has once again been nominated by the Local Labour Party as a candidate for the Local Elections.

I know that when there is a Local Government Election it is usual that all Political Parties make a play on rate increases. This year the Darlington Rural District Council of all parties representing the town accepted a 4d increase in the rates. The Liberals, Conservatives and Independents—myself included—accepted a motion for an expenditure of £44,000 for this year which meant a 4d increase. The Labour Councilors sat back and abstained from voting on this issue which in my opinion was tacit approval to the increase. To sit back and take no part in voting because of political reasons and then attack rate increases in Election Leaflets and in the press is shirking our responsibilities as Councilors. I hope when people are voting they will realise that we cannot continue to provide amenities or to face increased Wages and Salaries for Council staff unless we have the revenue.

Councilors of all parties know of the planning that is now taking place for social amenities for this town. The Rural District Council are going to provide a large Recreation centre which will include a swimming pool, sports hall, restaurant, and theatre facilities. It would be deluding the public to say that this type of amenity can be provided without an increase in rates. I feel the public should be made aware of the true facts and decide for themselves on election day.

● LABOUR REPLY TO MRS TAYLOR

Mrs. Taylors reason for resigning from the Local Labour Party, is to say the least, flimsy and unrealistic.

Surely she has enough experience in committee and public life to know that the constitutional rules of one organisation cannot be used as an excuse to influence the rules of another.

● E. T. Hutchinson Conservative No. 4 Ward

Ladies and Gentlemen,
As your nominated Conservative Candidate for the Great Aycliffe Parish Council. I would like to point out to you that my duty is to represent the Electorate of Ward 4.

Although I am standing as a Conservative Candidate, I also feel that it will be my duty to uphold any motion put forward irrespective of Party Politics and without equivocation or mental reservation if in my wisdom the motion is to be to the benefit of the Parish I hope to represent.

As this is more or less my initiation into Local Government, I undertake to promise that I shall carry out honestly and diligently to the best of my ability any duties which may be allocated to me if elected by you the Electorate of Ward 4.

I trust you will favour me with your confidence on Polling Day, May 5th, 1970.

Yours sincerely,
EDWIN T. HUTCHINSON

● M. H. G. Lightfoot Conservative No. 4 Ward

Dear Electors,
Surely the time has come when Newton Aycliffe must regain some of that old community spirit which I am told was an aspect of the town in its early days.

I believe the way to achieve this is to make the inhabitants proud of our town and to try and interest people in our local affairs.

This, I believe, can be achieved by building more amenities in the town where people can meet and get to know each other. We must stop just regarding it as a large housing estate and turn it into a town, and the sooner the better. I believe that the Play-leadership scheme of which I am a supporter is helping in this respect, but I feel that much more can be achieved by closer liaison between the Development Corporation and the Parish Council as exists at Peterlee. Similarly I would like between the people and the local councils. This, I feel, would help us to get rid of the "them and us" attitude.

If I am elected I hope that if any of you have any problems, you will get in touch with me when I will certainly do my best to help you.

Yours Sincerely,
M. H. G. LIGHTFOOT.

● AYCLIFFE VILLAGE CANDIDATE

Dear Electors,

I have pleasure in inviting you to give me your vote at the forthcoming Parish Council election on Tuesday, 5th May, 1970.

With the exception of 18 months I have been a life-long resident of Aycliffe Village. I am 25 years of age, married with an 18 month old son and I am employed as a Quantity Surveyor by the Aycliffe Development Corporation.

As you will know, our village representation on the Great Aycliffe Parish Council has been reduced from four seats to two seats, and this fact prompted me to agree to stand for election as a candidate. As it obvious that some of our existing representatives will not be re-elected, I believe that this is the time for new ideas, without directly ousting any of the retiring members. I consider that this reduction in representation is bad for Aycliffe Village. I am most concerned that we retain our village character and independence and I believe that this is the time when we should really consider our position in the Parish and not allow ourselves to drift into the backwaters.

Now is the time when we require representatives to speak out strongly and loudly. I believe that party politics should not be the total influence of Parish Council affairs, and if elected, I will devote the whole of my considerations to the village needs without being tied by any one political party's ideas.

A. C. ETHRIDGE,

13 Heighington Street,
Aycliffe Village.

● George Robson Conservative No. 4 Ward

Why do we not have a swimming pool? Because every time this is mentioned the cost is too great and this continues to rise yearly. Why can't the school baths be opened on an evening with an admission charge?

Why do we have to suffer congestion of traffic at peak hours on the trading estate? We are all told that a new road will be built in 5 years time, this of course means 7 or 8 years, and all that is needed is to re-open Simp-pasture crossing to light traffic at no cost until the proposed road becomes a reality.

These are problems I mean to pursue if I am returned on May 5th. I am also very interested in maintaining the high standard of lighting that exists and to increase the facilities in the town for all ages.

As a Conservative I have no party whip to tell me how to vote, I vote for the best at the lowest cost for the majority of the residents of the Parish and Rural District.

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Rommel - sixty miles away

The movements of troops through Alexandria were building up day by day and all the clubs were packed by men seeking refreshment, drink and music. The bombing by enemy aircraft was continuous through the nights but not so bad in daylight. The Chiefs of Staff were concerned about the men not using the air raid shelters and the Captain of the Fleet pointed out that one bomb through the roof of a big auditorium crowded with senior personnel could seriously affect the balance of fighting power.

But the message was largely disregarded. Most of the men were from the desert forces or warships and they were bent on enjoying themselves. They had nothing but discomfort to look forward to.

The noisier the bombing and anti aircraft fire, the louder the singing and they persuaded me to remain at the piano on the stage.

I was also doing telephone duties on the exchange at Fort Kom el Dik and from the many messages coming through, I gathered that the situation was becoming grave.

The Egyptians are an excitable people but the discipline exercised by the British Forces police was very firm. The Egyptian police were put to one side. Jewish people especially, were moving out as quickly as they could get transport. We heard that Rommel and his Afrika Corps were about sixty miles away—too close for comfort in times of fast moving tanks.

There were some rough, tough looking French soldiers dispersed in the city. We were advised to keep clear of them. They had been through some fierce fighting at Bir Hacheim, a desert oasis—surrounded by the Afrika Corps. There was an uproar in the street below my window. I looked out at a

destination was Ismailiya on the Suez Canal where we were to board a ship.

A minor crisis arose when the women who were breast feeding the babies, dried up—and there was only the water we were carrying in bottles. No means of heating it. The sailors came to the rescue with some tinned Horlicks and stopped the train to get hot water from the engineman. The water was brown—but hot enough. There was a real shortage of napkins and the sailors organised mass production from medical lint.

When the train stopped at various points, some Arabs tried to climb in but were repulsed by the sailors. The children shrieked with delight every time the sailors went into action.

We eventually arrived, hot and dirty, at an embarkation point near to Ismailiya and were crowded into tank landing craft and on to a small ship named rather grandly The Princess Marguerite. It was filthy and alive with cockroaches. We were bundled five and seven to a cabin. Water was not available. I escaped from the crowded cabin to a quieter corner down the corridor.

Ismailiya was bombed through the night. We just lay flat on the deck. We were all filthy dirty. The sailors brought us pots of cocoa.

In the morning, we were put into boats and transferred to a bigger ship, the "Mooltan" which was half filled with prisoners of war. They were battened down in the forward part. There was plenty of water and we were all glad to change clothing.

The "Mooltan" moved slowly down the Suez Canal into the Gulf of Suez and out into the Red Sea, passing by the Eastern and Nubian Deserts on the starboard side. Away to port was Saudi Arabia. We were engulfed in heat. The babies were fretful and some were ill with heat exhaustion. A few had to be packed with ice. A woman died at night and was buried at sea at dawn.

Ahead lay Ethiopia and then Aden. But we guessed—South Africa.

Next Issue: THE LAND OF APARTHEID.

continuing FIFTY YEARS OF MUSIC AND ADVENTURE by MRS. F. M. FORD of Newton Aycliffe

scene of sheer horror. These French soldiers had clashed with a crowd of Vichy Frenchmen who were recently released internees from the captured Vichy French Navy. The soldiers were armed; the others were not. It was brutal and bloody. My landlady was a Frenchwoman and she was terrified that the battle would get into the house.

I was sitting sewing in the flat when a message was brought in to say that I must gather as much as I could get into two suitcases—no more—and for a long journey. I protested about all the things I would be leaving. But the instruction was firm. Be ready to move—quickly.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, a Navy vehicle collected me and then did a circular tour picking up other women and children. Other vehicles collected British nationals from the hospitals and maternity homes. These nationals included women, formerly Greek, Maltese, Syrians, Armenians, Egyptians, etc., who had married British troops or civilians. There were nearly six hundred including many from Cairo and other places.

We were taken into the Dockyard and on to an oldish ship. The warships had nearly all disappeared and there were sailors on the jetties smashing up crates of aircraft engines and other cargo recently arrived. This all created a feeling of tension and wonder. What was to happen to us.

We just crammed against the ship's rails; I didn't feel panicky—but many women were crying and this was upsetting the children. We heard that a ship had just been sunk outside the harbour and that made me feel like just walking off back to the jetty. But there were sentries on the gangways. At about five o'clock a despatch rider came roaring up with a message. We were all to leave the ship. I was mighty thankful. Didn't relish the idea of going out into the open sea in a defenceless ship.

We were to stay the night in the city and be evacuated the next day. As we moved back to the city through the streets, there were signs of pillaging and shop looting.

I was billeted for the night in a Club annexe. A tiny airless room alive with huge cockroaches and fleas. I couldn't sleep and wandered into the street for some fresh air but the night air raid was intensifying and I joined some other women in a large building entrance where we stood the night out.

In the early morning, we made our way to the railway station. The crowd of women and children gathered there and boarded a long train. Some of the babies were just a few days old.

After about three hours, the train slowly moved away. We had an escort of five sailors, a Royal Marine corporal, a naval chaplain and a Master at Arms. There was a Commander, but he was ill.

There were no train windows: just wooden shutters and if we opened them the stinging sand blew into the carriages. Our

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Aquarists hold first annual show

The first Newton Aycliffe Aquarist Society Open Show held on April 19th, 1970, at St. Clare's Hall. When the N.A.A.S. Trophy and the Aquarist Gold Pin for Best Fish in Show was awarded to J. Tate (Peterlee), for his Climbing Perch.

Trophies and Prize Cards were presented by Rev. H. Hall of St. Clares. Door ticket drawn was No. 144 Orange. Raffle ticket No. 383 Yellow were not claimed. Anyone with any of these tickets contact Mr. D. Melles, 99 Linden Place, Newton Aycliffe.

The Newton Aycliffe Aquarist Society would like to thank all the people who supported this their first Open Show.

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PRIZE LETTER CHOSEN

The Editors choice for the Prize Letter this month goes to Mr. K. M. Scott of 9 Hylton Close who writes in this issue in defence of dogs.

His letter is pointed and written with a good style, with a tinge of humour. Thank you Mr. Scott, you will receive a set of printed stationery as a prize.

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County Councillor
A. CESSFORD

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