

Newton News

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 1979

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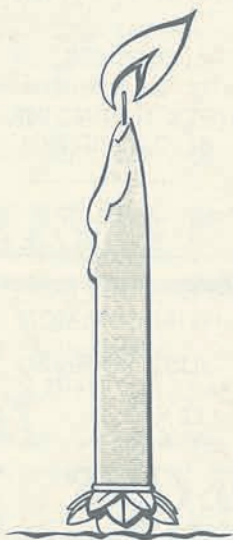
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Another first for Northern Rock!



Though the Society has been going strong for 129 years, it's our very first birthday in Newton Aycliffe.

Branch manager Warren Hadrick and staff would like to mark the occasion by thanking all local folk who joined us in this first year—and to assure everyone of the same friendly and efficient service in savings, investment and house purchase in years to come.

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TOWN SHOPKEEPER OUSTED BY HIGHER RENTS

NEWTON AYCLIFFE
is in danger of losing
all its privately owned
businesses in the
town centre.

Rent reviews at the end of leases and landlord's demands of up to nine times more rent, is about to cause an exodus of those shopkeepers who pioneered the town through the hard years of its growth.

We informed readers in a previous issue of ADC increases being four or five times more, but the rents being asked by Ravenscroft Properties, who own the Woodworths' side of Beveridge Way, is almost nine times the amount shops are paying at the moment.

Gray and Smith, clothiers, are the first to pull out and

are now holding a closing down sale. Their closure follows a rent review of their shop at the end of a 21-year lease.

Mrs Gray, 74, was about to retire, but her daughter, Mrs Smith, did want to carry on the family business. Now, she says, there is no way to make a viable business with rents taking so much of the profit.

"Final straw"

"Times are difficult enough and this enormous increase is the final straw," said Mrs Smith. We are deeply sorry that we have to dismiss our loyal staff and close down, and even more sorry that Newton Aycliffe will have to yield completely to the "multiples" as they are the only ones who can possibly afford the rents.

The Chamber of Trade have expressed their concern over recent rent increases and share the fears of the private shopkeeper.

On top of their worries over high rents the traders are about to face a large increase in competition this year when the superstore opens. It is said that Fine Fare will help the town's shops by bringing in people from outside the area.

Not all traders believe this and some see an inevitable reduction in trade.

"If we were the only Superstore around then there would be an obvious attraction, but they are springing up all over the County," said a spokesman.

An odd few shops also fear the Market which is to take place each Tuesday, believing this is sure to have some effect on trade.

"Reasonably fair"

Everything seems to be against the small private shopkeeper who has one option only — take it or leave it!

The ADC maintain the new

rents are in line with present levels of other towns and are "reasonably fair."

In a prime spot an average shop of 1,000 sq. ft. can expect to pay rent in the region of £7,000 per annum, and £3,400 for a secondary location. Add to this wages, rates, heating, electricity, etc., and the shopkeeper has to do very good business indeed to survive.

TRIBUTE TO TOWN BOXERS

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Boxing Club received a warm tribute from Wakefield Area Youth Service following their participation in the White Rose Boxing Tournament held on December 5th.

The lads were praised for having travelled such a distance in atrocious weather, for their dress and for the manner in which they conducted themselves in and out of the ring.

The event was staged to raise funds for Wakefield Area Youth Service.

JOHN ELIOT



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Northern Rock celebrate 1st anniversary

The Northern Rock Building Society opened their Town Centre Office one year ago on February 13th. The branch is now firmly established in the town and has had a most successful first year with many new members opening investment accounts, which has enabled a number of people to obtain mortgages for house purchase in the area.

In September 1978 the staff held their first Homemaking course. Thirty young people attended the six-week course to hear speakers and watch films covering all aspects of marriage and buying and setting up home. Almost all of the speakers were drawn from the town and the course members were delighted with the highly informative course and the happy, relaxed atmosphere.

Window displays

Branch cashier Susan Lewis works hard on the window displays, which are a source of great interest and cover many subjects, e.g. golf, the Fire Service, Coaching through the Ages, and Domestic Inventions, to name a few. Several of the display boards have later been put to good use in local schools.

As a result of this contact with the schools, a Newton Aycliffe boy is to spend a week at the office on a work experience project, and the staff hope to spend some time in the coming year talking to

other local youngsters about Building Society work, and giving advice on budgeting for their future homes.

The first year has been an eventful one with the staff becoming involved in various community activities. Warren Hadrick is a member of the Aycliffe and Sedgefield Community Aid Committee and is now the Secretary of Newton Aycliffe & District Chamber of Trade. Judith Heads is a volunteer broadcaster for Aycliffe Community Radio.

Happy birthday, Northern Rock, and may your success continue.

Pensioners' fares under revue

Readers will remember a letter in a recent issue from Mr Roberts who suggested a new method for the distribution of concessionary bus fares for pensioners.

He thought the present schemes run by individual local authorities were open to abuse and criticised the differences in the amounts paid from place to place.

His ideas that payment should be the same for all, and be valid anywhere in the country, are sound.

Mr Roberts wants a National Press Card for pensioners as a way to eliminate tokens.

And to stop illegal transfer of the passes he suggests a passport size photograph be incorporated in the design.

Age Concern took up Mr Roberts' ideas and submitted them to a Parliamentary Committee.

It isn't known how they were received, but it is significant that the Prime Minister announced this week that he is considering travel concessions for the elderly on a National basis in an effort to cut out the problems on which Mr Roberts wrote.

MUSICAL EVENTS

Trio Zingaro (piano trio),
Friday, 16th March, 7.30 p.m.
at Aycliffe School.

Michalo Trio (recorder,
harpichord, cello), Friday 6th
April, St. Mary's School, New-
ton Aycliffe, 7.30 p.m.

White Horse Inn. Performed
by Newton Aycliffe Amateur
Operatic Society in the Avenue
School at 7 p.m., Tuesday
17th to Saturday 21st April.

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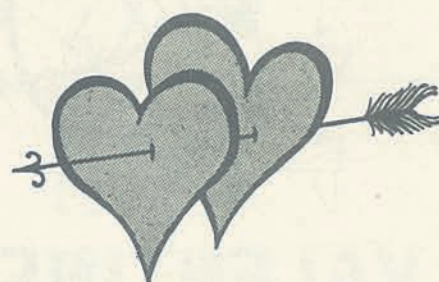
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FEBRUARY 14th



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BUSINESS AS USUAL

Our article on the nasty rumours hitting the business of our town centre Chinese Restaurant brought the desired result.

Mr Philip Fong has thanked Newton Press for the publicity which has since brought a marked improvement in trade.

It could have been a different story had Mr Fong not taken our advice to come out strongly and deny the lies being spread throughout the town.

The "dog in the freezer" story had grown out of all proportion and everyone had heard that the police had closed the restaurant.

But it was all false and utter nonsense. Mr Fong's business losses were consider-

able and eventually he would have been forced to close down.

Our article was picked up by other newspapers and subsequently the police and health departments confirmed how ridiculous the rumours were.

One official went further and stated that on his visits to the China House he found the kitchens "immaculate."

Church Pantomime

Have you got your tickets for the St. Clare's Church Panto, Snow White and the Seven Smurfs?

The show runs from 21st to 23rd February, each night at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall. Tickets are 20p each and refreshments will be available during the interval.

Tickets are on sale at the Newton Press Shop, but hurry, they are going quickly.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

Do you want a free Community Calendar? This very useful wall calendar containing a wealth of information on services for townspeople is available at the Information Centre.

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FEBRUARY 14th

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SHOULD CHARITY BEGIN AT HOME?

Dear Sir,

A "Help the Aged" pamphlet delivered to every household in the area is signed by two bishops, 3 MP's and local church and council dignitaries and lists a dozen local centres where all you good people can take money, clothing, and blankets for the needy overseas.

I personally know several of their volunteers who will be manning the centres and know them to be hard working and dedicated church folk who themselves give generously, but I wonder if they realise what happens to the millions of pounds collected by their charity.

For instance, their annual report for 1977 showed over £6 million collected.

£1½ millions was spent on appeals.

£1½ millions was held over for further commitments?

£½ million was spent on education & information?

£½ million was transferred to fixed assets reserve?

These charities cannot be run without offices and staff, but we don't get details of rents and rates, exorbitant salaries, posh cars, jobs for the boys and relatives.

In the end approximately £1m. went to the aged in Britain, but no details of how or where.

As for overseas, vague details are given about chicken

prospects in India; giving old people in Kenya sheep and goats; bag weaving prospects in Tibet; and agricultural prospects in Indonesia.

I am sure that all you good folk who gave your time and energy at the centre would have gained a lot more satisfaction if you knew your efforts had enabled the ailing elderly in London or the homeless aged in Manchester or the destitute in Glasgow to get a mere chicken leg or lamb chop, or even a glass of goats milk.

Surely it is time that legislation was passed to make charities (who don't pay tax) account for all money collected. I don't doubt that this charity along with others (there are many), do a lot of good work both here and overseas, but they should be seen to be doing it.

A minority of persons are getting a very profitable and comfortable living with expensive offices and houses, all made possible by the generosity of the public and collected mainly by hard working religious people who believe they are helping to relieve some of the misery in this world.

It looks as if bishops and MP's are unaware of the facts, or are they given much more information than the general public and the mugs who do the footwork to keep these charities going, or is there some other reason why they add their signatures?

I wonder if any of those persons who signed this pamphlet would care to use the columns of your paper and give a good reason why they should encourage the public to give to charities with such obscure results.

Some of the signatories will be saying "Charity begins at Home" when they are canvassing for votes very shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Independant.

(Name and address supplied).

DISTRESS OVER BOTTLE OF POP

Dear Sir,

Following upon your reports of "unfair trading" and shopkeepers' attitudes, I would like to complain about treatment received by my 7-year-old daughter at the local shop in Washington Crescent on 26th January.

She went to the shop with her 9-year-old cousin on a shopping errand for someone (not me). While there, she was accidentally jostled by a passing shopper and unfortunately a large bottle of pop was knocked off a shelf and broken.

The manager showed no concern as to whether my daughter had been injured by broken glass, but instead more or less said payment would have to be made there and then. It was paid by the nine-year-old out of money belonging to the person they were shopping for, and at no time were they asked their names and addresses or allowed to explain the incident.

My daughter arrived home bewildered, unhappy and upset. She cried for hours.

I went to see the shop manager for an explanation, but not only was he completely indifferent about the situation, but he just didn't want to know at all, and in fact walked away in the middle of the discussion.

These small shops should remember that the bulk of their trade comes from local mums like myself, with small children, who are unable to do daily shopping at a distance.

The so called advantages of personal treatment at the corner shop do not apply up here now — and, needless to say, my shopping will now be taken elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C. I. Ross,
2 Whitehead Walk.

Yours sincerely,
Garry Philipson,
Managing Director.

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Wreaths, Crosses, Sprays, Wedding Bouquets and flowers for all occasions, from Floral Charm, Beveridge Arcade. Tel. Aycliffe 312934.

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Aycliffe news round-up

Square shares for all

The Rev. Granville Gibson, Vicar of St. Clare's, has hit on a wonderful idea to get his church hall recovered with parquet.

He is asking church members and organisations to buy a square yard at £6.50 each. There are 150 square yards to cover and after only a few days of the appeal being launched the first dozen were sold.

Granville Gibson is encouraged by the initial response, but realises there is a long way to go.

The present floor is giving a lot of trouble as it sweats and becomes dangerously slippery.

The church is attempting to improve the hall in every way. A new heating system has just been completed and with new curtains and eventually a nice wooden floor, it will provide very pleasant premises.

Milk bottle tops wanted

St. Francis Church are attempting to buy a guide dog by collecting milk bottle tops.

If you wish to help this worthwhile cause you could save up your tops now and when you have a sizeable quantity hand them in at the Church School or at St. Clare's.

Please ensure that the tops are washed before you hand them in.

Film show at St. Clare's

On Friday, 16th March, in St. Clare's Hall, a film entitled "Corrie Behind the Hiding Place" is being shown.

It tells the story of a woman held in a concentration camp, who loses her sister and triumphs over adversity.

A film not to be missed. Admission 20p.

Gardens Guild meeting

The next meeting of the Guild will be held in 'The Cubby' in the town centre (opposite the Fire Station) at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12th. The speaker will be Mr John Chapman, of Darlington, who will give a talk on the propagation and growing of Dahlias.

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RADIO STARS FOR ONE DAY

Lorraine Hostein and Derek Lean had an audience of more than 20,000 last Saturday when they took over Radio Aycliffe for a day in the absence of station manager Harry Rowell and his assistant.

They spent many busy hours preparing for their three hours of programmes on Aycliffe Community Radio, mastering the three tape machines, two record decks, two cartridge machines, a cassette recorder and the complicated desk controls they needed for their big day.

Lorraine (21) of Aycliffe, and Derek (23) of Darlington, joined the team in November under a Manpower Services Commission scheme. They have spent their time since then learning how a radio station works.

"Really they have to know more here than they would on a normal local radio station," said Harry Rowell. "We have no technical staff at all, so if something goes wrong they have to know how to put it right, but I was confident they would cope."

COUNTY PLAN WILL LOSE 60,000 JOBS

PRESENT POLICIES for the future of the North — as outlined in the County Structure Plans and by the Northern Region Strategy Team — are likely to raise unemployment by over 60,000, adding another four per cent to the present 8.6 per cent level.

This is the main finding of research into the various policies for the region carried out by the Region Policy Research Unit at Durham University. The research was commissioned by Aycliffe and Peterlee Development Corporations.

"We are concerned about how the Northern Region Strategy Team and the various County Councils in their Structure Plans see the region's future," said Mr Garry Philipson, managing director of the two Development Corporations.

"These policies, if adopted, will govern our lives and our employment prospects over the next ten to fifteen years. Aycliffe and Peterlee are two very successful job getting agencies and we wanted to establish how the various policies being put forward would affect us in terms of resources, land availability and general attitude to solving the region's problems.

"Frightening"

"What the Regional Policy Research Unit have found makes rather frightening reading."

The RPRU examined the various documents produced and compared them. Their fundamental conclusion—that given the policies presented so far unemployment is likely to rise by at least 60,000 in the North by 1990 — is consistent with forecasts made by the Department of Applied

Economics at the University of Cambridge.

Looking at the Northern Region Strategy Team Report, and the work of the Cleveland (Hartlepool), Tyne and Wear and County Durham Structure Plan teams, the RPRU found:

1. Almost all the forecasting was based on projection of past trends which is a notoriously unreliable method.
2. In every case it is assumed that only existing resources will be available.
3. The reports suggest that forecast reduction in manufacturing employment will be "balanced" by increases in service sector employment. This ignores the fact that service activities depend ultimately on a healthy manufacturing-based economy.



Concert by well known violinist

The Music Society is enjoying a good season, with encouraging attendances at both Professional and Members' evenings.

The next professional concert, on Wednesday, February 21st, brings to the town the distinguished violinist John Georgiadis. John is internationally known both as the leader of the London Symphony Orchestra and as a soloist. He is well known to TV audiences as the right hand man (or should he be more accurately described as the left hand man) to Andre Previn in the popular televised orchestral series.

The concert will be presented in Aycliffe School commencing at 7.30 p.m. Tickets at £1.00 (senior citizens 60p) can be purchased from Mr J. Hart, 26 Defoe Crescent, or Mr M. Brooke, 10 Washington Crescent. Juniors (and there must be many budding violinists about) can purchase tickets for as little as 20p.

next issue

is due out on

Friday, Feb. 23rd

Copy should reach

Newton Press by

Monday, Feb. 19th



NEWTON AYCLIFFE RECREATION CENTRE

ROCK 'N' ROLL NIGHT

SATURDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1979

LICENSED BAR

8.00 p.m. till 12 Midnight — Ticket 60p

UNDER 18's DISCO

SATURDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 1979

7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. — Ticket 30p

SATURDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1979

7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. — Ticket 30p

FILM NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, 14th FEBRUARY, 1979

AT THE EARTH'S CORE

Starring Doug McClure

7.30 p.m. LICENSED BAR Admission 50p

WEDNESDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1979

SICILIAN CROSS

Starring ROGER MOORE

7.30 p.m. LICENSED BAR Admission 50p

This is a Sedgefield District Council Amenity

