

Newton News

Published and printed by the Newton Press

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1979

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IDEAS WANTED FOR FESTIVAL

A date for this year's Festival Fortnight has been fixed for 6th to 16th of June.

The committee have started plans for the 1979 festivities, which will follow the usual format, culminating in Carnival Day on Saturday, 16th of June.

Profits from the 1978 Carnival, amounting to £150, have been dispersed with the following local organisations receiving donations:—

Town Band, Pipe Band, Age Concern, Baden Powell Scouts, St. John Ambulance Brigade and Mentally Handicapped P.T.A.

The Festival committee are happy to receive good ideas to improve the Festival and anyone wishing to help with the organisation is always welcome.

Factories, streets, associations and organisations who wish to take part, enter a float, or take a stall on the carnival field, should contact the secretary, Mr Ric Hargreaves, 61 Shafto Way, tel. 316755; or Mr Chris Jacques, 5 Mellanby Crescent, telephone 317922.

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A scene from St. Clare's Players production of Snow White and the Seven Smurfs
See story on Page 3

A.D.C. ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK

A NEW Formula 2 racing team sponsored by Newton Aycliffe will be taking part in the Aurora and European Championships during the 1979 season.

Aycliffe Team Russell — a combination of Aycliffe Development Corporation and Adrian Russell, who was second in the Aurora Championship F2 section last season — will make its debut at the opening European Championship event at Oulton Park on March 10th.

Racing under the Acorn banner — the Aycliffe new

for industrial development.

Aycliffe Development Corporation's task is to bring industry and commerce to the new town. The town is promoted successfully in the United States and many European countries and the Development Corporation has for some time regarded motor racing as being an attractive and valid method of advertising their name.

John Green, the Corporation's Assistant Estates Director, explains: "A large part of our promotion is in having our name known, and there are many ways of achieving this. General advertising is important but suffers from the failing of only being around for a limited period such as in a Press advertisement where the life is really only one day.

"A racing car is, barring

local company as well as promoting the town."

For Adrian Russell the agreement ends his three seasons of "privateering" — driving as a totally independent entrant — where he has built up a reputation as a finisher with an increasingly impressive record.

"I don't think there is any other team sponsored by a town," said Adrian. "It's a very interesting combination. Although I am a Londoner I have been to Aycliffe and am delighted to be involved in helping to promote it."

Adrian began racing only three years ago with a Formula Atlantic when he took a commendable seventh place in the championship.

In the absence of a similar event in 1977, he switched to Formula Libre and Group 8.

Last season he bought a March 762 and entered the Aurora F1/F2 Championship. Despite his car being older — and around 75 kilos heavier — than most of the opposition, he took second place in the F2 Championship.

This included a first at Snetterton and several second places. In Formula Libre in the



town symbol — the Mexico brown March 782 will be appearing at around 20 meetings in Britain, Belgium, Holland, France and Spain.

The aim of the team is to promote the town of Aycliffe

major accidents, around for a season, appearing in front of audiences of at least 20,000, with associated publicity if it does well.

"Aycliffe has recently acquired a new company, Priestley Precision Engineering, who specialise in working on high performance engines, and through them we contacted Adrian Russell. Now we have reached agreement on sponsorship with Adrian — and Priestley Engineering will be involved in working on the car engine.

"So we are assisting a

same season, Adrian notched up several victories, setting a new lap record at Lydden and had a final win at Silverstone where he was awarded the Chris Bristow trophy for the fastest lap of the club circuit in 1978.

The team is very much a family affair. Adrian's wife, Sonia, is manager, and their daughter Elaine takes time off from her 'A' level studies to timekeep at meetings.

Two full time mechanics provide the professional expertise to keep the car in perfect racing condition.

Special day for Guides and Brownies

Brownies, Guides and Ranger Guides try to think of others every day of the year, but there is one day when they think especially of themselves, that is, everyone in the World Family of Guiding. This special day is called "Thinking Day" and is on the 22nd of February. This was the birthday of both Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the movement, and his wife Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, who was World Chief Guide.

On Thinking Day each year

every member of guiding thinks of her sister Brownies, Guides and Rangers all over the world, prays for them, and wishes them a guiding "happy birthday."

In Westminster Abbey wreaths are laid by members of the Scout and Guide movement on the founder's memorial.

In Newton Aycliffe our "Thinking Day" service was held at St. Clare's Church last Sunday, and had The Year of The Child as its theme.

B.I.P. FAIR WELL IN GAS SURVEY

A recent ten week survey by the Clean Air Inspectorate into emission of vinyl chloride monomer gas, gives BIP an extremely low level compared with other similar plants in the country.

The purpose of the survey was to obtain more information on the concentrations, distribution and dispersal behaviour of vinyl chloride monomer gas with the ultimate objective of determining acceptable levels on completion and collation of all measurements and analysis of sampling results from the respective sites.

Final report

A final report has now been received by the District Council giving full details of the recorded levels from the sampling sites outside BIP works, representative of nearby residential and industrial areas. The report concludes that these values do not give rise to any concern over possible health hazards to people living nearby, when compared with the threshold limit value/time weighted average to which factory workers may be exposed for a forty hour working week.

The sampling sites around the BIP plant were chosen and equipment installed at the Council's Simpasture Court

Grouped Dwelling scheme Newton Aycliffe, GEC Telecommunications factory Aycliffe Industrial Estate and School Aycliffe Hospital. Although the latter site is just outside this Council's district it was considered sensible that it also be serviced. Staff of the Environment Health Department at the same time and the necessary agreement was given by Darlington Borough Council. Representatives of BIP sited their own sampling equipment adjacent to the apparatus provided by Warren Spring Laboratory at the three respective sites, making independent arrangements for servicing and analysis; this particular exercise was useful for comparison purposes.

Sixty-eight per cent of the actual results obtained from the GEC, 94 per cent from the Aycliffe Hospital, and 90 per cent from the Simpasture Court sampling sites, respectively, were below the limit of detection.

White Horse Inn

Newton Aycliffe Amateur Operatic Society, who are rehearsing for their annual show in April at the Avenue School, are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping the problem hitting schools in the area will be resolved.

Despite many setbacks, the production, 'White Horse Inn' is coming along fine, and the cast are confident the performance will reach the usual high standard.

The show is very popular with many well known songs and plenty of chorus work.

Tickets for 'White Horse Inn' will be on sale soon, price 85p for adults; 55p for senior citizens and children.

Make a note in your diary now, for 17th to 21st April.

Confirmation at St. Clare's

The Bishop of Durham officiated at a confirmation service at St. Clare's Church last Sunday.

The confirmation of ten candidates took place during the family Eucharist, and the confirmands took their first communion at this service.

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Old Age Pensioners cannot win

Dear Sir,

Re Newton News report of 9th February, Pensioners' Fares Under Review. Mr Roberts is to be praised for any interest he shows in the welfare of the aged; I conclude, unfortunately, his approach would seem very much at fault.

Public opinion is on the side of pensioners against disparities and unfairness from area to area. His insistence on a national scheme is some three years belated; over that period the Old Age Pensioners' Association and Jack Jones of the T.U.C. have been campaigning and petitioning Government Ministers for adequate pensions commensurate against need, and as a second best, passes on buses.

Misdemeanour

Mr Roberts mentions abuse (by the old folk) under the present system of tokens. This may be true, but not peculiar to pensioners. Britain is infested with misdemeanour and abuse among all sections of the community; falsification of accounts at the highest levels, tax fiddlers, shop lifting, etc.

It is a violation of personality and human dignity: the innocent, the able and partially disabled, subject to a test to prove their innocence. The issue of a separate coinage, the tokens, is a further humiliation and degrading.

How would Mr Roberts react lined up in a queue at the payout desk of a supermarket to be searched to prove his innocence of shop lifting. As reported, Mr Roberts makes the invidious suggestion that travel passes for pensioners should bear the holder's photograph.

Why differentiate between several times more commuters with travel concession passes? A simpler method (though disdainful) would be the presentation of the pension book in transparent casing.

Jim Callaghan is reported as favouring a national travel pass scheme if re-elected; the leaders of the other two political parties are strangely silent on the issue. It is well known the best way to defeat a proposal is to keep on deferring it.

A bird in hand is worth two in the bush, and I would like to know is Mr Roberts circumventing the County Council plan backed by other councils to institute half fare pass travel to commence in May 1979? Is he seeking to absolve councils and councillors from responsibility when not giving support?

Press reports reveal Wear Valley Council and Darlington Council are giving favourable consideration. It is ominous that there is a large area under a cloak of silence.

The pensioners, the weakest section of the community, are in a vice, and cannot win. Government policy is leave it to the Local Authorities, backed to the tune of £30m. Local authorities regard it as responsibility of Government and charged to taxation.

Between them they have tied the can to the cat's tail and interpose with the question "was it the rattle of the can that made the cat run, or was it the running of the cat that made the can rattle?"

Yours faithfully,

W. A. Bell,

187 Waskerley Walk.

LETTERS

PUTTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT FOR HELP THE AGED

Dear Sir,

I would normally ignore any letter the writer of which was not prepared to state his or her name and address, but in view of the damaging letter from the anonymous "Independent" which appeared in your issue dated February 9th, I hope that in fairness to the millions of people who support Help the Aged, and the many millions of people who, year in and year out, benefit from their support, you will kindly print a letter from me which may go some way to eliminating the damage caused by the comments of your anonymous letter writer.

Firstly, may I pay tribute to the many churches and voluntary helpers who give their premises and time to assist in our regular appeals for good clothing and blankets and money — appeals which are specifically organised to help needy aged people in the poorer countries overseas. Because the problems of old age knows no frontiers Help the Aged has always operated on a world wide basis. Because fewer and fewer old people suffer from actual hunger and lack of clothing in Britain today, for which we are thankful, a large number of people respond generously to appeals to send their help to those in greater need overseas. While poverty does exist in this country for many people, overseas, poverty is absolute, and hunger and starvation affect millions.

Self-help schemes

In an attempt to help old people to help themselves, even in these dire circumstances, Help the Aged promotes self-help schemes in many countries. Our annual report, which is freely available to any interested reader, gives details of some of these schemes, and if anyone wishes to know more about any of them, then they are invited to write to me.

But Help the Aged is also very active on the home front. The £1½m which was held over at the end of 1977 for further commitments was almost all earmarked for work in the United Kingdom. The £½m used on education and information has, we believe, been well spent in helping our young people to understand some of the problems and hopes of the elderly, and in creating a climate of informed opinion in this country. This will enable greater benefits for the elderly and increased information for them about their rights and opportunities. More old people will be able to live independently and have fuller lives to the end of their days.

In its short history, Help the Aged has established what is now the largest Housing Association providing sheltered accommodation (individual flats with wardens on hand) in the United Kingdom. Help the Aged has financed the largest Rehabilitation Unit

in the country which it is hoped will be a model and inspiration for various Health Authorities in this country and in other parts of the world. It has promoted hundreds of Day Centre, financed minibus schemes for transporting house-bound elderly to Day Centres, financed Day Hospitals, promoted research into problems of ageing, for three years provided a monthly national newspaper free of charge, and still subsidises its production — and much else besides.

Help the Aged is a progressive and rapidly developing movement and has built up in a few years a large body of opinion which we believe endorses our programme and policy. Part of its appeal costs has been to establish in India their own fund raising team and similar activities are now going on in South Africa and North America, thus enabling more help to the poorer parts of the world.

Help the Aged does not pay "exorbitant salaries" nor does its staff receive "posh cars" — nor does it provide "jobs for the boys and relatives". Its staff has to be successful in their work and their success is judged just as hard as if they were engaged in a business enterprise. As stated in its annual report, the average salary paid in 1978 was in the region of £2,300. It enjoys a large amount of rent free office accommodation and so much of its work is done by voluntary or honorary people.

There is so much genuine need in the world — and thank God so much generosity — that organisations like Help the Aged play a very valuable part in being the channel through which goodwill may flow. People like your anonymous contributor would do well to encourage that generosity rather than attempt to stop its flow.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh Faulkner,
Director.

**£2,500
collected**

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal we take the opportunity, through our local newspaper, to sincerely thank all the people of Newton Aycliffe who gave so freely and those who gave active support during Poppy Appeal Week.

Your efforts have helped us to pass the last year's total and realise the sum of £2,556.79.

House to house and street collections accounted for £410.28, and the combined efforts of schools, clubs, hotels and factories £597.21. Generous donations from the Royal British Legion Branch, Club, and women's section, gave us our total.

This amount has already been deposited in the Poppy Appeal Headquarters account in Maidstone.

Yours faithfully,

Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Honesty?

Dear Sir,

In the new year my husband found a handbag containing cash to the value of £91 and other personal effects.

We handed the handbag in to the police station and we have since learnt it has been claimed.

But this was a month ago and so far we have not had one word of appreciation from the owner.

Such lack of courtesy makes me wonder whether honesty is always the best policy.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Wood,
10 Wright Close.

Local shop does value its customers

Dear Sir,

We would like a reply to be printed in your Newton News letters column referring to the letter about the "Distress over pop bottle" in your last issue dated Feb. 9th.

In reply to Mrs C. Ross's letter about our shop in Washington Crescent we would like to state what actually happened.

The two children concerned came to the shop on the Friday afternoon. While the 9-year-old was being rung through the till the 7-year-old leaned back on the lemonade stand and turned and knocked the bottle of pop to the floor. The only other customer at the till was Mrs G. Boddy (who is prepared to tell Mrs Ross what happened).

Not hurt

The checkout operator made sure both children were not hurt and then told them they would have to pay for the lemonade as all breakages must be paid for. One of the girls was given the till receipt and was told to go home and tell her mother she had broken a bottle of lemonade and had to pay for it.

The next day Mrs Ross came for an explanation; we

were both talking to her, but as it was just after nine a.m. my husband had to go and see to the bread delivery men (Mrs Ross could see this for herself). He did not walk away in the middle of a discussion as she insinuated because I was still talking to her trying to explain what had happened.

We value the custom of everyone who comes to the shop, and we do our best to provide a good efficient friendly service, and we don't want people to be given the impression that we are a "couldn't care less shop" because of this one incident. We have made a lot of friends since we took over the shop and we hope to continue to make more — with or without the custom of Mrs Ross.

Yours sincerely,

L. & B. West,

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Winter wonders

Dear Sir,

How much one has appreciated the splendid services of the young milk roundsmen and newspaper delivery boys during this appalling wintry weather.

Despite the heavy snows, and shocking icy conditions of our footpaths and minor roads, these young boys have carried out their duties with praiseworthy regularity.

I am sure that they have won all our gratitude.

One cannot help contrasting these lads' efforts at excellent behaviour, with the utter callousness and industrial strife that bedevils our country at the present time.

Yours faithfully,

W. J. L. James,
4 Surtees Walk.



Harry Rowell at the controls in Aycliffe Community Radio Studio.

REORGANISATION OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE'S COMMUNITY BAZAAR?

This year's event will take place in the Town Centre on Saturday, 7th July. As this is the International Year of the Child, we think it appropriate that we should encourage the youth of our town to join in our activities.

We therefore invite ALL youth groups to take part in, or provide, some special activity of their own — such as Jamboree, athletics, dancing, singing, or whatever, on Bazaar day.

We also invite the participation of all organisations and clubs as in previous years to man their stalls. This year, however, there will be no set 'theme.' All decorations and displays will be left to individual groups, as was the original purpose of the Bazaar.

Bazaar Shield

The Bazaar Shield will again be awarded to the best stall display, plus 1st, 2nd and 3rd certificates for winner and runners-up.

The Bazaar committee are also proposing an all-schools art competition. We are looking for an emblem design to use as a future 'trademark' for our displays, posters, etc. These school entries will be on display in the Information Centre window from Monday, 23rd April, 1979. We hope the general public will take interest in this competition and help the committee to choose by agreeing to a free ballot vote. The committee will then make an eliminating choice for 1st, 2nd and 3rd selections from each school. A final public judging will then follow for the overall

winner with 2nd and 3rd placings. The winning school entry will win a Bazaar plaque for the school, with a certificate for the three finalists.

Previous bazaars have been held — as many of you well know — in very adverse weather conditions. The committee have discussed ways and means of providing some form of shelter for stall users: (a) by covered stalls hired from authorities willing to lend; (b) Hire of Recreation Centre main hall, but this would mean all public users paying entrance fee; (c) Use of arcade areas, would cause possible congestion for shops and public, and bazaar would be 'chopped up' and a lot of the 'together' atmosphere would be lost.

Enquiries into these suggestions proved that (a) No reply yet from SDC; (b) Refusal from Recreation Centre committee; (c) An idea that we decided not to pursue for reasons mentioned.

The committee would, however, appreciate your comments on these points and they are only mentioned to let you see that we do have your interest at heart.

Participation fee

Although a participation fee has never been mentioned to bazaar participants, we have thought of it. If any organisation is agreeable to paying a reasonable fee to take part, perhaps they will make their decision known to the bazaar committee for our future consideration.

Our funds are supplemented each year by the ADC, but we would prefer to be self-

supporting. Our firm rule of 'no cash exchange' in the bazaar area is also preventing ourselves from 'cashing in' on the public interest at our events. An entrance fee would give the committee more monetary freedom, providing refreshments for us all taking part, and some form of shelter for those in need of it from a long stint behind a stall.

We do not wish to become at all commercialised — the present atmosphere of friendly goodwill is the mainstay of our efforts — but a few home comforts would make the duties of the day more pleasurable for us all.

If you wish to take part in the Bazaar this year please contact the secretary, Mrs V. Benton, 25 Moule Close, Newton Aycliffe.

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**next
issue**

is due out on

Friday, 9th March

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.....

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ST. CLARE'S PANTOMIME A HIT

... and the Vicar wore tights

What a shock readers will get when I inform them that a Curate at St. Clare's Church dressed up as a woman last week and the Vicar wore tights.

But before you pass on the story to the Sunday papers I have to tell you it was all part of the pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Smurfs, presented last week by the St. Clare's Players.

The Curate, Rev. Brian Fairbanks, played the dame, 'Fanny Haddock' and had the audience in stitches with his antics, which included a John Travolta-type dance and a striptease!

Custard pies

The Vicar, the Rev. Granville Gibson, was a great sport and appeared in the final scene as the king of Barnslania, wearing silver Lurex tights. He was accompanied by Rev. John Scorer as king of Outer Horndale. Both kings enjoyed further humiliation from 'Fanny', who presented them with one of her custard pies full in the face!

The whole show was hilarious and packed houses each night joined in the fun.

Snow White was beautifully portrayed by Paula Walker, who has a good strong personality with excellent diction.

Charity walk

A special presentation evening is to be held on Saturday, 24th February, when proceeds of a charity walk, held in September last year, will be distributed to old people's homes by Mr J. Rodwell.

The walk was organised by the Recreation Centre Sauna Bath staff and all who took part are invited to attend the presentation at the Clarence Hall at 3 p.m.

More news wanted for A.C.R.

Aycliffe Radio is very popular as a means of transmitting an endearing message to loved ones.

Each week Harry Rowell sends greetings over the radio for all kinds of people and for all types of occasions.

Advertising town events is also the thing to do on ACR. Jumble sales, Variety Shows, etc., all benefit from a 'plug' on Aycliffe Radio.

Harry Rowell is delighted by this sort of use of the radio station, but would also appreciate snippets of news. 'Any sort of information on any topic would be well received and help to make the programme that much more interesting,' said Harry.

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