

# Newton News

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## ST. CLARE'S PANTO A SELL OUT

**MORE THAN 1,100 PEOPLE** over six performances attended the Annual Church Pantomime held in St. Clare's Hall, to see "Cinderella and the Mr Men."

Reports from audiences each night indicate the show was a huge success thanks to the hard work put in by the St. Clare's Players.

Apart from all the usual ingredients for a good pantomime the show had a few surprises. One being the substitution of the Fairy Godmother with "Wonder Fairy" Pat Wood which brought gasps of amazement from the auditorium at each appearance, and she is to be commended for entering into the true spirit of panto.

The lead parts of Cinderella and Prince Charming brought together again the successful partnership of

Paula Walker and Christine Rigg. These young girls displayed great acting talent combined with pleasant singing voices.

Beth Stockdale and her daughter Corinne were magnificent as the Ugly Sisters. Their antics on stage brought great humour to the show. Nancy Abson, who played their mother, ably completed a hateful trio for the audience to boo and hiss.

Debbie Wise as Dandini, the Prince's "man servant," added a touch of glamour to a production which had very colourful costumes.

Rev. Brian Fairbanks, as

Buttons, true to the story, lost Cinderella in the end, but succeeded in winning the sympathy of appreciative audiences. The Brokers men Marie Gittins and Janice Allan were involved in the inevitable Ghost scene and scared the kids sufficiently. The audience participation lived up to expectations and there was ample opportunity for cat calls and singing.

### Well received

The Mr Men, made up of schoolchildren Alison Sanderson, Ruth Stockdale, Alison and Karl Bennett, Susan Beattie, Joseph Ewin, Andrew Norman, Christopher and Catherine Gibson, Christopher Howarth, Joanne Lowe and Victoria Proud, all did

very well indeed. Their "Sparrow Song" was well received.

In summation, Cinderella can be said to be more than successful. The fact that people had to be turned away is sufficient proof of the popularity of this group's pantomimes. It was evident that much work had gone into this production.

The whole cast and all connected deserve every encouragement to continue.

## A.D.C. walk out of liaison meeting

A minor row broke out at a recent liaison meeting of the ADC and Sedgfield District Council.

Trouble started when the Sedgfield representatives insisted their leader should chair the meeting and that the agenda include a discussion on the transfer of housing.

On the first point it was the ADC's turn to take the chair and on the other the Corporation say they were not allowed to take part in any discussion about housing.

It was unfortunate the meeting did not take place, as one of the items on the agenda was the ADC's proposals for the new Arts Centre. Without the District Councils co-operation the project cannot go ahead.

The ADC say they have an agreement on the conduct of liaison meetings and it was definitely broken by the District Council.

Chief Executive at Sedgfield, Alan Roberts, told Newton News that prior to "transfer" this was the case, but now we have a different situation and the Council believe they should run the meetings.

On the question of housing defects, Mr Roberts thought the ADC had a right to hear what progress is being made on this issue with the government, particularly as the ADC are paying part of the costs arising from consultancy fees.

A diplomatic move is required from one side or the other to break what appears to be stalemate.

## KIDS RUN RIOT AT NIGHT IN THE TOWN CENTRE

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF WENTONS has written to the police pointing out the danger children are putting themselves in by jumping the four feet gap from the Fin Fare Superstore roof to his own shop.

Before Mr Lawson removed it, a plank was being used to make the dangerous crossing. This has not stopped the youngsters, who now jump the gap, which is 25 feet from the ground.

The letter to the police and the ADC carries the warning that it might not be too long before a serious injury occurs. During the day the youngsters can be heard and then stopped, but there is no one around after shops close to keep the children from this dangerous practice.

At night the Town Centre becomes a playground for children. People are intimidated, shop windows and doors are defaced, signs removed or damaged, and litter from the rear of shops is tipped over. People who visit Batchelors at night complain that kids are running riot.

### Essential

There is only a small number of youngsters involved and it is a shame that any action taken as a result of these latest complaints should affect everyone.

But it is essential something is done to catch and make an example of the wrong doers.

Mr Lawson of Wentons has asked the police, even though they have enough work already, to keep an eye on his premises and take the necessary steps to prevent an accident.

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#### NEWTON AYCLIFFE

##### 18 JESMOND COURT

A 3-Bedroomed Semi-Detached House built about 7 years ago on the popular Byerley Park Estate and enjoying one of the nicest sites on the development. The property has pleasant gardens to both front and rear together with an open rear aspect over a tree belt. The house itself offers good family accommodation with full Gas Central Heating and side attached garage. The property is in excellent order throughout and is realistically priced for an early sale. Comprising: Entrance Lobby, Lounge with Gas fire and attractive stone bench down two walls for T.V. etc., Dining Area, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobe, Bathroom & W.C. Attached Garage. Gardens front and rear including greenhouse. Viewing: Telephone Aycliffe 319601. Price: Offers around £17,000.

##### 1 SANDERSON CLOSE

A rare opportunity to acquire a Detached Bungalow in a quiet and sought after situation just off Burn Lane. The property would ideally suit a retired couple, though it is still within the price range of some first time buyers. The accommodation has full Gas Central Heating and the added benefit of a garage and a very private rear Garden. Comprising: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen, Utility Room, 2 Bedrooms (both with built-in wardrobes), Bathroom & W.C. with Shower. Side attached Garage. Small front Garden, good sized rear Garden. Viewing: Telephone Aycliffe 312846. Price: Offers in the region of £15,000.

##### 93 GREATHEAD CRESCENT

Particulars of a Freehold Middle Terraced Home offering good and useful accommodation, all Centrally Heated by Gas, in a pleasant and convenient area where houses were built on a traditional theme and only half a mile from the very centre of the town and within easy striking distance of all Newton Aycliffe's facilities. Comprising: Entrance Vestibule, Living Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C. Gardens to front and rear. Sep. Garage. To view: Keys available from Agents' Office. Price: £11,700.

##### 24 DEFOE CRESCENT

A particularly spacious Semi-Detached House situated in one of the most sought after established residential areas of the town, off Central Avenue. The property has pleasant gardens and an open aspect across fields. It has Gas Central Heating and fitted Kitchen, also part double glazing. Comprising: Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 large Bedrooms, Bathroom & W.C. Small Utility Room. Gardens to front and rear. Garage. Viewing: Through Agents' Office. Price: £19,000.

##### 5 FELTON CLOSE

This house provides a fine opportunity to obtain a spacious family home. A 4-Bedroomed Mid-Terraced House, it has small but pleasant Gardens, Garage and Gas Central Heating. Situated just off Washington Crescent, it is in very nice order and offers excellent value for money. Comprising: Entrance Lobby, L-shaped Living Room with feature stone bench and French Door to rear Garden, Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, separate W.C. Integral Garage. Gardens front and rear. To view: Key from 9 Defoe Crescent, Newton Aycliffe. Price: Offers around £17,000.

##### 51 OAKFIELD

The property lies about half a mile from the Centre of Newton Aycliffe to the South West side in an area of traditionally built houses where there has in recent times been a ready market. This particular property is in first class state of presentation and has full Gas Central Heating. Comprising: Entrance Hall with Cloakroom & W.C., Lounge/Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms all with built-in wardrobes, Bathroom & W.C. with shower. Gardens to front and rear. Garage. To view: Telephone Aycliffe 316949. Price: £14,950 or nearest offer, this price to include carpets throughout.

#### SHILDON

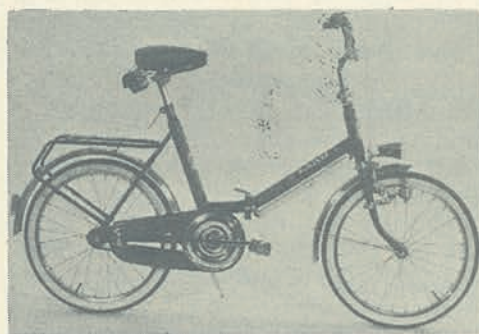
##### 32 MAIN STREET

A highly recommended family Terraced House which has been improved and re-decorated both internally and externally. The property has recently had Gas Central Heating fitted together with a luxurious Bathroom suite and high quality new Kitchen. Internal inspection is a must. Comprising: Entrance Lobby, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining area, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom & W.C. Forecourt and enclosed rear Yard with small grassed area. Viewing: Telephone Shildon 3891. Price: £10,500.

#### SCHOOL AYCLIFFE

##### 17 WESTFIELDS

A 2-Bedroomed Detached Bungalow built about 8 years ago on one of the finest sites on this increasingly popular development, situated at the head of a quiet cul-de-sac on the most mature part of the development, the property offers meticulously maintained accommodation with full Gas Central Heating, and a particular feature of this bungalow is the larger than average site with an unusually private rear Garden which has been very well laid out. Comprising: L-Shaped Entrance Hall, Lounge with gas fire and attractive stone surround, Dining Room with French Door to rear Garden, Kitchen/Dining area, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom & W.C. with shower. Side attached single Garage with power and water supply. Gardens front and rear. Viewing: Telephone Aycliffe 312041. Price: Offers in the region of £29,500.

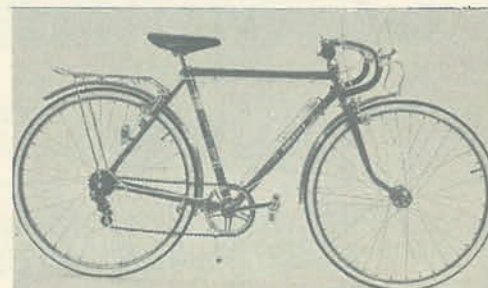


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# JOHN HARDY

A MEMBER OF THE INDESCON GROUP

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# LOCAL GOVERNMENT POWER LIKELY TO BE REDUCED

Dear Secretary of State,

This branch at its last meeting expressed grave concern at the trend of Government thinking as set out in various consultative papers and particularly, in the Local Government Planning and Land Bill which has recently been published. It considered that the overall effect of the Government's proposals would be to alter

radically the Central/Local Government relationship away from local democracy towards Central Control.

You have continually emphasised your wish to reduce controls over local government and to give it more freedom of choice and flexibility. Your actions to date seem likely to achieve the opposite effect.

The Local Government Planning

and Land Bill in its preamble, is among other things, described as "an Act to relax controls over Local Government." In September last, the Government issued a White Paper (Cmd. 7634) which listed almost 300 controls which it is intended to repeal. These controls are largely unused, outdated or duplicated, and the effect on local authorities of repealing them will be negligible. On the other hand, the Government's plans envisage more far reaching restrictions on the way in which local authorities undertake their responsibilities. Examples are the detailed rules which are likely to be laid down to cover such matters as publication of information, control of Direct Labour Organisations and in proposed housing legislation, the imposition of a general duty to sell Council houses.

The branch did not accept that

nor is there any reason why the Government should restrict the use of local authorities' internal funds. It is hoped that the Bill will be amended to overcome these objections.

The grant proposals in the Bill were also strongly opposed as they appeared to be based on the assumption that the Government could and should decide how much each individual authority needed to spend. There is no evidence to show that anybody, other than the local authority concerned, was capable of making such a decision.

The part of the grant proposals to which the greatest objection was expressed was the use of a national norm for rate poundage. It was argued that this would reduce the local authorities to agents of Central Government and take from the public the right to have more or

*A letter from the Chairman of the Durham Branch of the Association of District Councils to Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment*

local government as a whole had in any way failed to face up to its responsibilities to provide services for the public and at the same time conform to Government policies and comply with the exhortation of successive governments with regard to financial constraint. The present proposals were seen as displaying a lack of trust in an experienced local government service. There was also a strong feeling that many of the changes were being implemented without sufficient time for proper consultation and examination.

The main criticism of the Bill, however, was on the financial clauses — control of capital expenditure and the new system of Rate Support Grant.

The definition of capital spending in the Bill is more stringent than ever hitherto proposed in draft legislation and would seriously restrict the freedom to develop services in the way the ratepayers might need or desire. There would be no flexibility or room for manoeuvre to enable local authorities to experiment or take opportunities,

better services if they were prepared to pay. It is felt that the local ballot box should be the means by which the public should decide whether Councillors are meeting the needs of their constituents.

The Association of District Councils has said that the need for better overall control of local government is totally unsupported and unjustifiable, and that the capital expenditure and block grant proposals together will have the most serious consequences for the future autonomy and independence of democratically elected local authorities.

The Durham Branch strongly supports this view and hopes that the public will realise the extent of the restrictions which the Government's proposals would place on the Councillors they have elected.

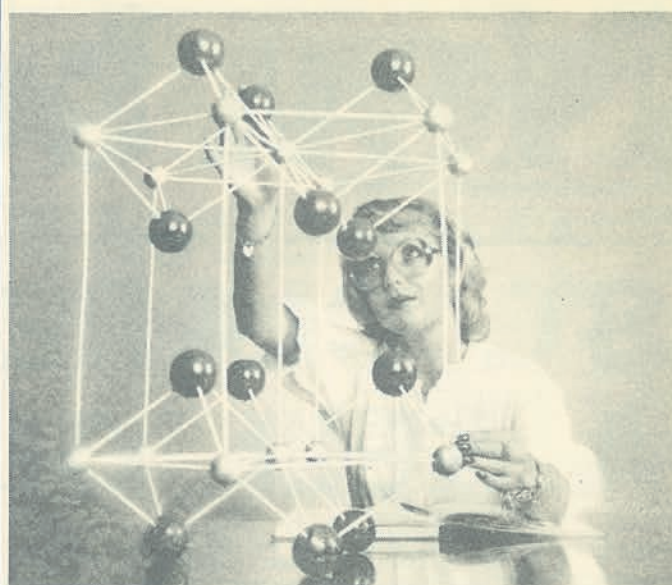
## WORLD FAMOUS CELLIST AT ST. MARY'S

The world famous cellist Raphael Wallfish accompanied by Richard Markham (pianoforte) visits Newton Aycliffe on Saturday, February 23rd. The Wallfish/Markham duo are touring the North East, and interested persons will be pleased to know that the concert of music, which will include works by Beethoven, Brahms, Faure and Mendelssohn, is to be completely different from the one to be given at Darlington on the following evening.

The concert is to be held in St. Mary's R.C. School, and non members can purchase tickets for £1.20. Special offers include admission for Senior Citizens at 80p and young people for 30p. This should be an evening not to be missed.

## Home Mission anniversary

Neville Parade Methodist Church are celebrating their Home Missions Anniversary on March 2nd and 3rd, and a warm invitation is extended to all to join in worship on this special weekend. Rev. Michael Brown who is now the Free Church Chaplain for Durham Gaol, will be conducting the services at 9.45 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.



"Aycliffe Girl" Val Winship works as a shorthand typist in Aycliffe and plays badminton and squash in her spare time.

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## MEALS SERVICE SUPERVISOR

We have a vacancy in the Catering Department for a Meals Service Supervisor due to our current supervisor moving from the area.

Extensive renovating work has recently been carried out in the Catering Department, and a plated meals service for patients re-introduced. This entails a varied and interesting post for the Supervisor and responsibility is also given for the staff meals service. The applicant should enjoy working in a large Catering Department and be readily adaptable to all situations. Previous hospital experience is not essential though can be an advantage. Additional duties include assistance with rotas, work and cleaning schedules when required, and together with the Kitchen Superintendent, Head Cook, etc., general assisting with supervision throughout the Catering Department.

This is a full time post and applicants should be prepared to work at weekends on a rota basis.

Approximate average rate of pay: — £64.60 plus £1.15 lead in bonus payment (pay rise pending).

For further details, application forms and job descriptions, contact Mrs A. J. Little, Catering Manager, Aycliffe Hospital, Heighington, Nr. Darlington. Tel. Darlington 60100 ext. 804. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms, 3rd March, 1980.

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NEW COMPANY WILL MEAN ANOTHER 30 JOBS

A new company, Linear Textiles, has taken over a 10,000 square foot factory in Aycliffe, County Durham. And the company, which will produce specialist narrow pile fabrics, will begin recruiting over the next few weeks.

Linear Textiles is owned jointly by the Laird Group and John Garnett, former chairman and Managing Director of Schlegel (UK), who will run the Aycliffe factory.

"We will be going into production in early February and hope to be employing 30 people

within 18 months," said Mr Garnett.

"Our product is a weatherseal material which is used in the automotive and glazing industries."

Recruitment will begin with a few people experienced in weaving and in plastic extruding.

The company looked at a number of locations in the north of England before choosing Aycliffe.

"We wanted to be in a development area and Aycliffe had the superb communications we were looking for as well as a suitable factory available."



LETTERS

HOUSING SCHEMES LEAVE MORE TO BE DESIRED

Dear Sir,

I was indeed interested to read that with enthusiasm the Labour Council watches and participates in the growth of the new town and that according to Mr Brian Stephens, Chairman of the Sedgefield District Housing Committee, further development is contemplated and over 300 houses are now in courses of construction.

I do hope that the Council will ensure that in these subsequent housing layouts due care will be taken with elevational considerations! Far too much of recent residential development seems to lack architectural merit, and contrasts strikingly with earlier work where housing elevations and landscaping were both designed with much skill, and gave a decided architectural character and setting to the town.

To this pioneer work the town is indebted to the first architects to the Development Corporation — the late Mr G. Goldstraw and Mr H. Durrell, and their work reflected in a modest way the Garden City inspiration of Letchworth.

A design unit which I personally find unattractive is the "back to back" blocks of housing with sloping roof to a central rainwater channel. They are reminiscent of housing at High Spennard (circa), which the County Council condemned about 1960 and demolished in their slum clearance scheme as having served its purpose and below standard in design.

Much of the town's north west development could, I feel, have been designed with much more emphasis on architectural balance, proportion and pleasantness, which were of great concern to our Georgian and Regency developers of the small towns and residential areas.

As it is, when driving past the latest housing layouts of the town one does not register a particularly beautiful or pleasing architectural experience.

Yours faithfully,  
Walter J. L. James.

Marriage Guidance Council

Dear Sir,

Perhaps your readers are now aware that the Marriage Guidance Council operates a counselling service in Newton Aycliffe.

Newton Aycliffe houses a lot of people who are new to this area and have perhaps left relatives and friends in other parts of the country; because of this they may feel isolated and sometimes when problems occur that they feel unable to cope with, they make the doctor for tranquillisers or the solicitors to enquire about divorce proceedings their first stop.

I would ask readers with personal problems that they feel they can't cope with (whether married or not) to make marriage guidance their first stop. We offer a caring service, that seeks to understand the root of the problem. We are non-critical and see each person as an individual with unique qualities and feelings.

Our aim is to help you to help yourself and hopefully after coming to marriage guidance you will be able to do just that.

We don't offer magic formulas or wave magic wands, but help the client to understand his or her feelings and needs and to explore what is happening within their relationships with others. A client must want change — must want things to be different, and above all must be willing to work hard, as there is no easy way for change to occur.

If you feel counselling could help you (and I feel it could, otherwise I wouldn't be doing this job voluntarily) phone Darlington 61500 for an appointment to see me in Newton Aycliffe.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs Ann Cooper  
Marriage Guidance Officer.

Aycliffe 1st "surgery"

Dear Sir,

Please may I advise residents of Ward 3 to contact me, as their councillor, if they have any problems.

Urgent matters will be attended to by phoning 313067. Messages will be passed on to me immediately through my mother at this number.

An "Aycliffe First" surgery is to be held soon, when residents are invited to attend to air their views. Notification of this will appear in Newton News.

Yours faithfully,  
Coun. Mrs A. Richardson  
8 Alington Road.

Old folks trip to pantomime

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Newton Aycliffe and District Round Table, can I thank everyone who supported our Christmas raffle in aid of the old folks outing.

I would, in particular, like to thank the local traders for their donations, Radio Aycliffe for the publicity and most of all, the general public for their financial support. As a result, we were able to give 35 people from three old folks homes a night out at the Civic Theatre, Darlington to see Jack and the Beanstalk.

Yours faithfully,  
A. J. C. Maxwell,  
Acting Secretary.

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