

Newton News

Published and printed by the Newton Press

FRIDAY, 9th JANUARY, 1981

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WORK HAS NOT YET BEGUN ON TOWN CENTRE POST OFFICE

OUR TOWN CENTRE Post Office has been closed since 29th November for alterations, yet to date work has not begun.

Not content with causing extreme inconvenience for the townsfolk over Christmas, the GPO seemingly compound their ill-

timed closure by showing it was totally unnecessary!

Our local Postmaster does not agree there has been any incon-

venience. "We have been able to offer a better service from the temporary Post Office in Greenwell Road," said Mr Thorpe. "There is more space for the public, the building is well lit, warm, and I feel we coped better over Christmas than we would have done at the

town centre building," he added.

The Postmaster is a little peeved at the criticism the Town Centre Post Office receives. "We work hard to provide the best service possible and the alterations are being made to further improve that service. When the Post Office re-opens there will be eleven serving positions with a single queue system," said Mr Thorpe.

Unfortunately the alterations are so extensive we have to wait until May for our re-modelled post office.

The single queue system will be welcomed as a fairer way of being served, and will please the Town

Council who have pressed for its introduction.

Post Office staff are quick to point out that queues only occur in the mornings and if half the customers could plan their visit to the Post Office in the afternoon they would be served much quicker.

It is accepted that people drawing allowance or pensions should have their money as soon as possible, so it follows, other customers could plan their call to the Post Office at other times to avoid congestion.

We asked the Head Postmaster at Darlington why there has been a

delay in starting work on the alterations and would the schedule now be five weeks behind.

"While there is no evidence of work, architects and surveyors have commenced their tasks, and we still hope to be back in our building by May," said Mr Penn.

"It was a deliberate plan to move out before Christmas in an effort to alleviate the problems we experienced last year when staff were employed to control the queues," he added.

Mr Penn could have perhaps staved off a lot of criticism had he informed the public of this strategy.



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183 BLACKTON CLOSE — A 3-Bedroomed Semi-Detached property offering outstanding value for money in today's market. The spacious family accommodation is in very nice order and has full electric warm air Central Heating. Comprising: Entrance Hall, separate Cloaks with W.C., Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and W.C. Gardens to front and rear and integral store. Price: £10,950.

12 JESMOND COURT, BYERLEY PARK — A 3-Bedroomed Semi-Detached House set in one of the nicest locations in the whole of this estate. The house is in good state of repair and decoration and ready for immediate occupation. Gas fired Central Heating installed throughout and a Utility Room which is plastered and plumbed for use as a Laundry. Comprises 'L' shaped Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Utility, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and W.C. Attached Brick Built Garage and Gardens to the front and rear. Venetian Blinds and floor coverings in the Kitchen, Utility and Bathroom are included in the price. R.V. £160. Viewing: By telephone appointment with Mr and Mrs Webb, Aycliffe 317984. Price: £19,500.

29 ZETLAND HUNT, THE CHASE — A 3-year-old Semi-Detached House with many attractive and interesting features, not least of which is the ornate gardens. Situated in a private cul-de-sac in this much sought after district the property is built of high quality brick with tiled roof and is rather different from the usual Semis. It is in a near perfect state of decoration both internally and externally and has Full Central Heating. The house has a patio, Terraced Lawn, Rockery and Fish Pond, etc. All carpets, curtains and Kitchen equipment with the exception of the washing machine may be made available if required, over and above the purchase price. Comprises: Entrance Vestibule, Through Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and W.C. Brick built Garage. Gardens to the front and rear. R.V. £168. Viewing: By telephone appointment with Mr and Mrs Harris on Aycliffe 318053. Price: £18,950 or nearest offer.

25 HURWORTH HUNT, THE CHASE — One of the larger types of 3-Bedroom Semi-Detached Houses built on this popular estate about three years ago. The property is in nice order with full Central Heating and a pleasant site, at the head of a quiet cul-de-sac. Schools and other amenities are readily available and this excellent modern home should continue to appreciate in value. Comprising: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom with W.C., Living Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom with coloured suite. Side attached Garage and pleasant Gardens to both front and rear. Viewing: By appointment with the Agents (Aycliffe Office). Price: Offers over £20,000.

77 OAKFIELD — A 3-Bedroom Terrace House very well situated in a quiet and secluded location on the Western outskirts of the Town, close to Simpasture Park. The property has been extensively improved to include Gas Central Heating, full Double Glazing and a re-fitted Kitchen with Grooved units. The house is now in immaculate order and ready for immediate occupation. Early inspection is advised. Comprises: Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Rear Entrance Lobby, 3 Bedrooms, Laundry Room, Bathroom and W.C. Small Gardens to front and rear with Brick-built Garden Store. R.V. £159. Viewing: Telephone appointment Aycliffe 313054 (Mr and Mrs Molyneux). Price: £16,000.

42 ESKDALE PLACE — A 4-Bedroomed House built about ten years ago on the Western side of the town overlooking the Green Belt. A number of sensible improvements have been carried out and there is Gas Central Heating. Well recommended at the price. Comprises: Entrance Hall, Through Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom and W.C. Gardens to both front and rear. Viewing: Telephone Aycliffe 314806 for appointment. Price: £14,500 or near offer.

30 HURWORTH HUNT, THE CHASE — A 3-year-old Detached House which must be one of the best of its type on this much sought after estate. It is in superlative decorative order with the provision of partial Double Glazing and Cavity Wall Insulation. The property enjoys a quiet situation and is a home of real quality which we strongly advise inspecting. Comprising: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, L-shaped Living Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and W.C. Loft/Play Room, Gardens to front and rear. Brick Garage. R.V. £212. Viewing by telephone appointment on Aycliffe 318805. Price: £26,500 or nearest offer.

97 WASHINGTON CRESCENT — A 2-Bedroom Terrace House which is an ideal starter home. The property has the benefit of Full Gas Central Heating and is in absolutely immaculate order with the additional benefit of a recently built Detached Brick Garage. Washington Crescent is one of the most sought after residential areas of the town, and we unhesitatingly recommend this property for first time buyers. Comprises: Entrance Lobby, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom and W.C. Small front and large rear Garden. Brick-built Garage. R.V. £134. Viewing by telephone appointment on Aycliffe 310777. Price: Offers in the region of £14,000.

19 BARRINGTON ROAD — A 3-Bedroom End Terrace House, situated in a popular area of the Town. The property offers excellent family accommodation with Gas Central Heating, fitted wardrobes in all bedrooms and the advantage of a downstairs W.C. in addition to the one in the Bathroom. A particular feature of this House is the Kitchen, which has recently been completely re-fitted and includes a split level cooker and hob. Very well recommended. Comprises: Entrance Vestibule, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Rear Entrance Hallway, 3 Bedrooms, Laundry Room, Bathroom and W.C. Gardens to front and rear, complete with Brick-built Sheds. R.V. £155. Viewing by telephone appointment on Aycliffe 316130 (Mr and Mrs Coates). Price: £16,000 or near offer.

9 HAMBLETON COURT, BYERLEY PARK — A 3-Bedroomed Detached property situated at the head of a quiet cul-de-sac. It is an ideal family home. The property is in good order throughout and has the benefit of full Gas Central Heating. There is a very large Kitchen which has been formed by incorporating and enlarging the original Utility area into the Kitchen. The property is offered at a reduced price for an early sale and internal inspection is strongly recommended. Comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge with sliding doors leading to the Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and W.C. R.V. £202. Viewing by telephone, Mr and Mrs Clarkson, on Aycliffe 312075. Price: £25,950 or nearest offer.

9 VAN MILDERT ROAD — This well designed 3-Bedroomed Semi-Detached House lies in a quiet and convenient residential area close to Neville Parade Shopping Precinct. It has Gas-fired Central Heating, is well decorated and provides a most pleasant atmosphere in which to live. There is a good rear Garden and an attached Brick-built Garage at side. Comprises: Hall, Through Lounge/Dining Room, L-shaped Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and separate W.C. Gardens to front and rear with Greenhouse. Attached Garage. R.V. £173. Viewing by telephone appointment with Mr and Mrs J. Moore on Aycliffe 317015.

20 WINDLESTONE WALK — A 2-Bedroomed Mid Terrace House which enjoys a pleasant situation with open aspects to both front and rear. This fully Gas Centrally Heated accommodation is in very nice order, and a number of extras are included in the sale. There is a good rear Garden with Greenhouse, and the benefit of an adjacent Garage. It is situated in one of the most popular parts of Newton Aycliffe and would make an ideal home for a first time buyer. Comprises: Entrance Porch, Entrance Lobby, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, Rear Entrance Lobby, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom and W.C. Small front Garden and good-sized rear Garden with Greenhouse, Garage in adjacent block at the rear. R.V. £129. Viewing: Appointment through the Agents. Price: £13,750 or near offer.

Youth Centre do their bit to ease recession

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre are responding to the economic plight of the country. As from Monday, 12th January, they are dropping their prices to 1978 level.

In addition, members will gain admission free of charge on Club nights, Wednesday and Thursday for seniors and Tuesday in the case of Inters (first three years of comprehensive school). A charge of 10p will be made for visitors on these nights.

A new programme has also been arranged. Monday night is now senior Disco Night, members 10p, visitors 20p, 7-10 p.m. for the latest in mod, funk, pop, etc. plus pinball, videos, board games and T.V.

Wednesday and Thursday are Senior Club Nights, 7-10 p.m., with all the usual attractions, plus competitions in table tennis, pool, etc. most Thursday evenings. Monthly film nights are also held.

The Inters Club Night is on Tuesday, 6-9 p.m., and takes in all the activities of the seniors, plus Disco Nights of Fridays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Boxing, karate, netball and football are a few of the sports played, and don't forget, Seniors and Inters members free admission on their respective club nights.

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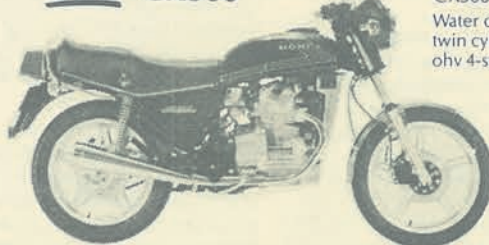


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LITERARY AWARD MAKES ALAN "REAL HAPPY"

The following is a short story written by Alan Singlehurst, of 4 West Auckland Road, Shildon, entitled "Real Happy", which won an award in the recent Sid Chaplin Literary Competition.

There was in the boy's walk the slightly furtive, awkward manner of the adolescent out with his mother. Although he had never been to Newton Aycliffe before he felt embarrassment at being seen, especially when they passed unaccompanied youngsters.

His nervy mother, in the manner of an older person dealing with an adolescent, substituted monologues for conversation and gave full expression to her dislike of the new town. She had done

the same on the bus from nearby Shildon, where they lived, and showed no sign of stopping. For in 'New' Shildon the houses are old, and in 'Old' Shildon even older, though largely replaced by Council houses.

So she remarked, tight-mouthed, that it was 'like one glorified bloody Council estate' and hurried along for no good reason, clutching the shopping bag she used as an oversized handbag, and chastising the boy

when she considered he was dawdling.

The boy, Paul, had seen a book which told of middle-aged women and the changes that happen when they can no longer have babies. So, with a generosity untypical of his years, he attributed her restless irritability to that cause and avoided conflict. But his reaction to the town had been excitingly different, surprising himself, and his eyes searched for interest while he breathed in the space and newness of the great sculpture in which he found himself. Dependant hitherto on his mother's descriptions, he now felt the pleasing harmony of houses sprouted like mushrooms where country hedges still remained.

"Mind, I don't know what state he'll be in," remarked the woman suddenly. "Living on his own in this place, away from all his family. It's up to us to cheer him up." Then a shift to a tone of bitterness. "I don't care what anybody says, I think it's wicked. It's not right sending him over here at his time of life."

"Mam, grandad asked to come."

"Ahh," she replied, dismissing the truth with a sound of disgust.

"Slow down, mam, there's no need..."

"He didn't know what he was doing; he thought he was getting a flat in Shildon but they stuck him out here. There's them new ones on the Fylands Road, he thought he was getting one of them."

"Slow down, mam."

"Anyroad, we're here. You just mind what I told you and don't talk no rubbish." She knocked loudly on the glass door of the downstairs flat. A small light was visible through it. After a moment a door opened inside and a figure approached and opened the front door.

"Hello, dad," said the woman, stepping inside before the door was fully open. "I've brought the bairn." "Oh," said the man, baffled by the invasion. "Hello, Doreen, pet," and to the boy, "Aye aye, lad. Wey this is a surprise. If I'd known you were coming..." "We're not stopping. Just come to see how you are."

The man took them along the passage to the tiny living room. Paul noticed the deeply etched, criss-crossed lines behind his neck. His ears were long and hairy and his shoulders rounded, and he talked as he led them in.

"I was just having a bit read," he said. "I've quite taken to reading." He took the spectacles from his



The prizewinners in the 1980 Sid Chaplin Literary Award are pictured here receiving their certificates. They are (left to right): Mary Davies, Ross R. Walker, Jill Sanderson, Chris Beales, Sid Chaplin, Paul Hemphill, Alan Singlehurst, Cliff Davies and Reg Taylor.

nose, folded them and laid them carefully down. Doreen was looking around, probably for dust. Or damp.

"Well, how you doing then?" she demanded.

"Sit yourselves down, sit yourselves down. Your lucky to catch uz in, y'know, I'm usually out Mondays."

"I said how you getting on?"

"Oh I'm fine," he replied, smiling. "Never ow't much wrong wi' me."

"When did you last eat?"

"Eat? I had a sandwich earlier on. Now don't worry about that."

"You're not looking after yourself, dad. I'm going to make you summ't." Doreen moved towards the kitchen.

"Doreen, don't fuss, man. I eat when I'm hungry; you don't need so much when you get older."

The woman paused to appraise him. "Well," she conceded, "you look alright I suppose. You sure you got plenty in?"

Aye, you just make us a cuppa, honey, that'll see us through."

As she left the room the old man pulled a face at the boy and they giggled conspiratorially. Paul said: "She's doing spot checks" and he noticed the special kindly smile that too-white, too-perfect teeth make. The old man sat near him and in an unspoken and scarcely-understood way each felt a satisfaction, a special mutual warmth. The man looked at the boy and the boy looked down, like a maiden. Neither spoke for a moment, but such silence is soon uncomfortable.

"What d'you think of the town, then?" Paul's grandfather asked him. "I think it's great. I like all the grass and trees and big spaces. When we were coming in tonight I saw all the new houses and the way everything looks dead modern, and when these people got on the bus they all looked so ordinary. I sort of expected them to be... you know..."

"I like the grass and trees meself, I go for lots of walks — for exercise, like — and I never get tired of it." He leaned confidently towards the boy. "I'm thinking of getting a little dog."

"A dog? Are you?"

The old face was bright with enthusiasm, betraying the half-

"It would be great," said the lad. "Been down the library, you know. They got some lovely books on dogs in there, full of pictures. I've got one over here somewhere..." He rose and began looking under the scatter cushions. "Well, I did have..."

They talked for some time about dogs until Doreen returned with a tray. She explained that being unable to find biscuits she had brought crackers. But they were going soft.

"Hey, mam," said Paul, "Grandad says he might be getting himself a little dog!"

"Don't be daft," she replied, then to her father, "What do you want with a dog at your age? How you think you're going to feed it on your pension? Oh, I don't know, you've filled your head with nowt but daft ideas since you come here. What was it last time? You

Cont. on Back Page

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Two children shipwrecked alone on a tropical island. Nature is kind. They thrive on the bounty of jungle and lagoon. The boy grows tall. The girl beautiful. They swim naked over coral reefs. They run in a cathedral of trees. And the warm winds, the tropic moon, the silk sand conspire to enchant them. When their love happens, it is as natural as the sea, and as powerful. Love as nature intended it to be.

ABOVE is a hidden word puzzle containing the names of the stars of this enchanting film BROOKE SHIELDS, CHRISTOPHER ATKINS and LEO McKERN and also the film's title.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO is find the words by reading forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. They are always in a straight line and never miss out letters. Words may overlap and letters may be used more than once. By way of example we have already the words describing the story of the film THE BLUE LAGOON for you. Now mark the names and the film title in a similar way.

TO WIN. The Editor will award one of the star prizes to the sender of the first correct solution opened. Don't forget to tick the prize you would like. The prizewinner will also receive a Double Guest Ticket to see THE BLUE LAGOON (AA) at:- **THE ODEON CINEMA, BISHOP AUCKLAND**

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Eighth Army Veterans form local branch

The reunion for Eighth Army Veterans (the Desert Rats) had originally been held in London at the Royal Albert Hall, and latterly at the Royal Festive Hall, practically every year since 1947.

It was an event in which Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery (Monty) was very much involved, and following his death in 1976 it was decided that the 1976 Reunion would be the last.

Such was the disappointment, however, that a few veterans got together to continue the Reunions at a Northern venue and the "Winter Gardens" at Blackpool was chosen. A committee comprised of ex "other ranks" from Merseyside, Blackpool, Yorkshire and the Potteries organised the first Reunion in 1977 which proved to be a tremendous success.

About 1,800 veterans and their wives attended and enjoyed the friendly, comradely atmosphere that we once shared in the war

years together.

A branch of the Eight Army Veterans Assoc. has been formed in Aycliffe, meetings to be held in the British Legion Lounge (upstairs). Eligibility for membership is open to all British, Commonwealth and Allied ex-Servicemen — Army, Navy or Air Force — who served during the war in North Africa who qualified for the African Star Medal. Membership is also open for those who served in the 1st Army with the Italian Star Medal, and also for ladies who served.

As a matter of interest Coun. Ernest Elmer, Aycliffe's ex-Mayor, is a member of the Assoc., along with his wife Madeline who served in North Africa in the Free French ATS and became County Durham's first lady member.

For application forms write to Mr J. D. Fisher, 28 Lilburne Crescent, Newton Aycliffe; or ask for Coun. Ernest Elmer or Mr Hal Turner in the Legion.

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GARDEN TRIBUTE FOR OUR FALLEN

On Sunday, 9th November, 1980, Newton Aycliffe's own tribute to the "fallen" in two world wars and at the present time, became realistic.

It is perhaps not generally known that our town cannot qualify for a war memorial because the town was non-existent during the war years.

The Newton Aycliffe branch of the Royal British Legion has for many years "chipped away" at "authority" in an effort to find a way to get a central place where our citizens, if they so wish, could gather to "remember and pay homage" to those who died so that we may live in peace.

When the Rev. Granville Gibson accepted the role of Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, Newton Aycliffe Branch, he took up the challenge and our town owes its thanks to his extra efforts along with the town council and the

ADC for the realization of the "Garden of Remembrance."

The Royal British Legion, the Royal Naval Assoc., the Royal Air Force Assoc. and the Burma Star Assoc. raised the funds and donated a bronze plaque which reads: "Dedicated to the memory of those men and women of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth who gave their lives in defence of freedom and democracy." On Sunday Coun. Don Vickers, J.P., on behalf of the ADC, handed the custody of the garden to the Town Council.

The Rev. Granville Gibson carried out the dedication ceremony in the presence of the Mayor and her Council officials, flanked by the standards of the various service associations.

The "two minutes silence" and the laying up of the wreaths made a fitting climax to this very important addition to our town history.



The dedication ceremony at Aycliffe's "Garden of Remembrance" outside St. Clare's Church in the town centre. The Rev. Granville Gibson performed the ceremony and the flags of the town's various service associations are shown.

New manager appointed to boost local radio station

Businessman, salesman and radio feature producer Michael Searle has been appointed General Manager of Aycliffe Community Radio. Mr Searle, 31, married with two children, of Orpington, Kent, takes up his post on January 12, 1981.

The appointment has been made by the Community Radio Board who are setting out to put the small local station on a sound commercial footing and increase the involvement of volunteer broadcasters. At the present time, apart from a small advertising revenue, the station is wholly funded by Aycliffe Development Corporation.

The present manager, Harry Rowell, and assistant manager, Peter Rowell, became redundant as a result of the changes in the format of the station. Peter Rowell has subsequently been appointed as Production Controller and will be running Aycliffe Radio until Mr Searle arrives.

background as a salesman, businessman and currently as a broadcaster at Thamesmead Community Radio and a producer of radio feature programmes for an independent company based in Kent, to produce the results we are looking for."

"Mr Searle is inheriting a top quality radio station from Harry Rowell and we were delighted to achieve continuity by the appointment of Peter as Production Controller. As well as broadcasting, Peter will also be responsible for the recruitment and training of volunteers and he is really enthusiastic about his new job."

Newton Aycliffe WI

Members of the Newton Aycliffe Womens Institute held their annual Christmas party on December 18th in "The Cubby" Greenwell Road. Everyone spent a very enjoyable evening which consisted of a buffet supper followed by games and competitions and ended with carol singing.

The competition, "A Buffet Supper on a Plate," was won by Mrs Gunter and the door prize by Mrs Allen.

Why not come along to our next meeting to be held in "The Cubby" on January 22nd at 7 p.m. where new members will be very welcome.

Experimental

Aycliffe Community Radio was founded on an experimental Home Office licence in May 1978. The licence has since been extended until the end of 1981.

"We are confident that we can justify a further extension by showing that more finance can be brought in and that local people are really using the station," said Don Eltringham, secretary to ACR.

"Mr Searle has the right business

Building Society open new office

A new office of the Abbey National Building Society opened on Monday, 29th December at 15a Dalton Way.

The increasing number of members in and around Newton Aycliffe led to the Society's decision to open a branch in the area. By opening convenient local branches, Abbey National continues to offer personal savings and borrowing facilities to people in their own locality. With more branches and agencies than any other building society, Abbey National's service is second to none.

There will be three members of staff at the new branch headed by David Molyneux. David joined Abbey National sixteen years ago as a trainee in Middlesbrough. He is married with one son, Stephen (11) and one daughter, Nicola (15). Born in Durham and educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Darlington, David and his family now live in Hartlepool. He is interested in most sports and takes

a particular interest in vintage motor cars.

David will be assisted by 26-year-old Mike Vadgama and 24-year-old Dianne Wilkinson. Mike has lived in Newton Aycliffe for twenty years where he attended Ferryhill Grammar School. Mike has worked for the Society since May 1979, training to become a manager. He is married with one son, Dominic.

Dianne, the third member of staff, joined Abbey National in 1975. She lives in Ferryhill although her parents actually live in Newton Aycliffe. Dianne is interested in tennis, badminton and football.

The Newton Aycliffe team are looking forward to providing a full local savings and mortgage service for the people in the area, backed up by the security and facilities of a long-established Society.

The branch will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays, and on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

SOLO CLUB ANNIVERSARY

Newton Aycliffe Solo Club members, their friends and guests were treated to a display by the Lee Green Dancers at their second anniversary dance.

First to appear were the juniors, who call themselves "The Lee Green Dolls". They gave a sparkling performance which demonstrated their obvious ability dedication and potential. They delighted their audience and must have pleased their teacher, Mr B. Thompson, by their accurate timing and lively approach.

Young though they were, they were to be joined for their second routine by a wee lassie of scarcely more than seven, whose mastery of the routine was no less remarkable than that of her fellow dancers.

Next came the senior group, "White Lightning". These young ladies were enviably agile, enthusiastic and definitely adventurous. Their routine was complicated and executed with precision timing, making them worthy adversaries of any of the dancers seen on TV. Remarkably their second routine had only been perfected that same day, yet they performed admirably.

Everyone much appreciated their joining in the rest of the dancing and given that they maintain the very high standard they have already achieved, they must look forward to a bright future.

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£1.75, £2.00, £2.25 per Square Yard

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SALE TO BE HELD AT
NEVILLE PARADE OVER 60 CLUB
NEWTON AYCLIFFE
SATURDAY, 17th JANUARY, 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Trade Advertisements

RUBBER STAMPS MADE TO ORDER. Newton Press Shop, Up the Ramp, Town Centre; or Printing Works, St. Cuthbert's Way, Aycliffe Trading Estate.

DOG OWNERS — Vitalin, the complete dog meal, delivered in your area. Phone Crook 2938.

SYD WOOD Coal & Coke Merchant, Calor Gas Dealer, Delivery Service. Tel. Aycliffe 313634 day or night.

A. KERR CABINET MAKER. All aspects of Furniture Repairs and Renovations undertaken, also Household Repairs and Installations. Tel. Aycliffe 316021.

CALCULATING SERVICES. Speed and Accuracy assured. Tel. Aycliffe 313211.

SINGER SEWING MACHINE Sales and Repairs. Halls Fabrics, Dalton Way, Newton Aycliffe.

WANTED — Modern Furnishings, Gas Cookers, Electric Cookers, Fridges, etc. Phone: Ted's Shed, Bishop Auckland 61579 (Day); 2939 (Night).

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CASTLE CATERERS for all your outside catering. Tel. Aycliffe 319586.

AYCLIFFE DRIVING SCHOOL. Principal J. A. Dowson, D.O.T., A.D.I. Holder of Police Class I Driving and Instructors Certificate. Dual controlled Escort Saloons. Tel. Aycliffe 313747.

WANTED, OLD FURNITURE, by Private Collector. Tel. 67972.

STARLINE OUTSIDE CATERING Services. Buffets for all occasions. Tel. 314033 or 53073.

FOR QUICK SERVICE in Modernisation and Grant Work. All Roofing Repairs, Guttering and Glazing. Also Stone Fireplaces and Wall Cladding. Contact John Nelson, 52 Dene Terrace, Chilton.

AUDIO T.V. REPAIRS. Free estimates. Telephone Aycliffe 314311 for Audio Clinic Service.

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Real Happy

were going to learn to swim? Taken to going down that recreation centre to watch the bairns and he wants to swim. My God!"

She stopped to pour tea, brooding on her father's unmanageability.

"I can't understand," she began again with emphasis, "why you couldn't just have come in with us like I asked you. With our Tony leaving it's the perfect chance, you could have had his room for your own, washing done, meals cooked . . . but oh no, you've got to come and live in this bloody wilderness!"

"I've started taking them swimming lessons at the baths. I went on Friday and I had a grand time. I'm going again Friday coming."

The woman shook her head in bewilderment. "Well I think your brain's going soft, honest I do. Here." She pushed a cup of tea at him. "Living all on your own in this place, it's enough to turn anybody's mind." And she began again to recount the features of New Town life that offered her, from ducted air heating (" . . . you can't have a home without a coal fire, it's not natural!") to modern architecture.

" . . . and there were houses on the way in hadn't even got roofs on, they were flat like boxes. I don't know how folks can bear to live in 'em. I'm sure I couldn't.

Paul said, "I thought they looked right for where they were."

"Did you indeed? Well I don't think I asked for your opinion, Mr Thirteen-years-old-and-don't-forget-it."

"I'm just saying."

"Look here," said the man in a slow, fatherly voice. "What suits me doesn't have to suit you. If you want to know, I came here to die, in the fust place. Out of everybody's road; I didn't care where I went. But now I don't want to die. The bairn knaas what I mean."

Doreen was shocked into silence by talk of death. He smiled for a moment. "There's a lot to be said for living on your own, you know, Doreen. I'm never lonely here, and I have time."

"Well that's just what I'm saying!" cried Doreen in a high voice. "You'd have as much spare time as you wanted living with us. You could watch the telly — you haven't even got one here — or play with the lads . . ."

"No, pet, no," said the man. "That's not what I meant. You see, when you get to my age . . ." He looked up at the sight of her frowning, uncomprehending face. " . . . well, let's forget that for now. How's Harry?"

And they got talking about family and how's our Karen? Oh she's alright, How's her knee? It's healing up nicely, and he managed to feign interest in the complications of Elaine's pregnancy, nodding as much and as often as he thought fit. And the boy sat, bored and looking idly about for the book about dogs, until the time came to go for the bus.

"Do you want that?" the old man said to Paul, of a fob watch on the sideboard. "You can have it if you want."

Paul was grateful and eventually took the watch with a shy smile. His mother made him say 'thank you' several times.

"Why don't you come to see me on your own? I've got all kinds of things you'd love to see. There's a picture of your great-grandfather somewhere." Paul agreed to come again and began to leave. When he was out of the room Doreen spoke to her father in a low, sympathetic voice. "And let's have no more talk about dying, eh? I hate to see you getting all depressed like that. I only wish you'd let us help you."

The man was saddened, but only by the enormity of her incomprehension. "Don't worry," he said, "I'm real happy here."

They left, and the woman walked quickly to the bus stop. She blew her nose as she hurried along, and Paul noticed a watery look in her eye. "Bless him," she said, almost to herself, "He puts on such a brave face."

RENT AND RATES TO INCREASE

A few weeks ago Coun. Jill Frise complained that thousands of Newton Aycliffe residents were subsidising residents in other parts of the District.

"Houses which cost £6,000 each to build in Aycliffe are assessed on that amount while other houses within the District which have cost £8,000 to modernise are paying less in rates," said Mrs Frise.

"Some people in Aycliffe are paying £5 a week rates while tenants living in better houses elsewhere are getting away with around £1.

District Councillor Haswell is disturbed by these comments and writes the following reply which attempts to put the matter straight, and also carries the warning of further increases in rates.

"Untrue"

"Talk of one part of the District subsidising another is both mischievous and downright untrue. The district rate covers the whole of the district and is for all the services provided, no matter where these are located. I would also remind Coun. Mrs Frise that presently this Council receives directly Rate Support Grant in excess of 50 per cent of General Rate Fund expenditure.

"This means that all of us, as taxpayers, are contributing the major share of Sedgfield District Council's rate expenditure. This position will not continue for much longer, however. The new housing subsidies to be introduced on April 1, 1981, together with the new Block Grant will mean that all of us will have to pay a lot more through our rents and rates and for a reduced service.

"It is true there are some tenants in Aycliffe who are paying nearly £5 per week in rates, as there are in other parts of the district, but for the type of accommodation provided the average rates payable

ANNUAL CHOIR CONCERT

On Saturday, January 31, Neville Parade Methodist Church will hold their annual Choir Weekend Concert and this year it will be given by the Nelson Civic Ladies Choir. They have come strongly recommended to us by the Thurnscoe Male Voice Choir and like the Thurnscoe (whom we all enjoyed so much last year) are very entertaining.

They have won many trophies and have had engagements abroad, last year in Austria. We are very much looking forward to this visit.

Tickets: Adults £1, Senior Citizens 75p, can be obtained from E. W. Pryce, 49 Cumby Road, Newton Aycliffe, or any choir member, commencing at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, February 1st, the morning service will be conducted by our own minister, the Rev. Michael Prouting, at 9.45 a.m., and in the evening by the Rev. Robertshaw, of Cockerton, at 6.30 p.m. All are welcome.

Sleeping Beauty

The spectacular pantomime Sleeping Beauty is still running at the Civic Theatre, Darlington, and performances will continue until Saturday, 17th January.

The Panto sees the return of Dougie Squires international song and dance team, Second Generation, and stars Sally Ann Triplett, Mick Miller and Walter Gee.

As from Monday, Senior Citizens will be admitted at children's prices. Ring Darlington 59411 for details.

throughout the rest of the District vary marginally from Aycliffe, and to give the impression that these may be £1 per week is totally false. Indeed if the significant difference in the rate poundage for the Great Aycliffe Town Council compared to other Town/Parish Council rates is ignored the differences are of the order of 20p per week.

Regrettable

"It is regrettable that comments by Coun. Mrs Frise should attempt to put Aycliffe residents against residents in the rest of the district at a time when the District Council is facing immense problems in the new Local Government Land and Planning Act and the Housing Act 1980. In my view it would be more beneficial to the people of Aycliffe to demonstrate to them the inequalities and unfairness of this legislation than trying to undermine the unity of the district." — Coun. Haswell.

Training workshop scheme takes off

Fancy dress costumes, beautiful wrought iron, children's metal wheelbarrows, tables, shelving and woodwork of all kinds — these are just some of the products which are turned out of a small factory in Peterlee.

There's a steady market for the products and the company's future is looking good — which makes it all the more surprising that all of the workers are teenagers and the business is run as a job creation exercise.

The project is Peterlee Industrial Training Workshop at 14/15 Davy Drive on the town's North West Industrial Estate. It is run by manager, Arnold Cramphorn, a former industrialist, who came to Peterlee Development Corporation to help with job creation schemes.

"I was working on a number of schemes, including the formation of an industrial training workshop to help young people who couldn't find work. We formed the Peterlee Industrial Training Trust under chairman Bob Taylor, with representatives from industry, commerce, the trade unions and local authorities, and set up the workshop," said Mr Cramphorn.

Active part

"I hadn't really thought of taking an active part in running it but I became so involved I applied for the job of manager. Now we are making so many different things, I feel like a mad industrialist."

The workshop has a labour force of 60, all teenage boys and girls, working under 12 supervisors. And the quality of their work is really impressive. Machinery has been bought — almost all of it second-hand with Manpower Services Commission funds — and now, if something is required for the factory, it is designed and made there.

Already companies in Peterlee have contracted work to the Training Workshop and, as their abilities become better known, a lot more work is expected.

All this has happened in just five months and now the official opening is being held.

"We wanted to be properly set up and organised before we officially opened," said Mr Cramphorn, "and now Easington MP Jack Dormand has kindly agreed to open the workshop. This will be followed by an open day for the public on Monday, January 12.

CLASSIFIEDS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MR & MRS W. ROBINSON and Annette wish to thank friends and neighbours for their kindness during their recent bereavement. A special thanks to Vivian and Ellen.

MRS M. PUNCHION wishes to thank Rev. Granville Gibson, Curate Brian Fairburn, friends and neighbours, for their messages of sympathy, sent at her recent sad loss.

MR DON ELTRINGHAM and family wish to thank relatives and friends for their kind messages of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement. A charity donation instead of floral tributes was requested and £130 was donated to Cancer Research.

ENGAGEMENTS

TELFORD—POLLOCK — December 24th. Mrs R. Telford (Newton Aycliffe) wishes to announce the engagement of her eldest son, Ian, to Cyd, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Pollock (Newton Aycliffe). Congratulations from both families.

LODGE—STEEL — Congratulations, Bellinda and Tom, on your engagement, December 31st. Best wishes from both families.

PUBLIC NOTICES

YOGA CLASSES. Beginners 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., Others 7.30 to 9.30 p.m., Wednesday evenings. Commencing 14th January at Vane Road Junior School, Newton Aycliffe.

AYCLIFFE ANGLING CLUB. Subscriptions are now due for 1981. Fees are as follows: Senior Member £5.00, Junior Member £2.00; New members: Senior Members £7.00 (includes first year subs), Junior Members £3.00 (includes first year subs). Fees should be sent through the post to the following address: Mr L. R. McLean, 22 Whinlatter Place, Newton Aycliffe. Please enclose a S.A.E. plus 1980 membership card (if applicable). Cheques should be made payable to "Aycliffe Angling Club." L. R. McLean (Ass. Sec.), Tel. Aycliffe 319115.

BAHAI FAITH — "There can be no doubt whatever that the peoples of the world, of whatever race or religion, derive their inspiration from one heavenly source, and are the subjects of one God. The difference between the ordinances under which they abide should be attributed to the varying requirements and exigencies of the age in which they were revealed." — Bahá'u'lláh. Enquiries invited for further details about discussion evenings. Ring Aycliffe 314273.

10 DAY COACH TOUR TO BERNE in Switzerland, last two weeks August, £230. All inclusive meals, travel and accommodation. Tel. Aycliffe 313934 for further details.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS of the Beveridge Skating Club — Annual membership subscriptions are now due and should be paid before January 30th. The Club re-opens on January 17th. New members welcome. For details please call at the Beveridge Hall any Saturday night from January 17th or Ring 312005.

SEASONAL GREETINGS

G. ATKINS, Plumber and Electrical, wishes all customers A Happy and Prosperous New Year

BEVERIDGE SKATING CLUB. To all members and supporters and to the many kind people who have given their help in 1980 — The Beveridge Skating Club send thanks and Seasonal Greetings. We are now closed for holidays but re-open on Saturday, 17th January, in the Beveridge Hall with Roller Hockey at 3 p.m. and Public Skating at 6 p.m. when anyone and everyone will be made welcome.

SEASONAL GREETINGS to all our friends and to everyone connected with the Beveridge Skating Club — Godfrey and Shirley Bennett and our three girls, Deborah, Lesley and Lynne.

LOST & FOUND

LOST. On 31st December in the Town Centre or Simpature Gate, a Ladies small Gold Rolex Watch with bracelet. Sentimental value. Good reward. 33 Gilpin Road, Newton Aycliffe. Tel. 313626.

PERSONAL

GENTLEMAN, late forties, separated, desires to meet lady similar circumstances. Box BJ1, Newton Press Shop, Upper Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.

GENTLEMAN, aged 61, would like to meet female for companionship. Box BJ2, Newton Press Shop, Upper Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.

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FROM 1-Bedroomed Bungalow, 1 Simpature Court, Newton Aycliffe; To 1 or 2-Bedroomed Bungalow in Chilton. Contact 59 Arthur Street, Windlestone.

FROM 2-Bedroom House, nice street; To Ground Floor Flat or Bungalow. Tel. Aycliffe 319549.

FROM 2-Bedroom House with telephone and Gas Central Heating, radiator in each room, quiet area near town centre; To 3-Bedroom House within easy reach of Vane Road School. Write or call, 67 Biscop Crescent.

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COINS AND MEDALS. Especially War and Campaign Medals with all named Bars, Northern Ireland, etc. Call 17 Church Close or phone Aycliffe 312967.

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"BABY BOOTS" or similar metal-bodied Pram. Must be excellent condition. Tel. Aycliffe 314669.

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SINGLE ROOM and a Twin-bedded Room, would suit friends sharing. House in Aycliffe Village. Breakfast and Evening Meal available. Tel. Darlington 53073.

THANKS

THANKS AGAIN to Anne and Frank Cartwright for another smashing Christmas Party, and Santa Claus and Punch and Judy. Karen and Stephen Cox.

ARTICLES FOR SALE

TEAK ROUND DINING TABLE, needs polish, £25. China Cabinet, £9. Tel. Aycliffe 313639.

HI-FI UNIT. Teak effect, 23in. wide, 23in. high, 15in. deep. Suit small house, good condition, £7. 21 Osbert Place.

CHILD'S TRICYCLE, suit 2-4 years, excellent condition, hardly used, £5. 21 Osbert Place.

TWO-RINGED COOKER with Hotplate, good condition, £22. Tel. Aycliffe 310635.

3-SEATER SUITE. Solid Black Oak framed traditional tapestry. Comprising one Standard Chair, one Rocking Chair. Good condition, price £160. 2 Walker Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

ARTICLES FOR SALE

DOUBLE GLAZING. Full set Crittal Ho Secondary Double Glazing Panels to fit house in Clarence Corner or similar. 21 panels, £20. To view ring Aycliffe 313523.

BUSH MUSIC CENTRE with Dolby System Unit, comprising of drawer, LP space cupboard and cassette racks, earphone record and cassette cases, over 300 singles, LP's and 72 cassette tapes. All in complete condition. Good condition. 18 Merz Road.

DOUBLE WARDROBE. Teak finish, good condition. Splits for easy removal. £10 or near offer. 61 Ashfield, Newton Aycliffe.

MUSQUASH FUR COAT. Size 14, beautiful condition. Bargain at £70 or near offer. Tel. Aycliffe 317847.

WASHING MACHINE. Hotpoint Liberator built-in Tumble Dryer, 2½ years old, serviced regularly, spare parts. Genuine reason for sale. £85. Tel. Aycliffe 315593.

PAX ELECTRIC SEWING MACHINE working order, with case, £8. Also Radiators, different sizes, slimline. Tel. Aycliffe 316278.

WELDERS MATE ARC WELDING KIT. Tel. Aycliffe 319803.

APPROX. 30 SQ. YDS. WOOL CARPET Excellent condition, Autumn colours. Approx. 25 square yards Dark Green Stair Carpet. Tel. Aycliffe 317929.

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LADIES COAT, size 14, Red, £5. Lady Tweed Coat, size 10, £7. Girls Dress/Jacket, £11 years, £7. Girls Coat, size 10, £7. All new. Tel. Aycliffe 313924.

"MEREDUE" Extending Circular Teak Dining Table and 4 Chairs. Very good condition, £85. Tel. Aycliffe 312315.

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Newton Press Shop

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Use the coupon below and hand it in with payment at Newton Press Shop (next to Hardings), 7 Upper Beveridge Way, Town Centre.

Please print clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS.

DEADLINE 1.00 p.m. WEDNESDAY PRECEDING PUBLICATION DATE