

Newton News

Published and printed by the Newton Press

FRIDAY, 12th JUNE, 1981

St. Cuthbert's Way, Aycliffe Industrial Estate

**Newton Press
Shop**

NEWTON AYCLIFFE'S
SPECIALIST STATIONERS

Novelties, Gifts, etc.

Open all day Wednesday

Carnival parade held this Saturday

This week sees the climax of Aycliffe's Festival Fortnight with the annual carnival parade on Saturday.

This popular event was completely rained off last year and the Festival committee must be very anxious about this year too, due to the very unsettled weather we are experiencing.

The parade will pass through the town leaving Balil Green at 1 p.m. Persons in fancy dress and those entering floats should assemble at 12.30 p.m. for the judging.

Prizes are awarded to fancy dress under 12 years, over 12 years, adults, best decorated bicycle, best horse-drawn vehicle. The entrants usually appear in some very imaginative costumes based on TV characters, nursery rhymes, etc.

Floats and vehicles are a popular feature of the parade with firms and organisations producing some

of the finest exhibits — all competing for one of the many prizes in this section.

The parade finishes at Simpasture playing field where everyone can enjoy the various stalls, games and other activities taking place.

The programme calls it a wonderful afternoon for all the family, with juvenile jazz band competition, a pet dog show, exhibitions, side shows, stalls, tombola, refreshments and much more.

To complete, the Festival Fortnight the Stock Car Stadium stage a special meeting with a collection for Festival funds.

All profits from the Festival are distributed to charities within the town. The Festival committee are a small band of volunteers who work very hard indeed to stage this event. Please give them your support.

VANDALISM AND THEFT ON THE INCREASE

A SPATE OF shoplifting, burglary and vandalism has hit our town centre and the problem is being blamed on youth unemployment and poor parental control of young children.

An alarming number of 8-12 year old children are being caught shoplifting and it is feared many more are getting away with stolen goods.

Some shops are being forced to take a tougher line with children by not allowing them to browse unaccompanied, or even asking them to leave if they have no intention of buying. Some shops have a definite rule of only

allowing two children in at a time.

All the shopkeepers regret that the innocent have to be punished as well, but with the losses incurred they have no alternative.

Shopkeepers cannot understand why parents do not question where their children get the items they take home.

On odd occasions worried parents do bring their wayward offspring back to the shops they have plundered. The majority, however, let it slide until their sons or daughters are caught.

Shop burglaries are attempted and our shopkeepers are examining their security systems. Harry Hardings' shop has been broken into twice in the last fortnight!

Town centre shop fronts are constantly vandalised and recently attempts have been made to cut holes out of plate glass windows with the aid of a glass cutter.

This is one of the disadvantages of a pedestrianised shopping precinct. After the shops have closed there is no one around — leaving the offenders free to do as they please unobserved.

Inevitably the question is asked — where are the police while this vandalism takes place? Are they patrolling the town centre frequently enough?

Shopkeepers complain they don't see the police as much as they would wish. Shoppers are often annoyed by gangs of school

children chasing around the centre and cycling still persists despite prohibition signs.

Most people believe one answer is an increase in police vigilance to prevent this wave of bad behaviour, but behind everything the ultimate blame lies with those parents who do nothing themselves to check their children.



Divan Sets

Special Spring Purchase, Single £39.95; ¾ and Double £69.95. Price includes Headboard and castors and Free Delivery. We also sell Spring Interiors separately and will dispose of your old Bed at no extra charge. **STOP PRESS:** Special Offer, 4ft. 6in. Rest Assured Number One Divan Set. Recommended Retail price £142. Our Price £120.

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Newton Aycliffe

24 DEFOE CRESCENT — A first class 3-Bedroomed Semi-Detached House, situated in one of the most sought after parts of the town. The house has just been re-decorated, and has numerous improvements and features including Full Gas Central Heating, partial Double Glazing, a recently re-fitted Kitchen and many other features which can only be appreciated upon inspection. This type of property is always sought after, and we encourage early viewing. Comprises: Entrance Lobby, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, sep. W.C. Gardens to front and rear and Integral Garage. Viewing: By telephone appointment with Mrs Jones on Aycliffe 311199. Price: £22,950 or near offer.

68 BISCOP CRESCENT — An outstanding family home offering very good accommodation with the advantage of a Garage. The house is virtually Detached although is actually on the end of a Terrace, and is set in beautifully landscaped Gardens. Internally the house is in very nice decorative order and has had a number of improvements carried out including the installation of fitted wardrobes, stone fireplaces and Full Gas Central Heating. As this type of property seldom comes onto the market in Aycliffe, we would recommend very early inspection. Comprises: Entrance Vestibule, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility/Freezer Room, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, sep. W.C. Landscaped Gardens on three sides. Side attached Garage. Viewing: By appointment with the Agents. Price: Offers in the region of £18,000.

39 ST. BARBARA'S WALK — A spacious 3-Bedroomed End Terrace House in a popular situation, within many first time buyers price range. The house is in nice order with full Gas-fired Central Heating and a modern luxury Kitchen. Full cavity wall insulation has recently been installed. Houses in this area of the town and in this price range usually go quickly and early inspection is advisable. Comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge area, Dining area, Kitchen, Utility Room, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, 3 Bedrooms, sep. W.C. Forecourt Garden and small rear Garden. R.V. £155. Viewing: Contact the agents. Price: £15,750. Reduced for early sale.

HELP!

DUE TO A RECENT INCREASE IN SALES, WE NOW FIND OUR PROPERTY REGISTER VERY DEPLETED. WE URGENTLY REQUIRE SEMI'S ON THE BYERLEY PARK AND CHASE ESTATES, AND TERRACED HOUSES ON THE OLDER PART OF THE TOWN FOR WAITING CLIENTS

49 ST. GODRICS ROAD — A 3 Bedroom Mid-Terraced house with good Gardens and situated in a popular area. The property has the benefit of full gas central heating and the recent addition of double glazed aluminium window frames throughout the house. The property is in very nice order and is the sort of home which will appeal both with those with a family and also first time buyers. Comprises: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, Through Passage/Utility 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C., Gardens to front and rear. R.V. £161. Viewing: by appointment with Mr. and Mrs. Horner on Aycliffe 319110. Price: £15,750 o.n.o.

40 EDEN ROAD — An ideal starter home, being a 3-Bedroomed End-Terrace House in a very popular location just off Vane Road, and close to primary and junior schools. The property offers good but easily managed accommodation which is in very nice decorative order. A number of sensible improvements have been carried out including the provision of a stone fireplace and Full Gas Central Heating. The kitchen has also been improved and there are easily managed Gardens. We feel that this type of property offers good value for money to first-time buyers with the prospect of excellent capital appreciation. Comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge Area, Dining Area, 'L' shaped Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, separate W.C. Small front Garden and larger rear Garden. Viewing: By telephone appointment with Mr and Mrs Johnson on Aycliffe 316153. Price: £14,350.

Shildon

159 BYERLEY ROAD — A 3-Bedroomed Family House, built of high quality materials and set in a prominent corner location about half way along Byerley Road. The property overlooks a school playground and provides all modern facilities and conveniences, including Gas-fired Central Heating. Comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and sep. W.C. Walled Forecourts to the front and side, and large Rear Yard with Wash-house and motor car access. R.V. £121. Viewing: By arrangement with Mr and Mrs Price, telephone Shildon 2618. Price: Offers over £20,000.

Sponsored 'bed push'

Eaton apprentices are organising a sponsored bed push from Aycliffe to Darlington on Saturday, 20th June.

They will leave the town centre at 9.30 a.m. pushing an old but well decorated bed to Darlington town centre, collecting all the way.

Proceeds from the bed push will be donated to the handicapped and Eaton apprentices are eager to hear from any local organisations requiring financial help.

Car park closure

The car park between Whitfield and Lindsay and Wentons is to be closed for a period of six months while the new walkway is built in the town centre. It will be closed from Sunday, 14th June.

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THE TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT ISSUE

Dear Sir,

I shall be grateful of the courtesy of your columns in replying to your editorial of 22nd May on the subject of the proposed new office block which is to be built on the site of the former town centre roundabout.

While I am naturally gratified that you regard the proposed scheme as an improvement to be welcomed, my concern is to correct your mistaken impression that Aycliffe residents are not being kept as fully informed as possible, which seems to spring from a basic misunderstanding of the development process.

There are two principal ways in which a development of this kind can be approached. We adopted the first for the initial scheme when we designed an "ideal" building ourselves and then circulated it to institutions and others in the hope that they would provide the necessary funds and undertake development. In this case it was possible to display plans and a model of the proposed building then and there, while we were looking for a developer.

In fact we were successful in obtaining an offer which we

considered satisfactory, but we were refused the necessary government authority, for economic reasons.

It is a fact of financial life that once a major initiative of this kind has failed, for whatever reason, it is no use trying to repeat it.

We then adopted the alternative method of indicating to developers the availability of the site itself and negotiating with them to obtain the best deal from both the development and financial view, though for obvious reasons we have put first the ideal of obtaining a first class development which will bring much needed office and shop employment to the new town.

I am sure that those of your readers who are involved in business negotiations will appreciate that it is not possible to make development negotiations public. You yourself have quoted us as saying that we will give the Town Council every opportunity of seeing plans in detailed form when they are complete and this will also apply to Aycliffe residents in general.

Equally, I am sure you will appreciate that even at the best of

times it is by no means easy to obtain funds and good quality development in the North East: still more so in the present distressed state of the economy. It is vitally important, because the people of Aycliffe need developments of this kind, that the developers feel that they are welcome in Aycliffe and that their ideas will be given a fair hearing by the public and the press.

Yours sincerely,
Garry Philipson,
Managing Director, ADC.

ED.: Our complaint on the lack of information referred only to the general outline planning of our town centre. Even an indication of future development is far preferable to the present situation when we receive only a few weeks notice of a new development. Proposals for building on the roundabout site is a controversial issue and residents should be kept well informed of all that happens and it could be done without breaking confidence.

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What happened to the master plan?

Dear Sir,

Surely any building erected on the site of the old floral roundabout will much diminish the amount of daylight to the shops and ADC offices opposite?

It is difficult to imagine how this revised project will soften the stark south elevation of the Fine Fare extension, which has irretrievably reduced the once pleasant approach to the town centre shopping precinct, and denied a central and most useful throughway to the shops for those using the bus service.

The clock tower, soaring above the shops and offices, and the floral roundabout, as a focal point,

were excellently planned features emphasising the town's centre.

One is bound to wonder how even a scaled-down building will compensate for the loss of the previous landscaping.

It was the intention of the first appointed architects to the ADC to plan Newton Aycliffe as a modest version of a Letchworth or Welwyn Garden City, and in this way they were ably assisted by the late Mr J. Morton, the landscape and gardening department officer.

However, during the past fifteen years the town has not appeared to have had any set direction adhering to a master plan, but has spread north, east and west in an ever-unrelated residential sprawl.

An aerial view may possibly tend to rectify this assumption.

With really pleasing architecture in the residential areas, and a careful landscaping of the whole, Newton Aycliffe could well have succeeded in becoming a model for future planning of small towns.

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

OFFICES SHOULD GO ON TRADING ESTATE

Dear Sir,

Why, oh why should we, as rent and rate payers, put up with the destruction of our once lovely town centre?

The old flower bedecked roundabout was a delight to see in spring, autumn and winter, and has been missed very much by residents and visitors alike.

We don't want offices there — the place for offices is on the trading estate. Are the offices in Churchill House all being used fully? We want this building of needless offices stopped or put on the trading estate.

As residents of this town for 24 years we should be heard. Will the planners of our town provide something we need and need badly — a bus shelter at St. Clare's Church. The old one was blown down two winters ago and has yet to be replaced.

Yours faithfully,
Mr and Mrs J. Brown
24 Oakfield.

TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT TO COST £20 MILLION

Telephone exchange equipment costing almost £18m. is currently being installed in 20 telephone exchanges in the Middlesbrough telephone area, and further projects costing £2m will start later this year.

Main contracts in the programme, which provides replacing equipment for some exchanges and additional equipment at others, are at Darlington and Bishop Auckland.

At Darlington a new £5.7m electronic exchange is being installed in a recently completed building. A new exchange at Bishop Auckland costing £1.5m will be brought into operation at the end of June, and a similar exchange at Thornaby was brought into service last month.



Newton Aycliffe Recreation Centre

FILM AND SWIM

EVERY SATURDAY

Film 1.30 p.m., Swim 3.30 p.m. Price 50p inc.
FEATURE FILM AND CARTOON

June 13th, SPOT; June 20th, HUGO THE HIPPO
June 27th, CHARLOTTE'S WEB

PLEASE NOTE:

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EXCURSIONS FROM NEWTON AYCLIFFE

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Scarborough, Whitby; 1.00 p.m. Mystery Tour.

BLACKPOOL
EVERY SUNDAY, MONDAY and FRIDAY at 8.30 a.m.

Monday, 15th June
WASHINGTON WATERFOWL PARK
Tuesday, June 16th
FLAMBORO HEAD AND FILEY
Wednesday, June 17th/24th
LAKE DISTRICT, SCARBORO, HALF DAY MYSTERY TOUR
Tuesday, June 23rd
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SUNTANS AT HOME PROVING POPULAR

A new venture recently commenced in the area by an Aycliffe businessman, Mr John Ball, has got off to a flying start.

Since John commenced his service of hiring full length ultra

violet sunbeds into people's homes in April, he has been heavily booked, and has already doubled the number of sunbeds available. Further expansion is likely to follow shortly.

Jon is the local franchise holder of a national company, Tan At Home Rentals Ltd., who manufacture their own sunbeds to a high quality and robust standard in their Liverpool factory.

Both sunbeds and overhead canopies are available for hire and each contains nine tubes, six feet in length. The tubes emit 99.5% ultra violet A-rays and only 0.5% ultra violet B-rays.

In the simplest of terms it is the UVA rays which cause the melanin in the skin to turn brown. The melanin, or pigment, itself is formed by the reaction of the UVB rays. It is the UVB rays which cause painful burning from over exposure.

With such a low content of UVB rays the individual's tolerance to the sunbeds is high, being at least equal to that possible in strong continental sunshine. Anybody who tans reasonably in normal sunlight will certainly develop a good tan using the sunbed for 10 hours in a week.

Each sunbed incorporates a safety switch which automatically turns off at the end of the pre-set time so that in the event of

somebody falling asleep on the bed then they do not burn. A time meter records the usage of the bed in hours, and each hour used on either a bed or canopy costs £1 including VAT, delivery and insurance.

The only extra is electricity, which works out at about 4p per hour. Should a customer wish to hire both a bed and a canopy then the charge is £2 per hour.

The rental period is for one week with a minimum charge of 25 hours per week. Usually families and friends share the sunbeds and the average weekly use is over 30 hours with some groups clocking up over 50 hours.

Prevent sunburn

The service has proved particularly popular in Newton Aycliffe, especially amongst families about to go abroad. Not only is the "milk bottle" effect avoided but also a tolerance to the UVB rays is built up which helps to prevent painful sunburn.

For those families who don't wish to spend hundreds of pounds on purchasing a sunbed and who find a visit to the solarium inconvenient, then this service offers a very cost effective method of acquiring a suntan in the convenience and privacy of your own home.

For more information call John on Aycliffe 318915.

Estates officer takes up new position

When Jon Morris changes jobs he will be helping to achieve the direct opposite of his aims in his former post as principal estates officer for Aycliffe Development Corporation.

On July 1, Jon, a chartered surveyor, will be joining Michael Little in his estate agency practice in Darlington.

One of his jobs there will be to help minimise the rents his industrial and commercial clients will have to pay for their premises. Up till July he has to help bring in as much rent revenue as possible for the new town coffers. His job will, of course, include many more aspects than negotiation of rent reviews and will cover all aspects of property valuation and management.

Jon (31) is married and lives in Barningham Village near Barnard Castle. His wife Pat is a radio-grapher at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

Before qualifying as a chartered

surveyor from Liverpool College of Building, he had been a pupil of Bemrose Grammar School, Derby. Former jobs have taken him through private practice and work for public authorities in Chester, Birmingham and Worcester where he helped establish a property department for the newly formed District Council based in Kidderminster.

In his spare time Jon is keen on numismatics, antique furniture and caravanning.

Approval for old people's flats at Baliol Road

Outline planning permission has been given for nine aged persons flats at Baliol Road.

The applicants, Three Rivers Housing Association, have to submit details of siting, design and external appearance for approval before building commences.

Middridge Village fete

The annual Village Fete at Middridge will be held on Saturday, 27th June, at 2 p.m.

This popular event takes place on the Village Green and has the usual stalls, games and refreshments.

Newtonians are invited to take part and are assured of a pleasant afternoon outing — subject of course to our "lovely weather."

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9 a.m. to 12 noon



Newton Aycliffe Recreation Centre

Men's Activity Session

EVERY MONDAY and FRIDAY from 10.30 a.m. till 12 noon
COST 90p, including FREE SWIM at 12 noon. Activities consist
of SQUASH, BADMINTON, TABLE TENNIS, BASKETBALL,
VOLLEYBALL, 5-A-SIDE, WEIGHT & FITNESS TRAINING.

Ladies & Toddlers Activity Session

EVERY MONDAY from 1.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

COST 90p, which includes FREE SWIM at 3 p.m. Activities for
Ladies include SQUASH, BADMINTON, TABLE TENNIS,
NETBALL, ROUNDERS, VOLLEYBALL and KEEP FIT.
Activities for Toddlers include GYMNASTICS, HOOPS,
SKITTLES and TODDLERS TEAM GAMES

Great Aycliffe Town Council

GARDENS COMPETITION 1981

ENTRY FORM

Please enter my garden in the 1981 Gardens Competition

Name

Address

NOTE: For the purpose of the competition the town has been divided into nine sections, which includes School Aycliffe, Middridge Village, Aycliffe Village and the Byerley Park Development and ALL houses in the designated area of the New Town whether rented or privately owned are eligible for entry. In each of the nine sections prizes of £7, £6, £5, £4 and £3 are offered for the best kept and attractive gardens, whether decorative, vegetable or combined.

The Lady Beveridge Rose Bowl will be awarded for one year for the garden adjudged to be the best in the town and the owner of that garden will also be awarded a trophy to keep as a memento

Application forms should be returned to GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL, COUNCIL OFFICES, 15 UPPER BEVERIDGE WAY, NEWTON AYCLIFFE, by Tuesday, 14th July, 1981. The final judging will take place on Friday, 24th July, 1981.

LEARNING TO DRIVE THE MOTOR CAR

A SHORT STORY WRITTEN BY JOHN A. BENNETT

I am rather worried about my driving instructor. When he first came to me, young, fresh, and full of enthusiasm, I felt that here at last was the one who could coach me to perfection, to sustain me through the long dark days of error and rabid indecision, and deliver me

eventually cool, calm, and efficient before the altar of the Ministry of Transport. Yesterday, I caught him, in an unguarded moment, reading the small print in his personal insurance policy.

I had just made another of my rather stupid mistakes. In crowded

traffic, I wanted to go straight ahead, but for some reason which I can't quite fathom, I signalled my intention to turn left, and then turned right.

Mind you, I am getting better. I spent the whole of my first hours instruction trying to move off without even switching on the engine. The instructor, waxed sarcastic.

"My dear sir, I appreciate that the country is in the midst of a fuel crisis, but even you cannot drive off without first starting the engine."

By the second week, I had mastered the art of moving off, and strangely enough, had a problem with stopping the brute.

hissed, stamping suddenly on the brake, causing a minicab behind to stand on its front wheels.

"Well, I don't see why not," came the reply. "You've had three attempts at it already."

I admit I am rather a timid driver, which at times infuriates my mentor. He got quite upset when I drove into the middle of an island, and then asked tentatively "Am I in anyone's way?"

Yesterday I took my first driving test. Now I have a sixth sense about failure, a sort of extrasensory perception. Things when quite wrong from the start. But it was as we were coming out of Messrs Woolworths for the second time,

We are pleased to introduce a new feature to the back page this issue in the form of a short story by local author John Bennett, of Bewick Crescent. John is a prolific writer and poet, apparently unrecognised in his own part of the world. Born in Spennymoor, he has written all his life, but his work is better known outside Britain. He hopes Newton News readers will grow to like his work as we publish his stories and poems in future issues

Somehow or other I always had difficulty in gauging the distance from the curb. After three attempts at stopping close to the curb, the instructor, patience exhausted, said resignedly: "Oh well, never mind, just leave the car there and we'll walk to the curb!"

I was quite surprised when we were driving past the Empire Cinema, when he suddenly said: "I want you to career along at 70 miles an hour down the wrong side of the road, and end up in the foyer of the cinema."

I was aghast. "I can't do that," I

instead of circumnavigating the roundabout at the corner of Craig Street that I had a sudden realisation that all was not well. The examiner turned me forcibly into a back alley, and got out, his face a shade of bluey grey. I had to wait for the School to come and take me back. It appears there could be repercussions.

Certainly I shall have to take some more lessons. Strangely enough my instructor seemed not at all pleased when I signed up for another 20, it almost took the wind out of his sails. I wonder why?

CLASSIFIEDS

IN MEMORIAM

OLSEN — In loving memory of Bill, husband of Sylvia, died 24th June, 1980. At rest.

OLSEN — In loving memory of Bill, father of David and Mary, grandad of Keith, Amanda and Mark, died 24th June, 1980. Also from mother-in-law Mrs Sayer.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

GRAY — Congratulations on your 18th birthday, Janet. All our love, from Denise, Eddie, Michelle, Debbie.

GRAY — Happy 18th birthday, Janet. Love from Alan, Jackie, Philip, Lee.

THANKS

LAURA R. PROUD — May I express my appreciation to all who enquired after my husband during his illness, also for all the cards wishing him well. Our gratitude to the Royal British Legion official who so kindly gave us transport when he was discharged from hospital. My thanks to RAFA Club for all their kindness to me, especially during my very worrying time, officials, committee, stewards and bar staff. Thank you all, including consultant and staff of Darlington Memorial Hospital.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MIDDRIDGE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Summer Fete, Saturday, 27th June, at 2 p.m.

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FROM 2-Bedroom House, gas heating, Burnhill Estate; To 3-Bedroom house, gas heating, near town centre. Tel. Aycliffe 310915.

FROM 2-Bedroom upper Maisonette on Agnew 3, gas central heating and phone; To 2-Bedroom House, most areas considered. Tel. 319788 after 6 p.m.

WANTED

TABLE FOR CARAVAN. Must be no more than 2ft. wide, length 3½ft. to 4ft. Drop-leaf will do. Tel. Aycliffe 313532.

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SEDFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Applications are invited for the following post

TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

PART-TIME TOILET ATTENDANT (MALE)

TOWN CENTRE TOILET, NEWTON AYCLIFFE

The successful applicant will be required to work on a Saturday only, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. The hourly rate of pay is 147.63 pence. The position would suit an active retired person.

The successful applicant will be required to join the appropriate trade union in accordance with the Council union membership agreement.

Canvassing, directly or indirectly, will disqualify.

Applications, in candidates own handwriting, to be received at the Personnel Section, telephone Spennymoor 816166, ext. 410, not later than the 26th of June, 1981.

A. J. ROBERTS
Chief Executive Officer.

Green Lane,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham DL16 6JQ.