

### Flower club aims to give pleasure

The new Teesdale Flower Club has its first meeting and coffee evening tonight when Mrs R. Braithwaite will demonstrate Flowers for Pleasure.

The main aim of the club will be to promote interest in flower arranging, but anyone who loves flowers in the house or garden will find something to enjoy.

Future meetings include demonstrations by N.A.F.A.S. national demonstrators, and by Robin Waistell. Also booked are nurserymen who will give talks on the cultivation and care of flowering plants for the home and garden.

It is hoped that membership will be sufficient to enable the club to join N.A.F.A.S. and so become part of the national flower arranging movement. Practical arranging is included in the programme but those who do not feel green fingered will be welcome to watch.

Meetings will be held in Cotherstone Village Hall on the first Wednesday of every month. The secretary is Mrs Jenny Watson and the treasurer Mrs Chris Hutchinson, who can be contacted at Teesdale 50441 for further details.

### Bungalow question

Mrs Vera Collinson is having to wait to hear if she can build a bungalow on land behind 31 and 32 Town End Middleton.

Her scheme was opposed at first by Mr Michael Pease, chief planning officer, who said it would be better to wait until a larger development could be arranged with a new access.

Later a group of councillors who visited the site suggested that one bungalow could be allowed, but only if the county engineer agreed to the present access, which had been described as inadequate.

## CANOE CHAMPION SETS UP NEW SHOP IN DALE

British slalom canoeing champion Russell Smith, 23, has moved into Barnard Castle to set up a business which he hopes will take off as rapidly as he usually does through the water.

Russell, who is one of the biggest names in European canoeing, is turning an old chip shop at 44 The Bank into a canoe centre.

He and his father, Len aged 48, have got together to open a venture that will hopefully attract enthusiasts from all over the region.

The other big reason for Russell's move from Middlesbrough is the Tees. He used to spend a lot of time travelling to Teesdale to use the fast water here, and will now be on the spot each day for his training.

"The Tees is one of the top rivers in Britain for canoeing, and I'll be ideally situated to get the practice I need," he explained.

His shop is due to open soon and will be called the Four Seasons. As well as all the gear needed to get the best out of the sport he will be selling a range of equipment for walkers, hikers, campers and climbers, and is thinking of hiring out ski accessories to customers in winter.

Russell, who won his British title in October, has since beaten the world champion Richard Fox. Len, a retired divisional fire officer, is the British youth canoe team coach, and says his son is improving all the time.

He has high hopes for Russell, who is well on target for the 1992 Olympics to be held in Barcelona. Slalom canoeing will be included, and he could well be one of the main contenders for a medal.



Ready for business—Russell and Len Smith

He uses a short stretch of water near Egglestone Abbey Bridge, but each time he goes on to the water there he has to spend around two hours stringing his slalom gates across the river.

He is looking for a local landowner who would be prepared to let him leave his gates over a short stretch of river.

"If anyone has an interest in canoeing and is prepared to do this for me, it would give me more time to train for the big

contests coming up," he says. His next big test is the world championships to be held at Bourg St. Maurice in the French Alps in July.

If he does well there with other members of the British team, he could come back to his new shop as Teesdale's first world champion.

Once the shop is off the ground he plans to start a local canoeing club, and will take the area's beginners out on to the water himself.

### Timber firm can set out new display area to let customers see its wares

Anyone thinking of buying a summer house or other type of garden building will have a chance to see an attractive range of them set out at Hodgson's timber works in Cotherstone.

Teesdale Council has given the go ahead for a piece of land to be used as a display area, despite an objection from a neighbour.

A group of councillors who visited the site agreed that the display would do no harm to the village as long as some planting was done to screen it.

The full council later agreed with this view and gave planning approval for the extension which was submitted in the name of Messrs Hodgson and Farrell.

Mr Dennis Hodgson wrote telling councillors that the firm bought the nearby house Oakville with its adjoining piece of land, then sold the house and retained the land so that it could be used for expansion.

He pointed out that the village plan indicated the land involved was suitable for light industrial development and "well located for expansion of the timber yard."

Mr Hodgson explained that like many manufacturing companies Hodgsons had had to change in the past 20-30 years and produce new products. The large poultry houses of the 1960's were seldom in demand, and timber stables of the 1970's were beginning to tail off.

He added: "While we still manufacture these products we are now turning more to leisure, e.g. conservatories, pavilions and all kinds of garden buildings. Competition is fierce, and to enable us to stay ahead we consider a comprehensive display area a vital part of the business."

People from all over Britain and overseas were now visiting the firm. It was important that the products could be included in a comprehensive display to make it worthwhile for people to visit.

Coun. Alfred Stoker said the firm, which employs between 10 and 20 people depending on season, deserved full support. He was sure the buildings displayed would be attractive and that there was no reason for not allowing them.

### Rates for Mercury advertising

The Teesdale Mercury advertising rates are having to be raised slightly to meet ever rising costs.

The smallest rises are for pre-paid classified adverts—making it now even more worthwhile to pay in advance—and regular display adverts which appear weekly or fortnightly. V.A.T. at 15 per cent has to be added to the following figures.

The new pre-paid classified rate is 90p per line, with a minimum charge of £2.70. The non-pre-paid rate is £1.20 per line, with a minimum of £4.80. The calendar stays at 60p per line and box numbers at £1.

The new display rate is £1.50 per single column centimetre. The weekly regular rate is £1.20 s.c.c., and the fortnightly regular rate is £1.25 s.c.c. Public notices will be charged at £2 s.c.c.

### Owners get go-ahead for jobs around their homes

Mr T. McKeon is to be allowed by Teesdale Council to demolish outbuildings at 12 New Town, Middleton, and rebuild the storage area and coalhouse, as well as putting up a new porch.

Mr J. F. Dale has been given consent to build an extension to form a kitchen, utility room and cloakroom at Park Farm, Gainford.

Mrs I. Suckling can retain a meter house for electricity at Thwaite Hall, Cotherstone. A new vehicle access has been approved for Mr J. Spence of 8 Gainford Road, Ingleton.

Mr P. D. Gordon has been told he can install a balanced flue on the external wall of 1 Dotheboys Hall, Bowes. Mrs D. M. Stasny can alter rear windows at 3 The Square, Greta Bridge.

Mrs E. K. Garthwaite is to be allowed to add a porch to Cuthbert Cottage, Cotherstone.

Mr C. M. Rushton has been given consent to demolish an external store and chimney at 51 Front Street, Staindrop, and raise the T-fall roof to give space for a second bedroom and bathroom.

Mr and Mrs A. D. Borrowdale are to be allowed to extend 22 Marshall Street, Barnard Castle, to form a kitchen with bathroom above it. The plans were amended following an objection.

Mr and Mrs H. W. Alderson of Howgill Grange, Baldersdale, have been told they can convert a farm building to form a granny flat.

Miss C. Naseby is being allowed to alter plans for the conversion of the Coach House, Romaldkirk, to form two dwellings. It involves fixing obscure glazing in an existing external doorway.

An extension has been approved for Dr. J. White to create a kitchen and utility room at Tall Trees, Victoria Road, Barnard Castle.

Mr J. M. Robinson is to be allowed to form a parking area and access to the road at Church Bank, Startforth.

An extension to form a study has been approved for Mr A. Bird at 78 Toft Hill. Mr P. Mar-

tin is to be allowed to build a private garage at the Otter public house, Toft Hill.

Mr C. Tarn can extend Cross-thwaite Cottage, Holwick, to form a bathroom and bedroom. There will also be a detached garage.

A conservatory has been approved for Mr D. Beal at 2 Hazel-dene, Copley.

Mr D. Stoddart has been given permission to build a private garage at 1 Churchill Road, Barnard Castle.

Mr M. Vallack has been given consent to change the use of a business storage area to form additional living accommodation at 31c Market Place, Barnard Castle.

Outline approval has been given to Mr J. H. Hodgson to build a house and bungalow north of The Gables, Hutton Magna.

Mrs C. Parkinson has been given renewed consent to retain a private garage at Leadpipe Lane, Cotherstone, for a further five years. Mr and Mrs H. Kluck have been given permission to retain a timber garage at 30 South Cleatlam for a further five years.

Mr and Mrs G. Wearmouth have been given the go ahead to convert a farm building to form an extension to a house at Rose Cottage Farm, Newbiggin.

### Estate was like 'disaster area' after workmen cut the grass

A protest letter signed by 56 residents was sent to the Mercury on Thursday after grass around their homes at Fairfield, Evenwood, had been cut by workmen from Teesdale Council.

They claimed the estate was turned into what looked like a disaster area by the trimming operation earlier in the week. Their letter stated:

Fairfield is a recently new well, open planned estate, and in spring and summer, through tenants and homeowners attempting to keep their little border gardens full of flowers of various colours,

it is a pleasure to walk around. But the council seems determined to turn it into a tip.

They descended on the estate at 10 a.m. with two small tractor-type cutters and two motorised hover-type cutters, to supposedly tidy up the large green areas of our estate.

The grass was only half mown. The cut grass was left scattered on the greens and paths. Where there were papers or any other bits and pieces lying on the greens, no attempt was made to pick them up. They just ran the mowers

over the top, scattering the dis-integrated pieces all over the place. Everywhere they went they left a trail of disaster.

We approached two of the workmen and politely asked if they would rake up the grass cuttings and sweep the paths and road. All we got was a mouthful of abuse.

We all agree that people should try to keep their own areas tidy, but on our estate we have a lot of senior citizens and disabled people who cannot do these tasks.

After the council workmen left, we walked around the estate. People were raking up the cuttings and sweeping the paths, including an old lady of 72 who suffers ill health, whom we stopped immediately, informing her that the young lads of the estate would clear it all up.

Those who signed the letter said they would like to remind Teesdale Council of the national slogan—Keep Britain Tidy.

Mr Tony Gutteridge, chief technical officer of Teesdale Council, said the complaint would be investigated.

### How to get a better view



When you are only two feet tall it's difficult to see what's going on so P.C. Frank Hewitson and police horse Earl gave two year old Mark Reilly of Farm Cottage, Mgrley, a better view at Teesdale Country Fair.

### And how not to win a car



Teesdale Lions spent the whole day at the fair trying to give a brand new car away as a prize but nobody was lucky enough to win it. Nearly 1,000 people gave 50p each to try to throw six sixes with dice. It made £450 profit for the Lions to give to local charities. Pictured with the car are Alan Alsop and Paul Beere.

### Round Table sunflower contest

After the success of last year's sponsored sunflower grow, organised by Barnard Castle and District Round Table, another competition is to be held this summer with the proceeds going to buy and train a guide dog for the blind.

The competition will be held on the same basis as last year with a prize of £75 for the tallest sunflower overall. £30 will go to the second highest and £20 to the third. It will be open to anyone who wishes to enter and again will be split into two sections.

One is for individuals and the other for groups (e.g. schools, Guides, Scouts, etc.). All groups participating will be allowed to keep 50% of the amount they raise for their own funds.

There will also be two prizes of

£25, one for the individual who raises most sponsorship per inch grown, and the same amount will be awarded in the group section.

Last year over £1,500 was raised in the sunflower competition of which £700 was retained by groups and £800 went towards the purchase of a bath hoist for Stoneleigh Hospital. Tablers hope to raise a similar amount this year.

Anyone who fancies combining a bit of gardening fun with Barnard Castle and District Round Table's good cause of supplying an essential aid to some unfortunate person, can obtain entry and sponsor forms and sunflower seed by using the entry form below.

Send it to Derek Robson, Bolton Hill, Staindrop (Tel. Staindrop 60366) as soon as possible.

### Sale raises £50

A jumble sale held in Copley village hall by Copley Entertainment Committee raised £50.79. This will go into the general fund for the firework display and Christmas pantomime.

All reasonable good jumble left will go on sale at the next available car boot sale. Helpers were Margaret Bramley, Joan Redfearn, Gladys Sparks, Nora Bates and Jean Linsley.

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