

Down the Decades

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MARCH 20, 1910

WE hear that it is likely that a pack of foxhounds will be kept in the immediate neighbourhood of Teignmouth. A well-known gentleman is negotiating in the matter.

NEWTON Abbot Board of Guardians is about the largest in the kingdom. There are 79 elected members.

MARCH 28, 1936

POLICE rescued three horses from a fire in stables in Hopkins Lane, Newton Abbot, in the early hours of Monday morning.

NEWTON Abbot Rural District Council on Wednesday decided on an increase of 3d. in the general district rate from 4s. 2d. to 4s. 5d. Of this rate, 3s. 8d. in the £ is for county council purposes.

THE police were called in at a public meeting at Shaldon on Monday, and eventually the proceedings broke up in disorder, stink bombs being thrown. The meeting had been discussing the accounts of the Silver Jubilee Committee and the allocation of the balance.

MARCH 25, 1961

NEWTON Abbot Urban Council learned on Monday that the Minister of Agriculture had approved the acceptance of Messrs. John Lloyd's tender for the first stage of the modernisation of the cattle market. The clerk was authorised to make application to the Ministry for Loan Sanction in the sum of £12,018.

NEWTON Abbot has no civic centre. Urban councillors are concerned about this, but at Monday's meeting it was pointed out that the Alexandra Cinema used to be the 'civic hall.' It was not supported and so it was let as a cinema.

MARCH 27, 1986

PUPILS from Knowles Hill School, Newton Abbot, took part in a charity clean-up of the Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve and the beach.

A £1 MILLION plan to preserve St Augustine's Priory, Abbotskerswell, by converting it to retirement apartments and cottages has been submitted to Teignbridge Council.

NEWTON Abbot swept the board in the Devon County Ladies Skittles Championships staged at the Golden Court Holiday Camp, Mortehoe, North Devon, on Saturday. They beat Totnes 459-424 in the final and skipper Ann Jones chalked up the highest individual score of 74.

MARCH 23, 2001

NEWTON Abbot and District Musical Comedy Society is celebrating after getting its own home for the first time since its formation 87 years ago. It has purchased the former Newton Abbot YMCA building in Fisher Road for £65,000.

A GROUP of bowlers from Watts Blake Bearn Social Club, Kingsteignton, on a Spanish touring holiday, have had to switch hotels after Basque Separatists planted a car bomb outside the hotel where they were due to stay.

TEIGN Valley Action Group is intensifying its battle to prevent the re-opening of Ryecroft Quarry.

THE Devon County Show, scheduled for the middle of May, has been postponed until August because of the foot and mouth crisis.

THE Manor House Hotel, Moretonhampstead, was voted Best Restaurant In Devon by the Devon Social Group at an awards ceremony.

ARCHIVE IN FOCUS

1911 1936 1961 1986 2001



The more things change....

by NIGEL CANHAM

A GLANCE at the Advertiser of March 25, 1961, reveals the truth behind the old saying, the more things change the more they stay the same.

On the front page a story entitled Civic Hall Or Cinema? bemoaned the fact that Newton Abbot was lacking a civic centre.

'Urban councillors are concerned about this,' we wrote.

They still are today, of course, and one of the aims of the current regeneration talks is to find such a venue, perhaps by adapting the pannier market.

In 2011 there is also the desire to find a new location for the museum so it, too, can expand its role and become a much greater focus of community involvement.

The 1961 article raised the idea of converting the Alexandra Cinema, once thought of as the 'civic hall' before films were shown there.

'There was nothing to stop the council terminating the cinema company's lease and getting the civic hall back again,' it read.

The public were largely in favour, if the opinions canvassed by Advertiser reporters were anything to go by.

Mr W Heath, of 8 Quay Terrace, said: 'The cinemas are a thing of the past. I'm in full favour of a civic hall. Newton Abbot is a dying town, perhaps this will cheer it up.'

Heard that before? Mrs D I Johnson, of 3 Salisbury Road, said: 'If the civic hall is encouraging the youngsters

then I'm in full favour of it.

'They either go to the pictures [there were three cinemas at the time] or the public houses, perhaps the new hall would encourage them to attend new events.'

Events, perhaps, such as those staged by the operatic society and endorsed by Mrs R G Green, of 16 The Avenue, who seemed to be unaware that the society had changed its name to The Newton Abbot and District Musical Comedy Society some four years earlier.

Down the road in Kingsteignton another tale familiar to us today, half a century on, was being played out.

Need For Helpers At Kingsteignton ran the headline on page nine, the story going on to say how chairman Mr R F V Critchley had called on ram roast committee members to round up new recruits.

We sure that today's chairman, John Stacey, would recognise the situation only too well.

As will, no doubt, the chairman in 2061 when the imminent demise of the fair once again makes the headlines.

One thing that has changed over the years, though, is how we look.

An ad on page eight for the fine tailoring offered by the Co-operative Society gave us an idea of 'the latest styles for 1961'.

Make up your own minds, but with a physique like that, was the chap in the picture an early example of genetic modification?



● John is the middle right wearing glasses behind the woman in the spotted dress.

was the senior press officer at NZ Police headquarters in Wellington, public affairs officer with the Australian Customs Service in Fremantle and finally commissioner's media officer with the Western Australia Police in Perth.

1943-61 and worked for a time in the old South Devon Journal as a photographer. He later moved to New Zealand and Australia where he worked on several papers as both reporter and photographer. He is now retired, but before doing so I

40s to the early 1950s and sent in this photograph from 1952. More can be found by visiting: d633914.u48.ukisp.com/KHSwebsite1/index.htm. Mr Adams grew up in Newton Abbot from

He went to Ashburton College which shut its doors more than 40 years ago and now runs a website about it: ashburtoncollegeold-boys.blogspot.com/. He also attended the old Knowles Hill School, located on Knowles Hill, in the late

FOLLOWING our piece on Greylands School in Newton Abbot earlier this year, The Mid-Devon Advertiser series was contacted by John Adams (formerly Oakford) who attended another school in the town which has closed.