

## **Newspaper cuttings: Great Ayton personalities**

The late Tom Kirby kept copious files of newspaper cuttings, mainly from the *Darlington & Stockton Times* (but not always with the source identified) relevant to Great Ayton. In 20010-12 Malcolm Race went painstakingly through the files and selected the more important entries. These were transcribed by Peter Morgan. This section is about village personalities.

**15 September 1926**

### **A CLEVELAND WORTHY - Farmer, Surgeon, Jockey, Butcher**

The line to the effect that "one man in his time plays many parts" is applicable to Mr Henry Meggison Cockerill, who recently passed away at Great Ayton at the ripe old age of 82 years. How many men are there in Cleveland who can claim to have been in turn "boots" at a coaching inn, farmer, potential veterinary surgeon, amateur jockey, cattle dealer, and finally a successful butcher? Such, however, was Mr Cockerill's record. Part of his novitiate to the meat trade was served at Middlesbrough, whilst that important borough was still in its infancy. Indeed, his master's premises occupied a portion of the site upon which the Municipal Buildings now stand. There were no dock facilities, and cattle imported by his employer from the Continent were landed at the neighbouring port of Stockton. But for the intervention of a kindly providence Mr Cockerill's unique career must have been early nipped in the bud. He was to ride a horse of his father's at the now defunct Scarborough race meeting. Almost at the last moment he yielded to the entreaty of another rider to be permitted to ride. During the race the horse bolted out of the course and collided with the spectators, the jockey receiving fatal injuries. An unassuming character, Mr Cockerill avoided the glare of publicity. The larger part of his active and eventful life was spent in the village of his adoption, but he never sought the false glamour of public office. A generous giver to all charitable objects, he served the village in other ways. The district is the poorer for the passing of this remarkable man.

**12 January 1929**

### **GREAT AYTON - MR. SYDNEY BULMER**

The death rate in Great Ayton during the last two weeks has, unfortunately, been rather high. On Christmas Eve the interment took place of Mr. Sydney Bulmer, son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Richard Bulmer. Mr. Bulmer, who was only forty years of age, leaves a young widow and four children. Another well-known personality to pass away during the Christmas vacation was Mr. Ralph Jackson, of Bradley's Terrace. Mr. Jackson, who was eighty-six years of age, was formerly engaged in tanning, which at one time was an important industry in Great Ayton. Subsequently he and his brother, the late Mr. John Jackson, drove the mail van for many years, but latterly Mr. Jackson had lived in retirement. Much sympathy is felt in the village for Mr. and Mrs. John Garbutt, of Pearsonville, who have suffered bereavement during the festive season by the death of their five-years-old son, Leslie. Another octogenarian to pass away, a few months after her husband, was Mrs. Sidgwick widow of Mr. John Sidgwick. whose death has taken place at Mill Terrace. The old couple entered into retirement about six years ago, after Mr. Sidgwick had spent sixty-two years continuous service as woods man and gamekeeper, on the estate of Mr H. C. A. Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Sidgwick, who lived for forty-six years in a cottage near Roseberry Topping, celebrated their golden wedding just over a year ago. The death has also taken place at Bridge Street, at an advanced age, of Mrs. Garbutt.

**25 MAY 1929**

### **DEATH OF AN OLD STANDARD**

The death of Mr. George Pearson, of Melbourne Terrace, has removed another old standard from the village. The deceased, who attained his seventy-fourth birthday a fortnight ago, was only ill a few days, but from the first little hope of his recovery was entertained. Mr. Pearson was keenly interested in horticulture, and was accustomed to spend many hours each day in his garden and green house. The cultivation of flowers made a great appeal to him, and he derived the greatest possible delight from visits to flower shows, regularly attending York Gala and the Cleveland Show in pursuit of his hobby. He took also a great interest in the public life of the village, and for many years served on the Parish Council. From his youth Mr. Pearson had been associated with the Loyal Ancient Order of Shepherds, of which he had held several offices. The interment took place on Wednesday afternoon in the presence

of a large assembly of people. An impressive funeral service was jointly conducted by the Rev. H. Tregoning (Circuit Minister) and Mr. Rotherham (Circuit Evangelist), whilst the Order of Shepherds' funeral service was read by Brother W. Hopper. Mr. Pearson, whose wife pre-deceased him about four years ago, leaves a grown up family.

## **5 October 1929**

### **DEATH OF MRS. ALFRED EDWARD KITCHING, GREAT AYTON**

The death took place on Friday night of Mrs. Kitching, wife of Mr. Alfred Edward Kitching J.P., D.L. of Ayton Firs, Great Ayton. The deceased lady had been in indifferent health for some time, her illness taking a more serious turn a little over a week ago. Mr. Kitching was a daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Richardson of the shipbuilding firm of Messrs. Richardson, Duck and Co. who was for some time Member of Parliament for South-East Durham. Her kindly interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the village community was well known, and many will have cause to regret the passing of a lady whose many kindly actions were bestowed unpretentiously and usually in a very private manner.

One of the many generous deeds was the conversion her beautiful home into a hospital during the war. Amidst the delightful surroundings of Ayton Firs the wounded were nursed back to health and strength, and in this charming sylvan retreat they were enabled to momentarily forget the horror of the battlefield. She was also, for many years, President of the local Nursing Association, which organisation, with its mission of healing had in Mrs. Kitching a practically sympathetic supporter, as had the Children's Welfare Association. She also took a prominent part in the Sewing Guild which has for its object the making of warm clothing and the provision of other necessities for distribution amongst the aged and poor of the village at Christmas time. These are but a few of the charitable and useful works in which Mrs. Kitching was ever ready to give whole-hearted support, and the village and district is indeed, the poorer in a great measure for her passing.

The interment took place on Wednesday afternoon, when the large assembly of people of every creed and class testified to the high esteem and affection in which she was held. The coffin, which was covered with a purple pall, was borne from The Firs to the Friends' Burial Ground on one of the estate lorries, whilst another lorry, heavily laden with wreaths, followed immediately behind. The grave was beautifully lined with evergreens, Michaelmas daisies and chrysanthemums by Mr. Allan (head gardener) and Mr. Johnson (second gardener), and the following members of the estate staff and tenants acted as pall-bearers:—Messrs. J. Helm (who has been in the service of the family for fifty-two years), Allan, Charles Hodgson, R. H. Barker, T. Petch (tenants) and R. Booth (bailiff). At the committal service and at the subsequent meeting for worship eloquent tributes to the life and character of Mrs. Kitching were paid by Sir John Fry. Bart., Mr. J. H. Taylor, and the Rev. W. Lawson Smith.

The principal mourners were:—Mr. A. E. Kitching, Colonel and Mrs. Harold Kitching, Hartburn (son and daughter-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. Repburn, London (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, Potto Hall (brother-in-law and sister); Mrs. C. Hutts Coates, Wimbleton (sister); Mr. and Mrs. Hope, Bedford (brother-in-law and sister); Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kitching, Ayton Grange, (brother-in-law and sister-in-law); Mr. Kenneth Hope, Shincliffe (nephew); Mr. Noel and Miss Mary Kitching, Ayton Grange (nephew and niece); Mr. and Mrs. Cudworth, York (cousins); Mrs. Stanfield Richardson, Sunderland (aunt); Mrs. Richardson, Bristol; Messrs. John and Alfred Kitching, Darlington (nephews); Mrs. Littleboy (Saltburn); Mr. and Mrs. Norman Littleboy (Sowerby, Thirsk) and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hall, Aislaby Hall, Whitby (nephew and niece). Amongst those present were the Ayton Firs indoor and outdoor staffs, the Ayton Grange indoor and outdoor staffs. Mr. E. Young (representing the Elmwood staff, Hartburn); Mr. Watson (Ayton Firs Estate Agent); Nurses Pearson and Lonsdale (who nursed deceased in her last illness); Sir Alfred and Lady Pease; Dr. Stuart (Durham); Dr. Murray; Dr. Walker (Middlesbrough); Dr. Yeoman (Stokesley); Major Constantine (Tanton); Mr. Drummond (Middlesbrough); Mrs Charles Dorman; Rev J. I. Kyle; Rev W. G. Paddey; Mr. C Mann (Darlington); Mr Coulson (West Hartlepool); Mr. P. C. Bagley (Stockton); Major Dennis Brown (Norton); Major Bolckow (Great Ayton); Mr. J. Emerson (Swainby); .....*the rest of the names are too blurred.*

## **26 February 1937**

### **Death of Mr. Thomas Antill in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year**

One of the very few remaining whinstone set makers. Half a century ago and even less, these sets were in great demand as pavings for footpaths and streets in both town and country. Latterly they have become decreasingly popular and the demand has gradually fallen away. It was as a set maker that Mr. Antill came to Great Ayton over half a century ago, where he was employed in the local quarries. So successfully adept was he at what was rightly

regarded by the old timers as a trade, that he was frequently sent to make sets from the rough-hewed whinstone in places as far distant as Scotland and Wales. When the whinstone slump set in, the late Mr Antill was employed in the local ironstone mines close by. For some years had lived in retirement.

**17 July 1937**

**MR. HENRY COATES – Former Ayton Draper and Grocer**

The funeral took place at Great Ayton on Thursday, last week, of Mr Henry Coates who for a quarter of a century was a well-known figure in the business life of the village. The late Mr. Coates, who was seventy-five years of age, was a native of Pickering. He served his apprenticeship to the dry good trade with the Malton Fitch firm. When quite a young man he entered the employment, in the capacity of traveller, of the late Mr. Jeremiah Thistlethwaite, of Great Ayton. After spending several years with the Thistlethwaite family he left the village but after a brief absence he returned to commence in business as a draper and grocer in the East Parade premises now occupied by Mr. R. S. Williamson, chemist. He was assisted in the business, first by his two sons, the younger of whom, Oscar, was killed in the Great War, and later by his elder son Mr. W. Coates. The latter is now in a similar enterprise at the neighbouring village of Great Broughton. After having been in business for a quarter of a century, Mr Coates retired to Bilsdale where he married, as his second wife, the daughter of the late Mrs. Johnson, of the Buck Hotel, Chop Gate. Since the death of the latter, exactly a year ago, he had largely made his home with his only daughter at Redcar, where his death took place after a long illness. The late Mr. Coates was a keen and enthusiastic supporter of the old-established Bilsdale Hurt, and for several years he held the position of chairman of the Committee. The family mourners were:- Mr. and Mrs. W Coates, Great Broughton (son and daughter-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Deighton, Redcar (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. and Miss Robson, Coxwold (brother-in-law and niece); Mrs. Winspear, Easingwold (cousin); and Mr. and Mrs. Allenby, Helmsley (cousins). Amongst others present were Messrs. Edwin Johnson; Thomas Pearson; T. H. Dixon; Councillor R. P. Brotton and Miss Brotton, Bilsdale; Messrs. A. W. Bainbridge; J. Wilson; W. Noble; W. Dawson; Mrs. Agar; Miss Metcalfe; Mrs. Ackroyd, all of Great Broughton; Messrs. H. Powls; W. Stevens; B. Dick (Middlesbrough); A. Martin; J. R. F. Suggitt; C. Fawcett; Walter Hutton; B. Winn (Great Broughton); Mrs. Bottomley; Mrs. Harrison; Mrs. J. R. Stockdale; Miss P. Brotton; Messrs. Robert Stockdale, W. Farndale, T. Wilson (Guisborough); J. T. Hugill (Guisborough); J. G. Ward (Eston); G. Haswell; B. Cousans (Great Broughton); J.W. Fletcher; D. Stockton; J.W. Brotton; Mrs. W. Martin; Miss Kitching; Messrs. J. Metcalfe, A. Oxendale, Cornforth (Eaglescliffe); Mrs M. Patterson (Eaglescliffe); Messrs. Robert Hunter, W. E. Ainsley (Huntsman, Bilsdale Hounds); Mrs Ventress (Great Broughton); Messrs. J. Robson (Helmsley) and B. M. Cockerill.

**17 December 1937**

**A LINK WITH BY GONE DAYS AT STOKESLEY BROKEN**

**MR. T. C. TWEDDELL'S DEATH AT GREAT AYTON**

By the death at Great Ayton of Mr. Thomas Cole Tweddell, a link with Stokesley's one-time importance as a printing and publishing centre has been severed. The late Mr. Tweddell, who was 79 years of age, was a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Markham Tweddell. His father was the proprietor of an extensive printing and publishing business, and he was also an author of some repute.

His chief works were Masonic sonnets. He also started a history of Cleveland, which was intended to be published in weekly parts, but which was never destined to be completed, the death of the author putting a cessation to what promised to be a valuable contribution to the literature of the district. His mother, under the pen name of Florence Cleveland, wrote and published a book of rhymes and sketches in the Cleveland dialect, and which, after nearly 70 years, still finds a ready sale.

**TOLLED THE CURFEW**

The late Mr. Tweddell could recall seeing the last hand loom to be worked in Stokesley, once a prosperous centre of the weaving industry. As a boy he was allowed to toll the curfew at Stokesley, a custom which was religiously observed by his grandfather, Tommy Cole, during his term of office as parish clerk for a period of nearly 40 years. Other vivid memories he retained were of Stokesley's one-time important market, fairs and races, all of which have ceased to exist.

As a young man he joined the Stokesley Volunteer Company, of which he remained a member for 27 years, and in which he rose to the rank of sergeant in the regimental section of the First Volunteer Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. Practice in signalling was carried out from such vantage points as the tower of Stokesley church, Roseberry Topping and Seamer Hill. During the earlier phases of the Boer War, when evening newspapers had not yet penetrated into many Cleveland hamlets it was the custom of Mr. Tweddell to "flash" a resume of the news to his comrade, Fred Barr, at Seamer.

The latter later served, in the Boer War, and was killed in the Great War in the very first engagement -of his regiment, the 4th Yorks. Mr. Tweddell was, by trade, a painter and decorator, but being possessed of a mechanical turn of mind he had been in charge of various types of engines. Whilst in charge of a threshing machine he had a curious experience. On the night before proceeding to a Cleveland farm he had a vivid dream that the engine and machine crashed through a gateway into a field. On the following day he exercised every precaution in negotiating a steep hill which led to the farm. At the very gate of which he had dreamed the coupling broke and the machine crashed through, though the engine remained on the road.

### **TALENTED MUSICIAN**

An enthusiastic and talented musician, Mr. Tweddell was for many years a member of the Stokesley Volunteer Band, a combination which for long played at Stokesley Show. Mr. Tweddell leaves a grown-up family of one son and two daughters, his wife having died shortly after taking up residence at Great Ayton, after almost a lifetime spent at Stokesley.

The family mourners at the funeral were Mr. G. Tweddell (son), the Misses May and Mabel Tweddell (daughters), Mrs. Tweddell (sister-in-law), Redcar, Mrs. Scase, Mrs. Combellack and Mrs. Jenkinson (nieces), all of Guisborough.

Among others present were Messrs. .T. Sayer, R. Wilson, D. Stockton, Jos. Wilks, Edwin Johnson, Thomas Pearson, G. Haswell. R. S. Craddock, G. Johnstone, W. Sanders D. Smith. T. Wood, F. Peacock, Messrs. C. Harland. A. Bowes and J. Glasper (all of Stokesley). Mrs. A. Jackson, Mrs. G. Rolfe. Mrs. W. Russell and Mrs. S. Armstrong, Mrs. T. Rowland and Mrs. T. Smith (all of Stokesley).

### **18 February 1938**

Robert Wilson died at 82. Came to Great Ayton as a boy. For a short time was employed at Aireyholme Farm of the late Mr. James Pierson, a breeder of Cleveland Bays, but went to work in the quarries and mines. Worked there till he was 70 when he retired. Keen sportsman.

### **16 April 1938**

Funeral of Mrs Kitching, wife of Mr Alfred Edward Kitching of Ayton Firs, a former deputy lieutenant of the county.

### **23 April 1938**

Dr John Theodore Waldie of Great Ayton, late house surgeon at North Riding Infirmary, married Miss Gwen Brunton of Prissick House, Marton (daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Brunton).

### **21 May 1938**

One of the last of the old whinstone quarry workers, Thomas Watson, died within a few weeks of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was born at the Buck Hotel. From his early youth he had worked in the whinstone quarries and was in the employment of three generations of the Bradley quarry-owning family.

When the quarries closed Mr Watson became a surface worker at the ironstone mines and retired from active occupation after reaching his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday. He had been a widower for 30 years.

### **10 June 1938**

The resignation was announced of Arthur K. Cumbor from the parish council, of which he had been a member for ten years. At the time of his election he was probably the youngest Councillor in the county. He had been chairman of the parochial committee, the Burial Board and the Parish Council. He holds the unique record of having served as secretary to the Jubilee and Coronation celebrations committees within the space of two years and was a member of the parish council when the body, with a solitary exception, dissociated itself from the official recognition of the Captain Cook bi-centenary celebrations. He was a keen advocate of a playing field scheme for Great Ayton. His resignation, following the report by the ratepayers, of the generous offer of Mr. Noel Kitching in connection with the provision of a playing field, is not without significance. He is the third member to have resigned office (others were T. Winn and John Ogden).

### **28 October 1938**

The funerals took place at Kirby in Cleveland of two brothers: Mr George Garbutt (58) assisted his brother J. Garbutt in the management of White Post Farm and became manager for his sister-in-law.

The following day his brother John Garbutt who had combined the business of farming with that of a carrier and for a long period his tilted wagon and grey pony were familiar objects throughout West Cleveland and on Teesside, where he attended Stockton market regularly for a long period. He became know as "Carrier Jack." Upon the retirement of his sister-in-law he became tenant of the Castle House Farm. Regarded as "a character and a typical Yorkshireman."

### **3 March 1939**

Death of Mr Harry Powis (72) who was for 35 years coachman to the late Mr Henry Kitching of The Grange, since whose death he had lived in retirement. Spent all his life around horses.

### **9 September 1939**

#### **GREAT AYTON SCHOOLMASTER RETIRES**

Mr. T. Winn has retired from the head mastership of the Edward Kitching Council School, Great Ayton, after 47 years' service, of which 20 have been at Great Ayton. Mr. Winn began his teaching career at the age of 13, as a monitor at Rillington Board School. Later he was appointed assistant master in Whitby, where he remained for 14 years before, becoming headmaster of the Cloughton Council School.

During the Great War, Mr. Winn served for two years in France and was gassed in 1918. The following year he was appointed headmaster of the Edward Kitching School which at that time had 287 scholars. He has taken a great interest in cricket, which he still plays, and among other offices he holds are the secretaryships of the Village Institute and of the local Hospital Committee.

For the past 15 years Mr. Winn has been associated with local government and he represents Great Ayton on the Parish Council and Stokesley Rural Council. He also holds office in the National Union of Teachers, and since 1902 he has attended 30 conferences in different parts of England and Wales.

### **9 September 1939**

#### **GREAT AYTON, - PRESENTATION TO RETIRING SCHOOLMASTER.**

A pleasing but affecting little ceremony took place at the Edward Kitching Council School, Great Ayton, on Wednesday, when the children took an affectionate leave of their headmaster, Mr. T. Winn, and bestowed parting gifts upon him. Miss Kitching, Mrs. Hood and Mr Ash, managers, attended the presentation, which was prefaced by an entertainment given by the scholars, and concluded with a display of physical drill. On behalf of the scholars and staff Miss W. J. Meggison presented to Mr. Winn a table and book rest made in the school, a pair of binoculars, and a table cloth made, designed and worked by the girls. Miss Meggison said that, during her association of twelve years

with the school, there had been many changes in the personnel of the teaching staff, but the greatest possible friendliness had always prevailed. speaking to the children, Miss Meggison said that Mr. Winn had always had their interests at heart, and the reward he would most highly appreciate was that they should remember the lessons he had taught them to be upright, honest, straightforward and truthful. In expressing thanks for the gifts, Mr. Winn said he had been headmaster of the school for twenty years and four months, and he was only sorry he had not been master for forty years. He had in his school the children of former scholars, and he wished it had been possible for him to have taught a third generation. He appealed to the scholars to work hard, and to play hard, both at school and in after life to be honest and truthful and to treat others as they would like to be treated. Especially in this connection would he like them to make welcome and be kind to the three hundred Tyneside children who would be evacuated to Great Ayton in case of war. In conclusion Mr. Winn said he hoped to continue to live at Great Ayton, and he would continue to take the greatest interest in the school and the welfare of the scholars. Expressions of regret at the retirement of Mr. Winn were also voiced by the Managers.

### **3 November 1939**

Death in hospital of Mrs. Metcalfe, wife of blacksmith William Metcalfe. For some time she was engaged in business as a furniture and clothing saleswoman and latterly had been in business as a grocer and general dealer. The village is the poorer for the passing of a kindly and cheery member of the community.

*In an article on 28 February 1939, Tom Kirby quoted from a reference book, "Cleveland Characters of 50 years ago*

Great Ayton: John Dixon had two sources of income - beehive making and a commission agency. Ralph of that ilk was secretary of the Great Ayton Gas Company and was also superintendent of the Friends' North of England Agricultural School. Ralph and John Jackson were tanners on a big scale and another John Jackson, as he is today, was a hairdresser. Sammy Rutley was the local cab proprietor and William Wilkinson a water miller. The Vicar of Newton (the two parishes are now combined), the Rev. William Edward, lived on High Green at Great Ayton. He had two fellow shepherds, the Rev. Richard Withington, Vicar of the parish, and the Rev. Edward Herbert (Congregational).

### **October 1939**

#### **DEATH OF MR. A. E. KITCHING**

The death took place at Ayton Firs, Great Ayton on Saturday morning, of Mr. Alfred Edward Kitching. Mr. Kitching, who was within a few days of attaining his eightieth birthday, was the last surviving son of Mr. Alfred Kitching, of Elm Field, Darlington, with which town, as owners of the Whessoe foundry, the Kitching family have many close ties. Mr. Kitching was a Deputy Lieutenant for the North Riding of Yorkshire, and a Justice of the Peace for the Riding, and also for the County of Durham. For some time he was chairman of Darlington County Bench. For many years he rarely missed a sitting of the Stokesley Bench, and it may be said of him that in his capacity as Magistrate he tempered justice with mercy. He took a deep and practical interest in agriculture and for a long time the home farm at Ayton Firs had been farmed by him on progressive and modern lines. He was a past president of the Stokesley and Cleveland Agricultural Societies.

For some time he was a member of the North Riding County Council, on which body, at the present time, Great Ayton is represented by his nephew. Mr. Noel Kitching. A keen sportsman, Mr. Kitching until recent years hunted regularly with the Cleveland hounds, of which hunt he shared seniority of membership with Colonel W. H. A. Wharton and Sir Alfred Pease. The public life and affairs of the village in which for so many years he had made his home found his ready and sympathetic interest. He was president of the Great Ayton Silver Band, and of the Great Ayton Cricket Club. To the latter he gave an excellent ground. Another example of his munificence was the gift of the site for the well-appointed Council School which bears his name. and for a quarter-of- a-century he was Chairman of the Management Committee. He was also for many years a manager of the British School, a member of the Friends' School Committee and the Thomas Richardson Trust.

Until enfeebled health prevented his attendance, Mr. Kitching was regular in his worship at the Friends' Meeting House. He was also frequently seen in the pulpits of Nonconformist churches in the village and district, and his services as a reader of services of song were in great request.

The late Mr. Kitching was twice married: in 1884, to Miss Annie Backhouse, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Richardson, of Potto Hall, by whom he had two children, Colonel H. E. Kitching, of Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees and Patterdale, Pcnrith, and Mrs. H. D. Hepburn, of Fair Hall, Reigate. Surrey, and of Durban, South Africa.

Fifty years elapsed between his first and second marriage, the bride on the latter occasion being Mrs. Spoor, widow of the late Mr. Sidnev Spoor, and daughter of Mr. E. J. Holden of Folkestone. The second Mrs. Kitching predeceased her husband in the spring of this year.

## THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place at the Friends Burial Ground, Great Ayton, where his first wife is buried, on Tuesday afternoon. The coffin was borne from Ayton Firs on a farm lorry. Messrs. A. W. Barker, C. Hodgson, G. Megginson, G. McKay, R. Johnson, and H. Bateman, tenants and members of the staff, acting as bearers. The coffin was placed in a flower-lined grave, Mr. A. L. Stapleton, of the Friends' School, reciting the committal sentences, and prayer being offered by Mr. J. E. Hodgkin. The family mourners were Colonel H. E. and Mrs. Kitching, Hartburn (son and daughter-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Hepburn. Reigate, Surrey (son-in-law and daughter): Messrs. Alfred Edward Kitching and Ronald Hepburn (grandsons), Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Richardson, Potto Hall (brother-in-law and sister-in-law): Messrs. Noel Kitching, Great Ayton; and Alfred Arthur and Cecil Kitching, Branksome Hall, Darlington (nephews). Colonel and Mrs. Littleboy, Ripon (nephew and niece): Mrs. Jarrett, Darlington (niece): Mr. and Mrs. Campbell and Miss Spoor (stepson-in-law and step-daughters). Amongst the general mourners were: Messrs. A. B. Walford, Stockton-on-Tees: W. Lowther Carrick, Stokesley: E. A. Meek, Darlington; Mr. and Mrs. R. Mounsey Darlington: Mr. E. Hodgeson, Darlington; Miss Best, Huddersfield; M.....itt, Darlington; Mr. Tristram Edwards. Neasham; Mr. G. L. Sowerby, Stokesley: Mr. J. Shera Atkinson, London (represented): Mr. and Mrs. H. Dennis. Mrs. Stapleton, Mr. Coates (Friends' School): Mr. T. Winn (Edward Kitching Council School): Mr. W. F. Whitwell, Yarm; Mr. A. B. Hutton Wilson. Hurworth; Captain M. J. Morrison, Faceby Manor (also representing Colonel Faber, Worsall Grange); Messrs. J. E. Watson, C.C., and D. Darnton, Guisborough: Messrs. R. W. Todd, A. Feetham, J. E. Hodgkin (representing Darlington County Bench): Mr. R. L. Freeman, Mr. P. C. Bagley (also representing Mr. Charles Bagley): Mr. W.W.Constantine, Harsley Manor: Colonel F. D. Brown, Mr. Reginald Bolckow, Major Edward Williams, Hutton Rudby: Messrs. M. D. Ritson, Stokesley; J. G. Reay Pacey (clerk to the Stokesley Bench of Magistrates): Mr. G. Dixon (also representing Mr. H. Dixon). Mr. G.



Curry. Stockton-on-Tees: Mr. F. W. Fry (representing Sir John Fry). Messrs. R. H. Duxberry, J. R. Cleator and W. Todd (representing South Bank Gas Company), Rev. M. A. Cooper-Horsfall, Whitby: Dr. Murray, Mr. W. H. Thistlethwaite, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dodsworth, Mr. Pumphrey, Mrs. Gaudie, Messrs. Arnold and T. H. Dixon, T. F. Cumbor. G. E. Wilson, G. F. Mitchinson, H. Heaviside and F. Woodhead (representing Captain T. L. Dugdale. M.P.). Mr. and Mrs. G. Garbutt. Messrs. Edwin Johnson, F. Robson, R. Robson. F. Johnson, L. Johnson, Mrs. Robson, Dr. Walker, Mr. J. H. Donaldson, J. P., Messrs. R. S. Williamson, E. Watson, J. Wilks, S Hugill J. W. Fletcher. H. Fletcher. F. Bottomley, R Booth, Redcar: E. Allen. J. Small and G. Smith (Ayton Firs staff); McDonald, J. G. Ward, Ormesby: H. S. Petch. G. Farndale. D Stockton, W. Hutton. Mrs. H. W. Martin and Miss Petch, and a posse of the North Riding Police amongst whom were Inspector Shepherd, Stokesley. and Inspector Falgate, Thornaby-on-Tees, and Sergeant Simpson, Great Ayton.

## THE WREATHS

Amongst others who sent floral tributes were Col. and Mrs. H E Kitching; Mr. W Lowther Carrick, Mrs Jackson: Mrs Henry Kitching and Miss Kitching, Ayton Grange: Mr and Mrs P C Bagley. Mrs W G Forbes and Nina; Marjorie Horner. The staff at Elmwood. Hartburn; Mr and Mrs A L Stapleton: the tenants of Ayton Firs Estate; The indoor and outdoor staff, Ayton Firs: Mr. and Mrs. E B Richardson: Mr. W W Constantine; Mr R A Constantine. Rev R M and Mrs Kettlewell: Great Ayton Cricket Club: Great Ayton Silver Band; Sir John and Lady Fry: Kenneth and Joyce Hope: Col. and Mrs Littleboy; Commander and Mrs F A Hall: Charles C Bagley; Alfred, Ann and Prudence Pease: Mr. and Mrs. M D Ritson; Directors of South Bank Gas Company; Fanny and Nancy: Mrs. C Norman: C McAdams. Ltd.: Allan and

Claudia; Edward Kitching Council School staff and scholars; Great Ayton Women's Unionist Association; Harold Walker. Arthur Walker and family; Chris and Sissy: Mr. and Mrs. J B Peat: J W. T H and Arnold Dixon: Mr. and Mrs. Tristram and Mrs. Dorothy Edwards: All at Branksome Hall, Darlington; Mr. and Mrs. David Drummond.

### **13 April 1940**

Death of Mrs T.H. Bean (78). Mr Bean was for upwards of half a century manager of the old-established Osborne business at Great Ayton. He died seven years ago after which the business was disposed of.

### **14 February 1941**

Death of Mr Biggins Dixon Wilson. Died at his home in Middlesbrough. He was a member of the oldest family in the village and was buried from his former home, Arch House, which has been in the occupation of the Wilson family for over a century. He entered the service of the North Eastern Railway Company in which employ he spent the whole of his working life. The greater part of his service has been spent at the Power House, at which for many years he held a responsible position. The funeral service took place at the Congregational Church.

### **March 1941**

Death of Mr Andrew Crooks (78). Started work at eight years old at the whinstone quarries. He learned the skilled craft of stone sett making, of which he was one of the very few surviving representatives. For 23 years he was employed at his trade by Stockton Council. Retired about seven years ago.

### **11 March 1995**

#### **'CANNY YATTON' VILLAGERS MOURN A MINE OF LOCAL HISTORY**

Great Ayton joiner, undertaker, cabinet maker, wheelwright and village special constable, Mr Fred Bottomley, has died aged 84. Born and raised in the High Street home he lived in all his life, he was one of the village's best-known residents, liked and respected both for his joinery work and his humanitarian approach to his fellow villagers.

After leaving Marwood School at 14, he joined his father Frank in the family business, operating from a workshop behind the house, and worked on many of the village's most notable big houses. He later worked for the Hutton Rudby building firm, Tarran's, until retirement. During the last 20 years he did joinery work for villagers, helped at the museum and the church, did gardening and supported local cricket and football clubs.

His family described him as a happy, contented and humorous man who could relate to anyone. He was particularly popular with young people who delighted in his tales of old Ayton. In the funeral address at Christ Church, the Rev. Paul Peverell described him as a walking history book, and someone with a knack for telling a good yarn. "He was a mine of information about what had gone on in the past," he said. "He was a great village character and we will miss him."

Great Ayton's elder statesman, 97-year-old Mr A. K. Cumbor, knew him from birth. "Fred was one of nature's best. We have lost one of Canny Yatton's most valuable citizens, a kind, helpful man who was part of the foundation of this village. "If someone needed something doing, he was straight away round to put it right. He was a great helper and attended to all kinds of little jobs for elderly people and the poor, and his work was really exceptional. Everyone knew him and his death is a great loss to Great Ayton."

Mr Bottomley leaves a widow, Angie, a son, David, daughter Ann, and grandsons Adam and Peter.

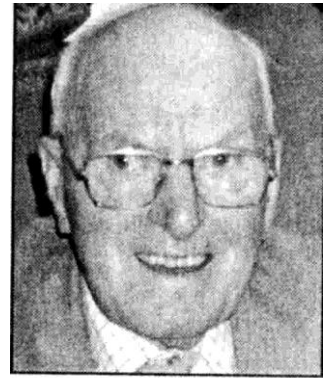
### **1996 – MAURICE HODGSON: hard worker and custodian of village history**

Mr Maurice Hodgson, custodian of All Saints' Church, Great Ayton, for 30 years, and one of the village's oldest residents, has died aged 97. Mr Hodgson's affection for the 12th century church stemmed from his childhood, when, as a pupil at Marwood School, he and his classmates ate their lunchtime sandwiches in the tranquillity of the



churchyard. When he was aged 60, and saddened to see it falling into neglect, he took over responsibility for the church's maintenance, eventually being made custodian by the Rev. Ted Appleyard. He encouraged others from the village to help him, and together with his wife, Ruth, daughter Kathleen, son-in-law Geoff and grandson Andrew, made All Saints' something of a family project.

He stepped down from the job aged 90, after paying for the chancel roof to be repaired out of money donated by visitors. "He felt satisfied then that he should retire," his daughter, Mrs Kathleen Parker, said. Today the church is one of the village's most important tourism sights, attracting visitors from around the world. As a mark of respect and gratitude from the community, his body rested there the night before his funeral on February 14. At the service, his coffin was carried by fellow farmers, Lesley and Graham Martin, Peter Dowson and Neil Metcalfe, in the country tradition.



Maurice Hodgson.

Mr Hodgson's father had been a whinstone miner, but when Maurice was born in 1899, one of five children, the family had gone into farming. They lived at the Mill House, Mill Lane, Great Ayton, for the first few months of his life, before moving to Bartle Bridge Farm on the outskirts of the village, where he remained most of his working life. He left school at 14 and besides many years on the family farm, worked on others in the area. His first wage was 30 shillings (£1.50) for a six-day week, and the job included taking hay up to the Roseberry mines for the pit ponies.

In the 1930s he began a doorstep milk delivery for 2½d (1p) a pint, and was the first retailer in the village to bottle milk. In 1939 he was the first to own a tractor. He bought a second-hand machine from Harrogate to replace a lame horse, and found his services in demand because of a shortage of farm labour owing to the outbreak of war. Even after retiring, by which time he had moved to a bungalow on Guisborough Road, he kept busy, tending his own large garden and helping others. He was a strong churchman all his life, and served almost 20 years as a churchwarden, under five vicars.

He was a very independent, forthright man who lived to work," Mrs Parker said. "He was never idle. He would say 'Look at these hands, they need work'. I think if you'd asked him the secret of his longevity, that is what he'd have said, hard work."

Since his death, Mrs Parker has discovered an account of his life, written in longhand on 12 pages of an exercise book. He called it *Life Story of a Great Ayton Boy*. It is a remarkable link with the village's history, and an account of how one determined man helped preserve an important part of the community's heritage.

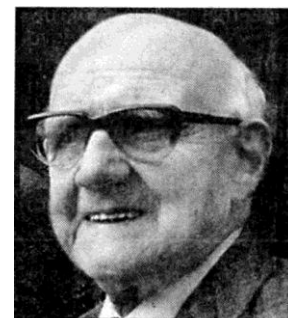
His final entry speaks of planting roses at All Saints' Church for Capt. Cook's birthday. There was a service and a full church, he recounts. "I was very proud to get down in my wheelchair. It was a nice day." He concludes: "So once more I will say goodbye and God bless us all."

### 1997 - Memorial Honour for Cook stalwart

The man who set up the Captain Cook Schoolroom Museum has died just before his 100th birthday. A memorial service is being planned for Arthur Kirsop Cumbor, known to everyone in Great Ayton as AK. His niece Margaret Cumbor of Newton Road, said: "He did a lot for the village and will be long remembered. He was quite incredible and always wanted to know how other people were."

He had been planning for his 100th birthday on July 13 when he died last week. AK was a Great Ayton Parish Councillor for 35 years and on Stokesley Rural District Council for 17 years before retiring at 80.

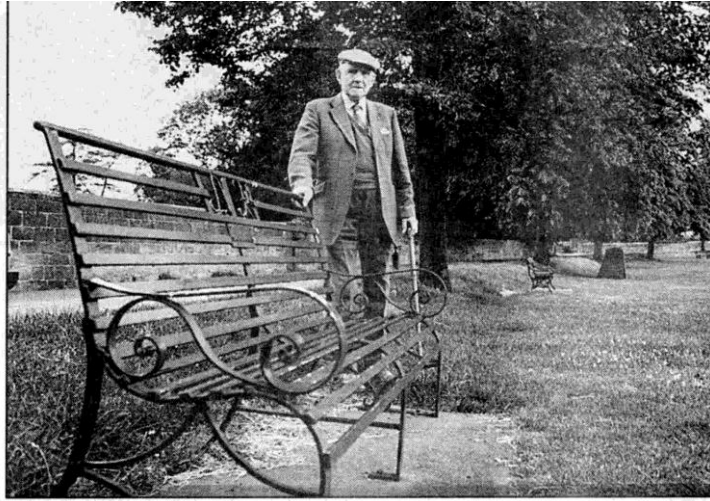
He joined marine engineers Richardson Westgarth aged 18, then at 21 joined Bell Brothers of Port Clarence where he worked for 30 years and was manager of Richpak in Great Ayton until 1960.



■ MOURNED:  
Arthur  
Cumbor  
helped set up  
the Captain  
Cook  
Schoolroom  
Museum

His wife, Decie died in 1987, and he leaves a daughter, grand-daughter and two great grandchildren.

### 1997 - End of an era for village as 'AK' dies nearing his century



Mr Cumber on Low Green in his beloved Great Ayton

Great Ayton's best known elder statesman, Mr A.K. Cumber, died this week a few months short of his 100th birthday.

Born Arthur Kirsop Cumber at North Cowton, but always referred to as AK, he moved to Great Ayton as a baby and was baptised in the village. His family lived at Langbaugh Farm.

He would have been 100 on July 13, and had been organising arrangements for his birthday. Longevity was not unusual in the Cumber family: two of his brothers lived into their eighties, one into his nineties, and his mother died aged 89. He is survived by a sister, Mrs Winifred Carter, who is 94.

Mr Cumber left school at 14 and went to Guisborough Grammar School, occasionally making the daily trip by pony. At 16 he became a student teacher, doing his teaching practice at his old school, Marwood, where he taught reading, writing, mathematics, botany, agriculture and history. But he never went on to teach full time, having failed his final exams following a bout of rheumatic fever. He declined to re-sit the exams, and instead joined Richardson Westgarth, the marine engineers and boilermakers, in Middlesbrough, when he was aged 18. His weekly wage was 12s 6d (62½p).

Three years later he joined Bell Brothers at Port Clarence, leaving in 1948, by which time the company had become Dorman Long and Co. For two years, he ran a two-acre smallholding in Great Ayton, and then became manager of the Richpak egg packing station in the village, where he continued until 1960.

But it was for local politics that the village remembers him. When he joined the parish council in 1928 aged 31, he was the youngest person to be appointed in the council's history, and was one of the youngest councillors in the country. In 1960 he was elected to Stokesley Rural District Council, which was absorbed into Hambleton District Council in 1974. He retired from the parish council in 1963, and from council work entirely in 1977 when he was 80.

The current leader of Hambleton, Councillor June Imeson, who is also a parish councillor and a native Aytonian, knew him all her life: "I think the picture many will have is of him walking around the village in his tweed cap, tweed sports jacket and his mac over his arm, walking very briskly, surveying the place and making sure everything was right. AK cared deeply for Great Ayton. Its well-being was always close to his heart, and the village should be grateful to him for that."

Mr Leslie Martin also served with him on the council: "AK had a way of motivating people because he was prepared to dig in himself. He was a great character and very genuine. They don't make them like him anymore and his death means the end of an era." In 1925 he set up the Captain Cook Schoolroom Museum and Trust, at a time when the room beneath was used for parish council meetings. In the 1960s his brother, Stanley, bought the building for £700 and gave it to the trust. In 1936 AK joined the special constabulary in Great Ayton, serving on a volunteer force of ten constables supervised by a superintendent.

Despite a busy life, Mr Cumber found time for the church. In his youth he had been a choirboy, and in later life became a member of the parochial church council. He was involved with the British Legion, and was a driving force behind the Dr Waldie Memorial Trust, established in memory of the local doctor to help young people in the village further their education. In his leisure time he bred and showed rabbits, and was a pigeon fancier, spending Saturday afternoons on the allotments watching the birds return from races. He was also a very keen gardener. His energy and enthusiasm for village life and village people remained constant throughout his life, and his mental sharpness up to his very last few days, astonished family and friends. To many, it seemed impossible that anything would ever snuff out his light.

"He cared a great deal for the village and a great deal for people," his niece, Mrs Margaret Cumber, said. "When he was able and fitter, he visited people who weren't well, and even latterly, when he was so poorly in the last few weeks, he was always asking how everyone else was, which I found quite remarkable for someone of his age."

He was a devoted family man. He lost his wife, Decie, in 1987, but enjoyed the closeness of his remaining family: his daughter, Mrs Jean Lamb, his granddaughter, great-grandson and great-granddaughter. "My father doted on his family," Mrs Lamb said. "He always asked about his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and one of the last things he said was 'Look after those little ones'. He was just a wonderful and remarkable man."

A private cremation service was held on Wednesday and a memorial service is planned for the spring.

'AK cared deeply for Great Ayton. Its well-being was always close to his heart, and the village should be grateful to him for that' - Coun. June Imeson

**8 May 2001**

### **Mr Clifford Morgan, teacher who put the 'story' into history for his pupils**



Great Ayton has lost a character with the death at the age of 82 of Mr Clifford Morgan. Although a Welshman through and through, he became an adopted Yorkshireman, living for over 50 years in Great Ayton where he spent 36 years as history teacher on the staff of the Friends' school. The Press has been inundated with tributes from all quarters to this popular man and it is impossible to print them all, writes Robert Lappin.

He was born in 1918 in the small Welsh mining village of Troedyrhiw, 20 miles from Cardiff, where his father was under-manager at the colliery. His parents lost two daughters in childhood and Mr Morgan was a sickly child, once seriously ill with diphtheria. He attended grammar school at Treharris, where he played rugby in the first XV with four other Morgans. In the same year he represented the Welsh public schools against the Yorkshire public schools, scoring two tries in a Welsh victory. He also made his mark in schools cricket and had trials for Glamorgan.

Mr Morgan went on to the university college of Wales at Swansea with a history scholarship. He represented the university at both rugby and cricket, and graduated in history and economics in 1939.

He volunteered for the army on the outbreak of war serving in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, in which he reached the rank of major. He was a PT instructor for commandos and also served as intelligence officer. However, he was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident in 1941, and after spending a lengthy period in hospital joined the Army Education Service. His final posting offered the opportunity of playing rugby for Cardiff in the 1945-46 season in a three quarter line full of internationals. He was chosen twice as reserve for Wales in matches against England and Scotland.

On leaving the army, he decided to follow a teaching career and came to the Friends' school in Great Ayton in 1946, appointed to teach history and to take charge of boys' games. In 1948 he married Joyce Dickinson, the domestic science teacher, and settled down in school and village.

He became senior master in 1959 and in 1967 this post became, in practice, senior member of staff. But his forte was in front of pupils, rather than administration. In a tribute, long-time headmaster Mr John Reader said "He was a teacher with a flair for captivating the interest of a class, a demanding taskmaster in academic work as his pupils' examination results bore witness, a strong disciplinarian giving support to the weak, counsel to the bewildered and rebuke to the unruly."

His history teaching put the emphasis on the "story" part -he never let dry facts get in the way of giving his pupils the true picture. A former pupil once said: "I could never understand how he seemed to get from the Battle of Waterloo to his gardening problems!"

The verbal strength was necessary as his handwriting was rarely an effective form of communication.

A former pupil, Amanda Wilson, now Morgan, paid her tribute with the following words: "When I heard the sad news I cried and thought of Taff. I saw pale green exercise books and childlike pencil sketches of 'The discus thrower'

and 'The hanging gardens of Babylon'. I remembered a class of chattering children falling silent upon hearing his distinctive footsteps approaching the history room and seeing his face appear in the small window of the door. "Last year at the last ever old scholars' meeting on site before Wimpeys moved in. I spent a magical half hour talking to a man who never lost the ability to teach you something new and to engage you totally. Even though I am now 41 he recaptured my childhood and youth and I felt 11 years old again. "One compensation I have to his memory is that I visited the old scholars' association web site, [www.manannan.org.im/aoso](http://www.manannan.org.im/aoso), for the first time, read the book of condolences and also know how to contact many old friends from 25 years ago.

Mr Morgan retired in 1982 to spend time caring for his wife, who died after a long illness the following year. Characteristically, he set about creating a new life and set of interests for himself. He travelled to various Eastern bloc countries as they opened up to tourism - leaving a trail of counter-revolutions in his wake - and notably was recognised outside a Moscow sports shop by a fellow rugby player of 40 years previously.

He became involved in Workers' Educational Association activities and became a founder of the Great Ayton Wednesday morning forum, of which he was a key member until his final illness. Peter Morgan (no relation) and Margaret Mawston recalled his activities in this area and said: "Whenever the words commitment and enthusiasm are mentioned he will be remembered as having an abundance of both". His first course for the WEA was 'Understanding Economics' in 1986 and the following year he joined the Committee. While on the committee he provided three further courses, all of which proved very popular. People enjoyed his courses, not just for their content, but also for his skill as a raconteur, which enlivened any subject. What few people know is that he would take no fee for his lecturing, which helped the district greatly in a time of financial difficulties.

He served on the committee for almost ten years, during which time his intimate knowledge of the village and his wide range of contacts, along with his diverse interests, helped the WEA greatly in the planning of courses. After the business of the meeting a very pleasant time would be spent over coffee listening to his fund of anecdotes from his trips to Russia and elsewhere.

Over this period he became more and more involved in the Wednesday morning forum especially when it became independent of the WEA in 1992. Mr Morgan was very soon its chairman as well as its speaker finder (no mean task when 20 speakers were required to produce each year's programme).

Although he stopped being speaker finder three years ago he continued chairing the sessions until he entered hospital this February.

He was an active member of the Teesside Welsh society and served as its president for one year, requiring him to resurrect his rusty childhood Welsh. He also chaired the Ingleby Green-how lecture society and was active in the Methodist church, without forgetting his Baptist heritage and Quaker influence. He was involved in the Captain Cook museum and was a member of the Dr Waldie trust.

Mr Morgan was true and courteous, a modest man who will be greatly missed, and most affectionately remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Tributes poured in from all quarters. At his funeral on Thursday of last week at Great Ayton Methodist church conducted by the Rev Richard Bradshaw, superintendent of the Stokesley circuit, the church was packed. Mr Morgan was buried in Great Ayton cemetery.

He leaves three children, two grandchildren, many friends and more than 2,000 pupils whose lives he touched.

## 12 October 2001



FOND FAREWELL: Clergy and the congregation follow the hearse after Mr Appleyard's funeral service - D&S

## THE REVEREND TED APPELYARD; VICAR WITH A ZEST FOR LIFE

Last Friday more than 70 people attended a requiem mass and more than 400 the funeral service of the Rev Edward Appleyard at Christ church, Great Ayton.

A collection for the haematology department, ward three, at the James Cook university hospital raised more than £1,000.

After the service, the clergy and most of the congregation followed the hearse along Guisborough Road until its departure to Middlesbrough crematorium.

Mr Appleyard was the very popular vicar of the parish from 1968-78 and rural dean of Stokesley for seven years. He and his wife, Evie, retired to Linden Road, Great Ayton in 1985. Although suffering for seven years from myeloma, which entailed frequent visits to hospital for treatment, he remained cheerful to the end and active around the village until his last year.

In his address, the Rev Paul Peverell said he could, if he had wished, given the congregation a potted biography of Mr Appleyard: from his humble beginnings near Leeds, through his formative years of theological training at Kelham college, his curacy at All Saints' in Middlesbrough, his life as a naval chaplain, his incumbencies at Swine, Flamborough, Great Ayton and St Columba's, Middlesbrough, his other ministries from Barnardo's to retired clergy and clergy widows officer for the York diocese.

However, he decided against doing that for the simple reason that Mr Appleyard beat him to it, and did it far better than anyone else could have done, in his autobiography, *Zest for Life*, published two years ago but now out of print.



**LOOKOUT DUTY:** Mr Appleyard in 1967, when, as vicar of Flamborough, he served as an auxiliary coastguard and took frequent watches at the Flamborough Head coastguard point

Those in the congregation who had not read it were advised to borrow a copy. Mr Peverell continued: "I would rather say something about the qualities that Ted had that have touched so many lives and brought so many of us together today. This is an area of the book where you would have to read between the lines, for he was always so self-effacing." He added: "It was always remarkable when seeing Ted, especially in the latter years when he was so ill, that he never dwelt on himself, but would direct his attention to you. If you ever asked how he felt, you would get the reply, 'Never felt better' - a downright lie if ever there was one! But in looking to others he was given strength for himself."

Never was Mr Appleyard more animated than when he was proclaiming the word of God, either in a church pulpit or over a pint at the club. He preached on his 80th birthday, quite a feat for he was not well then, but once he was into his stride he was off, myeloma forgotten. He received a quite spontaneous round of applause at the end of his sermon - not common in the Church of England - and returned to his seat looking bemused.

In Great Ayton, said Mr Peverell, Mr Appleyard was a regular visitor to both the Conservative Club and the workingmen's club and was well respected in both. The Conservative club president, Mr Ken Roberts, told the service: "In his official capacity, Ted was a trustee and honorary padre, duties which he took seriously. On the social side he very much impressed as a man's man, good communicator and listener, caring, compassionate, thoughtful and above all treating all as equals and at pains to point out that there was some good in everyone. His mere presence stimulated good conversation and engendered fun, happiness and camaraderie among us all."

"We all knew when Ted entered the club. As he climbed the stairs he would sing to announce his arrival, typically, 'Oh what a beautiful morning' or the verse of a hymn. He even went through that repartee as he became more ill and struggled to climb the stairs. His last visit to us was six weeks ago.

"A few years back when his illness prevented him playing golf he became very passionate about snooker. He frequently said that he had never won a sporting or indoor trophy in his life. When he won the 'geriatrics' snooker competition, no mean feat since despite the name there were many good players in the section, he was absolutely thrilled and treasured the trophy he was awarded."

Mrs Appleyard was awarded the MBE for her work in fostering children. After congratulating her, her husband joked "However, don't forget, I'm higher in the pecking order than you", referring to his own QBE which he was awarded some years previously for naval service. Quick as a flash, Mrs Appleyard replied: 'Don't forget you were awarded your OBE for other B's efforts, whereas I was awarded mine for my B effort."

Mr Peverell continued: "Ted had a wonderful sense of humour and fun ... In fact, this gift was so cherished by one choir that they would give Ted free tickets to their concerts so he could encourage the audience. Tell a joke and you knew Ted was in the room."

The recently retired archdeacon of Cleveland, the Ven. Chris Hawthorn, himself a resident of the village for several years, also spoke at the funeral. Mr Hawthorn said he first came across Mr Appleyard when he was a raw curate and had to stand in for him at Flamborough. He said: "The experience with Ted's congregation enlightened me about his character. Many years later when I came back to the area to live in Great Ayton, this time as a raw archdeacon, Ted, now retired, was again there to act as an elder statesman and keep me right." Mr Hawthorne paid tribute to Mr Appleyard's long and faithful ministry, his deep commitment to his faith and his great concern for his family and all he met.

Mr Appleyard had met his wife-to-be in his curacy days in St Aiden's in Middlesbrough, and the couple were devoted to each other. They had four children, John, Tim, Wendy and Sally, and nine grandchildren. They also cared for a host of foster children, 120 in all.

After the funeral service, many adjourned to the Conservative club at which a buffet and drinks were laid on to be enjoyed. Tributes flowed in from all sections of the community and were summarised by Councillor John Fletcher, chairman of Great Ayton Parish Council, who said: "Ted has made an enormous contribution to Great Ayton -his kindly and friendly disposition will be missed."

Mr Appleyard published his book of memoirs in 1999 which was a very popular local bestseller but was now out of print. He was moved to write the book when illness, which had dogged him for five years, prevented him from sleeping and he felt writing was a useful way to spend his time during the night.

He came from a humble background in Leeds from a family of five, having two brothers and two sisters. His surviving 87-year-old sister and 84-year-old brother attended the funeral. He was selected for education and Anglican theological training at Kelham at the age of 16, before being ordained at 23. This was a very austere establishment by most standards, run by monks who had taken vows of obedience, poverty and chastity. On joining the college, the students had to promise that they would not enter into matrimony for at least 12 years from the beginning of the course. Of 17 selected, from 200-300 applicants, only five lasted the course and were ordained at Kelham.

Following a curacy in Middlesbrough, Mr Appleyard became a naval chaplain. He and Evie were married and had incumbencies at Swine and Flamborough before arriving at Great Ayton in 1968.

Among the well-known personalities Mr Appleyard met were the Queen, Princess Margaret, the former bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins, the poet, T S Eliot, the snooker player Terry Griffiths, the tennis champion Fred Perry and the courageous Bishop Leonard Wilson, who suffered so much torture during the war, yet could forgive his captors.

Profits from the book went to the British Heart Foundation in gratitude to the health service for saving his son's life. John Appleyard born with a congenital heart defect and at the age of 24 had open heart surgery which allowed him to live a normal life. Since then he has run four London marathons, with the associated sponsorships going to the British Heart Foundation.

Mr and Mrs Appleyard brought up their own family of two daughters and two sons and fostered more than 120 children. Following retirement at 65 and until he was 80, he was the retired clergy and clergy widows' officer for the York diocese, an honorary post that gave him great satisfaction. He had also acted as honorary curate at Christ Church for the past eight years. During his 82 years, he packed a great deal into his life, but still maintained a manner of calmness. On being asked how he managed to do so much, he said: "Dunno, I just did. God always shows the way."