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MRS LYALL SAYS THAT WOLD NEWTON IS LINCOLNSHIRE'S 'BEST VILLAGE'



One of Wold Newton's oldest married couples are Mr William Hawson and his wife Alice, who were married in the parish church, which stands high behind their garden.

MRS EDITH LYALL (44) had never been to Wold Newton (population 90) up to five years ago. Her husband, George, a farmworker, then living at Huttoft, near Skegness, had told her it was one of the most pleasant villages in Lincolnshire — and so the family decided to move there.

"But George wasn't quite telling the truth," Mrs Lyall told the Lincolnshire Times. "I know now it's the best village in Lincolnshire. You wouldn't get me living anywhere else. We're just like a big, happy family in Wold Newton."

Many people would consider that a community with little more to boast than a couple of shops—one being the village post office — and a telephone box would not be a particularly wonderful place in which to live.

"That's what most people



Hordern, has only been in the village for eight months, but he is already firmly established there, being looked upon as a "helpful neighbour" as well as "the parson."

"I came here from Essex, where I had been for about 23 years," he said. "But this is a great improvement. I find



The Rev John Hordern, rector.

the village and the people very good company."

One of the things which pleases Mr Hordern most is the attendance at the services at the charming little church of All Saints.

"I once conducted a full-scale census in Middlesex of people who went to any type of church, whether it was Mormon or Anglican, Roman Catholic or Free, and I found the total was just under one per cent," he said.

"Then I come to a tiny place like Wold Newton, where there are less than 100 people, and I hardly ever get less than 15 represents a pretty good percentage at the services. That centaxe," he added.

Like father

anniversary of the reconsecration of the church by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1862 after it had been rebuilt.

When the rebuilding was completed, the church was the fifth to have stood on the same site. The first was believed to have been destroyed during the Danish invasion, probably in the ninth century, and others followed until the original of the existing one was erected in 1680.

The cost of the restoration 201 years later was £1,076, and all this money was raised by the then rector, the Rev George Wingfield Bourke.

Some of the interior work is of a very high quality, particularly the apsidal chancel and the eight-sided western turret. A rather unusual feature is the position of the pulpit, which is on the southern side instead of the usual north.

Smashing

"It's a smashing little church," said little John Lyall, a server at the church, who was off school with mumps.

John, nine-year-old son of Mrs Lyall, acted as guide when the Lincolnshire Times visited the village.

"I have made a lot of friends in the village," he said. "I like making friends with people who work on the farms best, though, because they let me have rides on their tractors."

One of John's friends is 73-year-old Fred Smith, who spends most of his time gardening.

Asked what he found to do in Wold Newton, he replied, "I don't get much free time, except in the evenings. My garden keeps me busy most of the day."

A retired farmworker, Mr Smith lives with his wife, Victoria.

There is no public house in Wold Newton, but that does not worry Fred unduly.

"The nearest pub's a couple of miles away—at Swinhope," he said. "When I get thirsty, I get out my bike—and I quite enjoy the journey there on a nice day. I usually have a trip to Grimsby at the weekends on the bus."

Postmistress

Next door to Fred is village postmistress, Mrs Dorothy Lammiman, who has kept the post office for 15 years. She has lived in the village for 28 years.

"My mother kept the post office before me," said Mrs Lammiman, whose husband is a local farmworker. "Village post offices don't usually get very busy—but there's still plenty to be done."

Mrs Marjorie Reeve keeps the other village shop, a little further down the street. Mrs Reeve, whose husband, Sydney

living in the village, 16-year-old Monica Winfarrah, summed up life in the village:

"It's dreadfully dreary here," she said. "We go to Grimsby every Saturday on the bus—but there are only two a week—and we usually go to the pictures. What I would like to see here is a youth club."

Mr Frank Shepherd, who works in a butcher's shop in Marshchapel, has been visiting Wold Newton with his delivery van for some years now.

"I like this little place," he said. "It's just as nice in the winter as it is in the summer although there have been some bad winters."

"There have been times when the streets were almost like a river. It's with the village being in a valley."

One of the oldest couples in



The parish church of All Saints, with its unusual rounded chancel, stands high above the village.



An interior view of All Saints shows the apsidal chancel, which is finely decorated.

the village are the Hewsons, who live in their modernised house next door to the Lyalls, on the main street.

William and Alice, both 71, were married at the Parish Church of All Saints.

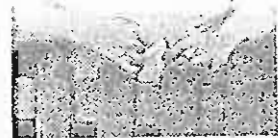
"It's funny how things happen," said Mrs Hawson. "I was only six years old when

question, and they were soon married.

"Now all I have to do is go out of the back door and look up the hill to the church, and I can clearly recall my wedding day," said Mrs Hawson, who added that they had moved into their house on the day Queen Elizabeth was married in November 1937.

state it is, and the distinct French flavour in its appearance is due to his faithfulness for French churches.

The Wright family, described by a friend as "typical examples of the smaller kind of squire, benevolently disposed to all the villagers," have always had a reputation for their long-term quality.



"I think a lot about the village," says postmistress Mrs Dorothy Lammiman, who has lived there 23 years.

seem to think when they are not used to villages," said Mrs Lyall. "But for us all these modern things are not everything in the world."

When Mrs Lyall moved into this village, nestling in a valley between Louth and Grimsby, she became a member of the local Women's Institute, which meets at the disused school in Wold Newton. She is also the church cleaner.

Get-together

There are 25 members of the WI and they come from three nearby villages, Ashby, Thorngayby and Ravendale. President is Mrs Betty Haxby.

"The WI has been on the go for 12 years," said Mrs Lyall. "It's just like a get-together every month when we hold the meetings at the school."

The school, she said, had not been used as such for over 10 years. "It's now used as the Village Hall."

Mrs Lyall, who is celebrating her silver wedding this year, is the mother of six children. Four of them live at home, the others are married.

"The children aren't very pleased with me at present," she laughed. "You see, I was supposed to be doing their ironing—and the iron's gone and fused."

Good neighbour

"That is one of the disadvantages in living here. You can't buy a fuse. But the rector came to the rescue. He's gone to get me one in his car from Grimsby."

The rector, the Rev John

centenary, he added

Like father

Mr Hordern's son Peter was ordained priest at Billingham, Durham, at about the same time as his father moved to Wold Newton, or Newton-le-Wold as it was known in earlier days. He is to be married to a Norwegian girl in July.

Mr Hordern arrived in the village just in time to take part in a special centenary service, marking the 100th

the better village shows a little further down the street. Mrs Reeve, whose husband, Sydney is also a farmworker, lived in Wold Newton as a child, although she left the village when still quite young, when her parents went to live at Ashby-cum-Fenby.

Charm

When she was married 14 years ago, she decided to go back to the village she had left because of "its charm."

One of the few teenagers

pen," said Mrs Hewson. "I was only six years old when our family moved into the village from South Elkington, and a young lad called Willie Hewson had been in the village a year longer."

"We went to the village school together, but that closed down some years ago," she added. "It was different when we were there because we had about 50 pupils in those days."

For some years the two went their own ways but eventually met again, William popped the

moved into the village. One day Queen Elizabeth was married in November, 1947.

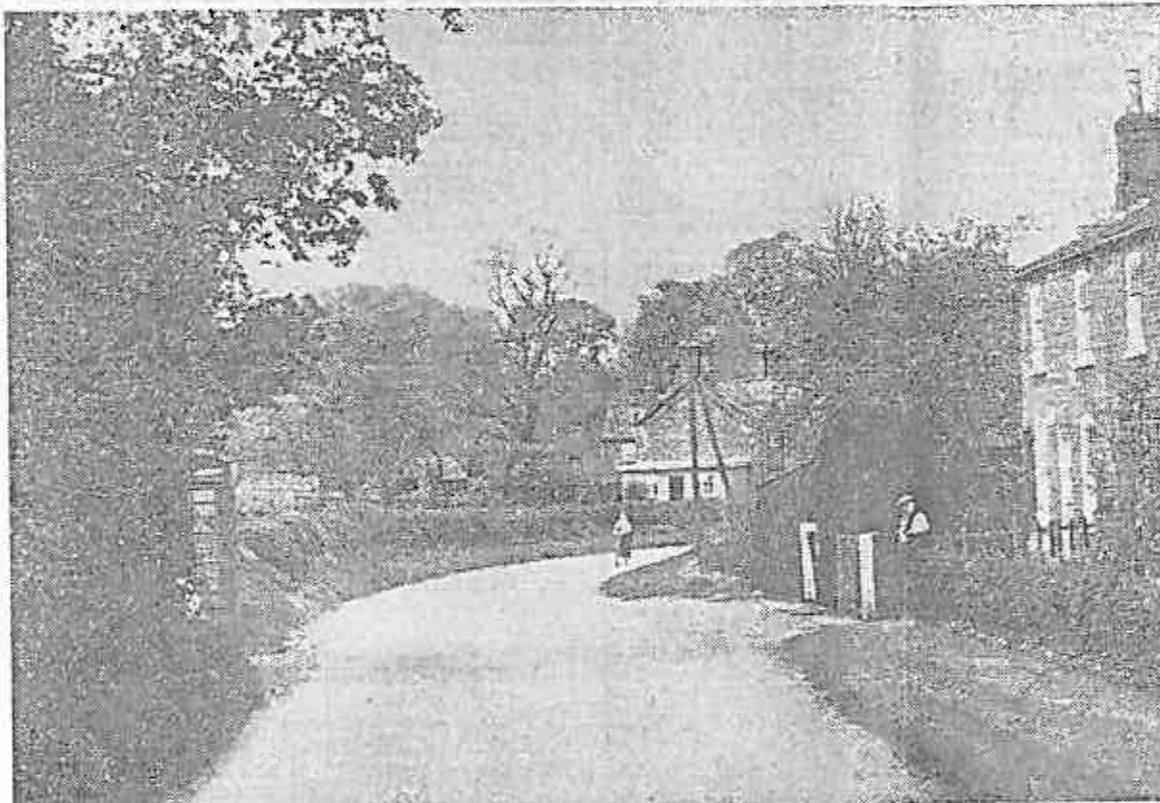
Squires

Another man whose family have always had a great interest in the church is Mr Parsons Wright, the family having been squires of the village for many a generation.

Mr Wright's late elder brother, Mr William Maurice Wright, was responsible for keeping the church in the fine

have always had a reputation for their long-term weather forecasting.

"They have studied the county's weather over an extremely long period, and Mr Parsons Wright, now deaf, is still able to give an accurate forecast of what the weather is likely to be over the next month or two, and the outlook for Wold Newton, anyway, is bright and cheerful — like it always is."



Every day in Wold Newton is as quiet and peaceful as a Sunday, according to the 50 people who live there.



Mr. George Dale's home at the southern end of the village.



Young John Lyall (nine) helps Mr Fred Smith (73) in his garden.