Learning to converse

ELOCUTION lessons are back in vogue — with more parents in the region now sending their children to learn to speak properly.

Giving lessons in speaking has turned to a full-time occupation for mother-of-two Terese Hagger, from High Shincliffe, Co Durham, who has a teaching diploma in speech and drama.

"I never try to erase a person's accent, as different dialects add colour to conversation," she said.

"But I do try to get children and adults alike who come to me to communicate and be easily understood when they speak," said Mrs Hagger.

"This is the age of communication, and clarity in speech is vital if people want to be understood."

For the first time, schoolchildren are having to take oral tests as part of their English GCSE exam.

However, Mrs Hagger is finding her skills in great demand both in private tuition and teaching during lunch breaks at schools on Tyneside.

She takes classes for pupils at Central High School, in Newcastle, and Chase Hall school, Whickham, as well as at her home in Co Durham.

Confidence

She has more than 100 children among her pupils as well as a growing number of adults.

"Children often have to be taught not to mumble when they speak. This is sometimes down to a lack of confidence in themselves,"

she explained.

"Their parents realise that children stand a better chance of getting on in life and at interviews for jobs or for university if they can speak clearly and with confidence.

"Adults come to me often if they have been promoted and having to address groups of people or if they wish to improve their telephone manner.

"A voice that sounds harsh on the phone can be softened with practice and people are more ready to listen if a voice sounds pleasant."

She follows the idea that children can be bilingual in English, so they can talk to their friends when they are at school, but speak in a more formal manner when needed.

Tutors in elocution are few and far between in the north compared to the south of England, where how you sound appears to be all important if you want to get on.

But the increase in interest in how you talk among people in the North-East is reflected by the number of youngsters Mrs Hagger has entered in speech and drama festivals in the region.

Mark's cash splash!

A YOUNG Tyneside schoolboy swam over two miles for charity to help buy equipment for a North-East hospital.

Ten-year-old Mark McAlinden, of Newbold Street, Walker, Newcastle, who swam 148 lengths of Shipley Street baths in Byker, hopes to collect over £100 to go towards a heart monitor for the city's General Hospital.

Mark, who goes to Welbeck Road junior school, Walker, hopes the money will go to the premature baby unit at the hospital.

Last year during the comic relief campaign Mark did a sponsored swim for school collecting £80 to boost the school's total.

His mother, Yvonne, said Mark wanted to help little children after watching a programme about the plight of children on television.

"He's done it all all on his own initiative. We are very proud of him," she added.

Winter Warmer

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Mrs Brenda Parke who met the Queen at a reception to mark the centenary of Olave Baden Powell.

Royal event

IT WAS a night to remember for a North woman when she met the Queen at a reception in St James' Palace.

Mrs Brenda Parke, of Reeves Avenue, Heddon-on-the-Wall, was in London attending the centenary of the birth of Olave Baden Powell, wife of the founder of the Boy Scout movement and who herself did much to help the development of the Girl Guides Association.

The Queen, patron of the Girl Guide Association, was accompanied by Princess Margaret, the president.

Mrs Parke, currently Guide county commissioner, a post she has held for seven years, said: "It was a lovely evening."

Accompanying Mrs Park to London were three other long serving North Guiders.

Mrs Varrington, of Westwood Road, Brunton Park, Gosforth, Newcastle, who has been involved with the Guide movement for more than 70 years; Irene Glendinning, of Chesley Drive, Woodlands Park, Wideopen, a former county commissioner for Newcastle, and Monica Smith, of Amberley Gardens, Cochrane Park, a member of the North of England Guide award committee.

African adventure for Helen

By IAN BLACKHALL

SUPERGIRL Helen Armstrong is ready to taste the adventure of a lifetime.

She has been picked to join one of the most gruelling and exciting expeditions this year — Encounter Overland.

The six-week expedition, which boasts 20 other explorers from six different countries, takes place in Tanzania.

And Helen, of Ponteland, is promised the chance to:

- ☆ Explore a volcano and a national park.
- ☆ Search for families of the rare Silverback mountain gorillas.
- ☆ Study a 10-mile wide Ngorongora crater.
- ☆ Meet Masai tribesmen.
- ☆ Climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

"It's the chance of a lifetime," said proud mum Susan, at her home in North Road.

"It's a tremendous adventure and I'm very pleased she's got a place."

Helen, a third year student at the College of Ripon and York, studying for a B Ed, saw a national newspaper advert for applicants on the Safari late last year.

"She made up her mind that she wanted to go and applied for a place," said Susan.

"She couldn't believe her luck when she was accepted."

Helen is faced with raising nearly £2,000 to pay for it and she's approached firms to see if they will sponsor her.

Northumberland County Council is planning to provide a grant of £250.

Looking back

with RICHARD MARTIN

10 YEARS AGO

Bath sledge

In snowbound Lanchester, a father was seen pulling his small son down the village street in a plastic bath-tub.

Wage claim

More than 7,000 Co-op workers in the North-East were taking action in support of claims for a £55 wage and a 35-hour week.

Opencast protest

More than 1,000 people on the St Johns Chapel, Chapel House and Newbiggin Hall estates, in Newcastle, protested against proposed opencasting for coal at Butterlaw farm at Westerhope.

20 YEARS AGO

Gas blast

A blast threw flames 20 ft high at Farringdon, Sunderland, when the hot exhaust of a Gas Board van ignited escaping gas when driven over it.

Match girl died

Gertrude Kidd, last of the Newcastle match girls, who sat on her canvas stool and sold matches and lavender, wrapped in her tartan shawl in city streets, died at 92.

Charity cash

Newcastle students, who raised £8,000 for charity, divided it between Tyneside Leukaemia Fund, a heart research at Newcastle RVI and a child care unit at the Newcastle Freeman hospital.

Tree appeal

Durham County Council joined with the Automobile Association in an appeal to motorists to help a tree planting scheme to beautify the county.

ON THAT DAY...

Pope Pius V excommunicated Queen Elizabeth I and declared her a usurper in 1570; Thomas Moore, Irish poet and biographer, died in 1852; Enrico Caruso, Italian operatic tenor, was born in 1873; Sir John Tenniel, English caricaturist and illustrator of Alice in Wonderland, died in 1914; Anthony Burgess, British novelist, musician, composer, was born in 1917; George Harrison, of the Beatles, was born in 1943; HMS Ark Royal, Britain's largest aircraft carrier, was completed in 1950; the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) was launched with Lord Bertrand Russell as President, in 1958; Tennessee Williams, American novelist, died in 1983.

BERNARD TENNANT

Information guide

WEATHER

FORECAST for the North-East and Cumbria until midnight tomorrow: The rain, sleet and snow will clear all areas this afternoon with the rest of the day drier, although there could still be a few wintry outbreaks.

There will be some brighter spells, but temperatures will reach only 4C (39F), with a moderate south to south-westerly wind.

Many places will be dry overnight, with clear periods, but it will be cold, with temperatures down to about -1C (30F) giving a widespread frost and ice on roads and footpaths.

It will be a brighter day tomorrow, with more in the way of sunshine and, although dry for much of the time, a few wintry showers can be expected.

Temperatures will again be about only 4C (39F) and winds will settle north-westerly later in the day.

NEWCASTLE temperature at 9 am yesterday, 2C (36F); today, 1C (34F). Maximum yesterday, 5C (41F); minimum in the 24 hours to 9 am today, 1C (34F).

RAINFALL: 21.8mm (0.86in).

WORLD WEATHER

Yesterday's temps

City	Key	(C)	(F)
[illegible]	C	17	63
[illegible]	C	7	45
[illegible]	F	17	63
[illegible]	S	4	39
[illegible]	C	9	48
[illegible]	R	6	43
Copenhagen	C	7	45
[illegible]	C	5	41
[illegible]	C	13	55
[illegible]	F	4	39
[illegible]	C	3	37
[illegible]	R	6	43
[illegible]	R	14	57
[illegible]	R	6	43
[illegible] (Palma)	F	14	57
Malta	S	19	66
Manchester	C	4	39
Miami	F	18	65
Moscow	C	2	36
New York	C	4	39
Oslo	C	5	41
Paris	C	9	48
Peking	F	7	45
Rome	C	16	61
Stockholm	F	5	41
Tenerife	F	18	64
Tokyo	R	6	43

Key: S—sunny; C—cloudy; F—fair; Fg—fog; R—rain; Sl—sleet; Sn—snow; Th—thunder. Temps (C and F) generally lunchtime.

TOURIST RATES

AUSTRALIA: 2.075 dollars
AUSTRIA: 22.15 schillings
BELGIUM: 66.40 francs
CANADA: 2.085 dollars
CYPRUS: 0.82 pounds
DENMARK: 12.37 kroner
FRANCE: 10.75 francs
GERMANY: 3.16 marks
GREECE: 268 drachmae
HOLLAND: 3.57 guilders
HONG KONG: 13.35 dollars
IRISH REP: 1.192 punts
ITALY: 2320 lire
JAPAN: 221 yen
MALTA: 0.577 lira
NEW ZEALAND: 2.72 dollars
NORWAY: 11.60 kroner
PORTUGAL: 259 escudos
SPAIN: 196.50 pesetas
SWEDEN: 10.91 kronor
SWITZERLAND: 2.69 francs
TURKEY: 3050 lira
US: 1.745 dollars
YUGOSLAVIA: 9059 dinars

HIGH TIDES

TYNE: 6.09 pm (4.63m). Tomorrow: 6.29 am and 6.39 pm (4.45m).
WEAR: 6.04 pm (12.9m). Tomorrow: 6.28 am and 6.38 pm (12.4m).

LIGHTING-UP

LIGHTS ON: 6.02 pm. LIGHTS OFF: 6.35 am.
SUN: sets 5.32 pm, rises 7.05 am. MOON: rises 11.35 pm, sets 7.[illegible] am.

HOLY ISLAND

CROSSINGS: Today 9.01 pm to 3.16 am (Sun). Tomorrow 8.50 am to 4.12 pm and 9.17 pm to 4.39 am (Mon).
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NATIONAL BINGO

THE SUN: Game 405, Final Day: 12, 48, 57, 76, 17, 6[illegible], 86, 5, 18.
THE STAR: Game 24, Day 6: 18, 9, 87, 74, 60, 77, 1[illegible], 28, 33.
DAILY MIRROR: Game 59, Day 1: 21, 25, 60, 59, 6[illegible], 35, 5, 40, 68, 77, 36, 55, 48, 27, 2.

BOND WINNERS

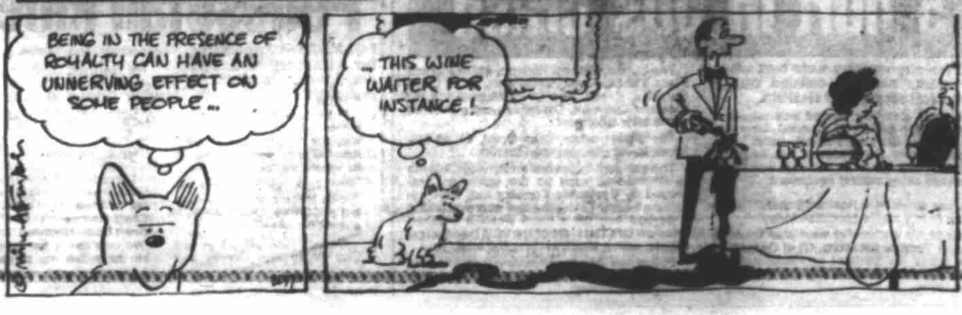
WINNING numbers in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are:
£100,000: 9SN 158374 (winner lives in North Humberside).
£50,000: 27BK 010605 (Merseyside).
£25,000: 29GS 788418 (Channel Islands).

DUTY CHEMISTS

NEWCASTLE: [illegible], 132-138 [illegible] Road, 10 am-3 pm. Boots, 1[illegible] Grainger Street, 10 am-4 pm. [illegible], 289-295 Chillingham Road, Heaton, 10 am-3 pm.
SUNDERLAND: Heatheys, 29 [illegible] Street, South Ryhope, 11 am-12.30 pm. Lloyd's, Unit 3, Park Lane, 11 am-1 pm. M T Tulloch, 175 Portsmouth Road, Pennywell, 11.[illegible] am-12.30 pm. Fairmans, 24 [illegible] Place, 6 pm-8 pm.
MORPETH: [illegible], Manchester Street, 12 noon-12.30 pm.
NORTH TYNESIDE: Parkside, 1 Park Road, Whitley Bay, 10 am-6 pm. Elsewhere police have details of chemists who will deal with prescriptions marked urgent by a doctor.
DURHAM: Boots, 2-5 Market Place, 11.[illegible] am-12.30 pm.
GATESHEAD: J F Elliott, 105 [illegible] Road, 10 am-4 pm. J D Jameson, 186 Whitehall Road, 9 am-1 pm. T G Sharp, 644 Durham Road, 11 am-1 pm.
JARROW: Ray, 47 Fellgate Avenue, 6 pm-7 pm.
SOUTH SHIELDS: Hogg Chemists, 218-220 Westoe Road, 6 pm-7 pm. Boots, King Street, 6 pm-7 pm.
STANLEY: Chemists do not operate on a rota system, but patients with prescriptions marked urgent can call the police on Stanley 232144 to have a chemist called out.
CONSETT: Prescriptions must be marked urgent by a doctor to activate the police system. Tel: Consett 504284.
HEXHAM: Prescriptions marked urgent by a doctor will be dealt with by the police. Phone Hexham 604111.

PRINCE OF THE PALACE

By Mike Atkinson



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