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Article on the opening of Sparkenoe and its first six residents, carried out by Mrs Wildman, Newbold's oldest resident at 78.

LEICESTER ADVERTISER, SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1951

Newbold Verdon To Be Three Times Larger

OLDEST INHABITANT OPENS FIRST OF NEW HOUSING SITES

WHEN various house building projects are completed, it is expected that the population of Newbold Verdon will be almost trebled. There was an interesting civic ceremony on Sunday afternoon, when the first of the village's new housing sites was declared open by Mrs. L. Wildman, who, at 85 years, is the oldest inhabitant of the village.

The site, off Main Street, is named Sparkenhoe, as recommended by the Parish Council and approved by the Market Bosworth Rural District Council. On it, there are 45 houses in course of erection and Newbold Verdon has been selected as the housing centre for several villages in which building cannot be undertaken owing to mining subsidence.

Several hundreds of villagers were present for the ceremony.

Chairman's Pride

Headed by the Barlestone Band, a procession formed in Dragon Lane, and paraded through the streets of the village. The robed choir of St. James's Parish Church, with Cross bearer, members of the Methodist and Baptist Churches, parish councillors, and scholars of the village Sunday Schools took part.

On arrival at the site Mr Walter J. Preston (chairman of the Parish Council) and a Newbold Verdon representative on the Market Bosworth Rural District Council, welcomed all who were taking part.

Mr. Preston said that the first six families who were to be tenants of completed houses on the site would now have homes of their own and become full citizens. Newbold would be a large village on the completion of the other sites. It was expected that two hundred houses would be built eventually.

He added that he felt especially proud in asking Mrs. Wildman to open the new site, as she was his mother-in-law.

Cut The Tape

Mrs. Wildman, in a brief speech said: "I am greatly honoured to declare open Sparkenhoe." She then cut a white tape across the road leading to the estate and received a posy of snowdrops and violets from four-year old Valerie Satchwell. Mrs. Wildman also handed keys to the six new tenants.

A short service followed, conducted by the rector, the Rev. J. Duncan Bolton, the Rev. William Charlton, of Barwell, Methodist minister, read the lesson, and the address was given by the Rev. Stanley Webb, Baptist minister of Newbold Verdon.

New Tenants

Taking part in the ceremony were Mr. C. J. Holmes, clerk to the Market Bosworth R.D.C.; Mr. A. N. Trowbridge (surveyor), Mr. C. T. Walton (architect), Mr. C. Hughes, housing officer (Market Bosworth R.D.C.); Mr. L. Sutton (Ratby), the builder; Mr. W. J. Dorsett, Bagworth division representative on the Leicestershire County Council; Councillor H. E. Cadle, a Newbold Verdon representative on Bosworth R.D.C.; Mr. J. H. Mensley (clerk to Newbold Verdon Parish Council), and parish councillors. After the service, officials of the Councils were entertained to tea at the Church Hall.

Tenants of the six completed houses are Messrs. H. Statham, C. Statham, W. Satchwell, W. Pettit, A. Bills and H. Priest.

Those attending the ceremony inspected one of the houses, which have been furnished.



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