

BF
23/7/81



CAROLINE

Meeting arranged
for Friday 24th
at 0900.

Cl-20/7

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 July 1981

Dear Dr. Clark.

Thank you for your letter of 14 July, about the closure of North East Audio Ltd., South Shields.

I am of course ready to see you about this, and I will ask my office to be in touch with you about a time. It may not be possible to hold a meeting immediately, because of my forthcoming absence for the Ottawa Summit, followed by a number of meetings here with foreign visitors at the time of the Royal Wedding.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Dr. David Clark, M.P.

HL

c. Mr. Gow



10 DOWNING STREET

MR. WHITMORE

HLI 20 vii

I have had great difficulty in finding a slot for Dr. David Clark, M.P. to come and talk about the closure of a factory in South Shields. But we have now gone firm on Friday, 24 July at 0900 and I have managed to get Mr. Tebbit. I cannot do next week and Dr. Clark is not around in August.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D.S.' or similar initials.

20 July 1981

14 July 1981

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from Dr. David Clark, M.P., about the closure of North East Audio Ltd., South Shields.

The Prime Minister has agreed to meet Dr. Clark. Caroline Stephens will be in touch with you to find out when Mr. Baker would be able to attend a meeting between the Prime Minister and Dr. Clark. We would be grateful if you could provide the usual short brief a day ahead of the meeting.

MICHAEL PATTISON

J.C. Hudson, Esq.,
Department of Industry.

14 July 1981

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to acknowledge your letter of 14 July. I will place your letter before the Prime Minister and you will be sent a reply as soon as possible.

MICHAEL PATTISON

Dr. David Clark, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14. 7. 81
R14

Rt. Hon Mrs M. Thatcher MP.
Prime Minister.

Dear Prime Minister,

Closure : North East Audio Ltd. South Shields

I learned today of the final closure of the above company and in light of your generous offer of some little time ago I would very much like to see you to discuss the matter.

This closure is against the background of peak unemployment in South Shields of over 25%.

Yours sincerely

D. David Clark and

Love overcomes any barrier . . . and certainly Cupid has found a way into the hearts of these two handicapped youngsters. Gazette photographer JIM APPLEBY caught this tender moment at yesterday's PHAB Club, Jarrow, sports day for the handicapped at Boldon Community Centre.

Northern Gas. He said they were willing to man centres where people could call out an emergency team, but Northern Gas said this was not adequate. Emergency cover was withdrawn when workers

Street Journal 13 July 1981

125 jobs go as battle to save factory ends

THE South Shields-based Neal - Ferrograph factory will close this summer, throwing 125 people on the dole.

Cash flow problems and high interest and exchange rates have hit the firm, which makes high quality audio equipment.

The company — North-East Audio Ltd — went into the hands of the receiver in April, but hopes were high that it would be sold as a going concern.

It continued to trade while Mr Roger Spoor, a partner in the Newcastle office of the accountants Arthur Young, McLelland, Moores looked for a new owner.

But today Mr Alan Marlow, insolvency manager at the same office, said the firm was expected to stop trading by the end of this month.

Sixty people have already been laid off recently and he added that the 65 people still working at the factory would lose their jobs.

"It is a great disappointment to the receiver. We had fairly high hopes that there would be a sale and a considerable number of people did show interest."

Mr Marlow said some



lines of production would be taken over and made by other companies and NEAL'S assets would be sold.

The closure means the end of a fight to save the factory by Mr Alan Helliwell.

He took over the former Wilmot Breeden works four years ago, helped by a £400,000 investment from

the National Enterprise Board.

Mr Helliwell had worked at the old firm as chief executive before forming his own successful North East Audio Company.

When he returned he said he was "putting heart back into the body" and hoped to build the workforce back to the 400 level it had been in the sixties.

MELLISH TO QUIT

Mr Robert Mellish, 68-year-old former Labour Government Chief Whip, said today he does not intend to stand again at the next election.

Mr Mellish, who has represented Bermondsey for 35 years, told his constituency party of his decision.