

11 Chequers Road  
Chorlton  
Manchester  
M21 9DX

061 860 4377

9 November 1993

Musselburgh Evening News  
Musselburgh  
Midlothian  
Scotland

Dear Sir/Ms.,

I am writing with respect to an enquiry I have that relates to your archives. I am interested in obtaining a copy of a photograph or a photocopy of an obituary which will have appeared in your newspaper in 1965.

My father - John McDonald Neil - was a local councillor and trade unionist in the Scottish NUM for many years. He died at East Fortune Hospital in Musselburgh on 8 April 1965. I was quite young at the time and I have not seen a photograph of my father since then and would dearly like to obtain a copy.

I was wondering if you might be able to help me locate the obituary entry in the Musselburgh Evening News. I understand that this may cost some money and I would be grateful if you could advise me further about how to go about obtaining a copy. I enclose a stamped SAE in the hope that you may be able to help.

Thanking you for your time, I am,

Yours sincerely

William Neil

11 Chequers Road  
Chorlton  
Manchester  
M21 9DX  
Tel. 061 860 4377  
Mobile. 0374 484 868  
Fax. 061 273 3390

13 May 1994

Midlothian District Library  
7 Station Road  
Roslin  
Midlothian  
EH25 9PF

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in the hope that you will be able to assist me with an enquiry relating to your newspaper holdings. For some time I have been researching my family history and one crucial gap in my records is that I have never had a photograph of my father, John McDonald Neil, who died at East Fortune Hospital, Musselburgh on 8 April 1965. For genealogical and purely sentimental reasons I would very much like to obtain a photograph of him and, since he was a local councillor and trades union activist, I am sure that an obituary or other report would have appeared in the Musselburgh News at or around the above date.

I was hoping that it would be possible to locate such a report and obtain a photocopy of the report from which I could perhaps get a photograph made. I realise that whilst you may be able to assist me with this problem that it may involve some charge for the service which I would be more than happy to meet. I would also be grateful if you could supply me with the address of the local Labour Party as I may be able to obtain some information there.

I appreciate the lack of funding for libraries at the moment and the high work-load of the staff but if you think you can be of assistance to me I would be most grateful if you would advise me of how I could progress. I have enclosed a stamped SAE.

Yours sincerely

William Neil

Midlothian  
District Council  
Library Headquarters  
2 Clerk Street  
Loanhead  
Midlothian EH20 9DR  
Fax 031 440 4635  
Tel 031 440 2210

Community Services

Director  
Robert Maslin

Midlothian

23rd May 1994

Mr William Neil  
11 Chequers Road  
Chorlton  
Manchester  
M21 9DX

Dear Mr Neil

I have forwarded your letter enquiring about John McDonald Neil to my colleagues at East Lothian Libraries Local History Centre, as Inveresk parish was detached from Midlothian at the time of Regionalisation of local government in 1975.

They do hold copies of the Musselburgh News. I looked at our microfilm of the Dalkeith Advertiser in case Mr Neil's death was mentioned there, but without success.

I am sure that you will hear from East Lothian shortly.

Yours sincerely



Marion Richardson  
Local Studies Officer

Please ask for:	Marion Richardson	Ext. 226
Our Ref:	MR/289/IJR	
Your Ref:		

Our ref: CR/EMH  
Ask for: Chris Roberts  
Your ref:  
Date: 3 June 1994

Mr William Neil  
11 Chequers Road  
Chorlton  
MANCHESTER  
M221 9DX

Dear Mr Neil,

Thank you for your letter of 19 May, which was passed to us here at the Local History Centre by the Local Studies Librarian for Midlothian District Libraries. Since 1975, Musselburgh has been part of East Lothian District, so we have the holdings relating to the area.

I have checked in the back numbers of the Musselburgh News for the whole of April 1965, but unfortunately can find no reference to any report on your father's death. This was not an uncommon omission in the local newspapers of the period, as sometimes there were not even any birth, marriage and death notices at all. However, I did see that there were items and photographs relating to the current council campaigns, so perhaps if you had other dates when he might have been prominent in the paper, I could check these for you.

The address of the East Lothian Constituency Labour Party contact is John Russell, 65 High Street, Tranent. There is no local branch in Musselburgh itself, but I am sure that they will be able to put you in touch with someone in Musselburgh who might be able to help you.

With best wishes for your continued researches.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Roberts  
LOCAL HISTORY ASSISTANT

11 Chequers Road  
Chorlton  
Manchester  
M21 9DX  
Tel. 061 860 4377  
Mobile. 0374 484 868  
Fax. 061 273 3390

Mr John Russell  
East Lothian Constituency Labour Party  
65 High Street  
Tranent  
East Lothian  
Scotland

Dear Mr Russell,

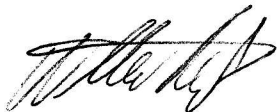
I am writing to you at the suggestion of Chris Roberts, local history assistant at East Lothian District Council, with an enquiry which you may be able to assist me with.

For some years now I have been researching my family history and lately I have been trying to find out about my father's political history. He was a coal miner for many years of his life and an active trades unionist. He worked at Monktonhall Colliery among other places. Our family were always local activists and I believe that my father was a Labour councillor in Musselburgh for some years. I am particularly interested in obtaining a photograph of him as he died when I was quite young and - for various reasons - I have not seen a photo of him since he died.

My father was John McDonald Neil and he died at East Fortune Hospital on 8 April 1965. I have enquired about local reports in the Musselburgh News but, as yet, have had no luck. I believe that towards the end of his life he left the Labour Party to join the SNP but for most of his life he was a Labour supporter.

If you have any information of a historical nature that could help me with this line of enquiry or if you can refer me to other sources I would be most grateful. I enclose a stamped SAE and hope that you may be able to assist.

Best wishes



William Neil

# East Lothian Constituency Labour Party

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Office:  
65 High Street,  
Tranent,  
East Lothian,  
EH33 1LN  
Telephone : Tranent (0875) 610 320

**Mr William Neil**  
**11 Chequers Road**  
**Chorlton**  
**Manchester**

**4th July 1994**

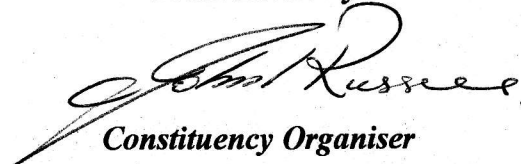
**Dear Mr Neil**

*I contacted some of the older members of the Musselburgh Branch who remembered your father very well, and I enclose photo copies of some material that one of them had in their own personal records.*

*Unfortunately both the central office at Tranent and the local Musselburgh Branch office have in recent years been renovated and because of limited storage space a whole lot of archive material has been thrown out.*

*I wish you well in your endeavours to get more information about your father and if you feel I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to get back in touch with me.*

**Yours Sincerely**

  
**Constituency Organiser**

**Labour**

