



OPENING: Pictured at the unveiling ceremony are (from left) Calder Works general manager Maurice Wyatt; the Mayor of Copeland, Councillor Ossie Coyles; Dr. Cunningham; Mrs. Ann Eadon, organising secretary for Age Concern, and Reprocessing Operations Director Gordon Steele.

# Old Customs House is turned into day centre for Copeland pensioners

## A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

APPRENTICES from Sellafield have given a Georgian building a new lease of life — and at the same time provided Copeland pensioners with a day centre.

They renovated Whitehaven quay's Old Customs House which Copeland MP Dr. Jack Cunningham officially reopened as the new headquarters of Copeland Age Concern.

After unveiling a plaque at the ceremony, he said: "The work completed here is not just to ensure the elderly survive, but to ensure they can play a full and active role in the community."

Apprentice training manager Eric Holmes said the house had been in a dilapidated state. "But the apprentices have rewired the building, completely

### Sellafield apprentices renovate dilapidated Georgian building

repainted the interior outside, and produced a large escape. They also built and installed a large escape. "One apprentice brick tiling job in the kitchen, as well as making new doors, raised the floor one room by seven inches." Mr. Holmes added: "I've worked hard over six months and done a good job."

part of the refurbishing, having the building re-roofed at a cost of £30,000. The Old Customs House, built in 1811 for the Receiver of Wrecks and Register of Shipping, dates from Whitehaven's busiest days as a port. In 1828 Whitehaven was Britain's fifth port for registered tonnage, exporting iron ore and coal. Its main imports — tobacco, sugar, rum, molasses and wine — reflect the links with the Americas.

Latterly, the listed Customs House has served as an Income Tax office, as a store for the Post Office, and as a base for local coastguards. Age Concern volunteer Doreen Beale says the centre already provides about 20 lunches a day at reduced rates to elderly people. Art and handicraft classes will also be run. The group also hope to raise money for transport to give about 40 frail and housebound elderly people days out at the centre.



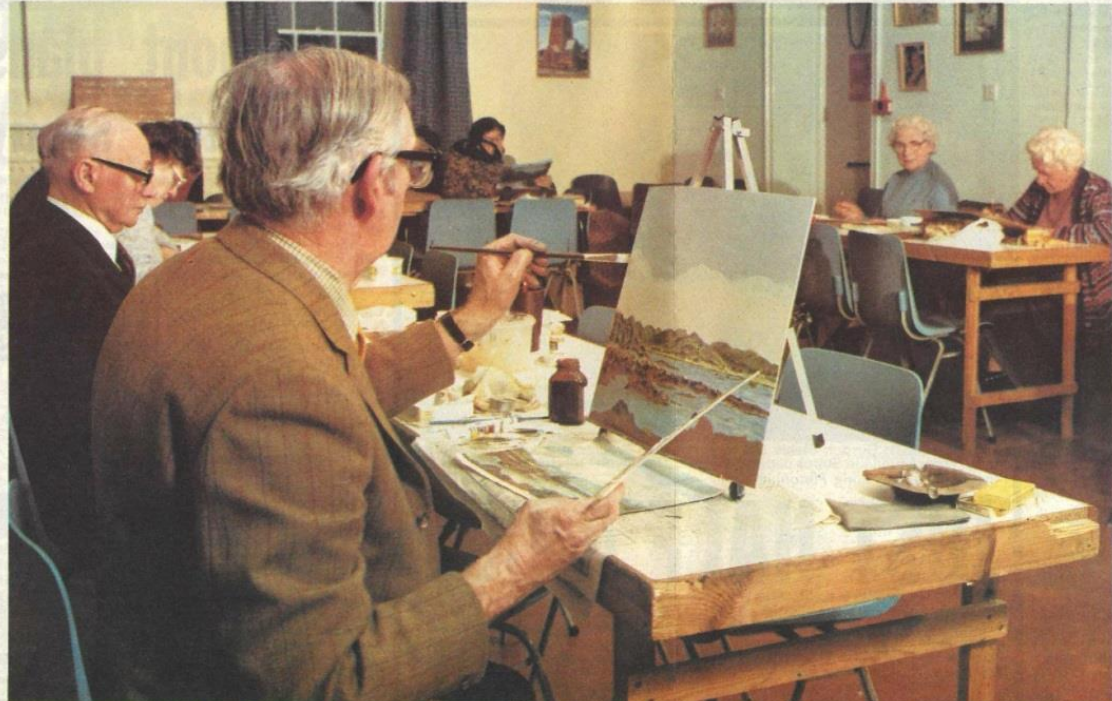
SMILING: Dr. Cunningham with Copeland Council officials, administrators of the day centre and some of the Sellafield instructors and apprentices who worked on the project.



WORKING: Bobby Curwen (front left) an instructor in the Apprentice Training Centre's Painting and Decorating section, with apprentices.



COOKING: Mrs. Maureen Johnston, one of the day centre's helpers, prepares lunch in the refurbished kitchen.



PAINTING: Some of the pensioners brush up on their talents at one of the centre's leisure pursuits.



CHATTING: Eric Eadon enjoys a cup of tea with



apprentices Stuart Rickerby and Mark Weir.

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