



1970 Mountbatten Medal – Dorothy Pope

On 14th June 1970, Mrs Dorothy Patricia Pope was picnicking with her husband and small daughter at Newmillerdam, Wakefield.

Newmillerdam is a tree fringed lake which is a local beauty spot where boating and swimming are not allowed.

Mrs. Pope saw Marion Jane McClymont, aged two, fall into the water from the opposite bank. Mrs Pope decided that she would act, as she was a better swimmer of and her husband: she judged that the distance was too far to run round the bank and no boat or other equipment was available. She therefore stripped off to underclothes and swam across the lake to the area where the child had disappeared in about 4 to 5 feet of water. Mrs Pope searched with her feet and, after finding the little girl, recovered her by a surface dive. Mrs Pope brought the child ashore and found that breathing and heart had stopped. Mrs Pope, who is a nurse, showed a passer-by how to apply the expired air method while she carried out cardiac compression until breathing was restored. On the way to hospital by ambulance the child again stopped breathing and resuscitation had to be given again. The child has recovered.

The distance of the swim was two hundred yards and the lake is dangerous for swimming, as it has weeds and a mud bottom.