

**Swarland Village Action Group Committee:**

Chairman: Neil Mansfield, Secretary / Editor: Bryan Stanley,  
Treasurer: Susan Richardson.  
Committee Members: Robert & Sue Brotherton, John Richardson,  
Suzanne Stanley, Caroline Thomas.

**Write it Down Now !!!**

Please supply information to the Editor for  
inclusion in the **April** issue by  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

**Newton on the Moor  
& Swarland Parish Council**  
and  
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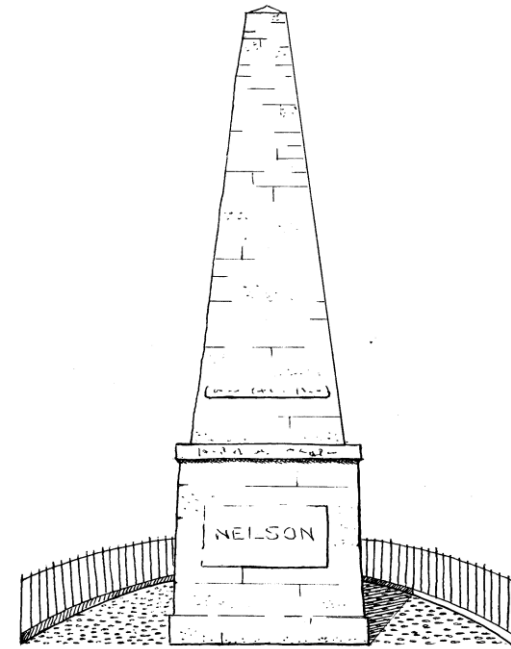
**SWARLAND VILLAGE  
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Available for private parties by arrangement.

Tel. 01670 787 825

**Swarland Club** is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

# The Column



**February 2018**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 93**

**We're planning to have a Parish Clean-up again - see inside.**

Welcome to your first issue of **The Column** in 2018 and if you're new to the area, welcome to you too. If you wish to put something into the next issue **please supply it for inclusion in the April issue by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

## **Swarland Village Action**

### **Christmas Tree Thanks**

A big thank you must again go to: Ken Walters, Dave Chambers, John and Sue Richardson who erected the Christmas tree in The Square, Swarland. Thanks also to Ken and Val, and John and Sue and, especially, to the **Chester Bears** for decorating it, then sang a carol after it was all finished. Finally thanks also to John and Sue for dismantling it. *Ed.*

### **Sale of Golf Balls**

Golfers please note that golf balls are available at the excellent price of **20p** each. **Please knock at No.5 The Square, Swarland.** Proceeds go towards SVA-related community projects.

## **Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group**

Once again 27 of us enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner at Nelsons and sincere thanks to Kelly, Lynn, Debbie and their staff for looking after us so well. It was a memorable evening on several counts but enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, our first attempt at getting a grant for the oral history project concentrating on the Swarland Settlement was not successful. We have been encouraged by the Funders to apply again. The Bailiffgate Museum has unfailingly supported this project and it sure it will be completed one way or another, hopefully with an individual grant.

The first speaker of 2018 will be Mr Derek Greenacres who will be entertaining us with "A Thrill in the Dark" an authentic Victorian Magic Lantern Show. This will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Village Club.

In March, on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, our good friend Mrs Eleanor George will be talking about "Broomhill Colliery - the Growth of a Community (1850-1910)." Same time, same place.

Membership from February will be pro rata, ie £6.25 and guests are £2.50 per session. If there are any queries, please ring 01670 787 121.

*Caroline Thomas*

## **Parish Clean-up**

Once again the road verges across the parish are becoming badly littered, so there will be a parish clean-up in late March or early April. As usual, gloves, litter pickers and plastic sacks will be supplied. Why not make it a family event? Anyone wishing to be involved should look out for posters nearer the time and note the date for our annual spring clean.

## **Neighbourhood Watch Update August - September**

Swarland / Longframlington. Nothing to report for December 2017.

\*Police are appealing for information after a motor vehicle was damaged in Amble. All four tyres were punctured while the car was parked on the driveway. The incident took place in Holywell Crescent, between 1pm Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December and 9am Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Enquiries are ongoing and the police are appealing for help from the public.

\*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January: Jordan Caldow was jailed for 7years 6months after being found guilty of causing GBH with intent by deliberately mowing down a pedestrian on the pavement on Brierley Road in the Cowpen area of Blyth. The incident occurred on 15/08/17. The perpetrator was arrested the following day.

If residents have information on any crime, please report this via the following numbers: Emergency issues 999, non emergency issues Tel. 101. To contact Rothbury Police, e-mail [alnwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alnwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk) , phone 101 ext 61353, or call in at the office on Front Street, Rothbury. If the office is unattended please use the yellow phone on the wall and an officer will be able to assist with your enquiry.

*NW Co-ordinator, Harold Hinchliffe, 2 Nile Drive, Swarland.  
Tel.01670 783 669 or Mob.07713 097 250*

## **Red Squirrels Update**

There have been very few squirrels reported in the area of late but there has been the odd sighting of a Red. It is important that all Grey or Red sightings are passed on to the Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel (CRS) group so that this may long continue, as Reds are likely to be seen in areas from which Greys have recently been removed.

If you want to use the LCRS website, go to [www.lcreds.org.uk](http://www.lcreds.org.uk) . Please continue to report your sightings of ALL squirrels (alive or dead) anywhere in the area by **going to the website, or phoning 07779 690 406** (ideally with an OS Grid Reference or at least a precise location) so that we can record your sighting(s) as a part of the RSNE region's quarterly figures.

If you'd like to get more involved, please contact Ron Lightfoot on 01670 787 059 ([lightfootq@gmail.com](mailto:lightfootq@gmail.com)) or Rosie Mould on 01665 570 129 ([rosiemould@hotmail.com](mailto:rosiemould@hotmail.com) ).

*Bryan Stanley*

## **Recycling Corner**

Why not recycle your unwanted items through The Column? Recipients of free items are asked to make a small donation towards this newsletter's running costs. Items for sale? – If successful, the seller is asked to make a small donation towards our running costs.

**Horse manure – free to a good home. Ring or text Robert on 07927 588 864.**

## Swarland Village Hall Activities

Run as a community charity (Reg. No 1058471) the Hall (SVH) offers seating space for up to 120 people, a stage with lighting and a modern sound system (plus hearing loop), kitchen and toilets. Its PRS Licence means hirers can legitimately use music at their events. **If you wish to book the Hall** for a group or private event use **please contact Bryan Stanley**, see details elsewhere. Current activities in the Hall include:

**Archery Practice till end of March 2018** (there may be occasional summer sessions). Taster sessions, beginners' course and coaching are available at very reasonable costs. The Club can supply all equipment. Contact Steve Woolfrey on Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com or 01670 787 883 for details.

**Karate Classes on Tuesdays 5.30 - 8.30pm.** Contact Gary Davidson on 07930 838 872.

**Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class on Wednesdays 10 - 11am.** £3.50 per session. For details contact Anne Raine on 07934 425 844.

**Swarland Craft Group on Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm.** New members always welcome. For further details ring Margaret on 01670 787 705 or Joyce on 01670 787 855.

**Swarland Carpet Bowls on Thursday evenings from 7pm.** New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, just come along. For more information, contact Jack Dobson on 01670 787 836.

## Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

### **Gin Tasting Evening**

We are pleased to present a Gin Tasting evening on **Saturday 10th February**, starting at 7.00 pm. **Walter Riddle**, of the well known **Hepple Gin** will give a presentation on gin manufacture and how the variations in gins are produced. There will be samples of four of the company's gins and the evening will begin with a welcome gin & tonic. Gin will be available to buy (this year's Christmas presents?).

The Jubilee Hall bar will be open after the talk. Non-alcoholic alternatives to gin will be available for drivers and there will be snacks to complement the drinks. Tickets at £10 / person, are available from Alison Cowen at 01665 575 483 or email [clancowen@outlook.com](mailto:clancowen@outlook.com). Please note the 7.00 start time.

### **Coffee Morning**

Our **February** Coffee Morning will take place from 10.00 on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>**. As usual there will be delicious cakes and scones to eat in or take home. The next Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March**.

### **Carpet Bowls**

New Year's resolution to keep fit? Join the NOTM Carpet Bowls team on **Tuesday evenings**. New members are always welcome, so phone John on 07717 700 011 for more details.

**Church Services** are on the third Sunday of each month at 12 noon.

To book the Hall please call Liz on 01665 575 680.

*Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary.*

## NotM & Swarland Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) met on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018. There was no meeting in December 2017.

### **Budget and Precept**

The PC's precept (ie the amount it will ask for in 2018 / 19 from NCC, that is collected via householders' Council Tax) was kept at £19,000 as for 2017 / 18. This is largely possible because of the volunteer work done by the Vyner Park Charity in running the parish's land, resulting in a reduction of almost £1k which the Charity is asking for to help it run the Park. It important to remember that since the parish owns Vyner Park, and even if the pavilion were mothballed (insurance would be higher), there would still need to be significant outlay on items such as insurance, grass cutting, tree maintenance and other maintenance.

### **Need for Mains Gas Supply in Swarland**

In the last edition of The Column, it was stated that Northern Gas Networks (NGN) had given an approximate cost for it to provide mains gas in Swarland. At this stage NGN isn't extending the network in our area, so before doing any survey work they need a project proposal from the PC listing those addresses that want a gas supply (100 properties installation estimate - £4,163 / property, 40 properties estimate £9,563 / property). It was reported at the PC meeting that only TWO households had expressed an interest in the scheme.

### **Traffic Calming Measures in Newton on the Moor**

Shortly, a new reduced speed limit of 20mph is to be introduced in NotM, and NCC works associated with this are expected to take place before the end of March 2018, subject to funding. The situation will be kept under review by the PC and if traffic problems continue, additional works may be asked for.

### **Wednesday Bus Service**

Our request for a reinstatement of NCC funding for the Wednesday NEED bus service has not been successful, and so it will continue on its current fare-paying basis, for all passengers.

### **One Vacancy**

There is still **ONE** vacancy on the PC. Applications are sought for co-option in the form of a CV or letter explaining why you think you should be co-opted. The PC is keen to have a good gender / geographic balance so are particularly looking for applications from women living in Swarland or the Hazon / Hartlaw area, and also for people who can commit some time to helping run the Vyner Park Charity. If you think you have got what it takes, contact the Parish Clerk (see below).

**If you have comments or queries, please contact the Parish Clerk – Jan Anderson on 01665 575 145 or [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) .**

## ☺ Qi Gong for Health ☺

The Wednesday morning Qi Gong class in Swarland Village Hall is now **FULL** and a waiting list has been introduced.

If you are interested in trying Qi Gong and would like to be added to the waiting list, please contact Anne Raine, Qi Gong Instructor on 07934 425 844.

## Felton & District History Society

Happy New Year to you all! 2018 is going to be full of fascinating talks so make sure that you keep the third Monday of every month clear and get down to the village hall for 7.30p.m.

By the time you receive this, the 2018 programme will already be underway starting with a talk given by yet another local, Tim Maxwell, on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January**. At the time of writing, Tim is scheduled to tell us more about Felton in the 1200s. This will be a follow up to the talk that Tim gave in 2017 about the antics of the people living in Felton in the Middle Ages.

Tim is then followed on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** by Andy Stewart with a talk entitled "Frightening the Horses" The British Air Service in WW1. Those of you who were lucky enough to come along to the summer trip to Boulmer will recall that Andy was an entertaining and engaging speaker (we happily outstayed our welcome by two hours) so that is definitely one for your calendar. Andy has said that he will try and give it a bit of local flavour so it should be of interest to all.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March** will be the AGM and for this we are following the military theme but with something a little different. **Old English** are due to bring their unique blend of local folk music and history to the village. Their presentation entitled "The King's Shilling" will be about the history of enrolment into the British army, with special reference to the north east. It will focus on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and highlight the role of the recruiting sergeant. Singing may be involved so you will be provided with wine to lubricate your larynx.

To find out what other interesting items are in store, you will have to come along to a meeting. If you haven't already joined, please consider it. It is £15 and, as there will still be 4 (February, March, April and May) monthly meetings, summer trips as arranged, free tea and coffee and the glass of wine at the AGM, it still offers good value. Alternatively, you are very welcome to come along as a visitor to any meeting for which there is a small charge of £3. Meetings are all held in Felton village hall at 7.30p.m. It is wise to get there early to get a good seat!

*Alison Jackson, Secretary 01670 787 527*



## RVI Cancer Appeal at Swarland Club

The community is still showing great support for the Cancer Appeal. I'm sure there are a lot more milk bottle and other plastic tops out there which could earn money for this good cause.

At present NCC does not offer any way for us to recycle the sort of plastic bottle tops we get on our milk bottles which have the recycling code 2. Currently these have to go in our green land-fill bins. Why not save on land-fill **AND** help add to the funds of a very worthwhile cause. Clean plastic bottle tops can be left in the container on the bar in Swarland Club. **Periodically these go to the RVI to help raise funds for its Cancer Appeal.**

## FELTON & THIRSTON PANTOMINE SOCIETY



presents  
in

### FELTON VILLAGE HALL

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Evening performances start 7:30pm,  
Saturday Matinee 2pm

...but not as you know it!

**Ticket prices: Adults £6 - Child £3**  
**Saturday Evening performance -**

**All tickets £6 no concessions**

**Family Ticket all performances: 2 adults, 2 Child (under 11) - £15**

**Tickets available from Hillrise Stores and other businesses throughout Felton  
or direct from Grace Aynsley on 01670 787 283.**

## Mobile Library Dates

The NCC mobile library comes to the parish every other **Wednesday**. It stops in **Swarland** opposite **The Square** from **10.00 - 11.00am** and in **Newton on the Moor** from **11.10 - 11.30am**. If you miss these it's also in **Guyzance** from 11.40am – 12.00 and **Old Felton** from 12.15 – 12.35pm.

The next few dates are: **14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> April**. If you value this service - "Use it or lose it".

**Deadline for items for the April issue of  
The Column: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

## Bailiffgate Celebrates

2018 is going to be a great year at Bailiffgate Museum. Following on from the fantastic **Illustrating Harry Potter** experience the museum has lined up an exciting programme of exhibitions and events to suit all ages and tastes.

Felton Art Group kick off in February, with a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration - **A Sense of Place**. Led by professional artist, Jo Hume, the group is characterised by the diverse skills of its members.

Mid-March will be a truly big occasion when our amazing **Batteries Not Included** exhibition explodes on the scene: a celebration of childhood, and the toys, games and past times which we all treasured. There really will be something for everyone with toys and games of every decade represented since WW1. As with *Illustrating Harry Potter* a large part of the gallery will be given over to interactive fun and games. Each month will see a new focus. We start in March with the Teddy Bears Picnic and Build It - a hands-on journey through Lego, Meccano and the rest. A chance for the older generation to prove their toys really were better than these new electronic ones. Perhaps! We anticipate families wanting to return again and again and they are advised to invest in a Friends membership, only £25, so the whole family can visit **FREE** for the rest of the year. There will also be promotional offers during this exhibition. A leaflet detailing the changing programme will be released and our website, as always, gives up-to-date information.

September welcomes textile group, It Happens, as they bring **Borders, Boundaries and Beyond** to Alnwick as part of their national tour. The final exhibition of 2018, **Proud to be a 100**, celebrates the local branches of that much loved institution the Women's Institute.

If you've missed our **Alnwick-- Then and Now** exhibition, make sure you visit by **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**.

For the first time Eta Ingham Lawrie is running an advanced free-form weaving class for experienced weavers on **3<sup>rd</sup> March**, while her usual beginners class runs in the autumn. Rag Rugging heroines Jane and Margaret return on **20<sup>th</sup> Oct**. Check our website for details of these and our sewing classes.

For further information contact: ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk , 01665 605 908 or www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk .

Advert

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Wasps and other insects.

Contact Rory Brotherton  
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666



**The 2018 Golden Guide for Over 50s is out now in Northumberland.** This popular **FREE** guide lists local activities, clubs, social and networks, and carries a wealth of contacts for finding expert help with Health, Care, Community and Money problems.

Find new things to do: walking, wildlife and gardening groups, woodwork, singing, and sport, or make extra cash by starting a business - as many over-50s now do. It covers befriending schemes, dementia and mental health support, helps tracing lost money, or claiming your pension or other entitlements.

If you're about to retire or already have, find helpful hints about enjoying life, from planning your finances to making the most of them.

**Get a copy from . . .** Libraries, Northumbria Healthcare Care teams, Age UK, WI branches, Carers' Northumberland, Healthwatch, RVS, Alzheimer's Society, British Red Cross, Citizens Advice, Golden Age Forum, Practice Nurses and Care Navigators in GP practices, and selected Boots Pharmacies.

**Postal copy . . .** If you can't get out, or can't find a copy - ring **Age UK Northumberland** on **01670 784 821** and they will post one out to you free.

**Online . . .** The full edition is online at **www.goldenguide.org.uk** . For all enquiries please contact **Heather Alabaster** on **0191 386 5918**, or email **heather@goldenguide.org.uk** .

### **Courtesy on the roads!**

I wonder how many drivers who travel through the village of Newton on the Moor from the west are aware of Rule 155 in the Highway Code Manual. Rule 155 gives advice on driving on a single track road and states "Give way to road users coming **uphill** whenever you can. If necessary reverse until you reach a passing place to let the other vehicle pass"

The road going downhill past the cottages is a single track road. There is a street light at the widest part so that it is easy for a driver to reverse back uphill if necessary and plenty of room past the parked cars. The rest of that narrow road is unlit and therefore more difficult to reverse downhill at night.

Even though the cars travelling uphill are ¾ of the way up before reaching the very narrow part of the road, cars travelling downhill seem to think they have priority and furthermore insist on being intimate with their wing mirrors!!!

Why there isn't a one way system in operation at this point in the village is beyond me, but it seems that tractors are unable to turn around at the extremely wide entrances to both roads – Really!!!

*Jen Oliver NotM – having a rant*

## Swarland Craft Group

When I first moved to Swarland, I was immediately attracted to the Village, its friendly people and the surrounding woodlands. The shop and the bus route to Newcastle have long since gone, but one thing that I still love is the Village Hall with its variety of activities.

I go to the Craft Group on a Wednesday afternoon, 1.30-3.30pm, where everyone is made very welcome. No artistic talent is necessarily needed; all you need is to be keen to join in. Arts - such as experimental art, collage, drawing and watercolours, knitting, embroidery, crochet, lacemaking, tapestry, card making are some of the crafts we do.

If you already have a craft, why not come for the crack and be artistic, surrounded by like-minded friends. Enjoy a chat and a cuppa. All sorts of crafters are welcome, whether beginners or experts, to join our happy band. You don't have to be lonely in Swarland. Come to the Craft Group, a snip at £1 a session; this includes coffee, tea and a biscuit, plus friendship and the occasional bad joke.

For further information, please contact Joyce (01670 787 855) or Margaret (01670 787 705).

Lesley Eastlake

### ALNWICK AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

will be singing

#### HAYDN'S 'CREATION'

With professional orchestra and soloists  
on **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**, 2018 at 7.30 pm  
in St Paul's Church, Alnwick.  
Tickets £12. Students free.

**Deadline for items for the April issue of  
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## Thought for the Day – Disappointment

*Age does not diminish the extreme disappointment of having a scoop of ice-cream fall from the cone.* Jim Freiberg.

*I knew an old lady who'd never seen the sea. So I took her there and she watched it for a while, then said: "Is that all it does?"* Michael Howard.

*Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.* Jonathan Swift.

## From the Archive – The Column, February 2008

It looks as though nothing much has changed!

### Sewage Smell around Swarland Village Hall and Club

*Northumbrian Water (NW) staff have been investigating reports of obnoxious smells from certain sewers in Swarland. They have checked all the manholes and sewers and can find no evidence of any problems. NW is continuing its investigations, so the next time anyone notices any smell please contact NW directly (0845 7171 100) to get someone out straight away whilst the smell is still there. N.B. Each time NW is contacted, the call is logged and so a pattern might emerge to help solve the problem(s).*

### Bus Service

*As you may be aware there have been cuts made in the bus services for Swarland and Newton on the Moor. The Parish Council (PC) is contacting Arriva and NCC to request details of possible proposals, following these cuts, for the parishioners who are left without any means of transport. The PC will keep you updated on any progress made.*

### Notice Boards

*The new notice board in Newton on the Moor should be in situ by the end of February, replacing the old one outside the Jubilee Hall. A replacement board is to be installed in Swarland between the entrance to Vyner Park and the bus shelter.*

## Swarland & Newton on the Moor Show 2018

Greetings to all who live in or are regular visitors to the parish. Those of you who have been here a while may have noticed that after nearly two decades the annual summer Swarland & Newton on the Moor Show was one of the missing pieces in the parish calendar in 2017. Sadly, despite the fame & popularity of the show, the organising team were just too fed up, exhausted & few in number to carry on. But with the motto "never say never- nothing is impossible, anything can happen" we are hoping to be back with a 2018 event (in my case less Charles Dickens & more of the 007 - "never say never again").

However, we do need a bit of help both in the ideas, organisation and planning departments and on the day of the actual event (date to be confirmed). If you have even just a weeny bit of curiosity or interest in getting involved, we would love to hear from you. The date scheduled for the Show is **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.**

Contact me on 01670 787 078 or through Swarland Show Facebook page or come & join us for a chat and a drink at Swarland village Club, at 8pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

We are a relaxed friendly bunch who just want to see the traditional village show continue as something for people to enjoy and get together.

Sue Brotherton



