

**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 **June** issue by  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

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& Swarland Parish Council**  
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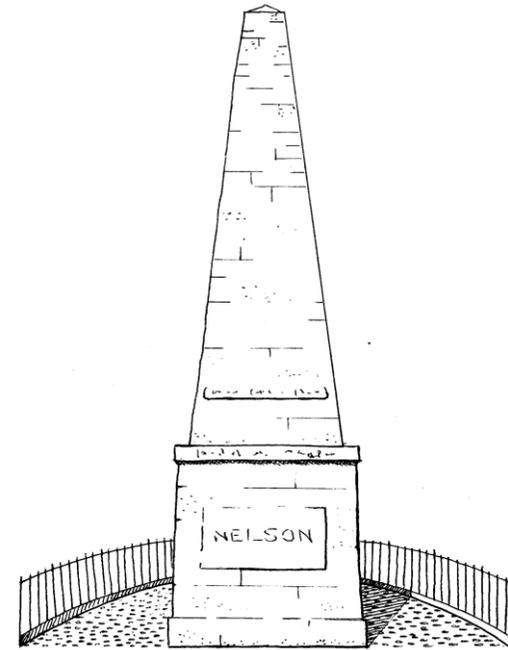
**SWARLAND VILLAGE  
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

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

# The Column



**April 2018**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 94**

**Help is needed for Our Show on  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September – see inside.**

Welcome to your latest issue of **The Column** 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 June issue by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

### **Every Cloud . . .**

Though 'the beast from the East' was worrying for some and merely inconvenient for others, the heavy snow clouds had their silver lining. Neighbours turned out to clear drive-ways and roads, do shopping for those unable to tunnel out, or even just to walk up to Nelson's or to The Club for essentials. We all chatted to everyone we met on the way, resulting often in a 20-minute round trip becoming an hour-long social event.

Thanks above all to the Nelson's team who continued to provide their usual high quality food and friendly atmosphere and to John Richardson who manned The Club and dealt with an increased demand for milk, bread, eggs and papers. He even risked the drive to Felton to pick up the papers when the delivery man wouldn't come up to Swarland. We don't even know who cleared our local roads while NCC was dealing with the primary routes, but our thanks to them too. *Ed.*

### **Who Needs Neighbours?**

At times we all do and we did! During our recent illness we were very grateful for having ours - Pippa with a very, very nasty flu and me with pneumonia. Sincere thanks, therefore, to Vic and Sheila for helping us get through it. Their daily contact was both supportive and re-assuring, and without Sheila's homemade, fortifying soups we may not have survived - seriously, that's how ill we were - eventually having our doctor see us at home!

Our thanks also to our special friend Mike - "Angel of The North" - who made doubly sure we had everything we needed. "We could use some orange-juice, Mike" and in no time at all several jumbo-sized bottles arrive. And - "Mike, Pippa would appreciate some Scottish Spring Water". Yes, you guessed it - very soon we had enough to fill a bath tub! "You MUST drink large amounts of fluid" he exhorts, departing on a mission to seek hot toddy ingredients!!

Also, we thank Mike for seeing that our good old friend, Jim Wardlaw, got much needed medical attention, followed by immediate hospitalisation. Jim sadly died just a few weeks later. John Raine, Jim's close friend and neighbour of some 40 years, had died only a few weeks earlier - and we miss them both.

*Brian & Pippa Long, February 2018*



### **Neighbourhood Watch Update February – March**

Swarland / Longframlington. Nothing to report for March 2018.

\* Police are appealing for information after a motor vehicle was damaged in Amble. All 4 tyres were punctured while the car was parked on a driveway. The incident took place in Holywell Crescent, between 1pm Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 2018 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.

Children in cars - changes since March 2017. Children must use a child seat **until they are 12 years old** or more than 135 cm tall, whichever comes first. Children **over 12 years** of age or more than 135 cm tall, must wear a seat belt – just like any other occupant. Under these 2017 regulations cushion booster seats will be restricted to older children. Only children that weigh 22 kg or more or 148 cm tall, are recommended to use the booster seat.

**Breaking News – Theft of Sheep:** 14 Mule Ewe Hoggs were taken from a field in Wingates between Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Suspicious Male:** A male attended a farm in Widdrington tried to sell barbed wire, claiming it was left over from a previous job. He was in a white Citroën panel van. Be careful about purchasing goods from doorstep sellers. The goods may not always be of merchantable quality and may be overpriced.

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*

### **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.

**Pine based futon** turns into a double bed. Free for collection. Phone 01670 783 085 for more details.

<p><b>Deadline for items for the June issue of The Column: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018.</b></p>
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## Swarland Village Action

### **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

At our first meeting of 2018 Mrs Eleanor George gave a fascinating insight into the growth of the Broomhill Colliery Community up to the First World War.

Given that miners came from all over the country, Eleanor set out to discover the truth or otherwise surrounding a comment she had often heard that pit families were very closely related to each other. Her journey involved much research but was most interesting and her findings may well have been reflected in other pit villages.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**. The speaker will be Mr Peter Cryer of "Old English" with a talk entitled "The King's Shilling", Recruitment into the British Army of the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. This talk is illustrated with performances of and reference to songs by Old English which give an insight into a bygone age and it highlights the role of the Recruiting Sergeant.

This meeting is also our AGM which will be kept as brief as possible. We are at present without a Secretary and any volunteers for this role or indeed any of the other elected roles from members new and old would be very much appreciated by the present Committee. There will also be a pooled supper to which contributions will be gratefully received.

On **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**, Mr Graeme Young will give a talk entitled "Archaeological Investigations at Bamburgh Castle". Over the years we have enjoyed keeping abreast of the developments at Bamburgh and some of our members have a keen interest in archaeology.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Swarland Village Club at 7.30pm. Membership for the remainder of the season will be £3.75 per person. If you just want to listen to a particular talk or speaker, you are still most welcome and the charge will be £2.50 per person.

If there are any queries, please ring 01670 787 121.

*Caroline Thomas*

## 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: **11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June**. If you value this service - "Use it or lose it".

## NotM & Swarland Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) met on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### **Condition of Roads in the Parish**

The main item for discussion was the appalling condition of roads in the Parish exacerbated by the recent heavy snowfalls. The PC is pressuring NCC to carry out repairs but in the meantime residents are urged to add weight to the PC's complaints and report potholes on its website at <http://mapreport.northumberland.gov.uk/potholes/> . Photographs of potholes can be uploaded to help NCC identify the site and the works needed. More positively, we have been informed that a number of the adopted side-roads within Swarland may have their tarmac resurfaced, during the Summer.

### **Parish Litter-Pick**

Many thanks to all who helped with the annual tidy-up of our two villages, including the roads in-between, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### **BOATs in our Parish**

The NCC has identified 6 trackways in our parish which, old documentary evidence suggests, may qualify as Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs). These include tracks to or near Hazon (2), Elyhaugh, Newmoor Hall, Shiel Dykes, Glantlees, Hitchcroft and Swarland Fence. This is part of a larger, county-wide review. Evidence of the amount and nature of their use (including the balance between motor vehicles versus walkers / riders / cyclists) is being invited from local residents and assumed landowners, until **1<sup>st</sup> June 2018**. This is an informal pre-order consultation to help NCC generally determine whether or not public rights of way have been reasonably alleged to exist. For more information contact Jan Anderson.

### **Speeding**

We have heard no further news regarding the implementation of the new speed limits at Newton on the Moor, which we had previously been told would happen during the year 2017 - 18. Meanwhile, our NCC Cllr, Trevor Thorne, has indicated a willingness to allocate some of his 2018 - 19 NCC Members' Small Scheme money, to install a 'flashing speed sign' within our parish, the siting still to be determined.

### **Briefly**

Work is progressing to probe the sewer system in the Old Tweed Mill area, and to repair or improve the electricity supply in Kenmore Road. The PC is looking to repair or improve its two bus shelters, opposite the Cook & Barker and Swarland Square.

### **One Vacancy**

There is still ONE vacancy on the PC. Applications are sought in writing, preferably from women living in Swarland or the Hazon / Hartlaw area, in order to address areas of under-representation. 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) .**

## Parish Clean-up Outcome



Our annual spring parish litterpick on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March was another successful event, with 15 volunteers scouring the streets and verges for the rubbish discarded by some rather less considerate folk. As usual we collected a large haul of general litter, plus a remarkable number of Listerine bottles (other brands of mouthwash are available). Someone must have extremely fresh breath by now!

Anyway, many thanks to all who participated on the day and I'm sure everyone will appreciate the difference it has made to both villages.

*Greg Anderson*

## 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** after the of March 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.

## Where to see Red Squirrels!

I recently visited the Hauxley Reserve (run by Northumberland Wildlife Trust) just outside Amble. It is an absolutely stunning new facility (to replace the one burnt down several years back). You can now do a circular walk around the reserve, with bird hides at specific points. You can also watch the birds from their cafe windows overlooking the lake – and they sell home-made scones and very good coffee. But – the high point was that from their car park, I was able to watch two red squirrels on feeders. Amazing! But don't believe me, go and see for yourselves. Entry is free, but donations welcomed. You can also see (if you are lucky) reds at Howick Hall and Wallington Hall.

You can now access all the information about our group - Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels - and the Rothbury-based Upper Coquetdale Squirrel Group - on our website at [www.lcreds.org](http://www.lcreds.org), and on our Facebook page "Squirrels in Coquetdale". Many grateful thanks to our web manager for all his help! Please keep letting us know what you see via the very snazzy sightings button on our website!

Recent articles in the press mention research at Exeter and Edinburgh Universities, which has discovered that Grey squirrels have superior behavioural flexibility to solve problems when compared to Red squirrels. This may therefore be another factor as to why Greys outnumber Reds in the UK by more than 15 to 1 (Guardian 24/2/18). Research is continuing into contraception for Greys which can hopefully eventually alter the balance more in favour of the Reds.

Controlling Grey squirrels is a labour intensive job, as once traps are set they should be checked at least once or twice daily. We therefore need more local volunteers to come forward to help us in our attempts to save our Red squirrels in Northumberland (which is one of its last strongholds in northern England). All offers of help are very much appreciated and if people were to look after a small local patch of woodland that would be an enormous help, as is reporting any Reds or Greys when out and about, or even in your garden. If you would like to find out more, contact us via our website, or get in touch with Ron Lightfoot or John Batchelor in Felton, or Rosie Mould in Newton / Swarland areas.

Here's a lovely picture taken by a trail camera thanks to a very dedicated lady who has been supporting these particular Red squirrels in the area for many years. There is a lot of scientific information showing that supplementing the feed for Reds is a big help in keeping our remaining ones healthy – so keep up filling up your feeders.

Please continue to report your sightings of ALL squirrels (alive or dead) anywhere in the area by **going to the website ([www.lcrs.org.uk](http://www.lcrs.org.uk) 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.

*Cherry Hambrook, LCRS Secretary*

## Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

**April Coffee Morning:** This will be held on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> from 10.00.** We shall be holding a photographic competition and entries are invited, on the day, to be shown in the Hall for all to enjoy. The theme is 'A Spring Scene'.

**Wine Tasting Evening:** Dudley Williams has arranged another of his popular Wine Tasting evenings on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm.** Paddy from Bin 21 will talk about familiar grape varieties across different regions; Old World versus New World. As usual we shall offer non-alcoholic drinks for drivers, and bread & cheese. Tickets are £15 at the door, but to reserve a place please phone Dudley on 01665 581 531.

**May Coffee Morning:** This will take place on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> from 10.00.** Weather permitting we may be able to enjoy coffee alfresco in the sun outside the Hall.

**Carpet Bowls** continue on Tuesday evenings and new members are always welcome. Contact John on 07717 700 011 for further 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.*

## Felton & District History Society

2018 has already brought two interesting talks. In January Tim Maxwell continued the story of Feltonshire in the 1200s followed by Andy Stewart in February with a talk entitled "Frightening the Horses". Andy's talk outlined the development of the British Air Service in WW1 and the formation of the RAF.

We had our AGM on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March. **Old English** brought their unique blend of local folk music and history to the village. "The King's Shilling" was about the history of enrolment into the British army, with special reference to the north east.

We have two more indoor meetings on the calendar, namely **Richard Carlton** on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April** who is going to tell us all about the archaeological dig on Holy Island last year and then on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May**, **Chris Hunwick**, the Duke of Northumberland's archivist, is coming to talk about some of the artefacts in the Castle archives.

As usual, meetings are free to members or £3 for visitors (welcome to come to any meeting). A warm welcome, cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit awaits you so don't be shy come along. Meetings are 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.**

## Spring Awakening

This is the time of year when hedgehogs begin to emerge from their long winter's sleep – oh if only we could do that!



Not all hedgehogs will have hibernated but those which have will be extremely weak from living off their brown fat for such a long period during hibernation and will take a while to build up their reserves again. What can we do to help? Putting out food and water for them will help enormously and conserve what little energy they have initially. A mixed selection of food is best which can include kitten biscuits, crushed peanuts (they can choke on whole nuts), a few mealworms or, better still, calci worms, or moist cat food (see our website for details of preventing all the local cats from enjoying your hospitality too!).

The other very important thing we can do to help is take care on the roads when driving at night. We hear far too many stories regarding them being squashed on our roads, so please do try and avoid increasing those numbers. Hedgehogs are really in such serious decline and have been likened to the same number of tigers lost annually. In the 1950s there were approximately 30 million and we're now down to less than 1 million. Not a good track record when you consider they've been roaming this earth for millions of years and we can all do our little bit to help them.

2017 was our busiest year ever with the numbers of hedgehogs needing our help increasing by 20%. We would love to believe that's due to the increase in numbers of hedgehogs around, but that's too simplistic (we do like to be optimistic though!). Part of the increase could be due to more awareness which is fantastic as that is part of the work we do here. It's not all cleaning out and helping a hedgehog back to full health again ready to be released, but also to educate where possible. Check our website [www.hedgehogs-northumbria.org](http://www.hedgehogs-northumbria.org).

Please help these amazing animals before it's too late.

*Carole Catchpole, Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust*

## Swarland Code Club

The Code Club attached to the Swarland Primary School has just finished a second term. For the last couple of weeks of the Autumn term, the students were set a project to design and code a game. These were generally very good efforts, although they probably needed more time to polish the games. At the end of term, other pupils in the school had the opportunity to try out the games and it appears that they were enjoyed by those that had a go.

At the start of the Spring term this year, 5 more children wanted to join the club, but it would have been unreasonable to start them with the original class, who were by now quite experienced and moving on to another coding phase. Mrs Fletcher, the headteacher, was able to allow the new group to have their own club session prior to the after-school group and they have started coding Scratch projects, which they seem to be enjoying. We will have to wait and see if this extra time can be offered by the school next term.

The original group of 11 pupils has been learning to code in HTML; this is the language used to make web pages show in your computer's browser. They have made a 2-page greeting card, a story book page (although many made it as a joke book), a wanted poster and even a recipe card. The projects are fun to do and are accompanied by much laughter. HTML coding is more complicated than Scratch and requires the children to become familiar with the HTML syntax: learning this discipline has been a good forerunner to coding in Python, which has a more complex syntax and which will be the language learned in the Summer term.

Before Christmas we applied for a grant from the Community Fund to purchase some Raspberry Pi (RPI) equipment. The RPI is a tiny bare-board computer, which can be used for creating electronic experiments that will be used by the children to learn how to interface and control components attached to the RPI. The components can include LED lights, motors, sensors, press buttons, switches, cameras and meteorological measuring items. A new coding language called Python will need to be used by the children.

We learned in late January that our application was successful and that we had been awarded a grant of £1,000 from the Platten Family Fund. The new RPI equipment has been acquired and a dedicated RPI network is being constructed. It is planned that in the Summer term, the original group of children will start to build simple electronic projects connected to the RPI, as well as producing the Python code to make the projects work.

My request for additional volunteers in the December 2017 Column resulted in one volunteer coming forward; we are very grateful to Phil Raine for giving us his time. We would still like to hear from anyone else who is able to offer an hour or so on a Tuesday afternoon, particularly any ladies that could join us as we have far more girls than boys in the club. You don't need any experience, just a willingness to participate and a desire to help the children and you may even get a taste for coding.

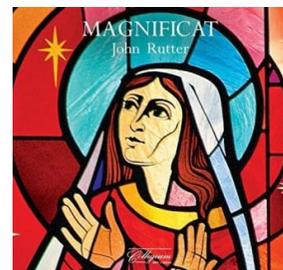
If you think you may be able to help, please get in touch with me for a chat.

Roger Brunning, Code Club volunteer [roger@the-brunnings.co.uk](mailto:roger@the-brunnings.co.uk) 01670 787 506

## *ALNWICK SINGS ...*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 6.30pm. At The Sage, Gateshead.**

An exciting double bill from the combined choirs of Alnwick District.

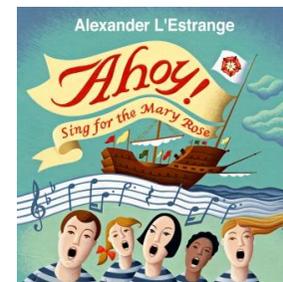


### **John Rutter – Magnificat**

This poetic outpouring of praise, joy and trust in God is a delightful interpretation of St Luke's tribute to the Virgin Mary. The rich sounds of over 200 singers and the lustrous, powerful voice of the internationally known mezzo-soprano, **Hanna-Liisa Kirchin**, accompanied by an instrumental ensemble including harpist **Janet Bennett**, will inspire and move you. Rutter's inimitable style produces tunes that will still be swirling in your head long after the performance. Director – Peter Brown.

### **Alexander L'Estrange - Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose**

The combined choirs are supplemented with more local singers to number 250 and are joined by a children's choir of 100 to perform this joyous and brilliantly inventive cantata. It describes, in a fusion of Tudor music and sea shanties, the launch, fighting career and sinking of Henry VIII's iconic flagship. The band's rhythm section (piano, double bass and drums) is augmented by a fiddle and accordion to produce a jaunty, nautical background and **Hanna-Liisa Kirchin** provides the narration and additional solos. Director – Caroline Fentiman.



Concessions and family tickets available - [ticketoffice@sagegateshead.com](mailto:ticketoffice@sagegateshead.com), [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com) or 0191 443 4661.

### Show Piece

Swarland show is asking for bottle donations for their "top notch tombola" at this year's show. Wine, spirits, beer and other beverages would be greatly appreciated. Bottles can be given to Elizabeth Hilton, 11 Low Wood, Swarland, or call for collection 01670 787 510.

The Show is also in need of a PA system for use on Show Day, 1<sup>st</sup> September. If anyone has one they would be happy to lend to us, please get in touch with the Chairman, Sue Brotherton, on 01670 787 078.

Advert

### **Pest Management Services**

**Fully licensed and insured**

Moles, Rodents, Rabbits,  
Wasps and other insects.

Contact Rory Brotherton  
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666



## Citizens Advice Northumberland

### We are looking to recruit: Trustees (voluntary)

We are a local charity working as part of the national Citizens Advice network. Through our advice work we promote people's rights and responsibilities particularly in the fields of welfare benefits, housing, employment and money advice. In addition we use our client based evidence to promote changes in the policy and practice of public and private bodies.

We particularly want to hear from people who have a background in business, charitable and community work or public services. We are looking for people who support our aims.

**How to Apply:** To request an information pack to see what the role entails please contact Jane Brown by phone on **01670 853 823** or at [janebrown@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:janebrown@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk). An informal chat can also be arranged with one of the current trustees.

We are committed to equal opportunities.

### 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*

**Deadline for items for the June issue of  
The Column: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

## Vyner Park Hedge Funds in Good Order

Thanks to David Blackshaw and Scott Clarehugh for making a good job of removing dead hedge and reconstructing the bund at the east end of Vyner park. The plan then is to plant more hedging, sow the disturbed ground with grass and wild-flower seed and re-instate the path. However, the weather is thwarting all attempts at groundworks at the moment. That includes planting the 30 (tiny) hedge whips and 30 (tiny) native tree saplings that the VP Charity has received from the Woodland Trust. So we've temporarily potted them up individually to get their roots established.

We need to keep as many trees and hedges as possible in our villages as they provide some of the best habitat for birds, small mammals and other wildlife. In our own garden (Studley Drive) we've now recorded 56 species of bird and that's without trying very hard – there may have been more. This is largely due to maintaining and improving our native hedging and trees.

### **Business Matters**

Please do not put dog waste in the bin next to the children's play area as it gets very unpleasant in the warmer months. We've put a new general litter bin next to the recycling bins in the car park where you can put dog waste (or use the red dog waste bins elsewhere).

*Suzanne Stanley, VPC Management Team*

## From the Archive – The Column, April 2008

Some things change, some things never do . . .

### **Swarland Village Action**

*Refurbishment of The Square, Swarland continues to move forward. Awards for All has provided some funding for work to improve pedestrian safety in The Square. During April, bollards are to be installed in front of the Post Office / Shop and electric cable laid to these and the new central pedestrian area. It is hoped that the work can be achieved without too much inconvenience to residents around The Square and other users. There is currently a plan on the notice board in The Square of the refurbishment that was selected by the community.*

### **Dog Fouling**

*There is still an issue with dog fouling in the parish and the Dog Warden has increased her patrols. Beware to those few who are not picking up after their pets; if you are caught by the Dog Warden you will be prosecuted.*





## Citizens Advice Northumberland

### We are looking to recruit: Trustees (voluntary)

We are a local charity working as part of the national Citizens Advice network. Through our advice work we promote people's rights and responsibilities particularly in the fields of welfare benefits, housing, employment and money advice. In addition we use our client based evidence to promote changes in the policy and practice of public and private bodies.

We particularly want to hear from people who have a background in business, charitable and community work or public services. We are looking for people who support our aims.

**How to Apply:** To request an information pack to see what the role entails please contact Jane Brown by phone on **01670 853 823** or at **janebrown@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk** . An informal chat can also be arranged with one of the current trustees.

We are committed to equal opportunities.

### 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*

**Deadline for items for the June issue of  
The Column: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

## Vyner Park Hedge Funds in Good Order

Thanks to David Blackshaw and Scott Clarehugh for making a good job of removing dead hedge and reconstructing the bund at the east end of Vyner park. The plan then is to plant more hedging, sow the disturbed ground with grass and wild-flower seed and re-instate the path. However, the weather is thwarting all attempts at groundworks at the moment. That includes planting the 30 (tiny) hedge whips and 30 (tiny) native tree saplings that the VP Charity has received from the Woodland Trust. So we've temporarily potted them up individually to get their roots established.

We need to keep as many trees and hedges as possible in our villages as they provide some of the best habitat for birds, small mammals and other wildlife. In our own garden (Studley Drive) we've now recorded 56 species of bird and that's without trying very hard – there may have been more. This is largely due to maintaining and improving our native hedging and trees.

### **Business Matters**

Please do not put dog waste in the bin next to the children's play area as it gets very unpleasant in the warmer months. We've put a new general litter bin next to the recycling bins in the car park where you can put dog waste (or use the red dog waste bins elsewhere).

*Suzanne Stanley, VPC Management Team*

## From the Archive – The Column, April 2008

Some things change, some things never do . . .

### **Swarland Village Action**

*Refurbishment of The Square, Swarland continues to move forward. Awards for All has provided some funding for work to improve pedestrian safety in The Square. During April, bollards are to be installed in front of the Post Office / Shop and electric cable laid to these and the new central pedestrian area. It is hoped that the work can be achieved without too much inconvenience to residents around The Square and other users. There is currently a plan on the notice board in The Square of the refurbishment that was selected by the community.*

### **Dog Fouling**

*There is still an issue with dog fouling in the parish and the Dog Warden has increased her patrols. Beware to those few who are not picking up after their pets; if you are caught by the Dog Warden you will be prosecuted.*





