

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 **August** issue by
Thursday 26th July 2018.



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

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& Swarland Parish Council**
and
Swarland Club

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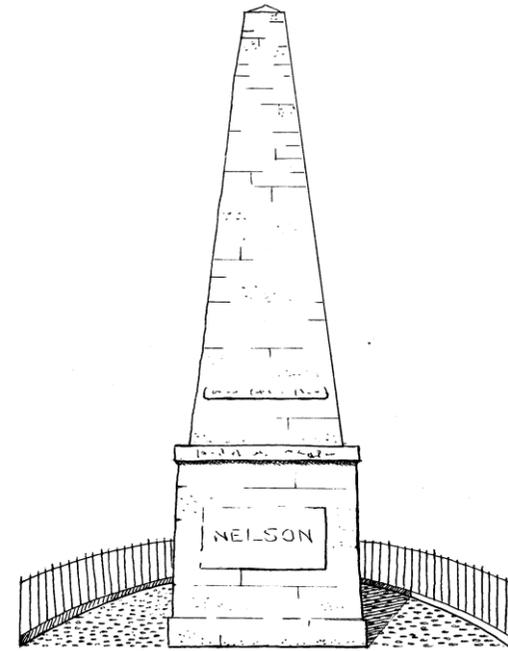
**SWARLAND VILLAGE
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Available for private parties by arrangement.

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Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



June 2018

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 95

**Help is needed for your Show on
Saturday 1st 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 August issue by Thursday 26th July. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

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

Our April AGM was enlivened by Old English who gave a superb talk about historic recruitment into the British Army and entertained us with songs and music of the time. My thanks to all the members who also produced a fantastic pooled supper.

In May we looked forward to an update on the Bamburgh archaeological work but despite several reminders, on the night the speaker forgot to come! This was something new, but a potentially disastrous night was saved by Mrs Eleanor George, who having brought equipment to aid the speaker, had photos of the Bainbridge family on it and for three quarters of an hour kept us fascinated with their history and connections with Newcastle and Eshott. With no notes, it was the best example of "winging it" I have yet heard! Many thanks indeed to Eleanor and apologies to those who had come particularly for the other talk. He has subsequently promised to speak to us at very, very short notice should our need arise!

Our speaker on Tuesday 12th June will be Mr Cliff Pettit and his subject "The Alnwick Camp and its Occupants (1914-1919).

All visitors are most welcome at a charge of £2.50 per person. We meet in the Village Club at 7.30pm.

There will be no meetings in July and August but I'm delighted to say that we will be joined by a good number of the Felton Historical Society on a visit to Bywell Hall and Cherryburn, where Thomas Bewick was born. If the weather is kind, it should be a most enjoyable day.

Any queries about the Heritage Group please ring 01670 787 121.

Caroline Thomas

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.

Neighbourhood Watch Update February – March

Swarland / Longframlington. Nothing to report for April - May 2018.

Theft of horsebox. This occurred in Widdrington (close to the A1068) between 22.00hrs on Thursday 5th. & Friday 6th. April. Details: - I for Williams HB510-white trailer. Broken back nearside light, dent in aluminium bulkhead, no internal partition, brand new internal full width bars fitted (front & rear). Any information call 101 Ref 257060418.

Fraudulent Debt collectors. Be aware that fraudsters are contacting people in Northumberland purporting to be court bailiffs. They are attempting to recover funds for non - existent debts. Even if they know your basic details such as your name and address, do not be taken in by them.

N.B. A Newton resident recently received a phone call from "HMRC" saying she owed them money. HMRC never communicates with individuals in this manner. Thankfully she put the phone down. This is a lesson for us all, such intended frauds are operating in this area.

If you have been affected by this or any other type of fraud please call 0300 1232 040.

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 , 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*



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.**

**Deadline for items for the August issue of
The Column: Thursday 26th July 2018.**

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: **6th & 20th June, 4th & 18th July, and 1st, 15th and 29th August**. If you value this service - "Use it or lose it".

Swarland Village Hall Activities

The Hall team has recently found that even though the building has been sprayed against various timber pests, a woodworm outbreak has occurred under the stage. **This means that the Hall will be out of action during August, and possibly the start of September, whilst remedial work and further treatment are carried out.** Some regular activities will continue in neighbouring Halls – for details contact the individual group leader.

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 end 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. N.B. No meetings in August.

Swarland Carpet Bowls on **Thursday evenings from 7pm**. September till March. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, just come along. For more information, contact Joan Nesbit on 01670 783 145.



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NotM & Swarland Parish Council

Both the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council (PC) meeting took place on 23rd May. The previous PC meeting was on 25th April. The draft minutes will be posted on our council website shortly. Sadly in April, Bob Ryan resigned as a Parish Councillor after doing some sterling work with NCC on tackling pothole & drainage problems in the parish, together with keeping the pressure on NCC regarding road resurfacing and repair. Bob's input will be really missed and the PC would like to thank him for his efforts.

Annual Parish Meeting

Reports were presented, covering the work of the PC - Vyner Park Charity - Swarland Village Hall - Jubilee Hall and the Felton Joint Cemetery Committee (a partnership between ourselves, Felton and Thirston PCs). All reports are available in full on the PC's website. Electors' questions covered various topics, ranging from the 'planning status' of the village boundaries, street-naming and repairs and the historical interpretation of the Swarland Park area.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

We covered a large amount of 'annual business', including the appointment of committees and representatives, our risk assessment, accounts and governance statement, asset register and audit arrangements. We considered some feedback from NCC on our concerns about the quality and consistency of the planning officers' advice to applicants. Cllr Stanley has been liaising with NCC and Harrison Leisure re the renovation of the animal shelters on the golf course. Work is progressing re maintenance and improvements to Vyner Park. Temporary road closures are planned soon, to introduce the new speed limits in NotM, and we are requesting that this be accompanied by repainting some of the worn-out white lines at the junctions.

Parish Councillor Vacancies

There are now TWO vacancies 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 to the PC. We are keen to have a good gender / geographic balance so we are particularly looking for applications from women, and from the Swarland and the Hazon / Hartlaw areas. If you think you have got what it takes, contact the Parish Clerk (see below).

Parking on Felton Bridge

Felton PC is experiencing an ongoing issue with cars parking on both sides of the Bridge (near the Running Fox), which affects traffic sight lines. Those from nearby communities (**that includes us!**) who are driving to Felton to use the X15 bus service are asked to park at the north end of Felton, in the layby by the new housing development, rather than on or by the bridge which contributes to the parking issue.

The next meeting of the PC will be at 7pm on Wednesday 27th June at Swarland Village Hall and members of the public are welcome to attend and ask questions before the meeting starts.

If you have comments or queries, please contact the Parish Clerk – Jan Anderson on 01665 575 145 or janandersonpc@gmail.com .

Felton & District History Society

By the time that you read this, we will have just completed our “indoor” programme for the present season. April brought Richard Carlton who gave a very detailed report on the archaeological dig on Holy Island in 2016 / 17. May’s meeting will have welcomed Chris Hunwick who, hopefully, will have spilled the beans on what the Duke of Northumberland keeps in his archives. There’s still a few more interesting things happening before we resume our indoor meetings though, so please read on:

On the evening of **Monday 18th June**, we will be taking a guided history walk around the area at the top of the church bank, to include a look at the outside of Felton Park House and gardens and as far as the old Catholic Church. We will look around the outside of the Parish church and look at some of the interesting old headstones in the churchyard. Anyone who is interested needs to give their names to Eleanor George. There will be a small charge of £1 for members and £3 for non-members, to cover photocopying costs.

Anyone who did the walk around the village with Eleanor last year will agree that it was brilliant. We learnt so much about our village and noticed so many things that had passed us by for years!

Saturday 14th July brings Felton Fair. The History Society’s stand is going to focus on the 'Year of the Woman'. It will feature some of the strong female characters of the past who gave their time and energy to the community in Felton and the surrounding district. If you have any information or memorabilia that you would be happy to share or include in the display, please get in touch with Eleanor.

The next indoor meeting will be on **Monday 17th September**. The archaeologist who headed the dig on the land at the north end of the village, where the new houses are being built, is coming to tell us all about what was found. Put the date on your calendar now.

Advance notice – 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One. In November, the Society is hoping to mount a special display. Again, if you have any family associations, information, photographs etc, please do come along to our meeting in September.

Alison Jackson, Secretary 01670 787 527

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Contact Rory Brotherton
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels!

There’s not been a lot of activity in the past few weeks, just the odd Grey sighting and some Reds, though nothing like as many as we’d like to see. 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, and on our Facebook page “Squirrels in Coquetdale”. Please keep letting us know what you see via the sightings button on the website!

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). Any offer of help is very much appreciated and if someone was to look after a small local patch of wood that would be an enormous help, as is reporting any Reds or Greys when out and about, or even from 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.

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 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

Show Piece

Plans are rapidly coming together for this year’s show due to take place on **Saturday 1st September at Vyner Park**. Schedules will be available soon, so please consider having a go at making, baking & growing something so we have a good display in our exhibition tent. This is the traditional heart of any village show and visitors always tell us how much they enjoy looking at the exhibits. You don't have to be in the class of Kirsty Allsop, Mary Berry or Monty Don, though undoubtedly we do have some very talented people out there.

Once again we are planning on keeping the entry charges reasonable with lots of free children's activities on offer as well as a good range of entertainment for the adults. One of the ways we do this is by selling lots of raffle tickets. There are some cracking prizes all generously donated by local companies, so please be kind when you see any of the team heading your way over the next few months. Tickets are very reasonably priced considering the prizes on offer and it is just once a year or two. We will gratefully accept any offers of help to sell tickets.

Likewise we are still collecting bottles & children's toys for our tombola - more information is available on the Swarland Show Facebook page or you can email us at swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com .

Chairman, Sue Brotherton, on 01670 787 078.

Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

Our **June Coffee Morning** will be held on Saturday 9th; weather permitting we shall be able to enjoy coffee and a chat outside in the sun.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Trustees of the Jubilee Hall will take place on **Tuesday 12th June at 7.30** in the Hall. As usual all are welcome to help us review the past year and to make proposals for the year to come.

The **July Coffee Morning** will be held on Saturday 14th July.

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 phone **Liz on 01665 575 680**. We offer the use of the delightful Grade II listed Reading Room for small meetings, lunches or parties, or the main hall with a larger capacity and staging as required. A small bar can be provided by arrangement with the Trustees.

Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary.

Ukulele Group for Swarland?

I am a Swarland resident and for the last year I have been attending a small Ukulele Group in Shilbottle Community Centre on Wednesday nights. The group was formed in February last year by Martyn Tuckwell with assistance from the RVS, with the aim of spreading the enjoyment of playing and singing music. To that end the Shilbottle Ukulele group now has sufficient expertise to be able to put on half-hour music shows in Residential Homes etc, and has given two shows in St Pauls in Alnwick, a pre Xmas Dinner show for Shilbottle Pensioners and has a show planned for the Friendly Cafe in the Methodist Church, Amble, later this month.

I was wondering if there would be any interest in starting a similar Ukulele group in Swarland / Newton on the Moor. I've discussed this possibility with Martyn who has offered assistance with the initial loan of some instruments and some basic instruction on the ukulele, and I would also help to set up / run the group.

No previous musical knowledge or expertise is necessary (that was certainly true in my case!).

All that would be required is to meet and practise one night a week for approximately 1 hour, and then your own practice time. The only costs would be subscriptions to cover the hire of the venue which will probably be Swarland or NotM Village Hall.

It will need approximately 10 people attending to make it viable, so if you are interested please contact me on email barrymwhite@outlook.com, or call me, **Barry White**, on **01670 787 654**. Thanks.

No biz like Show biz . . .

Not a lot of news this month, so to further illustrate Sue Brotherton's 'Show Piece' I've looked at old Show reports. We've always had a great range of activities for children (I use 'children' loosely): the TA climbing wall was a regular feature along with welly-hoying, crazy bowls, laser quest, bungee trampolines, bouncy castles and slides including a sinking Titanic, and pony rides. Pony owner Lisa was impressed by the lack of crying and whingeing (and that was just the parents!) and by the politeness of local children.

Food is essential on these occasions, and has always been locally produced, whether by the local community or latterly Nelson's. In 2006 Rod Roger's Swarland Tearooms, provided cream teas during the afternoon alongside the egg & cress sarnies, corned beef & potato pie and superb cakes. Never again! In the frenzied process of plopping butter, jam and cream onto inadequate plates, only the soothing music produced by Wendy Fergie and her fellow musicians stopped people throwing scones at each other. Outdoor music has also been essential to the atmosphere: in 2009 we had the Segretta Stompers New Orleans Jazz Band, but we've had steel bands, fiddles and accordions to accompany Irish, Scottish and clog dancing, and for many years the Alnwick Playhouse Concert Band – you can't beat the sound of a brass band drifting across the field. It all adds to the general excitement felt by those entering the dog show and dog agility classes – though the dogs are usually pretty laid back. One joyful memory is of Claire Preston on her hands and knees demonstrating to a particularly dim or lazy retriever how to run through the tunnel. If you don't like dogs, you might like cars – we've had vintage vehicles in such numbers that the then Chairman John Sanderson felt it resembled "the Nissan factory forecourt for a day".

No show worth the name lacks an exhibition tent, and here over the years Arthur Scott dominated the horticultural classes, Cookson, Sanderson and Porter children battled it out annually, and John Sanderson noted other interesting contests developing: Stent v Keeble (Photography), and Franklin v Lee (Cookery), while Meg Keeble and Bryan Stanley gave each other hard looks across the marmalade. Management of Show entries isn't easy, and John was prepared to be "cute and cuddly" one year over late entry forms but warned it wouldn't wash another year. [Take note for this year.]

All these activities need an MC and as John (who gets the award for amusing reportage) said, "the golden tonsils of Ken Walters ruled the airwaves", while a year later, "with just one more pint Ken was ready to lead a sing-along to the Concert Band". The pint of course was supplied by the bar or beer tent; Pimm's has come and gone over the years, but when it comes, so do the wasps. PA systems have also come and gone, and sometimes when they came they didn't work, but there was always a loud hailer.

Will Madame Elena twirl her tarot cards this year? Will Newton dogs square up to Swarland dogs? Will the sun shine on us all? You'll need to attend to find out.

Suzanne Stanley (Show Team escapee)

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