

**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 December issue by  
**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**



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& Swarland Parish Council**  
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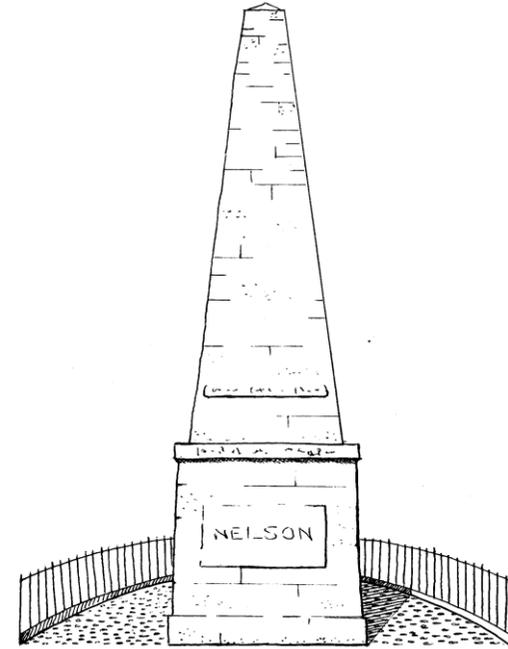
**SWARLAND VILLAGE  
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**Swarland Club** is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

# The Column



**October 2018**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 97**

**Bonfire Night Fun for all.  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - 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 December issue by Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. 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 new programme of talks made an excellent start with "Newton-on-the-Moor, its Past Industries". The speaker, Phil Huntley, was well known as he farmed in the village of Newton for years. It was a talk full of interesting facts and he gave us a tantalizing idea as to the thriving busy village Newton had been through the centuries. Thank you to all the many guests who came along, I hope you enjoyed the evening.

Our next speaker, Chris Chesney, accredited stained glass restorer and conservator, founded Iona Art Glass in Warkworth with his wife Sarah over 30 years ago. The business has recently moved to the former police station in Amble and now employs eight people. On **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** Chris will be giving a talk entitled "Changes in the Ethics and Methodology of Stained Glass Conservation from 1950 onwards". His talk should be both interesting and lively.

On **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**, our speaker will be Liz O'Donnell and in this year of celebration of the emancipation of women, Liz will give a talk entitled "Hens That Want To Crow" – the long struggle for women's suffrage.

Membership for the duration of the programme is £10 per person or £2.50 per person if you just want to come as a visitor to hear a particular talk or speaker. You are very welcome whether you are a member or not. We meet in the Village Club at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. If you have any questions please contact 01670 787 121 or email swarlandmlhg@gmail.com.

*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.

### **For Sale:**

2-seater green (real) leather settee. For details please ring 01670 783 077.

**IKEA** single futon, folding metal frame, comfortable mattress. Good condition, scarcely used. £25. Contact: 01665 581 173 evenings.

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

### **Swarland / Longframlington:**

Two chainsaws and a strimmer were stolen between 21.30hrs Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September and 07.00hrs Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Two quad bikes stored in the workshop were not stolen because a vehicle was parked in front of them.

### **Events Elsewhere:**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August: A gamekeeper was verbally challenged by two males with a dog in a field. He was assaulted after approaching them.

There was another incident when a gamekeeper was forced off the road by the driver of a vehicle whom he suspected was involved in poaching.

**ADVICE** - Never approach or confront those whom you believe are committing an offence.

A burglary took place at a farmhouse just south of Alnwick between 10.00 and 11.00hrs on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August: Reports of males in a Peugeot van, with "Highway Maintenance" written on rear, who were trying to sell Tarmac in Hartburn (Morpeth). Be very careful about using door-to-door sellers.

**OF INTEREST** - On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 22.50hrs officers from West Tynedale Neighbourhood team stopped a vehicle suspected of being used for poaching in Hexhamshire. The 5 occupants were wearing camouflage clothing and had 3 Lurchers with them. The driver had a provisional licence and no insurance. The vehicle was seized and up-lifted under Section 165. Also seized, under the Poaching and Prevention Act, was a high-powered lamp with battery packs.

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*

## **Swarland Village Hall invites you to a Coffee Morning on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 10am - 12noon.**

It is hoped that it will give you an opportunity to see for yourselves the changes to the stage area following the major works to repair a woodworm outbreak.

Regular activity groups will also be there as well as members of the committee to answer questions and seek your thoughts and any feedback on possible future improvements.

We really do need your help and look forward to welcoming all members of our community on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** for a cuppa and a chat.

## Swarland Village Hall

Much of the work to replace and treat the timbers in the Hall is now complete, which means that the stage has been removed and for the time being, until funding can be found, will not be replaced. **The Hall is again open for usual activities – see notice of Coffee Morning on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November when you can find out what's been happening.**

Run as a community charity (Reg. No 1058471) the Hall offers seating space for up to 120 people, 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** from the end of October, indoor sessions will recommence on Monday evenings. A coaching course (6 weeks of 2 hours) is available for £30 (half normal price). The Club can supply all equipment. Contact Steve 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.

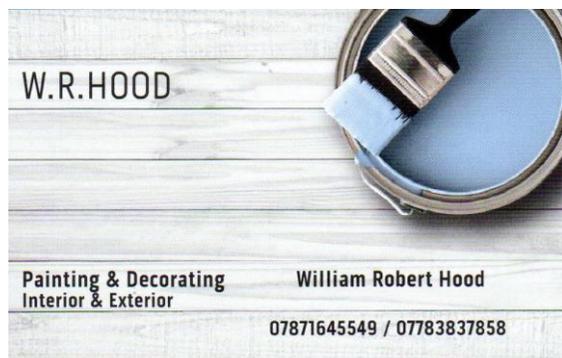
**Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class** on **Wednesdays 10 - 11am**. £3.50 per session. For details contact Anne Raine on 07934 425 844.

**Swarland Craft Group** No meetings in December, starts again in January, on **Wednesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm**. New members always welcome. Further details ring Margaret on 01670 787 705 or Joyce on 01670 787 855.

**Swarland Carpet Bowls** on **Thursday evenings from 7pm**. Late August 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.

The Hall Management Team is looking for new blood to look after SVH for the community. If you'd like to know if you can help, please contact **Bryan Stanley** on **maxitoby1@gmail.com**.

Advert



## NotM & Swarland Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) met on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 26<sup>th</sup> September, both times at the Jubilee Hall in NotM due to repairs being carried out at Swarland Village Hall. The next meeting is at **7pm on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Swarland Village Hall** and as usual, members of the public are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

### **Interactive Speed Monitoring Sign for Swarland**

In the last edition of The Column, residents were asked to make suggestions on the best location for an interactive speed monitoring sign. Only 11 responses were received, and the overwhelming support was for the sign to be installed in The Avenue, so we are seeking NCC's advice as to the precise siting. County Cllr Thorne has indicated possible further funding in 2019 / 20 for an additional sign, also to be sited somewhere in Swarland.

### **Northumberland County Council (NCC) Development Management**

A small group from the PC recently met senior planning staff at County Hall to discuss a range of concerns over the handling of planning applications in our parish. These covered: poor pre-application advice; lack of transparency re advice given; officers apparently predetermining proposals; lack of attention to flooding and sewerage issues; lack of attention to conservation policies; and inconsistent monitoring / enforcement of TPO tree replacements. We received a fair hearing and, while some problems are due to low staffing capacity, we believe that there will be improvements.

### **NCC LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

Consultation on the draft NCC County-wide Local Plan - a vitally important and influential document for the whole county, which includes all of the main planning policies for the county, and maps out where new homes will be built, new jobs created and new services provided – has been completed. The PC welcomed the proposed reintroduction of a Village Boundary around Swarland, broadly along the lines of its predecessor which was terminated in 2008. We have now secured a commitment for a similar boundary for NotM.

The timetable for finalizing the Local Plan is as follows:

- Publication - January 2019
- Submission - May 2019
- Examination hearings - September 2019
- Adoption - March 2020.

### **Parish Council Budget and Precept for 2019 / 20**

We have started to plan our budget next and as with previous years we would welcome ideas and proposals from local groups and residents for new projects and / or changed priorities, preferably before our next meeting in October. We normally aim to finalise our Council Tax precept at our November meeting, but this sometimes slips to our January meeting.

**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

Welcome to a new year of reports from the History Society. We are hoping that by the time you read this we will have welcomed *loads* of new members to our September meeting and that they all enjoyed hearing Jon McKelvey tell us all about the archaeological dig he carried out on the land north of Benlaw Grove in 2016.

If you didn't get there, then you won't know that our next meeting is on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October** when we are looking forward to Andy Griffin talking about the life of Josephine Butler. She was born Josephine Grey in 1828 at Millfield, Northumberland and went on to become a great campaigner for social equality and for women's rights. In this year when we are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the Act that first gave some women in this country a vote, it is particularly apt that we find out more about a Northumberland lady who fought hard to achieve progress towards equality for women.

Continuing the theme of pioneering women, Andy will be followed by Davina Thompson on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November** who is to talk about the lesser known female Saints of Northumberland. We have all heard of Oswald and Aidan but who amongst you know of Ebbe or Hild? Come along and find out about what the women were doing!

The Running Fox has been booked for lunch on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December** and all who wish to come along and join a convivial Christmas lunch are most welcome. And then **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January** 2019 brings another local, Nick Lewis, to give us an update on the recent renovations and discoveries at Lindisfarne Castle.

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 for the year and for that you get monthly meetings, summer trips as arranged, free tea and coffee and even a glass of wine at the AGM! Alternatively, you can pay £3 as a visitor at each meeting. Meetings are all held in Felton Village Hall at 7.30pm. It is wise to get there early to get a good seat!

*Alison Jackson*



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

## Show Piece

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September in near perfect weather, the stage was finally set for Show number 18. Once again the classic cars, dog show, Alnwick Playhouse Concert Band and free children's activities were extremely popular. These included bungee trampolines a large inflatable slide, bouncy castle, face painting, direct combat laser quest and a chance to have a go at archery with the Bowmen of Rothbury Forest. Also on offer was the opportunity to pan for gold, see and handle birds of prey as well as our resident Rivenherd Alpacas and a historical enactment by volunteers from Blyth Battery. Madam Elena again twirled her tarot cards to raise an impressive donation for the show and our friends from the Swarland Moor Local Heritage group set up a great display of Swarland through the ages. Despite the erratic summer weather we had some fantastic fruit, flower and vegetable exhibits in the Show Tent; not to mention the quality of the handicrafts, artwork, cookery and baking on show - thank you to everyone for taking part and helping to keep the traditional heart of the Show alive.

### **The Show Tent winners are as follows:**

Flower classes - Bill Riddell Cup - Alison Gallico

Vegetable classes - Richardson Cup - Arthur Scott

Floral Art classes - Toby Gow Cup - Joint winners Annie Taylor & Val Cranston

Fine Art classes - Woodside Trophy - Rachel Stephenson

Cookery classes - Ridley Salver - Pauline Barnett

Handicraft classes - Lightbown Cup - Claire Preston

Photography section - George Neighbour Bell - Alan Oliver

Post Office Cup 6 and under - Willow Pratt

Post Office Cup 6 - 9 years - Finn Hilton

Post Office Cup 10 - 15 years - Charlie Cookson

A & D Scott Salver for most points in Show - Arthur Scott

Best in Show car - Barnes Shield - Kevin Brown

Peoples Popular Vote - The Storm Shield - Kirsten Gray

Our sincere thanks go to all those who helped or supported the Show in anyway. If you came along on the day, we hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did, and we hope to see you again next year. Save the date: **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August.**

The Show AGM is taking place on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 8pm at Swarland Village Club.** Anyone who would like to join the team or is interested in being involved in any way is welcome to come along.

*Sue Brotherton*



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## Events at Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

Our next **Coffee Morning** will be held on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October**; do join us to enjoy a chat over coffee and cakes. Our cakes and Jen Oliver's excellent range of scones are for sale to take home, so come and stock up for the weekend.

### **Music on the Moor**

The first concert in this Winter series will be on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November** and will be the annual Pipers' Ceilidh, with supper.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> **December** The Ukelele Band will be joined by the Hall Fiddlers and the Recorder Ensemble. This was a fantastic line-up last year and we are very pleased to be able to repeat it, with mulled wine to help things go with a swing.

Details of further concerts and an end-of season ceilidh will be announced shortly.

**Wine Tasting - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** - Dudley Williams has arranged another of his popular Wine Tasting evenings, this time on the subject of "Wines for the Season" – suitable wines to accompany Christmas lunch. Suzanne Lock, from Advintage Wines will present tastings of bubbly, white and red wines to enhance the meal, and dessert wine or port to go with the Christmas Pudding. Tickets are £15 at the door, but please let Dudley know if you would like to come, so he can order the wines and the bread and cheese to accompany them. Williamsdd@utsc.utoronto.ca , or 01665 581 531.

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

**Church Services** are held 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 bar can be provided by arrangement with the Trustees.

*Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary.*

### Cleaner Required

We are looking for a **cleaner for the Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor.**

The Hall and kitchen are cleaned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month and we may occasionally ask for an additional clean after a special event.

Please contact Judy Williams on 01665 581 531 if you are interested.

## Bonfire Night Fun for the Parish

Bonfire and fireworks as usual  
at Vyner Park, Swarland

on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**6pm – 8pm**

Bring a torch – it's dark on the Park.

Pay at the gate. Drinks, Food & Raffle.

Watch out for details on posters around the parish  
nearer the time.

### 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: **9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December**. If you value this service "Use it or lose it".

## Swarland Christmas Fair

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Swarland Village Hall**

**10.00 – 12 noon**

**Local Arts and Crafts**

**Admission £1 – children free, includes tea / coffee / juice & biscuits**

**Raffle in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance**

*Swarland Craft Group*

### **AIRPORT AND STATION TAXI FARES**

Don't worry about car parking whilst on holiday.  
Relax and let Falway Private hire take the strain.

Swarland to Newcastle Airport or Central Station -  
£30

Morpeth Station - £15, Alnmouth Station - £12.50.

BOOK BY PHONE OR TEXT 07595 618 001  
or EMAIL falwayprivatehire@hotmail.co.uk .

**NOW BASED IN SWARLAND**

### **Trevor's Bit**

**Roadworks:** The road from NotM to Longframlington is undergoing maintenance in the current financial year, and hopefully another tranche of money will be allocated next year so that more planned maintenance can take place. I have also requested that some tree-pruning takes place on the Longframlington approach to Alnwick Fords bridge to improve visibility for motorists.

An inter-active speed sign is to be located on The Avenue, Swarland to improve pedestrian and road junction safety. Another sign is to be planned for next year, both of these are being funded from my Small Scheme Monies. The Council is also planning a number of road and footpath improvements around the School as part of the introduction of 20mph signs which NCC is rolling out across the county.

**Planning:** I was very pleased that a condition of the recent application approval for 26 houses for Cussins was "the stretch of footpath from Kenmore Road along past the bridge and the allotments and linking up with the footpath to Vyner Park". While most villages in Northumberland are well-served by a network of footpaths, Swarland is not, largely because of its history as a settlement village. As road traffic increases it is important to keep our pedestrians safe.

**County Hall Refurbishment:** This continues to go well with some staff already moving back into their offices.

**Budget:** The Conservative Administration is currently working on its budget proposals for 2019 / 20 and hopes to have a number of road shows at the Area Committee Meetings to consult with the public.

Trevor Thorne – County Councillor Shilbottle, The Stables, Embleton Hall, Longframlington NE65 8DJ. Contact: 01665 570 249 or email: Trevor.thorne@northumberland.gov.uk .

# WINEFEST 2018

**By popular demand a 'WINEFEST' will be held at  
SWARLAND VILLAGE HALL on  
SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER 7.30pm**

As regulars know this is a FUN NIGHT. For those who have not previously attended a Winefest it is an excellent opportunity to meet friends and neighbours in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. You will sample a number of wines: red, white or rose depending upon the colour of wine you have submitted. (Save a trip and hand in your bottle labelled with your name at the same time as buying your ticket). You will be asked to mark each wine sampled but we don't take the evening too seriously. The emphasis is on having fun. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**Raffle - Pooled supper**

**TICKETS £4.50 per person  
will be on sale from  
SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER**

**at  
NELSON'S in the Park**

**or from  
Steve & Sheila Tel 01670 787 883**

All proceeds go to Swarland Village Hall Charity

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## Swarland Primary School Welcomes its First Year Six Pupils

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 more than 80 pupils Swarland Primary School began a new school year. All children arrived eager to begin their learning and none were more eager than the new Year Six pupils.

Swarland School gained Primary School status in September 2017. Up until this time, pupils left the school at the end of Year Four. Now in September 2018, Swarland has all the year groups which constitute a Primary School. Maureen Bickerdike the current Chair of Governors said "The Governing Body is delighted to see our school growing".

## Swarland Primary School Code Club

The Code Club sessions started again with the new school year in September. We have a new group of students eager to learn coding and we have some real talent showing among them already; they are working in Scratch at the moment, but will go on to the Raspberry Pi and Python coding after Christmas.

We have a new volunteer this term, Sheila Rutherford from Swarland, who offered her services and seems to be settling in very well, so thank you Sheila for coming forward. We are also very fortunate to have 4 of last year's coders helping us, this is good because the new students know the older coders and know that they did the same sort of things last year, so thank you Eve, Finn, Rachel and Rebecca. I am glad to see that the new group of children are having fun as well as learning; this bodes well for the whole of this course.

The weather station project is progressing well; all the required funding has been raised, thanks to generous donations from PJR Blewitt Contractors, the Swarland Working Men's Club and an anonymous Swarland donor who offered to cover whatever shortfall there was. A heartfelt thank you to all our donors, we are most grateful for your generosity.

We are now in the process of buying the required equipment and have planned to start the construction of the weather station, with Years 5 and 6 pupils, after the Autumn half-term.

Information about Code Club can be found at [www.codeclub.org.uk](http://www.codeclub.org.uk) .

*Roger Brunning, Swarland Code Club*

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## Vyner Park News

**Trees:** Increasingly frequent high winds make trees a concern throughout the parish, but especially Swarland, which is particularly well-endowed with them. They need regular inspection and management, and sadly (not least for the financial hit involved) we've had to take the decision to remove the big old ash tree at the entrance to Vyner Park. It is diseased and is beginning to shed branches. We will leave a 6-foot high habitat stump with its ivy cover, and will plant a new tree elsewhere in the Jubilee Garden. You will have noticed too that a young Horse Chestnut has been ripped in two and we'll need to remove the remaining unsightly and unbalanced portion.

**Dogs:** We've seen a reduction recently in the amount of dog fouling in the Park following the introduction of free bags and an additional waste bin. A BIG thank you too to those wonderful people who continue to pick up other people's dog mess - there are still a few irresponsible owners who continue to leave their own dog's mess behind – unpleasant for all and dangerous to children. If you witness someone doing so, please contact NCC Animal Welfare team on 0345 600 6400; they can then issue fixed penalty notices.

**Parking:** Sometime soon we'll be creating marked bays in the car park to encourage the best use of space. We've also had a complaint about people parking on the footpath on Old Park Road approaching the VP entrance. Though this is public highway and outside our control, can we remind you to park responsibly with mobility scooter and baby buggy users in mind.

**Nelson's:** The Parish Council was pleased to renew the café's annual licence from September, and the Vyner Park Charity which manages the Park on the PC's behalf will be receiving a substantial licence fee this year. We receive occasional queries about Nelson's accounts. These are filed annually as required at Companies House and are available there for public scrutiny – they are quite separate from the Charity's accounts. We're delighted that the café is still so popular; it benefits the whole community as a social hub, supports the sports facilities, the playground, and events such as Bonfire Night and the Show when all catering proceeds go to the Charity and the Show Team respectively.

**Events:** The next one is **Bonfire Night on 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – see details elsewhere, and look out for posters nearer the time.

*Suzanne Stanley on behalf of the VPC Management Team*

### Thank you

A very big Thank You from Postie Pete (Swarland Postman) to everyone who so generously sponsored me in The Great North Run on 9<sup>th</sup> September. **The Stroke Association** which I was running for is very grateful and so am I. My legs have now fully recovered.

## World War 1 Commemoration Recital, The Bridge Singers

We're working hard (while still having oodles of fun!) in The Bridge Singers, for our next recital on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November** at 7pm in St. Michael's Church, Felton. We have been invited to present this recital as part of the church's commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 1.

There will be readings and songs exploring different aspects of life in Britain, around the world and in the trenches at the time of World War 1, as well as some stunning "requiem" music. As ever we are including a wide range of styles in our music selections: some classical, some folk, some jazz, some popular songs from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and also three new pieces composed for this occasion by our very own resident composers Gary Steward and Cheryl Camm, who have been inspired by letters and stories of WW1 soldiers included in the current exhibition commemorating veterans who were employees or family members of the Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle. Essentially – there will be something for everyone.

Tickets for this event are free, but donations can be made during the concert in aid of the Royal British Legion. If you would like to secure your seat at this very special recital, tickets will be available from Gallery Forty5, or from Tim Cooper on 01670 783 237, or at St. Michael's Church from the end of September. We do hope to see you there: **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November**, 7pm, St Michael's Church, Felton.

For more information about The Bridge Singers, do follow us on Twitter @bridgesingers, or on Facebook @thebridgesingers, or email bridgesingers@gmail.com .

## From the Archive – The Column, October 2008

**With the latest storms and tree damage in mind do you remember this?**

### ***Squirrel Ropes***

*The Parish Council would like to thank Bob Thornton for installing the squirrel ropes along The Avenue. Hopefully these ropes will reduce the number of squirrels killed on the road. Please remember, if you find a dead red squirrel report it to Mark Wilkinson on 0191 284 6884 or mark.wilkinson@northwt.org.uk . Also don't forget if you see grey squirrels you can request squirrel traps to catch them – again details from Mark Wilkinson.*

**10 years on:** Please continue to report your sightings of ALL squirrels Red or Grey, 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.

## Action Against Scam Mail

The Parish Council has received the following information from the Royal Mail:

Scam mail typically involves professional fraudsters sending convincing letters that are designed to trick people out of money or other valuables. It can include bogus competitions and fake prize draws, and mostly originates from overseas. It is hard to detect, you, a relative, or a friend might receive this type of mail, and even the most alert people can be taken in by these criminals.

Royal Mail never knowingly delivers scam mail. WE understand the distress that it can cause when received. This type of mail is illegal and targets the most vulnerable in society. We are committed to doing all we can to protect customers, and in 2016 introduced a series of additional measures to reduce the impact on our customers. This includes the introduction of our new industry-wide code of practice for dealing with scam mail, as well as a new clause in Royal Mail's bulk mail contracts. We work with other postal operators in and outside the UK to share intelligence and take steps to prevent the mail entering the UK.

We have to date proactively stopped over 4 million suspected pieces of scam mail at our distribution centres around the UK before they reach customers' letterboxes.

We continue to work with our post men and women across the UK who are the eyes and ears in the local community, industry partners and law enforcement agencies, including National Trading Standards to tackle this issue more vigorously.

Should you be concerned that someone you know is in receipt of scam mail, please contact us by:

- Writing to Royal Mail, FREEPOST SCAM MAIL enclosing any suspect items;
- Calling the Royal Mail Scam Mail Helpline on 0800 0113 466;
- Or e-mailing [scam.mail@royalmail.com](mailto:scam.mail@royalmail.com).

For more information on scams and how you can get involved in preventing them, please visit [www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk).

David Gold, Director of Public Affairs and Policy, Royal Mail.



