

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 February issue by
Thursday 25th January 2019.



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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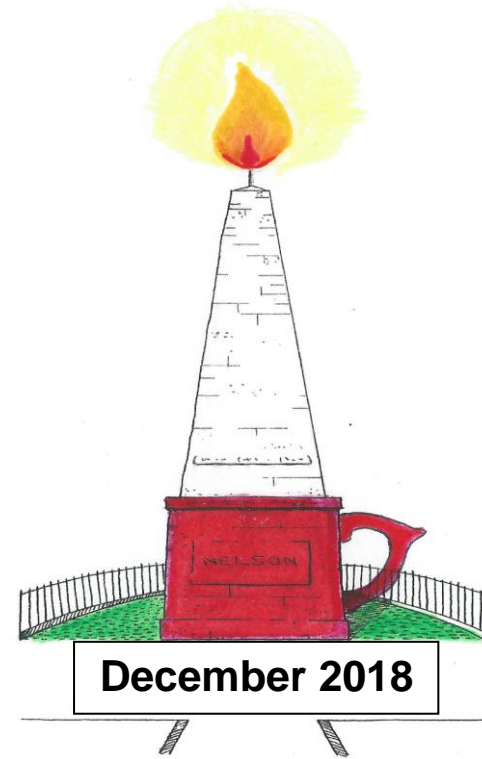
**SWARLAND VILLAGE
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

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Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



December 2018

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 98

**We send everyone Seasonal Greetings and
wish you all the best for the New Year.**

Welcome to your December issue of The Column. If you're new to the area, welcome to you too. Hopefully you are still finding the newsletter informative and even useful. If you wish to put something in the February issue **please supply it by Thursday 25th January 2019. 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

Chris Chesney, our speaker in October, gave an excellent presentation on methods of conserving stained glass over the last 60 years. The pictures of the renovations possible were amazing and we were left with a greater appreciation of the stained glass to be found locally and the significant costs needed for such painstaking restorative work.

Our last speaker of 2018, Liz O'Donnell, gave a well researched and at times amusing talk on the movements for women's suffrage from the 1860s to the present day. Liz concentrated on those notable women from the North East from both militant and non-militant wings of the movement. It was a most interesting evening.

There will be no speaker in December or January but our first presentation of 2019 will be on **Tuesday 12th February** when **Norma Sadler** from Longframlington History Society will talk about "**Weldon Hall**".

Membership from the New Year will be pro rata, £6.25 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 most welcome as member or visitor. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Swarland Village Club at 7.30pm. If you have any questions regarding the Heritage Group, please email swarlandmlhg@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Committee, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a bright and peaceful New Year.

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.

FREE to good home - **Sportrider by Healthrider complete aerobic workout machine.** Little used by elderly relative, this machine exercises legs and arms and is described as providing non impact exercise. Contact Jan or Greg Anderson on 01665 575 145 for more details or to arrange to have a look at it or have a demonstration.

Neighbourhood Watch Update October - November

NotM / Swarland / Longframlington:

18th November: A door-to-door salesman in NotM was abusive and unpleasant. Our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator reported him to the police. Please do not engage such salesmen in conversation and do not allow them to enter your home.

Update on Poaching News

On Tuesday 13th November, Neighbourhood Officers from Alnwick and Berwick worked with local gamekeepers to target poachers. A vehicle suspected of poaching was sighted by police. It made off at speed, but was eventually stopped by traffic officers in Ponteland. The vehicle was seized and the occupants will be reported for poaching offences after being sighted in Chillingham.

Useful Information re Mobile scrap Collectors

A mobile collector's licence must be displayed on any vehicle that is being used in the course of the business and must be easy to read by a person outside the vehicle.

Mobile collectors are not allowed to buy scrap metal for cash, and must record details of any scrap metal received in the course of their business.

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*

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: **5th & 19th December, 2nd, 16th & 30th January 2019, and 13th & 27th February**. If you value this service "Use it or lose it".



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Swarland Village Hall

The Hall is again open for usual activities. Run as a community charity (Reg. No 1058471) it 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 at 7pm**. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, just come along, or contact Joan Nesbit on 01670 783 145.

The Hall Management Team is looking for new blood to help look after SVH for the community. If you'd like to help, please contact **Bryan Stanley**.

How is your broadband?

Do you have problems with your broadband? The Parish Council has become aware of reports that some residents of Swarland are experiencing difficulties and has been asked by NCC to try to provide evidence of the problems that are being experienced.

In fact superfast broadband isn't yet available in all parts of the Parish. If this includes your area, support is available from iNorthumberland at www.inorthumberland.org.uk ? Funding (up to £2,500 / household) is currently available to install fibre broadband. Residents in Hazon and Brainshaugh have recently had their Community Fibre application approved.

In addition, the Better Broadband Subsidy scheme offers help to those premises that are receiving less than 2Mbps speeds – however this scheme comes to an end on 31st December 2018. It provides support towards the cost of equipment and installation of a broadband connection using a mobile, wireless or satellite solution. Full details can be found at www.inorthumberland.org.uk/better-broadband.

If you are experiencing problems with your broadband or don't yet have superfast broadband, please let the Parish Council know; contact Parish Cllr Liz Clark at Liz@cabrit.co.uk with the details.

NotM & Swarland Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) met on 24th October and 28th November. Its next meeting is at 7pm Wednesday 23rd January in Swarland Village Hall and as usual, the public is encouraged to attend and may ask questions.

Stephen Gallico has resigned from the PC to concentrate on his business and pro bono work. Applications are sought in the form of a CV or letter explaining why you think you might be co-opted onto 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 Hazon / Hartlaw areas. If you think you have got what it takes, please contact the Parish Clerk, details below. The PC wishes to thank Stephen for his efforts as Parish Councillor and Treasurer to the Vyner Park Charity.

NCC Consultation on Car Parking Charges Across the County

NCC is carrying out a consultation until Monday 7th January 2019 on the introduction of charges at the most heavily used tourist / visitor and railway car parks in the County. The Cabinet report setting out the wider investment plans and details of charges can be found on the NCC website at <http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=9119> . The proposal **does not** include introducing charges in town centre car parks, these will continue to be free to support local economy. The proposals include keeping the first hour free at the more urban coastal car parks, to ensure that locals who regularly visit these sites for short walks are not significantly affected by the proposals. If you have any comments you would like to make, either send to NCC or pass to the Parish Clerk.

IT Problems in Swarland

iNorthumberland has contacted the PC as there have been reports of speed problems with the Superfast Broadband in Swarland. If you are experiencing problems please either pass them to iNorthumberland or advise the Parish Council, so they can raise such matters with Openreach.

Future of Stone Bus Shelter at the End of Leamington Lane

Local residents may have noticed the poor state of the old stone bus shelter just round the corner of the east end of Leamington Lane. The shelter is, in fact, within Felton Parish and its PC has asked for the views of our residents on the future of the shelter, particularly if there is support for the shelter's demolition. If you have any comments to make, please could you advise the Parish Clerk before 23rd January 2019.

PC Budget & Precept for 2019 / 20

Work has started on planning our budget for 2019-20 and, as with previous years, we welcome ideas and proposals from local groups and residents for new projects and / or changed priorities. Amongst others, we'll be looking to replenish the fund to support improvements to our community buildings. The PC's budget and precept will be decided at the meeting on the 23rd January 2019.

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

Two meetings have already been held in the current 2018/19 calendar of events. In September we had Jon McKelvey telling us all about the archaeological dig he carried out on the land north of Benlaw Grove in 2016. It was lovely to welcome many of the new residents to the village at this meeting. Hopefully they learnt much about the earlier (Anglo Saxon) residents.

This was followed by a visit from Andy Griffin in October. Andy talked about the life of Josephine Butler, the Victorian social campaigner, who was born at Millfield, near Wooler. Andy also added a "bonus" in the form of William Thomas Stead who was born at Embleton in 1849. WT Stead went on to become a newspaper editor who, as a pioneer of investigative journalism, became a controversial figure of the Victorian era. Stead published a series of hugely influential campaigns (some in conjunction with Josephine Butler) whilst editor of The Pall Mall Gazette. He was on his way to New York to take part in a peace congress at the request of President Taft when he boarded HMS Titanic in 1912. The rest, as they say, is history.

Continuing with the theme of pioneering women in this year of the 100th anniversary of the passing of The People Act in 1918 (giving some women over the age of 30 a vote), Davina Thompson will be talking on **Monday 19th November** about the lesser known female Saints of Northumberland. By the time you read this, we should all be a lot wiser about the role women in this area played in the early Christian Church.

The Running Fox has been booked for Christmas lunch on **Monday 17th December**. Many members have already indicated that they would like to attend. If you would like to join us, please telephone 01670 787 527 asap as numbers are limited.

The New Year will begin with another local speaker. **Monday 21st January 2019** brings Nick Lewis to give us an update on the recent renovations and discoveries at Lindisfarne Castle. Those who came to the talk Nick gave in our last programme will agree that it was really interesting to discover what was found during the building works and how they have helped to piece together the history of the Castle.

On **Monday 18th February**, Chairman Eleanor George will be speaking on "The Bainbridge's Department Store to Eshott Hall". Come along to find out how the son of a Weardale hill farmer went on to found what is claimed to be the world's first department store and then to buy Eshott Hall.

To find out what other interesting items are in store, you will have to come along to a meeting. If you aren't already a member, you can pay £3 as a visitor at each meeting. Everyone is welcome. Free tea, coffee and even a biscuit (or two) are available before meetings which 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

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Show Piece



facebook

SWARLAND & NotM SHOW NEEDS YOU

Following the AGM of the Show Committee on 16th October 2018, it was confirmed that there were sufficient funds and support in place to go ahead with the **19th Swarland & NotM Show on Saturday 31st August 2019**.

Many people ask what happens to the money that the show generates. This year, as well as helping to build a reserve to secure future shows, we have been able to give back to the community in the form of donations to the Vyner Park Charity (£500), Swarland and Newton on the Moor Village halls (£100 each) and Swarland Primary School (£50). This is something we hope to continue to do as we move forward.

We are always looking for new committee members. We meet maybe five or six times over the course of the year and there is quite a commitment leading up to and on the day and in the aftermath of show day itself. But it is fun and you get to meet a great set of people who have the best interests of both Swarland & Newton on the Moor at their heart. Our next meeting is on **29th January 2019, 8pm**, Swarland Club. Everyone is welcome.

Don't fancy the committee but still want to help out? That's great. Even if you only have an hour the day before or on Show day we can find you a job! Entry gates need to be manned, the Show tent requires management, and general fetching and carrying getting the show ready - it all adds up and your hour would be very much appreciated.

Are you a local business who would like to attract a new customer base?

Could your hobby make you some extra money?

We will be offering stalls at very competitive prices as well as the opportunity to advertise or sponsor some aspect of the show.

Please feel free to drop us a line at swarlandmoorshow@gmail.com or speak to any of the show team (Greg Anderson, Jan Anderson, Katie Brotherton, Alison Cowen, Andy Ferguson, Kate Ferguson, Andrew Hastie, Elizabeth Hilton and Judy Williams). You can also follow us on Facebook – Swarland Show

Swarland Christmas Fair

Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas Fair. It was a successful morning and our raffle for the Great North Ambulance raised £140.

The Craft Group will be closed for December and will start again on **2nd January 2019**. New Members always welcome.

Swarland Craft Group

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Events at Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

The **Christmas Coffee Morning**, with plenty of cakes and other goodies for sale, will be on **Saturday 8th December**. There will be a raffle, and visitors will be offered mulled wine and mince pies to add to the seasonal good cheer.

Music on the Moor – Concert Series

On **1st December** The Ukulele 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 2019 concerts and an end-of season ceilidh will be announced shortly.

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 small bar can be provided by arrangement with the Trustees.

Lost Archives – Help!!!

It seems that the photograph album showing the development and history of the Jubilee Hall has been borrowed. We are obviously very anxious to have it back so if anyone can help us to locate it we would be very grateful. Please contact any member of the Committee if you can assist us to find it.

Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary

Bonfire Night at Vyner Park

Thank you to everyone who helped on Bonfire Night at Vyner Park, and to all who attended. We hope you all enjoyed this good-humoured event. We're sorry we ran out of mulled wine again, despite buying in nearly twice as much as last year. We'll get a tanker to deliver it in 2019.

Special thanks must go to: our sponsors - Harrison Leisure (Percy Wood), Blackshaw's, Rix Petroleum and Swarland Club, Nelson's for their efficient and very popular catering (all profits to Vyner Park Charity), and to all who donated raffle prizes. The Charity made a significant surplus which enables us to continue to maintain the playground as well as ear-marking funds towards various projects and maintenance costs at the Park.

If anyone out there has ideas for further fund-raising events (and is happy to organise one), please get in touch with any of the Committee members (details on the VPC notice board in the Pavilion).

Suzanne Stanley, Vyner Park Charity Management Team.



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Suzanne Stanley, Vyner Park Charity Management Team.

Winefest 2018

Over 70 people attended Winefest 2018, the 22nd such event we've held in Swarland Village Hall. It was a very enjoyable evening and good to welcome both 'regulars' who know they will have fun and new attendees. The event attracted not only people from the Parish but also Alnwick, Felton, Longframlington and Shilbottle.

There were five groups tasting red wines and two tasting white. Everyone got to sample 9 or 10 wines and mark them for appearance, bouquet and taste. The tastings were 'blind' and the winner in each group was announced after the scores had been added up by the 'Volunteer Counters'. All winners were presented with a Certificate, and the owner of the wine with the highest score overall was named Top Wino.

As is traditional, Len Coates provided Dingbats around the Hall. These provided entertainment and fun, taxed folk's brains and brought out a competitive streak in number of people! The evening was rounded off by a pooled supper which was a veritable feast. The raffle prizes were kindly donated by User Groups of the Hall and a couple of generous individuals.

The Winefest raised £495 for Village Hall funds which will help with the next project, **replacing the stage**. Unfortunately, earlier in the year wood-worm and wet rot were discovered in the old stage. The stage had to be taken out and the affected joists and floor timbers replaced during the summer.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who helped organise and run the Winefest - Ken and Barbara Long, Len and Pauline Coates, Malcolm Nesbitt, the Counters and my wife. Thanks also to Nelson's in the Park for selling tickets. And thanks to all who came and enjoyed themselves! Looking forward to Winefest 2019!

Steve Woolfrey

Felton Surgery News

Staffing Changes

We welcome some additional team members to Felton Surgery; **Wendy Ridyard** is our Phlebotomist / Receptionist; **Andrew Beaman** will be working in Reception; **Helen Maloney** joins as a Dispenser; **Zoe Ogilvie** joins as a Dispenser; **Dr Adam Kibirige** joins as one of our GPs.

New Surgery

You will be aware that Felton Parish Council was successful in securing funding and land for a proposed new surgery building in Felton – on the site of the Bellway development. The practice continues to request authorisation from NHS England and the local CCG in order for this development to go ahead. Our proposal will be considered again on 12th December by the Primary Care Commissioning committee.

Patient Satisfaction

We welcome all feedback from our patients and would appreciate your thoughts. There are forms in reception which ask a number of questions about our surgery which can be filled in anonymously and left in the collection box in Reception. We will review all responses with a view to improving the service we give. We also receive feedback via the NHS choices website, all comments are provided with a response and a contact name for follow up if required.

Flu Vaccinations available

This is offered free of charge on the NHS to people who are at risk. This is to help protect them against catching flu and developing serious complications. You should have the flu vaccine if you: are 65 years old or over; are pregnant; have certain medical conditions; are living in a long-stay residential care home or other long-stay facility; receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill.

Shingles Vaccinations available

Shingles vaccination continues to be available to all eligible patients throughout the year. **Who is eligible?** Patients aged 70 plus anyone in their 70's who was born after 1st September 1942. Patients remain eligible up until their 80th birthday.

Vaccinations and review appointments

For all vaccinations and appointments requested by your recall letters, please contact Reception, to book with the Practice Nurse or Phlebotomist.

Xmas Opening Times

Monday 17th – Friday 21st December 8.30 – 18.00 (Wednesday to 19.30)

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd December CLOSED

Monday 24th December 8.30 – 18.00

Tuesday 25th December and Wednesday 26th December CLOSED

Thursday 27th December – Friday 28th December 8.30 – 18.00

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th December CLOSED

Monday 31st Dec – Friday 4th Jan 8.30 – 18.00 (Wednesday to 19.30).



December 2018 update

We've had another busy year at Nelson's. It's been lovely to see so many local people visiting with friends and family as well as lots of new faces. The busy summer months saw our staffing role rise to a whopping 18 employees, all employed from within the local community and ranging from young people in

their first part time job to full-time skilled kitchen staff and people enjoying retirement work. We continue to grow and develop new ideas which this year includes our grocery basics shopping area for all those little forgotten items and an increased range of in house bakes and cakes which can be enjoyed to eat in or take away.

Nelson's, as with most small rural offerings, comes with its challenges to remain viable; we work hard to ensure that wherever possible we source our produce from local suppliers and provide a competitive service in the face of the rising costs of raw materials and salaries.

As a business we work closely with the Vyner Park Charity which has been very supportive in the set-up and early years of Nelson's development. The Committee has access to all accounting aspects of the business and we liaise on a regular basis to ensure that we are meeting our goals of growing a sustainable community facility both in the services offered and with a developing financial contribution towards the Charity's financial obligations.

We hope to see you again soon, and new faces are always very welcome.

A Merry Christmas to all!

Lynn, Kelly and the Team.

Swarland Ukulele Group update

The Ukulele Group first met on 5th July this year, and meets every Thursday evening at 7pm in the Concert Room of Swarland Village Club. The aim of the group is to spread and enjoy the playing and singing of music.

I am pleased to say that the group has progressed such a lot in its mastering of the uke, and is now busily rehearsing 18 songs, 6 of them Christmas Songs for its first "gig", be at Heatherdale Residential Home, next month.

They'll be singing and playing favourites, which include Bye Bye Love (Everly Brothers), Eight Days a Week (Beatles), Country Roads (John Denver), I don't want to talk about it (Rod Stewart), I have a Dream (Abba) and Run For Home (LIndisfarne) as well as standards such as Alexander's Rag Time Band, a Cockney Medley & Blaydon Races.

During next year, the group is keen to welcome new members and so is happy to host a free 6 weeks of Taster Session commencing on Thursday 17th January. Previous musical knowledge or expertise isn't necessary.

If you're not quite sure, just come along and have a look and see if it's for you, you will be made welcome! Any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact me by phone on 01670 787 654 or email me on barrymwhite@outlook.com. Can I also take this opportunity to say many thanks again to Swarland Village Club who have made us so welcome!!

A Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year to everyone.

Barry White

Looking for Recruits

'Imperial Ambition' is a local Napoleonic war-games club based at Old Swarland, we normally meet once a week. We are looking for a couple of new adult recruits and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining us!

If you fancy doing something interesting to fill in the long winter nights please email me at stephen911gibson@btinternet.com .

Plastic Waste on our Perimeter Roads Around Swarland

I'm sure like me you are shocked and disgusted by the images of vast amount of plastic waste and the associated marine pollution of our oceans, being shown on our TVs. I know quite a number of locals are involved in beach cleans, whether it be with an organised group or simply taking a bag with you when you go for a walk and collecting pieces of plastic from the beach to bring home. This is something my wife and I have been doing for years, all around our coastline and I'm pleasantly surprised how little plastic we are finding on our local Northumberland beaches. A big well done and thanks to all involved, especially the kids and the adults who organise these outings.

What I am finding alarming is the amount of litter, which is mostly plastics, that is on the grass verges and in the hedges around Swarland. We walked down Leamington Lane to the Nelson memorial column yesterday and collected 3 large sized bags full of plastic. The alarming aspect of this roadside plastic waste is that the sun's ultra violet rays strike the plastic, breaking down the bonds holding the long molecular chain together, over time this turns a big piece of plastic into lots of small pieces, which are then carried by the small streams and burns, which run parallel to these verges and hedge rows, down into larger streams and rivers and eventually into the sea. About a third of the plastic collected yesterday was already very brittle and breaking up when collected. Like the marine problem, once the plastic has degraded into small pieces it is extremely difficult to collect. Only when it is in larger pieces can we easily collect it all.

I don't know what we can do about the ignorance of people that drop this litter. Our generation (1945-55) were educated (brain-washed) by our parents, teachers - in fact by everyone - not to drop litter but to take it home. Somehow that important message has been lost. Hopefully the latest maritime pollution findings will rejuvenate that education and firm up that good mind-set again. In the meantime, can I ask locals to take a bag with them when they go out for their walk and collect this roadside plastic waste and also to take a bag with them when they visit our beaches. With your help, we can help reduce this pollution in our rivers, coastline and seas.

Elliot & Vera Smith, Admiral Close, Swarland.

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Trevor's Bit

The North of Tyne Authority incorporating Northumberland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and North Tyneside Councils has now been established and had its first meeting in Morpeth Town Hall on 8th November. This organisation brings with it a potential investment of £600 million, £20 million a year over 30 years into the area. The Education Challenge is also an integrated part of its philosophy which strives to achieve an improvement of standards over the whole area. Another important element is skills-training aimed at getting people back into work and bringing prosperity into our area.

The "early-wins" for Northumberland are:

1. The establishment of a new training / visitor centre described as a "learning hub" in Blyth which will concentrate on off0shore renewable energy at the Port of Blyth.
2. Outreach work at the Kielder Observatory engaging young people in our schools in science, concentrating on the planetarium and the stars.
3. Sponsoring a package of measures to encourage rural growth with particular reference to a rail link in the south-east of the county.

Borderlands Deal. Meetings have taken place recently with Senior Ministers and we have a series of "Ask Programmes" which have been agreed with Scottish Ministers.

1. A request for 100% broadband coverage across the whole county.
2. A tourism package concentrating on Hadrian's Wall.
3. Investment packages for our market towns.
4. A huge investment in the Maltings in Berwick-upon-Tweed turning it into an important conference centre / theatre.

We're hoping the heads of terms will be signed by January 2019.

Advance Northumberland has been created and Arch has been dissolved. Hopefully this will bring closure on risky investment, poor governance and lavish entertainment. An "open-budget" for borrowing and entertainment has been abused and governance must be tighter from now on.

Roads. A £2-3 million pot of money was announced in the budget for pothole repairs. We need some of this resource to be spent on our roads in Swarland and Newton on the Moor.

Car-Parking. The NCC's £10 million programme of traffic improvements across Northumberland will see hundreds of new parking spaces being created as well as the refurbishment of existing car parks. Town centre car parks will continue to be free, although some charging at the busiest tourist car parks and railway stations will be introduced after consultation.

Discover Our Land. This is the largest and a very far-reaching promotional campaign for Northumberland which is planned for launch next autumn. It will centre on **living, investment, working, and visiting** Northumberland, capturing all that is good in our county. If anyone has any interesting stories / tales that they would like to put forward, I am happy to pass them on.

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

Trees, TPOs and their Management – Parish Council / NCC Meeting 14th November 2018, Swarland Village Hall

Because of concerns raised following significant tree damage in recent storms, particularly within the protected tree belts in Swarland along both sides of The Avenue and the south side of Leamington Lane, the PC decided to convene a meeting for residents with NCC Tree Officer (North) Barry Wilson, Planning Technician Esther Ross, and arboricultural consultant Nigel Chopping who lives in the parish and is familiar with Swarland tree cover. All residents affected by the Woodland Order placed on the tree belts were leafleted and notices were also put on PC and public notice boards in Swarland and NotM. The specialists explained their roles and provided general information; the floor was then opened to questions.

The general feeling of the meeting seemed to be that the Woodland TPO applied to the tree belts causes confusion and uncertainty. Following consultation many years ago, this type of protection was a choice made by members of the community as a move away from TPOs on individual trees in the already protected tree belts in order to maintain the full woodland. The principle is that everything growing in such woodland, including self-seeded trees and shrubs, is protected. However, it is becoming irrelevant where the original understorey of shrubs and flora has already been cleared by residents and replaced by grass to create a garden with trees (though some residents do still maintain original woodland with its characteristic flora).

In addition, many residents feel that it challenges common sense, as it is a recipe for over-crowding, resulting in poor quality specimens. The perception is also that even brambles must be left to get on with it, though they choke other plants and inhibit good maintenance. People resent having to make (and pay for) a planning application to carry out routine management such as the removal of spindly saplings arising from readily-fertile plants such as holly, sycamore and birch.

Many householders also mistakenly believe that TPO'd trees cannot be touched at all, though the criteria for management work are clearly set out on many websites such as the Government's own - www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas.

Residents are also concerned about those sections of tree belt owned by an absentee landlord, which are clearly in need of management and therefore creating a risk to persons or property.

What is clear is that:

a) The protected tree belts on The Avenue and Leamington Lane (clearly shown in an artist's impression dated 1938 of the new settlement) have a long-established amenity value as do trees within a Conservation Area such as Newton on the Moor.

b) Felling or pruning of trees subject to the Woodland Cover or other TPOs cannot be done without submitting a planning application to NCC, supported by a report provided by a tree consultant or tree surgeon. A planning application currently costs £90 regardless of the amount of work applied for within it.

c) There is no easy answer to the question of what can and can't be done within a Woodland TPO area; each garden is different with its own issues, and needs to be assessed individually.

d) Within the Conservation Area of Newton on the Moor, wherever tree work is felt to be needed, a TREECA notification should be submitted to the local authority for assessment.

e) A 5-Day Notice is used for urgent work to dead or dangerous (but not dying) trees, where there is imminent danger to persons or property.

f) Removing dead wood from the crown of a protected tree does not require consent from NCC.

g) Householders are responsible for the management of all trees on their property, protected or not, and are liable for damage caused by them. An annual inspection by an independent arboricultural consultant or a tree surgeon is recommended. Some people feel a tree surgeon will 'find problems' to create work, but reputable practitioners are unlikely to do so.

h) Householders should also keep an eye on their own trees, looking out for obvious problems such as broken branches, splits in the bark or trunk, weeping patches and so on.

i) An approved application might include a condition requiring the re-planting of removed trees, though not if the remaining trees will benefit from additional space and light. Replanting must be done within a specified time, and ideally with the same or more appropriate species. [Native trees such as oak and beech host the greatest number of insect species, so to replace an oak with, for example, an infertile Japanese flowering cherry is not sound environmental practice.]

After discussion at the November PC meeting it was agreed that the PC will:

a) have further discussion with Barry Wilson about the most appropriate way to continue to protect the tree belts in Swarland while ensuring that householders are able to manage them effectively;

b) contact the absentee owner of sections of tree belt expressing our concern about their safety;

c) continue to provide information (normally via The Column) about good practice for tree owners.

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