

Seasonal greetings to all our readers and welcome to your latest issue of The Column and if you're new to the area, a special welcome to you. If you wish to put something into the next issue please supply it for inclusion in the **February issue by Thursday 23rd January**. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .

Swarland Village Action

Request to Forestry Commission for seating on Footpath 17

Some members of the parish have periodically made requests for some seating to be installed along the length of Footpath 17 (multiuser path). The FC has finally responded to say that it cannot give approval for any sort of seating to be provided on its land in Swarland. This is unfortunate as SVA was happy to arrange for seating to be made and installed but the FC was quite firm about the matter.

Swarland Village Hall

The Hall is run as a community facility (Reg. Charity No 1058471) and offers seating space for up to 120 people, with lighting and a modern sound system (plus hearing loop), kitchen and toilets. Its PPL/PRS Licence means hirers can legitimately use music at their events.

If you wish to book the Hall for group use or a private event please contact Bryan Stanley on maxitoby1@gmail.com.

If you want to help, the Hall Committee is looking for new blood to help manage SVH for the community. Please contact Bryan Stanley.

Current activities in the Hall include:

Archery Practice: indoor sessions **Mondays at 7pm**. The Club can supply all equipment. For more details contact **Steve** on **01670 787 883** or at **Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com** .

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 and a new beginners class on **Mondays 5.30 - 6.30pm**. Waiting lists for both classes – for details contact **Anne Raine** on **07934 425 844**.

Swarland Craft Group meets on Wednesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm. New members always welcome. For details ring **Barbara** on **01670 787 592** or **Joyce** on **01670 787 855**.

Swarland Carpet Bowls on Thursday evenings from 7pm. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, just come along. For more details, contact **Joan Nesbit** on **01670 783 140**.

Two New Activities in SVH: Coquet Concert Band practice sessions: Wednesday evenings till Easter. If interested contact **Derek Belshaw** on **01670 787 055** or at **derek_belshaw@hotmail.com**.

Dance practice sessions: Fridays at 7.15 - 9pm. If interested contact **Malcolm Follos** at **strictlystarters@btinternet.com** or **07768 596 380**.



Neighbourhood Watch Update October - November 2019

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

Again there is very little to report regarding any criminal activity in our area.

Between 09.00 and 12.15 hrs on **Sunday 24th November** a Brown's Agricultural, 10 tonne three-point linkage hydraulic log-splitter was stolen from Longframlington. It had a black and red coloured body. If you have any relevant information it is Incident No.41721119.

Outside our parish, there have been several incidents of poaching in Chathill and Netherwitton.

It might therefore be easy for residents to assume that Swarland and NotM are unlikely to be troubled by criminals. This I believe to be a very unwise approach to take. REMEMBER the saying "I thought it only happened to other people not to me". You cannot afford to be casual with your security.

Call 101 to report any suspicious activity or if you see a crime or wildlife crime taking place.

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, phone 101 ext 61353, e-mail alnwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk , or call in at the office in the Coquetdale Centre, Church 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 our parish on some Wednesdays. It stops in **Swarland opposite The Square from 10.00 - 11.00am** and **Newton on the Moor from 11.10 - 11.30am**. If you miss either of these it's also in **Guyzance from 11.40am – 12.00** and **Old Felton from 12.15 – 12.35pm**. Unfortunately due to staff shortages the service is currently normally available just once every 4 weeks. **The next dates are: 11th December, 8th January, 5th February and 4th March.** If you value this service "use it or lose it".

Recycling Corner

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

I now have a **set of car mats** which could possibly go with the dog guard I found a home for before they were listed in The Column in October. Free to good home. **Contact 07786 424406**.



Felton Film Society

The Film Club continues to be popular and we hope to attract families for our Christmas Film. Departing from the usual last Saturday of the month schedule this will be on **Saturday 14th December at 5pm**, early enough for the younger family members to enjoy. Entry will be **FREE!** However there will be a raffle. The single prize will be all the DVDs that we have shown so far: 'The Greatest Showman', 'Frozen' Singalong, 'The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society', 'Darkest Hour', 'Mama Mia! 1&2', 'A Star Is Born', 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'I, Daniel Blake', 'The Favourite', 'Fisherman's Friends', 'Stan & Ollie', 'Green Book' and 'Rocketman'. All the films we show are nominated by audience members. As usual, the bar will be open before the film and during the interval, when ices will also be available.

All are welcome to our screenings, just pay at the door. The terms of our licence to show films dictate that we cannot advertise the titles anywhere but at the Village Hall, so here are some clues.

Our Christmas film on **14th December** will be 'I_'s A W_____ I L____', a b&w family classic starring James Stewart. An angel called Clarence is sent to help George Bailey, a desperately frustrated businessman, by showing him what life would have been like if he had never existed.

On **25th January** we're back to the last Saturday of the month **but at 8pm for one month only** (doors open at 7:30). The movie is to be 'L____ M_____', based on the West-End smash hit musical from the classic novel by French writer, Victor Hugo. In the 19thC France Jean Valjean (Hugh Jackman) has been hunted for decades by the ruthless policeman Javert (Russell Crowe). After breaking parole he agrees to care for a factory worker's daughter, changing their lives forever.

29th February brings 'V_____ and A_____'. Queen Victoria strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young Indian clerk named Abdul Karim. Judi Dench stars as the Queen with Ali Fazal in the part of Abdul.

The film of the very popular TV series 'D_____ A_____' is pre-ordered and we hope that it will have been released in time for **28th March**. The continuing story of the Crawley family, wealthy owners of a large estate in the early 20th century, filmed at Highclere Castle: Lord and Lady Grantham entertain royalty.

Films usually start at 7.30pm. Pay at the door, doors open 7pm, **£3 for adults, £1 for under-16s.** Wine, beer, tea, coffee, soft drinks, ices available.

Sylvia Allan, Treasurer, Felton Village Hall

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.**

**Deadline for items for the February issue of
The Column: Thursday 23rd January 2020.**

NotM & Swarland Parish Council

Parish Councillors met on 27th November in Swarland Village Hall. The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 in the Jubilee Hall, NotM as there is no meeting in December. As usual, members of the public are encouraged to attend and ask questions. The Parish Council (PC) warmly welcomed Stuart Cutforth who was attending his first meeting since being appointed to the Council. Stuart lives in Swarland, and has recently retired after working in education at a senior level.

Highways Issues

Residents will have no doubt noticed that NCC has been carrying out speed monitoring in Swarland and NotM. The results will be considered in the new year to see if road calming measures are needed (Park Road, Swarland) or if additional measures are needed (Newton on the Moor). NCC recently put up horse awareness signs across the parish but these seem to be going missing or being damaged and NCC is to be asked to consider more robust signage to warn drivers of the likelihood of horses on our very narrow roads.

Parish Council Budget & Precept for 2020 / 21

Work has started on planning our budget for 2020-21 and, as in previous years, the PC would welcome ideas and proposals from local groups and residents for new projects and / or changed priorities. Amongst others, the Council will be looking to replenish the fund from which it supports improvement projects at the community buildings in the area. The PC's budget and precept will be decided at the meeting on the 22nd January 2020.

Superfast Broadband in Hazon

CLlr Liz Clark has been working hard with Hazon residents, and liaising with iNorthumberland, to ensure that Superfast Broadband is introduced to Hazon. It was announced at the PC meeting that a contract has been signed with AlnCom and hopefully some of the Hazon residents will have superfast broadband by Christmas.

Animal Shelters

The PC was delighted to see that Harrison Leisure has started works to restore the listed Animal Shelters on its Golf Courses. The project has been delayed because of the presence of bats and by bad weather but will hopefully be completed early in the New Year.

PC Clerk – Jan Anderson at janandersonpc@gmail.com or 01665 575 145.



**Deadline for items for the February issue of
The Column: Thursday 23rd January 2020.**

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

On Tuesday 8th October we welcomed back Michael Thomson to talk on "The Anglo-Saxon Palace of Gefrin at Yeavering". Michael always draws a good audience and members' feed-back was very positive - one said "Michael always whets the appetite".

On Tuesday 19th November we welcomed a new speaker, Jessica Turner to talk on "The Bamburgh Ossuary and Anglo-Saxon Remains". Everyone agreed that this was one of the most interesting talks the group has ever had. Jessica had such enthusiasm, depth of content and humour, and emphasized the richness of history within Northumberland and how this project has huge significance to St. Aidans Church. The bones of 110 remains unearthed from the sand dunes at Bamburgh have now been laid to rest in the Crypt of St. Aidans. The website for the project is now up and running and from Thursday 21st November the Crypt will be open to visitors.

Nile Park Commemorative Interpretation Board

On **Friday 22nd November** at 2.30pm the Board was finally unveiled. Vera Vaggs did the honours, cutting the ribbon and giving a short speech, mentioning that Nile Park is included on the North East War Memorial Project. Present were committee members, some Swarland residents and a number of invited guests. Dr. and Mrs Tony Barrow of the Collingwood Society, Harry Henderson from the Bailiffgate Museum, and Eleanor George from the Felton and District History Society. Martyn Downer was unable to attend, but requested if images of the unveiling could be sent to him, he would publish them in the 'Nelson Dispatch' for the Nelson Society. Thanks must go to Vera Vaggs, Caroline Thomas, Phil Eastlake and Bill Grisedale for the work and preparation that has gone into this project. Thanks also to Nelsons for providing refreshments after the event.

Christmas Lunch –Tuesday 10th December 12.30pm.

I look forward to seeing all those members who will attend the Christmas Lunch at Nelsons.

As November was our last talk for this year, we will be meeting again on **Tuesday 11th February 2020**. **Andrew Clark** will be our first speaker and will talk on "**Digging the Past, Part 11**".

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Concert Room of Swarland Village Club. If you enjoy History and Heritage topics and are new to the village, please come along and join us, either as a guest or becoming a member, you will very welcome. Membership in February for the remaining five talks will be £6.25 / person and from then will be pro rata. As a guest the cost will be £2.50 / person.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for 2020.

Any enquiries please contact 01670 787 654.

Lesley White



Events at Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

Our Christmas **Coffee Morning** will take place on **14th December**, with mulled wine, lovely cakes and a giant raffle. Stock up with goodies for Christmas and enjoy the good cheer!

Join us again on **11th January** to warm up and enjoy the **First Coffee Morning of 2020**.

Autumn Workshops

On **Monday 9th December**, Jen Brown of Floral Gift will hold two classes on **wreaths and other decorative arrangements**. Cost likely to be £35 to include refreshments and materials. Classes will be at 1.30 – 4.30 and 6 – 9pm. Class sizes 10 people – please phone Jen on 07704 288 254 or email her at workshops@floralgift.co.uk for a place. A donation will be made to the North Northumberland Hospice for every place booked.

Music On The Moor

We are delighted to welcome back the popular **Galliard Recorder Consort** with the Riff Raff Ukulele Band and guest singers on **Friday 7th December**. Light supper included; bar. Doors open 7.00.

Special Supper Evening

On **Saturday 1st February**, we shall be hosting a supper evening to hear about the development of cheese manufacture in Northumberland and to sample three selected local cheeses and the wine chosen to accompany them. There will be a light supper to go with the cheeses and wines, with coffee and a bar afterwards. Cost £22 per head. Please book in advance by email Alison.gallico@btinternet.com or phone 01665 581 173.

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

Our popular **Pilates Classes** take place on Thursday afternoons from 5.30 – 6.15. No previous Pilates experience is necessary. Mature beginners of both sexes are welcome. Details from Alixwestgarthtaylor@hotmail.com.

The Alnwick Fiddle club meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Alnwick Pipers Club takes place on Mondays; contact Susan Clarke on 01665 711 977. For the Alnwick Accordion Club contact Jimmy Little on 01665 576 681.

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. Our website is Newton-on-the-moor.btck.co.uk or you can email us on notmjubileehall@yahoo.com.

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 Cowen has set up a web-site for the Jubilee Hall which you can access at Newton-on-the-moor.btck.co.uk or you can email us on notmjubileehall@yahoo.com.

Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary.

Vyner Park News

Bonfire Night

The annual Parish bonfire was held at Vyner Park on Friday 1st November. Despite the rather misty weather around 200 people attended, raising just over £1,000 for Vyner Park funds. Hot-dogs and burgers were organised by Nelson's with all profits going towards Vyner Park funds. The cost of fireworks was helped by sponsorship by Harrisons Leisure, Blackshaw's Garage, Ivor Jones the Builder and Pete Blewitt. Raffle prizes were donated by a number of organisations including an Afternoon Tea for Two (at Nelson's), plus an excellent range of prizes given by the Committee. Lists of prizes including those unclaimed were on notice boards around the Parish. We hoped you enjoyed yourselves and look forward to seeing you next year.

Car park

During the last year or so we've received a number of complaints about parking on Old Park Road owing to the Park's car park being full. County Councillor Trevor Thorne has given us an NCC grant of £2,600 towards the cost of expanding the car park. In addition, we are also carrying out some improvements to the existing car park to bring the surface of the un-metalled area back in line with the tarmac area, which will be financed out of existing funds.

Improvements to Paths on the Park

A couple of the paths are showing some signs of deterioration or damage. Using existing funds we are expecting to have some remedial work carried out to the path on the far east side and the path which runs through the grassed area to the south.

Tree planting

Vyner Park has acquired a number of tree saplings to plant at the eastern end of the Park. We had hoped to plant them on Saturday 30th November, but this task has been deferred till the ground is much drier.

Outside Gym

In a previous issue it was mentioned that the Committee is interested in installing a small outdoor gym, near the existing play area. Thanks to the generosity of our County Councillor, Trevor Thorne, we now have the first £2,000 necessary to fund this project. We still have more money to raise, but this is a good start. If anyone would like to help with this project, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Sewage

During periods of heavy rain the foul waste manhole covers on the north side of the Park overflow, and contaminated water flows down the nearby paths and eventually ends up in the Mere Burn. Northumbrian Water (NW) is now carrying out monitoring / investigations on the sewage system in the Park. This problem is not just confined to the Park; if problems occur on your property or nearby, please report each of them to Northumbrian Water (0345 717 1100). The more people that complain the more likely it is that NW will take meaningful action to identify and solve the problem.

Steve Woolfrey on behalf of the VPC Management Team - 01670 787 883

Canine Connections- Barking Mad

Everyone hearing the phrase "man's best friend" will instantly think of a pet dog. But not everyone has the luxury of a canine companion, perhaps due to other commitments, extended travel plans or the cost of owning and caring for a dog. Yet many studies show that caring for a dog is beneficial to our health, wellbeing and improves the frequency of social interactions. With that in mind, a local dog sitting service thinks it has come up with the answer. Barking Mad, 'dog holiday experts', are offering their service to people across Northumberland who can host a pet dog on a temporary basis, whilst their owners are away on holiday or business.

Barbara Frater & Caroline Bradshaw of Barking Mad Northumberland say: "We have a family of wonderful hosts, from all walks of life, and we regularly meet up socially at organized events including coffee mornings, quiz nights and beach meets and we really take advantage of the many amazing sites and attractions of Northumberland".

Many of the host families who volunteer to look after a dog are active retired people and those who either work from home or have extended periods away from work. Hosts experience all the benefits of dog companionship without any of the emotional or financial responsibilities of full-time pet ownership. Retired professionals, Joyce and Conrad have been hosting for Barking Mad for over two years. The primary reason they got involved was that as dog lovers themselves and with family living on the other side of the world, they can have long periods away yet still enjoy all the great things about having a dog, and with none of the worries as Barking Mad support is always available. "We lead quite an active life", says Conrad, "and our guests fit in well, dogs who love the outdoors, walking in fields, woods and on the beach, mooching around the garden and in the evening are happy to curl up with us watching the TV or reading a book".

For those who work from home or are retired, and maybe spend large chunks of time alone, this could really help them to overcome any feelings of isolation. Sarah, an artist who works from home and hosts for Barking Mad, said: "I've enjoyed the companionship, exercise and everything else that comes with dog sitting. Caring for a friendly dog not only provides canine cuddles but also the motivation to step away from your emails and go and take a walk at lunchtime. It's brought bundles of furry joy into my home, and I always want to give them the best holiday full of walks and playtime".

To find out more about becoming a Barking Mad host, you can call Barbara or Caroline on 01665 575981 or visit barkingmad.uk.com.

**Deadline for items for the February issue of
The Column: Thursday 23rd January 2020.**



Winefest 2019

The 22nd Winefest in Swarland Village Hall proved extremely popular this year, attracting around 90 people– it was a sell-out! It was nice to see many 'regulars' back, but the event also attracted a good number who were relatively new to the village. People were not only from the Parish, but also Alnwick, Felton, Longframlington, Morpeth and Shilbottle. One couple was even from Australia – it's good they were able to get a flight in time!

This year there were 4 groups tasting red wines and 2 groups tasting white. All got to sample 15 different wines and everyone had a good time. All winners were presented with a Certificate, and the owner of the wine with the highest score overall was named Top Wino.

As is the tradition, Len Coates provided Dingbats around the Hall. These gave entertainment and fun, taxed folk's brains and brought out a competitive streak in a number of people! The evening was rounded off with a pooled supper. Everyone must have been very hungry as all the food went. The raffle prizes were kindly donated by all the User Groups of the Hall and a couple of generous individuals.

The event raised over £550 for Village Hall funds, which will help with the next project, replacing the stage. Hopefully by next year the Hall will have a new flexible stage system.

The Winefest has been now running for nearly 25 years. It is organised each year by a small dedicated group of volunteers, most of whom have been involved since the start. The time has come when some of the organising committee wish to retire. **We are therefore looking for 4 – 6 new individuals to help with next year's event.** There is not a lot of work involved but we do need help: setting up the Hall (2hrs), clearing up the morning after (1hr), taking empty bottles to a recycling point, assisting in preparing the posters and certificates. Please do not assume some else will do it, as they probably won't. **If you can help please email me at the address below and we will be in touch nearer the time.**

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. Finally, thanks to all who came, enjoyed themselves and made the event the success it was!

Looking forward to seeing you all at Winefest 2020!

Steve Woolfrey, Chairman SVH Charity (stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com)

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

The Great North Run 2019

Postie Pete would like to say a big thank you to all his friends in Swarland who so generously sponsored him this year.

He was able to raise in excess of £1000 for the **Coeliac Society** who he knows will use it well in aiding those who have this disease.

Concert – 19th Feb 2020 Swarland Village Hall 7:30

The Coquet Concert Band and The Bridge Singers are pleased to be performing their first joint concert on Wed 19th February in Swarland Village Hall.

There will be a varied programme of concert band and choir favourites including Skyfall,

Hymn to the Fallen (from Saving Private Ryan) and Felton Lonnen.

We hope you can join us for what will be the CCB's first public performance.

Tickets £4 (details on Coquet Concert Band's Facebook page or email coquetconcertband@gmail.com).

Advert



Home Farm Hounds

Debbie @ Home Farm Hounds

0788 422 6215

Email: enquiries@homefarmhounds.co.uk

More information available at: www.homefarmhounds.co.uk

Dog Walking Adventure Days Animal Visits

