

**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 April issue by  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

**Newton on the Moor  
& Swarland Parish Council  
and  
Swarland Club**

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All **daily newspapers** are catered for along with the sale of  
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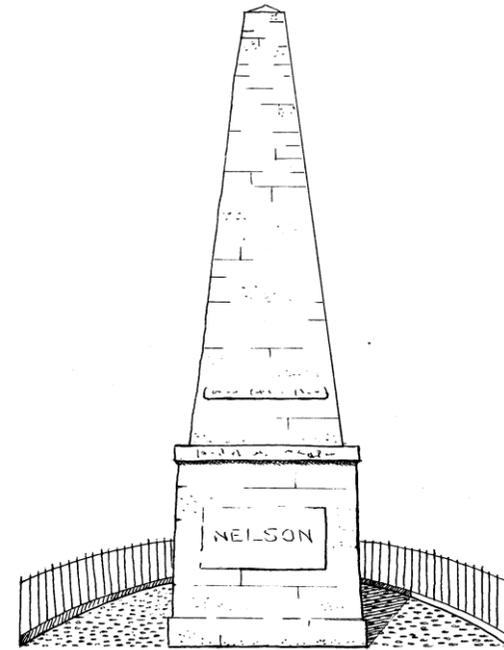
**SWARLAND VILLAGE  
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Available for private parties by arrangement.

Tel. 01670 787 825

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

# The Column



**February 2020**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 105**

**Pilates Classes are back in Swarland  
Village Hall - see inside for details.**

Welcome to your latest issue of The Column and if you're new to the area, welcome to you too. We hope you all had a good Christmas and we wish you all the best for 2020. To include something, however small, in the April issue, please supply it for inclusion by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .

### **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 (see details elsewhere).

#### **Current activities in the Hall include:**

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

**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, till the end of March, restarting in August. 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**.

**NEW - Pilates Classes** on Thursdays 9.30-10.30am. To join in contact **sandyturnbull6@gmail.com** .

### **Swarland Village Action**

Swarland village Christmas tree was supplied by the PC from Scott Clarehugh of Flying Oaks at Bockenfield. It is now a tradition for Chester Bears to come to complete the tree decorations for us and sing a little song, which they duly did although it was very cold the day they came. So a huge thank you must go to them, I'm sure you will agree. Thanks must go to other helpers who erected, partly decorated and took down the tree afterwards: Scott Clarehugh, Andrew and Lyn Hastie, Greg Anderson, Mike and Anna Sargent and John and Sue Richardson. We hope you thought it brought some festive cheer.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Update December - January 2020**

#### **Swarland / Newton on the Moor:**

Once again I have had no report of criminal activity in our area. This is good news in itself, but in order to maintain this situation we must not become complacent with our security measures. Elsewhere there have been reports of poaching and the theft of vehicles, especially quad bikes.

The police have once again reiterated their warning about door-to-door salesmen. These individuals often claim to be on a scheme sponsored by an official body. There is no such body. BE WARNED.

Call 101 to report any suspicious activity or if you see a crime or wildlife crime taking place. The advice is to always dial 999.

**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](mailto: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*

#### **Pilates is starting again in Swarland Village Hall**

Thursday mornings from 9.30 till 10.30 am.

Great for strengthening your core, creating better joint mobility, longer leaner muscles and improved posture. Get strong from the inside out.

Contact [sandyturnbull6@gmail.com](mailto:sandyturnbull6@gmail.com)  
for more information and to book your space.

### **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 a month.

**The next dates are: 5<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April.** If you value this service "use it or lose it".

## Felton Film Society

Please note the following for your diaries;

**29<sup>th</sup> 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 **28<sup>th</sup> March**. The continuing story of the Crawley family, wealthy owners of a large estate in the early 20<sup>th</sup> 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*

## Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December we ended the year with Christmas Lunch at Nelsons. This year 32 members attended as opposed to 20 in 2018. It was a very encouraging sign that membership numbers had increased. Thank you and welcome to our new members.

Lynn, Kelly and their staff had once again pulled out all the stops, preparing and serving a wonderful festive lunch. Many, many thanks from everyone, much appreciated for making the afternoon so enjoyable.

On **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** we will be welcoming back our first speaker, Andrew Clark with his follow-up talk "Digging the Past Part II". This should be an interesting follow up to his first talk on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

On **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**, we welcome Dr. Paul Morrison, who will give a talk entitled "Secrets of Coquet Island". I wonder what these can be?!

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 be very welcome.

Membership from February for the remaining five talks will be £6.25 per person and from then on pro rata.

Look forward to seeing you all on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Any enquiries please contact 01670 787 654.

*Lesley White*

**Deadline for items for the April issue of The Column: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**



## NotM & Swarland Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) met on 22<sup>nd</sup> January in the Jubilee Hall, NotM. The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February in Swarland Village Hall and, as usual, members of the public are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

### **Parish Council Budget & Precept for 2020 / 21**

In the last two editions of The Column in 2019, we reported on, and sounded-out, opinions about our draft budget for next year (2020 / 21). We have now finalised our precept (amount required from local Council Tax payers), which will remain at £22,700; the same as for the current year. Even with this 'freeze', we are still able to increase our support to both Village Halls and to Vyner Park, as well as topping-up our Community Assets grants fund.

### **Broadband in Hazon**

We were pleased to hear that 50% of the properties in Hazon now have very fast broadband via a 'fixed wireless scheme', which has been provided by local firm Aln Com, with the remainder of properties expecting to be connected in the next two or three weeks. This technology is a very satisfactory alternative, where it is just not feasible or affordable to supply Broadband along standard telephone wires.

### **Defibrillators**

The PC has recently taken over the management of the defibrillator in Vyner Park from the Stephen Carey Fund, and has contributed £400 each for the purchase of defibrillators for Hazon and NotM. Training is currently being arranged for 'guardians' for the new defibrillators – volunteers who are responsible for regularly checking the equipment is fit for purpose. A suitable site is being sought for the NotM equipment: either on Jubilee Hall (which would require Listed Building Consent), or in the old red telephone box opposite (which would need the electricity supply to be reconnected).

### **Vacancy**

Sadly, Andy Ferguson has resigned as a Parish Council member, although we are relieved that he will continue to be an active member of the Vyner Park Charity Management Committee, Swarland Show, and the annual Firework event. The PC gave a vote of thanks to Andy for his work with the Council, and his input will be really missed. The process of filling the vacancy must begin by gauging if there is demand for a by-election and, if not, the vacancy can be filled by the PC making a co-option.

### **Dog Fouling in Newton on the Moor**

A complaint has been received about high levels of fouling in NotM, which was said to be 'literally everywhere'. Parish Councillors and some local residents have since found a few areas of concern, such as opposite the Cook and Barker pub. New anti-dog fouling signs will be sought from NCC. Dog-walkers are encouraged as always to clear up after their pets, and to consider signing up to the NCC Green Dog Walkers scheme. More information from: [www.northumberland.gov.uk/Protection/Animals.aspx](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Protection/Animals.aspx) .

PC Clerk – Jan Anderson at [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) or 01665 575145.

## Fresh Fish and Seafood

Some of the villagers may know, some may not, but a lovely employee of D. R. Collins fish Merchants Eyemouth by the name of Tommy, over the past two or three years parked up his van in Swarland on a Friday for a half hour and supplied the opportunity to buy some first class fresh fish and seafood.

Unfortunately, Tommy needed to retire and the village has lost this facility. Regular customers, organised by Sue Richardson gave Tommy a good send off with a signed card and a little present. However, all is not lost as Tommy advised his regular customers that one of his colleagues offered a similar service to himself in Felton on a Wednesday. This lady by the name of Elane has been so overwhelmed by Swarland residents supporting her in Felton that she has offered to call in to the village on a **Wednesday at 4.00 pm, starting on 29th January**. She will give this a try for a month or so to see how it goes and she will park up in Tommy's usual spot at the bus shelter by the Village Square. Please try and support her.

*Malcolm Nesbit*

Alnwick District Choral Society

### **Puccini: Messa di Gloria & Vivaldi: Gloria**

Conductor Peter Brown / Organ Alan Gidney /  
Harpsichord Margaret Watchorn.

**SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2020 AT 7.30pm**

St Paul's Church, Alnwick.

Admission £12 at the door. Students FREE.

## Vyner Park News

**Maintenance activities:** Not much has happened in the Park recently apart from the re-surfacing work and the car park extension. The extension was funded by a grant from NCC (thanks to Cllr Trevor Thorne). Special thanks to PJR Blewitt Ltd who carried out the extension work and resurfaced the rest of the car park at a considerable discount.

Once the drier weather is with us, the surroundings will be repaired with new topsoil and then seeded. We have also resurfaced around 250m of the park pathways – including the very stony section on the east side of the Park. Work has started on cleaning the moss from the tennis courts – we hope to have this finished by the end of February.

**Tree planting:** See Suzanne's piece on tree-planting elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, our thanks go to Elliot Smith for all his work for the team; he is leaving the parish and has resigned from the VPC Management Team.

*VPC Management Team*

## 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.

**1 x Canon Pixima 540** black printer ink cartridge, unopened, **3 x Epson T0501** black printer ink cartridges, unopened, **1 x Epson T0804** yellow printer ink cartridges, unopened, **1 x Epson T0805** light Cyan printer ink cartridges, unopened. Free for a donation to either the Column or SVA. Contact: 01670 787 755

**For Sale. 4 x 235.65R17 Winter Tyres** on 8 x 17.5 / 114.3 ET 40 Wolfrace Padua Shadow Chrome 70.1 rims, will fit different makes of 4 x 4. £150.00. Phone 01670 787 705.

## Acklington Women's Institute



Could you be interested in joining the WI, it's got lots to offer you.

Acklington WI meets every second Tuesday at 7.15pm in Acklington Village Hall.

Just come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, or give Jan Anderson a call or email on 01665 575 145 or [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com).

*Anne Raine*

## Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group

Many thanks to all of those who have taken the trouble to go onto our website and record sightings of Grey and Red Squirrels. Quite a few people have now seen Red Squirrels locally, but the Greys are still about too! We still feel that we are seeing more Red Squirrels now than in the last couple of years. So please keep your recording coming – it is all very valuable – both Greys and Reds. If we do receive reports of Grey squirrels regularly at a specific location within our area, it may be that we can arrange to take some action.

If you are willing to help our group, then that would be great! Volunteers can take part in a variety of tasks, putting up posters, writing articles, monitoring feeders and topping up, checking collecting boxes and dispensers for our lovely squirrel cards. If you know of anywhere where we could display our collecting boxes, we would love to hear from you.

And – thanks again!

[www.lcreds.org.uk](http://www.lcreds.org.uk)

## More About Trees

Swarland having been known for its tree cover, it's sad to see so many trees being removed. Sometimes it's necessary because they're damaged, diseased or dead, but sometimes it's developers quite unnecessarily clearing a site of trees and hedges just to make life easier, or residents taking them down because they see them as a risk. However, it must be clear to us all by now that they have a massive positive environmental role to play, as do hedges. They too capture rainwater and pollutants, reduce noise and provide shelter and corridors for a wide range of wildlife. A recent study by RHS scientists and others shows that of 44 popular hedge plants analysed, hawthorn, cotoneaster and yew were particularly good at pollutant capture. As true native plants, hawthorn and yew are also particularly wildlife friendly, the hawthorn supporting 300 species of insects, and providing food, shelter and nesting habitat for birds. So it's worth thinking about maintaining your hedges (rather than replacing them with walls or fences) and planting a tree whenever you can.

The planting at Vyner Park had to be postponed yet again when it was found that the trial holes we dug filled instantly with water. Weather permitting, we're determined to get them in during late February / early March. If you'd like to help, contact me on 07484 347 181 or smstanley@pc@gmail.com, and I'll let you know when we've fixed a date.

*Suzanne Stanley*

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

## NotM Defibrillator

A huge "thank you" to the Parish Council and to residents who made donations towards a defibrillator for the village. We have bought the equipment, and are currently awaiting the necessary Listed Building consents to allow its installation outside the Hall. The volunteers who will operate it are to be trained early in February and this life-saving service will be operational as soon as possible in the Spring.

*Jubilee Hall Committee*

**Deadline for items for the April issue of  
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## Events at Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

Our next **Coffee Morning** will take place on **8<sup>th</sup> February** with Jen's wonderful hot bacon and sausage rolls, plus vegetarian options and our usual selection of cakes. Eat in or stock up with scones and other goodies to take home with you. Doors open **10.00 am**.

Join us again on **14<sup>th</sup> March** our next coffee morning.

**Bordeaux Wines – 'Left or Right Bank; an exploration'** Is the title of Suzanne Lock's next wine evening. This will be on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30. Suzanne will explore the differences between the two shores of the Gironde estuary and we shall have an opportunity to compare and contrast the Cabernet Sauvignon wines of the left bank with the Merlot based wines of the right bank. Suzanne, from Advintage Wines, has visited us several times and her talks are always full of interest. Entry £15 at the door, to include bread and cheese. Spend Leap Year Evening enjoying good wines - bring your friends and neighbours for a cheerful evening out.

We have cancelled the cheese and wine supper previously advertised for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March owing to a clash of dates.

**Carpet Bowls** continue on **Tuesday evenings** from 7.00pm, 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](mailto:Alixwestgarthtaylor@hotmail.com).

The **Alnwick Fiddle Club** meets on the first Wednesday of the month starting on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 7-9pm. **Alnwick Pipers Club** takes place every first **Sunday starting 2<sup>nd</sup> February**, 2-3.30pm; contact Susan Clarke on 01665 711 977. Fiddlers and pipers available for hire.

**Alnwick Accordion Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month starting **12<sup>th</sup> February**, from 7.00pm. All welcome; £5 members, £6 non-members. Contact Jimmy Little on 01665 576 681.

**Church Services** are held on the third **Sunday** of each month at **12 noon**. Next service **16<sup>th</sup> February**.

**To book the Hall** please phone Liz on 01665 575 680. Our website is [Newton-on-the-moor.btck.co.uk](http://Newton-on-the-moor.btck.co.uk) or you can email us on [notmjubileehall@yahoo.com](mailto:notmjubileehall@yahoo.com).

*Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary.*

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