

Swarland Village Action Group Committee:

Chairman: Neil Mansfield, Secretary / Editor: Bryan Stanley.

Treasurer: Susan Richardson.

Committee Members: Robert & Sue Brotherton, John Richardson, Suzanne Stanley, Caroline Thomas.

Write it Down Now !!!

Please supply information to the Editor for inclusion in the August issue by **Thursday 22nd July 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**

The Club is currently still providing its newspaper service for our area. All daily newspapers are catered for along with the sale of bread, eggs and milk..

**This service is currently open
from 7.30 to 10am every day**

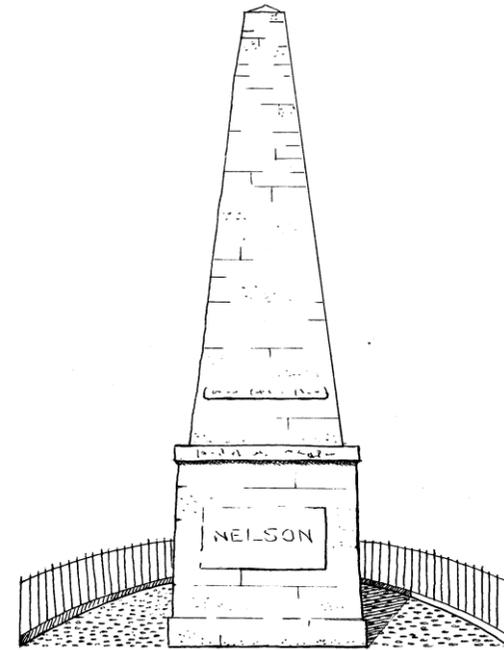
Newspapers and magazines may be ordered and reserved. However, the Post Office is not able to provide its Monday and Thursday service at present.

**SWARLAND VILLAGE
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



June 2020

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 107

Changes to Swarland Working Men's Club 'Shop' - see inside for details.

Welcome to your latest issue of The Column and if you're new to the area, welcome to you too. To include something, however small, in the August issue, please supply it for inclusion by Thursday 22nd July. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com.

Because of the Covid-19 situation, we are still unable to use our usual printer Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd (NCE Ltd) at Stobhill. Once more, rather than just issuing The Column on-line, the NCC Communities Together Scheme is printing it for us; for which many thanks to Ruth Armstrong.

On behalf of residents, SVA offers best wishes to the Richardson family. We all hope that John continues to make a good recovery and soon returns home. In his absence, his daughter Louise, and Clare from PWCR are ensuring that the shop in The Club is there for us all. Get better soon, John.

Support for Newton on the Moor and Swarland Residents

Over 45 people have now volunteered to help fellow residents within our parish during the Coronavirus Emergency. I have had several emails and phone calls telling me how reassuring it is just knowing this service exists.

In our Parish, we have a population of about 905 in around 410 houses, and many are elderly and / or living alone. Many more are shielding or self-isolating, and therefore need this service. Since lockdown started we have had 24 requests for help, and have set up regular shopping collections or regular telephone calls. The main reason for calls is for prescription collection and 11 collections have been made. The volunteers have also helped with donations for the Alnwick food bank, collecting food from individuals or from the Swarland Club, **but currently no further food bank donations are needed, thank you.**

Volunteers are there to help you if you are vulnerable through ill health or age, and don't have anyone else to help you. The sort of support we can provide at the moment is as follows:

- Daily phone calls to check that you are well and not needing help.
- Phone calls for a chat.
- Collection of prescriptions on Tuesdays and / or Thursdays.
- Collection / delivery of food.

If you need help, email (if possible) janandersonpc@gmail.com or telephone 07775 060 430, preferably during office hours. However, with the NCC scheme and NHS schemes coming on-line, this may change.

The Parish Council website is being revised and added to nearly every day with information relating to services available in our Parish: <http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/>.

Best wishes, **Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)**

Neighbourhood Watch Update - May 2020

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

Once again I am pleased to say that our area is a relatively safe place to live. Here are a few items of 'local' police news:-

Worth knowing: - At 23.50hrs on Tuesday 31st March, police officers observed a vehicle parked up and insecure near to a construction site north of Alnwick. The vehicle had several fuel containers in the rear. Four males were arrested for theft and enquiries are ongoing.

Fraud advice: - Beware of people offering or selling virus testing kits. These are only available via the NHS. Also being sold are vaccines or miracle cures. These do not exist at the moment. **Scammers** are also offering to do shopping and to collect medicine.

Please do not leave valuables in parked vehicles or insecure homes or garages. It has been reported that thieves are targeting such items. Advice from the police is not to leave car keys in porches or near to a door.

Vehicles identified below are potentially linked to rural crime. If occupants are seen acting suspiciously, call 101, or if you think that they are involved in a crime call 999.

DP65 XZW White panel van Vauxhall Vivaro.

SK13 AXO White panel van Ford Transit.

Recent update: - Reports of a suspect vehicle entering farms and free tarmac being offered. Vehicle is a black Landrover Freelander (59 plate). If you see this or anyone acting suspiciously, call 101 reference 288 200520.

Recently there have been reports of illegal metal detecting on local Heritage Sites. Can you please be vigilant for any suspicious behaviour around these sites, and report appropriately if you suspect such activity.

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

Like all other NCC Library services, the NCC mobile library has been withdrawn until further notice. Let's hope that eventually we will get it back and that we don't lose it permanently.

**Deadline for items for the August issue of
The Column: Thursday 22nd July 2020.**

Swarland Village Hall

The Hall which is run as a community facility (Reg. Charity No 1058471) is at present not able to offer its usual range of facilities and activities, but let's hope the level of the lockdown continues to be reduced and that things will soon be able to start up again. If you wish to check on whether you can book the Hall for a future event please contact Bryan Stanley (see above) or Steve Woolfrey (stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com or 01670 787 663).

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

Regrettably due to the ongoing situation with Covid 19, the Committee has taken the decision to cancel the talk on Tuesday 9th June 2020. We were to have welcomed our "Mystery Guest" speaker.

As the programme for this year is complete, hopefully we can re-schedule this talk in 2021.

Annual Trip: - Wednesday 1st July 2020. The trip to Ripon Cathedral and Markenfield Hall is also cancelled.

Our Treasurer Phil Eastlake will be contacting everyone regarding refund of deposits for the proposed trip.

The Committee is still busy with the development of two projects.

1. Village Oral History Project.
2. Erecting a War Memorial in the Village Square.

Vacancy for Chairperson

The above position is still vacant and the Committee would welcome any member interested in taking on the role of Chair. Please contact 01670 787 654 and I will pass your details onto the Committee.

Although we are still in lock-down, we are always looking to welcome new members to the group. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Concert Room of Swarland Village Club. If you are interested in History or Heritage topics, we always have a varied range of speakers and subjects to interest everyone. Please come along and join us either as a guest or becoming a member. Membership at present is £10 or £2.50 as a guest.

Further updates will be included in the August issue of the Column.

If you have any queries please contact me on 01670 787 654

Lesley White

Recycling, etc 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.

Wanted - Grazing Paddock for small 12.2 hand 20 year-old Welsh pony with gentle nature. Must be near to Swarland. Preferably also with access to water available. We live in Victory Drive, Swarland. Please contact: Richard Pattinson on 01670 787 338 / 07766 546 902.

NotM & Swarland Parish Council

Maintaining Business-as-Usual

One of the minor casualties of the Covid 19 emergency is that the Parish Council (PC) is not able to hold traditional meetings. However, we have continued to keep the show on the road, by holding meetings using Zoom software, and by transacting business between meetings using email. Minutes of our meetings are still being produced, and these can be found on our website. Rather than holding a 'public questions' session before the start of each meeting, local residents are invited to send in their queries and comments by email, for our consideration and action.

The Annual Meeting of the PC took place on 27th May, using Zoom, and was the second to be held on-line. David Francis was re-elected as PC Chairman for 2020 – 21, and Liz Clark was elected as Vice Chairman (taking over from Steve Woolfrey). We discussed highways issues, planning matters, Vyner Park, various complaints about local issues, the completion of our end-of-year accounts, and the organization of our website, amongst other matters. We have recently reviewed our insurance cover, and taken steps to ensure that our wider array of volunteers, including those involved with occasional events such as the litter-pick and the Show, are covered.

The next PC meeting will be at 7pm on 24th June, either by Zoom, or in Swarland Village Hall if permissible.

Planning Consultations

The Covid 19 situation has not curtailed the flow of planning matters in our parish and we have made our responses on planning consultations and to the County Council's planning enforcement work. Local residents who wish to view planning applications, whether still pending or decided-upon, can access the full details on NCC's Planning Portal, which contains records dating back to the 1980s. Our own PC meetings' agendas also include a pretty comprehensive list of applications within our parish that were current at the time that each agenda was compiled.

Even though most of NCC's staff are working at home, the planning service is continuing to process and determine applications, and to undertake monitoring and enforcement where necessary.

Coronavirus Emergency Related Issues

An increase in fly tipping was noticed in the Parish after the start of the Emergency, which was thought to have been largely due to temporary closure of NCC Civic Amenity sites. Tipped material was rapidly removed by NCC, and now the recycling sites have re-opened there have been no further problems.

Some residents living near public footpaths appear to be trying to dissuade the public from using the paths either by displaying notices, or by obstructing the paths. The PC has decided not to pursue this formally with NCC but will monitor the situation to check it doesn't continue longer than is reasonable.

The PC's Volunteer Group is still operating within the parish. If any residents need help or support in the form of shopping or prescription collection etc, please contact the PC Clerk.

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Possibly due to the reduced numbers of vehicles on the road, it has been noticed that the local deer population is much more in evidence. This has been particularly noticed on Leamington Lane which runs beside woodland. Most of the road has a 60mph limit (except the bits near the School) so it's particularly dangerous if deer stray onto the roads. The PC has now contacted NCC to request signs warning motorists of the possibility of deer to try to help prevent accidents.

PC Website: newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/

PC Contact: PC Clerk, Jan Anderson at janandersonpc@gmail.com or on **07775 060 430**.

Vyner Park News

I am sure everyone is aware that Coronavirus is still affecting the availability of facilities on Vyner Park. The play park, all-weather area and Nelson's remain closed for the foreseeable future. The Park itself, however, is open and you can now use the tennis courts subject to observing Government guidelines on their use. It is a pleasant local area to enjoy the good weather, but please conform to the Government's guidelines on 'social distancing'.

The Management Committee is still dealing with all safety and immediate maintenance issues, and continuing to cut the grass, but more general maintenance activities are on hold. Once the lockdown measures ease, we will start repairing the gates that were damaged last winter, and working on numerous other tasks, including finishing the carpark and tree planting. If you would like to help with anything when things improve, please let me know.

Thank You to Izzy and Megan Chopping for making Thank You NHS bunting to complement our NHS banner on the Vyner Park fence.

On a more positive note, Nelson's is taking advantage of the lockdown to carry out improvements to the kitchen and dining area. Hopefully, it will be allowed to open in the next few months.

Please note that the Swarland & Newton on the Moor Show Committee has been forced to cancel this year's event because of Coronavirus and the uncertainty as to when such events can safely take place.

It hasn't happened recently, but during every period of heavy rain, the foul waste manhole covers on the north side of the Park overflow with contaminated water flowing down the nearby paths and presumably eventually ending up in the Mere Burn. Sewage overflows and smells are a problem not just confined to the Park. Please note that if a similar problem occurs on, or near, your property, it is important that you report it to Northumbrian Water (0345 717 1100). No report means no action by Northumbrian Water.

*Steve Woolfrey on behalf of the VPC Management Team -
stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com*

**Deadline for items for the August issue
of The Column: Thursday 22nd July 2020.**

NotM Defibrillator - some "thank yous"

The Defibrillator purchased for Newton on the Moor is now in place on the wall of the Jubilee Hall and ready for use.

So, "thank you" to lots of people. Firstly, to those residents of the village and the surrounding area who contributed to the purchase of the equipment. The Jubilee Hall committee's appeal was met quickly and generously.

A special thank you to Jan and Greg Anderson, who persisted in their efforts to get Listed Building Consent to install the defibrillator on the Hall, where it can be seen and accessed by everyone in the village. The successful siting of the equipment is entirely due to their hard work, including Greg's ingenious mocking up with a collection of boxes!

Thank you to NotM and Swarland Parish Council, who made a generous donation and are taking over the maintenance of the pads and batteries of the defibrillator now that it is installed.

We are grateful to the Stephen Carey Foundation which provided advice on the supply of the equipment, and on installation and training. Thanks also go to the local Lions Club which made a generous donation to help us to go ahead with the purchase of the equipment.

Thank you to committee members Dudley Williams who pursued sources of funding and to Alison Cowen who put out our appeal.

Finally, on-going thanks to John & Alison Cowen and Greg Anderson who have been trained and will be our guardians to monitor the machine on a regular basis. This was a really successful team effort on behalf of all residents of the village.

Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary

Fresh Fish and Seafood

D R Collin's excellent fresh fish deliveries are still being made to Swarland each week on Wednesdays. **Please note that the time has changed to 3.30pm** (not 4.00pm). Unfortunately the fishmonger covering Felton and Swarland does not go to Newton on the Moor as well, so NotM residents will also need to come to Swarland between 3.30 and 4pm. Please try and support her.

Swarland & NotM Show 2020

It is with a heavy heart that the Swarland and Newton on the Moor Show Committee has made the decision not to go ahead with this year's show, because of uncertainties arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

*However we will be back next year on **Saturday 4th September 2021**.*

Alison Cowan, for S & NotM Show team

Kate Ferguson

As many of you are aware, the Chairman of the Jubilee Hall Committee, Kate Ferguson, died on the 3rd March. She had been diagnosed with an untreatable brain tumour four months earlier, and died at home with her family at her bedside.

Kate and her husband Derek moved to Newton on the Moor eight years ago, and Kate soon became involved in the community – joining the Village Hall committee, taking an active part in our coffee mornings, and readily volunteering whenever there was a need: Bonfire Night at Swarland, as Treasurer of the Show Committee, and as a participant too! She was also a popular volunteer at Cragside for the National Trust.

Music was a very important part of her life, and she loved singing. She was Treasurer of the Bailiffgate Singers, and also joined the Bridge Singers at Felton at their very beginning.

She was a great asset to the community and will be sadly missed by all who knew her, not least her family: their three daughters – Claire, Vicky and Caroline, and their adorable grandchildren. We send them all our kindest thoughts at this difficult time.

The Jubilee Hall Committee

VE Day at Newton on the Moor

Many people in the village turned out to observe the two minutes' silence as Dudley rang the Jubilee Hall bell. Philip Boulton sounded an original air-raid siren to end the silence.



There was a party atmosphere and Vivien Boulton donned her father's officer's cap from the days when he was CO of the Royal Artillery battery at Longframlington. The celebrations were assisted by Liz Rixon in her 1945 costume and coiffure. In the manner of the times, she had used gravy browning in place of nylon stockings with the customary line drawn down the back to represent a seam.

A big Thank You to Izzy and Megan Chopping who made and strung up yards of VE Day flags and patriotic paper chains for VE Day and to the Cowens for decorating the Hall.

Not quite the VE Day coffee morning special that we had planned, but very much getting there . . .

Jubilee Hall Committee

A Cautionary Note

I wish to remind dog owners that they are required to keep their dogs on leads when in all public places. There are a few dog owners around the parish who are not complying with the notices around the village requesting that owners keep their dog on a lead. Their dog runs ahead and the owners have to come far too close to retrieve it or even drag it away by the collar. There is still some uncertainty about pets, including dogs, being able to carry COVID-19 and until proven otherwise they should be kept at a safe social distance. Stay safe

A Swarland resident

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group

Reds are still being spotted close to Swarland and that's generated a bit more incentive for all of us. [Anna Sargent sent a recent photo of a Red squirrel, but sadly it didn't show as a b/w image so I've left it out. Ed.].

I started trapping in Swarland Woods in February and caught 11 before lockdown. Recently, since I restarted, I've caught 13 Greys.

Percy Wood Country Park is supportive but we could do with a few more contacts / helpers there as currently we have no volunteers in the Park, so new blood would be really helpful. We've had a few more sightings since lockdown, all very useful for when siting traps, and some Swarland residents are trapping in their gardens. We've recently gained some more supporters in Swarland who are very keen.

In Felton, members have been working really hard this spring and have caught about 50 Greys altogether and a Red has been sighting there.

We continue to produce a newsletter from time to time, and we are encouraging people to complete a membership form, (on the website), as this is free. This allows us to send newsletters round and keep residents updated. There is also a Facebook site "Squirrels in Coquetdale". Lots of information and some pictures of our local Reds can be found on there. I've recently run a caption competition too.

We'd like more help and especially more reports of sightings to www.lcreds.org.uk. For more information on the group go to the website or contact me on 07436 893 947.

Rosie Mould for Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels

Advert

Pest Management Services

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Moles, Rodents, Rabbits,
Wasps and other insects.

Contact Rory Brotherton
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666

SWARLAND WORKING MENS CLUB - PAPER SHOP

WE ARE STILL OPEN - 7:30 to 10am, 7 days a week.

**GREENWELL BAKERY OF ROTHBURY delivers
Fresh Bread, Pies & Sweet Treats on
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY.**

Please order by 12-noon the day before!

**DAVIDSONS DAIRY provides us with
Milk, Eggs, Yogurts, Cream & Butter.**

Delivery available within Swarland, Newton on the Moor,
Hampeth & Shilbottle.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES can be ordered
& reserved in advance.

Call, Text or WhatsApp **Louise on 07502 477 734,**
Find us on Facebook (Swarland WMC Paper Shop),
or phone SWM Club on 01670 787 825.

**Unfortunately the POST OFFICE service is not currently available
on Monday & Thursday mornings.**

Help to Support our NHS

As part of Girlguiding Morpeth Division I have decided to help give something back to our NHS. A way to do this is to donate hand creams to the staff. Their hands are so sore and they are in need of some hand cream. Each hand cream costs £4.50 so I am raising money to purchase as many as possible so they can be donated.

If anyone has a spare £4.50 to sponsor a hand cream or any amount for our NHS heroes, I would gratefully appreciate it.

The NHS gives us so much, wouldn't it be nice to give the frontline workers something back.

Donations will be sent to local hospitals where we have guiders and parents of girls working.

All commission is being used to purchase even more hand cream for our NHS heroes. So for every 4 hand creams sponsored, we will get an extra one!!

Donations can be given by friends and family PayPal or by bank transfer. My PayPal email is megan.kelly@jcpce.com . Please email / phone for bank details.

Thank you,
Megan Kelly (Megan.kelly@jcpce.com 07714 481 088)



We are still here for you!

HospiceCare wants to reassure you that our specialist **Hospice at Home** care and support continues to be delivered as normal across North Northumberland during the Coronavirus, 365 days a year, day or night, planned or in a crisis situation. HospiceCare supports adults living in North Northumberland who have a life-limiting condition such as Cancer, Heart Failure, Lung Disease, Motor Neurone Disease, Parkinson's and Advanced Dementia. We are also able to offer support to their families and carers.

Our **Family / Bereavement Support** also continues but via the telephone rather than face-to-face. For the present time our drop-in services at Alnwick and Berwick have been suspended. Our existing referral process and criteria remain unchanged for the present time, so please contact us via telephone if you wish to self-refer into either our Hospice at Home or Family Support services. You can also ask your Healthcare professional to refer on your behalf. Please don't hesitate to telephone our nursing team directly on 01665 606 515 or 01289 309 997 or email us at : nursingteam@hospicecare-nn.org.uk .

However, the next few months are going to be a financially challenging time for HospiceCare. Having either postponed or cancelled our fundraising events as well as closed our shops, we are now losing income of around £50,000 every month. So as well as looking a new and innovative ways of generating funds we have set up a Coronavirus Appeal to help make up that shortfall because it's crucial that we can go on supporting people to be at home at the end of their life, rather than in a hospital setting. If you are able to make a donation, however large or small, every penny will make a BIG difference.

Send a cheque to HospiceCare, Greensfield House, Unit 3, Willowburn Avenue, Alnwick, NE66 2DG. Or, you can email: Rebecca on: rtaylor@hospicecarenn.org.uk if you would prefer to make a bank transfer. You are also able to donate on-line by visiting our Virgin Money Giving page: at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?campaignId=11806&charityId=1016416 . Full details on HospiceCare's nursing services can be found on: www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk .

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