

Swarland Village Action Group Committee:

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

Treasurer: Susan Richardson.

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

Write it Down Now !!!

Please supply information to the Editor for
inclusion in the December issue by
Thursday 26th November 2020.

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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 provides a 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.
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.

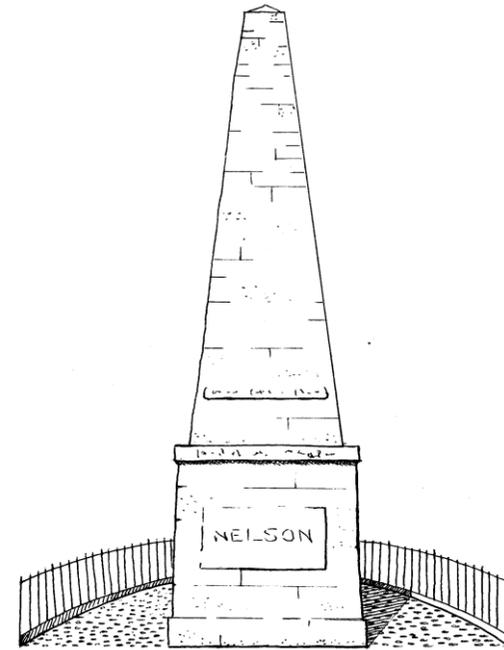
**The Post Office is now back again providing its
Monday and Thursday service from 8 – 10.30am.**

SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



October 2020

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 109

**Swarland has its Post Office back on
Monday and Thursday mornings.
See back page for details.**

Welcome to your latest issue of The Column and if you're new to the area, a special welcome to you. **To include something, however small, in the December issue, please supply it for inclusion by Thursday 26th November. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

With the continued Covid-19 situation, we are still unable to use our usual printer Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd (NCE Ltd) at Stobhill. But, once more, rather than just issuing The Column on-line, the NCC Communities Together Scheme is printing it for us, for which thanks for organising this must go to Ruth Armstrong.

Support for Newton on the Moor and Swarland Residents

As we face a second wave of Coronavirus cases, Northumberland has introduced a number of additional measures, which means we're going back into a form of lockdown.

Its timely to remind readers of The Column that 45 residents within the parish have volunteered to help their neighbours resident in the parish during the Coronavirus Emergency. I have had several emails and phone calls telling me how much just knowing this service exists is greatly reassuring.

In our parish, we have a population of about 905, in around 410 houses, and many are elderly and / or living alone. 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 you are well and not needing help
- Phone calls for a chat
- Collection of prescriptions
- Collection/delivery of food.

The Parish Council website which can be found at <http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/> is frequently being revised and / or added to with information relating to services available within the parish.

If you need help, email (if possible) janandersonpc@gmail.com or telephone 07775 060 430, during office hours preferably.

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

Mobile Library Dates

Unlike some other NCC Library services, the NCC mobile library continues to be withdrawn until further notice. Let's hope that eventually we will get it back and that we don't lose it permanently.

Neighbourhood Watch Update - September 2020

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

Yet again I am pleased to say that our area is a relatively safe place to live. Here the only piece of vaguely local police news we've had:-

It relates to the theft of 14 Mule Ewe Lambs from Whittingham, between Monday and Tuesday 21st and 22nd September.

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*

Mike Sargent available for handyman jobs

in Swarland and Newton on the Moor.

Available evenings and weekends.

Please call 07876 471 608

Fresh Fish and Seafood

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

Covid-19 Face Mask Maker

I am still making face masks. Masks are 3 layers thick and come with an optional filter pocket. They are made to measure and there is a choice of fabrics.

They are £8 each and can be collected from The Square, Swarland or posted out for an additional £1.

If you would like to order please call **Anna on 07549 537 457**.

**Deadline for items for the December issue of
The Column: Thursday 26th November 2020.**

Swarland Village Hall

The Hall which is run as a community facility (Reg. Charity No 1058471) has **now re-opened**, but because of the increased Covid-19 restrictions it is not able to offer anything like its full range of facilities and activities. Now the back-stage work has been completed and the old rear Fire Exit (through a door at the side of the stage) has been re-instated, new, larger storage areas have been created.

Only the main hall and downstairs toilets are available for hire, subject to a number of additional Covid-19 conditions. There is now a site specific NHS Covid-19 QR Code in the entrance area which you should scan with your smart phone as a part of the Test & Trace procedure. Let's hope the level of lockdown can soon be reduced again and then other activities will be able to start / start up again. If you wish to check on whether you can book the Hall for a future event please contact Bryan Stanley (see elsewhere) or Steve Woolfrey (steve woolfrey.PC@outlook.com or 01670 787 883).

Activities currently running in the Hall include:

Karate Classes on Tuesdays 5.30 - 8.30pm. Contact **Gary Davidson** on **07930 838 872.**

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

Other activities hope to return in the next few months when their organiser(s) feel it will be safe and practicable.

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

We will be presenting a 2020 / 21 season of talks using Zoom as we will not be able to hold our normal meetings.

In the first of our evenings, Sue Thornton will talk on "General Lambert's House' (Dickson, Archer, Thorpe)" at 7.30pm on the 13th October. General Lambert's House was comprised of numbers 31 - 33, Narrowgate in Alnwick. This Grade 2 listed 18th-century townhouse has a fascinating history revolving around three families. Zoom login instructions will be sent out.

We will have presentations on 10th November and 8th December and a programme for 2021. Details in future issues of The Column, our email database and posters that will be put up as normal around the village. You can also follow us on our Facebook site @SwarlandMoorLocalHeritageGroup and our Twitter account @localmoor.

Guests will be very welcome at £2 per evening. Please send an email to swarlandmlhg@gmail.com if you wish to join us at any of this season's online presentations; you will be kept up to date with additions to our programme. Anyone wishing to become a new member should also contact us at the same email address.

Regrettably our Christmas Dinner will not be taking place this year; fingers crossed we can meet again December 2021.

Anyone interested in becoming a Committee Member please contact us on the email address or 01670 787 654.

Lesley White

NotM & Swarland Parish Council

The Parish Council has continued to hold its monthly meetings by Zoom video-call. As with 'normal' meetings, these are open to the public. The 'joining instructions' are available several days before each Zoom meeting by contacting our Clerk, Jan.

Planning matters

The Covid crisis has had little impact on proposals to carry out developments in our parish. Most are relatively uncontentious minor works: extensions to houses, the crown-uplifting of 'protected' trees, etc. A comprehensive list or applications and a brief summary of our comments is always recorded in the minutes of our meetings, which can be viewed on our website. In addition, the full details of planning applications and of consultees' responses can be viewed on the Northumberland County Council (NCC) Planning Portal at <https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/> .

We have recently been exercised by a controversial application by Cussins house-builders, for a 9-home site at Low Wood, Swarland, on which the developers have already begun the work (and started to 'market' the properties) before all necessary aspects of the planning permission have been granted. There are serious concerns about the flooding of the Mere Burn, and the narrowness of access roads and their sub-standard quality, which will be compromised by the development.

Readers may also be interested in some new developments in the Shiel Dykes / Hare Crag area, to the north-west of Newton on the Moor. These include the creation of an extensive forest of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, and also the resumption of quarrying, primarily for roadstone. The quarrying will occur in 4 phases, over the next 30 years.

Percy Wood

We have been raising with Harrison Leisure a number of issues concerning excessively loud music, a build-up of refuse pending bin-emptying, and the discharge of 'grey water' from hot-tubs directly on to the ground. We have a decent working relationship with the site managers, and so we are very optimistic about resolving any outstanding issues.

Local Transport Plan 2021-22

Many thanks to all who suggested possible schemes for inclusion in NCC's annual LTP. After some deliberation, we decided to propose to NCC: the provision of safe bus-stops along the A1 in our parish; provision of a pavement on the lowest section of Leamington Lane; and resurfacing works in Hazon and Swarland. We will not find out until next Spring or Summer which of these schemes will have been accepted by NCC.

Parish Council budget 2021-22

At our October and November meetings, we will be preparing our budget for next year. As with previous years, we are happy to consider suggestions from local residents for new projects and improvement schemes, which might require our funding.

PC Website: newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/

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

Recycling, Wants & For Sale 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.



Upright piano, in working order.

Brock is the make and it has attractive wooden frame.

Free to anyone that can collect it.

Will need retuning before can use in new home.

Mobile number is 07756 564 119.

Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

The work to refurbish our kitchen continues, and we expect it to be available sometime in late Autumn. However, in view of the latest Government restrictions we have decided not to hold our coffee mornings in October or November.

Some music groups and the Pilates classes may resume shortly and their organisers will let participants know what the arrangements will be.

We very much regret that we can't welcome you to the Hall yet, but we shall let you know as soon as we feel it is safe to do so.

However, if you're missing our monthly coffee mornings or maybe you've not had the chance to sample our wonderful home baking, we're not providing the coffee or chat but we are launching our pre-ordered takeaway service.

On Saturday 17th October between 12noon and 2pm you can collect pre-ordered goodies from the Jubilee Hall, which is fully COVID-19 compliant. Or, if you live in Newton on the Moor / Swarland then home delivery can be arranged for after 2pm.

Initially we will be baking a reduced selection of scones and cakes, but will take requests for items normally on sale or for gluten free items.

Special offers

2 x Cheese scones, 2 x Fruit scones and 2 slices of cake	£3.50
Jens famous cheese scones	50p each
Jens famous fruit scones	50p each
(They will be baked fresh on 17 th so will be suitable for home freezing)	
Individual mini coffee cakes	£1 each
Slice of Victoria Sandwich cake	£1 each
Slice of Chocolate cake	£1 each

Please pre-order by Thursday 15th October by e-mailing jentoliver@gmail.com or text Alison 07468 420 407.

Alison Gallico

Swarland Craft Group

Unfortunately at the moment the Craft Club is still not able to hold its meetings due to all the government restrictions related to the Covid situation. As Joyce our Treasurer and I are standing down, a new committee will need to be formed to run the club abiding by the new rules laid out in the risk assessment supplied by the Village Hall Committee.

Copies of the assessment can be obtained from me for anyone who may be thinking of taking on the responsibility of running the Club.

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding this matter.

We all hope that the Craft Club can continue to thrive once this is all over.

Barbara Long, 01670 787 592

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Swarland FC Est. 2020

Are you 16+ from this summer and interested in playing for or helping with the coaching of the now set up
Swarland Football Club?

We are intending to have a team in the men's football North Northumberland Football League in the 2020 / 21 season.

If so, please contact Samuel Palin on **01670 787548** evenings or weekends or email Sam at **sjpalin75@gmail.com**

Home Matches at Vyner Park, Saturdays, 1.30pm kick-off.

Good News from Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group

Our volunteers have been amazing and worked so hard in the fight to protect our Red Squirrels in the Swarland and Newton on the Moor area. We are very pleased to report, as a result of their activities, Red Squirrels are now being seen and are actually breeding, in Swarland Woods and areas of Newton on the Moor. One resident reports seeing Reds regularly. It is very rewarding to hear that our hard work is making a difference. Have you seen any squirrels recently? It is so important that you continue to report on our website (www.lcreds.org.uk) any sightings of Reds and Greys so that we can focus our efforts to best effect.

Anyone wishing to join the group as a volunteer, please sign up via our website.

Thank you for your support.

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group.



HospiceCare North Northumberland is delighted to confirm that its charity shops in Amble, Wooler and Berwick are now open for business and are back to generating much-needed funds for their clinical services, which are delivered free at the point of need to people living in North Northumberland, who wish to die at home rather than in a hospital setting.

Kelly Burton, Central Support Manager said “We would like to reassure our customers that our shops are a safe place to visit, and that we have followed all Government guidelines to make the shopping experience as safe and enjoyable as possible. We currently have slightly reduced opening hours to allow the shops to be sanitised at the end of each day. We also have a limit on the number of customers in our shops at any one time and ask customers to pay by card where possible please. Donations are being accepted at all shops and need to be dropped off at the back door.”

Julie Frost, Marketing & Communications Officer said “Our shops are a vital source of income that contributes directly towards the delivery of our specialist Hospice at Home and Family / Bereavement Support services to people living in North Northumberland. Our nursing team continues to receive daily referrals from the local District Nurses, social services and Macmillan and continue to work every day on the frontline to ensure that our communities get the care and support they need, particularly at the end of their life. We know from the lovely feedback we have received from local families, that we have been able to make a real difference in our communities. It’s vital that we have the funds to be able to continue to deliver our specialist care and support and our shops are an integral part of that income for us.

We have always felt blessed by the support given from people in our communities and have seen that support as a partnership. It’s that continued partnership that that will get us through the next few months and beyond. Please support our shops: we have missed you and very much look forward to welcoming you back.”

Full details of shop opening hours can be found on www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk or email: enquiries@hospicecare-nn.org.uk.

Julie Frost Marketing & Communications Officer, 01665 606 515 / 07810 803 329 / jfrost@hospicecare-nn.org.uk / www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk .

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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

Vyner Park News - September

Since my last report in July, the Play Park and Nelson’s have both reopened and proved very popular with visitors/residents. A Football Club is also now operating and is regularly using the football field, with practice on a Wednesday evening. While COVID-19 restrictions have slowed down some routine maintenance work, we have managed to keep the grass cut during the summer and are currently planning to replace the gate near the bridge that was damaged in last winter’s gales.

Vyner Park Charity welcomes dogs and their owners to the Park. Earlier a fenced dog exercise area was created opposite the Village Square at the request of dog owners. The only areas of the Park where dogs are not allowed are the playing field, the play park, the multi-use-games area (MUGA) and the tennis courts. This is for the protection of children and adults who use those areas, which is consistent with the policy for similar areas operated by Northumberland County Council. Over the summer a couple with dogs were seen walking past a ‘No Dogs’ sign, on to the playing field, allowed one of the dogs to defecate and made no attempt to clear up its mess. Only when a member of the Committee approached the visitors were the faeces removed from the playing field and put into a dog-poo bin. The individuals were reported to the police, who subsequently spoke to them. We are not sure whether they will be prosecuted. Vyner Park is available for everyone to use but for obvious safety reasons dogs are not allowed on certain areas. If people are caught allowing dogs in the restricted ‘no-dog’ areas and / or defecating in these areas, they will be reported to the police as a matter of course and may be prosecuted. It is expected that all dog owners pick up faeces left by their dogs, dog-poo bins are provided for this purpose– we even provide plastic bags.

Steve Woolfrey, Chairman, VPC Management Team Tel 01670 787 883 or stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com .

More on Dog Fouling

The Parish Council has also had reports of fouling elsewhere in the parish particularly in the alleyways leading from The Square in Swarland. Notices have now been put up there and we hope all dog owners will respect residents and pedestrians by clearing up.

Suzanne Stanley, NotM&S PC

Felton Surgery News

How to contact your GP and get the help and care you need

As a result of Covid-19, the way patients can access our GP practice has had to change. Whilst we appreciate that this can be confusing and unsettling at times, we need to make sure that all our patients and staff are kept safe. The information we are providing to help you contact us and continue to access health and care services, is to ensure you are kept as up-to-date as possible on any changes in the way you may do so. Before contacting your GP you may wish to consult your pharmacist or use the symptom checker (NHS app).

What to do if you need to contact us

If your request is routine, we are asking all patients to please contact us via the e-consult service on our website in the first instance. You can contact the surgery and get a reply within two working days. You can also request medication, sick notes and bloods results through this service. You will find more information about our online services on our website at www.feltonsurgery@nhs.net.

For health care needs regarding children, urgent problems or for those patients who are unable to access our online services, we ask that you telephone the practice and we will answer your call as soon as possible. We will ask for a brief summary of the problem which will help us direct you to the most appropriate member of the GP practice team. Please note that your consultation may not need to be with a GP. It may be that the care / advice you need can be given by another member of the practice team. Where possible and appropriate consultations, will be either online or via telephone. If a face-to-face appointment is required, please wear a face covering (unless exempt).

Surgery Opening Times

Monday - Friday 08.30 – 13.00 & 14.00-18.00. Please note the surgery is open for the collection of medication from the dispensary. We operate a one-in-one-out system.

Telephone Lines are Open Monday – Friday 08.30 – 18.00.

Please order your repeats online or via the NHS app. Due to higher than normal call volumes to the surgery it may take longer than normal for your call to be answered if you order by phone. Thank you for your patience.

Current Requirement For Face Masks

It is a requirement for patients to wear a face covering when entering the surgery. If you do have an appointment, we would be grateful if you could come with your face covering on – covering your nose, mouth and chin. This can be in the form of a mask, scarf or handkerchief of any sort of fabric.

Young children, patients with mental health problems, severe respiratory conditions and learning difficulties do not need to wear a mask. Please let your clinician know if you are unable to use a mask.

Flu Vaccination appointments

Appointments are now available to book, please contact the surgery by e-consult or telephone to make your appointment. 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 care facility; receive a carer's allowance, or you are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill.

The flu clinics will **NOT** be open, drop-in clinics as due to the current COVID climate they will be pre-bookable appointments only. Please do not attend the practice requesting a flu vaccination if you haven't an appointment.

If you develop any symptoms of Coronavirus please do not attend your appointment, please contact us to rearrange, we need to continue to ensure the safety of our patients and staff.

Please note that those in the 50-64 year old age group will not be vaccinated until November or December, providing there is sufficient vaccine, and no appointments will be offered for this age group until then. This is to ensure that those who are most at risk are vaccinated first. If you are 50-64 and you are in one of the other groups which is eligible for the flu vaccination, e.g. you have a health condition which puts you at risk from the flu, you will be invited earlier.

We are here for urgent medical needs

For life-threatening emergencies please call 999 or go straight to A&E. Please don't delay in contacting us if you have an urgent medical need. We are here for you and your family. You can also get urgent medical advice online from 111, nhs.uk or by phoning 111.

We are planning to resume all services as soon as we can

Our practice is working extremely hard to manage the backlog of work and patient appointments as a result of Covid-19. Please be assured that we are doing all we can to arrange appointments and services for you as quickly as possible.

We are taking all the necessary steps to protect you and our staff from coronavirus. Robust measures are in place to ensure that practices are safe. This includes the installation of social distancing signage, reception screens, one-way systems, hand sanitising stations and use of PPE. Please be mindful that, as our workforce is also affected by the pandemic, our team will be smaller than usual. We are doing our very best to look after you. We ask you to be polite and respectful. No type of abuse will be tolerated by any member of our team. We would like to thank all patients who have supported us through this difficult time, kind words and actions are appreciated.

New Premises

For the most up-to-date information regarding this please access the document on our website page at www.feltonsurgery@nhs.net.

