

**Swarland Village Action Group Committee:**

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

Treasurer: Susan Richardson.

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

**Write it Down Now !!!**

Please supply information to the Editor for inclusion in the February issue by **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

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.

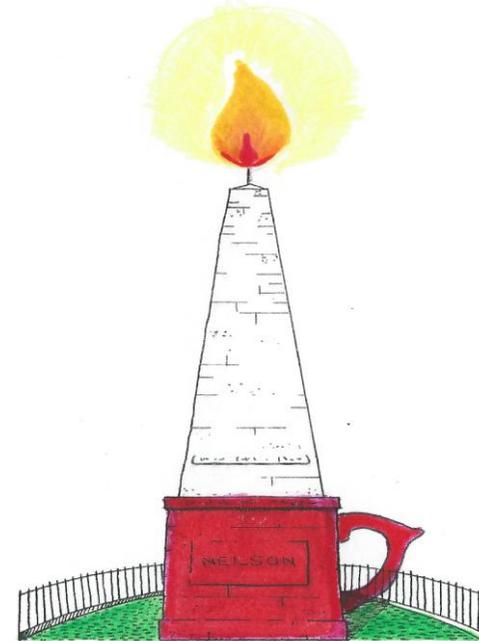
The Post Office is now back again providing its Monday and Thursday service from 8 – 10am.

**SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to support *The Column*.

# The Column



**December 2020**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 110**

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

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 February issue, please supply it for inclusion by Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. 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 this December issue for us, for which thanks to Ruth Armstrong for organising this.

### **Support for Newton on the Moor and Swarland Residents**

The national Covid-19 lockdown ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> December but Northumberland has now moved into Tier 3 – the strictest level of control measures for high risk areas.

It's timely to remind readers of The Column that 45 residents in the Parish have volunteered to help out their neighbours resident within the Parish during the Coronavirus Emergency and 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.

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

The Parish Council website is being revised frequently and added to with information relating to services available in our Parish; it is available at: <http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/>

NCC has a very useful page of information including a daily update of infections in each ward, and an explanation of the Tier 3 restrictions at <https://northumberland.gov.uk> .

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

## **Neighbourhood Watch Update - September 2020**

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

Once again I am happy to report that I have not had any local crime reports from the police since the last issue of The Column. However, there have been numerous reports of suspected poaching in other rural areas. Today I received an email from Farmwatch, illustrating the efforts of police to counteract such criminal activity. I quote:-

“Suspected hare coursers risk fines of £2,500 and having their dogs rehomed as officers tighten the net on Rural Crime. It comes as our rural officers served the Force's first two Community Protection Notice Warnings for suspected hare poaching. A 29 year-old from North Tyneside and a 31 year-old male from Northumberland were handed the notices.

The two men have been reported to us a number of times after both being spotted acting suspiciously on private Northumberland farmland with their dogs. We have warned them that they risk being handed further Community Protection Notices, and could be hit with £2,500 fines; and even risk having their vehicles and animals seized if they fail to follow the conditions set out in their CPNWs.

Requirements include keeping their dogs away from private land and only driving or parking on said land if they have written permission from the owner first. Both have become a thorn in the side of rural policing in Northumberland and it is fitting that they are the first two to be served a CPNW in relation to hare coursing.

This action shows that we will listen to our rural community and act when appropriate. Poaching is no longer just taking one for the pot, but is the use of dogs to indiscriminately kill wildlife, for betting purposes as well as on occasions damaging fields and fences with vehicles.”

**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*



**Deadline for items for the February issue of The Column: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**



## **Swarland Village Hall**

The Hall, which is run as a community facility (Reg. Charity No 1058471), has unfortunately had to stay closed for many activities, following the Government's latest Covid-19 restrictions. However, it is hoped that some activities, like junior Karate (and even Archery?) will be able to restart after Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

You will soon be able to support your Village Hall through **AmazonSmile**. If you do online browsing or shopping via Amazon, first you need to select SVH charity (No 1058471) at smile.amazon.co.uk via a web browser and then activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon shopping app on your IOS or Android phone. For every item bought via Amazon, it will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of eligible purchases to your charity at no cost to you or SVH. Each quarter Amazon will make its donation to SVH via a quarterly electronic funds transfer. Why not carry on shopping **AND** help SVH at the same time.

### **Thank you.**

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 ([stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com](mailto:stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com) or 01670 787 883 ).

## **Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group**

We held two online meetings in October and November using Zoom, and they went very smoothly both for the speakers and the audience. We had good attendances at both events. Many thanks to Lesley Selfe for managing the evenings' online wizardry.

The first talk was by Susan Woods from Northumberland Archives. It was the romantic tale of the huge collection of dusty, cob-webbed documents spanning the last 200 years, records of the legal practice of generations of Thorp solicitors who were based in General Lambert's House in Narrowgate, Alnwick. They never threw anything away, and the filing system left much to be desired. It included correspondence with all the major Northumbrian families, including the Dukes, as well as records of the legal events of the ordinary citizens of Alnwick. Sue described the story of the seemingly insurmountable complications and cost of acquiring the Thorp archive and its preservation so that historians can use it in their research for many years to come.

We then had Ian Rawles talking about the Royal Mail Coach Routes through Northumberland and the Borders 1790 - 1840. This was a totally new topic for the audience. Ian's meticulous research showed that the routes chosen were not always the most logical but were heavily influenced by local politics and patronage. Ian had many stories about topics such as the logistics of getting mail as speedily as possible from London to Edinburgh, problems with passengers as well as the requirement of a guard with a blunderbuss.

There is no talk in December, but we will start again in the New Year. Details to follow. If anyone would like advance notice of upcoming talks, please email [SwarlandMLHG@gmail.com](mailto:SwarlandMLHG@gmail.com).

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

*Lesley White*

## **Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council**

The Parish Council (PC) 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 Anderson.

### **Parish Council budget 2021-22**

In the previous edition of The Column, we mentioned our budget preparation, and asked for suggestions about any new projects or other ideas. In response, we received indications of a few refurbishment schemes, at Vyner Park and the Jubilee Hall, plus a suggestion to clean-up the various illegible road signs in the parish. At our November meeting, we finalised our budget which includes a greater provision to fund community projects. We also set the Council Tax precept for next year, which will remain at this year's level, of £22,700. Because our local Council Tax-paying base has grown by about 6% over the past year, every household should be paying less than previously towards the parish precept.

### **Audit of 2019-20 accounts**

We have now received our 'Completion of Audit' certificate. The Auditor raised two concerns with us: the date of the Clerk's signature should have been several days earlier, and some Vyner Park-related transactions should have been shown in the PC (cf Vyner Park) accounts. This latter point arose due to a contradiction within the national 'Proper Practices' guidance, which we have since taken up with the appropriate national body.

### **Planning matters**

There continues to be a succession of new planning proposals, mostly for Swarland. These can be viewed on the NCC Planning Portal, at <https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/>. We are also supporting residents' concerns about the Cussins site at Low Wood, most notably flooding of the Mere Burn, pressure on the inadequate access roads and the stripping of the natural vegetation in the 'ecological belt'.

### **Elections 2021**

Next May will see elections to the Parish Council and County Council and for the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner. The PC membership benefits from having a broad representative mix of ages and gender from throughout our area. If anyone is thinking of standing for election to the PC and would like more information first, please contact the PC Clerk.

### **Road safety**

We are maintaining contact with Highways England over the safety of several of the A1 dual carriageway junctions in our area, especially the Guyzance crossroads. Also, at the Swarland School crossroads, we understand that NCC has been drafting a series of safety measures, but we have not as yet seen any details. We hope that there will be full public consultation before anything is finalised.

**PC Website:** [newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk](http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk)

**PC Contact:** PC Clerk, Jan Anderson at [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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.

**For Sale: Pair of Rob Thompson size 40/41 green chest waders.** As new. £12.....what a bargain!! Contact: 07786 424 406 or email [annejane@talktalk.net](mailto:annejane@talktalk.net) .

A Swarland resident who's just moved away had a hardly ever-used Oase **Pontec Pondomatic 3 Pond Vacuum** pond sludge cleaner. 1,400W motor, 27 litre tank with integrated sludge draining system. It is no longer needed and needs to go to someone who will be able to use it. A suitable donation to a charity of your choice would be appreciated. It has been left with Bryan Stanley. Contact him on 01670 787 916 if interested.

## Food, Glorious Food!

We hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to our Christmas takeaway service. We've added a few extra items this month to tempt you.

***This month's special offer –***  
***6 x Christmas Sweet Mince Pies for only £1***

Individual Sweet Mince Pies 20p each

Jen's Christmas Fruit Scones 50p each

Jen's Cheese Scones 50p each / Individual mini Coffee Cakes £1

Slice of Chocolate Cake £1 / Slice of Victoria Sandwich Cake £1

2 slices of Gingerbread £1 / Meringue Nests x 4 £1

Individual Apple Crumble (suitable for home freezing in foil container) £2.50

## **Last minute Christmas gifts**

Homemade Seville Orange Marmalade £2 per jar

Homemade Rhubarb & Date Chutney £2 per jar

Homemade Mango Chutney £2 per jar

Homemade Mulled Cranberry Chutney £2 per jar

Handmade Money / Voucher wallets £1.50

**Please pre order by 12 noon on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020**  
by emailing [jentholiver@gmail.com](mailto:jentholiver@gmail.com) or text/ring Alison C on 07468 420 407.

Local delivery available in Newton on the Moor & Swarland. Gluten free options available.

*Best wishes The Jubilee Hall Committee*

## Greening our homes

Last week the Government announced an extension of the Green Homes Grant (GHG) scheme until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This is of particular interest to houses that use LPG or diesel for heating their homes; it decreases your carbon footprint and saves money in the long run.

The GHG scheme provides grants of up to £5000 (£10,000 if you are in receipt of certain benefits) to upgrade your home's insulation (including double-glazing) or replace your existing gas / oil / LPG heating and hot water system with a low-carbon option such as a heat pump or solar thermal system. The Government will meet two-thirds of the cost of a range of measures to reduce your home's carbon footprint by reducing heat loss and switching to a zero-carbon heating option (e.g a heat pump) and / or generating hot water direct from the sun using solar thermal panels placed on your roof. You can get full details of the measures that qualify for the GHG as well as whether your house will qualify from the Simple Energy Advice service ([simpleenergyadvice.org.uk](http://simpleenergyadvice.org.uk)).

To apply for a grant you must ensure that you have an Energy Performance Certificate that is less than 2 years old (an EPC costs about £60) and have received at least one quote from a Trustmark approved company which you should submit with your application. Applications are made on the Gov.uk website and you can find a range of Trustmark-approved builders and installers on [trustmark.org.uk](http://trustmark.org.uk) - be warned, builders and installers to do this work are in short supply and you may have to wait a while before they can schedule your job. If your application is approved, you will be provided with a voucher that must be used within 3 months and your installer cannot start the work until you have received the voucher. Once the work is completed, you should pay the installer your share of the cost (the invoice total less your voucher's value) and present your voucher to the GHG team, who will then reimburse the installer.

Hope you got all that! At first, it may seem complicated but it is relatively straightforward and I would certainly encourage you to investigate what you could have done to decarbonise your home with pretty generous support from the Government. I do have some other notes on GHG applications, please email [philydor@gmail.com](mailto:philydor@gmail.com) .

*Happy Home Greening !!*



## Fish Van Reminder

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 still doesn't 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.

## Vyner Park News - September

When I wrote my Vyner Park update in September I was hopeful that the country would be able to avoid another lockdown. As we all now know that was not to be the case with Northumberland now in Tier 3.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, I am pleased to report that we have replaced the gate on the bridge entrance to the Park. You may have noticed the pedestrian gate was initially installed and then removed. It has not been stolen, but temporarily removed to avoid people having to touch common surfaces during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the next week or so, volunteers plan to reinstall the local directional signpost that also suffered during last year's winter storms.

Hopefully 2021 will be better than 2020 and the Park will be able to host the annual Show and Bonfire Night.

As always, we are always looking for people to help us with projects in the Park. The Committee would love to improve parts of the area that are currently overgrown but cannot do it on their own. If you are able to help, please get in touch.

*Steve Woolfrey, Chairman, VPC Management Team Tel 01670 787 883 or [stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com](mailto:stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com) .*

## Mobile Library Dates

*Unfortunately NCC supplied the wrong information for the last issue of The Column. Ed.*

The mobile library is back in our parish again every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. There will be a box outside for returned books, which are then quarantined for 72 hours before going back into stock.

The Library van normally 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**.

**The expected next dates are: 9<sup>th</sup> December and 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

Please email [mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk) or telephone **0345 600 6400** if you would like to find out times and stop information for our area.

If you value this service, use it or we will definitely lose it.



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## Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group

If you've seen our Facebook page "Squirrels in Coquetdale" you might have seen the post about the felling of a local woodland (Swinlea, Shildyke) which has a very healthy population of Red Squirrels.

If Covid 19 hadn't postponed plans, this woodland would have been felled in March, April and May 2020 right over the Reds' breeding season. We had no idea the Reds were there, until a chance conversation between one of our volunteers and a local fisherman.

The felling finally started at the end of August, in theory to avoid the Red Squirrel breeding season and damaging dreys (nests) containing suckling baby squirrels.



Imagine our horror when we checked our squirrel cam IT showed a female exhibiting evidence of suckling young so late in the season and the kits will be in the drey. We had marked the dreys in the wood prior to the felling starting.

Luckily, our lovely felling contractor is a supporter of Red Squirrel conservation and while he's been doing his job, he has managed to preserve as many of the trees containing dreys as possible.

We were rewarded, with pictures of the last Red to be born in the area this year (as far as we know) taken at the end of October!

Massive thanks to Northumberland Estates and GT O'Kane, and all our fabulous volunteers.

To help preserve our endangered Red Squirrel population we urge you to sign this petition, to restrict felling to outside the breeding season, as is law in Scotland and Wales. In England Red Squirrels and other endangered species have NO protection in law. They rely on our efforts to maintain a population for future generations to enjoy. Please sign, and ask all your friends to do so as well: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/328537> (if you Google "petition change felling law" it is the first result) .

Many thanks, and here's to a peaceful 2021 for the Red Squirrels and their supporters.

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels – [www.lcreds.org.uk](http://www.lcreds.org.uk)

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## Felton Surgery and Dispensary Opening Times

**Our telephone lines (01670 787 353) are open Monday – Friday  
08.30 – 18.00.**

Due to higher than normal call volumes to the surgery it may take longer than normal for your call to be answered. You will be advised of your position in the queue. Please note the surgery building remains open for the collection of medication from the dispensary. **We operate a one-in and one-out system. Monday \_ Friday 08.30 – 13.00 / 14.00-18.00**

### CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR

**The Surgery will be closed  
from 6pm Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
until 08.30am Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December  
and 6pm Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December  
until 08.30am Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

## Ordering Repeat Medication

Please, wherever possible, order your repeat medications online through the NHS App. Owned and run by the NHS, the NHS App is a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services on your smartphone or tablet. The NHS App is available now on iOS and Android. To use it you must be aged 13 and over and registered with a GP surgery in England. You can also access the NHS app services from the browser on your desktop or laptop computer. Use the NHS App to:

- **Get advice about coronavirus** – get information about coronavirus and find out what to do if you think you have it.
- **Order repeat prescriptions** - see your available medicines, request a new repeat prescription and choose a pharmacy for your prescriptions to be sent to.
- **Book appointments** - search for, book and cancel appointments at your GP surgery, and see details of your upcoming and past appointments.
- **Get health advice** - search trusted NHS information and advice on hundreds of conditions and treatments, and get instant advice or medical help near you.
- **View your medical record** - securely access your GP medical record, to see information like your allergies and your current and past medicines.
- **Register your organ donation decision** - choose to donate some or all of your organs and check your registered decision.

## How to contact us and get the help you need

As a result of Covid-19, the way patients are accessing our GP practice has had to continue 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. Before contacting your GP you may wish to consult your pharmacist or use the symptom checker on the 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, administration advice and queries and test results** through this service. You will find more information about our online services on our website [www.feltonsurgery@nhs.net](mailto:www.feltonsurgery@nhs.net) .

For health care needs regarding children, urgent problems or for those patients who are unable 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 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).

## 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, [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or by calling 111.

## What we are doing to ensure we can 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 sanitizing stations and use of PPE. Please be mindful that at times, our workforce may also be affected by the pandemic and could 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 continue to be appreciated.

## Patient Participation Group

We welcome applications to join our Patient Participation Group in Felton. At this time, meetings will be held via TEAMS or ZOOM to maintain social distancing guidelines and to protect the safety of all members. If you are interested in joining our group please email the surgery and an invite will be sent.

