

**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 2021.**

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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.**

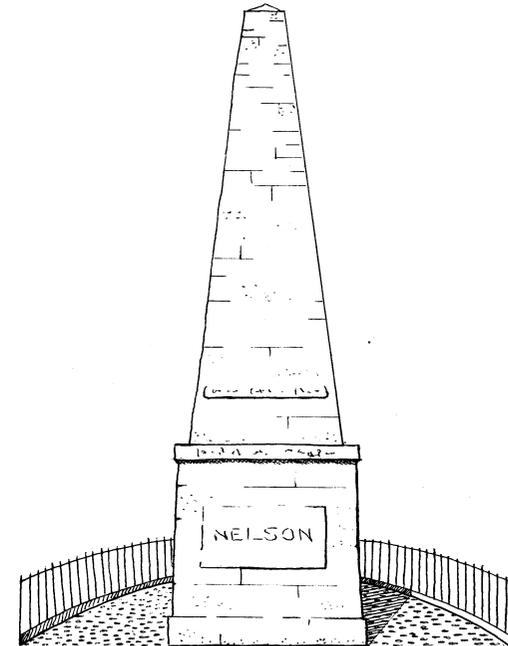
**SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Tel. 01670 787 825

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

Printed by NCC Communities Together Scheme

# The Column



**February 2021**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 111**

**Parish Litter Pick is booked for Sunday  
21<sup>st</sup> March. To join in, see inside 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 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 .**

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 again printing it for us. Thanks to Ruth Armstrong for organising this.

### **Swarland Village Action**

We wish to thank the following: Andrew and Lyn Hastie for decorating and dismantling the Christmas tree this year, Greg Anderson and the Bockenfield delivery lads for erecting the tree. Hopefully the tree brought some cheer to what had been a stressful year for everyone. Sadly, we were unable to have Chester Bears, our most important helpers, due to the Covid-19 restrictions. This was the first time for a number of years they weren't able to keep up this tradition, hopefully in 2021 they will be back, we missed them greatly.

*Susan Richardson on behalf of the SVA team*

### **Loss of an old member of the SVA team**

David and Wilha Bradbrook spent many years in Swarland (1978-2018) and took part in a great many activities in the area before moving away to be with family members. I have just received the following news from Serena Boyce (David & Wilha's daughter):

"It is with great sadness that [we must announce] that our beloved dad has passed away. As some of you may know, his dementias were progressing but he sadly tested positive for Covid a fortnight ago and after a period of being asymptomatic for 10 days contracted pneumonia on Wednesday and was admitted into West Suffolk Hospital the following day. He slipped away peacefully on Saturday [23<sup>rd</sup> January] and we feel relieved that his suffering was not prolonged and his increasing mental anguish has now come to an end."

Wilha is still in residential care having developed dementia before they left Swarland. Though David was a quiet and reserved man they had many friends in the area and he was on the SVA team until shortly before they moved away.

*Ed.*

### **Mobile Library Dates**

Unlike some other NCC Library services, at the moment the Mobile Library Service is still temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently 6 Libraries open for the 'select & collect' service and there'll soon be 'doorstep deliveries' for some customers. Please check NCC's website for information at [northumberland.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/msgtrn/wpac/home](http://northumberland.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/msgtrn/wpac/home) . In the meantime, some customers may also want to use Digital Library Services which is also available 24/7. Let's hope that eventually we will get our mobile service back and that we won't lose it permanently.

## **Neighbourhood Watch Update – January 2021**

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

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

05/01/21: "We are aware that fraudsters claiming to be officers from our Force and National Crime Agency, have been cold calling people asking them to purchase Google Play cards. Please be aware of this, as well as another scam below.

Scammers have been reportedly calling people purporting to be law enforcement officers and claiming there are issues with the would-be victim's National Insurance Number. If you receive a call like this, do not transfer any money, give any personal details or purchase any type of vouchers. Hang up and report suspected fraudsters to:- Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or on line here:- <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> ."

**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*

**Mike Sargent available for handyman jobs**  
in Swarland and Newton on the Moor.  
Available evenings and weekends.  
Please call 07876 471 608

### **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 April issue of The Column: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

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

We are again in the middle of another national lockdown, and recently nearby Alnwick has been the ward with the highest number of Covid cases in Northumberland – thankfully numbers are now reducing. I'd like to remind readers of the Column that 45 residents in the Parish have volunteered to help out their neighbours living within the Parish during the Coronavirus Emergency.

In our Parish, we have a population of about 905 in around 410 houses, and many are elderly and / or living alone. Vaccinations are being rolled out, but residents still have to comply with lockdown conditions. 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 during office hours preferably.

The Parish Council website is being revised frequently and added to with information relating to services available across our Parish: at [newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/](http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/) .

NCC has a very useful page of information including a daily update of infections in each ward, at [northumberland.gov.uk](http://northumberland.gov.uk) .

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

## **Swarland Village Hall**

The Hall, which is run as a community facility (Reg. Charity No 1058471), has again had to close completely, following the Government's latest Covid-19 restrictions. However, it is hoped that some activities, might be able to restart sometime soon.

You can now support the Village Hall through **AmazonSmile**. To help fund the Hall, before you do any browsing or shopping via Amazon, you first need to select SVH charity (No 1058471) at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk), then activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon shopping app on your IOS or Android phone. Then whenever you buy anything via Amazon, it will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of eligible purchases to the charity at no cost to you. Every quarter Amazon will make its donation to SVH via an electronic funds transfer. Why not carry on with your shopping **AND** help Swarland Village Hall 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 ).

## **NotM & Swarland Parish Council**

Because of the current Coronavirus emergency, the Parish Council (PC) met on 27<sup>th</sup> January via Zoom. Anyone who wishes to attend future meetings would be very welcome and can ask questions. Just contact the Clerk for joining details.

### **Parish Litter-Pick**

The annual community litter pick will be taking place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The usual arrangements will apply. Convene at Swarland Square at 10am. Gloves, hand-operated picker tools and bags will be provided, along with hand-sanitiser. This event will be compliant with the current Covid-19 regulations, but please exercise additional care and social distancing at the start, when volunteers are gathered together.

### **Hazon Road Improvements**

After months of liaising with NCC, and after various site meetings, we are delighted to report that works have started to improve the drainage and road resurfacing in Hazon.

### **Newton on the Moor Bus Shelter**

The bus shelter opposite the Cook & Barker has been showing signs of neglect for a number of years. We were therefore very pleased to see that some community-spirited local residents spontaneously undertook a make-over, during the Christmas period. Some of the timber has been replaced, the broken glazing removed and all woodwork given a fresh coat of paint. Thanks, and well done! Next step to get a full bus service back!

### **Improvements to Broadband Speeds**

Complaints have been received about slow Broadband speeds in various parts of the Parish. iNorthumberland (NCC's ICT connectivity team) has provided some suggestions on possible improvements and the availability of funding schemes such as the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme and Top Up Vouchers. We encourage all residents to check their Broadband speed from time to time. If you are interested in joining with others to explore a possible upgrade project, please contact the Clerk, giving details of your location and typical broadband speeds.

### **Funding for Road Safety Measures**

County Cllr Thorne has confirmed an allocation of £10,000 from NCC funds for traffic calming measures in Swarland and Newton on the Moor. Details of the measures are currently being worked on by the Parish Council.

### **New Quarry North of Shiel Dykes**

The planning application for the quarry has not yet been determined. The Environment Agency and Highways England have raised a number of concerns regarding groundwater pollution, methane gas, HGV movements and vehicular access. Details can be seen on NCC's planning portal using Reference 20/02884/CCMEIA.

### **Parish Council Vacancies**

**(Cont overleaf)**

## Parish Council Vacancies

Unless the Government decides to postpone them, there will be elections on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May for the Parish Council, the County Council, and the Police Crime Commissioner. There are 10 places on the Parish Council, and we are keen to see a good spread and cross-section of councillors, from across our parish area. Details of our Parish Council, and how to stand as a candidate, are available from our Clerk.

**Contact the Parish Clerk – Jan Anderson on 07775 060 430 or [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) .**

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

## Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

At our next meeting on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm we will welcome back **Dr Jessica Turner**. You will recall that she previously gave us an excellent talk on The Ossuary at Bamburgh. This time Jessica will talk about excavations on “**The Heugh on Holy Island**”. You will know the Heugh as the rock intrusion that rises above the Priory on the south side of Holy Island. It is scattered with buildings and archaeological sites, but the form, function and dates of these features have not been properly investigated. In 2017 & 2018 a community archaeological project attempted to answer some of these long-held questions. This talk is an exploration of Heugh together with the finds from the recent archaeological excavations.

As with previous talks, this presentation will be online using Zoom. The meeting link will be sent out to members next week.

Any guests wishing to join us for this talk, please send an email to **[SwarlandMLHG@gmail.com](mailto:SwarlandMLHG@gmail.com)** and we will send you the necessary joining instructions. Also, don't forget to check on our Facebook site for updates and more news.

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

*White*

*Lesley*

## 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.

**Growing Grandchildren?** Most of ours are now too large for our world-class collection of child car-seats. Please, we need the space in our loft! We have available one **Pampero Isofix 9-18 Kg seat in blue**, and one **Cuggl Universal Type F10 15-36 Kg seat**. These have been used for short periods, not subject to any collisions or child car sickness and are **£10 each**. More car seats and booster seats available later, these can be reserved or borrowed for the rest of the winter. Contact Alison Gallico 01665 581 173.

## Where can we go for some exercise?

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Perhaps “**Walking in Northumberland**” at **[www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland)** is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

The compiler says “There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you”.

With walks from half-a-mile to 12-plus miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris. Check it out at:

**[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)** or email: **[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)** .

## Swarland Primary School News



Thank you very much to all the local residents who have kindly donated their old laptops to support our school children who are remote learning at home. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated and highlights the wonderful community spirit of Swarland residents. Thank you very much.

*Louise Fletcher, Headteacher, Swarland Primary School*

## 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.

**Deadline for items for the April issue of  
The Column: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

## Latest Scamming Alert

The Police have asked the Parish Council to let parishioners about a new range of scams.

“We are aware that fraudsters claiming to be officers from our Force and the National Crime Agency have been cold-calling people, asking them to purchase Google Play cards.

Also scammers have been reportedly calling people, purporting to be law enforcement and claiming there are issues with their would-be victims' National Insurance number. If you receive a call like this, do not transfer any money, give any personal details, or purchase any type of vouchers.

Ask for an incident number and hang up. When you are sure the line is cleared, check this with us by calling 101 or using our online reporting procedure.

### **Remember, your bank and the police will never:**

- Ask you to transfer money out of your account
- Ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe-keeping
- Send someone to your home to collect cash, PINs, cards, vouchers or cheque books
- Phone and ask you for your full PIN or full banking password.

You can report suspected fraudsters to **Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040**, or online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> .



## Christmas Cake Sale at Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

A big 'Thank You' to all those who supported our Christmas Takeaway cake service - it was hugely successful and the proceeds will help our heating and other running costs through the winter.

Government restrictions permitting, we very much hope to hold another takeaway cake event on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March**, for Mothering Sunday, selling **pre-ordered cakes and scones only**. A menu will be posted on our face-book page ten days in advance, together with instructions for ordering.

Facebook address: [www.facebook.com/notmyvillagehall/](http://www.facebook.com/notmyvillagehall/) .

Alison Gallico



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## Good News from Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group

Happy New Year from the Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel group. We are all acutely aware of how dangerous a virus can be. The Grey Squirrel, introduced into the UK in the 1870s from Eastern North America, carries a virus which is lethal to our native Red Squirrels. Reds die within 15 days of the virus being passed to them, but the virus does not affect the Greys. The Red Squirrel has been wiped out from most of England, with just some very small colonies now remaining. We are extremely fortunate in that some of the remaining Red Squirrels live locally to Swarland and Newton on the Moor. We are also fortunate in that as far as we're aware none of our local Reds contracted squirrel pox in 2020, though sadly there were two cases reported in Upper Coquetdale.

We are hopeful (increasingly confident) that 2021 will be a very successful year for our local Reds. The Squirrel Group continues to successfully control Greys in our woods, thus releasing more habitat for our Reds to expand into. We know that a small number of adult Reds successfully raised some kittens last year. With local woods becoming available to them, these kittens, and those born in the spring, stand an excellent chance of survival. It's not too many years ago that Red Squirrels were regularly seen in our area. With continued hard work, and a little luck, it may not be too many years before they are back! You can help this happen by reporting any squirrels you see, Red or Grey, on our website [www.lcreds.org.uk](http://www.lcreds.org.uk). Or, you could join the LCReds group and get involved with our preservation work.

Here's to a better 2021!

*Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group.*



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Contact Rory Brotherton  
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666



## Felton Surgery News

**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**

### 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 or 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 such as 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.

### Flu Vaccination Appointments for over-50's

Appointments are still available to book, please contact the surgery by phone to make your appointment, or by e-Consult to request an appointment through the Administrative Help link.

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.

### Covid Vaccines – Update from Well Up North Primary Care Network

Felton Surgery is part of the Well Up North Primary Care Network. We are pleased to confirm that we began offering Covid Vaccinations to our patients in December.

All 12 practices within our network have been working exceptionally hard and within short timescales to book appointments for our patients. Every appointment has been booked by telephone call with practice teams across the network.

Please do not contact your practice about the vaccine. This helps to keep phone lines clear and allows practice teams to continue to provide care for patients who need it most. We are using the same members of the team who would usually answer your calls and we thank you for giving us the time we need to do this.

We will continue to contact patients when it is time for them to have their vaccine - There are national guidelines in place which prioritise the order in which we call patients for their vaccinations. Please check NHS and government websites for the latest news Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) .

Our staff will be working at the hub site, as a result of which there is likely to be reduced or limited capacity for routine appointments if you contact your surgery.

Felton's Hub Site Location is Amble Health Centre – Amble. Please do not arrive without an appointment and please don't turn up more than five minutes early to your appointment – space is limited, it's very cold, we don't want our patients waiting unnecessarily and have a plan to move people through the vaccine sites in a systematic and safe way.

Thank you for reading, please pass to anyone you think may be interested, please don't call the NHS for your vaccine – we **WILL** be in touch.

### Latest News from Felton Surgery

The current Covid-19 pandemic has been a challenging time for us all and we wanted to reiterate that our utmost priority has been in making sure that our patients and staff are safe. It is essential that we continue to follow government guidelines. Whilst we have continued to be open, we realise that there has been a real change in the way you now access your care and treatment. We have been working hard to maintain access to appointments and we wanted to thank all of our patients for their patience and understanding during this time. We really appreciate your continued support and positive comments, especially when having to attend Widdrington Surgery for face-to-face appointments.

### New Premises

You may be wondering what is happening about the Felton surgery move. Please be assured that there is work happening behind the scenes to make progress with this. We are working closely with both the Parish Council and Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group and we can tell you that positive steps are being made. We will update you all as soon as we can.

We know that this year has been a particularly tough one for everyone as we all learn to live with Covid-19 (Coronavirus) and it is great news that there are now three approved vaccines, two of which are being used to vaccinate our most vulnerable patients.



