

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 25th November 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.

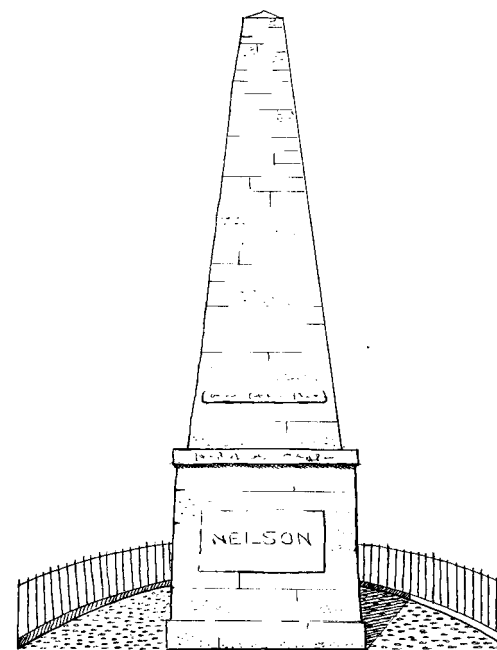
**The Post Office is now providing its
Monday and Thursday service from 8 – 10.00am.**

SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



October 2021

Produced by
**Swarland Village Action
Newsletter 115**

**Vyner Park award. 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 December issue, please supply it for inclusion by Thursday 25th November. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

Even with the eased Covid-19 situation, we are still using the NCC Communities Together Scheme to print it for us. Thanks to Ruth Armstrong for organising this again.

Mobile Library Dates

The NCC mobile library comes to our parish on some Wednesdays. It stops in **Swarland opposite The Square from 10.00 - 11.00am** and **Newton on the Moor from 11.10 - 11.30am**. If you miss either of these it's also in **Guyzance from 11.40am – 12.00** and **Old Felton from 12.15 – 12.35pm**.

The next visits in our area are on **13th October, 10th November and 8th December**.

Most Libraries are now open for the 'select & collect' service and there are 'doorstep deliveries' for some customers. You may also wish to use NCC's Digital Library Services which are available 24/7.

You can check NCC's website for further library information at **northumberland.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/msgtrn/wpac/home .**

Support for Newton on the Moor and Swarland Residents

Support is still available from the 45 residents in the parish who have volunteered to help out their neighbours who are resident within the parish during the Coronavirus Emergency.

In our parish, we have a population of over 900, in around 440 homes, 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 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** or telephone 07775 060 430 during office hours preferably.

The Parish Council website is revised regularly with information relating to services available in our parish (find the website at **http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/**).

NCC has a very useful page of information including a daily update of infections in each county ward (at **https://northumberland.gov.uk**).

Best wishes, Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)

Neighbourhood Watch Update – July 2021

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

So far, I have not received any information from the police regarding any criminal activity in our immediate area.

On the night of Thursday 12th August, the Rural Crime Team, together with volunteers conducted a police operation targeting rural and wild-life crime. The areas covered included Hexhamshire, Tynedale, Longframlington, Mitford, Longhorsley, Scots Gap and Rothbury. The results are as follows: -

15-20 Vehicles checked.

1 Vehicle uplifted in Corbridge, due to no insurance.

1 Cannabis warning issued (Slaley).

1 HORT/1 issued for the production of insurance (hire vehicle stopped in Dilston, Corbridge).

1 Poaching-related incident where lamping activity was seen (Healey / Slaley). However, no vehicle or persons detected.

The following may be of interest:-

Cyber criminals are gaining entry to business email accounts, and are sending a phishing email to the compromised account's contact list. The email contains an attachment or a link and asks the recipient to log in using their credentials to view / download the file. At first these emails were known to have come from compromised law firms. The police are now aware that other organisations have also been affected. If you receive an email from a legitimate source or known sender relating to the above **DO NOT OPEN** the email, click on the link or reply to the email. Always contact the sender by phone to verify that the email is genuine. It is suggested that if you cannot get confirmation, then delete the email.

We have only received one piece of information from the police regarding criminal activity in our immediate area.

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*

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.



Swarland Village Hall

The Hall, which is run as a community facility is available for hire, bearing in mind that everyone must still follow any remaining Government Covid-19 restrictions. The majority of activities can now be booked but some regular activities are taking place outside or will not recommence until later. **Please support this local facility.** If you wish to check on whether you can book the Hall for a future event, please contact Bryan Stanley (contact details elsewhere) or Steve Woolfrey (stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com or 01670 787 883).

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

Karate Classes on Tuesdays 5.30 - 8.30pm. Contact **Ashleigh Davidson** on **07947 694 014** or **07930 838 872.**

Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class on Wednesdays 10 – 11 and 11.15 – 12.15. Waiting lists are currently full – for details contact Anne Raine on **07934 425 844.**

Swarland Craft Group meets on Wednesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm. Our first meeting on **22nd September** was very successful. Unfortunately, at the moment the Group cannot accept new members as we have reached the capacity of the Village Hall. Any enquiries: Margaret on 01670 – 787 705.

Swarland Carpet Bowls on Thursday evenings from 7pm. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, contact **Malcolm or Joan Nesbit** on **01670 783 140.**

Pilates Classes on Thursdays 9.30-10.30am. To join in contact sandyturnbull6@gmail.com . Possible Monday class soon as well.

Tribe-Zuza dance sessions 11.15 – 12.15 on Tuesdays. For further details contact Angela on **01670 787 223.**

Newton on the Moor Jubilee Hall - Coffee Morning

Do come and join us on **Saturday 9th October from 10.00 till noon**, when we shall once again be offering coffee, outstanding cakes and scones and most importantly an opportunity to meet the village and your friends.

For the first time for several years, we have decided to increase our prices slightly, but £2.50 will still buy you a coffee / tea and scone while an investment of £3.00 produces a drink and a slice of one of our superb cakes. You can top up your coffee for 50p, buy a further slice of cake for £1.00, or another scone (with jam and butter included) for 50p. We offer cakes for sale, so please bring a suitable container if you would like to take some home.

We look forward to seeing you – do come along!

Alison Gallico

NotM & Swarland Parish Council - September 2021

The Parish Council (PC) has reverted to holding traditional, face-to-face meetings, following a 17-month period of video meeting via Zoom.

Parish Plan

The PC has been reviewing the parish plan ‘Community First’, which was compiled by a broadly-based team of residents between 2008 and 2011. The Plan was and is for the whole community: it is not just a Parish Council plan. It covers a range of local services, economic activity, the needs of young people, public transport, and much more. Although now 10-12 years old, most of the information gleaned from the surveys and consultation events is still relevant, and there are many ideas and proposals that are still worth following-up. We have prepared an update and also a number of suggested priorities for further exploration and / or action on which we would like to hear people’s views, preferably before the end of October. The review paper can be accessed on this link:

[Parish Plan | Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council](#) .

Planning matters

We benefitted from a useful training session with NCC chief planner Rob Murfin in September and, in the Q and A session which followed, we raised a number of issues, including:

- Our continuing desire to see adoption of the unadopted side-roads in Swarland, and our frustration at the ‘ping-pong’ between the highways and planning departments.
 - The overloaded sewerage system, and the inability of Northumbrian Water to pose realistic objections to proposals for further building.
 - Enforcement and effectiveness of planning conditions.
 - The weakness of planning agreements to secure affordable housing.
- We have been promised a fuller set of written responses to these issues....

Transport improvements and road safety

Rob Murfin is now in a more senior position, and in charge not only of planning, but also highways, waste and other local services. He has encouraged us to re-submit our current-year priorities, but with strengthened arguments, for the next Local Transport Plan.

Budget 2022-23

Over the next few months, we will be planning our budget and precept for next year. Please let us know if you have any projects or ideas in mind which might require some PC funding.

Where’s Trevor?

We have been trying to persuade our local county councillor Trevor Thorne to pay us some attention and engage with our community. In his previous 4-year term of office 2017-2021, he attended just 7 of our meetings, out of a possible 44. He responded to just 5 of our emails, plus a few of our phone messages, and he has never supplied any written

[Cont overleaf]

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PC Update cont]

reports for The Column. This is a pretty poor performance, considering his £20k annual 'salary' from the County Council. We look with some envy at those areas of the county with conscientious county councillors, who frequently attend their Parish Council meetings, produce reports for community newsletters, respond to correspondence, and proactively keep their communities informed about key issues and developments.

**PC Clerk, Jan Anderson janandersonpc@gmail.com or 07775 060 430.
PC website: newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk .**

Vyner Park News - September

The group of dedicated volunteers which has transformed Vyner Park over lockdown, has not stopped! The changing areas in the Pavilion have been sorted out and are ready for use by the football team for competitive matches. In anticipation of the darker nights, we have also managed to get the flood lights working on the MUGA and tennis courts. The flood lights for the bowling green are going to take a bit more work but we hope to get them working again too.



As a result of the transformation of Vyner Park, this summer we entered the LOVE Northumberland awards, run by Northumberland County Council, to promote improvement of the environment in the county. We were 'Highly Commended' by her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland in the 'Best Coast or Countryside Project' (i.e. projects that happen in

more rural areas) at a Ceremony held at Alnwick Gardens in September (the 4 of us are top-left of centre).

My thanks go to all those who have helped and volunteered - without you, we wouldn't have done it. And, of course, please continue to help!

*Steve Woolfrey, Chairman of the Management Committee for Vyner Park Charity
01670 787 883 | steve.woolfrey@outlook.com*

**Deadline for items for the December issue of
The Column: Thursday 25th November 2021.**

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels



Autumn is now upon us and it is a bountiful time for squirrels, Red or Grey, as fruits, seeds and nuts are in abundance. Hazelnuts began to appear at the end of August and squirrels love them. Unlike Reds, Greys can tolerate high tannin levels in the nuts they eat and so will eat them green. In areas with a large grey population, the hazelnuts will be gone before the reds are able to eat them.

Acorns are also very high in tannins and, contrary to popular belief, are not a major food source for Reds. The North of England still has a fair number of conifer trees and these have enabled some of the Reds here to hang on. Reds are more of a conifer specialist and, with being half the weight of a Grey Squirrel, can survive on the small seeds within the cones.

We continue to monitor the 8 sponsored feeders in Swarland woods as well as feeders in Newton on the Moor. Sadly, we've only had one Red kitten sighted so far this year. We need our remaining population to have kittens to keep the population thriving. September is the time when the second brood of the year is born, so hopefully, we'll see one or two more soon.

As always, please keep reporting any squirrel sightings on our website at **www.lcreds.org.uk** or email them to **sighting@lcreds.org.uk** .

We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the conservation of our local red squirrels. If you like being out and about in the countryside, think it's important to preserve our native wildlife and would like to be involved in a very worthwhile cause then please get in touch. You will find our contact details on our website at **www.lcreds.org.uk** .

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group.

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Felton Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

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Meetings of the Felton PPG have been taking place monthly; at the September meeting Suzanne Beddow was elected chair. She stressed the importance of representation from all areas of the practice and members are still sought from Shilbottle, Longframlington, and other outlying areas, as well as registered patients who may wish to join from within the Felton area. Please contact alison.gallico@btinternet.com for joining details.

Discussions on the new surgery building continue between the Parish Council and the developer but commercial issues remain. Members raised the issue of car parking space in view of the number of patients travelling from outside Felton village and have been assured that this is under discussion with the developer.

There have been rumours of the closure of the current building but these are incorrect and the surgery continues to function as normal. It is open from 8.30 to 6.00 (closed 1.00-2.00) with dispensers busy throughout the day. Social distancing remains an issue due to the small size of the waiting area, so face-to-face consultations cannot take place at present; the resumption of clinics is at the forefront of discussions within the practice and as soon as NHS permission is received, they will resume. The district nursing service is unaffected and continues as normal.

The surgery has received its supplies of Covid and Flu vaccines. Eligible patients who received their second Covid jab at least 180 days ago are now being contacted by the surgery to make appointments for both jabs at Amble Health Centre, beginning with the over 70s. As supplies increase, the next cohort of patients will be invited to attend. Patients may book through the national vaccination centres if they prefer to do so.

The routine programme of vaccinations for shingles and pneumonia, and smear and other tests continues. Dr Lees asks that patients who are unable to attend for smear tests should contact the surgery so others can be offered the appointment.

Joan Givens who has been the practice nurse for some years has retired; she will continue to assist on a part-time basis and a new practice nurse will join the surgery shortly. Two healthcare assistants have joined the Felton practice and **Dr Chris Trafford** has been appointed as a permanent GP. The new Registrars are **Dr Sana Muffazar, Dr Christopher Such & Dr Rachel Pearse**. The practice is delighted to offer physiotherapy advice; **Joe Hall will deal with musculoskeletal problems**, initially by phone, on Wednesday mornings.

Contact the practice by phone on **01670 787 353** or visit its website for further information at www.feltonsurgery.nhs.uk .

Alison Gallico, PPG Secretary

Neighbourhood Development Plans

In Northumberland, Neighbourhood Development Plans are created by Parish or Town Councils and set out planning policies for the development and use of land in their area. These can be either general or site-specific policies and cannot block development already agreed through the Northumberland Local Plan. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is in force, planning decisions for that area must be taken in accordance with its policies, as well as those set out in the Northumberland Local Plan.

Extract from NCC Neighbourhood Planning News Letter dated July 2021: *“Residents of Alnmouth, Craster, Embleton, Hexham and Lesbury now have more of a say over future development in their parishes, following the adoption of their Neighbourhood Plans. The Neighbourhood Plans will form part of the Statutory Development Plan for Northumberland, meaning that future planning decisions in the five areas will be made in accordance with policies in the respective Neighbourhood Plans unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The plans were officially adopted - or ‘made’ - at a Cabinet meeting on 13th July. This comes after there were referendums in each area, asking residents if they wanted the Neighbourhood Plans to be considered during the planning process. All of these plans and supporting documents may be viewed on the Council’s neighbourhood planning website.*

The Neighbourhood Plans will become a key part of the planning process for these five areas. They will carry real weight in decisions on the provision of new housing, businesses and services, retaining community facilities, protecting green spaces, providing sustainable transport, protecting local heritage assets and the design of new development. They were created by parish and town councils with significant input and support from local residents, who worked closely with the neighbourhood planning team to determine what is important to each area during the creation of the plans.

Northumberland Local Planning Authority has a statutory duty to support any local community preparing a neighbourhood plan. Work is continuing to prepare neighbourhood plans for 26 other parishes while 10 are already in place.”

NotM & Swarland Parish Council Clerk Jan Anderson has confirmed we have not taken up our involvement in the scheme.

Barry White

The Great North Run (12th September 2021).

I just want to say a very big **Thank You** to everyone who very kindly sponsored me in the Great North Run this year. Your generosity and encouragement has been overwhelming. I ran the 13.1 miles in 1 hour 52 minutes. A personal best.

So, I was very pleased with that. As this goes to print with all of your support, we raised over £2100. **Sightsavers** will be so appreciative, as am I. Thank you all for making a big difference to others not as fortunate as ourselves.

Kind Regards, Postie Pete

Percy Wood Holiday Park – Meeting with Billy Harrison

Billy Harrison asked for a meeting to try to resolve some issues. It was held on 15th September and attended by Jackie Stent and Barry White (residents), Ray Postolovsky (interested party), Suzanne Stanley and Jan Anderson (Parish Council), Billy Harrison (Harrison Leisure) and Harvey Emms (Lichfield Planning Consultants).

A document was produced by Jackie Stent based on residents' queries / concerns and this formed the basis for discussion at the meeting. A copy of this document and the minutes taken by those representing the residents are available – please email nomorecaravans@btinternet.com if you wish to receive copies.

Billy Harrison made the following comments -

- He has no plans to sell the driving range – it will remain part of the PW site. The current application for 60 caravans is to boost the finances of the company as losses were made during the pandemic.
- He has no plans to downsize the golf course to 9 or 12 holes – it will remain a full golf course for use by holidaymakers / residents at PW and anyone else who wishes to pay and play, though there will be no membership.
- He has no plans to sell the Clubhouse site – it will remain part of the PW site.
- He is to stop the sub-letting of accommodation on-site and the siting of further hot tubs – he is totally against both and within 3 years the site will be an “owners only” site.
- He stated that his original plans on both the driving range and Clubhouse sites were for residential park homes, not houses or caravans – NCC had knocked back these plans and insisted on houses / caravans on the sites.
- He would be willing to go back to the idea of park homes on both sites if this suited the residents and place the extra caravans elsewhere on the PW site.
- The park homes would be sold to owner occupiers over the age of 50 with no children allowed – they would have their own garden, postcode and pay council tax. There would be 16 on the Clubhouse site and 42 on the driving range.

It was stated that the current application for 60 caravans would have to take its course through the planning procedure and be granted permission before any amendment/change could be made – Harvey Emms pointed out that time and money had already been spent on this, so it would not be economically viable for Harrison Leisure to submit a new planning application, nor would it be certain that NCC would accept park homes if they rejected this idea before. A firm indication that this alternative proposal would be acceptable to the village and its residents would be required by Harrison Leisure.

There were also discussions about the transport of the new caravans / park homes to the site and the extra vehicles going in and out of the village, the current request by Highways England for further risk assessments (currently being completed by Harrison Leisure), sewage and flooding. No firm, clear response was made about the latter topics by Billy Harrison, though Harvey Emms stated that the new section of pipework will not impose a further burden on the existing connection – it was pointed out to them by Northumbrian Water that the flooding issues in the village were not seen as its problem and NCC had shown little response to the issues. It is difficult to see how extra caravans / park homes would not add to the problem.

I am sure residents will make up their own mind about the meeting but the fight continues against the current planning application for the 60 caravans on the driving range.

To make any comments, please email nomorecaravans@btinternet.com .

Jackie Stent



Swarland and Newton on the Moor Local Heritage Group

The first meeting of the 2021-2022 season began on the 14th September when we welcomed **Peter Carter**. Peter has spent many years exploring the history of **Alnwick Abbey and the White Canons**. He shared his findings, explaining what the Abbey would probably have looked like and how the White Canons would have impacted on local life. The talk was fascinating and enjoyed by all who attended.

The next meeting is in the Club on **Tuesday 12th October 2021** at 7:30 when **Bill Bland** will talk about the **History of the Ordinance Survey**, which I am sure will be another great evening. Bill has spoken at other local groups; his informative and humorous manner reflects his passion for the subject.

We look forward to seeing existing members and welcoming new members. For further information please email: swarlandmlhg@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page 'Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group'.

Lesley Selfe

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