

## Swarland Village Action Group Committee:

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

Treasurer: Susan Richardson.

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

### Write it Down Now !!!

Please supply information for inclusion in  
the April issue by  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.**



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 now operates the newspaper service for the area.  
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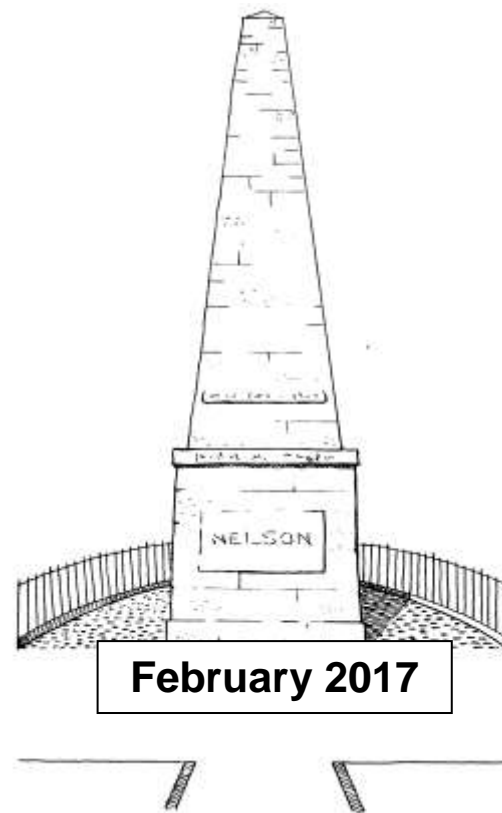
**SWARLAND VILLAGE  
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

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

# The Column



Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 87**

**Parish Litter Pick, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March.**  
**See inside for more details.**

Belated best wishes for 2017. Welcome to your first issue of **The Column** in the new year and if you're new to the area, welcome to you too.

If you wish to put something into the next issue **please supply it for inclusion in the April issue by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Please send it to: the Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

## **Swarland Village Action**

### **Christmas Tree Thanks**

A big thank you must go to: Ken Walters, Dave Chambers and the forestry lads who erected the Christmas tree in The Square, Swarland. Also to Ken, and John & Sue Richardson for decorating it, with the finishing touches done with the help of The Chester Bears.

As usual Ken and Val sang the first Christmas carol by the tree, a tradition of some years now. Finally thanks also to John and Sue for dismantling it.

*Ed.*

## **Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group**

A party of 24 of us thoroughly enjoyed a splendid three course Christmas dinner at Nelson's just a week or so before Christmas. Very many thanks to Debbie, Lynn, Kelly and all their staff for giving us such a lovely evening and such superb food delivered with so much warm friendliness. One of our number told me afterwards that it was the best Christmas dinner she had had in a long time and if Nelson's was available next year to count her in. Not a bad recommendation.

Our next speaker on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, will be Mrs Vera Vaggs who will be giving a talk entitled "The Story of the Swarland Settlement 1934 – 1947". Vera's talks about Swarland are always of great interest and are always very popular so this is definitely a date for your new diaries. Swarland has a proud history and there are few who know it as well as Vera. Evidence of the Settlement can still be seen in the village so this will be an opportunity for those new to the area to discover a little more about parts of the village they may pass every day and for long-time residents to refresh their memories.

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Mrs Eleanor George will be giving a talk entitled "Acton Hall and Acton House". Acton, as you will know, is just across the A1 from Swarland but as the lane from the Felton road to it is now little used by through traffic, perhaps the only people who are aware of the Hall are dog-walkers. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more of its past and perhaps present.

Membership of the Heritage Group from 1<sup>st</sup> February for the remaining 5 meetings of this season will be £6.25 per person. If you just want to come for a particular speaker or talk, we will be equally delighted to see you and the charge will be £2.50 per person. Meetings are held in the Swarland Village Club on the second Tuesday of the month starting at 7.30pm.

Looking forward to seeing you. Any enquiries about the Heritage Group, please ring 01670 787 121.

*Caroline Thomas*

## **Neighbourhood Watch Update December - January**

Since Sgt Graham Vickers moved from Rothbury we have not had any regular police updates. His replacement, PC Paul Sykes (No 2867) has been to one PC Meeting and has just reported the following matters relevant to our area.

3/12/16-6/12/16. Theft of drainage pipes from a NotM address, goods' value £150.00. These were new items delivered for fitting by the owner.

Swarland remains one of the quietest parts of the sector for reported crimes and incidents.

For information: PC 1449 Brown has now retired and another officer is being sought to fill the post. Officers currently working out of Rothbury are PC2867 Sykes and PC 2076 Brimble and SGT 2106 Wharrier.

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, e-mail [alnwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alnwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk) , phone 101 ext 61353, or call in at the office on Front 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.

*Harold Hinchliffe, 2 Nile Drive, Swarland. Tel. 01670 783 669 Mob. 07713 097 250*

## **St Michael's & All Angels, Felton**

**Sundays** 8am service - a chance to connect with God through a **prayerful and reflective**, Communion service.

11am service - a **service for all ages**, with Holy Communion & Junior church.

6.30pm - **Youth Group** aimed at Year 7+ young people. Food. Tuck. Games. Wii. Table tennis. Pool. Friends. Silly games. Prayer.

**Tuesday** afternoon tea - Last Tuesday of the month 2.45pm at the Village Hall.

**All are very welcome!**

### **More details?**

Contact Rev James Harvey on 01670 787 263 or [james.harvey@live.com](mailto:james.harvey@live.com) .

Christians Together in Felton.

## **Recycling Corner**

Why not recycle your unwanted items through The Column? Recipients of free items are asked to make a small donation towards this newsletter's running costs.

Items for sale? – If successful, the seller is asked to make a small donation as above.

**Large quilting frame.** New and unused. Contact Margaret (01670 787 705) or Joyce (01670 787 855) for more information. Reasonable offers considered.

## Mobile Library Dates

The NCC mobile library comes to the parish every other **Wednesday** morning.

It stops in **Swarland** opposite **The Square** from **10.00 - 11.00am** and in **Newton on the Moor** from **11.10 - 11.30am**. If you miss these it's also in **Guyzance** from 11.40am – 12.00 and **Old Felton** from 12.15 – 12.35pm.

The next few dates are as follows: **1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April**. If you value this service - "Use it or lose it".

## Swarland Village Hall Activities

The Hall offers seating space for up to 120 people, a stage with lighting and a modern sound system (plus hearing loop), a kitchen and toilets.

With its PRS Licence, hirers can legitimately use music in support of their events in SVH.

Current activities in the Hall include the following:

**Archery** starts every Monday at 7pm until March / April. Contact Steve Woolfrey on 01670 787 883.

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

**Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class** on Wednesdays **10 - 11am**. £3.50 per session. New members welcome. For more information please contact Anne Raine on 07934 425 844.

**Swarland Craft Group** on Wednesdays **1.30 – 3.30pm**. £1.00 per session includes refreshments. New members always welcome. For further details ring Margaret 01670 787 705 or Joyce 01670 787 855.

**Swarland Carpet Bowls Club** on Thursday evenings from August to end of March. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, just come along. For more information, contact Jack Dobson on 01670 787 836.

**If you wish to book the Hall** for a group or private use **please contact Bryan Stanley**, details at the front of The Column.

*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

## NotM & Swarland Parish Council - December / January

### **Parish Council Report**

There was no meeting in December. The Parish Council (PC) met on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Swarland Village Hall. The next meeting of the PC will be in the Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7pm.

### **Parish Council Budget**

Our mid-year review of our 2016 / 17 finances suggests that we will break even at the year-end. We have agreed to establish a fund to support future improvement projects to the three community buildings in the parish (two village halls and Vyner Park pavilion). Following consultation over next year's budget (2017 / 18) we have agreed to increase our annual support to the two village halls, and to support a review of the parish plan and (if needed) the new local heritage project. We're increasing our precept by 5.6% to £19,000.

### **Parish Litter-Pick**

All volunteers are invited to join us for the annual litter pick, which will take place on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March**. Please assemble at **Swarland Square at 10am**, wearing suitable and visible outdoor clothing. Plastic bags, picker tools and disposable gloves will be provided. The litter-pick will cover the two villages and the roads between, but it can be extended to new areas if there are sufficient volunteers. The contact person is Greg Anderson (contact details are the same as for Jan, below).

### **Boundary Review**

Following consultation with local residents last year, the PC asked Northumberland County Council (NCC) to review and change the parish boundary to include the area to the west of the A1 and also north of Leamington Lane, Swarland - currently within Felton Parish. NCC carried out the formal consultation but following strong objections from Felton Parish Council, has decided that there should be no change.

### **Affordable Housing**

Our parish plan identified a need for low-cost rentable housing in the parish. Currently, there is no such provision. NCC's preference for further up-market housing in Swarland suggests it is unaware of our particular housing needs. We are therefore arranging to explore with NCC's Affordable Housing Officer what action we might take to provide for this need.

### **Scam Phone Calls & Emails**

The PC has been contacted by a local resident concerned at the high levels of scam phone calls and emails that he and other people in the area are receiving. There are ways of reducing these problem contacts, and advice is published elsewhere in this issue of the Column.

### **Potholes within the Parish**

Over £1,000,000 extra funding has been awarded to NCC to address pothole issues within the County. Potholes and damaged roads can be reported to NCC on **0345 600 6400**.

### **Bus Service on Wednesdays**

Information on the Wednesday bus service operating from Longframlington through Swarland, Percy Wood Caravan Park, NotM to Alnwick, is displayed on parish notice boards and on the PC website. The service is being operated at no cost to the PC, allows a few hours for shopping, visiting etc. You don't have to pre-book, and concessionary passes are accepted. Please do make a point of using this service (See bus times and stopping points elsewhere in The Column.).

**If you have comments or queries, please contact the Parish Clerk – Jan Anderson on 01665 575 145 or [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com).**



### **All Aviators, Sailors and Landlubbers!!!** **Attention!!!**

#### **Peter Pan - Well...Sort of' is ready for its "launch"**

Yes - it's the usual panto story – but with a few twists along the way. The Darling household is preparing for dinner party and Nana is trying to get the children, Wendy, John and Michael, to bed. Mrs Darling confides in her husband that she has seen a boy's face peering in at the window – and makes sure that everyone is extra vigilant.

However, when all is quiet in the nursery, Peter Pan and Tinkerbell enter and search for Peter's shadow. Wendy wakes and asks who he is. Peter tells her he is from a magical place and in time the Darling children are 'whisked off' to Never Never Land where "boy meets girl", "boy loses girl" and then "boy gets girl". The 'Well...Sort of?' is where the confusion of which "boy" gets which "girl" begins. Will it be Peter Pan? Wendy? Tinkerbell? or Tiger Lily? – or one of the local Felton characters? What is the "Coquet-dile" and what will it get up to?!?!

Each of last year's performances was a 'sell-out' and a number of people were disappointed; therefore, you are recommended to you buy your 'Peter Pan - Well.....Sort of?' tickets as soon as possible.

### **Felton Village Hall**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm**  
**and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Matinee at 2.00pm.**

**Ticket prices: Adults £6, Children (under 11) £3, Family tickets (2 Adults + 2 children) £15.**

**Please note - Saturday evening performance – All tickets are £6 per person – no concessions.**

**Tickets are available from Hillrise Stores, Gallery 45, Hair Naturelle and Grace Aynsley (01670 787 283 or [grace.aynsley@btinternet.com](mailto:grace.aynsley@btinternet.com)).**

The 'clock' is definitely 'ticking' now – and that is exactly what Captain Hook is afraid of!!!

### **Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor**

Every Tuesday evening is Carpet Bowls Club. New members are always welcome, come along and give it a try! Contact John on 07717 700 011 for more details.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February:** Coffee Morning, 10 - 12, come and enjoy a tasty bacon or sausage bun, plus all the usual cakes and bakes to eat in or take away. Plus a Valentine themed raffle.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February:** Communion with St. James' Church at 12pm.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March:** Dance to the music of Terry Deane. Pooled supper, 8 - 11.30pm, £4 on the door.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March:** Coffee Morning, 10 - 12, last chance to enjoy a sausage or bacon bun! Also delicious bakes and cakes.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March:** Communion with St. James' Church, 12pm.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March:** Parish Council Meeting, 7pm start, all are welcome.

To book the Hall please call Liz on 01665 575 680.

We are looking for more committee members to join our happy team. At present we have vacancies for a Chairperson and a Secretary, to find out more please call Judy on 01665 581 531.

*Judy Williams, Jubilee Hall Treasurer*

### **Community Orchard – let us have your views**

I mentioned in an earlier issue that a Swarland resident had suggested developing a community orchard on the grassland to the east of the playing field at Vyner Park, with some additional seating. Creating a community orchard (or even just a smaller scale operation of "planting some fruit trees") on uncultivated land isn't an easy task, and it will require a dedicated team of people to help create and then maintain it as the trees establish.

We'd like to hear your views and also test the level of interest within the parish, so we're inviting you to answer a brief survey **before midnight on 28<sup>th</sup> February**.

You can either go to <http://vynerpark.org.uk/community-orchard-survey/> or contact the Vyner Park Charity Management Committee Secretary (01665 575 145 or [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com)) if you need a hard copy.

*Suzanne Stanley, VPCMC*

**Deadline for items for the April issue of  
The Column: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.**

## Try 1572

BT has recently set up a scheme to ward off unwanted cold calls. We all get them – the recorded message claiming to represent a government initiative to offer us a new boiler, upgrade our insulation or double glazing, or to check whether we're eligible to claim some domestic improvement if we're on benefits. If you hear the call through and press the suggested number to unsubscribe, chances are you're actually ensuring you get other similar calls. More dangerous however are the calls made by an actual person, telling you for example you've won a cash prize or are entitled to a refund, or claiming to be your bank and wanting to recover an over-payment into your account. The caller may know quite a lot about you, but still wants you to confirm your full account details so that they can pay money into your account or blatantly withdraw some in the case of an over-payment scam. Whatever their claims, if you provide your account details these will be used to remove money from your account. Never give your bank account and personal details to a cold caller, whoever they claim to be. Banks insist that they never ask for such information over the phone.

The new BT service (maybe there are equivalents for non-BT customers?) involves dialling 1572 immediately after receiving and ending a nuisance call - **which you have to have answered** - and following the menu provided. Access to your phone will then be blocked for that number. You may find you still receive some further calls, as many of the callers regularly change their 'number', but over a period your nuisance calls should reduce.

To use this 1572 service you first need to go to the BT website and follow the procedure to set it up for your phone number.

If you do receive any doubtful calls, if you can get the caller's details, report the possible scam to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 / textphone 0300 123 2050.

*Ed*

## Disappearance of Swarland's Trees

One of the features of Swarland that has made it different from many of the other rural communities in Northumberland is its high level of tree cover, much of which is supposed to be covered by Tree Protection Orders and thus should be here for future residents to continue to enjoy.

Of late there has sadly been a massive increase in the number of trees removed right across the parish. Some of these will have been necessary for health and safety reasons, but many of them seem to be largely for cosmetic reasons, a desire to reduce effort to maintain an area or because a tree (which may have been there for many years) is considered to be a threat to a house recently built that is too close to the existing tree.

Trees die and / or may need to be removed but it is vital that **every** tree that is removed is replaced, with an equivalent species, nearby or elsewhere in the parish in order to help keep our parish one in which it is pleasant and safe to live.



## Celebrating our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Competition

In **November 2017** it will be **80 years** since Swarland School was first opened. As part of our celebration we will be asking the children in the school to design a commemorative mosaic of our current school logo.

We would also like to invite our wider school community to create a mosaic design to mark our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The competition is open to children, parents and our local community. We would like a bold and striking design that depicts our heritage and history of the local area and the school. The winning design will be made into a mosaic and displayed in the school grounds.

If you have any ideas, put them down on A4 paper with your name, contact number and brief description of why you chose the design and share them with us.

We look forward to viewing the designs.

Take care. Warmest regards.

*Louise Fletcher, Headteacher, Swarland Primary School*

## Red Squirrels Update

A number of Greys have been reported in and around the parish (but fewer than last year) AND there have also been quite a lot of sightings of Red Squirrels during the current quarter, which is good news. Many of these have been in areas from which Greys have recently been removed.

If you want to check out / use the Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels website, go to [www.lcreds.org.uk](http://www.lcreds.org.uk) . Please continue to report your sightings of Red or Grey Squirrels (alive or dead) anywhere in the area by **going to the website, phoning 07779 69 40 06, 01670 787 916 or emailing swarlandredsquirrels@gmail.com (ideally with an OS Grid Reference or at least a precise location) so that we can pass your sighting(s) on for recording as part of the RSNE region's quarterly figures.**

If you'd like to get more involved, please contact Bryan on 01670 787 916 (or [maxitoby1@gmail.com](mailto:maxitoby1@gmail.com)) or Rosie Mould on 01665 570 129 (or [rosiemould@hotmail.com](mailto:rosiemould@hotmail.com) ).

*Bryan Stanley*



## Vyner Park Update

You'll notice some tree works (crown reduction and removal of dead wood) taking place on Vyner Park before the end of March. Quotes are currently being obtained from tree surgeons and the work will go ahead when practicable. Notice will be given of the necessary temporary path closures.

We've finalised the Vyner Park Charity budget for 2017-18, and have slightly reduced our precept request. However, the aim at this stage is to build up a financial reserve to cover big items of expenditure such as re-painting the tennis courts and having the vegetation on the grassland properly cut, baled and removed next year. In conjunction with possibly planting fruit trees on the driest area of this field (see elsewhere re a survey), proper management of the grassland will improve its viability as a wild flower meadow. The Northumberland Wildlife Trust officer who inspected the park last year was impressed with the number of species already present.

In the warmer weather (remember that?), you'll be able to use the rear patio at Nelson's, as the safety fence and additional paving are now in place, paid for by a grant.

Order yourselves a glass of wine and a sandwich, hire some bowls, and enjoy a pleasant couple of hours!

*Suzanne Stanley, VPCMC*

### **"Lutyens in Northumberland" A talk by Dr Mervyn Miller.**

**7.00pm, the Miller Theatre,  
Newcastle Royal Grammar School.**

Places **must** be reserved for this event, as there is a buffet.

To book your place, please contact Jackie Salmon at the Northumberland & Newcastle Society.

£10.00 Members, £12.00 Guests / non members.

[Jackie.salmon@nandnsociety.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.salmon@nandnsociety.org.uk) or 0191 281 6266 or <http://www.nandnsociety.org.uk> .

**Deadline for items for the April issue of  
The Column: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.**

Inside your copy of The Column you should find a flier from **Nelson's at the Park** about its **Valentine's Night** offer.

## Percy Wood's Plans for the Future

Two planning applications have recently appeared on NCC's Planning Portal:

**a)** for change of use of golf course land "for 216 holiday caravans, erection of leisure 'hub' building and a separate golf building [including a shop, and various other new facilities] and associated access and landscaping works" (No.17/00194/FUL), and

**b)** 16 dwellings to be built on the Percy Wood Golf Club land south of Coast View (No. 17/00195/OUT).

These developments will involve the demolition of the present Clubhouse, shop and bungalow, as well as the felling of many trees on the reclaimed golf course area.

If you wish to view / comment on these applications go to NCC's website and via '*Planning*' and then '*Search and view planning applications*', insert the planning application numbers shown above to access each of these proposals.



## Service Bus No. 406 details.

The mini-bus runs each Wednesday morning from Longframlington to Alnwick and back.

To Alnwick:		To Swarland:	
Percy Wood	09.46	Bus Station	13.00
Vyner Park	09.54	Infirmary	13.04
Kenmore Road	09.58	Cook & Barker	13.14
NotM, Jubilee Hall	10.04	Jubilee Hall	13.16
NotM, Cook & Barker	10.06	School X-roads	13.29
Alnwick Infirmary	10.20	Percy Wood	13.34
Alnwick Bus Station	10.24		

The bus starts from and finishes in Longframlington and there are some other stops en route to Alnwick.



## Sale of Golf Balls

Golfers please note that golf balls are available at the excellent price of 20p each. **Please knock at No.5 The Square, Swarland.** Proceeds go towards SVA related community projects.



