

**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 to the Editor for  
inclusion in the June issue by  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 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.  
All **daily newspapers** are catered for along with the sale of  
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This service is open **from 7.30 to 11am**  
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Newspapers and magazines may be ordered and reserved.  
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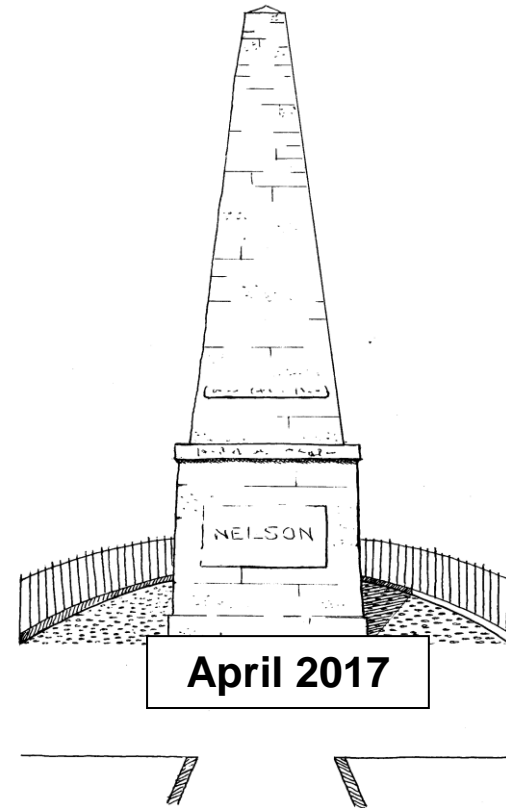
**SWARLAND VILLAGE  
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Available for private parties by arrangement.

Tel. 01670 787 825

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

# The Column



Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 88**

**Save your plastic bottle tops for the  
RVI cancer appeal. See inside.**

Welcome to your latest issue of **The Column**, 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 June issue by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Send it to: the Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

## **Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group**

2017 got off to a wonderful start with a talk on the "Swarland Settlement 1934 - 1947" by Mrs Vera Vaggs. This talk proved so popular that for the first time we had to beg more chairs from the bar. Vera certainly didn't disappoint and gave a most detailed picture of the early days of the village that we see today.

At our March meeting, Mrs Eleanor George gave another well-researched and most interesting talk delivered with dry humour, about the families who occupied and owned Acton Hall and Acton House up to 1954. Both these talks created colourful pictures of a way of life now long gone. My sincere thanks to all those members and guests who brought food for the pooled supper. It was a marvellous spread and there wasn't much left.

At the AGM which followed the pooled supper, those present were given an update on the project started at the end of 2016 to collate the histories of the villages within the Parish. The written history is naturally taking time to research, check and write but the oral history is progressing well. Memories of life in the villages eighty years and more ago have been recorded from several villagers and with the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school later this year, the oral history project will work with the school as well. It is hoped to extend this part of the project to include memories of others too in order to make this a real community project.

Our next speaker on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April will be Mr Michael Thomson who will give a talk entitled "King Arthur – Local Boy Made Good". Michael is no stranger to the Swarland Heritage Group. He is a superb speaker with an enviable knowledge, wonderful sense of humour and an interesting approach to history. His talks have always been enjoyed and he usually leaves us with a lot to think about.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Swarland Village Club. You are most welcome even if you are not a member but just want to hear a particular speaker or talk. The charge for non-members is £2.50 / person and for those who would like membership of the Heritage Group, the cost is now pro rata until June when we break for the summer.

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

*Caroline Thomas*



## **Neighbourhood Watch Update February - March**

Since Sgt Graham Vickers moved from Rothbury we have not had any regular police updates. There have been no recent reports of problems in our area.

If residents have information on any crime, please report this via the following numbers: Emergency issues 999, non emergency issues Tel. 101. Or 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.

*NW Co-ordinator, Harold Hinchliffe, 2 Nile Drive, Swarland.  
Tel.01670 783 669 or Mob.07713 097 250*

## **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 towards our running costs.

**IKEA** single futon with mattress, and cover. £30.

**HP** Laserjet P2035 office printer £40.

Contact Alison Gallico 01665 581 173 for details and other special offers due to downsizing!

## **Red Squirrels Update**

A few Greys have been reported in and around the parish (many fewer than the previous couple of months) AND there have also been quite a lot of sightings of Red Squirrels during the current quarter, which is very good news. Many of these have been in areas from which Greys have previously 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 694 006, 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) or Rosie Mould on 01665 570 129 (or rosiemould@hotmail.com ).

*Bryan Stanley*



## 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: **12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June**. If you value this service - “use it or lose it”.

## Swarland Village Hall Activities

Run as a community charity (Reg. No 1058471) the Hall (SVH) 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 at their events in SVH.

Current activities in the Hall include the following:

**Archery** starts every Monday at 7pm until mid to late April (and occasional summer sessions too). Contact Steve Woolfrey on 01670 787 883.

**Karate Classes** on Tuesdays **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 start of The Column.

## Swarland & Newton on the Moor Show

Regretfully there will be **no parish Show in the summer of 2017**.

Although a small team of enthusiastic volunteers were keen to go ahead this has simply not been possible as there are just not enough people to undertake all aspects of the planning, organisation and actual running of the show.

We have now reached the point of no return, so that's definitely it for this year. If you think you might be interested in getting involved next year, it's never too soon to let us know. Please contact either Sue Brotherton on 01670 787 078 or Jan Anderson via [janandersonnpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonnpc@gmail.com) or message us on Swarland Show Facebook page.

## NotM & Swarland Parish Council - March 2017

The Parish Council (PC) met on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in Swarland Village Hall, which was also attended by County Councillor Trevor Thorne. The next meeting, on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the Jubilee Hall, NotM at 7pm, will be the last meeting of the current PC. Local Elections are taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> May, for both the Parish Council and the County Council. The 'new' PC is reducing from 12 councillors to 10. Local residents are able to stand for election to either or both council. The closing date for nominations is 4<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Roads in the Parish**

Parish Councillors continued with their efforts to get NCC to repair potholes, and to ensure appropriate traffic calming measures are introduced as there have been complaints about speeding in both Swarland and Newton on the Moor.

### **Affordable Housing**

To follow-up on our Parish Plan, work has begun on investigating the nature and size of the need for affordable 'social housing' within the parish. As well as giving a steer on whether we should take the lead in providing new housing, this will also help our community to influence NCC's Section 106 agreements which are drawn up with planning applicants for larger developments, of over 10 dwellings.

### **Bus Service on Wednesdays**

Some months ago, Spirit Buses ceased to operate our weekly NCC bus service, operating from Longframlington through Swarland, Percy Wood Caravan Park and Newton on the Moor to Alnwick. Fortunately, NCC was able to commission NEED to provide a successor, every Wednesday morning. This service is being operated at no cost to the PC, allows a few hours for shopping, visiting etc. Users don't have to pre-book and concessionary passes are accepted. Please do make a point of using the service. **We have received a suggestion that the day and timing may not suit all potential users and so, if you have views on this, whether for or against, please contact the Clerk.**

### **Vyner Park**

The Vyner Park Management Group relies on local volunteers to help with maintaining Vyner Park, to avoid the risk of possible increases to Council Tax to cover the cost of essential grounds maintenance work. The Annual Vyner Park clean up is taking place at 10am on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, all are welcome to help with weeding, sweeping, and general tidying round the car park and bowling green.

### **Potholes within the Parish**

Potholes and damaged roads can be reported to NCC on **0345 600 6400**.

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

### **Pest Management Services**

**Fully licensed and insured**

Moles, Rodents, Rabbits,  
Wasps and other insects.

Contact Rory Brotherton  
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666

### **We Need to Talk about Listerine**

The Parish Council thanks all those who turned up on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March to help with the Parish Litter Pick, which Greg Anderson efficiently organised. Apparently we're a hungry and thirsty lot while we're driving: we consume vast quantities of lager, cider, Red Bull, coke, fruit drinks, crisps, chocolate, burgers and sandwiches – and then chuck the cans, bottles and packets out onto the road verge. And that's before we start on the "haul of heavy-duty booze – this used to be various brands of cheap white cider, but is now typically Bombay Sapphire gin, vodka, wine, Henry Weston's cider and Stella Artois" (*Dave Francis*), and is consumed mainly on the road from the School to Overgrass and to Tip Corner at Newton. And who knew that as a community we're obsessed by mouth hygiene? The clean-up team picked up 30-plus Listerine mouth wash bottles from umpteen locations. Many of those I picked up had about an inch in the bottom, which, in the interests of correct re-cycling, I emptied out; I never want to smell Listerine again! Dave wonders if it fills a market niche somewhere between Crème de Menthe and meths, and suggests we should maybe sponsor a longitudinal study of changes in roadside drinking habits in the parish.

As usual, some pickings needed a strong stomach – the used baby nappies, the containers of mouldy half-eaten food that even small mammals had rejected, and road kill in various stages of decay. Finally, there was a substantial haul of miscellaneous chunks of metal and plastic, a pair of hi-vis trousers, and assorted fibres from canvas belting to items of clothing.

All in all, it's an entertaining couple of hours – see (more of) you next year!

*Suzanne Stanley*

### **Swarland Village Action**

#### **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.



### **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.

#### **April**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** - Easter Coffee Morning, 10 - 12, come and enjoy our delicious home-baked goodies to eat in or take away. There will be an Easter Raffle and a Decorated Egg competition. Bring along your decorated egg and vote for your favourite, prizes to be won!

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** - Communion with St. James' Church, Shilbottle, in the Reading Room at 12pm.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Wine Tasting Evening, everyone welcome. We will be learning about South African wines. 7.30pm start.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** - Meeting of the Parish Council, everyone welcome to attend, 7pm start.

#### **May**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** - Coffee Morning with the usual choice of delicious home-baked scones and cakes, 10 - 12.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>** - Communion with St. James' Church, 12pm.

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 a vacancy for a Chairperson. To find out more please call Judy or Dudley on 01665 581 531.

*Judy Williams, Jubilee Hall Treasurer*

### **Age UK**

**The Golden Guide for over 50s** is out now in Northumberland and as usual is packed with practical information. This free self-help guide has the lowdown on local activities, and groups, as well as getting help with issues about Health, Money, Care and Your Home. Newly updated, this year's activities include basket-making, boat building, gardening and guitar playing as well as the latest contacts for health and social care. And as a special feature the new Golden Guide includes the **Moneymaker** - a light-hearted look at Money and how to make a bit more in your spare time. How about selling your holiday snaps, or renting your home as a film location?

**Ask for a copy at:** Library Branches, Northumbria Healthcare Care teams, Carers' Northumberland, Healthwatch, Royal Voluntary Service Centres, Alzheimer's Society, British Red Cross, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Northumberland CVA, Practice Nurses in GP surgeries, the Pension Visiting Team or selected Boots Pharmacies.

**Postal copy:** If you can't get out, or can't find a copy - ring **Age UK Northumberland** on **01670 784 821** and they'll post one out to you free.

**Online:** The full edition is online at [www.goldenguide.org.uk](http://www.goldenguide.org.uk) .

For all enquiries please contact either: **Heather Alabaster, 0191 386 5918** or email [heather@goldenguide.org.uk](mailto:heather@goldenguide.org.uk) .

Charity Registration No: 1163835

### Partying at Nelson's?

Just a reminder that if you're hiring the main room in the Pavilion for an event outside Nelson's hours (which are 7am – 7pm Wednesday – Monday), the process is similar to that for Swarland Village Hall: obtain a Vyner Park Charity hire form, fill it in and hand it back (making sure you've read the accompanying Terms & Conditions). You can obtain a form either from Nelson's, or from the VPC Secretary (01665 575 145 or e-mail [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com)). The hire fee is payable direct to the Charity at the time of booking. Catering is through Nelson's and is arranged directly with Debbie, Lynn and Kelly.

### Trees

Tree works were carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March. You'll probably hardly notice much of it, but there are benefits to the trees, bowling green and an allotment.

There were just 5 responses to the Orchard survey and 3 of those were team members! This doesn't mean people don't want one, but it does mean there isn't enough active enthusiasm from which to build a team for its maintenance. The proposer is happy to accept that. The Management Team agreed at its March meeting that the focus this year will be on improving the quality of the natural grassland area, but we do intend to plant some trees on some part of it.

*Suzanne Stanley, VPCMC*

### Alnwick District Choral Society - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Join us for our **Spring Concert** at 7.30pm in St Paul's Church, Alnwick, with Peter Brown conducting "**Beethoven's Mass in C & Schubert 's Mass in G**". **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**. Admission £12 at the door, students free.

You are cordially invited to come and sing **Mozart's Requiem** on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June**. Come and take part in a relaxed performance of this glorious piece of music even if you've never sung it before. Our Music Director, Peter Brown will keep us moving in the right direction, with the skilled and patient accompaniment of organist Alan Gidney.

In addition to the Sunday rehearsal you are also welcome to join our rehearsals at **7.15pm on Wed 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June** at **Swansfield Park Primary School, Alnwick NE66 1UH**, where you will have an opportunity to warm up your voice, become a little more familiar with the music, and beat the rush by collecting the music in advance.

For more information access our website: [alnwickchoralsociety.co.uk](http://alnwickchoralsociety.co.uk), Facebook: **Alnwick & District Choral Society**, Twitter: **@AlnwickChoral** or phone Joyce Clayton on 01665 579 078 or email [ComeandSing@AlnwickChoralSociety.co.uk](mailto:ComeandSing@AlnwickChoralSociety.co.uk).



**Citizens Advice Northumberland** is looking for members to join the Trustee Board. We'd particularly welcome applications from people with good understanding of communities throughout Northumberland.

We're a local charity working as part of the national CA network. Through our advice work we promote people's rights and responsibilities particularly in the fields of welfare benefits, housing, employment and money advice. In addition we use our client based evidence to promote changes in the policy and practice of public and private bodies.

We particularly want to hear from people who have a background in business, charitable and community work or public services. We are looking for people who support our aims and principles.

If you would like to find out more about Citizens Advice Northumberland and the role of volunteer Trustees before you apply we can arrange an informal telephone discussion or meeting with a current member of the Trustee Board.

Closing date for applications is: **Friday, 28 April 2017**.


For more information or to request an application pack please contact, in the first instance, Jane Brown, Citizens Advice Northumberland, First Floor, Lloyds Bank Chambers, 24 Bondgate Within, Alnwick NE66 1TD.

Tel: 01665 604 136 or [janebrown@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:janebrown@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)



### RVI Cancer Appeal at Swarland Club

At present NCC does not offer any way for us to recycle the sort of plastic bottle tops we get on our milk bottles which have the recycling

code . Currently these have to be put in our green land-fill bins.

Why not save on land-fill **AND** help add to the funds of a very worthwhile cause. Clean plastic bottle tops can be left in the container on the bar in Swarland Club. **Periodically these go to the RVI to help raise funds for its Cancer Appeal.**



**Deadline for items for the June issue of  
The Column: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

## **Bailiffgate Museum, Alnwick.**

**“Illustrating Harry Potter” exhibition - 18<sup>th</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

Prepare to be spellbound when you visit Alnwick’s Bailiffgate museum this spring. After a short closure the museum opens its latest exhibition which showcases the dazzling depiction, by artist Jim Kay, of the wizarding world and much loved characters of the first Harry Potter book. The exhibition was originally put together by Seven Stories in Newcastle and we know that Jim’s illustrations will captivate fans and newcomers alike as he reveals the colourful world of Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone. This illustrated version of the very first Harry Potter book, and the original art work we show in our exhibition, is full of rich detail, humour and images of breathtaking complexity and beauty. **20 years after its original publication, Bailiffgate Museum is delighted to bring such magic to its part of the world.**

Jane Mann, volunteer, said *“We already have the obvious connection between Harry Potter and Alnwick, because of the filming of the first two Harry Potter films at Alnwick Castle, the home of Hogwarts School. But we think this exhibition offers something new. While avid Harry Potter readers can marvel at their favourite characters brought to life by Jim Kay every visitor will be enthralled by the sheer artistry of Jim Kay’s illustrations. Budding artists can also see Jim’s creative process at work as he moves from model making, to drawing, to finished painting. It should prove an inspirational experience, especially as visitors can get so close to these characters.”*

In addition to dozens of drawings and paintings there is a splendid recreation of Platform Nine and Three Quarters which won’t disappoint fans. Younger children can have fun playing in our new puppet theatre while the museum volunteers have made sure that there are plenty of costumes for lots of dressing up for visitors of all ages to help them get into the right spirit. Visitors can also get sorted - trying on our sorting hat. Local school children have also produced hundreds of Harry Potter related images for our audio visual display. They are fantastic. Jane added *“Bailiffgate is the final leg on the national tour of this successful exhibition and is the last chance for people in the northeast to see it in all its enchanting glory. Don’t miss it!”*

### **About Bailiffgate Museum**

Bailiffgate Museum is an award winning independent museum, located in the historic heart of the Northumberland market town of Alnwick. It is housed in a beautiful Grade 2 listed former church, which is worth a visit in its own right, and is very close to its more famous neighbour, Alnwick Castle. It is run almost entirely by volunteers and is proud of its status as an Accredited Museum.

Open 6 days a week, Tuesday to Sunday, 10am - 4pm. Special visits for groups can be arranged on Mondays. Schools can book visits during term time Monday to Friday. Art student’s special study visits can be booked by lecturers and teachers. Visits can be tailor-made to fit different schools, colleges and other organisations. Contact Vivien Kay for details.

Admission charges £4 adults, £3 concessions, £1 children. Children 5 and under free. During school holidays Family Thursdays offer extra Harry-related activities (11am - 3pm) but booking is essential.

For further details see our website [www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk](http://www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk) or email [ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk](mailto:ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk) or ring 01665 605 847.

## **Service Bus No. 406 details**

The NEED mini-bus currently 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 not shown above en route to Alnwick.

**There have been comments that because of the popularity of Qi Gong on Wednesdays that is possibly no longer the best day for the service. If you have views on this, whether for or against, please contact the PC Clerk, Jan Anderson on 01665 575 145 or [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) .**

## **As Swarland Gets Wetter . . .**

It’s good to know that the Parish Council is responding robustly to the County Council about **all** planning applications in Swarland on the basis of our inadequate drainage and sewerage system. The cumulative effect on the system even of additional individual dwellings added to the many larger developments in the pipeline can only cause increased flooding across the village. However satisfactory a developer’s plans for drainage may appear to be on paper, in practice they still feed into a 1930s system that no longer copes with its existing load.

*Ed*

## **Nuisance Calls? Try 1572**

This BT service involves dialling 1572 immediately after answering and ending a nuisance call, then 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*



