

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 August issue by
Thursday 27th July 2017.



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

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& Swarland Parish Council**
and
Swarland Club

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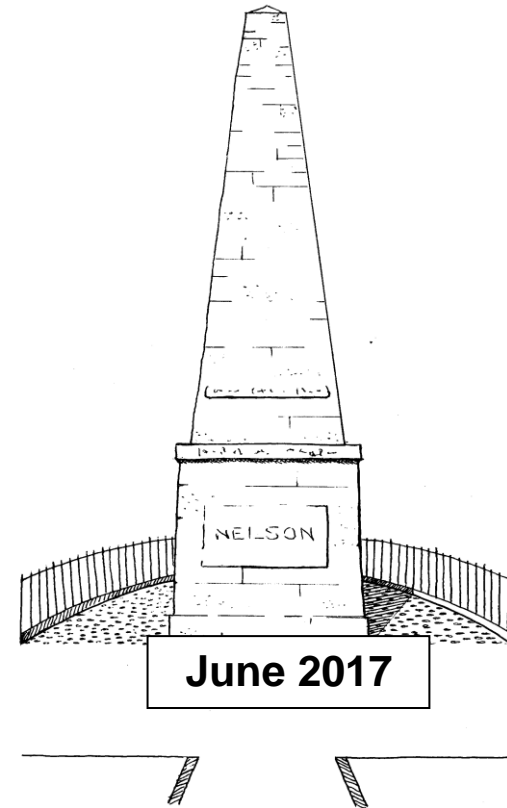
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Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 89

**Your community needs You!
Join the Parish Council - 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 August issue by Thursday 27th July. Send it to: the Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

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.

Open Gardens 2018

The Jubilee Hall Committee is planning an Open Gardens Day for next summer to raise funds for the Hall. It is likely to be on a Sunday in July and we hope that as many residents of the village as possible will want to open their gardens, whether large or small, whether an old garden with established planting or a work in progress. Gardens just outside the village will be welcome too.

The event will be based in the Jubilee Hall, where tickets, a guide showing which gardens are open and what to look out for, and refreshments will be available. Some plants may be offered for sale too. We hope to attract visitors from outside the village so that residents' efforts are rewarded by a good collection for Hall funds.

Open Gardens events are great fun and an excellent spur to doing that odd bit of planting / pruning / weeding that one meant to do last year – so please let a member of the Committee know if you would like to take part.

Alison Gallico & Kate Ferguson

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.

Thursday 8th June: - 7pm, AGM of the Jubilee Hall Committee, followed by an ordinary meeting, everyone is welcome to attend the AGM.

Saturday 10th June: - Coffee Morning with a strawberry theme, 10 – 12. Come and enjoy our delicious home-baked goods to eat in or take-away and chat with your neighbours.

Wednesday 28th June: - Meeting of the Parish Council, everyone is welcome to attend, 7pm start.

Saturday 8th July: - Coffee Morning, 10 - 12, come and enjoy a sociable morning with delicious bakes!

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

Judy Williams, Jubilee Hall Treasurer

Neighbourhood Watch Update April - May

Swarland: 01/03/17 - 30/04/17 - Nothing to report.

Longframlington: 01/04/17 - 30/04/17 - Nothing to report.

Farmwatch Alert: 07/04/17 - 09/04/17 Several thefts of diesel from both farms and an industrial estate in the Rothbury area. Siphoning equipment was recovered at one of the farms. Re Thursday April 13th a white Citroen van was stopped by police on the Mitford to Scots Gap road (B6343) and a male arrested. The vehicle is suspected of being linked to rural crime, including theft of diesel fuel. Sandra Killeen of the Force Intelligence Bureau wishes to thank the members who contacted the police with reported sightings of the vehicle. This helped the police locate the vehicle and arrest a male.

Update on a recent event: Michael James Young from Ashington was arrested on 26th April for the theft of a vehicle from Scots Gap on Sunday 9th April. He was subsequently charged with two other offences of diesel theft and theft of tools from the Scots Gap and Amble areas. A trial date has been set for June 2017.

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, 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*

Red Squirrels Update

There has been a spate of Greys in some parts of the parish AND there have also been a number of sightings of Red Squirrels over the current quarter, which is very good news. Many of these Reds are 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. 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 Ron Lightfoot on 01670 787 059 (lightfootq@gmail.com) or Rosie Mould on 01665 570 129 (rosiemould@hotmail.com).

Bryan Stanley

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 again every Monday at 7pm in October (there may be occasional summer sessions). 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.

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.

Panasonic SD251 breadmaker with manual. **£25.**

Flymo Turbo Vision 380 hover mower with manual. **£20.**

Reebok Fusion exercise bike with computer consol + handbook. **£50.**

Contact 01665 575 445 for details and other offers due to downsizing!

Light cream bathroom suite consisting of jacuzzi with pump, wash basin, bidet and toilet in excellent condition will be available in a couple months. There is no charge other than a nominal contribution to help with cost of publication of The Column. Contact 01670 787 042 to arrange to view. New owner would need to collect.

Professional Belt Drive Turntable with Cassette / Radio / CD Recorder and USB to Computer. I personally don't understand it but it's a machine which transfers LPs and cassettes to CDs (can send pictures too?). I have tried to use it but I'm afraid it's stumped me, so it's in pretty much brand new condition. It comes with instruction manual, speakers, usbs, new cds and envelopes etc. I bought it for £199 and I'm now asking **£50.** If anyone is interested in it, I can deliver within a few miles! If you would like more information, please let me know on 07786 424 406.

NotM & Swarland Parish Council - May 2017

The Annual Parish Meeting and the **Parish Council AGM** - with the new Parish Council (PC) - took place on 17th May, a week earlier than usual, to comply with the post-election timetable. The PC size has been reduced from 12 to 10 seats, and six Councillors from the 'old' council decided not to re-stand; Martyn Bettel, Robert Brotherton, Helen Handyside, Sue Richardson, Bob Ryan, and Sharon Spurling, whom we have thanked for their contributions. Greg Anderson, David Francis, Neil Mansfield, David Rixon, Suzanne Stanley, and Steve Woolfrey were elected unopposed, and they have now co-opted Stephen Gallico from NotM to fill one of the remaining vacancies. The Chairman of the PC is David Francis with Steve Woolfrey as Vice Chair.

At the Parish meeting, Cllr Francis (as Chairman in 2016/17) reported on the work of the PC over the past year which included the concerns the Council had about NCC planning decisions and that the PC can no longer take for granted the agreed settlement boundaries. He also mentioned the concerns the PC continues to have about drainage issues in Swarland, and the condition of roads in the parish.

Help for the Village Halls

The PC aims to develop a better and closer relationship with the two village halls to support their plans and maximise claiming back on VAT etc. The PC operates on a modest budget (£18k last year; now, £19k) which is good considering that it manages a cemetery as well as Vyner Park. PC finances are well under control and with a NALC grant it has purchased computer equipment, while an NCC grant paid for capital works at Vyner Park.

Potholes within the Parish

Recently, it was brought to the attention of the PC that a local resident tripped on a pothole in Kenmore Road breaking her arm and suffering grazes. A letter of concern was sent to NCC Chief Executive and if any other residents suffer accidents they should write to: The Insurance Department / Claims, NCC, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF, giving the date the accident happened, its location, photographs or receipts for replaced tyres etc, and send them in with the claim. That will speed up the process as you will be asked for all these details anyway, causing further delay.

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

Roads in the Parish

Just before leaving the PC, Robert Brotherton presented a paper on road responsibilities which had been prepared by him and Bob Ryan. This will be put on the PC website, and the PC will ensure it does not fall by the wayside.

To fill the remaining vacancies, the PC is keen to have a good gender / geographic balance so is particularly looking for candidates (particularly women) from Swarland, Hazon or Hartlaw, who are alert to the needs of the community and willing to help with running Vyner Park.

If you think you have got what it takes, contact the Parish Clerk—Jan Anderson 01665-575 145 or janandersonpc@gmail.com .

"We are a grandmother.....of ten"!

A few weeks ago a female mallard decided to nest amongst the bluebells and ivy in the raised bed outside my conservatory window. She was very well concealed but didn't bother about me walking past endless times a day or wheeling the lawnmower within inches of her. She nested there last year too but sadly there was a crow attack one Sunday morning and she was driven off the nest and the eggs destroyed.

This morning I found a broken shell on the path and fearing what I would find I peeped in the nest. It was empty. Nothing but the beautiful lining of soft breast feathers. I was so sad, she had been sitting for weeks and it seemed such a cruel waste.

As I went to the garage something on the stone path behind it caught my attention. There was Mother Duck in a very defensive stance. I soon understood why. As she stood, ten tiny balls of fluff came from under her feathers, nine brown ducklings and one bright yellow. She allowed me to walk past and open up the gate to the top garden where there is much more shrub cover to protect her and her ducklings. What a wonderful sight. So far she has taken them exploring the whole garden, not just the top one. 'Freedom of the borough' you might say and the little yellow duckling is always the last one to catch up!

Ducklings have had a wonderful effect on community spirit in the street. Keith and Val are on voluntary crow and heron watch and several other neighbours have offered their ponds for swimming lessons. As for me, being chosen to provide bed and board for wild ducklings beats winning the lottery! I just hope ten survive. If you enter our street don't be surprised if you see a sign saying Slow Down!! Ducklings crossing have priority!

C T

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Contact Rory Brotherton
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666


**Deadline for items for the August issue of
The Column: Thursday 27th July 2017.**



RVI Cancer Appeal at Swarland Club

The response has been good, but I'm sure there are a lot more milk bottle and other plastic tops out there which could earn money for a good cause.

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.**



Debt Advice Services at Citizens Advice Northumberland

Free, confidential, independent advice on money worries is available at all offices of Citizens Advice Northumberland. This service is vital to people who are struggling to pay bills, make loan repayments and pay important things like their rent and council tax – these problems are becoming more prevalent when people across the area are losing their jobs or having cuts to their working hours. Out of control debts can have serious effects on people's lives leading to loss of their home, possessions or liberty. It is also a major contributor to ill health.

Trained staff will help people get their finances in order and get them back in control of their money and their lives. As part of the help, staff will check if there is any extra income or benefits clients could claim. Advice can come in many shapes and forms; we can provide self-help packs, give telephone or face-to-face advice and web-chat or refer you to another appropriate service.

Call our Adviceline on 03444 111 444 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm. On-line help available at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/web-chat-service/> or at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Offices in your area:

Alnwick Office: First Floor, Lloyds Bank Chambers, 24 Bondgate Within, Alnwick NE66 1TD. *Drop-in sessions: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am to 1pm.*

Amble Office: Fourways Centre, Bridge Street, Amble NE65 0DR. *Drop-in sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am to 1pm.*

Felton Surgery News

It's been a busy time at Felton Surgery with lots going on, so here is an update for our Swarland patients.

How Are We Doing?

We recently hosted inspectors from the Care Quality Commission who spent a day talking and observing the practice of staff and GPs at the surgery. They also spoke to patients, a PPG representative, and took a look at our prescribing procedure. The results of the inspection will be issued publicly in the next few weeks and we'll have a copy of what the inspectors had to say about us on the surgery notice board.

Information Sharing – Important - Please Read

A new computer system now installed at our sister surgery in Widdrington gives us the opportunity to share patient information between surgeries at Felton and Widdrington. The practice is seeking feedback from patients about information sharing between surgeries.

Doctors feel that having records available at both surgeries would help them to treat patients more effectively in an emergency, giving access to records when the system is down at one surgery (happened recently with a short power cut).

- This will not mean any reduction in the number of GP sessions at Felton.
- Your medical records will only be shared with Widdrington surgery – not more widely in the NHS.
- Every view of the record will require a log-in by an authorised person.
- There is no individual opt-out from the system.

An explanatory letter is available in the waiting room and patients are welcome to submit comments through the comments box in the reception area.

Mail Matters

If you have an ongoing condition - for example high blood pressure, diabetes, kidney, heart and lung conditions - you will receive regular letters, either by post or with your regular prescriptions, asking you to make an appointment with the doctor or nurse for routine checks on your condition. Even if you've seen the doctor recently, a letter will still be issued for your regular check-up.

These tests are important to make sure that there's been no change in your health, and to check that you're getting the best available current treatment. As your healthcare partners, we can't do our best for you without your help. Please don't ignore these letters. Either make an appointment, or if you really don't think you need to attend, check at reception.

Keeping Our Surgery Clean

Our Infection Control statement (on the surgery notice board) is an important statement of our mission to make sure the surgery is a nicer, healthier place for patients and staff and to minimise the risk of infection. As well as a general cleaning rota, we recently had our annual 'deep clean'. So if you notice anything around the surgery that isn't as clean as you'd like, please mention your concerns at reception. We really don't mind – it gives us a chance to improve your experience at the surgery.

Contact: Felton Surgery by e mail – felton.surgery@nhs.net .

Patient Participation Group at: feltonsurgerypgp@gmail.co.uk .

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: **7th & 21st June, 5th & 19th July and 2nd, 16th & 30th August**. If you value this service - "use it or lose it".

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Vyner Park

The Vyner Park Charity Management Committee's AGM will take place on Tuesday 6th June at 7pm in Nelson's. You are welcome to attend.

Suzanne Stanley Chair of VPCMC

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Who Looks After Swarland's Roads?

The Parish Council (PC) and NCC have just produced a report which clarifies who is responsible for what with regards to the roads in Swarland. In 2008 NCC purchased the land which comprises the roadways from Crown Estates. This means that when improvements are made to bring the roads up to an adoptable standard they can be adopted and maintained at public expense.

The PC now has a copy of the report and an NCC map showing which roads in Swarland are adopted; these items can be viewed and downloaded from the PC website:

<http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/swarlands-roads/> .

If you have any queries about the status of a road in Swarland, read through the report which explains the different categories. If you are aware of road faults anywhere in the parish you should notify NCC, whether the road is adopted or not. Report potholes and damaged roads directly to NCC on **0345 600 6400**.



Thanks a lot Arthur!

Now well into his 10th decade, well-known and so respected in the village, Arthur Scott has finally retired and put away his cleaning utensils after 50 years of keeping our Village Hall spic and clean! Initially he started caretaking the Village Hall with his wife Dorrie, who sadly passed away in November 2007, but he's carried on another 9 years before handing over to his son-in-law John Richardson (meaning at least the family tradition continues).

Dorrie and Arthur came to our home in The Orchard and gave Pauline and me a wonderful history lesson about Swarland. We heard about how the settlement houses came about and the village developed, we copied various fascinating documents that they explained to us, telling us about the people who lived here and the rents they paid. We were enthralled by their photographs including those of the Queen Mother when she came to perform the opening ceremony.

This information led to the setting up of Swarland Village Action (SVA), of which I was the first Chairman, and the establishment of its popular newsletter 'The Column'. Thanks to, in particular the Editor Bryan Stanley's enthusiasm, this is now a bit like Arthur - fast approaching its century edition.

Mind you our first objective of SVA was to raise funds, buy the land and put the Village Square back as we thought to its original condition. When the work and names wall was built, talking to Arthur again he told me that because of start of the Second World War in 1939 the Village Square had not been finished!

Arthur has lived in his cottage in Swarland Wood for 62 years. Although he has been involved with the Village Hall for over 50 years, he was mainly employed by the Forestry Commission for whom he worked for 49 years.

He still is very much a man of the "land" and his lovely garden and his chickens now keep him well occupied. An avid walker he has also been responsible for finding many golf balls in the woods, enabling golfers to buy them very cheaply, which daughter Susan Richardson sells for the benefit of SVA funds.

Sadly, it was while locking the chickens up in September last year that Arthur collapsed and lay in his garden for 22 hours before being found by his daughter Susan. He was rushed into the NSEC Hospital at Cramlington and for several days was in Intensive Care in a critical condition, before being transferred to Wansbeck Hospital in Ashington. However, his strong character won through and villagers have been amazed by his recovery, even though occasionally we see him now taking to his motorised scooter!

Of course being so active in the village was a big factor for Arthur in helping him to recover so well. For many years his vegetables and flowers grown in his garden have been winners at the Swarland Show. In fact he actually won the Flowers and Vegetables Cup and the Most Points Salver as recently as August 2016. Also he has been involved for many years with Bowls in the village, both Outdoors and Indoor Carpet Bowls in his beloved Village Hall. It was playing carpet bowls with him that I came again directly involved with Arthur.

I was amazed to find out that he alone, well in his 80's at this time, was responsible for moving and putting down the boards in the Hall for the carpet bowls. So much so that while still playing I went up on a Thursday afternoon to help him get things ready for the evening matches against other local villages. He was our much loved captain and still found time at the interval to make and serve the tea!

Ironically I understand that just before his retirement the boards which were very heavy have each been cut into half, so whoever is responsible for getting them ready for the matches now has been bequeathed a much easier job!

Meanwhile outdoors Arthur was the first person to bowl a wood on the artificial green at the Swarland Sports Club and unusually as he is normally very quiet he made a wonderful speech at the opening ceremony. Quite rightly so, Arthur is now the esteemed President of the Bowls Club there. Sadly it might seem to be the end of his direct involvement in the activities of our village, but I doubt it somehow and expect that he will still be prominent in Swarland as he approaches his century. Happy retirement Arthur, and thanks a lot!!

Len Coates

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.

Some people who go to Qi Gong on Wednesday mornings would like to catch the bus to Alnwick and some don't go to Qi Gong in order to use the bus. The mobile Library comes on a Wednesday morning too. If you have views on this, for a Wednesday or Thursday service, or even to have it on another day, please contact the PC Clerk, Jan Anderson on 01665 575 145 or janandersonpc@gmail.com .

