

**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 October issue by  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

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& Swarland Parish Council**  
and  
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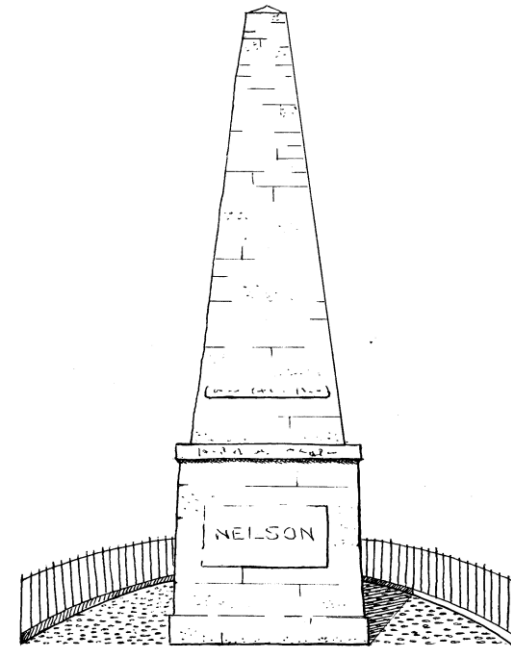
**SWARLAND VILLAGE  
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

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

# The Column



**August 2017**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 90**

**Your community still needs You!  
Join the Parish Council - see inside.**

Welcome to your latest issue of **The Column** 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 October issue by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Send it to: the Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

### **Swarland Village Action**

SVA would like to say a big thank you to David Bradbrooke who's resigned from the committee as he and Wila are moving away from the area. They have lived in Swarland for many years and have taken part in all sorts of activities including delivering The Column. We wish you all the best with your new life.

### **Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group**

Our last speaker in June before the summer break was Freda Thompson who gave a very well researched talk about Laurel and Hardy. Lots of photographs and anecdotes made this a fascinating evening.

In July a number of members and guests made a visit to Manderston in the Scottish Borders. It's the home of Lord Palmer and the house and grounds are well worth a visit not just for the silver-plated staircase rails but also for the impressive collection of Huntley and Palmers biscuit tins and some really exquisite needlework. Not normally open on a Saturday, they made us very welcome and we were treated to an excellent guided tour and then enjoyed an impressive buffet laid out in the Servants' Hall before exploring the gardens. Luckily, although not blazing sunshine, it was dry when we needed to be outdoors.

Our new season of talks begins on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September with Peter Regan PhD talking about "Old Families of Northumberland". Peter has entertained us before with stories about the Greys of Howick so we look forward to him visiting again.

Membership will need to be renewed at the September meeting when you will get your programme for the coming year. It will be £10 per person, the same as last year. That works out at £1.25 per meeting which has to be one of the best value evenings around! If you just want to come to a particular talk or to hear a particular speaker, you are most welcome and the charge then is £2.50 per person.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Swarland Village Club at 7.30pm. Look forward to seeing you then. For more information please contact 01670 787 121.

*Caroline Thomas*

### **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.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Update May - July**

Swarland / Longframlington. Nothing to report from 01/05/17-31/05/17.

Mrs Louise Weatherhead has asked if anyone knows the whereabouts of an expensive tennis racquet her son left against the fence of the Vyner Park children's play area a week before half term. It is a black and yellow Badoley, in a black case. If anyone has any information please ring her: Tel.01670 505 705 or 07764 225 254.

On Sunday 28/05/17 at Cragside House play area a 6 year-old boy was physically assaulted by an adult for upsetting the adult's son. If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please contact the Rothbury office.

\*POLICE APPEAL 14/06/17 Residents are asked to contact police if they have any information on a male described as medium build, dark hair and about 6ft tall, believed to be in north Northumberland. He may have been sleeping rough in farms or farm buildings. Sightings of Michael Fortune, as yet to be confirmed, have been in Alnwick and Rothbury. 21/06/17 Suspect arrested. Thanks from the police to the public, for their efforts and support in helping to locate this male.

\*POLICE APPEAL 13/07/17 A blue Mitsubishi Shogun (reg No. V956 DLD) and a silver Vauxhall Corsa are suspected to be involved in poaching and rural crime. If this vehicle is sighted or if you have any information please contact police.

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.

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

### **Red Squirrels Update**

There have been very few Greys reported in the area of late and, just as important, there have been a number of sightings of Red Squirrels over the current quarter. 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](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, or phoning 07779 694 006** (ideally with an OS Grid Reference or at least a precise location) so that we can record your sighting(s) as a 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](mailto:lightfootq@gmail.com)) or Rosie Mould on 01665 570 129 ([rosiemould@hotmail.com](mailto:rosiemould@hotmail.com) ).

*Bryan Stanley*

## Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

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

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August:-** Coffee Morning for a Summer's day, 10am - noon. Come & enjoy delicious home-baked goods while you chat with your neighbours, or buy them to take away.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August:-** An afternoon with Alnwick Aglow, cost £5.00. Hand and foot massage, DVD on the work of Aglow. Cakes, chutneys, cards, etc. for sale and of course a scrumptious afternoon tea. Why not book a pamper for yourself or tea for the family – contact Jen Oliver 01665 575 828 or email Jen on jenoliver@tiscali.co.uk.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August:-** Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September:-** Jubilee Hall Committee meeting 10.00am.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September:-** Coffee Morning. Wonderful cakes, jams, preserves and cheerful conversation again from 10am – noon.

Advance notice. **Village Supper on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November.** An excellent supper and lively entertainment will be provided by the Jubilee Hall Committee – watch out for further details in The Column and on the notice board outside the hall.

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

*Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary*

## Swarland Village Hall Activities

Current activities in the Hall include the following:

**Archery** starts again on Mondays - 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** starts again in September 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** starts again in September on **Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm**. New members always welcome. For further details ring Margaret 01670 787 705 or Joyce 01670 787 855.

**Swarland Carpet Bowls** 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.

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), kitchen and toilets. Its PRS Licence means hirers can legitimately use music at their events. **If you wish to book the Hall** for a group or private use **please contact Bryan Stanley**, details elsewhere.

## NotM & Swarland Parish Council - July 2017

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 28th June and 26th July.

### **New Councillor**

The Parish Council has co-opted and warmly welcomed new Parish Councillor, Ivor Jones who is resident in Swarland.

### **NCC inorthumberland Update - Superfast Broadband in the Parish**

iNorthumberland recently sent an update to Parish Cllrs which advised that our parish has a coverage of 83.6% of properties currently able to access superfast broadband services and the percentage of properties in our parish in the next phase of the roll out (the end of 2018) is 11%. This leaves 5.4% of properties in our parish for which there are currently no plans for superfast broadband coverage; they have the postcodes NE65 9LR and NE65 9AT. NCC suggests that these residents may need to consider organizing solutions using wireless, satellite or mobile (4G) broadband technology.

### **Bus Service - Additional Service Being Introduced**

Currently, journeys are available in each direction on Wednesdays, between Swarland, Percy Wood Country Park, Newton on the Moor and Alnwick, allowing a few hours for shopping, visiting etc. The timetable is displayed on PC notice boards and the PC website. This service is being operated at no cost to the PC, users don't have to pre-book, and concessionary passes are accepted.

The PC has been advised that an additional new Monday to Saturday service is to be introduced from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September from Longframlington to Alnwick via Swarland & NotM (and return). This service is to be run by PCL Travel. When the timetable is available it will be displayed on the PC website, noticeboards etc.

### **More Parish Councillors Needed**

There are still TWO vacancies on the Parish Council (PC). Applications are sought for co-option in the form of a CV or letter explaining why you think you should be co-opted to the PC. The PC is keen to have a good gender/geographic balance, so is particularly looking for applications from women living in Swarland or the Hazon / Hartlaw area, and also people who can commit some time to helping run the Vyner Park Charity.

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

### 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**. It's also in **Guyzance** 11.40am – 12.00 and **Old Felton** from 12.15 – 12.35pm. The next few dates are as follows: **2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> August, 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October**. If you value this service - “use it or lose it”.

## Thanks a lot Arthur!

Red Squirrels North East has a programme of standardised red and grey squirrel monitoring at selected sites in the north of England. This has been running since 2012 and data collected contributes towards a detailed understanding of red and grey squirrel distribution over time across the area, helping to gauge the success of red squirrel conservation activity.

Our local group - Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels (LCRS) - agreed to take part in the project this year and we carried out surveys in Warkworth and in Swarland. Arthur Scott kindly agreed to host the camera location in his back garden bordering onto Swarland Wood. This took the form of having a time-lapse triggered camera (set off by movement sensors) over a three week period observing squirrel and lots of bird activity at a chosen feeder site in his garden, together with collection of fur samples. There were some technical difficulties with the camera and lots of recording of bird life, but this combined with Arthur's daily record of sightings of squirrels and the monitoring of fur, meant we were able to show whether it was reds or greys visiting. These three different strands of data gave a fund of information which was collected and sent off to RSNE for analysis and incorporation into their North of England Survey.

LCRS would like to thank Arthur for the use of his garden and his help in carrying out this work. We very much appreciated his knowledge and expertise enabling us to do this successfully. His wealth of knowledge about local wildlife in Swarland Wood is remarkable - so thanks Arthur!

*Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels ([www.lcreds.org.uk](http://www.lcreds.org.uk))*



## Qi Gong for Health

On Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, Swarland Qi Gong class members along with fellow Qi Gong students from Anne's Ashington classes enjoyed an outing to Alnmouth beach to practice their Qi Gong exercises. I'm pleased to say the weather behaved itself and we all had a wonderful time energising our Qi by the Sea!



Anne and the Swarland Class  
on Alnmouth Beach

Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) systems are a series of repeated exercises which contribute to the growth and movement of Qi (Energy), adding to one's life energy and delaying the process of ageing!

Qi Gong practice is an enjoyable and beneficial way to improve mobility, posture, balance and circulation. It is a calming, gentle but powerful way to exercise and seems to suit all fitness levels and abilities. Fancy giving it a try? New members are most welcome. **We break up for the summer on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August and start back on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.**

I look forward to seeing you in September, but in the meantime if you have any queries about the classes please contact me on my mobile: 07934 425 844. Thank you.

*Anne Raine, Qi Gong Instructor*

*(Please check under Swarland Village Hall Activities for class details)*

## Speed Restrictions in the Parish

Following a high-impact collision in NotM between a tractor and a telegraph pole, the Parish Council (PC) has been discussing possible road-safety measures with NCC. NCC recommends introducing a 20mph speed limit within the village and its 3 approaches, together with an extended 40mph limit on the northern (ie Alnwick) approach as far north as Blue House. NCC has not offered alternative options, though there is some discretion over the use of 'rumble strips' or painted warning signs on road surfaces. The PC's initial view is to welcome the principle of a 20mph limit within the village, with appropriate signage and 'rumble- strips'. However, we need to get views on the proposals from residents and road users throughout the parish and Longfram, not only about the principle but also its extension outside the village and the proposed 40mph stretch. **Please contact our Parish Clerk, by 18<sup>th</sup> September.** The very detailed specifications of the safety proposals can be viewed on the PC's website at [newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/traffic-calming-proposals/](http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/traffic-calming-proposals/).

Elsewhere in the parish, we are now considering what priorities we might submit to NCC for possible inclusion in the 2018-19 NCC Local Transport Plan, which deals with highways and rights of way capital projects. We are open to suggestions from local residents, but please note that NCC applies strict criteria, so there is no guarantee that our requests will carry weight.

## What's happening at Vyner Park?

### **Remember, remember the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November**

We've had our first planning meeting for Bonfire Night which as always is on the Friday evening nearest to the 5<sup>th</sup>. We've decided the important issues such as who'll be in charge of the bonfire, the firing, and the bar. Nelson's will provide their ever-popular burgers, hot dogs and hot drinks. Put it in your diary now.

### **Cosy Cloakroom**

Regular visitors to the Pavilion will have noticed that the cloakroom is now fully carpeted. However, we didn't do it to make it look nicer; it was for safety reasons as the tiled floor was slippery for children playing and people coming in with wet feet. But it looks good too, and is easier to keep clean.

### **East End Clean-up**

Our neighbour, David Blackshaw, contacted us to say that he would clear the spoil from the hedge at the east end of Vyner Park now that he has fenced his boundary. This will take place in the autumn when vegetation is dying back. We haven't cut the grass on that area as early as we'd have liked, because it needs baling and removing which is more expensive than suits our budget. NCC cuts the rest of the grass at VP but doesn't have suitable equipment to cut the 'meadow'. But the aim is still to improve it and gradually increase the range of wild flowers. We'll find a way!

### **Is This the Start?**

A friendly football match on the sports field between Amble St Cuthberts and Newbiggin / Ashington players on 8<sup>th</sup> July went well. Greg Anderson and Andy Ferguson managed to patch up the old goal-posts temporarily. This has inspired us to seek a grant as soon as possible for new, good quality goal-posts which can be made available to encourage informal play and more matches.

*Suzanne Stanley, Chair, VP Charity Management Team*



## Swarland Primary School News

Swarland Primary School was opened in 1937. As a result in this summer half term, our children explored the history of their school and surrounding area. Children explored old school log books, registers, class photographs and newspaper articles to explore how their school has changed through the years culminating in an end of year show to celebrate Swarland Primary School's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. (See insert for more information.)

On behalf of everyone at Swarland Primary School, we would like to thank the people who have helped us this year.

Thank you very much to all those who generously donated money to the school through Andrew Wilson's charity run along Hadrian's Wall.

A special thank you also goes to the Wilson family for kindly organising and carrying out this event. Your generosity is really appreciated.

Thank you to all of the residents of Swarland and Longframlington and to Nelson's Café for collecting the Active Kids Sainsbury's vouchers for our school. The children have chosen to spend the money on renewing their playground equipment which should arrive at the beginning of the new academic year.

*Louise Fletcher, Head Teacher*

Advert

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01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666

### For Sale for Vyner Park Charity

Two sets of already assembled **Ikea** pine shelving with 4 adjustable slatted shelves. Approx 174cm high x 78cm wide x 35cm deep. Dusty, but otherwise as new. Can deliver within the parish. **£12 each or £22 for two** (current Ikea price £17 each).

To view, contact Greg on 01665 575 145 or Suzanne on 01670 787 916.



# WINEFEST 2017

**By popular request we intend to hold a 'WINEFEST' at SWARLAND VILLAGE HALL on SATURDAY 28th October 7.30pm**

As regulars know this is a FUN NIGHT, For those who have not previously attended a Winefest you will find the evening an excellent opportunity to meet friends and neighbours in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

You will sample a number of wines red, white or rose depending upon the colour of wine you have submitted.

Although you will be asked to give a mark for each wine sampled (prizes awarded for the best wines) we don't take the evening too seriously. The emphasis is certainly on having fun. There will be a raffle and a pooled supper. Looking forward to seeing you there. All proceeds go to Swarland Village Hall.

**TICKETS (£3.50)**

**Will be on sale from Sunday 1st October at**

**NELSONS in the Park**

**or from**

**Steve & Sheila Tel 01670 787 883**



**Deadline for items for the October issue of The Column: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**



## **Extraordinary Objects @ Bailiffgate Museum** **23<sup>rd</sup> June to 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Visitors to Alnwick's museum and gallery are in for a double treat this summer with two exhibitions in one by prize-winning Northumberland photographer, Jose Snook.

"Extraordinary Objects" is a series of photographs created by Jose Snook that explores the objects that people treasure and the memories and stories associated with these extraordinary objects. The work is staged in two parts. Part one is a series of intimate portraits that focus upon people and their extraordinary objects. Part two comprises short photo narratives through which Jose explores and re-imagines the memories and stories associated with selected objects.

Jose explains *"In my work I often explore memory and narrative. I have always been a hoarder, for example keeping scraps of material from a favourite shirt given by my grandmother when I was 5, old concert tickets, a broken watch. These objects all have some story associated with them. I was interested to find out about the objects other people treasure and how these objects have become repositories for their memories and also more broadly what they might tell us about social heritage"*.

Visitors to the exhibition will also have a chance to view Jose's medal-winning portfolio of photographs, "The Glasshouse", which was exhibited during this year's Chelsea Flower Show, receiving a Silver Gilt medal.

Jose says *"I am delighted that Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery will also be showing this work, I was very keen that people from my home county would have the opportunity to see this collection of photographs."*

Jose was brought up in Upper Coquetdale and now lives in the Wooler area. She has spent her life working in the arts and arts education: working as both an artist photographer and teacher / facilitator, helping people to develop their artistic skills, talents and creativity.

Jane Mann, volunteer, said *"We are excited that Jose has chosen to exhibit at our gallery as we aim, as much as possible, to showcase local artists and photographers. Jose's work is of a national standard, breathtakingly beautiful and will be of interest to local people and visitors alike. As usual during the summer months there will be a series of special activities for children based on Jose's work. The museum is a great place to visit for people of all ages."*

Bailiffgate Museum is a small, award-winning museum located close to Alnwick Castle. It is open Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Admission charges: Adults £4, Concessions £3, Children £1. For group visits contact us via: [ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk](mailto:ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk) or [www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk](http://www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk) or phone us on 01665 605 847 .



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## **Take steps to avoid nuisance and scam calls**

July was Scams Awareness Month, but we need to be aware of them constantly as the problem is widespread. What is a scam? A scam is a scheme to try to steal money, personal information or data from a person or organisation.

Scams aren't just a minor inconvenience to people. Besides financial loss, they can cause distress, misery, and even if a scam has been avoided, it can lead to a widespread loss of consumer confidence. **They can happen to anyone.**

The deception can range from pretending to be your bank to selling you goods or services that are fake or which you which will never receive. Other examples include; copycat government sites (eg charging fees for passport applications), ticket scams, computer scams (cold callers saying there is problem with your computer), lottery / prize draw scams, phishing scams (people pretending to be from your bank, or the police, or internet providers) or smishing (inviting you to call a premium rate number).

Not every unwanted call is a scam. Many are from legitimate companies who have purchased your contact information to make marketing or research calls. These "nuisance calls" can still be very annoying and distressing.

Only 5–15% of all scams are reported. There is embarrassment and shame around falling victim, and this can be hugely detrimental for those who have encountered a scam.

### **What can consumers do to tackle scams?**

There are three things that consumers can do if they suspect they're the target of a scam:

**Get advice** from Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **03454 04 05 06**, or get online consumer advice and information at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) .

To report a problem to Trading Standards, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. Trading Standards are responsible for protecting consumers and the community against rogue and unfair traders.

**Report scams** and suspected scams to Action Fraud **0300 123 2040**, or [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) . Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime. **(If debit cards, onlinebanking or cheques are involved in the scam the consumer's first step should be to contact their bank or credit card company.)**

**Tell** family, friends, neighbours so that they can avoid scams.

Consumers can also do the following to cut down on unwanted contacts.

**Phone:** Register their number with the Telephone Preference Service at [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) or **0345 070 0707**. They can also register a mobile by texting 'TPS' and their email address to **85095**.

Report unsolicited marketing calls to the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/marketing> , or **0303 123 1113**.

Use a product to block telephone calls: Your phone company may have a blocking service or help available to protect you from nuisance calls. Call your company's customer service helpline to find out more.

e.g. TrueCall: [www.truecall.co.uk](http://www.truecall.co.uk) , CallBlocker: [www.cprcallblocker.co.uk](http://www.cprcallblocker.co.uk)



