

Swarland Village Action Group Committee:

Chairman: Vacant, Secretary / Editor: Bryan Stanley, Treasurer: Susan Richardson.

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

Write it Down Now !!!

Please supply information for inclusion in
the August issue by
Friday 24th July 2015.



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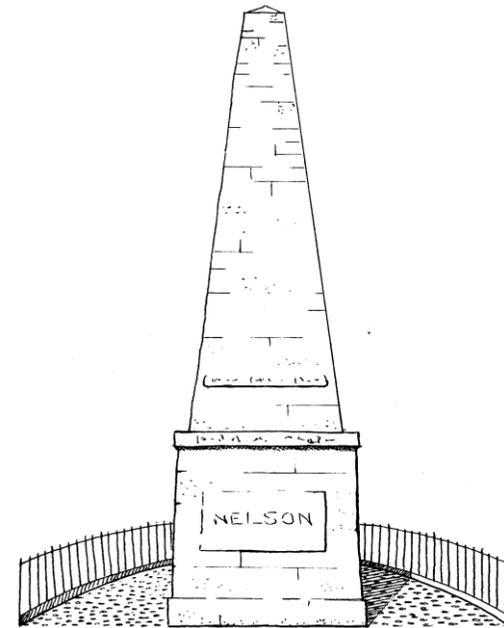
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The Column



June 2015

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 77

**Who's for tennis or outdoor bowls?
Free subscriptions – see Vyner Park
Update inside.**

Welcome to your June issue of The Column and if you're new to the area, welcome to you too. I hope all Council Tax paying households receive The Column; if not please let me know. Thinking ahead, if you wish to put something in the next issue **please supply it for inclusion in the August issue by Friday 24th July**. Send to: the editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .

Swarland Village Action

Dog Mess in Swarland

There has been a complaint about dog owners regularly placing their dog poo bags in the waste bin in Swarland Square rather than going the extra few steps and using the dog waste bin on the other side of The Avenue or through the bridge gate.

It's great that people are responsible enough to clear up after their dog(s) but please think about the houses all round The Square - the smell in that bin can get very unpleasant. Please use the sealed dog bin, especially when there are two so nearby.

Sale of Golf Balls

Golfers please note that golf balls are still available at the excellent price of 20p each. **Please knock at No.5 The Square.**

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

The meeting in May featured a talk by Chris Davies entitled "Almost forgotten - the Search for Aviation Accidents in Northumberland." The sad knowledge that so many aircraft have their last resting place along the A697 and in villages close to ours ensured our full attention and gave rise to many questions.

Our speaker on Tuesday 9th June needs little introduction. The Heritage Group has enjoyed talks given by Michael Thomson before and we look forward to this one which is entitled "The Battle of Otterburn (Harry Hotspur's Big Night Out!)". Michael not only knows his subject thoroughly but delivers his talk with a wonderful sense of humour.

There are no meetings in July and August but we are making a trip in July to visit Crook Hall in Durham. Crook Hall is a Grade 1 listed Mediaeval Manor House surrounded by wonderful gardens so all we need is a fine day. There are one or two seats left on the coach at the time of writing. If interested, please contact me for details.

Meetings resume in September and we have a very varied programme organised for the next year. We would very much welcome new members and meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Swarland Village Club. Membership will be £10 per person per year with a charge of £2.50 per visit for guests. The membership covers 8 meetings with eight speakers. Look forward to seeing you.

Caroline Thomas 01670 787 121



Neighbourhood Watch Update: April / May 2015

► A burglary occurred at Sunnyside, NotM during daytime 01/05/15. An insecure outbuilding was entered, and a quantity of firewood to the value of £50 removed.

► Wednesday 06/05/15. In the early hours a farm building was forcibly entered and two quad bikes stolen from Shellmoor Farm, Alwinton. An attempt was also made at nearby Linbriggs Farm but nothing was stolen. A further report was received of two males with shaven heads, in a black BMW X5 on a 55 plate, apparently behaving in a suspicious manner in the Woodhill Farm area of Sharperton.

Two men have been sentenced following a police investigation into a spate of rural crimes. Ashley Fisher (27) from Dunkeld Close, Hardwick, Stockton and Stephen Robinson (42) from Wordsworth Avenue, Wheatley Hill, Durham were jointly charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and theft of a motor vehicle on 12th November 2014. They appeared before Newcastle Crown Court on Friday 15th May 2015. Fisher pleaded guilty to two conspiracies to burgle, aggravated taking without consent and failure to appear before court. Robinson pleaded guilty to conspiracy to burgle and aggravated taking without consent. Fisher was sentenced to 11 years and Robinson received 5 years & 4 months.

► Until now there is nothing to report for Swarland.

► Please take note of this message from the police. On occasions you may be unsure whether to identify a situation as 999 or 101. ANYTHING suspicious should be reported immediately via the 999 emergency telephone system. On the other hand if you are concerned about something but do not deem it to be suspicious dial 101.

If you wish to contact your local officer, please contact: Sergeant 1883 Graham Vickers, Coquetdale Neighbourhood Policing Team, Rothbury Police Office, Front Street, Rothbury, NE65 7TZ. Tel. 101 Extension 61353.

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

Swarland Red Squirrels (SRS) update

The planned monitoring of squirrels in Swarland Wood has had to be curtailed because of the selective felling work there. **Please remember that if you see any Red or Grey Squirrels (alive or dead) in the area, you should inform SwarlandRedSquirrels@gmail.com or phone 07779 69 40 06 or 01670 787 916 (ideally with an OS Grid Reference or at least a precise location) so that I can pass your sighting(s) on for recording as part of the region's figures.**

I keep a stock of Will Nicholls's excellent wildlife cards (@ £1.50 each) and locally-made squirrel feeders @ £10. You can help to support SRS by buying some, or 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

**Deadline for items for the August issue of
The Column: Friday 24th July 2015.**

Show Piece June 2015

Plans are well under way for this year's show taking place on **Saturday 29th August**. We have a fantastic range of Vintage Vehicles and a good variety of stalls, selling lovely hand-made and locally produced items, already lined up but there is always room for a few more if anyone would like to be included.

The Fun Dog Show with the very popular "Have a go Utility" will be back this year (perhaps Claire might even step aside to let a few dogs have a go) kindly sponsored by Barking Mad – a company that specialises in providing a Home-from-Home alternative to boarding kennels for doggy dependants.

The Bungee trampolines, Laser Quest and Bouncy Castle will be back and thanks to the ongoing generosity of local businesses such as Rix, the Cook & Barker and the Running Fox who contribute to our raffle prizes there will be no charge for any of the children's activities apart from the small entry charge.

As most of you will be aware this year is the 70th anniversary of Peace at the end of WW2. The show team is working closely with Swarland Local Heritage Group, led by Caroline Thomas, and other village groups to bring a flavour of Swarland and Newton on the Moor August 29th 1945 to this year's show. Literally a "flavour" as along with a range of other interesting exhibits the Heritage group will be providing the opportunity to taste foods made from wartime ingredients or made with a lack of ingredients as was the case then. We are also encouraging people attending the show to dress in clothing from the period – grandma's old pinny or a pair of granddad's vintage braces should be a possibility for most people at the very least and we are still open to other ideas and suggestions.

Meanwhile, don't forget to get sowing, growing, making and baking all those lovely items for the exhibition tent – it's not so much a competition as a longstanding rural village tradition, although no doubt we will be wowed off our feet by your talents as usual. The schedule will be available from the usual distribution points from mid-June but electronic copies can also be made available via the Swarland Facebook page, Vyner Park website or by email from swarlandmoorshow@gmail.com.

Finally many thanks to the faithful few who supported our Ceilidh on Saturday 16th May including Wendy, Susan and fellow band mates from Simply Northumbrian. It was another great night and we raised over £150 for our funds.

For those of you who missed out on the chance to contribute, we are always open to offers such as sponsorship, or practical help over the actual show weekend. Perhaps you have an unwanted gift you can donate to our raffle or tombola, or are you willing to sell a few raffle tickets or bake for our cake stall (ingredients provided if required)?

Alternatively just save the date and come along and enjoy yourselves on the day.

Facebook – Swarland Show, Email swarlandmoorshow@gmail.com,
phone / Text 01670 787 078 or 07866 742 037.
Sue Brotherton – on behalf of Swarland & NotM Show team

Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting this year was held in Swarland Village Hall and was well attended. Reports were received from groups associated with the Parish Council such as the Vyner Park Charity Management Committee and Swarland Village Hall. It was also an opportunity for local residents to raise issues and ask questions and items this year included questions about what sort of events were being considered for Vyner Park. Also many concerns were expressed about the condition of roads in the Parish and County Councillor Trevor Thorne agreed to try to get these addressed by Northumberland County Council (NCC) Highways.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at which the new Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr David Francis of Newton on the Moor, was elected. Thanks were given to the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Suzanne Stanley for her major contribution over the last two years and thankfully Cllr Stanley will be remaining on the Parish Council so we can continue to take advantage of her knowledge and skills.

Broadband provision in NotM

iNorthumberland has advised the Parish Council that due to public demand, British Telecom, as a gesture of goodwill, has agreed to install a new cabinet in Newton on the Moor. This will mean the village should have Superfast Broadband by the end of September 2015.

Parish Boundary Review

A local resident has suggested that the Parish Council should consider asking NCC to make certain changes to the Parish Boundary. If this issue is pursued (this has not yet been agreed) extensive consultation would need to be carried out with local residents before any decision could be made.

NCC Changes

County Councillor Thorne provided an update on key issues at NCC including changes to the planning decision-making process. This appears to be taking decision-making away from the local areas. He also described some of the problems facing NCC School Service which has recently been heavily criticised.

PC Accounts

Finally the Parish Council accounts were agreed and will be sent to external auditors shortly.

If any residents would like further information on any of the issues mentioned please contact the PC Clerk, Jan Anderson.

Jan Anderson, PC Clerk: janandersonpc@gmail.com 01665 575 145. 16 Newton on the Moor, Morpeth, NE65 9JY

**Deadline for items for the August issue of
The Column: Friday 24th July 2015.**

Sunday 21st June from 2pm

Swarland and Newton on the Moor Show
is organising its second

Swarland Midsummer Madness and Pimms in the Park

Come for an afternoon of fun and games in Vyner Park.

5k Fun Run - must be booked in advance.

For the less sporty - Woodland Walk to discover the hidden secrets of Swarland Hall – please book in advance.

Car boot / table top stalls - contact Claire on 07753 531 999

Have a go at Bowls, Tennis, Rounders, Football

BBQs provided - supply and cook your own food.

Strawberries & Cream and, of course, Pimms - other drinks also available!

Funds raised will be split between the Vyner Park Charity and Swarland & Newton on the Moor Show.

For details and all advance bookings, please go to vynerpark.org.uk or Facebook Swarland Show and of course posters will be going up soon!

Swarland First School News



British values seem to be very much in the public domain at present. Schools should promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. At Swarland First School these values form fundamental principles of our social, moral, spiritual and cultural education.

Visitors from different faiths are actively encouraged to engage with our children and raise awareness of their beliefs and their way of life. We recently had a lady from the local Hindu community come into school and work with the children by sharing her cultural stories, ceremonies, shrines, dress and celebrations.



Red Squirrels versus Planning Application Alert

As Editor of The Column, I recently received the following request:

“We recently created a petition in opposition to controversial development plans for a luxury hotel, 72 millionaire homes and a golf course to be built on green belt land at Woosington Woods, near Newcastle International Airport, which will destroy a large area of mature woodland.

Newcastle is the last remaining English city with a population of Red Squirrels and Woosington Woods is cited as one of three areas in the city where Reds survive. These developments are a direct threat to a species that the Council supposedly set out to protect. Furthermore, badgers, bats and otters rely on the site and until recently, the Great Crested Newt. There is an extensive badger sett present and the Ouseburn River, which supports an otter population, has tributaries within the site. Many of the veteran trees offer ideal habitat for bats.

So far the petition has attracted huge interest and now has over 1,300 signatures. I understand that you are the contact for the Swarland Red Squirrel Group and I am emailing to ask if you would sign our petition (see link below).

<https://www.change.org/p/newcastle-city-council-save-woosington-woods-2>

Would you also be able to forward this email or the link to the petition to all of your members in the hope that they would also be able to sign the petition? The campaign also has a Twitter account @NGS11 and a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/savenewcastlewildlife).

The campaign recently caught the interest of the regional broadcast and print media, following a protest walk we held at Woosington Woods. Below is a link to the article which appeared on the Newcastle Chronicle's website.

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/woosington-woods-campaigners-march-against-9179897>.

Any help you can give would be much appreciated.”

Please check this out and sign up to help prevent the loss of such a valuable part of our NE wildlife habitat and its species.

Swarland Village Hall Activities

Current activities in the Hall include the following:

Archery Practice on Monday evenings - outdoors till the end of October. Contact Mike Evens on 01665 570 289.

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

Swarland Craft Group meets Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm. Try a new Craft or bring your own. Materials, equipment and instruction, if required. £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 meets on Thursday evenings. 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 group or private use please contact **Bryan Stanley**, details at the front of The Column.

Felton & Swarland Local History Society

We meet at 7.30pm on the third Monday of every month in Felton village hall. There are no further talks till the autumn:

June & July 2015 Summer Outings To be arranged - look out for posters! Membership is £11 a year. Visitors and guests are welcome to all meetings; entry fee £2.50. Tea and biscuits are served afterwards for a small donation. For further information, please contact Chris Guthrie on 01670 787 421 or chrishguthrie@btinternet.com .

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Wasps and other insects.

Contact Rory Brotherton
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666

Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

2nd Saturday of each month: Coffee Morning 10am – noon.

N.B. **This will be in the main hall, as the Reading Room is now too small.** Other regular events continue as usual. The Hall can now offer an extended stage as extra stage blocks have been acquired.

14th November: Traditional Northumbrian Evening with Bob Bolam and sparkling cast.

Concerts (dates to be confirmed): Alnwick Playhouse Concert Band, *and* The Border Tarts.

On behalf of the Jubilee Hall and village residents Susan Clarke would like to acknowledge Rita Gleghorn's contribution to the earlier success of the Hall. She was Chairman or Secretary for many years, did the catering for dances and children's parties, and put a huge amount of work into running the Hall and keeping it immaculate even while she was working full-time as a school head. She will be missed.

Susan Clarke, Jubilee Hall Chairman

Advert

Private Maths tuition up to GCSE level. In your own home.

£20 per hour. DBS checked.

Contact Helen Handyside 07866 742 037.

On the run up to the general election we held our own mock election. We had a number of candidates who stood for election. They eloquently and persuasively presented their policies and manifestos on education. Some policies included longer school days to fit in more curricular subjects, additional time to allow football skills and basketball skills, additional funds allocated to the development of an outdoor sports pitch. Voters listened and challenged the candidates effectively on key points. After a heated debate voters were asked to attend our own polling station and cast their votes. With an outright winner, the process clearly helped children understand our British democratic process. Many of our children and parents commented on the children's enthusiasm at following coverage of the national election following this activity. Democracy continues to lie at the heart of our school decision making with School Councillors and Buddies elected each year, votes cast to decide which charities to raise funds for or how to spend our a Sainsbury's Active Vouchers. We believe strongly in listening to our pupil voice.

As part of our diverse curriculum, we raise awareness of contrasting cultures to their own each summer term. This year we will be exploring the culture of China. Plans are already underway with generous funding from our H.S.A. (Home School Association) to fund artists and other special visitors to work with our children. An exciting eco-cultural art project is in its initial stages to raise children's awareness and responsibility of looking after our Earth and recycling materials. Watch this space for exciting updates on our cultural topic.
Louise Fletcher, Head Teacher

Mobile Library Dates

The mobile library comes to the parish every other Wednesday morning. It stops in **Swarland** opposite **The Square from 10.00 - 11.00** and in **Newton on the Moor from 11.10 - 11.30**. If you miss these it's also in **Guyzance** from 11.40 – 12.00 and **Old Felton** from 12.15 – 12.35. The next few dates are as follows: **3rd & 17th June, 1st, 15th & 29th July, and 12th & 26th August**. We value the service, so "use it or lose it".

Vyner Park Update

Swarland will soon have a brand new venue for meeting friends and enjoying coffee and cake. **NELSON's**, our new Community Café, will be opening in the Vyner Park Pavilion on the 1st July, so pop along and find out what's going on.

We are also offering **free tennis and bowls subscriptions** until April 2016. All you need to do is fill in an application form and pay £5 to buy a key (to cover administration and key-cutting costs). Tennis players will need two keys. From May 2016 we will be introducing a subscription scheme, to help with the costs of the upkeep of the courts and bowling green.

For further information or your subscription form, visit our website at www.vynerpark.org.uk , email vynerpark@gmail.com or telephone **07979 954 710**. The website is starting to take shape, so please have a look.

The Vyner Park Team

Taking the Horses to a New Level

Driving through the electric gates of 'Alnwick Ford' I thought it seemed a very grand entrance to a house and a rather large shed in the field, until I saw what was behind them and discovered owner Martyn Johnson's vision for his 140 acre plot of land.

It started a few years ago with the desire, of Martyn and his father, to build a place that would one day be internationally regarded in the horse eventing and show-jumping circles, not only for competing, but also for training at very high levels. In addition it would fill a geographical gap.

Walking past the stables, which are home to Martyn's own horses and a few liverys, I was struck by the size of the shed, whose purpose is to house an indoor arena. Inside it is cavernous and obviously built and equipped to a high standard, comprising the main arena (covered in a surface material used at Olympic events) with jumping gates and bars, a canteen / café area for visitors, conference / training rooms, a raised commentary / judges box and a gallery seating area.

My next question was. . . why so big? The answer was that once they'd decided to go ahead, they were determined it was going to be the best they could afford to ensure it would meet the exacting standards needed to host top class events and trainers.

For the past three years, Burgham has played host to The Burgham Horse Trials and Martyn has voluntarily organised the event which originally attracted competitors from all over the UK and now has International CIC 2 and 3 status; attracting 600 entries from all over the world at the summer event alone. His main aim is to improve what's on offer in the area. Currently, adults or children wanting training or facilities to compete at a very high level, have to travel to either Yorkshire or Scotland. There is nothing comparable in between yet Northumberland has huge potential to bring on great riders.

Already his facilities have attracted top trainers to lead clinics, seminars and riding lessons, pony club events, a vet conference and he plans to seek accreditation from the British Horse Society examination board.

I was also shown the outdoor arena (surfaced with the highest grade covering) which is used when the weather allows, and heading across the fields are the beginnings of a cross-country course being constructed by David Evans who built the cross-country course at the Beijing Olympics.

I was blown away by what has been achieved so far and what is yet to come. Detractors may worry about the local impact of events, but thinking positively it could be a great asset, bringing much needed business to shops, pubs and b&bs which spins off to us all. And it will surely put Longframlington on the map. . .

The Grand Opening event will take place on Thursday 4th June and will feature a Master Class conducted by New Zealand Olympic medal winner Blyth Tait - more details on www.alnwickfordequestrian.co.uk .

Local clubs or organisations wanting to visit Alnwick Fords Equestrian Centre can contact Martyn on mij86@hotmail.co.uk ; he would be happy to show you around.

Slightly shortened version of an article by Yvonne Bell, with permission from and thanks to the 'Fram News' editors. Ed.

Rita Gleghorn 1934 - 2015

In the mid-60s, Rita and Malcolm (with their little daughter Jacquie) moved to Newton on the Moor from Dinnington on the outskirts of Newcastle. Though both were committed to education, Malcolm was primarily an artist and eventually gave up teaching. Rita taught first of all in Shilbottle, then took on the Headship at Swarland till she retired in 1992 and became a Pre-school Playgroup Inspector for a few years. I've known her since I was about 14 – Malcolm taught me at George Stephenson Grammar School and I used to baby-sit for them. If I think back over the years, Rita's outstanding characteristics for me (and I'm sure for all of you who knew her) were her great energy, practicality and competence. She didn't walk – she trotted everywhere, always in high heels, and threw as much enthusiasm into village events, supporting Malcolm's exhibitions and dramatic performances, and into the associated catering (she was a generous hostess and an excellent and imaginative cook) as she did into her career. Though I never heard the word 'feminist' pass her lips, she had an active belief that she could do anything within her remit as well as anyone else, male or female. Her mental energy and determination to carry on as normal persisted until about 5 weeks ago, when lung cancer and a (mild) heart attack finally defeated her, and she died on 30th May after a short stay in the Wansbeck Hospital. She was much respected and will be missed in the local community.

Suzanne Stanley

Sponsor a Bench

**New and replacement benches are needed in Vyner Park.
Would you like to sponsor one perhaps in memory
of a loved one?**

The benches will be made of recycled plastic for longevity and ease of maintenance, and will cost £500 each.

If you want to have a memorial plaque on the bench this would also be possible.

**Please contact Jan Anderson 01665 575145 or
janandersonpc@gmail.com .**



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 donation.

