

**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 October issue by  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.**



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

**Amble Post Office, Newton on the Moor  
& Swarland Parish Council**  
and  
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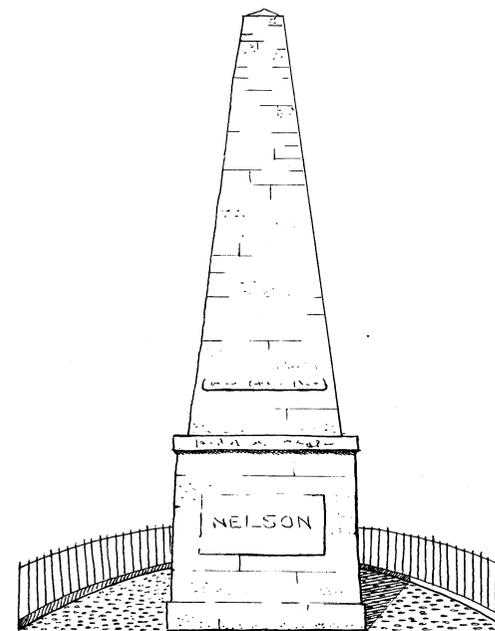
**SWARLAND VILLAGE  
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Available for private parties by arrangement.

Tel. 01670 787 825

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

# The Column



**August 2015**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 78**

**Swarland School and the "NCC  
Schools in Alnwick Partnership"  
consultation - see inside.**

Welcome to your August 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 October issue by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**. Send to: the Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .

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

Our last speaker of the season, Michael Thomson, gave us a fascinating talk about Harry Hotspur and the Battle of Otterburn. Not only did we learn a great deal, we also had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The Heritage Group outing this year was to Crook Hall in Durham. After a week of varying weather, heatwave and thunderstorms, I was very anxious as Sunday approached. Luckily, all went well, the sun shone all day and the Grade 1 listed Mediaeval Manor House and gardens proved to be a memorable location. Maggie, one of the owners, gave us a private tour and kept us enthralled with facts and inevitable ghost stories about the eight hundred year old Hall.

Our new season begins on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** when our first speaker, John Turner will talk about "POW 69 - Darras Hall".

In **October** we look forward to an evening spent with Anne Taylor, a Swarland resident who had her first novel, "The Shetland Eagle", published in 2013.

Before then, do look out for our WW2 display at the Swarland Show on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August**. Some interesting items and hopefully, some of our members will have rustled up some authentic wartime recipes for you to have a taster. Mock Apricot Flan made with carrots? Go on, have a taste!

Membership for the year if we have 8 speakers will be £10 per person and £2.50 per session for visitors. We would love to see some new members and extend a very warm welcome to our meetings which are held in the Village Club on the second Tuesday of the month. If you want any details about the Heritage Group please ring 01670 787 121. *Caroline Thomas*

### **NCC Consultation on proposals for Schools in the Alnwick Partnership**

Further consultation has opened on proposals for schools in the Alnwick Partnership area. The consultation document which sets out the purpose of the consultation is available on the NCC website at: [northumberland.gov.uk/alnwickconsult](http://northumberland.gov.uk/alnwickconsult) .

The consultation is open until **22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015**. Hard copies of the consultation documents are available from Lorraine Fife on 01670 624 050. Needless to say we are all very concerned about the future of Swarland First School.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Update: June / July 2015**

**Newton on the Moor:** Between 02/04/15 and 12/04/15 a burglary occurred at Sunnyside, NotM. Offenders had returned to an insecure garden shed and removed 4 alloy wheels. The shed had previously been entered and firewood stolen on 01/04/15.

**Swarland:** An electric fence energiser and battery were removed from a field at Braeside, Swarland - 01/05/15-03/06/15 .

**Other areas:** -Burglary at Silverton Terrace, Rothbury.

At Shilmoor Farm, Alwinton, bolt cutters were used to cut heavy duty padlock on out building. Two quad bikes were stolen 05-06/05/15.

Attempted burglary at Linbriggs Farm, Alwinton. This has been linked to the one at Shilmoor Farm.

Criminal damage to parked vehicle in Holystone.

Red Honda quad bike stolen from outside farm buildings overnight in the Sharperton area of Coquetdale 25/06/15.

Quad bike taken from Stanton Old Hall, Netherwitton.

Tack equipment taken from Pigdon Farm Morpeth 24/06/15.

Samsung computer (£400) reported to have been removed from a securely parked, unattended motor vehicle at High Weldon Farm 02-03/06/15.

Criminal damage to motor vehicle at Embleton Hall Longfram. Fuel cap removed and a quantity of a sugary substance deposited contaminating diesel fuel 15/05/15-18/06/15.

Criminal damage to a dwelling in Sharperton area.

#### **Conviction updates**

23 year-old male from Ashington, convicted of burglary at an unoccupied house near Harbottle in July 2014.

75 year-old male from Morpeth area arrested and charged with drink-driving following reports in the Longfram area 28/05/15.

31 year-old male from Ashington area arrested and charged with drink-driving following reports in Craggsdale area 30/05/15.

**N.B.** Please be aware that **telephone fraudsters are targeting people in the county**. They pretend to be police or bank officials. They say that your bank account is at risk of being hacked and you face having money stolen. I suggest that you put the phone down immediately and inform the police on 101 ext. 69191.

Please inform me if you have any problems regarding **cold callers**. Recently there has been a spate of these in the village. They are completely undeterred by the warning stickers most of us display.

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*

## Felton Surgery News Summer 2015

Felton Surgery has an active Patient Participation Group (PPG). Please contact the surgery if you would like to join.

Felton Surgery PPG terms of reference:

The patient participation group meets quarterly with the practice staff. If you have any issues you would like to be discussed at this meeting please inform either the practice reception staff or patient members of the group.

### Patient members' contact details for agenda items:

Mr Nigel Haddow ( [nigelhaddow@aol.com](mailto:nigelhaddow@aol.com) )

Mrs Eileen Blagburn ( [eileenblagburn@hotmail.com](mailto:eileenblagburn@hotmail.com) )

Mrs Hazel Hood ( tel 01670 787 190 )

Amanda & Peter Dobson ( [peterd265@gmail.com](mailto:peterd265@gmail.com) )

Jonathan Stacey ( [STACEY.Jon@googlemail.com](mailto:STACEY.Jon@googlemail.com) )

### We aim to provide the highest quality service to the community we care about

#### **Changes to the Surgery**

No doubt many of you have already noticed the changes in the surgery building. All at Felton Surgery are committed to excellent infection control so we have fitted new sinks, hand wash and alcohol gel dispensers.

We have a new sign at the front desk and have had a new fire alarm fitted, a new notice board and new locks on all the doors.

#### **New Staff**

We were sorry to say good bye to Janet West who has retired. She has been our Practice Nurse for 7 years and will be a great miss to us all.

Our new Practice Nurse is **Alison McLachlan** who has been here before a couple of years ago to help out. Her clinics are:

**Wednesday 2.30 to 19.30**

**Friday 8.30 to 13.00**

We also have a new dispenser in the Dispensary, **Heather Mather**. Heather comes to us with lots of experience of working in a busy Dispensing GP Practice in the past.

#### Training

Please note the surgery will be closed every Thursday between 12.30pm and 1.30pm for staff training. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

#### 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: **12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October**. We value the service, so "use it or lose it".

## Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

**At the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015**, Parish Councillors were concerned that Northumberland County Council (NCC) hadn't replied to complaints made by the PC, such as the condition of the railings on The Avenue, repair of lights in The Square, condition of the road surface in Coast View, and issues about the adoption of the lights in The Square. It was agreed the Clerk would contact our NCC Locality Officer to see if he could 'unblock' communications, and failing that it may be necessary to make a formal complaint to NCC or complain to the Local Government Ombudsman.

The Clerk reported back on a meeting with Northumbrian Water about a range of ongoing drainage-related issues in the parish (see elsewhere in The Column).

Cllr Francis had attended a county-wide meeting with Arriva recently, in the hope of persuading it to provide a **bus service in the parish**. To take this matter further it is essential that the PC collects some idea of the need of residents regarding public transport – or indeed if residents are happy with the current public transport situation. **Please contact the Clerk to give your opinion.**

The PC reported its delight with the response to the opening of the new café, Nelson's, in Vyner Park Pavilion and agreed the continuing need to promote Vyner Park and its facilities in the area.

Finally, the Parish Council's website has been relaunched and is up and running in a simple form. Further development of the site is planned and suggestions for improvement are welcomed. You can visit the site at: <http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/>.

If any residents would like further information on any of the issues mentioned please contact me.

*Jan Anderson, PC Clerk: [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) 01665 575 145. 16 Newton on the Moor, Morpeth, NE65 9JY*

## Red Squirrels versus Planning Application Alert

As a follow up to the piece in the last Column, you may have heard Newcastle City Council has approved the controversial development plans for a luxury hotel, 72 "millionaire homes" and a golf course on green belt land at Woosington Woods, near Newcastle International Airport. This is even though the development will destroy a large area of mature woodland with the last remaining English city population of Red Squirrels (plus badgers, bats and otters which also rely on the site).

Although the petition attracted a huge interest with thousands of signatures (from throughout the north east and further afield) the City Council appears to have been swayed by the thought of all the 'personalities' such a development will attract. This is unfortunate for the local environment and its wild life, especially as one of the Council's own policies makes it clear that such considerations should overrule any purely monetary benefits. *Editor.*

## Walking Football comes to Swarland

You may have seen it on TV in a Barclays advert, but why not try walking football for real? Walking Football is a developing form of the beautiful game, aimed at those of us who are either too old to run around or have injuries / ailments / disabilities that reduce our capability to play under normal rules.

Fundamentally, it is just your regular 5-a-side kick-about with one key rule: running or jogging is a foul. By removing running and jogging, the speed of thinking and passing is not slowed, but the impact on joints and muscles is reduced to help reduce the chances of injury while playing.

**The Northumberland FA has agreed to support a Walking Football session at Vyner Park Sports Facility, making good use of the Multi Purpose Sports Court.** It is providing football equipment and some rule instruction and Vyner Park is providing the pitch, so all we need now are the players! But you must be over 18 (and preferably over 35 or even older!!!).

We started on 8<sup>th</sup> June and meet **weekly on Mondays at 8pm**. Each session costs £1 per person (to buy replacement balls and support the Club) but will include a FREE membership to the Vyner Park Sports Club for this year.

This is perfect for the older generation, both men and women, so please give it a try.

**Please contact Bob Ryan on 07933 977 425 for more information.**

*NOTE: A regular football session, also supported by the FA, will be introduced at Vyner Park in the near future.*

## Swarland Village Hall Activities

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

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

**Swarland Craft Group** on 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** 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.

**Deadline for items for the October issue of  
The Column: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.**

## Update re Ongoing Dialogue with Northumbrian Water

On 15<sup>th</sup> July, Parish Councillors again met with staff from Northumbrian Water (NW) to further discuss some long-standing flooding issues in Swarland. Discussions focused on points raised at a previous meeting, with NW providing updates on each point.

Whilst these issues have yet to be finalised there does appear to a real interest shown in trying to resolve the problems faced by some residents in the village.

Issues being investigated include:

- ▶ Remedial work to clean and remove tree roots from drains along the Avenue - with further discussions arranged between NW and NCC.
- ▶ Further investigations into potential incapacity of the system within Vyner Park.
- ▶ Referral to Environmental Health regarding drainage odours around Swarland, thought to relate to Percy Wood's discharge procedure.

In addition, NW confirmed that it had submitted objections (based on surface water issues) to planning applications / developments in Leamington Lane and Percy Drive. However, it should be noted that NW says its calculations demonstrate the sewerage network in and around Swarland is sufficient for the size of the village and the caravan park is included within this model.

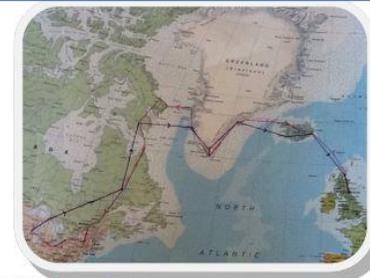
It is vitally important therefore that **all** residents report **any** flooding (however minor) directly to Northumbrian Water, via their telephone help line on **0800 328 7648**, otherwise it will consider there are no further problems.

A follow-up meeting will be held in September / October to review ongoing investigations and consider any further evidence. *Bob Ryan, NotM & S PC*

### **OVER THE POND AND BACK AGAIN**

#### **A Talk by Ed McCallum**

In June last year Longframlington resident, Ed McCallum, flew from Longframlington to the USA and back in his Micro-light.....  
.....something that no-one has done before.



Ed will be talking you through his adventure, the highs and the lows, with a series of great photographs on the way.

**Thursday 6th August 2015**

At Gallery 45, 45 Main St, Felton (old Stags Head)

6.30 for 7pm start

£5.00 entrance

Pay at the door

All proceeds to UNICEF



**Deadline for items for the October issue of  
The Column: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.**

## **Calling all 5 to 18 year-olds – Scouting Needs You!**

We are currently recruiting children to come and join our active scout group in Whittingham (just 15 min drive from the Swarland area). Whittingham Scout group is an exceptionally active group committed to encouraging young people to get outdoors and develop as confident, fit and happy young citizens. We have spaces in all sections for boys and girls from 5 – 18 years old to join our adventures: Beavers (5-8 years old), Wolf Cubs (8-11) and Scouts (11+).

The groups run all year around; see the website for the types of exciting activities coming up: <http://www.1stwhittingham.org.uk>.

We are out and about enjoying ourselves every week come and join the fun!

Ninette Gray, Group Scout Master, 1<sup>st</sup> Whittingham BP Scout Group,  
Tel. 01665 574 733, Mob. 07843 587 476 or [www.1stwhittingham.org.uk](http://www.1stwhittingham.org.uk) or  
[ninette@alinsideassociates.co.uk](mailto:ninette@alinsideassociates.co.uk)

## **Show Piece - August 2015**

Well, the summer might not be too hot but things are certainly hotting up in preparation for this year's show on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**Exhibition Tent:** Schedules are now available from Swarland Village Club, Nelson's and other odd places (like my garden fence); try your hand at entering something and help us make it a bumper year for exhibits.

**Raffle:** The show team is hot-footing around friends, family, neighbours, workmates and ambushing complete strangers trying to sell raffle tickets. Please support us by buying a ticket. There are some fantastic prizes on offer, all donated by local businesses and residents and the Raffle is a major fundraiser for the show, helping us to keep entrance charges down and all activities free for kids.

**Entertainments:** This year we have 100 vintage vehicles including motor cycles, as well as Highland Dancers and the Alnwick Playhouse Concert Band. Don't forget about our invitation to help the Show and Swarland Local Heritage group commemorate WW2 by dressing up 1940s style.

**Fund-raising:** We are also collecting for a book stall to raise money for Help the Heroes. Please contact us if you have any you would be willing to donate. Likewise we would be grateful for any home-baking to sell on our cake stall.

**Help!** We need a few more volunteers to help out on the day and if anyone able-bodied can help us set up the tents on Friday afternoon from 12.30 onwards or take them down on Sunday morning, we would be extremely grateful - we are a very small team and this is the one thing that we just can't manage to do ourselves.

**Information and updates:** Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the Vyner Park website:

Facebook – Swarland Show, Email [swarlandmoorshow@gmail.com](mailto:swarlandmoorshow@gmail.com),  
phone / text 01670 787 078 or 07866 742 037.

*Sue Brotherton – on behalf of Swarland & NotM Show team*

## **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](mailto: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.

**5ft Trailer.** Ideal for taking rubbish to the tip. Free to a good home.

Phone 01670 787 592.

**Sturdy metal-framed Ironing Board** with cover. Phone 01670 787 916.

### **For Sale:**

**Suite of 3 Cathay Cane** armchairs and 2-seater settee, and a further 2-seater rattan settee and armchair (all with detachable cushions).

**Two nests of 3 rattan tables.**

**Glass-topped coffee table** with rattan lower shelf.

All good quality and in very good condition. Any reasonable offer for all or part considered.

**Cramer baby grand piano**, 1930s, solid timber rosewood body. Depth front to back 4' 2" (127cm), width 4' 8" (142cm) and can include a 2-seater piano stool with sheet music. £1,500 ono.

For further details and to view any of these, contact Bryan or Suzanne on 01670 787 916.

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**14<sup>th</sup> November:** Traditional Northumbrian Evening with Bob Bolam and sparkling cast.

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

*Susan Clarke, Jubilee Hall Chairman*

## Public Notice

LICENSING ACT – NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE	
Type Of Licence	Premises Licence
Applicant or name of Premises/Club	Management Committee of Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor
Have submitted an application for a Premises Licence in respect of:	
Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9JY	
Details of existing relevant licensable activities, or those to be carried on at the premises if this is a new application.	
The supply of alcohol and extension of hours (0800-0100) and days of the week for the provision of regulated entertainment: plays, films, indoor sports, live music, recorded music, performance of dance and anything of a similar description to those listed above as well as the provision of entertainment facilities for making music, dancing and other entertainment of a similar description.	
Details of additional/changes to relevant licensable activities if application is to vary an existing licence	
N/A	
Closing date for representations	30 August 2015
Details of the application can be viewed Monday to Friday 9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. The Licensing Section, Northumberland County Council, Public Protection Service, Loansdean, Morpeth, NE61 2AP.	
Any objections to this application must be made in writing stating grounds of objection and sent to:	
The Licensing Section, Northumberland County Council, Public Protection Service, Loansdean, Morpeth, NE61 2AP.	
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and is subject to a maximum fine of £5000 on summary conviction for the offence.	

## Red Squirrels update

Soon after it started, Swarland Red Squirrels was able to extend its monitoring area to include the Felton and West Thirston area. Additional people further afield have now become involved and it has therefore been renamed Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels (LCRS), to include areas to the east (especially near the Coquet). We now have an approved constitution and officers, and are actively seeking grants to help improve our ability to monitor this larger area.

To facilitate our 'eyes' to continue reporting Red or Grey Squirrels (alive or dead) anywhere in the area, our contact details are still the same. **Please could you inform [SwarlandRedSquirrels@gmail.com](mailto: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 RSNE region's figures.**

There will be a Red Squirrel stall at the Swarland & NotM Show, on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August**, where you can obtain Will Nicholls's excellent wildlife cards, notepads and mug mats, locally-made squirrel feeders. All profits go to help support LCRS. 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*

## Spotted a problem? Don't be shy – report it.

It's increasingly important that we all immediately report problems with drainage and sewerage, potholes, lighting and any other faults in the community. Parish Councillors are normally alert to anything amiss in the area, but we don't spot everything, and in any case the more reports there are, the more likely it is that something will be done quickly. It's also more effective if you know exactly where / who to contact, so the Parish Council suggests the following:

**Foul water drainage and sewerage:** Contact the Northumbrian Water Floodline on 0800 328 7648. However, as the PC Clerk and 3 councillors are now having regular meetings with NWL, please also notify Jan Anderson on 01665 575 145 or [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) so that we also have a complete record and can follow up complaints.

**Potholes, lighting, road signs etc:** Log on to the NCC website and click on Contact Us, or go directly to their Self-Service Portal at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3740>.

If you don't have access to a computer, ring 0345 600 6400. The telephone reception staff are normally excellent at identifying and putting you through to the relevant department.

**If you find you are repeatedly reporting an issue and getting no response**, contact the Parish Council (via the Clerk as above) and we will then take the matter further.

*Suzanne Stanley  
NotM & S PC*





