

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 February issue by
Wednesday 27th January 2016.



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

**Newton on the Moor
& Swarland Parish Council**
and
Swarland Club

The Club now operates the newspaper service for the area.
All **daily newspapers** are catered for along with the sale of
bread, eggs and milk.

This service is open **from 7.30 to 11am**
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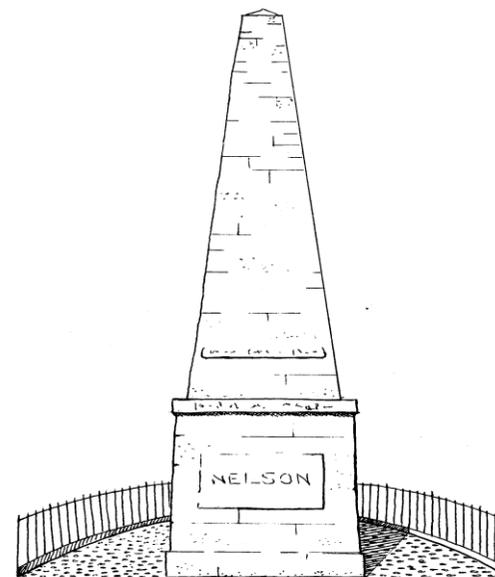
SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Available for private parties by arrangement.

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



December 2015

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 80



**Note: The Post Office will be in The
Club on *Wednesday 23rd December***

A Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our readers.

Welcome to your December issue of The Column and if you're new to the area, welcome to you too. We hope you will all have a pleasant Christmas break and wish you all the best for 2016. But leaping ahead into the New Year, if you wish to put something in the next issue **please supply it for inclusion in the February issue by Wednesday 27th January 2016.** **Please send 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 Moor Local Heritage Group

In October we enjoyed a very different evening in the delightful company of Anne Taylor, from Swarland, who told us of how she came to write her novel "The Shetland Eagle" and she took us behind the scenes of getting books published.

On 10th November, Geoff Hughes kept us all riveted with the story of the "Rise, Fall and Rise again of Delaval Hall" and its colourful owners, the Delavals. I think we all left determined to go and visit the house and grounds now in the stewardship of the National Trust.

There are no meetings in December and January, our December meeting being replaced by Christmas dinner at the Golf Club, but we resume again on **Tuesday 9th February**, when our speaker will be Mr Bob Harrison and his talk, "Anecdotes of the Napoleonic Wars".

On **8th March**, Mr Andy Griffin will be giving us a talk on "Wallington, Hall of Fame". I'm sure that will be another evening not to miss.

We always warmly welcome new members but are equally pleased to welcome those who only want to listen to a particular talk or speaker. Rates for visitors are £2.50, membership from February to and including June will be £6.25. We shall meet again on the second Tuesday of February at 7.30pm in the Swarland Village Club. Any enquiries please ring 01670 787 121. Looking forward to seeing you.

On behalf of the Committee may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe, peaceful and happy New Year.

If you want any details about the Heritage Group please ring 01670 787 121.

Caroline Thomas



Neighbourhood Watch Update: October / November 2015

Swarland / Longframlington

Two common assaults (A697area). Both related to the same farm premises and involved verbal and physical altercations between adult female relations. One offender reported for assault. CPS prosecution decision to be sought.

Oakdene Grange Farm Longframlington. Theft of sheep between 01/10/15 - 07/10/15. 42 lambs (value £2,000) were reported to have been removed from the secure fields where they had been grazing.

Burglary at Park Road, Swarland between 08/10/15-13/10/15. The unoccupied vacant house was entered and a copper heating system and certain electrical items were removed. Police request that any sightings of suspicious scrap metal persons should be immediately reported.

Studley Drive, Swarland. Theft of a part-felled tree within private grounds. The offender apologised and the matter was dealt with amicably between the two parties by way of "community resolution".

NotM

A1, between 11.30am & 12.30pm on 25/08/15. Work tools and a laptop were removed from a Highways contractor vehicle whilst work was being carried out on this section of the A1.

Police Highlight

A red VW Golf registration NU52* is suspected of being involved in relation to rural criminal activity. Please contact police on 999 about any sightings of this Golf (Suspicious vehicle concerned in crime).**

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

Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

Every **Tuesday** is Bowls Club with lots of matches coming up with other villages in the area. New members are always welcome.

Saturday 12th December: - 10am to noon. Coffee Morning with some festive songs from The Silver Singers to accompany the coffee and scones or mince pies.

Saturday 26th December: - Boxing Night Dance to the music of Robert Whitehead, - should be a good night.

Thursday 31st December: - See the Old Year out with a dance to Milburn Music.

Saturday 9th January: - Coffee Morning, a good sociable start to the New Year.

Susan Clarke, Jubilee Hall Chairman

Felton & Swarland Local History Society

We meet in the Coquet Room, Felton Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month between September & May. The Society aims to spread an appreciation of history at the local, rather than national, level with a series of talks by noted, and often entertaining, speakers. It also has a small research group for those who prefer a more active approach to local history – anyone is welcome to join this group. Annual Membership is £15. Non-members are welcome to attend any of the meetings for a small charge of £2.50 a meeting. Tea / coffee and biscuits, for which we ask a small donation, are served at the end of each meeting.

The next meetings are:

21st December: Christmas Meal & Social Evening.

18th January Andy Griffin : “The 1950s.”

15th February Graeme Young : “Excavations of the Pre-historic Wetlands at Bamburgh.”

For further information, please contact Philip Cotton, 01670 787 228 or philipandwendycotton@yahoo.co.uk.

Mobile Library Dates

The mobile library comes to the parish every other Wednesday morning.

It stops in **Swarland** opposite **The Square from 10.00 - 11.00am** 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: **2nd & 16th December, 6th & 20th January, 3rd & 17th February 2016**. We value the service, so “use it or lose it”.

Red Squirrels update

The Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel group which covers our area has applied for a grant to help it develop a website which will keep the local community informed as to what's happening in your area and will give you another way to report Red or Grey sightings to help clarify exactly what is happening where.

Sightings are few and far between at present - there are a few Greys which seem to be just passing through and (oh joy!) some Reds which seem to be staying put in various locations. It is a constant and ongoing challenge, but with our collective efforts, there can be brighter future for our native Red Squirrels.

You can help by continuing to report Red or Grey Squirrels (alive or dead) anywhere in the area. **Please phone 07779 69 40 06 or 01670 787 916 or email lowercoquetdaleredsquirrels@gmail.com (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.**

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

NotM & Swarland Parish Council (October & November)

Perennial issues: Our Vice Chairman ably facilitated an open public questions and discussion session for the first hour of our November meeting, focusing on a number of ‘hardy perennial’ issues which have been raised regularly at our meetings. In the time available, we concentrated on the following:

- **Superfast broadband in NotM.** BT Openreach's regional manager assures us this will be installed before the end of the financial year; possibly even by the end of December. We will take stock at our January meeting.
- **Swarland settlement boundary.** We've asked NCC to confirm the current ‘weight’ or status which is given, in planning decisions, to this boundary, but the answers received so far have been unclear. There is a good argument for recognising Percy Wood as part of the Swarland village area.
- **Unadopted sections of Swarland roads.** As a first step in an improvement strategy, we are getting a detailed picture of what has been adopted, what is owned by NCC but unadopted, whether there are other roads requiring attention.
- **NCC Core Strategy.** We clarified our input on this consultation.
- **Attendance** in the parish by our NCC member and our new MP.

Budget and precept: We've made good progress in setting our budget for next year, but we will finalise it in January. We made a significant (25%) rise this year to meet our new Vyner Park responsibilities, but will try to drop our precept next year, if possible. We have in mind a reduction of £2k (10%). However, it is not too late to come forward with new ideas and proposals, for next year's budget.

Bus service: There is no prospect of a return of normal bus services in the foreseeable future, so we will continue to commission and fund our own alternative. However, with an annual cost of almost £3.5k, we are looking at alternative ways of organising this weekly service from the two villages to Alnwick. **Any comments from current or prospective users, please?**

Core strategy: We've submitted brief comments on NCC's Local Development Plan Core Strategy document, focusing on the need to address the ‘mix’ of housing in our parish, by seeking a higher proportion of ‘affordable’ housing than the 15% which NCC were proposing for any new developments. Next year, we'll provide input to NCC's Delivery Document, which is due to identify detailed village-specific policies, including new ‘settlement boundaries’.

Vyner Park: We were pleased to receive a progress report on developments, including Nelson's, the Shepherd's Hut, and new sports activities which are encouraging many more people to visit and use the facilities. Bonfire night was a great success, and we're grateful to all the volunteers involved and to Percy Wood for providing the fireworks. The VP Charity has generated a momentum and revived what had been a rather run-down range of facilities. The Charity is also generating some of its own income, which will help to offset costs which would otherwise have to be met via the Council Tax precept. We are keen to encourage people willing to take forward further ideas and proposals for using the land or other facilities in the Park.

(pto.)

(cont.)

Donations: We agreed to make grants to two bodies which, although not based within our parish, do serve local needs: the Air Ambulance, and Northumberland Theatre Company.

Parish Plan: It was agreed that next year we would review our parish plan which is now several years old.

If any residents would like further information on any of the issues mentioned please contact the PC Clerk: *Jan Anderson, PC Clerk: janandersonpc@gmail.com 01665 575 145. 16 Newton on the Moor, Morpeth, NE65 9JY*

Advert

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Moles, Rodents, Rabbits,
Wasps and other insects.

Contact Rory Brotherton
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666

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 till **end of March 2016**. Taster sessions, beginners' course and coaching are available at very reasonable costs. The Club can supply all equipment. Contact Steve Woolfrey on 01670 787 883 or sands@swoolfrey.freeseve.co.uk.

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

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. 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 front of The Column.

**Deadline for items for the February issue of
The Column: Wednesday 27th January 2016.**

**citizens
advice**

In debt ? Get advice that won't cost you a penny!

Debt can often be a difficult thing to admit to but we know it causes untold misery to many people and their families. There are numerous causes for this problem and we know that once people tackle the issue they can feel much better about their predicament.

Here at Citizens Advice, we offer people help to face the problem and work together to look at options and solutions. These can range from help with budgeting, ensuring you are in receipt of all the benefits you may be entitled to, help to prioritise what payments are important, help to negotiate with creditors, consider options like bankruptcy or Debt Relief Orders.

The advice we give is free, independent, confidential and impartial. All CABs across the county have specialist workers who can give you the best advice. Contact your nearest CAB now, don't delay, the debts won't go away.

You can call Northumberland Adviceline on 03444 111 444 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, to speak confidentially about the matter or find your nearest CAB at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Local offices where you can drop in are:

Alnwick Office,

1st Floor, Lloyds Bank Chambers,
24 Bondgate Within,
Alnwick NE66 1TD

Drop-in sessions

*Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9am to 1pm*

Amble Office,

Fourways Centre,
Bridge Street,
Amble NE65 0DR

Drop-in sessions

*Tuesday & Thursday
9am to 1pm*

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.

5 Boxes of Gutter Gard (each 6m x 16cm). Stops leaves, twigs and debris from blocking gutters. Does not fit our new guttering, but will fit most guttering. Contact 01670 787 916.

Alnwick & District Choral Society

Don't forget our very popular **Christmas Concert**
with the **Reg Vardy Band**, to be held in the Alnwick Playhouse
on **Saturday 19th December at 7.30pm.**

Vyner Park

Don't forget to use the sports facilities. Until May 2016, membership is free so download your VP Bowls and Tennis Subscription form from www.vynerpark.org.uk or contact us at vynerpark@gmail.com .

"Learn the art of sculpting with wool!" Needle Felting workshops – Snowmen on 7th December or Gnomes on 14th December (Mondays) 2-4:30pm. £20 per class includes all materials, coffee / tea and dessert, at Nelson's Café, Vyner Park, Swarland. More details at http://marymcandrew.com/classess_presentations/ . Email to reserve your place marymcandrew62@gmail.com or phone 01665 574 570.



You'll Never Walk Alone

This year has been a tough year for so many – not necessarily economically but for people's lives. It's been tough for thousands of refugees who have flooded into Europe from various Middle Eastern and African countries. It's been tough for world governments to know how to respond to such a movement of people. It's been tough for the country of Syria. And for the earthquake survivors in Nepal. It's been tough for Christians targeted by extreme Islamic terrorist groups in Iraq and Kenya. It's been tough for Volkswagen. It's been tough for Jose Mourinho (or at least in the last 3 months). And it's been a tough year for many individuals. As a vicar I often see this first hand – as bereavement, loss, illness and stress flood into individual lives.

So perhaps it is fitting that Christmas comes at the end of the year because Christmas brings good news. Into these tough realities of life God sends his own Son Jesus to be with us here on earth. He doesn't fix our problems (well that's a story for another day – Easter!), instead he comes to be alongside us. Jesus is given the name Emmanuel which means 'God with us'.

At Christmas God echoes the words of many a football supporter and says to each one of us – in whatever circumstances we find ourselves 'You'll Never Walk Alone!' We would love to welcome you Christmas to any of our services – come and join us as we celebrate the good news that 'we'll never walk alone!

Happy Christmas,

****STOP PRESS**** This year, in addition to our services in Felton & Longframlington, we are hosting a special 'Carols in The Square' event in Swarland on 19th December at 6pm for half an hour. Come and join us as we have fun, drink coffee to keep us warm and sing carols to start our Christmas celebrations. We would love to see you there!

James Harvey, Vicar of St. Michael's, Felton & St. Mary's, Longframlington



Felton Surgery News - Winter 2015

Most of us will have a cold this autumn or winter, and some of us will have the flu. Here's how to look after yourself if these viruses affect you. There are more than 200 common cold viruses and three types of flu virus, with many different strains, so they're hard to avoid. These viruses can be spread through droplets that are coughed and sneezed out by an infected person. The viruses can also be transferred via a person's fingers, or surfaces such as door handles, if there are infected droplets on them. The virus enters the body via the nose or eyes. If you have infected droplets on your fingers and you touch your eyes or nose, the virus can enter your body.

The main symptoms of winter cold and flu bugs are: **coughing / sneezing / blocked nose / sore throat / headache / a slight temperature.**

If these are the only symptoms you have, it's unlikely that your GP will be able to do anything. You may want to visit your local pharmacy, where you can get advice on how to manage the symptoms and buy over-the-counter medicine.

Repeat Medication

It has never been easier to order your repeat medication:

Either ring the surgery on 01670 787 353 (after 11.00am please),

or fill in the counterfoil which is in your bag of medication and leave it at reception or put it through the letterbox,

or order online. To do this simply ask at reception. Your personal identification number and password can be printed off at reception, sent via a text to your mobile phone or emailed. This also allows you to book appointments online.

Please remember to order your repeat medication at least **two full working days** before you need it. This gives us time to check and dispense your medication safely. Order your tablets early before the holidays if necessary so that you have them in plenty of time.

Please remember to collect AFTER 4.00pm on the day your order is due to be ready.

You can collect repeat medication from Carr's Shop in Longframlington. You need to give us 5 working days notice and it can be arranged.

Appointments with our nurse are available at the surgery for flu jabs. If you are unsure whether you're eligible please phone us on 01670 787 353.

Please visit our website for further info www.feltonsurgery.nhs.uk .

Christmas and New Year Closing

Friday 25th December
Saturday 26th December
Sunday 27th December
Monday 28th December
Friday 1st January
Saturday 2nd January
Sunday 3rd January

**Merry Christmas and a very Happy 2016 from
all the Doctors and staff at the surgery.**

The Wizard of Odd, Thursday 4th-Saturday 6th February 2016

Felton and Thirston Pantomime Society's next production is a 'spin' on the traditional tale of the Wizard of Oz – including added local interpretation, songs and dance routines. Here's how the story goes:

- Dorothy and Toto are at Felton Fair when everything goes wrong, there is an argument, a tornado and she ends up in the Land of Odd where a whole host of 'Minions' are on hand to offer help.
- On her way to the Ruby City to find the Wizard of Odd Dorothy encounters the Dame of the North, the Wicked Witches of the East and of the West, however she recruits help from Worzel Gummidge (who has lost his head), Alcan Man (who has lost his heart) and Shrek (who has lost his courage) – and who is accompanied by Donkey.
- Following Tom Tom's Sat Nav directions they all finally arrive at the Ruby City where Dorothy finds that she has been tricked and after a tussle between the two Wicked Witches all is resolved and the Wiz (looking remarkably like Elvis) sorts everything out and, with Doctor Who's assistance, returns Dorothy and Toto to Felton Fair – where the chaos began!

Make sense? No? Why should it? After all this is the Felton pantomime!

Ticket prices – Adults £6, Children (under 11) £3, Family tickets (2 adults + 2 children) £15. Available from Hillrise Stores, Gallery45, Hair Naturelle and also from Grace Aynsley (01670 787 283 or grace.aynsley@btinternet.com) .

Pollution Alert for Swarland

Neil Paisley from the Environment Agency's Environmental Management Team says: *"It's vital that oil is only ever stored in tanks that are in good condition. Both the tank and pipework should be regularly inspected and people should never buy more oil than they can safely store. I attended a pollution incident last week where oil was present in a watercourse through Swarland. I was able to establish that the oil (domestic fuel oil) was being discharged into the watercourse from a surface water drain which serves the majority of Swarland. **This is a reminder for people to check their oil tanks for leaks.**"*

The Environment Agency is urging people in the North East to check their oil tanks for leaks to protect the environment and reduce the risk of financial losses. With winter upon us, many households – particularly in rural areas – will soon be getting oil delivered ready for Christmas.

Leaked oil can end up in drains, many of which lead directly to rivers, streams, lakes and even garden ponds, having the same effect as pouring it directly into the watercourse. Oil is poisonous to fish and other wildlife and smothers plants – just **two litres of oil could seriously pollute the volume of fresh water needed to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool.**

*Neil Paisley, Team Leader – Environment Management
Land & Water Northumberland and Tyne*

Email: neil.paisley@environment-agency.gov.uk or Tel: 0191 203 4286

*Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE4 7AR*

Carers Northumberland

Are you an unpaid carer? Do you spend time looking after someone who depends on you because of illness (physical or mental), disability, frailty or substance misuse? If so, then you are one of many people in Northumberland, and the charity Carers Northumberland is here to support you. You don't need to be living with or related to the person you care for, or equally you maybe provide care for each other. We can help you look after your needs so you can stay fit, healthy and able to carry on caring for as long as you want or are able to. We know just how isolating caring can be and how hard it is to put your own needs first.

Covering the whole of Northumberland, we can provide practical advice on money issues, benefits, access to breaks and social care support and have an Information line available every weekday. We also have carer groups where you can meet with other carers over a coffee and a chat, or listen to a talk. We offer trips out too, and events such as relaxation days or skills workshops.

If groups aren't for you or are just too hard to get to, we offer one-to-one advice and support either face-to-face or via the telephone. We provide a quarterly newsletter for everyone registered with us and regular e-news for those with internet access. Registering also gives you access to our Carers Emergency Card Scheme which can give you peace of mind that the person you are caring for will not be left alone if you find yourself unable to be with them.

If you would like to register with us or would just like to know more, please ring our Information line: 01670 320 025 or have a look at our website www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk . We are also more than happy to come and talk to local groups about our work and what we can offer.

Winefest at Swarland Village Hall

The Hall Committee will be holding another of its renowned Winefests as a fund-raising event for the Hall, at **7.30 pm on Saturday 19th March 2016.**

Watch out for more information in the February issue of The Column and on posters to be put up nearer the time of the event. Anyone wishing to help or attend can contact Steve or Sheila Woolfrey on 01670 787 883 or sands@swoolfrey.freeseerve.co.uk .

Show Piece – December 2015

The show AGM will be taking place in late January. If you are interested in attending please contact Sue (01670 787 078) or Claire (01670 787 475) for details. New members are always welcome and we will be very happy to explain what we get up to and what being part of the team might involve.

Swarland & NotM Show 2016 will be held on Saturday 27th August.

The team are planning to hire marquees as we just don't have the manpower to assemble our own. We are keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in using them to run an event in the evening after the show. Please get in touch asap to discuss any ideas.

Sue Brotherton – on behalf of Swarland & NotM Show team

