

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
Wednesday 27th July 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**
Monday to Sunday inclusive.

Newspapers and magazines may be ordered and reserved.
All vouchers accepted.

Post Office on Mondays and Thursdays 8am till noon.

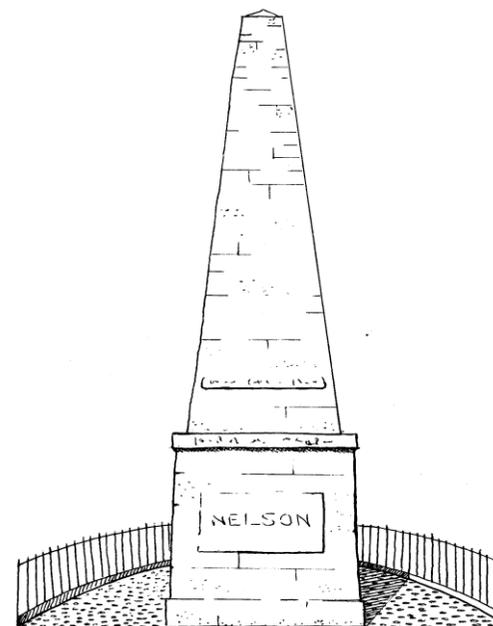
**SWARLAND VILLAGE
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Available for private parties by arrangement.

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



June 2016

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 83

**New Wednesday weekly shoppers'
bus service. For details - 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 August issue by Wednesday 27th July. Please send it to: the Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

Swarland Village Action

Sale of Golf Balls

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

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

It seems but the blink of an eye since we were reviewing the programme for the start of this session and here we are, about to listen to the last of eight speakers.

I think most people enjoyed '**Northumbrian Identity**' which was our talk in May. **Kim Bibby-Wilson** demonstrated the subtle differences in the dialect with great aplomb and her ability to clog dance, play the Northumbrian pipes and explain how they worked ensured a very interesting and amusing evening.

Our last speaker of this session, on **Tuesday 14th June**, will be **Chris Hunswick** and his talk is about the '**Archives of the Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle**'.

There will be no meetings in July and August but we are making a day trip to Bishop Auckland Castle and Escombe Saxon Church. This takes place on **Saturday 9th July**. Private guided tours have been arranged for both venues and there are just 5 seats left on the coach. If you would like a day out with us, please ring the contact number below for details.

We always welcome new members but are equally pleased to welcome visitors who wish to listen to a particular speaker or a particular talk. Charges for visitors are £2.50 per person. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Swarland Village Club. Any enquiries about the Heritage Group, please ring 01670 787 121.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Caroline Thomas

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: **8th & 22nd June, 6th & 20th July and 3rd, 17th & 31st August**. Value the service? "Use it or lose it".

Neighbourhood Watch Update: April / May 2016

Swarland / Longframlington: A common assault occurred 13/03/16. At 4.30pm an altercation between local children resulted in minor injuries being caused. Parents contacted to prevent further incidents of concern. This took place in Longframlington.

Newton on the Moor: A theft occurred 16/03/16 at 15.00 hrs. A cheque left on the doorstep for collection was removed by person(s) unknown. Police request that any incidents of persons selling kitchen wares door-to-door are reported to them to deter them.

Percy Wood Country Retreat: Criminal damage occurred between 05/03/16 & 11/03/16 when a caravan door lock was removed, and replaced by one of the joint caravan owners, initiating a complaint by the other interested party. Recorded in accordance with National Crime Recording Standards. Police enquiries complete.

01/04/16-30/04/16

Swarland / Longframlington & Thropton / Snitter: Nothing to report.

Sgt. Graham Vickers has left the Rothbury Station, to take up a new post at Middle Engine Lane. We wish him well and sincere thanks go to him for his service to us.

"After eight wonderful years overseeing Neighbourhood Policing at Rothbury and Coquetdale, I am now moving on to pastures new, having been posted to Middle Engine Lane, North Tyneside.

It has been an immense privilege to serve such a wonderful community which has been so supportive, especially in overcoming the significant challenges we at times have faced.

Our Neighbourhood Officers will continue to strive to deliver the best policing possible.

I wish sincerely to thank my police colleagues and volunteers, our many partners and everyone in our community, for all the support and friendship over the years.

I wish you and your families all the best for the future.

Take care and thank you. Graham."

Sgt Graham Vickers, Rothbury Neighbourhood Policing Team.

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

www.northumbria.police.uk/advice&information/crimeprevention/index.asp .

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

**Deadline for items for the August issue of
The Column: Wednesday 27th July 2016.**

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.

The Hall now has a PRS Licence, so hirers can legitimately use music in support of their events.

Current activities in the Hall include the following:

Boxercise classes on Mondays 5.30 – 6.30pm. £2 / person.

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

Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class on Wednesdays 10 - 11am. £3.50 per session. New members welcome. For more information please contact Anne Raine on 07934 425 844.

Swarland Craft Group on Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm. £1.00 per session includes refreshments. New members always welcome. For further details ring Margaret 01670 787 705 or Joyce 01670 787 855.

Swarland Carpet Bowls Club on Thursday evenings from August to end of March. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, just come along. For more information, contact Jack Dobson on 01670 787 836.

If you wish to book the Hall for a group or private use **please contact Bryan Stanley**, details at the front of The Column.

Craft Group Summer Holiday

The Craft Group will be having its usual summer break during July and August.

Sessions will re-commence on Wednesday 7th September from 1.30 – 3.30pm.

For further details ring Margaret 01670 787 705 or Joyce 01670 787 855.

Advert

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Contact Rory Brotherton
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666



NotM & Swarland Parish Council (April / May)

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held prior to the Parish Council Annual General Meeting on 25th May and was well attended by members of the public. Reports were heard from the Parish Council Chairman, Vyner Park Management Committee, Swarland Village Hall and the Parish Cemetery Joint Committee.

Resignation of Councillor Elizabeth Sells

The Parish Council (PC) AGM began with the resignation of Cllr Elizabeth Sells who has moved out of the Parish. Cllr Sells has served as a Councillor since July 2014, and her input at meetings, and active presence at community events will be much missed. Cllr Sells' resignation means that **there is now a vacancy on the Parish Council and any interested residents should contact the Parish Clerk** (see below).

Superfast Broadband in Newton on the Moor

The PC was delighted that Superfast Broadband was now available in Newton on the Moor and it is hoped that residents will take advantage of this improved service.

Boundary Review

Letters were sent recently to parish residents west of the A1 to seek their views on possible changes to the Parish Boundary; the three that responded want it left as it is.

Road Conditions Within the Parish

Parish Cllrs continue to be concerned at the deteriorating condition of roads within the Parish (including the A1) and road safety issues. They hope to work with NCC to make improvements.

New Wednesday Bus Service

A new Wednesday bus service, operated by SpiritBuses, started on 18th May. **Travelling from Percy Wood Country Retreat, the route takes in The Square, Douglas Crescent and various other points in Swarland & NotM before going on to Alnwick, returning a couple of hours later.** The timetable is displayed on parish notice boards and on the PC website. This service operates at no cost to the PC, users don't need to pre-book, and concessionary passes are accepted.

Potholes and Fly Tipping

Residents are urged to report potholes and incidents of fly tipping to Northumberland County Council on **0345 600 6400**.

If you have any comments or queries please contact the Parish Council Clerk, Jan Anderson at 16 Newton on the Moor, Morpeth NE65 9JY.

Tel. 01665 575 145 or jananderson3000@gmail.com



Papered Postage Stamps for Red Squirrel Support

Thank you to all of you who passed some papered stamps on to me to add to the kiloware for the Red Squirrel fund.

Remember, don't throw out your old envelopes as I'm happy to take stamps still on a piece of envelope and trim them down, to be bagged up and sold to raise money for Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels. Anyone willing to pass on their papered stamps, please contact Bryan Stanley – details elsewhere.

The Shepherd's Hut

It is with regret I am posting this message.

I am sorry to advise that as of the 7th June the Shepherd's Hut at Vyner Park is no longer trading and will not be re-opening.

I would like to thank all of the loyal customers (you know who you are) for all of their support over the past 7 months, but it is with regret I have to close as it is simply not a viable business.

All I can say is that I tried, but I did not get the support from the whole village, to enable me to keep the shop going.

The Shepherd's Hut will be for sale. Should anyone be interested in purchasing the Hut and decking, please contact Becky via email at – chesterhilloldfarm@hotmail.com for further information.

Thanks again to all who supported me.

Becky

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 as above.

We have a **Pool table 180 x 95cm** and an **old-fashioned wooden rocking horse** to pass on to anyone interested. Also we are looking for a **table-tennis table** if anyone has one. Please contact Vic or Sheila on 01670 783 903.

Guinea pig / rabbit hutch with detachable run and cover for sale - £50 ono. Commercially purchased and modified with improved insulation and water-proofing for outdoor use in Northumberland. Generally good condition but in need of small amount of routine maintenance work. Please contact 01670 787 883.

Fly Tipping

Illegal disposal of waste by simply dumping it beside the road or in a lay-by is a real problem in rural areas.

It is important that we all report any incidents of fly tipping to Northumberland County Council, so that it can take the appropriate action. To do this on line, you should follow the link <https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=587> or put **Northumberland County Council / fly tipping** into your search engine. Alternatively, you can contact NCC by phone on **0345 600 6400, 01670 627 000** or **01665 660 733**.

Community Messaging

If any person you know might like to receive the local police community message updates, please email the Alnwick NPT mailbox (details below)

Coquetdale Neighbourhood Policing Team, Rothbury Police Office, Front Street, Rothbury, NE65 7TZ.

Tel. 101 Extension 61353 or alnwick.npt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk.

In addition, Rural Crime Prevention advice is available from the Northumbria Police website at

<http://www.northumbria.police.uk/ruralcrime> or

<http://www.northumbria.police.uk/farmsecurity>.

Dramatic Endings

A meeting has been arranged to formally wind up Swarland Drama Group. A lack of volunteers means that the group can no longer continue in its current guise. Former Drama Group members are invited to attend the meeting at Swarland Village Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th June. If anyone would like to form a new drama group, they are welcome to attend.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those drama group members who put their creative energy into entertaining us over the years, both on and off the stage. Many of them have gone on to explore new ventures. For example, former script writer Helen Chambers is now an author! Her first book; "Secrets and Guardians" is now available to purchase online from Amazon. And yes, it has a dramatic ending!

If you'd like further information and are unable to attend the meeting please contact Jackie Bartlett on 07890 632 891.

The Miracle of the Black Cat: A true Swarland story

At 4pm on the day of the Newcastle vs Sunderland Derby our young and slightly plump black cat walked out of the house in obvious disgust after Sunderland conceded a late equaliser. He did not return home that evening. Pepsi the black cat had never spent the night outside, so this was very unusual and a real worry.

As the week progressed there remained no sign of Pepsi. The streets were searched, neighbours visited and 'Missing cat' posters placed at strategic points around the village in the hope that someone might spot him.

But alas there was no sign; not a purr to be heard.

The Easter holidays came and our family left the village, country, continent to visit our eldest daughter in Japan. The grandparents kindly offered to remain in our home to keep a candle burning in the window in a forlorn hope that Pepsi might see he was missed and would make his way home.

Whilst in Japan we visited the famous Yoyogi Park in Tokyo, which houses the Meiji Shrine that is dedicated to the deified spirits of the Emperor Meiji and his wife. It was there that we noticed a wooden hut covered in small wooden plaques or 'Ema', on which wishes are written and left in the shrine grounds so they may be fulfilled.

Our youngest daughter Holly decided to purchase a plaque and inscribe a wish for her Pepsi to return home. It was the day after this visit that we received a call from Holly's Grandfather.

A kindly neighbour in Studley Drive heard a cat crying outside her door, a cat that looked a lot like a slimmed down version of the missing cat on the poster. She immediately made a call to the phone number listed and Grandpa Martin rushed round in his pyjamas (it was 11.30pm) to retrieve the cat.

Photographic evidence was sent out to Japan to confirm identity and YES it was Pepsi!

Was it a miracle brought about through a child's belief in an ancient Shinto spiritual practise? Who can be sure? All we know is that our Black Cat is home safe and well after 12 days away, albeit slightly slimmer and perhaps better for the experience. A huge thank you to Sam for finding him and making that phone call!

But the real miracle of the Black Cat happened a few weeks later..... when Sunderland (the Black Cats) avoided relegation!

A Swarland Resident

Anniversary at Nelson's at the Park

The Nelson's team would like to thank all of our customers for their support during our first fabulous year of trading. Due to popular demand the Parish Council and Vyner Park Committee have helped us to gain a license to sell alcohol. As of now you can enjoy a lovely chilled beverage with lunch or a glass of fizz with your afternoon tea!

So . . .

To celebrate our first birthday, please come along and enjoy drinks and nibbles with us on Friday 1st of July from 6 - 8pm. First glass of fizz on us!

Felton Surgery News May 2016

WE DID IT!!!

On 16th April Dr Waite, Helen Dempster, Eileen Davidson and Lauren Cockburn successfully zipwired from The Tyne Bridge to raise much needed money and awareness for Pancreatic Cancer Research. To say we all loved it is an understatement!

We are all completely overwhelmed by the support we have received and to date have raised £2050.

You can still donate if you wish by asking at reception for a sponsor form or using our just giving page.

Thank you to everyone who has given to this much needed cause.



Ordering Repeat Prescriptions

Did you know you can order your repeat medication up to 2 weeks before your medication runs out?

We ask that you leave a **minimum of 2 full working days**. However, you can order before this time so you know you will not run out of medication. We have recently had a lot of patients leaving it late to order their repeats and this makes it extremely difficult to guarantee everyone gets their medication on time. The reason we ask for a minimum of 2 full working days is so that the order can be added to the patient record, the prescription can be signed by the GP, the medication can be ordered, dispensed and then checked by our staff.

You can order online but please remember it is 2 full working days so if you order out of hours including weekends and Bank Holidays, your order will not be processed until the next working day.

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome to our team Dr Andrew Richardson. Dr Richardson was a registrar at Widdrington last year and has now come on board permanently. He specialises in palliative care.

We also welcome our new Practice Manager, Mrs Jackie Smith, who joined us in March, she works full-time between our Practice here in Felton and Widdrington.



Qi Gong for Health

A huge thank you to the 30 folk who came along to the taster session on the 4th May, an overwhelming response; your support was very much appreciated.

I'm pleased to report that classes have begun, that we have agreed that the class will continue beyond the initial 12 week block and that on the first Wednesday of each month we will stay for a 'cuppa and a chat', having energised our Qi first!

Please check under Swarland Village Hall Activities for class and contact details. Many thanks.

Anne Raine, Qi Gong Instructor

Hire of Vyner Park Facilities

Vyner Park Charity manages the land, buildings and facilities in Vyner Park for the benefit of the local community. Individuals, groups or organisations may hire the facilities for events or private functions. Any income generated helps the Charity to maintain the facilities.

What's available?

The following facilities are available for hire:

- The main hall (Nelson's)
- Bowling green
- Tennis courts
- Changing rooms (male and female)
- Main toilets (male and female)
- Playing field.

The main hall (Nelson's) is available to hire for meetings and functions in the evenings after 7pm and anytime on Tuesdays. Hirers cannot provide their own catering but Nelson's is able to offer a range of options starting with basic tea, coffee & biscuits. The hire charge of £20 / hour includes Nelson's basic service charge. Discounts may be possible depending on the event.

For specific events you can hire the Tennis Courts at £5 / hour / court, and three lanes of the bowling green for £5 / hour.

The Charity is always open to ideas from members of the community who would like to hire the Vyner Park facilities for a range of uses. It is possible, subject to prior agreement, to erect gazebos, marquees, bouncy castles or other equipment for use at private functions.

We are always happy to discuss your ideas and requirements.

For more details please contact Nelson's on 01670 787 600, or read the flyers at Nelson's and around Vyner Park.

Vyner Park Charity

Vyner Park Management Team AGM

This will be held in the main hall of the Pavilion (Nelson's) at **7pm** on **Wednesday 8th June**. Everyone welcome.

Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

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

Friday 10th June: Dance to the music of Alan Chandler, pooled supper, 8-11.30pm, £4 on the door.

Saturday 11th June: Special Birthday Coffee Morning to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, with activities and games for the family, as well as some wonderful archive material to look at. We will have birthday cake and a toast. Do come along and join in the fun!

Thursday 16th June: AGM of the Jubilee Hall committee, 7pm, everyone welcome to attend.

Wednesday 22nd June: Parish Council Meeting, 7pm, open to all.

Thursday 23rd June: EU Elections all day.

Judy Williams, Jubilee Hall Treasurer

Red Squirrels Update

Since the last issue of The Column there have not been many reports of sightings of Red or Greys, but at least there have been as many Reds as Greys in various locations across our patch.

At present you should continue to report Red or Grey Squirrels (alive or dead) anywhere in the area by **phoning 07779 69 40 06 or 01670 787 916 or emailing swarlandredsquirrels@gmail.com (ideally with an OS Grid Reference or at least a precise location) so that we can pass your sighting(s) on for recording as part of the RSNE region's 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

Boxercise Has Come to Swarland

Graham Keefe, of Active Northumberland, has arranged a series of training sessions, starting on Monday 6th June from 5.30 – 6.30pm in Swarland Village Hall, for anyone looking to improve their health with a different exercise. His Boxercise classes are open to all those over 18 of whatever fitness, weight or enthusiasm. Gloves supplied, why not come along on early Monday evenings and give it a try?

For further information contact Graham on 01670 629 330 or email GKeefe@activenorthumberland.org.uk.



