

Swarland Village Action Group Committee:

Chairman: Neil Mansfield, Secretary / Editor: Bryan Stanley,
Treasurer: Susan Richardson.
Committee Members: Robert & Sue Brotherton, John Richardson,
Suzanne Stanley, Caroline Thomas.

Write it Down Now !!!

Please supply information to the Editor for
inclusion in the December issue by
Thursday 23rd November 2017.



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.

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Monday to Sunday inclusive.

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All vouchers accepted.

Post Office on Mondays and Thursdays 8am till noon.

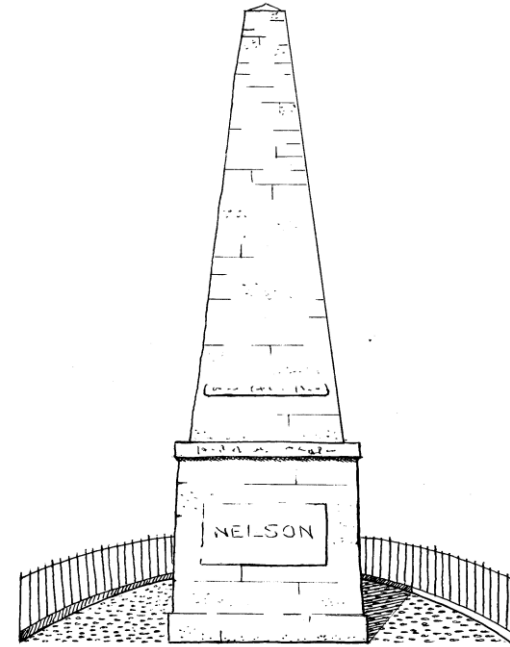
**SWARLAND VILLAGE
WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Available for private parties by arrangement.

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



October 2017

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 91

**We're still looking for someone else to
join the Parish Council - see inside.**

Welcome to your latest issue of **The Column** and if you're new to the area, welcome to you too. If you wish to put something into the next issue **please supply it for inclusion in the December issue by Thursday 23rd November. Send it to: the Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

It was wonderful to welcome back so many old friends and some new ones at our first meeting of the new season.

Peter Regan gave us a most interesting and at times amusing talk about some of the old Northumbrian families in particular the Ogles, the Greys and the Selbys. It was fascinating to discover how much of Northumberland was and is owned by these families and how they inter-married to secure more land. Peter explained records that, in some cases, go back before the Norman Conquest and of course, Northumberland did not feature in the Domesday Book.

Our next speaker, on Tuesday 10th October at 7.30pm in the Village Club, will be Dr Christine Harrison PhD, who will be talking on "A brief History of Paper- Making".

The Committee tries to include some more general history as well as particularly local topics in an effort to cover everyone's interests.

Our Christmas Dinner this year will again be at Nelsons in Swarland, on Tuesday 12th December. If you are a member of the group or have been a visitor to us and would like to attend you will be very welcome. Of course, spouses and partners are also very welcome!

Membership is £10 for the 8 speakers during the year, and if you want to come to just a particular speaker or to listen to a particular talk, the charge for visitors is £2.50 per person. Everyone is welcome.

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

Caroline Thomas

Recycling Corner

Why not recycle your unwanted items through The Column? Recipients of free items are asked to make a small donation towards this newsletter's running costs. Items for sale? – If successful, the seller is asked to make a small donation towards our running costs.

Genuine Toyota Yaris (2013 / 16) 16" steel space-saver wheel, plus wheel kit. Brand new and unused. **Cost £100.** Any reasonable offer considered. Contact 01670 787 592.

We have a couple of items **for sale: Kickboxing gloves** £5.00, **Large punchbag** £20.00. **Wanted:** we are looking for furniture suitable for a teenager's bedroom including a single bed and mattress, desk and bedside drawers. Contact Sheila on 01670 783 903. Thanks.

Neighbourhood Watch Update August - September

Swarland / Longframlington. Nothing to report from 01/08/17 - 30/09/17.

General alerts include:

17/08/17 Beware: Doorstep sellers claiming to be working on a Probation Scheme from the Middlesbrough area. No such scheme exists and they are using these tactics to encourage you to purchase items from them.

07/09/17 Police are appealing for help in finding a missing pregnant teenage. Chloe Bell (17) was last seen in the Low Fell area in Gateshead on Tuesday 05/09/17. She is of thin build but is heavily pregnant. She has dark brown hair slightly longer than shoulder length. If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Chloe please contact the police on 101 quoting reference 75 06/09/17.

15/09/17 100 Police officers from 6 counties in the north and northeast of England staged a 6-hour operation which ended at 4.00am. 19 vehicles were stopped and 3 were searched. As a result, officers seized a quantity of Class B drugs. Another vehicle was seized as the driver had no insurance. One 41 year-old male was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The operation was carried out because intelligence shows that organised crime groups from across the north of England are targeting rural areas in particular. Many volunteers including local gamekeepers, Forestry Commission and private landlords acted as the eyes and ears in various locations.

If residents have information on any crime, please report this via the following numbers: Emergency issues 999, non emergency issues Tel. 101. To contact Rothbury Police, e-mail alnwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk , phone 101 ext 61353, or call in at the office on Front Street, Rothbury. If the office is unattended please use the yellow phone on the wall and an officer will be able to assist with your enquiry.

NW Co-ordinator, Harold Hinchliffe, 2 Nile Drive, Swarland.

Tel.01670 783 669 or Mob.07713 097 250

Red Squirrels Update

Again, there have been a few Greys reported in the area of late but more importantly there have been a number of sightings of Red Squirrels recently. Many of these Reds are in areas from which Greys have recently been removed.

If you want to check out / use the Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels website, go to www.lcreds.org.uk . Please continue to report your sightings of Red or Grey Squirrels (alive or dead) anywhere in the area by **going to the website, or phoning 07779 694 006** (ideally with an OS Grid Reference or at least a precise location) so that we can record your sighting(s) as a part of the RSNE region's quarterly figures.

If you'd like to get more involved, please contact Ron Lightfoot on 01670 787 059 (lightfootq@gmail.com) or Rosie Mould on 01665 570 129 (rosiemould@hotmail.com).

Bryan Stanley

Swarland Village Hall Activities

Run as a community charity (Reg. No 1058471) the Hall (SVH) offers seating space for up to 120 people, a stage with lighting and a modern sound system (plus hearing loop), kitchen and toilets. Its PRS Licence means hirers can legitimately use music at their events. **If you wish to book the Hall** for a group or private event use **please contact Bryan Stanley**, details elsewhere. Current activities in the Hall include the following:

Archery Practice starts again at **7pm on Monday 30th October till end of March 2018** (there may be occasional summer sessions). 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@swolfrey.freeserve.co.uk .

Karate Classes on **Tuesdays 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**. New members always welcome. For further details ring Margaret 01670 787 705 or Joyce 01670 787 855.

Swarland Carpet Bowls on **Thursday evenings from 7pm**. 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.

Felton & District History Society

We're hoping that by the time you read this we will have welcomed loads of new members to our September meeting and that they all enjoyed hearing Nick Lewis tell us all about Lindisfarne Castle.

If you didn't get there, then you won't know that our next meeting is on **Monday 16th October** when we are looking forward to Eleanor George giving us the history of Acton House and Hall.

There is a definite "local" flavour to the talks this year as Eleanor is followed by Neal Skelton on **Monday 20th November**. Neal will enlighten us on the formation and role of the Police Helicopter service in Northumberland.

The Running Fox has been booked for lunch on **Monday 18th December** and all who wish to come along and join a convivial Christmas lunch are most welcome. And then **Monday 15th January** brings Tim Maxwell to tell us more about Felton in the 1200's.

To find out what other interesting items are in store, you will have to come along to a meeting. If you haven't already joined, please consider it. It is £15 for the year and for that you get monthly meetings, summer trips as arranged, free tea and coffee and even a glass of wine at the AGM! Alternatively, you can pay £3 as a visitor at each meeting. Meetings are all held in Felton village hall at 7.30p.m. It is wise to get there early to get a good seat!

Alison Jackson, Secretary 01670 787 527

NotM & Swarland Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 23rd August and 27th September.

New Councillor and One Vacancy

We have co-opted and warmly welcomed the return of Bob Ryan as a Parish Councillor. There is still ONE vacancy on the Parish Council (PC). Applications are sought for co-option in the form of a CV or letter explaining why you think you should be co-opted. We are keen to have a good gender / geographic balance so are particularly looking for applications from women living in Swarland or the Hazon / Hartlaw area, and also for people who can commit some time to helping run the Vyner Park Charity. If you think you have got what it takes, contact the Parish Clerk (see below).

Traffic Calming Measures in Newton on the Moor

Following complaints from residents and the PC about heavy vehicles speeding through NotM, Northumberland County Council (NCC) has offered to carry out traffic calming works which were described in the last edition of the Column and comments invited. All but one of the responses received were in favour of the traffic calming and the PC has advised NCC that the preferred option is: a 20mph speed limit through NotM with new 20mph signage within the village, relocation of the existing gateway signage closer to the village from the north, with the addition of a 40mph zone from north of Blue House. Rumble strips at all 3 entrances have been requested.

Local Transport Plan (LTP) Priorities For 2018 / 19

Each year NCC asks Town and Parish Councils to submit their three priorities for road improvements. These are then used to compile the County's LTP, though there is no guarantee that works prioritised will be carried out. Following the item in the last Column, 6 local residents made various suggestions which were discussed and the following 3 priorities have been agreed by the PC and submitted to NCC for 2018 / 19:

- i. Package of road safety measures around Swarland Primary School.
- ii. Introduction of a 30mph speed limit in Old Swarland.
- iii. Extension of The Avenue footpath to reach The Square in Swarland.

Budget and Precept

We have started to plan our budget for 2018 / 19 and as with previous years, we welcome ideas and proposals from local groups and residents for new projects and / or changed priorities, preferably before our next meeting on 25th October. We aim to finalise our Council Tax precept at our November meeting.

Bus Service - Additional Service

A new Monday to Saturday service (operated by PCL Travel) was introduced on Monday 4th September. It runs Monday to Saturday from Longframlington to Alnwick via Swarland & NotM and back. Timetables are on the PC noticeboards and the PC website.

If you have comments or queries, please contact the Parish Clerk – Jan Anderson on 01665 575 145 or janandersonpc@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.** Proceeds go towards SVA related community projects.

Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

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

Church Services have resumed in the Hall on the third Sunday of each month at 12 noon. In addition, there will be a brief service at the War Memorial on Sunday 12th November.

Saturday 14th October is October's Coffee Morning from 10.00am with excellent cakes & scones for sale.

Also on **14th October**, at 7.30, Paddy from Bin 21 in Morpeth will be giving us a tasting of Portuguese wines. Cost will be £15 per head to cover wines, bread & cheese. Drivers are offered a non-alcoholic option at £5. Please let Dudley Williams know if you would like to come – 01665 581 531 or prof.williams@hotmail.co.uk.

Saturday 11th November is Coffee Morning day – as usual, cheerful conversation, good coffee, with cakes, scones & preserves to buy.

Also on **Saturday 11th November**, the **Alnwick Pipers' Supper** will take place. Lively entertainment will be provided by the Pipers & their fellow artists with a finger buffet provided by the members of the Jubilee Hall Committee – watch out for further details on the notice board outside the hall.

Advance notice - The Riff Raff Ukulele group, a recorder group and the Hall Fiddle group will present an evening of music on **Friday 1st December**.

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

Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary.



Advert

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Moles, Rodents, Rabbits,
Wasps and other insects.

Contact Rory Brotherton
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666

The Nelson's / Vyner Park Charity Relationship Explained

Nelson's at the Park is a very popular community amenity which also attracts people from the surrounding areas. It was set up in 2015 following the demise of a charity which previously managed the pavilion and sports facilities. Nelson's provided a way to use the pavilion and collect income from the sports facilities and room hire. Mothballing the building was shown not to be an alternative as the insurance quoted was in excess of that for the building in use (Nelson's insurance covers only their business and the rooms they use).

Nelson's operates within property managed by a new registered charity (Vyner Park Charity Reg No 1163835) on behalf of its owner, the Parish Council (PC). Nelson's is independent of the Charity and the PC precept being a 'not-for-profit social enterprise' and a private business now registered for VAT. However, the two organisations work together, as they share the building. Vyner Park Charity (VPC) has allowed Nelson's to operate so far while paying only a peppercorn rent to facilitate a successful start-up period.

Annually in January members of the VPC Management Committee and the Nelson's directors have a review meeting chaired by an independent Parish Councillor (i.e. isn't a member of the VPCMC). We were satisfied this year that it would be unrealistic to ask for more than the agreed peppercorn rent until the next review in 2018. In the next year or so however, it is hoped Nelson's will be able to move towards a sustained commercial rent for the rooms it uses in the pavilion. While Nelson's detailed accounts are not public, we can say that it pays VAT at 20% on turnover, the rest of their income being fully accounted for by the costs of consumables (food, drink and cleaning products), stock, staff wages, rates, utilities bills (which Nelson's pays in full for the Pavilion), business insurance, repairs and renewals (equipment and fittings), telephone & internet, stationery and packaging, accountancy fees, bank charges, and legal & professional fees.

Bearing in mind the benefits of Nelson's to the community, the VPCMC feels the rent concession to Nelson's is justified at the present time and makes financial and social sense for the parish. The VPC receives income for private evening room hire, and for sports equipment and court use which would very difficult to collect without Nelson's help. Nelson's provides employment, and staff also work for free at events such as Bonfire Night and the Show (sadly missing this year), contributing both socially and financially thereby. This is all in addition to what most of you recognise as the benefits of having a café / social hub in the community: Nelson's has become a welcome focal point for all kinds of information exchange, social life, and increased use of the Park, and we can't put a financial value on that.

*Suzanne Stanley
Chairman, VPC Management Committee*

**Deadline for items for the December issue of
The Column: Thursday 23rd November 2017.**

Bonfire Night Fun for the Parish

Bonfire and fireworks as usual
at Vyner Park, Swarland

on **Friday 3rd November.**

Bring a torch – it's dark on the Park.

Pay at the gate. Drinks, Food & Raffle.

Watch out for details on posters around the
parish nearer the time.

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REMINDER **WINEFEST 2017**

SWARLAND VILLAGE HALL on
SATURDAY 28th October 7.30pm

TICKETS (£3.50)

on sale from

NELSONS in the Park

or from

Sheila Tel 01670 787 883

Limited numbers

Don't leave it too late

**Deadline for items for the December issue of
The Column: Thursday 23rd November 2017.**

Swarland Xmas Fair

Saturday 18th November 2017 in Swarland Village Hall

10.00 - 12.00 noon

Swarland Craft Group plus local arts and crafts

£1 admission (children free) includes tea / coffee / juice & biscuits.

Raffle for the Great North Air Ambulance.

Please let us know if you would like a stall.

Contact: Margaret on 01670 787 705 or Joyce on 01670 787 855.

Wine-tasting Evening

to be held at the

Jubilee Hall, Newton-on-the-Moor.

Saturday 14th October, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.



The Jubilee Hall will be hosting a wine-tasting evening featuring **Portuguese Wines**. Paddy Eyres from Bin21 in Morpeth will provide a selection of red and white wines to tempt the palate, together with a lively commentary.

• Tickets are £15 per person (payable at the door) and include fresh bread and cheese between wines. Come and join us for a fun evening.

• So that we may estimate participant numbers please sign up in advance with Dudley Williams on 01665 581 531, or at prof.williams@hotmail.co.uk.

RVI Cancer Appeal at Swarland Club

The community is still showing great support for the Cancer Appeal. I'm sure there are a lot more milk bottle and other plastic tops out there which could earn money for this good cause.

At present NCC does not offer any way for us to recycle the sort of plastic bottle tops we get on our milk bottles which have the recycling code 2. Currently these have to go in our green land-fill bins. Why not save on land-fill **AND** help add to the funds of a very worthwhile cause. Clean plastic bottle tops can be left in the container on the bar in Swarland Club. **Periodically these go to the RVI to help raise funds for its Cancer Appeal.**

Citizens Advice Bureau details

There is now a poster in the SVA notice board in The Square in Swarland, displaying details of the opening hours and contact details for our local CAB offices.

CAB is a registered charity which relies on trained volunteers to help deliver its services. If you are interested in volunteering for the organisation you can find out more about the CAB and volunteering at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

From the Archive – The Column, October 2007

Cessation of Sunday Postal Collection

Please note that from 28th October there will no longer be Sunday collections from any post box in the parish - this includes the one outside Swarland Post Office.

Parish Plan - Hog Roast Success

The Parish Plan Committee held a session in Swarland Village Hall on the evening of Saturday 29th September. . . to give residents an opportunity to get together and find out more about and discuss what a Parish Plan is, how it can help the local community and how it would need to be produced About 90 residents of all ages attended. After explanations, there was a brain-storming session as to what was good and bad about the parish and those things people wanted and didn't want, then everyone tucked into a very enjoyable Hog Roast. [The Parish Plan was finally published in 2011 – and we're considering revisiting the process. Ed.]

Swarland Sports Club New 100 Club Winners

Here are the results of the September 2007 Sports Club draws:
1st £25 Harry Hastie (No.75) 2nd £15 June Ormiston (No.71)
3rd £10 Ken Walters (No.64) 4th £ 5 John Taylor (No.97)
5th £ 5 Steve Woolfrey (No.82)

***An Evening of Traditional Music, Song and Humour** is again being held at the Jubilee Hall, NotM on Saturday 24th November. We have the return of BOB BOLAM with his Northumbrian humour and songs, the MALCOLM BENNETT TRIO, traditional clog dancers and of course the familiar sounds of Northumbrian Pipes, fiddles and moothies! The evening begins at 7.30pm, please bring your own supper to share at your table – there will be a bar and the usual cups of tea. Entry £3.50, under-16s £2. The evening, including the Raffle, is in aid of the Jubilee Hall funds, so please come along and join in.*

Come on folks!!!

I've struggled to fill The Column this month. I can't believe that in a parish of 700+ people there isn't someone else out there with something to say! People comment that they enjoy reading the newsletter, look forward to it even, but it could be more interesting if more of you contributed. It can be anything you like – something you want to get off your chest, a poem, a review of a good meal you've had in a local hostelry . . . [10 years on and nothing's changed! Let's have some new contributors. Ed.]

What's happening at Vyner Park?

Signage: Many thanks from the Vyner Park Committee to Elizabeth & Wayne Hilton (Hilton Media) for the clear and attractive co-ordinated signs around the Park and on the end of the Pavilion – they look excellent. Thanks too for the hours spent by Elizabeth, Greg Anderson and Darren Fahy installing them – not exactly quick and easy we gather!

Grass cutting: David Blackshaw, helped by Dennis Mason, cut and removed the long grass on the east field – the area the County Council cannot do. This was a huge help for which many thanks; they've saved the Charity a considerable amount of money.

Goalposts: We've just put in a grant application for two pairs of goalposts – a standard pair to be socketed into the sports field for regular use, and a smaller wheeled pair for junior use on a half- or quarter-pitch. John Stewart from Felton will start regular Under-10s training next season and has offered to provide us with a line-marker. The sports field will need a better system of maintenance than the current fortnightly NCC cuts which leave the cut grass in swathes across the pitch, but that's in hand and we're hoping that it won't affect the cost. We look forward to seeing the field in regular use for casual play and arranged matches.

Bonfire Night 3rd November: This should be a great night as usual, with good food, hot and cold drinks, a worthwhile raffle, a splendid fire and what we're hoping will be a bigger and better firework display. We'll ring-fence some of the hoped-for surplus income towards the goalposts as we're unlikely to get a grant for 100% of the cost, so please attend and spend to help us with this key fund-raising event. Look out for the posters.

VP Charity Management Team

Plant Heritage North East (Charity No.1004009)

is hosting a public lecture

in

Ponteland Memorial Hall NE20 9NX

at

2.30pm on Saturday 21st October.

by

Ken Thompson

“Whatever happened to Hebe? – or why do they keep changing the names of plants?”

Entry is by ticket only from eventbrite.co.uk.

You can obtain tickets by going to the PHNE website at www.plantheritagene.org.uk and following the link for the talk.

£6 or free to PH members.

