

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 **February** issue by **Thursday 27th January 2022.**

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 provides a newspaper service for our area. All daily newspapers are catered for along with the sale of bread, eggs and milk.

**This service is currently open
from 7.30 to 10am every day**

Newspapers and magazines may be ordered and reserved.

Call, Text or WhatsApp **Louise on 07502 477 734,**
Find us on Facebook (Swarland WMC Paper Shop),
or phone SWM Club on 01670 787 825.

The Post Office is now providing its
Monday and Thursday service from 8 – 10.00am.

SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to support *The Column*.

The Column



December 2021

Produced by
**Swarland Village Action
Newsletter 116**

**New Community Climate Change team
forming. See inside for details.**

Sorry, The Column is rather late: weather, lack of power and broadband have all conspired to delay things. Welcome to your Christmas issue of The Column and if you're new to the area, a special welcome to you. **To include something, however small, in the February issue, please supply it for inclusion by Thursday 27th January. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .** Even with the eased Covid-19 situation, we are still using the NCC Communities Together Scheme to print it for us. Thanks to Ruth Armstrong for organising this again.

Mobile Library Dates

The NCC mobile library comes to our parish on some Wednesdays. It stops in **Swarland opposite The Square from 10.00 - 11.00am** and **Newton on the Moor from 11.10 - 11.30am**. If you miss either of these it's also in **Guyzance from 11.40am – 12.00** and **Old Felton from 12.15 – 12.35pm**. The next visits in our area are on **8th December, 5th January and 2nd February**.

Libraries are now open for the 'select & collect' service and there are 'doorstep deliveries' for some customers. You may also wish to use NCC's Digital Library Services which are available 24/7.

You can check NCC's website for further library information at northumberland.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/msgtrn/wpac/home .

Support for Newton on the Moor and Swarland Residents

Support is still available from the 45 residents in the parish who have volunteered to help out their neighbours who are resident within the parish during the Coronavirus Emergency, and also in response to the recent consequences of Storm Arwen.

In our parish, we have a population of over 900, in around 440 homes, and many are elderly and / or living alone. Volunteers are there to help you if you are vulnerable through ill health or age and don't have anyone else to help you. The sort of support we can provide is as follows: -

- Daily Phone calls to check you are well and not needing help
- Phone calls for a chat
- Collection of prescriptions
- Collection / delivery of food
- Help with other problems where possible.

If you need help, email (if possible) janandersonpc@gmail.com or telephone 07775 060 430 during office hours preferably.

The Parish Council website is revised regularly with information relating to services available within our parish (find this website at <http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/>).

NCC has a useful page of information including a daily update of infections in each county ward (at <https://northumberland.gov.uk>).

Best wishes, Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)

Neighbourhood Watch Update – January 2022

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

As of 19/11/21, I have had no information about any criminal activity in our area.

General interest:

A rural crime operation occurred on the evening of Tuesday 05/10/21. At this time 25 vehicles were checked, with two motorists being advised of lighting offences.

Volunteers assisted police in the safe return of a number of loose cows that had escaped onto the A696 near Belsay. The team also uplifted a silver Ford transit van and arrested one male in relation to the theft of ATVs.

A Rural Crime operation on Friday 12th & Saturday 13th November resulted in a black Subaru "acting" suspiciously in Newton (off the A69) being stopped by officers. The vehicle was seized under the Poaching Prevention Act. Two males were reported and a lamp seized.

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, phone 101 ext 61353, e-mail alnwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk , or call in at the office in the Coquetdale Centre, Church 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*

SWARLAND CHOIR

(Musical Director Cheryl Camm)

MEET AT SWARLAND VILLAGE CLUB

on

Wednesdays at 6pm.

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO READ MUSIC OR HAVE
BEEN IN A CHOIR BEFORE.**

**JUST COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN AND
MEET NEW PEOPLE.**

(for further information contact: JULIE 07920 770 076)

Recycling, Wants & For Sale Corner

Why not recycle your unwanted items through The Column? Recipients of free items can make a donation towards the newsletter's costs. Items for sale? – If successful, the seller can make a similar donation. See elsewhere for Piano for collection from Swarland Village Hall.

Swarland Village Hall

The Hall, which is run as a community facility is available for hire, bearing in mind that everyone must still follow any remaining Government Covid-19 restrictions. The majority of activities can now be booked but a few activities are still taking place outside and will recommence indoors later. **Please support this local facility.** If you wish to check on whether you can book the Hall for a future event, please contact Bryan Stanley (contact details elsewhere) or Steve Woolfrey (stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com or 01670 787 883), or see the SVH website at swarlandvillagehall.co.uk.

Archery Practice: indoor sessions at **7pm on Monday evenings.** The Club can supply all equipment. For details contact **Steve** on Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com or **01670 787 883.**

Karate Classes on Tuesdays 5.30 - 8.30pm. Contact **Ashleigh Davidson** on **07947 694 014** or **07930 838 872.**

Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class on Wednesdays 10 – 11 and 11.15 – 12.15. Waiting lists are currently full – for details contact Anne Raine on **07934 425 844.**

Swarland Craft Group meets on Wednesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm. There will be no meetings in December, but we will resume on 5th January 2022. New members welcome. Any enquiries: Margaret on 01670 – 787 705.

Swarland Carpet Bowls on Thursday evenings from 7pm. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, contact **Malcolm or Joan Nesbit** on **01670 783 140.**

Pilates Classes on Thursdays 9.30-10.30am. To join in contact sandyturnbull6@gmail.com . Possible Monday class soon as well.

Tribe-Zuza dance sessions 11.15 – 12.15 on Tuesdays. For further details contact Angela on **01670 787 223.**

Northumberland Village Halls Heritage Project

Does anyone have any memories of the Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor? What activities have you attended in it over the years? Can you remember what it was used for before it was the village hall? How has it changed?

Would you be prepared to share these memories with a wider audience?

We are currently taking part in a Northumberland Village Halls Heritage Project which has been organised by Community Action Northumberland (CAN) which is working in partnership with Northumberland Archives. We have the opportunity to record your memories for future generations. If this isn't for you, maybe you have photographs of past events or how the hall used to look. Could we scan these to use in our project?

We're also looking for volunteers to assist in the administration of the project, preferably with good internet-based skills. For further information please contact us either via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/notmvillagehall> or send an email to notmjubileehall@yahoo.com .

NotM & Swarland Parish Council (PC) - November 2021

The PC has reverted to holding traditional, face-to-face meetings in our village halls, following a 17-month period of video meeting via Zoom. It is considering the possibility of reverting to video meetings if the Covid situation deteriorates considerably. Our next meeting, by whatever means, will be held on 26th January, in Swarland Village Hall if live.

Road safety

The three priority requests put forward for the NCC (County Council) Local Transport Plan 2022-23 were re-submissions, with greater detail, of those that were put forward for 2021-22. These were: two safer walking routes to X15 bus stops, for both NotM and Swarland; and upgrades and adoption of Swarland's back-roads.

'Thank-you' to those who responded to the mini-consultation on the NCC road safety scheme around Swarland Primary School. Respondents were supportive of the proposals, especially the prospect of a reduced speed limit on lower Leamington Lane. All comments were forwarded to NCC, including individual comments about other parts of Swarland.

On-street parking in NotM is occasionally causing difficulties for exiting and entering the various narrow lanes along the main street, especially when there is a function at the Jubilee Hall. The PC definitely does not wish to see the introduction of double yellow lines, but it asks all drivers to park with due consideration, and for residents to use their own off-street parking areas where available, please.

Storm Arwen

Many thanks to the large number of volunteers throughout our area who helped their neighbours and the community through the trauma and aftermath of the storm. Many households were without electricity, telephony and broadband for prolonged periods, some were left isolated by fallen trees, and some homes have been structurally damaged. Thanks also to the 'Swarland Residents' Facebook page; this proved an invaluable tool for sharing news for those with access to the technology.

Budget 2022-23

We have now settled on a budget for next year, with proposals for spending broadly in line with the current year. There will be a modest increase in our Council Tax precept, from £22.7k to £23k, but the impact on each household should be a slight reduction, due to the expansion of the tax base due to recent house-building. The budget includes some flexibility in case projects, as yet unspecified, emerge next year connected to the community climate change initiative (please see separate article about this).

There's Trevor

After an absence of several years, we were pleased to welcome local NCC member Cllr Trevor Thorne to our November meeting. He updated us on a number of current NCC initiatives (please see separate article), and undertook to be a more-frequent attender at future meetings. *(pto)*

(cont)

Contact the Parish Clerk – **Jan Anderson** on **07775 060 430** or at **janandersonpc@gmail.com** or to access the PC website search for: **Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council** .

Storm Arwen

Popularised by Tolkien, the Welsh name Arwen apparently means *noble maiden, fair, or fine*. Well, you must all judge for yourselves how appropriate that was. Reading and cooking by torch- and candlelight, boiling pans of water for washing, and catching a whiff of camping stove gas or paraffin, might have had a certain nobility for a few hours. But when the situation stretches to days, particularly for those who are dependent on medical equipment, or live alone, or have no alternative means of heating a house that suddenly has an ambient temperature of less than 10°C, then it becomes very stressful. Most Swarland residents found themselves in this position from 9pm on Friday 26th November until various times on Monday 29th or even later.

Thanks to the interventions of Louise Stansfield (who seemed magically to make contacts where the rest of us failed), information on the Swarland Residents Facebook page, and general good-neighbourliness throughout our parish, it looks as though most people were cared for at some level (while we all envied Newton on the Moor and some Swarland residents who woke up on Saturday morning to find domestic normality restored).

Sadly, things were far from normal outside. Significant tree collections at Wallington, Craggside and Howick have been seriously affected by the 98mph gale, but so have our own much-loved trees, for which Swarland in particular is noted. Even those who had recently had NCC-approved tree surgery in the protected tree belt running along The Avenue and down Leamington Lane found that their trees had been severely damaged, rendered unstable, or ripped out of the ground completely. In some cases, this has also caused serious damage to homes. It's ironic that at a time when we're all being urged to plant more trees, a storm rips out millions of them across many counties, changing the appearance of the landscape and reducing further our ability to cope with increased CO₂. Many of you may now feel anxious about having trees in your garden or anywhere near your property. However, we must hope that this storm has taken out all of the weakest specimens, so that it's the ideal time to re-plant native trees both for the appearance of our community and for their enormous ecological and climate value.

Suzanne Stanley

**Deadline for items for the February issue of
The Column: Thursday 27th January 2022.**

Trevor's Bit

Delighted to see the new footpath opposite the village square in Swarland which now completes the walk to the Sports Centre / Nelson's Café from the centre of the village. I would like to *[thank]* Jabin Cussins for his generosity in supporting this scheme, but I would also like to thank David Rixon for taking the time to come our planning committee in North Northumberland and 'making the case' for this improvement to the infrastructure of our village. *[Editor's note: the completion of the footpath became a condition of the planning application and needed to be completed before Cussins left the development.]*

The Northumberland County Council are hoping to return to holding planning meetings and local area council meetings back in Alnwick and Berwick-upon-Tweed in the near future rather than hold them centrally at County Hall. Sometimes a rare appearance of a parish representative can achieve great things as is evidenced above!!

As your Chairman of Strategic Planning at NCC, I have been busy overseeing the applications for the new Northumberland Rail Line which will run a passenger service from Newcastle to Ashington. There are six new rail stations to be built, one in North Tyneside and the remaining five in Northumberland. This rail line was closed to passenger traffic back in 1964 and has operated as a freight line since then. It is hoped to run a passenger service every 30 minutes. Since closure, new houses, schools and sheltered accommodation have been built, so sometimes it is quite difficult to "shoe in" a new railway station and its associated car parking spaces into the existing town. However, our planning consultant and our planning team have done their very best to overcome these problems. The new railway will bring jobs, industry, retail, tourism and a greatly improved infrastructure to the south-east corner of Northumberland. It will encourage motorists to leave their cars in the garage, free-up busy roads and hopefully reduce our carbon foot-print.

The British Volt application, which came before committee earlier this year, is the largest and most important to come before us in recent years. The Central Government's decision to proceed with the car-battery factory at Cambois is a welcome 'shot in the arm' for the Blyth area. This huge investment is part of Boris's "levelling-up" agenda and will bring over 3,000 jobs when it is completed in 2028, but it is hoped to be partially operational by 2025. This investment will bring many subsidiary service industries to the area.

The new cable manufacturing plant in Blyth is a welcome investment in the area.

Trevor Thorne, (County Councillor for Shilbottle Ward), The Stables, Embleton Hall, Longframlington NE65 8DT.

Email: **trevor.thorne@northumberland.gov.uk**. Tel: 01665 570249 (mobile: 07769 304311).



At the heart of Christmas



A work colleague said the other day “I’m looking forward to Christmas, well, last year Christmas was cancelled and it’ll be good to get back to normal”.

It’s a sentiment that perhaps a number of us share. Last Christmas was indeed different, which may have highlighted the most important part of the Christmas experience -

the part you want to make sure is at the heart of your Christmas this year.

Whatever December brings, your parish church, St. Michael’s in Felton, offers a place and opportunities to ponder in our hearts what the events of the first Christmas might mean to us today.

St. Michael’s is open every day in daylight hours for quiet times and prayer, and our Sunday services continue at 8am and 11am.

On Sunday the 12th December at 11am, we have a crib service when we replay the nativity story suitable for all ages.

At 7pm on Christmas Eve, Carols by Candlelight is a time to hear traditional Christmas readings and sing some favourite carols (probably with masks).

Christmas Day, we have festive communion services at 8am and 11am.

Then our next service will be on 2nd January.

Whether you visit St. Michaels on your own or bring family and friends, may you find a warmth of welcome, joy and hope in the mystery at the heart of Christmas; God becoming human in the birth of Jesus. Please find us on Facebook, Twitter and stmichaelsfelton.co.uk and contact us if we can help in any way.

With every blessing, Liz Rowark, St. Michael and All Angels Church, Felton

NELSON'S at the park



SWARLAND VILLAGE | SET 2014

Merry Christmas from the Nelson’s Team

Old and New Faces will be greeted with a festive warm welcome, pop and say hello!

Christmas Opening Hours:

Closed 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th & 28th
Open 9-4 29th, 30th 31st December.

Closed New Year’s Day.

Open 9-4 2nd January.

Winter Offers:

Week Days until 17th December - A Main and Cake for £9.95.

Sunday Afternoons throughout December - Festive Afternoon Teas for Two at £29.95.

Swarland Residents Facebook page

If you haven’t seen it yet – I try to get all village events here. You will find us on Facebook (Swarland WMC Paper Shop), or phone SWM Club on 01670 787 825. There are currently about 550 members.

There is to be a Carol Service around the Christmas Tree in The Square, Swarland on Wednesday 22nd December – see poster in The Club & on Facebook.

December / Christmas / New Year events at the Club, see posters in The Club and on Facebook. The Club certainly needs a boost at present so please do use it.

The Paper shop is open 364 days a year, we are only closed on Christmas Day! Open 7.30am till 10.00am.

Also, could I personally say a massive thank you to all those who attended the Remembrance Ceremonies on the 11th November and again on Remembrance Sunday in the Village Square. A special thank you to Canon Raymond Best and his lovely wife for attending, and also my Dad for his continued commitment. We had an amazing turn-out both days (around 45 each, much better than the half a dozen in the previous 20 years). Everyone’s support is greatly appreciated.

Fundraising will begin after Christmas to raise money needed to erect a memorial stone in Swarland Square, displaying the names of those in the forces who died during both WW1 and WW2.

Louise (07502 477 734), on Facebook (Swarland WMC Paper Shop), or phone SWM Club on 01670 787 825.

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

On the 12th October 2021 we welcomed our speaker Bill Bland who gave an excellent talk to a ‘full house’ on the “History of Ordnance Survey (OS)”. Bill has spent his career working for OS and described to the group the origins, politics of coverage and the methods used. Bill bravely took us through trigonometry using drawings and photographs, technological advances and the modern usage of OS.

On the 9th November 2021 the Group welcomed Barry Mead who delivered an entertaining and informative talk on the Cresswell Pele Tower. Barry has been actively involved in the restoration of the Pele Tower and was passionate and very informative about it. He reflected the hard work and challenges that went into restoring a tower such as this.

On the 14th December 2021 we will be having a Christmas lunch at Nelson’s which I am sure will be enjoyed by all. There are still a few spaces available, if you would like to attend, please confirm by the 1st December 2021 to swarlandmlhg@gmail.com.

There is no meeting in January, 2022 will commence on the 8th February with Ellie Waddington talking about The Chillingham Cattle. New members and guests are all welcome, we meet at The Swarland Club at 7.30. Further information and updates can be found on our Facebook site or by emailing: swarlandmlhg@gmail.com.

Lesley Selfe

Jubilee Hall Christmas Coffee Morning. – & Grand Raffle

Do join us on **Saturday 11th December** for one of the highlights of our year. Cakes and scones made by the ladies of Newton on the Moor will be on sale as usual, but we have a superb raffle with no fewer than **3** hampers this year (including a hamper full of chocolate goodies!) and other prizes too. There will be cake stalls with Christmas puddings, table decorations, cards, chutneys and preserves in addition to the usual array of home-made cakes. Jen Brown of Floral Gift will be selling her lovely wreaths and festive bunches made from locally grown plants. In addition to craft stalls, Colin Gough will be autographing copies of his most recent book.

Do come - doors open at 10.00 sharp and the raffle will be drawn at 11.30.

Winter Service Resumes - at the January coffee morning, when we shall be serving hot bacon and sausage breakfast baps. Vegetarian sausages, onion and ketchup available too. Doors open on **Saturday 8th January** at 10.00.

The traditional **Dressing of the Crib** will take place on **Christmas Eve** in the Jubilee Hall at 5.30 pm. This is a happy event which we hope that children and visitors to the village will enjoy. Everyone is most welcome.

New Climate Action Group

Are you concerned about Climate Change?

Interested in supporting nature and biodiversity in your area? Along with many other authorities, the Parish Council has recently declared a Climate Emergency and is keen to set up a Climate Action Group in the local area. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!

It's intended that the group will decide its own objectives and priorities, but some initial ideas are:

- Carbon footprint survey
- Installation of EV charging points
- Tree planting
- Survey of potential bus use
- Home energy audits
- Reducing the use of pesticides
- Improving biodiversity in roadside verges and hedgerows.

You may have already seen one of our posters or our post on the Swarland Residents Facebook page. If you've got in touch, many thanks and we're looking forward to meeting you.

If you'd like to get involved, please e mail janandersonpc@gmail.com.

The first meeting of the group will be on 11th January at 7 pm in Swarland Working Men's Club, Coast View, Swarland, NE65 9JG.

Felton Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Meetings of the Felton PPG have taken place in October and early December; Sylvia Allen has now been appointed as Secretary for the group, but at present there is no elected chair. Patient representation from all areas of the practice is still being sought, especially from Shilbottle, Longframlington and Newton on the Moor plus other outlying areas of the practice. Please contact the practice at www.feltonsurgery.nhs.uk for joining details. Publicising the practice is important and in addition to parish newsletters please check your local residents' Facebook pages and other social media for updates.

Christmas Holiday opening hours will be as follows:

Normal hours Monday to Friday are: 8.30 to 6.00 (closed 1.00-2.00) with dispensers busy throughout the day.

The surgery and pharmacy will be closed:

Saturday 25th December

Sunday 26th December

Monday 27th December

Tuesday 28th December

Saturday 1st January

Sunday 2nd January

Monday 3rd January

Social distancing remains an issue due to the small size of the waiting area, so face-to-face consultations cannot take place at present; the resumption of clinics is at the forefront of discussions within the practice and as soon as NHS permission is received, they will resume. The district nursing service is unaffected and continues as normal.

The surgery has periodically received some supplies of flu vaccine. These have not been enough to vaccinate all eligible patients yet, patients will be contacted by the surgery when more flu vaccine is available and then appointments will be offered. Patients waiting for their second / third Covid-19 vaccination at Amble Health Centre and who do not want to wait, should use the national system to make an appointment at a Regional Hub. The routine programme of vaccinations for shingles and pneumonia, and smear and other tests continues. Dr Lees asks that patients who are unable to attend for smear tests should contact the surgery so others can be offered the appointment.

Contact the practice by phone on **01670 787 353** or visit its website for further information at www.feltonsurgery.nhs.uk.

Bryan Stanley, PPG Team member

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Christmasy thoughts

"The time between one Christmas and the next is about two months now. They'll be draping tinsel over the Easter eggs before long."

Victor Meldrew, One Foot in the Grave

"463 Ways to Make Christmas Simple."

Headline, Prima magazine

"Christmas used to be terrible at our house, not like now when kids get everything. One year my sister got a miniature set of perfumes called 'ample'. They were tiny, even I could see where my dad had scraped off the 's'."

Stephen K. Amos

"A year, two years ago, from now, that Booker Prize-winning novel will still lie, unopened, by our beds. Those shaving lotions will stand, virgin, in our bathrooms. That little blue ceramic pot of Stilton will still be in the larder, back among the petrified garlic and half-crumbled stock cubes."

Philip Norman

"A great psychiatric paper could be written on parental remarks at the Christmas lunch table that drive their children to the edge of the abyss, unnoticed by anyone else present."

Philip Norman

"Short of hiring a line of chorus girls and calling it 'The Queen Show' what more can you do?"

Prince Philip, on the Queen's Speech

"You ask your relatives if they'd like tea or coffee, and they say, 'Whichever's easiest.' None of them's easiest. What would be easiest is if you went home. NOW."

Jack Dee

"I hate cocktail parties, where everyone is looking over everyone's shoulder, in case someone more important has arrived."

Barbara Cartland

"Every guest hates the others, and the host hates them all."

Albanian proverb

"Only the bravest of stay-at-homes asks the ticklish question: 'Did anyone ask where I was?'"

Henry Haskins



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Piano – Collect from Swarland Village Hall



We're looking for a new home for the Moore & Moore piano which has been in the Hall for a number of years but we no longer have any need for it, so it needs re-housing, tuning and playing.

If you're interested in having a look at it, please contact Bryan on 01670 787916 or maxiotoby1@gmail.com or Steve on 01670 787882 or Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com. It is fitted with castors and is easy to move, but you will need to arrange your own transport.

Swarland Village Hall Charity Management Team



More about trees: - the Northumbria Veteran Tree Project

Trees have a similar effect to buildings in structuring our environment and being part of its history, so it's heartening to know that the Northumbria Veteran Tree Project, based at Kirkley Hall College and led by Nick Johnson, arboriculture course leader at the college until his recent retirement, aims to "**identify, map and celebrate ancient, veteran, heritage and notable trees**" throughout the region, with the broader aim to increase awareness of the environmental and social benefits provided by trees. It should ensure greater protection to individual trees, and thereby to the wildlife they support, and to the ecological systems of which they're a part. **Ancient trees** must have reached a great age compared to others of the same species, a 150-year-old birch for example (the typical lifespan is 60-90 years). **Veteran trees** are measured: depending on species they must have a girth of at least 3m, 1.5m above ground level. **Heritage trees** have a connection to a historic event or location, and **Notable trees** are in some way different to others of their species, either visually (such as the Sycamore on Hadrian's Wall) or biologically.

The Project is recording only trees on public land, and you can become an active volunteer or make nominations via the (very informative) website. You'll also find a fascinating gallery of pictures which could stimulate some winter walks (if Storm Arwen hasn't done too much damage). See veterantreeproject.com.

Suzanne Stanley

Percy Wood Holiday Park planning application 19/01687/FUL

In October I emailed the Planning Officer in charge of the above planning application (Tony Lowe) to ask if there was a date set for the Planning Committee to discuss this – I was told it was not yet timetabled but LIKELY to be in December. Last week I emailed Tony again about the date – I was told a recommendation had not yet been made as further comments were expected from Highways England (now known as National Highways) but it was UNLIKELY to go before the Committee in December. Highways England has submitted a letter to the planning portal (October 2021) in which they dispute the sample period of data used by Harrison Leisure in a recent risk assessment (October 2021, also on the portal) but HE do not dispute the findings in that assessment. So, we are still waiting

In October Harrison Leisure was reported for dumping rubble on Forestry England land from the new drives they are creating. I understand that they were told to remove this. NCC was also contacted about this incident and they were to follow it up. That same month a broken manhole cover was discovered between the caravan park and Chesterwell – this is thought to be a possible source of the continued sewerage smells in that area of the village. This was reported to the Percy Wood site manager twice and, as yet, there has been no response. The next step will be to contact NCC and Environmental Health.

The Percy Wood site manager was also contacted about the spoil heaps in the car park near the Bari Bar – initially he said they were to be moved in mid-October but nothing happened. In early November we were told that a Health and Safety consultant would be on site that week to give advice about fencing off the heaps and signage warning the general public. The heaps are still in place, no fencing or signage in sight other than a couple of wire fences leaning either side of the entrance to the car park, nowhere near the heaps. Obviously customers of the Bari Bar still need access to the car park but there should be some type of fencing near the actual heaps.

Recently on Facebook, Harrison Leisure was advertising a new development on the Percy Wood site with 24 new pitches to be available in November 2021 so expansion is taking place already on the site. There have also been several individual advertisements by owners on social media offering their lodges/caravans for holiday stays this year and next year so subletting continues

Just this weekend a resident was woken up at 11.15pm by a car coming through the gate on to the driveway of her home despite the fact there were “Private Property” and “No Through Road” signs on the gate. The people in the car were looking for their holiday lodge on Percy Wood Holiday Park – yet another example of residents living in the immediate area of the entrance to the holiday park being affected by holidaymakers unable to find it! Whether it be the satnav taking them to the wrong place or guests not being given the correct information by owners about where the park is, it is annoying and disruptive for those involved. Harrison Leisure has been contacted about this incident by the resident concerned.

Jackie Stent

Harrison Leisure responds to say:

The live planning application which was submitted back in December 2019 was due to be determined before Christmas. National Highways has asked for further clarification on points of concern and HL responded earlier this month with further information. HL awaits confirmation from NCC as to when the application will be presented to committee for determination, but now expect this to be in the New Year.

With regard to the damaged manhole cover and fencing around the spoil heap – these have now been dealt with.

In response to guests turning up at wrong address:

HL is liaising with its neighbours and has agreed to add further signage and sent out emails to other owners reiterating the correct postcode and address of the park.

In response to the gravel dropped onto Forestry land:

This was for winter work in-filling a bunker on the golf course and was swiftly removed once the ground was dry enough after a site meeting between the management of Percy Wood and a delegation from the Forestry Commission.

Since taking over the Park, Harrison Leisure has confirmed its intention to invest in the facility to ensure it remains an attractive location for residents and visitors. It continues to meet with local residents of the village to discuss any matters of concern.

We can reassure local residents that the recently announced 24 caravan plots are not additional, but as a result of investment in an existing area to refurbish and bring back vacant plots on the park.

**Deadline for items for the February issue of
The Column: Thursday 27th January 2022.**



Every little breeze seems to whisper Louise

The breeze has been a bit stronger than normal of late and Louise has certainly met the challenge. Thank you, Louise for getting so many things organised in the parish of late. I'm sure, like me, many residents failed repeatedly to get through to Northern PowerGrid (I was cut off after hanging on for 80 minutes!).

So, very well done, I'm sure that the Swarland Residents Facebook page and your presence in the WM Club have been greatly appreciated by many.

Bryan, Editor of The Column

