

**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 **October** issue by  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.**

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The cost of production of this issue of  
The Column has been met by  
**Newton on the Moor  
& Swarland Parish Council**  
and  
**Swarland Club**

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Call, Text or WhatsApp **Louise on 07502 477 734,**

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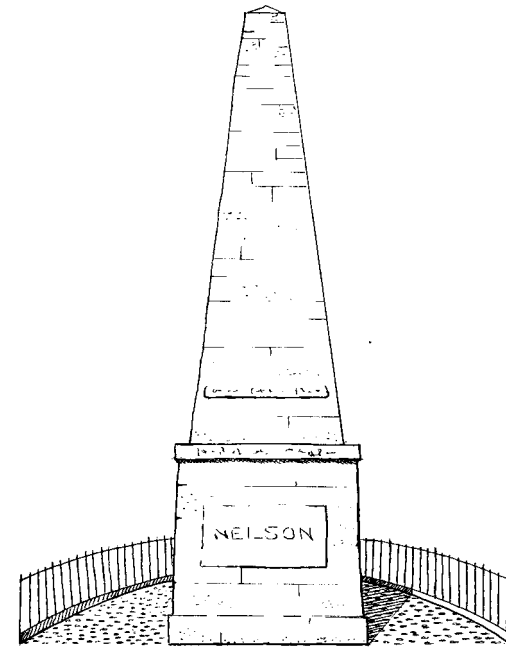
**The Post Office is now providing its  
Monday and Thursday service from 8 – 10.00am.**

**SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Tel. 01670 787 825

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

# The Column



**August 2021**

Produced by  
**Swarland Village Action**  
**Newsletter 114**

**Why not try Carpet Bowls in Swarland  
Village Hall. See inside for details.**

Welcome to your latest issue of The Column and if you're new to the area, a special welcome to you. **To include something, however small, in the October issue, please supply it for inclusion by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. 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 **18<sup>th</sup> August, 15<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October**.

Most 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](http://northumberland.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/msgtrn/wpac/home) .

### **Support for Newton on the Moor and Swarland Residents**

Most Covid restrictions were lifted on 19<sup>th</sup> July, but after 7 days of falling cases, these are rising again as expected with the relaxation of lockdown.

It is very important for everyone to get their jobs and to exercise caution.

Support is still available from the 45 residents in the Parish who volunteered to help out their neighbours in the Parish during the Coronavirus Emergency. In our Parish, we have a population of well over 900, in around 440 houses, and many residents 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.

If you need help, email [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) or telephone **07775 060 430** during office hours preferably. The PC's website is being revised frequently with information relating to services available in our parish: <http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/> .

NCC has a very useful page of information including a daily update of infections in each ward: at [northumberland.gov.uk](http://northumberland.gov.uk) .

*Best wishes, Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)*

### **Neighbourhood Watch Update – July 2021**

#### **Swarland / Newton on the Moor:**

We have only received one piece of information from the police regarding criminal activity in our immediate area.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021:** Suspicious persons in Newton on the Moor and Longframlington. Males in the above areas were selling items door-to-door, stating that they were on a rehabilitation / probation scheme from Middlesborough. Please be aware that no such scheme exists and you should always be cautious if purchasing items from door-to-door sellers. Please make neighbours and relatives aware of the above and always to be careful about answering the door to unknown persons and purchasing goods as they may not always be of marketable quality.

**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 [alwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alwick.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*



**Deadline for items for the October issue of  
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### **Recycling, Wants & For Sale Corner**

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

**Domestic help** required with the possibility of childcare.

**2 days a week.**

Help with laundry, cleaning, cooking and possible childcare.

If of interest, please call Simon on **07469 773 505** for more details.

20 Old Park Road, Swarland.



## 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 some regular activities are taking place outside or will not recommence until the autumn. 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](mailto:stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com) or 01670 787 883).

**Archery Practice:** indoor sessions at **7pm on Monday evenings – starting in the autumn.** The Club can supply all equipment. For details contact **Steve** on [Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com](mailto: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 – starting in September.** Waiting lists are currently full – for details contact Anne Raine on **07934 425 844.**

**Swarland Craft Group meets on Wednesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm, hopefully re-starting on 22nd September,** as long as everything goes to plan. **New members always welcome.** For details ring **Margaret** on **01670 787 705.**

**Swarland Carpet Bowls on Thursday evenings from 7pm,** hopefully restarting soon. 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](mailto: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.**

## We're open again – come along for coffee on 14<sup>th</sup> August

**The Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor** will be opening its doors again after many months, to welcome friends and visitors to the first Coffee Morning since March 2020 on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August from 10.00 – noon.**

There will be a range of cakes, including Jen's wonderful scones, good coffee and lively chat. We shall not be able to take orders in advance for cakes but there will be plenty for you to purchase on the day to take away.

We look forward very much to welcoming you again – perhaps outside on the terrace if the weather is kind to us.

*Alison Gallico*

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## NotM & Swarland Parish Council - July 2021

In order to continue with Covid-safe practices, we have continued to hold consultative video calls for all councillors and the public, with any relevant decisions being subsequently confirmed by the authority delegated to the Chairman or Clerk. These will continue to be advertised and minuted.

### **Planning matters**

NCC compiled its draft Northumberland Local Plan in 2019, and the independent examination by a government inspector has included various public hearings during 2019 and 2020. These have resulted in a number of proposed 'Main Modifications', over which the County Council has conducted further consultations, from late June to early August. Although these run to 281 pages, we have focused on just two issues: the 'strength' of the settlement boundaries; and the protection of cherished landscapes. In our response to NCC, we emphasised our support for the concept and the designated boundaries for Swarland and for Newton, but we felt these could be undermined by other policies which potentially allow a range of developments to happen in 'open countryside', including immediately outside the settlement. We have therefore called for some 'clear blue water', to provide a degree of separation between, for example, a village and a holiday park.

Our response regarding landscapes asks NCC to re-introduce policies based on designated 'landscape value', of the sort which were included within the old Alnwick and Castle Morpeth plans, and which used the recognised methodology of the landscape architects' professional body. This would give some additional protection when, for example, tall telecom masts and windfarms are being planned.

### **Transport improvements and road safety**

Last Summer, we invited residents to suggest highway improvements in the parish, three of which can be put forward to NCC for possible inclusion in the following year's Local Transport Plan. In July, we received feedback on our priorities, and also an invitation to request schemes for next year. We are therefore, as before, asking local residents for their ideas: please first check on our website for the eligibility criteria, and email our Clerk, Jan, by the deadline of **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

We heard recently that all three of the priorities which we submitted last autumn have been dismissed, in our view quite cursorily. (1) We asked NCC to show some leadership in solving the problems of the extensive unadopted road network in Swarland. The Highways people have batted this across to the Planners: a case of 'pass-the-parcel', which we will be taking up with the chief planning officer. (2) We asked for a length of pavement to be installed along the lower section of Leamington Lane, where pedestrians have to rub shoulders with 60mph vehicles. NCC says: 'Given the distance involved, a footway is likely to be beyond the scope of the LTP programme'.

[Cont overleaf]

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(3) We asked NCC to work with Highways England and Arriva buses to explore possible bus stops on the A1 very close to Newton, where the public bridleway crosses the dual carriageway. We considered this safer than the current 2km walking route along the 40 and 60 mph NCC road, together with the horrific crossing of the 90mph(!) staggered crossroads at Hampeth. NCC's response: 'Measures on the A1 are outside the scope of the LTP programme'. We intend to pursue proposals 2 and 3 further, initially with NCC's public transport people.

**PC Clerk, Jan Anderson [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) or 07775 060 430.  
PC website: [newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk](http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk) .**

### **Swarland Rainbows and Brownies are to start in September**

Girlguiding is the leading organisation for girls and young women in the UK. We support them to develop their potential and make a difference to the world. Give your daughter the chance to have great experiences and reach her full potential.

From trying amazing new activities and adventures to building body confidence, from learning to lead to making new friends. Girlguiding opens up a world of opportunities for girls and develops invaluable skills for school and beyond.

Girlguiding may be more than 100 years old, but what we offer is right up-to-date. Today our girls still camp and cook, but they also campaign, try science experiments, write plays, learn circus skills .... the list goes on.

Led by trained volunteers, we will meet once a week during term time. The girls will work towards badges in a huge range of areas, in teams and on their own initiative.

We are for girls only, and every girl is welcome. Girls aged 5-7 for Rainbows, 7-10-year-olds for Brownies. If any older girls are interested in being part of a unit (Guides and Rangers) or helping at Rainbows and Brownies in Swarland, please get in touch.

We are to start on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at Swarland First School from 4.15pm until 5.15pm for Rainbows and 4.15pm to 5.45pm for Brownies. The subs for each term will be £30.00. To register your daughter's interest, please use the following link. When you select a unit, please choose 1st Swarland Rainbows or Brownies so we will receive your enquiry at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus/> .

If you have any questions, then please get in touch at [swarlandrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:swarlandrainbows@gmail.com) or [swarlandbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:swarlandbrownies@gmail.com) .

Thanks, Megan Kelly at 07714 481 088



### **The Great North Run (12<sup>th</sup> September 2021).**

Postie Pete, (Swarland's Postman) has entered the run again this year. I'm happy to say the event appears to be going ahead this year, although the route has been slightly altered to be Covid safe.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in previous years. This year I'm running on behalf of SightSavers charity. Every year millions of children and adults around the world are going blind from eye conditions and painful diseases that are easy to prevent or cure and relatively inexpensive.

So, if you'd like to sponsor me, I'd like to run and together we can do something special to improve the lives of others and give them something that we take for granted - Sight.

Please either see me in person, call me on 07739 315 050 or use my just giving page - [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-oakes3](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-oakes3) .

A very big **Thank You** from me. Pete

### **Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels**



We'd like to start by thanking everyone that bought a feeder. Your support is really appreciated; anyone still interested in a feeder for themselves or sponsoring a feeder please get in touch.

Ted has been moving around the woods and there have been regular sightings of him looking very healthy. Please keep an eye out for sightings of kits (baby squirrels) in the woods, so that we can find out if our population is breeding.

If you would like to meet some of our team and learn more about Red Squirrels, we will be at Feltonbury on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Thanks to everyone that has reported sightings, they are really valuable for our ongoing conservation work. If you would like to get in touch, please email us at [sighting@lcreds.org.uk](mailto:sighting@lcreds.org.uk) .

*Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group.*

## Swarland and Newton on the Moor Local Heritage Group

After a successful but challenging 2020-21 season that took place over Zoom, we are looking forward to the start of our new 2021-22 season.

The season will start on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30**, when we will be returning to the Village Club. We begin with a talk by **Peter Carter** on the **'White Cannons of Alnwick'**. Who were the White Cannons? What is the history surrounding Alnwick Abbey? Join us to find out more. Peter is a local author who has extensively researched the subject and published a book on this topic.

We look forward to seeing existing members and welcoming new members. For further information please email: **swarlandmlhg@gmail.com** or visit our Facebook page 'Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group'.

*Lesley Selfe*

## Vyner Park News - May

Since my report in May, Vyner Park has been transformed thanks to the work of a dedicated group of volunteers. I cannot thank them enough. People have literally spent days working to create a recreational area that is undoubtedly the envy of many much larger parishes. The tennis courts and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) have been cleaned, the Tarmac surfaces stabilised and remarked. In addition, we have bought new tennis posts and nets, refurbished the benches, fixed much of the wire fencing, installed basketball posts and even marked out a netball court. The bowling green has been cleaned, additional bowls and associated equipment purchased, as well as benches purchased for waiting players. Three outdoor gym exercise machines have been installed next to the tennis courts – you can now exercise while experiencing an uninterrupted view to the coast.

At present we are running a 'first come, first served' system for use of the facilities, but if demand increases, we may have to consider some sort of booking system. All we ask is for users to make a donation towards the upkeep of the facilities – Nelson's has a donation box and donation boxes have also been placed around the area. Our facilities cost money to maintain so please donate if you use the facility. The more money we are able to raise then the more we can do for the community.

Whilst we have made a lot of progress in the last few months, there is still much to do. If you would like to help with future projects, please get in touch – there's always something to do!

My personal thanks go to all those who helped and volunteered - without you we wouldn't have done it. Thank you! Get involved!

*Steve Woolfrey, Chairman of the Management Committee for Vyner Park Charity  
01670 787 883 | steve.woolfrey@outlook.com*

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## Percy Wood Caravan Park (planning application 19/01687/FUL)

Although a decision about the above application by Harrison Leisure will now not be made until November 2021, local residents are still working on objections to site up to 60 caravans on the current driving range.

In a meeting between Billy Harrison and Suzanne Stanley in May (The Column No.113), Billy stated that a barrier would be put up to stop vehicle access to and from the caravan park via Coast View down the track behind the Springwood. Following a subsequent discussion between Billy and Forestry England in June, there are now two temporary wooden barriers on the track (courtesy of Forestry England). Golf buggies and golf club maintenance vehicles can still use the track as there is space for them to drive round the barriers on the grass, this has now stopped the constant flow of cars/vans to and from the main park. We understand that Billy is to source signage by Harrison Leisure as a more permanent measure.

There are still issues with Percy Wood's postcode, many cars end up driving up Coast View and into the Springwood or the Bari Bar car park to find the main caravan park, particularly those using a satnav. In July, a resident contacted NCC Highways about this, as more than 20 vehicles "got lost" over a few days but was told nothing could be done as the old Clubhouse has the same postcode as the caravan park, but this cannot be changed.

In May/June, the Percy Wood site was visited by the NCC Planning Enforcement Officer and the Tree Protection Officer, as a resident had provided information about possible damage to protected trees near the driving range as piles of debris (soil, tree branches, stones) had been dumped against the trees. Instructions were given for its removal by NCC, though much of the debris is now in the car park near Bari Bar – there are still ongoing issues with some of the trees with TPOs.

Despite many emails to NCC, problems with blocked drainage trenches adjacent to Chesterwell are causing issues to residents – it is feared that this situation will get much worse if this development is allowed. A site visit was done by NCC but without the knowledge of residents – the problematic trenches were not visited, so this is an ongoing issue.

It has been pointed out by a resident that there are Great Crested Newts on the planning application site and, although an alternative relocation site has been identified, it is not deemed suitable for the species. This is just one of the many ecological issues raised by residents and local groups.

In June, the Northumberland Local Plan was put out for consultation on its proposed main modifications – the Parish Council will be following this up. A resident was also invited to give feedback, in which he points out that the definition of Swarland as a "Service Village" is incorrect as it does not fit the definition criteria plus the fact there is no planning definition re caravan sites in general in the Plan. The updated Northumberland Local Plan is an important document as some aspects of this planning application do not comply with the policies in the Plan. Watch this space!

In June Jackie was invited to attend the Zoom Parish Council meeting and was able to ask for advice about future objection pathways for residents – Steve Woolfrey provided some useful action points for follow up.

*Jackie and Richard Stent*

## **Felton Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

### **Felton Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

Meetings of the PPG were held in May and June. At both meetings Dr Lees reported that there has been no substantial change in respect of the plans for the new surgery building; the matter is still with the developer and the Parish Council. In June a letter was sent to all patients setting out the situation and Dr Waite responded to questions at two Zoom Healthwatch engagement sessions. The merger between Widdrington and Felton is out for consultation; it will be a merger of two services with two buildings, one on each site.

Concerns were raised about the situation if the lease on the current surgery should expire before the new building is ready. The plan is to continue the service from the present building but patients will be told the options should that not be feasible.

Plans for the new surgery include a bigger dispensary with two counters, more clinical rooms to accommodate clinicians, nurses and trainees and better facilities for support staff.

Dr Lees reported that every eligible patient has been offered two Covid jabs and by the end of July 90% will have received two doses. Not all have taken up the offer; the Amble clinic will close at the end of July but unvaccinated patients are urged to book as soon as possible through the national service or go to a walk-in clinic. There is no information on Covid vaccinations for school age children, nor on a Covid booster programme for the Autumn.

Flu vaccines will be available from the end of the summer for those over 50 and for vulnerable patients. All other vaccinations and smear tests continue as normal; patients who fear they have missed a routine test or vaccination, should contact the surgery.

Two new dispensary staff will join the Felton surgery shortly and a new receptionist will join the team in due course.

The practice is keen that the whole catchment area should be represented on the PPG. Patients from Shilbottle, Longframlington, Longhorsley and other smaller villages should contact the surgery if they would like to take part in this consultation exercise. At present the monthly meetings are on line but face-to-face meetings will resume as soon as possible.

Contact the practice by phone on **01670 787 353** or visit its website for further information at **[www.feltonsurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.feltonsurgery.nhs.uk)**.

*Alison Gallico, PPG Secretary*

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## **To the Woods!**

Forestry England's Alex McClennan walked Swarland Wood with us on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July (in torrential rain as it happens) to discuss FE's approach to our local woodland. The main message is: use the woods for walking, running, cycling and horse riding – but remember that it is FE property, and it is illegal to cut any part of a tree down, or to alter the terrain in any way. The jumps created for cyclists are not FE's work, and are not part of a recognised and managed cycle trail. We were concerned to notice for example that one jump is made from earth and rotten timber. And whoever made that jump did so by digging soil out of the middle of the footpath, leaving a shallow pit which could be a hazard for runners or horse riders. Alex acknowledged that one bridge connecting the woodland to the main path had been removed in error. It is to be replaced with a sturdier one that meets full FE standards. This wood is no longer managed for its commercial value: it is an amenity woodland.

FE is looking forward to working more closely with as many members of the community as possible to enhance the woodland, whilst keeping it as natural as possible. We'll publicise the next step in The Column and on the Swarland Residents Facebook page.

*Bryan & Suzanne Stanley (wearing our old Swarland Woods Amenity Group hats)*

## **Swarland Carpet Bowls Club**

An informal meeting will be held in **Swarland Village Hall** on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 pm**. Good ventilation and social distancing will be adhered to and the wearing of masks will be a preference.

All past, present and any new members will be welcome. The main purpose of the meeting will be to see if there will be sufficient members interested in keeping the Club viable in the coming indoor bowling season, which normally runs from September to April.

We hope to see a good turnout, however if you are unable to attend but are interested in joining or re-joining, please contact Malcolm or Joan on **01670 783 140**.

## **Coquet Concert Band**

The Coquet Concert Band was formed in September 2019 and over the following few months, grew to a membership of approximately 30 players. We are currently rehearsing again in Swarland Village Hall.

We are looking for players of all concert / wind band instruments (woodwind, brass and percussion), who are of Grade 5 standard or above, to join us. We have a re-scheduled "Proms" concert planned in October. If you would like to find out more, please contact us at **[coquetconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:coquetconcertband@gmail.com)**.



