

Swarland Village Action Group Committee:

Chairman: Neil Mansfield, Secretary / Editor: Bryan Stanley.

Treasurer: Susan Richardson.

Committee Members: Robert & Sue Brotherton, Carmen Hubbard,
John Richardson and Suzanne Stanley.

Write it Down Now

Please supply information to the Editor for
inclusion in the February issue by
Thursday 26th January 2023.



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 8 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.

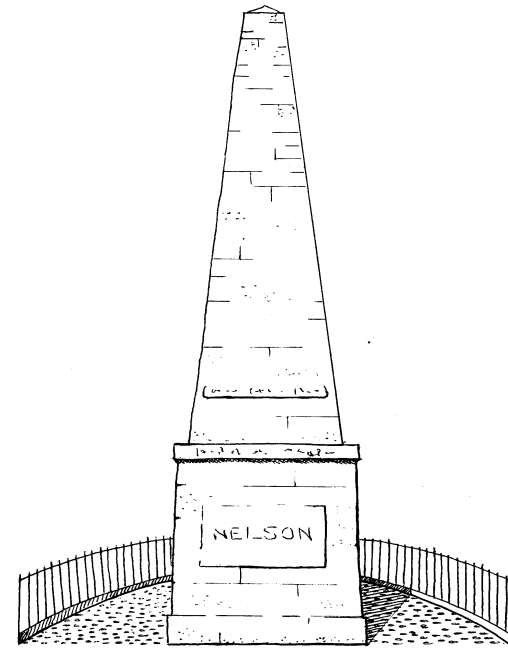
SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

Printed by NCC Printing Services

The Column



December 2022

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 122

**Swarland Village Action
wishes everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.**

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 February issue, please supply it by Thursday 26th January. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

Swarland Village Hall

The Hall, which is run as a community facility, is available for hire. **Please support this local amenity.** If you wish to check on whether you can book the Hall for a future event, please contact Bryan Stanley (contact details above) or Steve Woolfrey (stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com or 01670 787 883). **Please note that activities are now back to normal as the Hall refurbishment is largely complete.**

Archery Practice: Mondays (indoors) at 7pm. For information on extra outdoor sessions held throughout the summer contact **Steve** on Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com or **01670 787 883**. The Club can supply all equipment.

Crafty Friends: meet on 4th Saturday afternoon of each month. 2 – 4pm. For further information please contact Linda on **07789 887424**.

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

Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class: 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: Wednesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm. New members are welcome. All enquiries to: **Margaret on 01670 787 705**.

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

Winefest 2022

The Winefest was held on 29th October and proved to a very enjoyable evening. About 60 people attended and each person tasted at least 14 wines. The Dingbats provided by Len Coates provided lots of entertainment, and also proved just how competitive folk can be! The evening was rounded off by a pooled supper. Raffle prizes were donated by the Hall's User Groups, Nelson's, The Club and several generous individuals. Nearly £450 was raised for Hall funds.

We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Steve Woolfrey, Chairman, SVH Charity.
01670 787883 and steve.woolfrey@outlook.com



Neighbourhood Watch Update – November 2022

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

Once again, I am happy to report that up to now (17th November) I have had no report from the police regarding any criminal activity in our two areas. However, other places in Northumberland report continuing problems with regards to poaching and hare coursing.

It would appear that ATVs are still being targeted by thieves, and owners are encouraged to take the necessary precautions.

Please remain vigilant and safe.

Of General Interest

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*

Coffee and Chat

The Coffee and Chat group continues to meet at Nelsons at Vyner Park early in the afternoon of the fourth Monday of the month. However due to the Christmas Holidays and shorter days, we'll meet at **1.30pm on 19th December**. The January get-together will be on the 23rd. All are welcome - we've had more and more people join us every time we've met and it has been lovely to have new faces as well as some more familiar ones! Thanks also go to Nelsons for their great hospitality for the group. If you need any further information or need some transport to Nelsons, please contact Gill on 07557 882616.

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.

1 x IKEA Ribba photo frame 60 x 80cm (for 15 photos),
2 x IKEA Ribba photo frames 50 x 23cm (for 3 photos). All unused in original wrapping. If interested, please contact: 07854 276 607.

<i>Advert</i>	Homescape Bathrooms	<i>est 2003</i>
	Bathroom installations, plumbing, tiling, plastering & joinery.	
	Tel. 07940 825725. Homescapebathrooms.co.uk	
	Email: homescapebathrooms@gmail.com	

Update from Vyner Park – November 2022

Bonfire Night: The annual Parish Bonfire was held at Vyner Park on Friday 4th November, the first such event since November 2019. It was a very popular event, with a record attendance of about 500 people.

Food and the bar were organised by Nelson's with all profits being donated to the Vyner Park Charity. The cost of fireworks was helped by significant sponsorship from Harrison's Leisure and the event raised just over £2000. We hoped you enjoyed yourselves and look forward to seeing you next year.

*Steve Woolfrey, Chairman, Management Committee, Vyner Park Charity.
01670 787883 and steve.woolfrey@outlook.com*

Jubilee Hall Newton on the Moor

Our next Coffee Morning will be our popular Christmas event on **Saturday 10th December** where as well as our usual fare we shall be offering mulled wine. There will also be a Craft Fair and a Luxury Christmas Hamper raffle.

On **Wednesday 30th November** the Jubilee Hall Fiddle Group invited the Swarland Choir for a joint musical evening to start the festivities. The music reflected the coming winter period. There was no charge for this event, but donations made on the door went to the Jubilee Hall funds.

On **Christmas Eve at 5pm** we shall be having a Service of Dressing of the Crib followed by carols. All welcome.

Saturday 28th January at 11.30 Reverend Canon Colin Gough from Shilbottle will be giving a talk on 'Some Newton Notables'. We shall be offering homemade soup and rolls afterwards. For further details or to book please contact Alison Cowen on notmjubileehall@yahoo.co.uk.

Please note there will not be a coffee morning in January however we shall be back on **Saturday 11th February** with Jen's ever popular range of scones, our cakes and traybakes and the return of bacon and sausage butties, including vegetarian and gluten free options. We look forward to welcoming you all back.

Parking in the Village

As a user / visitor to the Jubilee Hall you will be aware of the very limited parking we have. Residents in the village have recently received a gentle reminder from Northumberland County Council with regards to the issue. To help minimise the problem could we please ask that where at all possible you walk or car share. When parking, avoid parking close to junctions and allow plenty of space for the emergency services to pass. Thank you for your continued support of our valuable community asset.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2023.

Diane Williams, Secretary

NotM & Swarland Parish Council - November 2022

Parish council budget 2023-24

We have now agreed our budget and Council Tax precept for next year, 2023-24. This is based on 'business as usual' activity: ie, as well as our normal running costs, we will continue to make contributions towards the running costs of the three community asset charities in our area: Jubilee Hall, Swarland Village Hall, and Vyner Park. We will also have our 'community assets fund' which will enable us to support or pay for new projects. Despite nationwide inflationary increases in costs, we will be reducing our precept: from £23k in the current year, to £22k next year.

Parish Council members

We now have a full complement of Parish Council members, having welcomed Swarland residents Mark Whitely and Robbie Simpson on-board. The contact details of our members are available on our website.

Swarland School

In April, we learnt via the community newsletter 'Fram News' that our local County Councillor had proposed the replacement of our school with a new building in Longframlington; to be financed by the sale of the Swarland site for house-building. It also emerged that NCC officers produced a report in April, which scotched the idea, but they declined to make it available. Despite this, a campaign group in Longframlington has continued to pursue the idea, conducting a Longfram opinion survey in November which is now being considered by their Parish Council.

Now, after months of nagging, and eventually reminding NCC of the FoI Act, we have received a copy of the report. It is quite clear that there never was any realistic prospect of this project being viable. The existing school building in Swarland is in good condition, its pupil-base extends far to the east of the A1 (ie some distance from Fram, and even beyond the official catchment area), in addition, recent extensive house building in Longfram has not generated significant numbers of young children, and the £7-10m cost of a new school cannot be justified.

Swarland remains a very good school. Its latest report may be viewed on our PC website. We are sad that this campaign, based on false premises and promises, has made life very difficult for the school and its community.

Bus services

We have already reported on the prospects of new, one day-per-week 'shoppers services' to Alnwick and Morpeth being introduced in the New Year, calling at a number of stops within our villages. In addition, we are also pursuing the possibility of providing some more accessible stops for the current X15 Arriva service, which runs hourly along the A1 dual carriageway. We accept that this provision will not suit everyone's needs, but it should considerably reduce the lengthy walks along unlit roads that members of our community already face, in order to access the nearest bus stops at Hampeth and Acton.

[ptot]

[Parish Council cont]

Warm Spaces for the Parish?

The PC is considering establishing a Warm Space in both NotM and Swarland which would be open to residents in the event of a Cold Weather Alert or power cut. A Warm Space is somewhere where residents can go to keep warm, get a hot drink, have the opportunity to meet and chat with others, and access wi-fi. It could also act as a focal point for news and updates during an extended power cut.

It's difficult to estimate the level of demand and so the PC is asking residents for their views:

Is it something that you think is needed in the Parish? Would you come along to keep warm and meet others during a period of severe weather? Do you think it would be helpful to have somewhere in both villages where you could go to keep warm and get updates in the event of a prolonged power cut?

We really want to hear your views – please get in touch with our Clerk, by Friday 16th December.

Planning policy

We are open to the possibility of seeing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish, if there are sufficient volunteers to join a steering group and if a clear need can be demonstrated for a NP to add to the policies that are already in the Northumberland Local Plan. For example: is there scope to identify sites outside the settlement boundaries for affordable housing to meet local need; could a NP help steer developments in and around the Percy Wood caravan site; is there scope to guide the design and eco-specification of future house-building; could a NP create new walking and cycling connections? If you are interested in joining a NP group and pursue these or other planning policies, please contact our Clerk, Jan Anderson.

PC Clerk, Jan Anderson - janandersonpc@gmail.com / 07775 060 430.

PC website: newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk.

Christmas Support for NotM & Swarland Residents

This is just a reminder that support is always there from the 45 residents in the Parish who first volunteered to help out their neighbours during the Coronavirus Emergency.

The sort of support the volunteers can provide is as follows:

- Phone calls to check you are well and not needing help.
- Phone calls for a chat.
- Collection of prescriptions.
- Collection/delivery of food.

We're also hoping to have Warm Hubs in the Parish where you can go (or be taken) in case of power outages etc for a drink and a chat.

If you need help, email (if possible) janandersonpc@gmail.com or telephone 07775 060430 preferably during office hours.

Best wishes, Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)

Harrison Leisure – Percy Wood Planning Applications

1. Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate

There is still no decision about the appeal for the 60+ caravans on the former driving range of Percy Wood Caravan Park. The site visit took place in early September but no further information is available as yet. I contacted the solicitor who submitted the written representation on behalf of residents and he advised me that sometimes appeals can go on for months. So, we continue to wait . . .

2. New planning application for former Percy Wood Clubhouse site

In July a planning application by HL for 16 park homes on this site was withdrawn and invalidated by NCC Planning. The reason given was “*the drawings submitted for this reserved matters application indicated the development was for caravans rather than dwellings approved under the outline permission*”.

Recently another application for the site has been submitted by HL for “*16 detached bungalow style prefabricated dwellinghouses*”. Some residents received letters about this from NCC on the 11th November with a deadline for public comments of the 1st December. I contacted NCC and was informed that a planning officer had not yet been allocated to the application. This happened on the 17th November but I was told the officer would not likely get back to me until the end of the week (25th November) as the Planning department was to “take legal advice” about the application. I pointed out that the 1st December deadline would be less than a week away by that time so surely it would no longer be valid, especially as no site notice had been posted near the site. A further response from NCC assured me that we will have 21 days from the date on the site notice to make comments and this would be put up in due course. I will keep checking the lamppost at the top of the Springwood!

Having looked at the documents lodged by HL for this new application, I noted that the words “park homes” were still being used so I would question how this differs from the previous application withdrawn by NCC. I will be interested to find out how NCC Planning views the current application, so look forward to hearing from the Planning Officer very soon . . .

Jackie Stent

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 **14th December, 11th January and 8th February**. You can check NCC's website for further library information.



Girl Guides in Swarland

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. We now have all 4 sections (Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger) in Swarland. We meet every Wednesday night during term time at Swarland First School at the following times:

Rainbows - age 4 to 7: 4.15 pm until 5.15 pm.

Brownies - age 7 to 10: 4.45 pm until 6.15 pm.

Guides - age 10 to 14: 4.45 pm until 6.15 pm

Rangers - age 14 to 18: 7.00 pm until 7.40 pm on the first Wednesday of every month via zoom.

If your daughter would like to join us, please email megankelly.girlguiding@gmail.com and I can give you further information.

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

In October Nick Lewis from the National Trust gave a talk on the history of Lindisfarne Castle and the recent renovations. The talk was entertaining and informative, Nick was very passionate and enthusiastic about Lindisfarne Castle, all who were there learnt a lot about the history of both the castle and Holy Island.

Chris Tipple gave a talk on Lord Armstrong of Craggs. Chris asked the question was he a great public benefactor or scourge of the workers, a scientific genius, a job creating entrepreneur, a dealer in death, was he a hero or villain? At the end of the night much discussion took place in attempting to answer the question posed, however a unanimous decision was not reached.

The Christmas lunch will take place at Nelson's on the 13th December, we will be meeting from 12 noon for lunch at 12.30.

We then have a break until 14th February 2023 when Sue Rogers will talk about **'The evolution of the rights of way network and how missing routes can be found and retrieved for future use'**.

New members and guests are always welcome; we meet at Swarland Club at 7.30 on the second Tuesday of the month. Further information and updates can be found on our Facebook site or by emailing swarlandmlhg@gmail.com.

Lesley Selfe

Swarland Boot Camp

Fancy getting a little fitter and having a bit of fun? Every Tuesday at 7.00pm, there is an outdoor exercise class on the Multi-Use Games Area in Vyner Park. It's a mixture of cardio and strength work, run by a professionally qualified instructor. Everyone is very welcome, whatever your current level of fitness. You can simply come along or email me for more info JoClemmit@gmail.com.

News from Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (SNAC)

Proposed New Bus Service

Thanks to everyone who provided very helpful feedback on what the new bus service should look like. We have collated the information and sent it off to NCC, aiming for a service to Morpeth to run on Tuesdays, allowing time to have lunch there if people wish, and a Thursday morning service to Alnwick. Neil Easton at NCC will be liaising with us further and is just waiting on final confirmation of funding. So look out over the next few weeks for more detailed information on notices throughout the parish, online and on the Swarland Residents Facebook Page!

How to have a Greener Christmas

With Christmas just around the corner, it's a good time to think about ways to have a greener Christmas. It doesn't mean being a party pooper or not having fun – it can be easier than you think to help the environment by making some small changes to your Christmas routine. Here are some ideas:

About 70 million unwanted Christmas presents are bought each year, so why not give a different sort of gift? Make something homemade, give an experience or have a Secret Santa between friends and family members. Maybe we should all buy less too.

It's also estimated that each year in Britain we throw away enough wrapping paper to circle the planet nine times. Most wrapping paper isn't recyclable so why not use brown paper and string or material instead.

According to the Soil Association, food is the single most important everyday way for people to reduce their environmental impact. It's all too easy to get carried away at Christmas so plan ahead, be realistic and get inventive with those leftovers.

There are lots more ideas on our website at www.snac.online.

Tree Planting

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to plant our lovely saplings yet because the ground has just been too wet. We're hoping that the rain gods are kind to us over the next few days so that the SNAC team and those who signed up at the Show can get them planted on **Sunday 11th December**.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday January 17th at 7pm** at Swarland Club - why not come along and join us? You can find out more about SNAC at www.snac.online or by emailing talktosnac@gmail.com.

Liz Clark, on behalf of SNAC

**Deadline for items for the February issue of
The Column: Thursday 26th January 2023.**

Swarland Primary School Update

The School has had a fantastic start to its school year with the first half term full of activities for the pupils (and Staff!).

In September shortly after the sad news of the Queen's death the children received a letter from the Queen's lady in waiting, from Balmoral Castle, thanking them for the cards and letters they sent to Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her jubilee-dated the 6th September, the letter was shared with the pupils and parents of the school.



The whole school was involved in the Bikeability programme in October, which gave all pupils the opportunities, skills, support and guidance they need to make cycling part of their everyday life. This is the first year the whole school has been involved, with Reception joining in on balance bikes; maybe we will have the next Chris Hoy!

The children were involved in 'Magic Week' in October where they created potions, explored the theme of witches and wizards and finished the week by coming in dressed as a magical character for the day.

Reception Year 1 and Year 2 all went on a school trip to the Centre for Life, where they explored lots of aspects of science, had a visit to the planetarium and took part in an activity all about the world and its continents and their habitats. A great (and busy!) time was had by all, and it was lovely to see learning continue outside the school environment.

The children are taking part in many extra-curricular activities this term, code club-the next generation of computer programmers incoming, chess club-producing the next grandmaster(?), cookery club - Nigella watch out! And football training for Key Stage Two which will culminate in taking part in some tournaments with other Primary Schools in the area.

We now head excitedly to Christmas, and will be holding our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 3rd December from 10-12 at Longframlington Village Hall, all support is always gratefully appreciated.

For more information, check out our website: www.swarland.northumberland.sch.uk/website .

Deadline for items for the February issue of The Column: Thursday 26th January 2023.

Swarland & Newton on the Moor Show update

The Show Team would like to thank everyone who supported this year's Show, either as an exhibitor, stall holder, sponsor, volunteer or attendee. Without you all there wouldn't be a Show. There was a lovely feeling on the field with happy smiling faces all around. As a result of the success, we have been able to make donations to the following village causes: *[cont]*

[cont]

Vyner Park Charity £620, Swarland Primary School £250, Jubilee Hall, NotM £100, Swarland Village Hall £100, Swarland Rainbows & Brownies £50. We have also made a promise to donate £300 to the Memorial Stone in the Square.

Some of the Show's older worn-out equipment has been replaced keeping money in reserve to put on next year's event. In addition, one of our team members also raised over £800 for Cancer Research selling plants.

If anyone has ideas for new attractions, wishes to take part in the next Show, on Saturday 2nd September 2023, would like to get involved in the organising or, has a local cause they would like us to support, please contact swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com or via www.facebook.com/SwarlandandNewtonontheMoorShow/ . *Alison Cowen*

Swarland Craft Groups

The Craft Group takes a Christmas break in December. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th January at 1.30pm in Swarland Village Hall.

Swarland Christmas Craft Fair

The Craft Fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th November was very well attended. There was a wide range of all sorts of handmade items for sale. Overall, the Fair raised £268 for Swarland Craft Group. Proceeds from the Great North Air Ambulance raffle topped £232, with promised donations, this should rise to over £250 - a great effort and contribution to GNAA's funds. People came from all over Swarland and NotM to view, buy, and enjoy tea, coffee, and biscuits with friends and relatives. We hope that everybody enjoyed the Fair. We look forward to seeing everyone at future Craft Group events.

Lesley Eastlake, Swarland Craft Group

In Addition

On behalf of **Crafty Friends**, a big thank you to all who supported our stalls at the recent Craft Groups' Fair; where there were handmade cards and gifts, everyone's a winner Crafty Tombola and home baking to enjoy with your cuppa. This was our first joint venture with the Wednesday Craft Group and we are pleased that it was a successful morning for both groups and the wonderful Great North Air Ambulance.

New crafty friends always welcome! For further details please check the Swarland Village Hall page. *Anne Raine, Crafty Friends*

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels (LCREDS)

LCREDS is now selling **squirrel feeders**. These make suitable Christmas presents for anyone who has an interest in local wildlife. Red Squirrels are endangered and Northumberland is one of the very few areas left in England where they can be found. We are very privileged to have seen Red Squirrels in Swarland Wood this summer. We currently have a number of feeders in Swarland Wood and surrounding woodland in order to monitor their presence.

Feeders are £15 each and are available from Rosie on 07436 893 947.

