

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 October issue by **Thursday 29th September 2022.**

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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**

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**

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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.

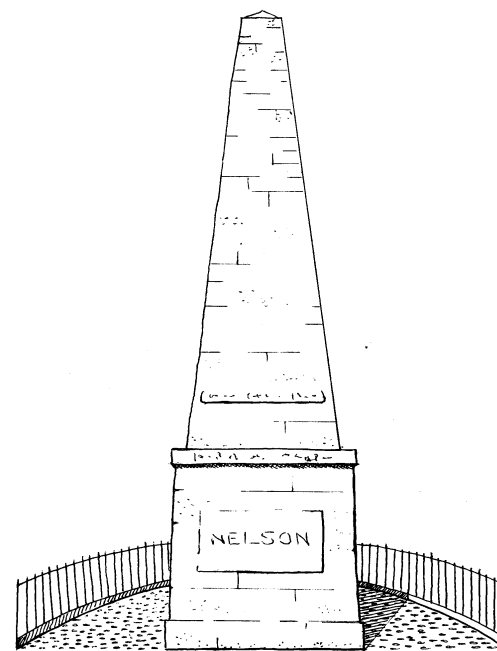
**The Post Office is now providing its
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SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



August 2022

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 120

**Swarland & NotM Show
at Vyner Park – Saturday 3rd September.
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 by Thursday 29th September. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

We are still using the NCC Communities Together Scheme to arrange printing 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 **17th August, 14th September and 12th 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 .

Trevor's Bit **New School Building**

As your County Councillor, I am exploring the possibility of building a new school in Longframlington, as proposed in the community consultation for the recent Longframlington Neighbourhood Plan. The new school building would be for the three villages in our catchment area on the "Hall Fields" site which was compulsory purchased by Northumberland County Council for the purpose of a school back in the 1960s. My hope is to build a modern 'fit for purpose' energy efficient school with a nursery unit. A working group is being established for this purpose, hopefully with representation from across our community. We are building over 300 homes in Longframlington and have built over 60 homes in Swarland. The long-term sustainability of our present school is strengthened by this house building programme and the new children it will bring to our area.

Highway Safety

Excellent progress has been made around Swarland School in improving pedestrian and highway safety. Some measures have still to be delivered and I have contacted our Highways team to progress this. My pledge of £5,000 for an interactive speed sign down The Avenue has still to be implemented. The Parish Council and I are considering other traffic-calming measures for both Newton on the Moor and Swarland to curb motorists entering our settlements at speed.

Trevor Thorne, The Stable, Embleton Hall, Longframlington.
Tel. 01665 570249, email: trevor.thorne@northumberland.gov.uk .

Neighbourhood Watch Update – July 2022

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

We are very fortunate that up to now (22/07/22) I have not received any report from the police regarding any criminal activity in our area.

However please be aware that since it is harvest time, there will be a greater presence of agricultural vehicles on the roads. The police ask that the farming community shows due care and consideration to fellow road users when on the public highways. They also ask the wider rural community to be patient and understanding during this busy time of the year.

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*

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

The Local Heritage Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in Swarland Village Club. Everyone is welcome, members, new members and visitors please come and join us.

Having had a short break for the summer, we will recommence on **Tuesday 13th September** with a talk from Colin Gough who will share with us some **18th century Shilbottle 'goings on'**. Colin is very knowledgeable on Shilbottle; he has written about the village and surrounding townships of Woodhouse, Hartlaw and Hazon, Whittle, and Newton-on-the-Moor.

Further information and updates can be found on our Facebook site or by emailing: swarlandmlhg@gmail.com .
Lesley Selfe

Dates for your Diary – more details in October issue

Saturday 29th October 2022

Back after 2 years - **Winefest in Swarland Village Hall**. To take part, drop off a bottle of wine (of the colour you want to drink, up to the value of £7) and enjoy a lovely evening, tasting wine, feeling fine, mingling with folk and making friends. Finishes with a pooled supper. Tickets £6 per person (plus your bottle of wine).

Friday 4th November - Parish Bonfire Night – at Vyner Park, gates open at 6 pm. Rockets up at 7 pm. Burgers, Hot dogs, Hot drinks, Bar, great Raffle Prizes: Further details to follow.

<p>Deadline for items for the October issue of The Column: Thursday 29th September 2022.</p>
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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 elsewhere) or Steve Woolfrey (stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com or 01670 787 883). **Please note that for much of August the Hall will be closed as it is undergoing the completion of its major refurbishment and re-decoration throughout the whole Hall. Activities should be back to normal in September.**

Archery Practice: Monday (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 morning of each month. For more information contact Anne on **07934 425 844**.

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. The Group has its summer break in July and August when there will be no meetings, but resumes on Wednesday 14th September when new members will be welcome. All enquiries to: **Margaret on 01670 787 705. More details below.**

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**.

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

Swarland Craft Group

The Craft Group is now closed for the summer. We will resume our meetings on **14th September**, on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm with a break for tea or coffee and a biscuit. The cost will then be £2 per session to cover increased hall rental costs.

Members of the Craft Group practise glass-decorating, painting (most mediums), card-making, knitting, lace-making and crochet, to name but a few. If you want to try something new or brush up on existing skills, we will be pleased to see you at the Village Hall. If you are new to the area, it is an excellent way to get to know people in the village. All are welcome, whatever your skill level.

We look forward to seeing new and old faces on 14th September.

Lesley Eastlake

NotM & Swarland Parish Council - July 2022

Swarland school

In the last edition of The Column, we reported on a story which had come to light in the community newsletter Fram News, that our local County Councillor had put forward a proposal to close Swarland School, sell the land for housing and build a new school in Longframlington. This, without the knowledge or involvement of the school governors or our Parish Council. By the time that we held our annual meeting in May, we had received confirmation that this proposal would not be taken forward by NCC. Regrettably, our request for a copy of the NCC officers' report has been rejected.

More recently, we were interested to read in the minutes of Longframlington PC's 6th July meeting: "*A brief report from Cllr Thorne had been received to say that the first meeting of the New School Campaign Group had taken place with TT, Glen Sanderson and two Longframlington residents attending.*"

Once more, this was news to our Parish Council. Cllr Thorne has now attended our own PC meeting and, at our request he has undertaken to supply us with some draft terms of reference for this 'campaign group'. At the time of writing this article, nothing has been forthcoming. We are very concerned not only about the proposals themselves, but also how they seem to surface without any prior knowledge of, or consultation with, our school and our community. [See *Trevor Thorne's piece earlier in this issue. Ed.*]

Swarland's side roads

NCC is continuing to make progress to address the improvements and long-term maintenance that is needed on Swarland's old 'Settlement lanes', such as Nelson Drive and Percy Drive. Hardly any of these roads have been adopted, and most or all of the unadopted parts do not meet modern adoption standards. Nevertheless, NCC is exploring ways in which improvements can be made, and be funded by the highways budget, and subsequently be maintained in the same way as the rest of the local road network. It is possible that a formal parish referendum will be held, to ascertain public support for the solution to what has been a problem for more than 30 years.

Parish Council vacancies

Following the departures of Suzanne Stanley and John Fallais, we have two vacancies, which can be filled by co-option (ie not requiring a by-election). Written expressions of interest are invited (no more than 400 words) from anywhere in the parish, and we hope that at least one of the vacancies can be filled by a resident of Swarland and / or Percy Wood.

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

PC website: newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk.

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.

Residents' Letter: Percy Wood Caravan Park and other matters

1. Application for Park Homes on the old Clubhouse site:

- this application was submitted on the 26th May. Although the outline planning permission was for 16 dwellings (houses), Harrison Leisure appeared to be changing it to 16 Park Homes for residential use. Demolition began on the site in June but was stopped by Public Protection for a while as they were burning wood on the site. It has now started again. However, in July, NCC Planning invalidated the application as "the drawings submitted for this reserved matters application indicated the development was for caravans rather than dwellings as approved under the outline permission". The application has now been withdrawn from the planning portal.

2. Appeal against the refusal of 60 caravans on old Driving Range site:

- this appeal was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in late May and commenced on the 1st June with a deadline of the 8th July for comments to be made. Documents, including a Statement of Case (Harrison Leisure's reasons for appealing), were supposed to be uploaded to the NCC Planning Portal but this did not happen until the 13th June. Following emails to NCC and the Planning Inspectorate about this, an extension for written representations was granted until the 19th July. As this was our last chance at opposing the development, a solicitor who already had knowledge of the case was engaged to submit a written representation on behalf of residents. This has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate together with a document from the Parish Council and I understand other residents have also submitted representations. I have been informed by the Planning Inspectorate that a site visit is planned for early September and the Inspector will then have 5/6 weeks to write a report and reach a decision. So we are looking at mid-October before we hear anything further.

3. Other planning applications:

Arrowbuild Ltd did not get the full planning permission for 9 dwellings in the field at the end of the Springwood as certain conditions attached to the outline planning permission have not yet been met. It has gone very quiet and we have had no recent communication with the company nor has there been any obvious activity in the field itself.

A further planning application for 5 dormer bungalows behind 1 and 3 Coast View has also been lodged recently – outline permission had been granted for 4 bungalows originally but the application has been increased to 5 buildings (now one and half storey) as extra land has been purchased. The access to the site is extremely narrow and visibility on Coast View (itself a narrow road) is not good at all. A site notice has now been put up and comments can be submitted to the planning portal until the 10th August.

21 extra dwellings on Coast View, 9 in the Springwood and 60 caravans on the driving range – not sure our bit of Swarland can cope with all this.

Jackie Stent

Do you play chess?

Would you like to learn to play? Or to play competitive chess in the Northumberland League?

Alnwick Chess Club meets at 730pm each Thursday at the Alnwick Rugby Club and caters for players of all abilities. We're a friendly bunch and would welcome you calling in for a chat and a game.

Alternatively, contact George on 07725 749 846 or
gellames@yahoo.com .

We're also on Facebook @Alnwick Chess Club.

Working towards a greener garden

Britain's allegedly 'green and pleasant land' is heavily reliant for effect on grass – in fields, on road verges and in gardens. It was disappointing therefore to see so many people, including the highways' management folk, mowing their grass within an inch of its life just as the hottest British temperatures ever were forecast. Result? Parched brown verges and lawns. Fortunately, in this part of the country we've had showers since, so there has been some recovery. But lawns stay greener for longer when they aren't scalped – it's recommended that you set your mower blades higher in summer so that the grass is 3" – 4" high. The grass is then less stressed in the heat, contains more moisture, has stronger roots, and shades the soil to reduce water loss (good news for the grass and for everything else that lives underground).

Harking back to Mick Tarry's piece on hedgehogs in the April issue, we need to remember how far they wander. Though hedges are important for wildlife, as food sources and as nesting, perching and roosting habitats, more people are taking them out and erecting fences. In that case, provide holes (the size of a DVD, suggests Mick) to allow them free passage. We know they're at crisis point, so they need all the help we can give them. But better still – keep your hedges! Swarland particularly is very green and leafy (whereas Newton has its beautiful stone walls), and it will be a loss if it becomes too suburbanised.

On that theme, we're all encouraged to think before we pave. Paving creates sterile soil beneath, causes water run-off (when we have rain now, it's often torrential), and offers no benefits at all to insects and birds. Gravelled surfaces at least allow water penetration and seem to provide inviting territory for huge numbers of tiny insects and spiders.

Everything we do as individuals may seem insignificant, but it's important that we do it because it all adds up to create a healthier environment.

Suzanne Stanley on behalf of SNAC

Deadline for items for the October issue of The Column: Thursday 29th September 2022.

Jubilee Hall Newton on the Moor

A belated thank you to all who attended our Platinum Jubilee Coffee Morning on 11th June, it was a great success! We hope you liked our decorations, Jubilee themed spread and Prosecco.

We had an excellent night of music and dance at the Hall on Saturday 18th June with music provided by Fiddlezonely (the Hall Fiddle Group), Swarland Voices and French Traditional Dancing from Brittany.

Our next Coffee Morning is on **Saturday 13th August** at the usual time of 10.00 – 12.00 where we shall have our usual splendid fare of Jen's scones, cake & traybakes and some gluten-free options.

We have our regular carpet bowls on a Tuesday evening from 7pm. New members are always welcome.

The Hall Fiddle Group meets on a Wednesday. Contact Susan Clark on 01665 711 977. The Fiddlers are available for hire.

On the first Sunday of the month, 2.00pm - 3.30pm the Alnwick Pipers meet. All welcome to play or listen. Contact Susan Clarke 01665 711 977. Pipers are also available for hire.

We've sadly lost our accordion group after many years of enjoyment.

Our Secretary, Alison Gallico, has sadly resigned from the Trustee Board as she and her husband Stephen are moving south in August. They have both been great supporters and workers for the Hall over the last six years and they will be much missed. We wish them well.

To keep up to date with our events, we now have our own website. Use <https://northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/> and then click on the icon for the Jubilee Hall. You can also use it to research other village halls across the county and see what they have going on.

Diane Williams

Coffee and Cake

Now COVID restrictions have been eased we know that many of our older, single household residents are a bit keener to get out and see a few people and not be 'stuck indoors'.

To try and help with this the Parish Volunteers are aiming to set up a Coffee and Cake Afternoon at Nelson's, Vyner Park. A couple of hours one afternoon per month to have a cup of coffee, a cake or scone and a natter with similar folk.

We know it's not always easy to get out, and volunteers will be on hand to give those interested a lift to Nelson's.

If you're interested in going to a Coffee and Cake session, or would help with giving folk a lift, get in touch with Gill Smith at gill@cabrit.co.uk or on 07557 882616.

Swarland Wood Access – what you need to know

Recently we spoke to Alex MacLennan from Forestry England (FE). Alex is the manager for forest access across all the Northumberland forests managed by Forestry England and is also the chair of Northumberland Joint Local Access Forum and has over 30 years' experience managing access across the UK - so knows a fair bit about forest access!

We asked Alex to outline what access rights are to Swarland Wood

Walkers are the only user group who legally have access - FE has dedicated the land for open access on foot. This means legally anyone can walk wherever they wish within Swarland Wood. However, walkers have responsibilities to look after themselves and look out for hazards such as windblown trees or very dense undergrowth where they could fall and hurt themselves and not be seen; it's down to walkers to do their own personal risk assessment.

Cycling, Mountain Biking and Horse Riding are by permission of FE and is to use existing open roads and tracks – and NOT create new ones!

FE welcomes cyclists and horse riders and really wants such users to enjoy the woodland, but no one should start cutting trees, building ramps, digging pits - all of these actions are illegal and will be followed up if found.

Alex added: "The main issue we find is when there is conflict between user groups. We will tolerate cyclists riding through the trees with their wheels on the ground if not in conflict with other users, but this changes when individuals start to create their own trails.

We welcome all users into Swarland Wood and our key message is really simple - respect other users and please don't start to cut, dig, or build - this will lead to tensions we and the community don't really need. My message is to work together with us all and maintain the harmony that exists within the woodland for everyone.

Please bear in mind that it is a working wood and that there will be works later this year. Please observe all warning signage and cooperate with operators if they ask you to stop for safety reasons.

I would like to finish by saying anyone can report issues to 101 or email us at kieldercastle@forestryengland.uk, where our team will pick up the message. Finally – remember it is illegal [in FE woods] to operate a chainsaw, either petrol or electric, and any reports of such use will be followed up via the police."

Forestry England has agreed to replace one of the small bridges inadvertently removed some time ago. Be patient though – there is a huge backlog of work following the storms and it probably won't be possible to get to this work done for some months.

Carolyn Letts for SNAC

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Swarland & NotM Show

We are back: **Saturday 3rd September 11am – 4pm** at Vyner Park (NE65 9BQ). Admission £4 per person (under 4s Free).

All children's Activities free!

Miniature railway / Dog Show / Laser Quest /
Classic Vehicles / Rodeo Bull / Bar and BBQ /
Market and Industrial Tents / Archery - plus much more.

Show Classes

Light-hearted competitions for adults, teenagers and children.

To request a copy of the schedule and entry form,
email swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com .

Copies also available in Nelson's Café at Vyner Park.

Volunteers Required

For 1 to 2 hour shifts during the Show.

Full training given.

Over 18s only please.

Email your interest at swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com .

Tombola prizes needed

Small toys and bottles of booze.

Please drop off at Nelson's Café
or at No. 10 Park Road.

We Need Your Bakes for Our Cake Stall

All makes of cake, scones and cupcakes
will be gratefully accepted.

For details, please contact Alison at
swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com .

Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (SNAC)

The UK experienced an exceptional heatwave in July. 40°C degree weather is now 10 times more likely because of climate change. Such extreme temperatures across the UK are a reminder that climate change is already having an impact on us and our wildlife.

But there are things that we can do – and elsewhere in the Column you can get ideas for simple changes you can make in your garden that will help nature on your doorstep.

Bus Survey Update

Following the questionnaire that many of you responded to earlier this year, SNAC is hoping to set up a public meeting with Neil Easton, NCC Public Transport Manager. We want to share the results of the survey with him and explore whether NCC is able to re-establish a bus service in the parish. Look out for more information about a meeting in the next few weeks. Having a regular bus service would help to reduce the number of car journeys that we make.

Looking after our Footpaths

Following the survey of footpaths in May, members of SNAC had a very positive meeting with Tony Derbyshire, NCC's Countryside Officer. Tony is happy for the group to undertake minor maintenance and to liaise with him about more significant issues. The group will check each footpath 2 or 3 times a year. Why not get out and explore the countryside around the Parish?

Want to Recycle More?

A recent study found that in the UK we throw away a staggering 96 billion pieces of plastic each year – and only 12% of these are recycled in the UK. So if you've ever wished you could recycle more of your household items but have not known where to take them - we've gathered a host of information about local facilities, to find out more just visit www.snac.online/reduce-re-use-recycle/ .

Come and Say Hello!

SNAC will have a stall at **Swarland Show on Saturday 3rd September**, and we'd love it if you came along to say hello and find out about what we've been doing. We meet at 7pm on the third Tuesday of each month and all are welcome to come and get involved. Our next meetings are on 16th August and 20th September, at Swarland Club. More details are available at www.snac.online .

NEED Bus

This dial-a-ride door-to-door shopping service (no.406) to Alnwick is still provided by NEED and is getting back to normal post-pandemic. It's on Wednesdays, picking up around 10.30am and returning in the early afternoon. Seats must be booked up to 24 hours beforehand, by phoning 01665 605 780. Travel is free if you have a concessionary pass (otherwise £4.75 return from Swarland, payment either by phone when booking or cash on the day). From September, NEED will be reinstating the £24.00 registration fee which applied prior to the pandemic. Anyone can use this bus. If you have used the NEED bus, we'd like to hear about your experience of it – what's good, what's not and if there's anything that you would change. If you've thought about using it and decided not to, tell us why! Please contact Janandersonpc@gmail.com or call 07775 060 430.

St. Michael & All Angels Church, Felton

The regular Sunday Services at St. Michael's are: -
8am Holy Communion.

11am Family service - either Holy Communion
or Morning Worship.

5pm on the 3rd Sunday - Informal 'Cafe Church'
followed by a meal open to all.

Please come and join us.

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