

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.

The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

**Newton on the Moor
& Swarland Parish Council
and
Swarland Village Action**

SWARLAND VILLAGE CLUB

Sadly, The Club is no longer hosting the sale of newspapers, milk and eggs for the area.

**The Post Office is still available in
the Club building,
on Mondays and Thursdays
from 8 - 10am.**

Help needed for May 2024 Elections

Due to changes in legislation, NCC requires a number of extra staff to assist it carry out the May 2024 elections at local polling stations. The possible positions available include Presiding Officers, currently paid £324.41 and Poll Clerks currently paid £223.76.

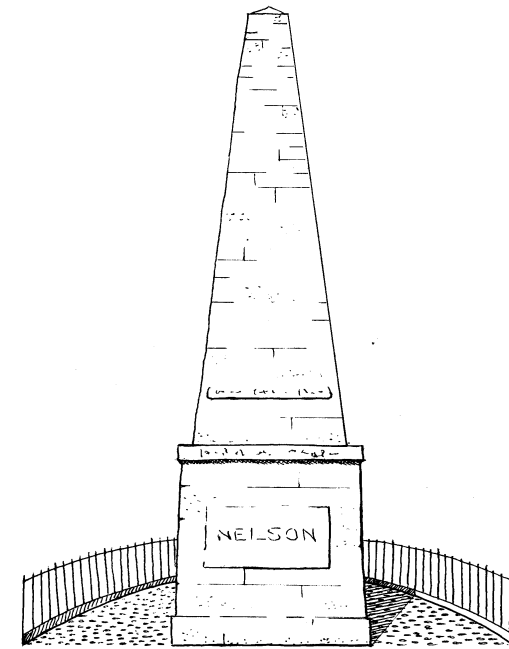
If you or anyone else you know might be interested, please let us know. You do not have to be an NCC employee and full training will be given in advance, particularly for the Presiding Officer, as this role carries a greater level of responsibility.

Please note there would be no guarantee that we could employ you at your local polling station, but would endeavour as always to employ staff as close to their home as possible.

If this is something you could be interested in taking part in or if you would like any further information or details of how to apply for the above roles or any others we may have, please contact: 01670 24811 or go to electionstaff@northumberland.gov.uk.

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The Column



October 2023

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 127

**NotM & Swarland Neighbourhood Plan -
Invitation to village meetings with
refreshments. See inside**

Welcome to this issue of The Column, and if you're new to the area, a special welcome to you. **To include something, however small, in the December issue, please supply it by Thursday 23rd November 2023. 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 elsewhere in this issue) or Steve Woolfrey (on **01670 787 883** or **Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com**).

Archery Practice: Mondays (indoors) at 7pm. For information on extra outdoor sessions held throughout the summer contact **Steve Woolfrey as above.** The Club can supply all equipment.

Coquet Concert Band: Wednesday evenings for band practices, and extra sessions for rehearsal. For more details, please contact Andy Taylor (Conductor) 07832 249699, or Derek Belshaw (Band Secretary) 07891 245201 or email **coquetconcertband@gmail.com** .

Bootcamp: meets on Tuesdays 5.30 – 6.30pm at Vyner Park and will probably return to the Hall in the autumn when the weather deteriorates. Contact Jo on **07803 272785** for further details.

Coquet Concert Band: on Wednesdays evenings. For details contact Derek Belshaw on **coquetconcertband@gmail.com** or **07981 245201**.

Crafty Friends: meet on 4th Saturday morning of each month. For more information contact Linda on 07789 887424.

Pilates: Tuesdays 6.30 – 7.30pm. For details contact Alix on 07940 009150 or **alixwestgarth@hotmail.com**.

Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class: Wednesdays, 10 – 11 and 11.15 – 12.15. 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: Looking for new members. If you would like to give it a try, contact **Malcolm or Joan Nesbit on 01670 783 140**.



The Swarland Choir will be singing a wide range of its repertoire of songs in Swarland Village Hall on **Friday 19th January 2024 at 7pm**.

They would love as many people as possible to come along, so please put the date on your calendar. Admission will be free but donations will be welcome.

Neighbourhood Watch Update – September 2023

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

Once again, I am happy to report that up to 21st September 2023, I have had no information from the police, regarding any criminal activity in our two areas. This is not due to luck. I know from speaking to residents that we are very much aware of the need to be vigilant, especially with maintaining the security of our properties. CAN YOU HELP?

Officers are investigating a serious collision in our county. At 12.30pm on Monday 18th September, police received a report of a multi-vehicle road traffic collision on the A1 southbound near Stannington. It was reported that an HGV was travelling on the A1 when, for reasons still to be established, it collided with four other vehicles. Eight people were taken to hospital.

A 43-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving. Two people are still in hospital with serious injuries.

The police are determined to fully understand what actually happened. They urge that any key witnesses come forward, particularly those driving on the A1, north or southbound, at the time of this collision. They are particularly interested if anyone has a dashcam or CCTV footage.

If you can help call 101, quoting log number NP20230918-0407.

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. 07713 097 250

Support for Newton on the Moor & 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.

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

Best wishes, Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)

Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

Our next coffee morning will be on **Saturday 14th October** and we look forward to welcoming you to our Village Hall to enjoy our scones, cakes and traybakes which can also be bought to take away. We are always pleased to see friends old and new at our ever-popular monthly events.

We will be hosting a wine-tasting evening on **Friday 20th October at 7.30 pm** entitled “**Viognier and Syrah, a Rhône theme and beyond**”. It will be presented by Suzanne Lock from Advintage Wines in Whitley Bay. There will be a selection of red and white wines, together with a commentary. Tickets are £15 per person (payable at the door) and include fresh bread and cheese nibbles between wines. In order that we may estimate participant numbers, please sign up in advance by contacting Dudley Williams (phone: 01665 581531).

There is to be a **free musical evening** on **Saturday 28th October** organised by Alnwick Pipers and friends (donations to the Hall welcome). This promises to be another fun evening of traditional music with local artists. We shall be providing a bar.

To keep up to date with our events or book the Hall, you can access our website. You can also use it to research other village halls across the county and see what they have going on. Use **northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk** and then click on the icon for the Jubilee Hall.

Diane Williams

Arthur's 100th birthday bash

Dad will be 100 in October, so we would like to invite those of you that know him to his birthday celebration.

Please pop in to see him and have a bite to eat in

Swarland Village Hall,

anytime between **1 – 5pm on 7th October.**

We are sure he will be delighted to see you.

No gifts please just bring yourselves.

Susan and Janet.

**Deadline for items for the December issue of
The Column: Thursday 23rd November 2023**

NotM & Swarland Parish Council - September 2023

Finance

We have started to review our current budget, with a view to setting next year's budget and precept, probably at our November meeting. We do not anticipate any significant changes. However, as ever, we would appreciate early notice from local groups in our area of any projects or other ideas that might usefully benefit from our financial support.

Loss of a service

We were sad to hear, at short notice, that the newspaper, eggs and milk sales at Swarland Club would be ceasing. Following the closure in The Square of our only Shop and Post Office some years ago, the community benefitted enormously from John Richardson and others at the Club who stepped forward to keep this service going. It has been a key part of the community's social fabric, and 'collecting the papers' has been part of the daily exercise regime for many local residents. We thank John, and wish him well in his 'retirement'.

Casual vacancy

After several years of valuable service, Carolyn Letts has stepped down from the Parish Council. She has been our main link with the School, Forestry England and Percy Wood, as well as being an active contributor to various climate change initiatives, as a member of SNAC. We are pleased that she will be continuing to serve the community, via both SNAC and the school governors.

Although it is not yet certain, we assume that we will be able to fill the vacancy by co-opting a volunteer, rather than undergoing a formal by-election. We therefore invite anyone who is interested to write to us (up to 500 words) outlining why they would like to be considered. Currently, we are under-represented by: females; the area in and around Swarland, and the under-60s.

New bus services

We still have no firm date for the introduction of the long-promised, once-a-week bus services to Alnwick and to Morpeth. We understand that the tendering exercise was conducted several months ago and completed in August. Since then, NCC staff have been engaged in other pressing priorities, which we can understand. However, our new services are over 9 months behind their original estimated starting date. We have taken this matter up with the County Council.

Guyzance Crossroads

Following the latest serious accident at this junction, we contacted National Highways to repeat our request for improvements to its safety. Here is an extract from their response:

(Cont over)



(Cont)

“We keep the safety performance of our network under continuous review. Accordingly, we are aware of the collision at Guyzance Crossroads which occurred on Wednesday 2nd August. You will appreciate that it would be inappropriate for us to pass comment on the collision so soon after the incident. However, we will review the findings of the collision investigation and take them into consideration as we continue to develop safety interventions for this section of the A1.

Following the previous engagement with the Parish Council, we secured Preliminary Design funding to progress a safety scheme for Guyzance Crossroads. In our previous response we outlined some of the options which have been discounted. Our preferred option is to install a nearside diverge lane for southbound A1 vehicles and to bring the southbound offside diverge facility up to current standard. We also intend to make improvements to the signing and road marking layout, to increase warning of the risk of vehicular conflicts as well as improving driver information regarding authorised movements.

We are now working to identify funding to deliver our scheme. However, we are currently experiencing funding constraints and so it is possible that our proposed scheme will not progress beyond Preliminary Design until the third Road Investment Strategy (RIS3) which begins in March 2025.”

High fences

Local residents have been voicing concerns about the small, but growing, number of high fences that are being erected on frontages abutting the highway, which are generally out of character with the softer appearance of hedges, which are a treasured part of many of our streets. With few exceptions, the erection on the front of a property of any fence higher than 1 metre will normally require planning permission.

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

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 will be on **25th October, 22nd November and 20th December(?)**.

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



News from Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (SNAC)

Many thanks to all of you who came along to see us at the Swarland Show. It was a great event and we were delighted to get the opportunity to chat to everyone who came and said hello.

Bus Service

You might be wondering what's happening with the bus service....as you may remember NCC received funding for a number of new services, including ours, in March this year. A tender was issued during the summer and although responses were received in August, NCC have not yet evaluated them due to the pressure of other work. We've continuing to put pressure on them to make a decision so that the service can finally begin.....

Storm Arwen Recovery Work

We've recently heard from Forestry England that the work in Swarland Wood is likely to start at the end of October. On 26th September children from Swarland Primary school walked down to the site with Alex MacLennan and Michael Osborne from Forestry England who told them about the plans. The children will get an opportunity to see the machinery later and will be involved in re-planting. After felling, the ground will require a fallow period to make sure it is free of pests when planting begins, so planting is likely to commence early in 2025. Any trees that self-seed in that period will be kept. It should be very interesting to see what else comes up!

Ranting about Rivers

There's been a lot in the news recently about the state of UK rivers, so we are particularly pleased to be welcoming Steve Lowe from the Northumberland Rivers Trust to our next meeting at **7pm on Tuesday 17th October at Swarland Village Hall**. The title of Steve's talk is 'Ranting about Rivers' and he'll be talking about the state of local rivers such as the Coquet. Everyone is welcome to come along.

And finally

Visit www.snac.online or follow us on Facebook for all the latest local climate news and events or email talktosnac@gmail.com for more details.

Liz Clark (on behalf of SNAC)



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Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group (SMLHG)

We began the 2023/24 season with a superb talk from Michael Thompson. Michael took us through aspects of Sir Henry Percy's (Harry Hotspur) life, entertaining us with the story of one of his most notable battles against the Scots at Otterburn. A great night was had by all who attended.

On the 10th October June Watson will talk to us about Lady Emma Bennett the 4th Countess of Tankerville, 'The Botanist and Secret Scientist'.

On the 14th November the talk will be about The Chillingham Cattle by Ellie Waddington who is the Wild Cattle Ranger.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 at Swarland Village Club. If you enjoy local history and heritage topics, please come and join us. Further information can be found on our Facebook page or by emailing: swarlandmlhg@gmail.com .
Lesley Selfe

Postie Pete's - Great North Run

I would just like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who supported me both with their kind wishes and their sponsorship for the CSF Leak Association (cerebral spinal fluid). As this goes to print, together we raised over £2300. That's amazing. This little charity is overwhelmed and so grateful.

I completed the run in 2 hours and 13 minutes. A little slower than I'd hoped for, but although it's hard to believe now, it was very hot on the day, so I slowed down.

Thanks again so much, Pete.

SWARLAND XMAS FAIR

Saturday 18th November 2023

SWARLAND VILLAGE HALL

10.00am - 12.00

LOCAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

Tombola raffle & much more

Admission £2 to include tea/coffee/juice & biscuits

Children free

Raffle for the Great North Air Ambulance

The Swarland Craft Groups

Remember, Remember, the 3rd of November - Vyner Park!!!

Vyner Park Management Committee is holding the annual Bonfire night with Fireworks on Friday 3rd November

- Doors Open at 6pm
 - Raffle
- Bonfire lighting 6.30pm
 - Fireworks 7-730pm
- Bar - Mulled Wine - Burgers -- Hot Dogs - Soft Drinks

Adults - £4, Children (secondary school) - £4,
Children (primary school) - £2

Looking forward to seeing you.

Liz Simpson - Secretary Vyner Park Management Committee
lizkitson@hotmail.com

200 Club – Swarland Village Hall

The Hall Team is hoping to start up a 200 Club which will be open to everyone. This will involve a **once-a-year payment of £24**. Each participant will be given a number which will remain with them for the year.

3 Numbers will be drawn each month for prizes (based on 200 members)

1st - £100 2nd – £70 3rd - £30.

The rest of the money will go to the Swarland Village Hall Charity to be used towards the general upkeep and improvement of this beautiful Grade II listed building.

If there are more or fewer people participating, the prize money will change accordingly. The more people join, the bigger the prize money!!

We will be looking to start in January 2024 with the first draw at the end of that month. Winning numbers will be posted on the Hall's external notice board and via email or text to the winners.

For those interested in participating, further information will be posted very shortly on the Hall's website at swarlandvillagehall.com and on the Swarland Residents Facebook page.

8th October - Arthur Scott celebrates 100 years!

“Seeing Arthur Scott celebrate his 100th birthday, and being able to share his many forestry stories, is to me inspirational, and really sits with the Forestry England vision to *think beyond a lifetime*” says Alex MacLennan of Forestry England. Arthur started work with the then Forestry Commission in October 1941, giving 47 years to “planting, fencing, ditching, weeding and vermin control [much of it in Swarland Wood], as well as planting trees on the A1 from Newcastle to the Scottish border” adds his daughter Jan. Alex goes on to say:

“Arthur gives a wonderful insight into the work of the Forestry Commission over the decades, and how the forests of Northumberland have become real treasures for society. The FC, now Forestry England, has been built since its formation in 1919 on the back of dedicated individuals such as Arthur, who have seen their work as a vocation rather than simply a job.

The work of forestry staff in Arthur’s era was simply outstanding, and today’s generation walks amongst forests created by many Arthurs across the county. You have to remember that back in Arthur’s day, their work involved being left on hillsides all day long to establish the forests, with very little welfare provision compared to today’s standards.

Arthur has an amazing memory, and his knowledge of the local woods, and of course his Swarland Wood, is legendary. Everyone at Forestry England is thrilled to hear that Arthur is celebrating his 100th birthday!”

Arthur has lived in the forestry cottage at the entrance to Swarland Wood since 1953, where he still looks after his hens and extensive garden, feeds the Red Squirrels and dispatches the Greys. He’s familiar to so many of us in the village, and we all wish him well as we look forward to his birthday celebration in Swarland Village Hall on Saturday 7th October, organised by his family including daughter and son-in-law Sue and John Richardson, who are also familiar figures in the community.

The Editor

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Macmillan Coffee Morning Success!

September 29th my 6-year anniversary of moving to Swarland, my wedding anniversary, but more importantly it was the Macmillan coffee morning!

It was a bit last minute but we managed to pull it off in style. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone with cakes, raffles prizes and cash being donated on the day. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and most people left with either a raffle prize or piece of cake! It was also lovely to meet up with people around the village for a chat.

On the day we raised over £565 with further donations on the **justgiving** site making the current total £611.50. Thank you especially to the individual who rounded up the total to get over the £600!

Once again, a massive thank you to everyone who donated items as well as coming along on the day. We have seen how successful this was so will hopefully do this again next year.

Elaine Fallais

Newton on the Moor & Swarland Neighbourhood Plan Invitation

The Neighbourhood Plan Team invites everyone living in the Parish to drop in and talk with us about our work on the Neighbourhood Plan and give us your views.

The events will take place from 11am until 1pm in:

Jubilee Hall, NotM on
Saturday 18th November 2023
and at

Swarland Village Hall on
Saturday 25th November 2023.

There will be a FREE buffet and drinks at each event.

We very much look forward to seeing you there.

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NotM and Swarland Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Following the article in the last edition of The Column, the Steering Group has continued with its work.

Neighbourhood Plans have common themes and these include:

*How the **history** of the designated area informs the process by demonstrating that which makes the area, in this case the Parish and all the vibrant villages within it, the special place that it is today.

*The preservation and enhancement of the **environment** both natural and built - including habitats of interest; climate change; the need for green spaces and protected spaces; the potential need for additional housing for downsizing and affordable housing; design codes for new housing.

*The protection and enhancement of **footpaths**.

***Transport** issues within the Parish and wider concerns about road safety at the A1 junctions.

*Consideration of the **businesses** within and economy of the Parish.

*The protection of the **vibrant communities** within the Parish and enhancing the facilities afforded to them.

The research into and reporting upon the different aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan has been split up between teams of members of the Steering Group. The teams comprise those with the best skills and interests to enable the best information to be brought back to the Steering Group.

Similarly, those with skills and interest in the promotion of the Neighbourhood Plan and the management of the project are working together to ensure that we are steadily moving forward to the end goal.

We are very pleased to say that because all Steering Group members are making a good contribution to the process, we are moving forward more quickly than the original project plan indicated that we might.

Swarland Show

What an excellent and well organised event this was and as you know from our last article, **we were there!**

We were able to speak to many of you from within the Parish and have been heartened by your enthusiasm and support for the work that we are doing. Thank you for all your comments.

People from outside the Parish also engaged with us and some took away information about Neighbourhood Plans because they want to start the process in their area.

Funding And Support

We are very pleased to say that, based on the information that we have already gathered, we have been able to apply for and secure government funding for our work and also for technical support from consultants for various aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Future Events

Please watch the Notice Boards around the Parish, the Parish Council website and also Facebook. We have announced dates for Public Meetings, one in Swarland and one in Newton with refreshments.

At these meetings we will have displays about each of the areas of work mentioned and will encourage you to talk with us and give us your views. It is really important to us that you are able to engage with the group and share any ideas that you have.

If you have any questions that you would like to ask the Steering Group, please contact Liz Simpson (Secretary to the Steering Group) either by email: SNSG23@outlook.com - marked 'For the attention of Liz' or by phone: 07817 135932.

Further updates from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will appear in future copies of The Column.



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.

We have a JVC 40-inch smart (Amazon Fire) TV, which we would like to pass on to someone who can work it better than us. It is virtually brand new, but we found it difficult to get used to, so bought something more age-related appropriate. Just tried it and it works fine. Very happy to let it go (at a sensible price) and we will pass on the money to a charity named by the buyer. It cost about £250. Please contact:

John Verney on 01670 787702

Plus

Jorvik Electric Tricycle - only used once so excellent condition, plus box of brand-new accessories.

Romahome R10 Solo - 2019 - mini campervan, excellent condition, low mileage.

Persian Carpet - mostly red and black, not more than 10'x10'.

For more information on all three items, please contact: 07751 723244.

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