

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.

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The Column has been met by

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

SWARLAND VILLAGE CLUB

Friendly Village Bar Regular Events

Live Sports Room Hire

Membership Benefits Non-members Welcome

Well-behaved Dogs Allowed.

Post Office Services Monday & Thursday 8am - 10am

For further information follow:

Facebook: **SwarlandVillageClubNEW**

Instagram: **@SwarlandVillageClub**

For enquiries email Swarlandclub@gmail.com

FIDDLEZONLY AND SWARLAND VOICES

Invite You To Join Them For Their
Musical Celebration Of Midsummer

SWARLAND VILLAGE HALL 29th June 2024

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Fiddlezonly is a group of fiddle players who meet regularly in the Jubilee Hall in Newton on the Moor. Each year they hold one or two events and for the last two years they have invited Swarland Voices to join in with those events at the Jubilee Hall.

This year, the venue has been changed to the Swarland Village Hall and Swarland Voices are delighted to host this event jointly with Fiddlezonly.

Also appearing with be members of the Alnwick Pipers Society.
Entry is £5 to be paid on the door. All funds will be donated to

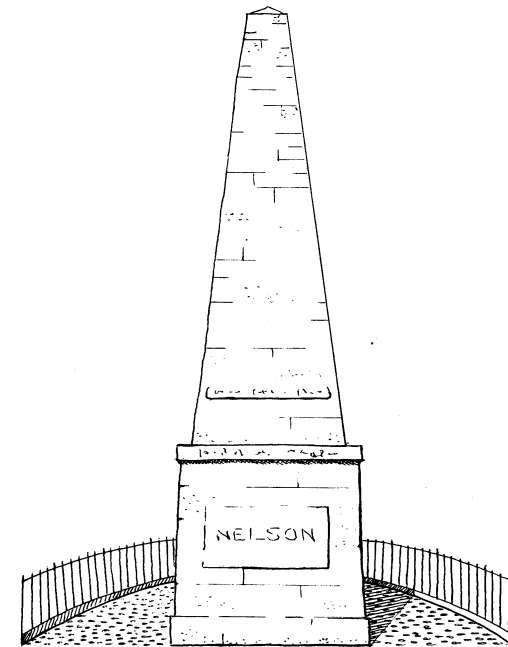
Swarland Village Hall (Charity number 1058471)

Please bring your own refreshments and snacks.

Contact number for queries: 07506 036 255

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The Column



June 2024

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 131

**Your Parish Council needs
you.
See inside for details.**

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 August issue, please supply it by Thursday 24th July 2024 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 Anne Raine (contact **07934 425 844**) 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 249 699**, or Derek Belshaw (Band Secretary) **07891 245 201** or email **coquetconcertband@gmail.com** .

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

Conversational French: Thursdays 7 – 8pm. Contact David Murray on **07775 934 847** for more details.

Pilates: Tuesdays 5.30 – 6.15pm. For details contact Alix on **07940 009 150** or **alixwestgarthtaylor@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 Choir: Wednesdays 5–6.30pm: For details: 07506 036 255.

Swarland Craft Group: Wednesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm. New members are welcome. All enquiries to: Lesley on **01670 786 140**.

Swarland Carpet Bowls: This group is now having a break from its weekly sessions (Mondays 1.45 – 3.45) and will return in the early autumn, subject to enough people expressing an interest in playing. **Looking for new members.** If you would like to give it a try, contact **Harold Hinchliffe** on **07713 097 250**.

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.

Free to a good home: two hedgehog houses in excellent condition. Text Marlene on **07867 563057** for more info.

Neighbourhood Watch Update – May 2024

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

Once again, I am happy to say that I have not had any report of criminal activity in Swarland or N.O.T.M. (19/05/24). This is not a guaranteed situation for the future. Residents need to maintain the excellent vigilance we have come to expect from one another.

However, I suggest that you read the following email from Northumberland Connected:- **<https://www.getsafeonline.org/investments/>** .

Finally, Get Safe Online has this week launched nine free and easy tools to help keep you and your family safe, secure and confident when using the internet. It can be accessed at - **www.getsafeonline.org/selfhelpcentre/** .

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 your monthly 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.

A Swarland resident has offered to walk the dogs of anyone needing help, although this is limited to dogs living in Swarland due to transport issues. If you are interested in taking up this kind offer, give me a call.

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

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 1st June – BBQ, details to be confirmed, but probably late afternoon early evening.

The hall will be closed from Monday 3rd June to Friday 28th June as it is being used as a film set.

There will be no coffee morning in June

Thank you for all those who submitted a bid in our silent auction. The highest bid was £70 and the beautiful handmade rug now has a proud new owner.

Did you know that the Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Reg. No. 1193440). The Hall is managed by a group of six trustees and several volunteers. We are all unpaid. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and running of the hall and we raise all our own funds through grants, hiring out the Hall and events such as our coffee mornings and music nights. So every hot drink, piece of cake and scone you buy or event you attend goes towards paying our utilities, insurance and to keep the Hall in a good state of repair. **We really value your continued support.**

If you would like to make any suggestions, especially in relation to events you would like to attend or would like to get involved in in the Hall, please contact us either by email at notmjubileehall@yahoo.com or by approaching one of the trustees at an event.

Dudley Williams regularly runs wine tasting events, which are a great way to try out new wines without having to buy the whole bottle! We have previously explored 'Bordeaux Wines, left versus right bank' and 'Price, is there a difference?' If anyone has an idea of a theme they would be interested in, please email Dudley on prof.williams@hotmail.co.uk.

The Jubilee Hall is in the centre of our village and we are trying to make it the heart of our community. If you do attend an event in our Hall, please consider our neighbours and local residents when parking your car.

Check out our website to keep up to date with our regular user groups. You can also use it to research other village halls across the county and see what they have going on.

Use the address below and then click on the icon of the hall you are interested in. <https://northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/>.

Alison Cowen



NotM & Swarland Parish Council - May 2024

Annual meetings: two, with confusingly similar names!

On 22nd May, we held both the Annual Parish Meeting (i.e. of all electors) and also the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. We finalised and agreed our end-of-year accounts, which are available for public inspection and questions from 3rd June to 21st July. Our income was £24,651, and our expenditure was £26,133. The full set of papers can be viewed on our website. We also reviewed and renewed our insurance policy, which covers the activities and property not only of the Parish Council, but also of the Vyner Park Charity, Neighbourhood Plan Group and SNAC (Swarland and Newton Action on Climate).

Swarland's back-roads

We understand that the County Council is now close to resolving the future of their hitherto-unadopted back roads in Swarland. We expect to hear more about their plans, in June or July, for improvements to the road surfaces, and their on-going maintenance.

Parish boundary

Anyone who has studied a map of parish boundaries in our area will know that there are some strange anomalies. For example, the farm and land to the north of lower Leamington Lane is within Felton parish, along with Rasherap and the Davidson Obelisk. We are therefore opening a dialogue with Felton PC and NCC about the possibility of moving the parish boundary eastwards so that it would follow the line of the A1 dual carriageway. A piece of land to the east of the bypass, next to the speed camera box, would be moved from our parish to Felton. The review will be conducted by NCC, involving full consultation with the 6 residences and other owners in the affected area.

A1 safety

Following the announcement of the forthcoming General Election, the go-ahead was confirmed for the dualling of two stretches of the A1, one of which is the stretch between Morpeth and Felton. What remains uncertain is the funding for National Highways' plans to improve the safety of the various road junctions along the dualled section in our parish, especially the Guyzance crossroads. We will be contacting NH for an update.

Casual vacancy

Two valued councillors, Liz Clark and Carolyn Letts, have stepped-down from our Parish Council. Both of them made valuable contributions to our community in a variety of ways, and they continue to do so via SNAC and other activities. So we now are seeking new volunteers to join the Council. 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 younger people (i.e. under-60-year-olds!). For more details, please contact our clerk, Jan.

PC Clerk, Jan Anderson - janandersonpc@gmail.com or 07775 060 430. PC website: newtonswarlandpc.org.uk.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Alnwick Playhouse Concert Band is holding an Open Rehearsal on **Monday 1st July 2024** from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the **Alnwick Playhouse**. Please come along if you're interested in joining the band!

The session will be relaxed and fun, allowing you to play with current band members and see if it could be something you'd like to join.

Maybe you've only played in lessons or in school groups before? Maybe you played years ago and are looking to get back into it? Maybe you're a seasoned musician and want to find out whether our band is for you? We're hoping this will provide an opportunity for anyone who's a bit unsure to come and try out playing with the band without any commitment.

So why not pick up your bassoon, dust off that rusty trombone, or grab that well-loved clarinet out of its resting place in the cupboard under the stairs. All musicians are welcome! We're looking for players of Grade 4 standard or above, but it's absolutely fine if you're a bit out of practice. All ages welcome.

If you're interested in coming along, please email **contact.apcb@gmail.com** or get in touch via the contact form on our website at **apcb.co.uk**. This means we can make sure we have music ready for you for the rehearsal.

Derek Belshaw

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group (SMLHG)

The meeting on the 9th April was cancelled due to the torrential rain experienced on the day; this talk has been rescheduled for next season.

A big thank you must go to Colin Gough who stepped in at short notice for our May meeting and talked to us about church buildings, explaining why they are shaped and furnished as they are and their purpose. It was an excellent talk which answered many questions about churches.

We have our final meeting of the season on the **11th June 2024** when **Tom Cadwallender** will give a talk about '**Summer Birds of the Northumberland Coast**', which he has subtitled 'Cuddy's Ducks, Tarries, Tommy Noddies'.

Tom is an ornithologist and one of Northumberland's top naturalists and photographers; he has made numerous appearances on TV and is an award-winning author. It should be an excellent night; please come and join us to listen to such a renowned speaker.

The Swarland Moor 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. Further information and updates can be found on our Facebook site or by emailing: **swarlandmlhg@gmail.com**.

Lesley Selfe

News from Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (SNAC)

Bus Service Update

The Saturday bus service has now been running for a number of weeks and all the feedback we've had has been very positive. If you haven't already used it, why not leave the car at home and give it a try! You can find the timetable on various noticeboards around the Parish or at **Bus timetables | nexus.org.uk**. We are re-starting discussions with NCC about getting a weekday service too and we really need your support to show that there is a strong demand for a regular service.

Water Quality Testing

There's a lot in the news at the moment about pollution in our rivers and seas. So we're particularly pleased that members of SNAC have started carrying out monthly testing on the Hazon Burn. This is part of a wider project organised by the Coquet River Action Group. As well as taking various measurements of the water we are also looking at what invertebrates are present. SNAC is one of a dozen groups who are involved in the project. It's early days but we hope to be able to feed back later in the year once results have been collated and analysed.

Events

There are some exciting SNAC events taking place in June with a farm walk to learn about hedgerows and a training event on carrying out a wildflower meadow survey.

We're always keen to welcome new members and there are lots of ways to get involved - whether that's coming along to meetings, getting involved in specific projects or receiving our monthly updates.

Follow us on Facebook, visit us at **www.snac.online**, get more details at **taktosnac@gmail.com**. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 16th April at 6pm** in Swarland Club (please note the new start time, with a latest finish time of 7.30pm).

Everyone welcome.

Liz Clark (on behalf of SNAC)

Felton & Thirston WI

Felton and West Thirston WI meet on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August), in Felton Village Hall, 7.15pm for a 7.30 start. We would love to invite the ladies of Swarland, Newton on the Moor and the surrounding areas to come and join us. Visitors are charged £4 (which is deducted from the membership fee if you decide to join us). Each meeting we usually have a speaker, refreshments and some social time.

The meetings we have coming up are: 10th June - Craft night, 8th July - All about bees (NO VISITOR CHARGE), 12th August - Summer trip to Floors Castle, 9th September - AGM and Northumberland Archives.

If you would like to know more before coming along you can email: **feltonandthirstonwi@gmail.com**, go to our website: **https://feltonandthirston.wixsite.com/website** or call Maureen on 07763 228 035.

Swarland Village Hall Charity

A big Thank You to everyone who came and supported our two recent fundraising events: the Spring Celebration Concert by the Coquet Concert Band on the 19th April and the Ceilidh on the 17th May. Together both events raised over £900 towards our major window-replacement project.

The Concert Band provided us with a wonderful evening of music, a mix of popular tunes and much-loved favourites along with original pieces written for the Concert Band. The audience, which was at full capacity, showed their appreciation with rapturous applause and demands of an encore or two! We also discovered that 85 years ago on or round about the 19th April 1939, Swarland Village Hall officially opened with a Celebration concert and a capacity audience! A special evening indeed and our thanks go to Derek, Andy and all the Band members for making it such a memorable event.

The recent Ceilidh was a very successful evening with Music and Calling provided by the excellent folk band Alnwicky. 70 folk from near and far enjoyed a great evening of dance, friendship and the pooled supper! Thanks go to the organisers, Sheila & Jenny, all the volunteer helpers on the night, the local businesses and individuals who provided the Raffle Prizes and to the Village Club for providing the Bar.

The Swarland Village Hall team have future fundraising events planned for later on in the year and details will be posted nearer the time via The Column, Village notice boards and Facebook page; please keep a look out. Many thanks.

Anne Raine (on behalf of SVH Team)

Swarland Village Hall Charity **The 200 Club**

The 4th draw was on 20th May at Nelson's at the Park, when numbers were drawn by three randomly selected customers / staff to give the winners as:-

1. Someone who chose to be anonymous
2. Barbara Long
3. Julie Bray.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who has contributed to this fundraising initiative. The next draw is on the 24th June at 2pm in Nelson's. Come and join us. You never know it could be your number next!!!

It is still not too late to join us, for the rest of the year.
Contact Linda Oldroyd at lin88.svh@gmail.com .

Swarland Village Hall Charity - Registered Charity No. 1058471

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been continuing its work on drafting the Neighbourhood Plan. They have been assisted by the Neighbourhood Plan team at Northumberland County Council ('NCC') with regard to the drafting of the document and also by the two reports obtained from Planning Consultants, AECOM, the Housing Needs Assessment and Design Code.

Both the Steering Group and NCC are keen to ensure that the reports prepared by consultants are of good quality and adequately reflect the residents' opinions that have been expressed through our public facing events and the questionnaire results. Consequently, there have been questions raised with regard to both the Housing Needs Assessment and the Design Code. Those questions have to a large extent been answered with regard to the Housing Needs Assessment but not yet with regard to the Design Code.

Given that the Design Code is a central part of the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan, the person who deals with Design Codes at NCC advised that the Steering Group run an informal consultation with residents to seek their comments on the current draft. Any comments received on the content of the Design Code will be added to the questions already raised. (We can assure you that we are aware of the numerous spelling and grammatical errors and so there is no need for you to mention these.)

As you may be aware, notices about the informal consultation have been posted on Facebook and also on notice boards and via WhatsApp groups.

If you have not already done so then please do have a look at the draft Design Code which can be found on the Parish Council website under the 'Your Council' tab for the Neighbourhood Plan. This is another opportunity for you to have your say and we look forward to hearing from you before the 10th June 2024.

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 135 932.

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

Donna Corbin for Neighbourhood Plan Group

Lost & Found

A handmade walking stick was found in the woods on Monday 20th May. Its a beautiful stick and it would be great to get it back to its owner. I have posted on SR but not everyone in the area is on this.

If the owner contacts me on 07502 477 734 with a description of the lost item, then I can return it to where it belongs.

Many thanks



Coffee and Chat

Coffee and Chat at Nelsons at the Park continues to take place on the 3rd Monday of each month. It really is a lovely gathering with a wonderful chance to enjoy some great tea and coffee, and engage in some lively and interesting conversations with friends old and new.

Each month, we create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where you can relax, share stories, and see old pals and make new friends. Whether you come for the coffee and a little sweet treat, the company, or all of the above, we look forward to seeing you at these enjoyable afternoons.

Join us at the next afternoons **at 2pm on June 17th and/or July 15th.**

The Velvet Wolf

Local Dog Walker - Reliable, responsible, insured and First Aid and CPR certified. **Special prices for NOTM & Swarland only. Solo dog walk £15, 2 dogs from the same household together £20, 3 dogs from the same household £25.**

POP IN - check, let out, feed, administer any meds 15 / 20 mins £12.00

Please contact me on the following:

Mobile: 07940 009 150 / Email: alix@thevelvetwolf.co.uk /

Website: Thevelvetwolf.co.uk / FaceBook: The Velvet Wolf

Vyner Park Charity - Update

A lot has been happening over the last few months in Vyner Park. Just before Christmas a very dedicated group of volunteers installed a children's digger and associated sand pit. You may have seen the pictures on Facebook as this new piece of play equipment was finally put into operation a few days ago – we had to wait for the rain to stop and the ground dry out in order to complete the project. We are about to put new LED lights on the MUGA to substantially reduce running costs and also plan to replace most, if not all, of the kick boards. On a green front, SNAC are due to carry out a plant survey of the wildflower meadow on the east side of the Park. Last year we planted around 50 trees on the south side of the Park as well as a few more around the wildflower meadow.

Although not obvious, there have been changes in the Pavilion with an additional door to improve access for sporting events, electrical improvements and, following a burglary last year, the installation of a CCTV system and burglar alarm.

Currently, the Committee is working with volunteers to keep the bowling green in good condition and thin out the shrubs on the western side. We have some of the best play and park facilities in the area. It is maintained largely by volunteers in order to keep the costs down for the community. If you would like to help us with maintenance, please contact me using the details below. *Steve Woolfrey, Chairman – VP Team*

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels - March 2024

Dog walkers continue to let us know when they see squirrels, Red or Grey, in Swarland Wood. They always tell me it is the dog that spots the squirrel, even their dog can distinguish between Red and Grey Squirrels! These reports are always appreciated; it is useful to know whereabouts in the wood squirrels are active. We know we have a very small population of Red Squirrels in Swarland Wood, boosted recently by the sighting of a kit (baby squirrel) which is very heartening.

As expected, however, following the completion of the felling operations we are aware that Reds and Greys are competing over a smaller habitat and this will be a continuing concern. In addition to the loss of habitat in Swarland Wood, residents will be aware of the felling of woodland between the caravan park and the golf course.

On the positive side, completely unexpectedly, after some years of "disinterest" from Forestry England, we received a contribution of £1000 from them to our funds. We operate on a very small budget which is usually spent on our annual insurance premium, traps, perspex for feeder fronts, disinfectant and, when we can afford it, cameras, batteries and SD cards. This donation is very gratefully received and we look forward to further collaboration with FE in future.

I should say that we do not usually have to buy feeders, as an extremely supportive villager has kept us supplied with feeders that he has made from offcuts. Again, this sort of contribution to the survival of Red Squirrels is very valuable.

We will continue to monitor feeders in the wood; now that felling is completed, we hope to be able to widen our scope to cover a larger area of what remains of the woodland. It's always helpful to receive reports of sightings of squirrels (Red or Grey) which you can do via our website (www.lcreds.org.uk) or by emailing us on sighting@lcreds.org.uk.

Wendy Fergie for LCRS

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 **5th & 26th June, 24th July and 21st August**.

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

**Deadline for items for the August issue of
The Column: Thursday 24th July 2024**

