

**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**

Friendly Village Bar      Regular Events  
Live Sports                  Room Hire  
Membership Benefits      Non-members Welcome  
Well-behaved Dogs Allowed.

**Post Office Services temporarily unavailable.**

**For further information follow:**

Facebook: **SwarlandVillageClubNEW**

Instagram: **@SwarlandVillageClub**

**For enquiries email [Swarlandclub@gmail.com](mailto:Swarlandclub@gmail.com)**

**Acklington Women's Institute**

invites you to a talk and a demonstration of **clothing and life during the Tudor period**, presented by the Bailiffgate Museum.

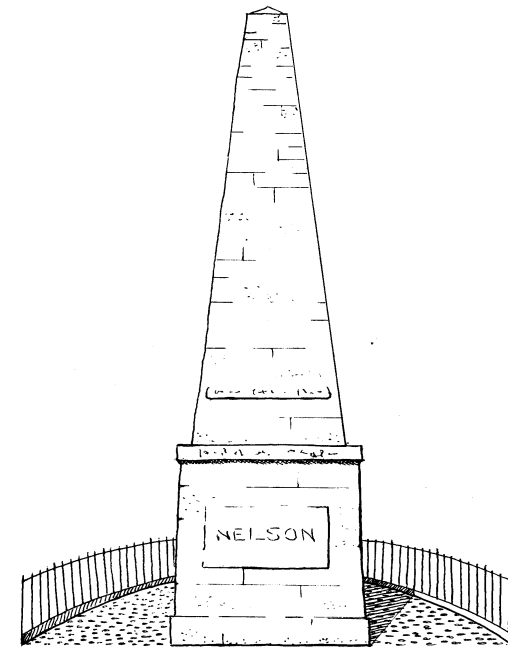
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September in Acklington Village Hall at 6.45pm.

Light Refreshments and a raffle with FREE admission, although a suggested donation of £2 per person to the Bailiffgate Museum would be welcomed.

For more details contact Jan Anderson:  
**[janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com)** .

This issue of The Column is printed by NCC Printing Services.

# The Column



**August 2024**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 132**

**Your Parish Council needs you.  
See volunteering details 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 October issue, please supply it by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** Contact Donna on **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 – July 2024**

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

As of today Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024, I have received no information from the police relating to any crime in our village or that of NOTM. In fact, I believe that this is the case since December 2021 or even before.

However, I have, along with several other villagers received a visit from individuals selling things from door to door. One said that he had sold me something last year (wishful thinking on his part). Another said, after I pointed out the Neighbourhood Watch Stickers on my door, that he had sold articles to others even though they also had got the same stickers on their doors (wishful thinking again. **I hope**).

**Just a reminder of who to contact if you are suspicious about an incident or person.**

**First of all, ring the police. By all means if you wish to do so let me know, but only after contacting the police.**

#### **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](mailto: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)*



## **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 Vyner Park, Swarland. Gates open at 11am**

This is a small but mighty Show. We're on the lookout for raffle prizes, small toys for the children's tombola and bottles of alcohol for the tipsy tombola. Any donations can be dropped off at Nelsons, Vyner Park, Swarland or email [swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com](mailto:swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com) to arrange collection.

We need volunteers to help us on the day, to take money on the gates, help with car parking, cooking on the BBQ, helping on a stall etc. We have a job and time slot to suit everyone.

Finally, if you are a local business and want to give back to the community, we're looking for sponsors.

The money we raise this year allows us to put next year's event on. Any surplus goes back into the community - with donations having previously been given to the local Brownies & Rainbows, Swarland Primary School, the Jubilee Hall Newton on the Moor, Swarland Village Hall and a promise towards the planned war memorial.

We pride ourselves on making the Show a great value family day out, with unlimited access to face painting, bouncy castle, mega slide, rodeo bull, total wipeout course, inflatable assault course and archery to name but a few, all included in the entrance fee.

The Show team looks forward to welcoming you all.

### **Swarland Craft Group**

We are pleased to announce the restart of the Swarland Craft Group on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September following our summer break. We look forward to seeing old and new members on this and every Wednesday between 1.30 and 3.30pm. The cost is £1; this includes tea / coffee.

Here's one for your diary:

SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024: Swarland Christmas Fair  
10am to 12 noon at Swarland Village Hall.

Cakes, Jewellery, Glassware, Raffle, Books,  
Tombola, Cards, Crafts, Paintings.

Entry is only £2, including tea / coffee and biscuits.

## **NotM & Swarland Parish Council - July 2024**

### **Gigabit broadband**

Following the news reported in the last edition of The Column, Alncom is moving ahead to bring gigabit broadband into Newton on the Moor. It has already contacted those households who signed-up for the voucher scheme several years ago, to check they are happy to renew their applications. We will be organising a promotional event with Alncom at the Jubilee Hall. Details to be confirmed.

### **Supporting local assets**

In the last edition, we reported on our continuing support for the two village halls in our parish. Swarland Village Hall is now preparing for a massive improvement project next year, to replace all of the windows with new double-glazing. There are a lot of windows, and they are all high up in the structure. Also, the Hall is a listed building, so formal consent is required from the County Council (NCC), which will almost certainly require the replacements to be custom-made wooden frames. The cost could be in the region of £80k. We, in the Parish Council, intend to provide financial support, and we are thinking of a grant of possibly £10k. This will not need to be made available until 2025, and so we will need to factor it into our council tax precept decision in about 6 months' time. Meanwhile, the SVH committee is working hard to prepare applications for grants from numerous additional sources, and to undertake further fund-raising events.

### **Finances**

We finalised our accounts for 2023-24 in May and made them available for public inspection, prior to the statutory audit. Our income was £24,651, and our expenditure was £23,459. These figures also include the work on the Neighbourhood Plan and climate change (SNAC), along with our contribution to the Cemetery Joint Committee. The Vyner Park charity's accounts are compiled separately. At the year-end, we increased our designated Community Assets Fund balance to £15,000, to assist with future projects.

### **Highway improvements**

NCC has contacted all Parish and Town Councils, asking for their top 3 suggestions for highway improvements within their area for possible inclusion in the 2025-26 Local Transport Plan. We will continue to prioritise and push for the improvement and maintenance of the unadopted Settlement roads in Swarland, on which NCC is currently undertaking some further work on the details. In addition, we will be happy to receive and consider further suggestions from local residents in our parish, preferably by early September. NCC uses a list of detailed criteria to judge all proposals, and there is no guarantee that whatever we put forward for the LTP will be accepted.

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## Casual vacancy

We are still seeking to fill a vacancy on our Parish 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 at [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) or 07775 060 430. PC website: [newtonswarlandpc@org.uk](mailto:newtonswarlandpc@org.uk).

## Arthur Scott, 1923 – 2024

Many of us have been saddened to learn of the death, on 15<sup>th</sup> July, of Arthur Scott, who became Swarland's first (well-known) centenarian on 8<sup>th</sup> October last year.

Born in Shilbottle, Arthur moved here with his parents in 1930, when they lived in a flat in Swarland Hall. Having attended school in Newton on the Moor, he found his permanent employment with the former Forestry Commission, and over the following decades he became familiar with most of their woods in Northumberland. This was the start of his building up the great knowledge of trees, plant life, birds and animals for which he was well known, and which he was always willing to share with anyone who asked.

In 1953, Arthur married Dorrie, a Settler's daughter, and soon they moved into Swarland Hall Cottage, where he lived until he was admitted to hospital four weeks before his death.

Arthur and Dorrie had two daughters and they and their new families remained close and very caring, especially after his wife died in 2007.

On the occasion of attaining his century, he was well and active enough to receive the many people who attended his birthday party in the Village Hall, and to plant the Sweet Chestnut tree presented by the Parish Council. He also planted a tree in Kielder, and fired the signal to begin the Kielder Marathon, and he was publicly congratulated by the Chief Executive of Forest England, who travelled north for the ceremony as Arthur was one of the longest serving members of its staff.

Arthur was also a great gardener, and answer to mole invasion, and the only life member of our Local Heritage Group, where he was often called upon to settle a neighbourhood question.

He was an enthusiastic entrant – and winner – in Swarland (now Swarland and NotM) Show since its re-emergence in 1995 and he provided the A. & D. Scott Salver for the event.

Swarland has now lost a loved and highly respected member of its community, which undoubtedly will be the poorer for his absence. But his memory will live on amongst his many friends who will miss him. As will the Red Squirrels which he worked so hard to protect from his cottage in the wood.

*Vera Vaggs, on behalf of the Scott Family.*

## News from Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (SNAC)

### Bus Service Update

The Saturday bus service has now been running for nearly four months. It's a great way to spend a few hours in either Alnwick or Morpeth – or use it to go further afield. You can find the timetable on various noticeboards around the Parish or at [Bus timetables | nexus.org.uk](https://www.nexus.org.uk).

We've been told that NCC is considering some changes to the timetable which it thinks may make the service more sustainable. We don't have full details yet, but it would be likely that the amount of time in Alnwick was increased and the time in Morpeth decreased. Travelling through to Newcastle should remain possible, with a later arrival there in the morning and an earlier departure at the end of the afternoon. Any changes wouldn't come into effect until October, but we really need to know what you think of the current service and the possible changes. You can let us know by emailing [Talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:Talktosnac@gmail.com), or phoning Jan Anderson on 07775 060430.

### Wildflower Meadow

This is a great time of year to enjoy the wildflower meadow in Vyner Park, where a number of SNAC members have recently worked with an ecologist from the Northumberland Wildlife Trust to survey the area. The good news is that it's doing really well and the management of the meadow is spot on. We'll be publishing details of the report on our website soon.

### Photography Competition

In the run up to the Swarland Show we're running a Photography Competition on the theme of 'Going Wild'. It might be a part of your garden that you've given over to wildlife, a great shot of some local wildflowers or maybe a rewilded area that you visit over the summer. Entries are welcome from younger people (12 and under) and older ones (13 and upwards!). Multiple entries are allowed and the top 3 photos in each category will be published on the SNAC website. There will also be a prize for the best entry in each category. All entries should be sent to [Talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:Talktosnac@gmail.com) by August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Follow us on Facebook, visit us at [www.snac.online](https://www.snac.online), get more details at [talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:talktosnac@gmail.com). Everyone welcome to join us at meetings.

*Liz Clark (on behalf of SNAC)*



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## **Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group (SMLHG)**

After a short summer break our new season will begin on the **10<sup>th</sup> September**, when **Chris & Margaret Lendrum** will give a talk about **Hazon and Hazon House**. Hazon House is a key historical property within our parish, so come and find out more about this hidden gem.

**Tony Henfry** will talk about **Biddlestone Chapel and the Selby family** on the **8<sup>th</sup> October**; this is a rescheduled talk from last season.

The **12<sup>th</sup> November** will see **Beth Elliot** from the National Archives come to share the findings of a research project '**Findings from the Everyday Life in a Northumbrian Manor**'.

SMLHG meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in Swarland 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*

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Following last year's very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning where over £600 was raised, we will be holding another one this year.

It will be held at Swarland Village Hall on Saturday 28th September 10am - 12pm.

Donations for the raffle would be much appreciated, which can be dropped off at 2 Studley Drive from 1st September, as well as cake donations on the day.

Many thanks and hope to see you all then to raise money for this fantastic charity.

*Elaine Fallais*

## **Swarland Village Hall Charity The 200 Club**

The 5<sup>th</sup> draw was on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Nelson's at the Park, when numbers were drawn by three randomly selected customers / staff to give the winners as:-

1. Derek Belshaw,
2. Norma Spence
3. Jane Blinks.

The 6<sup>th</sup> draw was on 22nd July and the winners were:

1. Andrew Hastie,
2. David Hutchinson,
3. Raymond Wright,

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who has contributed to this fundraising initiative. The next draw is on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 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 wish to thank everyone who responded to our request for comments on the draft Design Code during the informal consultation that ended on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Those comments have assisted in the preparation of a communication with the Design Code Consultants, AECOM, that summarises all previous requests for changes to the document and the other matters subsequently identified as a result of the informal consultation.

As mentioned in the June Column, the Steering Group has had assistance from Rob Naples and Mark Harrison from NCC, and this has been invaluable. It is pleasing to report that their comments about our draft Plan have been very positive. They have been very pleased to see that the draft Plan has clearly been written by local people with knowledge of the Parish and is thus authentic. Indeed, they said that our draft Plan has 'more original content' than any plan that they have read in Northumberland.

We are currently awaiting funding to enable AECOM to make the amendments to the Design Code that we seek. Once that comes through and the Design Code has been amended then we will be able to complete the draft Plan.

When the draft Plan has been finalised, we are required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012) (as amended) to conduct a formal consultation with residents, businesses and statutory and other bodies, that will last 6 weeks. The Plan and its supporting documents will be made available for this purpose on the Parish Council website and printed copies of the Plan will be made available to view at: The Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor; Swarland Village Hall; Nelson's at the Park. Following this stage of consultation, all comments received will be taken into consideration and the Plan may then be revised to take account of these.

We are proposing to hold at least two drop-in events during the consultation period to enable people to ask questions of the Steering Group about the draft Plan.

This will be another opportunity for you all to have your say.

**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.**

*Donna Corbin for the Neighbourhood Plan Group*

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## Alnwick & District Foodbank

Thank you to all who donate. We help many struggling people, both in the Alnwick and Rothbury areas. Our clients, who have all been referred from a designated agency, choose their own items from a set list. Most of the food we provide is non-perishable, but we also give fresh fruit/veg, eggs, bread, meat and cheese. In these harsh economic times, our clients are very appreciative of the small quantities we are able to give out. We appeal to you to please keep donating non-perishables in one of the supermarket donation boxes (Sainsburys, Morrisons, Lidl, or Nisa).

You will find a list of especially needed items on them. Pets at Home also has a donation box for dog/cat food. If you belong to a group that wants to donate a quantity of food, our volunteers are on site at the Lindisfarne Centre in Alnwick to take it between 9-10:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

If you'd rather give a financial donation, you can do that on our website: [www.alnwickdistrictfoodbank.co.uk](http://www.alnwickdistrictfoodbank.co.uk). We are entirely volunteer-led & funded, so all public money goes toward needed purchases. We would also love any extra produce from your gardens or allotments! Please don't let any of that lovely fruit & veg go to waste if you aren't able to use it yourself, but please email us directly if you want to donate anything fresh: [alnwickdistrictfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:alnwickdistrictfoodbank@gmail.com).

Many thanks!

## 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 **14<sup>th</sup> August, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December**.

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



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## Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels – July 2024

We are thrilled to have received a grant from The Ridley Family Charity towards buying new equipment and food for our latest three active group members. This equipment will help us greatly in our Red Squirrel conservation work. We are extremely grateful to The Ridley Family Charity trustees in supporting us in our efforts to save the Red Squirrels in the Lower Coquet Valley.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, we held a public meeting in Swarland Village Hall to inform residents of the perilous situation of the Red Squirrels in Swarland Wood. We were lucky enough to recruit several new volunteers and this has enabled us to monitor the wood twice daily to remove Grey Squirrels. The extra equipment, and increased workforce, will help a great deal towards keeping our local reds alive. It is, however, still a tough, uphill struggle.

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](http://www.lcreds.org.uk)) or by emailing us on [sighting@lcreds.org.uk](mailto:sighting@lcreds.org.uk).

*Wendy Fergie, Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels*

## **Twenty Years ago:**

### **The Column No. 13, September 2004**

#### **A1 Morpeth to Felton Dualling**

The Highways Agency has produced a leaflet detailing two alternative proposals for the dualling of the 13km single carriageway section of the A1 between Morpeth and Felton. Copies of the leaflet, with space for you to comment are available in Swarland Village Shop. There will be an exhibition of the proposals in Felton United Reformed Church Hall, West Thirston, on 25 (noon to 4pm) and 27 (10am to 6pm) September. Please try to attend.

**And we're still waiting!!! Ed.**

