

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

Regular quiz nights and Music events.

Membership Benefits Non-members Welcome

Well-behaved dogs allowed.

Post Office Services – see elsewhere.

For further information follow:

Facebook: **SwarlandVillageClubNEW**

Instagram: **@SwarlandVillageClub**

Felton and West Thirston WI: The WI Inspiring Women

Meetings are held in Felton Village Hall at 7.30pm
on the second Monday of the month.

Our programme for the rest of the year is:

14th October - Stoma Chameleon with Gillian Castle.

11th November - Christmas Crafts with Charlotte and Emma.

9th December - The Canny Chocolate Company.

It would be lovely to see any ladies interested come along.

Visitor fee £4.

For further information email: **feltonandthirstonwi@gmail.com** ;

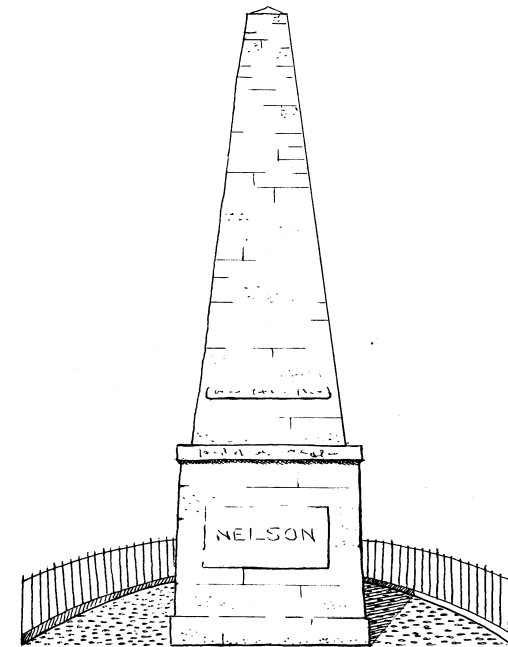
Facebook - Felton and Thirston WI;

feltonandthirstonw.wixsite.com/website;

or contact Maureen on 07763 228 035.

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The Column



October 2024

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 133

**Your Post Office is returning
soon. See 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 December issue, please supply it by Thursday 28th November 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, 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.

Neighbourhood Watch Update – September 2024

Swarland / Newton on the Moor:

As of 19/09/24 I have received no information from the police of any criminal activity in Swarland or NOTM. Once again it seems that all is quiet on the Western (or is that the North Eastern) Front. However, please remember that vigilance is never wasted.

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 , 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 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)

Swarland and NotM Show

The Swarland and Newton on the Moor Show team would like to thank every single person who helped make our Show the success it was this year.

Whether you were a visitor, an exhibitor, a sponsor, trader or volunteer, if you bought a raffle ticket or donated a prize to our raffle or tombola, we appreciate your support.

The good news is we made enough to put on next year's event, which will be on Saturday 30th August 2025. We will be replacing and upgrading some of our equipment, and building our reserve (to settle our nerves) should we have a very wet Show, as we pay for a lot of the activities and the marquees in advance. Any surplus will be given back to local community groups and projects as we do every year.

Should you like to get involved in the next Show, send us your ideas, thoughts and suggestions or even better, get involved as a sponsor or volunteer. Drop us an email at swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com – thank you.

Without you there would be no Show.

The Show Team

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 **14th August, 11th September, 9th October, 6th November and 4th December**.

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

Coffee and Chat at Nelson's

The Coffee and Chat group is a lovely gathering on the third Monday of each month, filled with lively conversations, plenty of laughter, and, of course, delicious Nelson's coffee and cake. The friendly atmosphere makes it easy for everyone to relax and enjoy each other's company and have a catch up. It's the perfect way to spend a chilly autumnal/winter afternoon, and we'd love for you to join us next time.

The dates for the next catch ups are:

Monday 21st October – 2.00pm, Monday 18th November – 1.30pm, Monday 16th December – 1.30pm.

Come along, share a cup, and be part of the fun! If you need a lift or have any queries, contact Gill on 07557 882616.

NotM & Swarland Parish Council - September 2024

Budget 2025-26

We will soon be preparing our budget and Council Tax precept for next year. Although we are sufficiently flexible to meet new demands or change direction after the new financial year has begun, it is always useful to know at this stage about any new projects which we may need to fund. Unlike recent years, there will be a noticeable rise in our precept in order to assist improvements to Swarland Village Hall and increases in our own operating costs. We are also considering provision for improvements to the rights of way network. If there are other projects which may need our support next year, please let us know as soon as possible.

Parish boundary

We have now made a formal request to the County Council for a Community Governance Review to move the parish boundary in the vicinity of the Grain Dryer and Davidson Obelisk eastwards so that it would follow the line of the A1 dual carriageway. The review will be conducted by NCC, involving full consultation with the 6 residences and other owners in the affected area. If successful, the alteration should be in place in time for next May's parish and county elections.

Road safety

Each year, NCC's Highways Department invites all c150 parish and town councils to suggest their top three priorities for capital improvements to roads and footways. We have decided to re-assert the importance of putting in place safer walking routes between our villages to connect to the X15 Arriva bus stops at Hampeth and Acton. We are also prioritising improvements to the Swarland back lanes which are 'unadopted', yet which are carriageways owned by the County Council.

Ultrafast Broadband

In recent years we have been liaising with NCC to improve broadband provision. Alncom has started to deliver the Government's Gigabit programme to install FFTP (full fibre to the premises) broadband in NotM and Newton Hall area. Swarland was connected several years ago, and Hazon is on a separate wireless system. The current availability of Gigabit Vouchers means that there is no installation charge, and monthly charges are a very reasonable £25 for a basic speed of 200Mbps (and up to £50 for 925Mbps). It is not too late to join the Voucher Scheme and get connected. Contact Alncom on 01665 604816 or via www.alncom.co.uk .

Casual vacancy

We are seeking new volunteers to join the 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 or **07775 060 430**. **PC website: newtonswarlandpc.org.uk**.

Post Office returns to Swarland

From Thursday 10th October the Post Office Outreach van will be outside Swarland Club every Thursday, from 8.15 – 9am. This service is for ALL residents in the parish. Use it or lose it.

Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

It was lovely to welcome everyone back to the hall in July following our break in June. As it's now very much common knowledge we can confirm the hall was used to film scenes in the latest Danny Boyle production, **Twenty Eight Years Later**, due for release next summer. It was very exciting for the whole village.

To thank our local residents for their patience during all the disruption, we hosted an open evening following our AGM in July. It was so nice to see everyone socialising together that it has planted a seed for another event on New Year's Eve, or Old Year's Night depending on your age. Would any of our regular supporters be interested in such an event? Maybe an end of year quiz, pooled supper, bit of music. We could even start our own tradition ringing in the New Year. Please email us at notmjubileehall@yahoo.com with your thoughts.

We are very excited to be welcoming Alncom into our village at the end of September beginning of October. As they have done in other rural villages they will be installing broadband in our hall. Now we just need to make the most of it. We are looking for a digital champion, someone to channel their inner Bill Gates, who is prepared to take responsibility for IT in the hall and to link in with other agencies and charitable concerns to source funding for equipment and training. Also to deal with any IT issues that may arise. The current trustees can provide contacts to the relevant organisations.

Any work is on a voluntary basis, but it comes with the knowledge that you're bringing a well-loved and used village hall into the twenty first century and helping people understand how information technology can make everyday life easier.

If you are interested or for further information, please send an email to notmjubileehall@yahoo.com.

Our next **Coffee Morning** is on **Saturday 12th October**, followed by **Saturday 12th November** when we will have the Great North East Air Ambulance Service raising their profile and explaining how vital they are to our rural location.

To keep up-to-date with our regular user groups, check out our website at northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk.

News from Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (SNAC)

Thanks to everyone who came along to see us at the Swarland Show. Our stall highlighted the importance of biodiversity – and with the recent report from Butterfly Conservation about the drastic decline in the number of butterflies this year it's all the more important that we do what we can to provide habitat for nature.

Bus Service Update

Thanks to everyone who gave us feedback recently about the bus service – it's been really helpful to be able to give NCC examples of what people are using the bus for - and the benefits they are getting from using it. As a result, they have agreed not to make any radical changes to the timetable, but just some relatively small changes. These changes won't come into effect until 9th November and we'll make sure that they are well publicised. In the meantime, you can find the current timetable on various noticeboards around the Parish or at **Bus timetables | nexus.org.uk**.

River Water Quality

Following the recent launch of the Coquet River Action Group in September, we've arranged a talk in November which will focus on the burns and tributaries in the parish, the issues associated with them and the testing that is now being done by CRAG and SNAC. The talk is open to everyone and is on Tuesday 15th November at 6pm in Swarland Club.

And finally

We're always keen to welcome new members. There are lots of ways to get involved - whether that's coming along to meetings, getting involved in specific projects or signing up to receive our monthly updates. Find out more at www.snac.online.

Liz Clark (on behalf of SNAC)

Swarland Village Calendar

Many of you may be aware that fundraising has been taking place to have a War Memorial within Vyner Park. A photo competition was held on social media and from the results of that, the Swarland Village Calendar 2025 was produced, very kindly sponsored by Swarland Village Club. All photos were taken in Swarland.

This limited-edition Calendar is available to purchase from Swarland Village Club or we can deliver to you in Swarland. Calendars are £12 each.

Please contact Karen 07813 016 197. Perfect Christmas gift.

**Deadline for items for the December issue of
The Column: Thursday 28th November 2024**

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group (SMLHG)

The new season of our Heritage Group's talks starts in September. We want to say we hope that you all enjoyed the summer break, but given the mixed weather, that may not be wise.

Lesley Selfe has been diligently and successfully putting together yet another excellent programme of talks for our next season. Her hard work has resulted in a diverse range of topics on this list that are bound to pique the interest of all of you. So, mark up your diaries - make sure that all your second Tuesday evenings of each month, September to December 2024 and February to June 2025, are free.

Our programme for this season is:

- 8th October: Tony Henfrey – “Biddlestone Chapel and the Selby family”.
- 12th November: Beth Elliot – “All Manor of Things: findings from everyday life in a Northumbrian manor”.
- 11th February: Juliette Phipps – “The History of Brinkburn Priory”.
- 11th March: Alistair Anderson – “My Life in Music”.
- 8th April: David Jones – “Dere Street - its Life and Times”.
- 13th May: an Embleton Quarry Volunteer – “The Restoration of Embleton Quarry”.
- 10th June: Elizabeth Finch – “The Families of Wallington”.
-

Lesley Selfe and Phil Eastlake

SWARLAND VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

To all who have joined the 200 Club.

The money raised for the hall will be put to good use,
so a big 'Thank You' to you all.

The 8th draw took place at Nelsons on Monday 19th August.

Numbers were drawn by 3 randomly selected customers/staff and the 3 lucky winners were:

First prize - Anonymous
Second prize - Julie Thomson
Third prize - Sonya Henderson.

The winners of the latest draw on 23rd September were:

First prize - No. 39
Second prize - Julie Charlton
Third prize - John Mason
Congratulations to you all

Come and join us.

You never know it could be your number next!!!

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is still awaiting funding to enable AECOM to make the amendments to the Design Code that they seek. The Steering Group has been chasing the funding via Locality which has confirmed that there are delays with funding being signed off by Government, but that they have no reason to believe that the application will not be signed off. Rob Naples at NCC, as a local planning authority, has confirmed that this certainly fits with their experience of claiming Neighbourhood Plan funding this year.

Obviously, as soon as the funding is approved, the Steering Group will be arranging for the Design Code to be amended and then it will be able to complete the draft Plan.

Just to re-iterate what was said in the last issue of The Column, once the draft Plan has been finalised, the Steering Group (on behalf of the Parish Council) is 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: Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor; Swarland Village Hall and 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.

The Steering Group is proposing to hold at least 2 drop-in events during the consultation period, to enable people to ask questions of them 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 Group) either by email: SNSG23@outlook.com , marked 'For the attention of Liz' or by phone on 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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We are thinking of holding a 'Board Games' afternoon
Which will take place once a month in Swarland Village Hall

A variety of board games and playing cards will be available.
But strip poker is strictly forbidden!!! 😊😊😊😊

We hope this will be a fun afternoon for all.

Come along have a natter, a laugh and beat your friends at a game.
Refreshments will be served

To cover the costs we would be asking for £2 per person attending

If you would be interested then please email Julie or Alison on the email addresses
belowplease tell your friends who are not on Facebook

julie9762564@gmail.com

alisonheal@hotmail.com

We can only set this up if people want to attend



Swarland Village Hall

WINEFEST

Saturday 19th October 2024
7.30pm. Doors open 7pm

Tickets £6 per person (+ bottle of wine, no more than £8)
available from Nelson's at the Park, Swarland Club
and Sheila (on 07855 491623).

Raffle, pooled supper.

All proceeds go to support the SVH Charity

Swarland Christmas Fair

Saturday 16th November from 10am to 12 pm.

Entry to the Fair is £2; this includes tea or coffee and biscuits.

This is a chance to buy many special Christmas gifts or to meet up
with old friends at the Swarland Village Hall.

We would be very grateful for the donation of raffle prizes to raise
money for the Air Ambulance or gifts for the tombola.

We would also be grateful for donations of cakes on the day to
help support our Craft Group.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with
Lesley at 01670 786140 or philydor@gmail.com .

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels – July 2024

We had an excellent day at the Swarland and Newton on the Moor Show on the 31st August. There was a lot of interest in our local Red Squirrels and we talked to people non-stop all day. It's surprising the misconceptions people have about Grey Squirrels, so having a stall gives us another opportunity to talk to people about the detrimental effect they have on the UK habitat and, in particular, how they cause the death of our native Red Squirrels. Being bigger, stronger and more aggressive, the North American Grey Squirrels drive our native Reds off food sources, such as hazel bushes and beech trees. The Reds starve. When short of food, they don't breed and malnutrition leaves them vulnerable to diseases they would normally shrug off. If a Red comes in to contact with a Grey, either directly or via a feeder, the Grey can pass on Squirrel Pox Virus, which is a death sentence for Reds. If that Red associates with other Reds before it dies, the virus can very quickly spread through the Red colony, potentially killing all of the Reds in that area. It's a slow and painful death which takes up to 14 days. Red Squirrels die out when Grey Squirrels move in. This is why Red Squirrels no longer exist in the majority of England and are endangered in the rest of the UK. The Grey Squirrel population continues to grow quickly in the UK and the reality is - Live Grey Squirrels = Dead Red Squirrels.

There are over 30 Red Squirrel conservation groups over Northumberland and Cumbria, working hard to try and keep the remaining English Reds alive. There are more across Southern Scotland trying to slow the march of the Greys northwards in to the remaining Red strongholds. It's an uphill struggle against the odds, but we won't give up.

You can follow us by joining our Facebook group - Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels.

Please report any squirrels you see via our website www.lcreds.org.uk or by email to sighting@lcreds.org.uk .

Ian Lakey, Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels

Friends of Swarland Village Hall

The SVH team is inviting residents with an interest in sometimes helping out with tasks in and about the Hall. If you have a skill you think might be of use to help promote, develop and / or improve your Hall, please get in touch with Steve (**Family.Woolrey@ outlook .com** or **01670 787 883**) or anyone else on the team. Someone has already volunteered to help with Secretarial duties as Bryan Stanley will be standing down from this role soon (after almost 30 years in post).

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