

Swarland Village Action Group Committee:

Chairman: Neil Mansfield.
Treasurer: Susan Richardson.
Committee Members: Robert 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.

For further information follow:

Facebook: [SwarlandVillageClubNEW](#)
Instagram: [@SwarlandVillageClub](#)

For enquiries email Swarlandclub@gmail.com

Felton and West Thirston WI welcome visitors and new members to attend their meetings at Felton Village Hall on the 2nd Monday of the month, 7.15 for 7.30pm start.

It's a great opportunity to meet up and make new friends.

Visitors £5

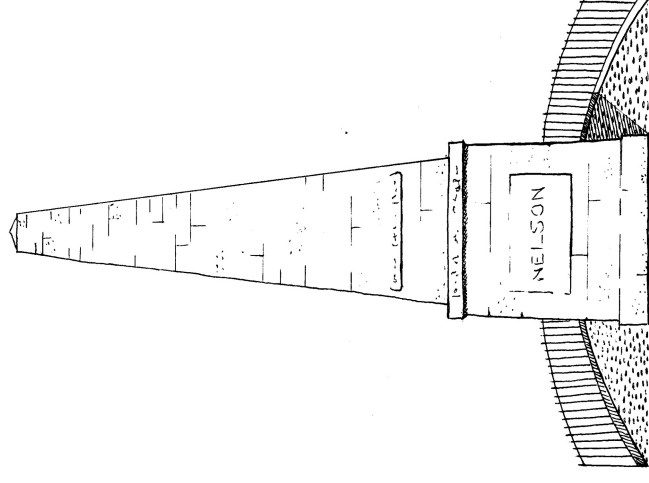
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Mobile Post Office Service:

Stops opposite the Square, by the bus shelter, **9.00-10.00 Thursdays**

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The Column



February 2026

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 141

**News and Events to take you into
Spring . . .**

The future of The Column

As many of you already know, my husband Bryan died on 3rd January after a 3-month illness. Thank you so much for your many thoughtful cards and messages – I appreciate them, and they indicate how well-known and well-liked he was.

He'd put together The Column from its inception in 2002 when Swarland Village Action was still quite new and active (its function has now largely been replaced by SNAC and other community groups, and its future is another matter for discussion). While he was ill, Carolyn & Chris Letts kindly offered to pull the December issue together with a bit of help from me, and have done so again for this issue. However, we need to look at its future. We know many people still appreciate a hard copy newsletter pulling together news and information whereas others consider that given the availability of on-line sources, it is now superfluous.

Would anyone like to take it on in its present or a different form? If so, please get in touch - full training can be given!

Currently, once each issue is completed, it is sent to NCC Printing Dept, I collect it, divide it up and deliver it to our excellent team of distributors (thank you all) who get it out to 450 households. I do Newton on the Moor, some of Swarland and the outlying farms. I'll be happy to continue with arranging distribution and my deliveries if it continues in its present form.

I'd appreciate your comments and views – please contact me by Wednesday 25th March via maxitoby1@gmail.com in time for the April issue.

Suzanne Stanley

From the Archive: Swarland Village Action October 2003

Since the Group's last meeting on 11th September 2003, I have at last made contact with NCC Highways Department. Despite the fact that documents posted to them have gone missing in transit, and that some NCC Highways Department employees were off sick, on holiday, or moving office, we now appear to be making some progress. I have sent them further copies of the documents, and they do not appear to have any major objections to the plans for The Square. We are currently consulting further and hope to soon be able to seek grant aid for its development.

Bryan Stanley, Secretary

Neighbourhood Watch Update

There were 2 crimes recorded in Oct. 2025 within one mile of Nile Drive:

Anti-social behaviour.

Violence/sexual offence - this crime is under investigation.

During Nov. 2025, 2 crimes were reported:

Anti-social behaviour.

Theft (on or near a parking area) – this crime is still under investigation

To report a crime or incident to Northumbria Police, visit <https://www.northumbria.police.uk/>, call 101 or in an emergency dial 999.

You should report cyber crime and fraud from now on via Report Fraud, <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/> or call them on 0300 123 2040.

NW Co-ordinator, Harold Hinchliffe, 2 Nile Drive, Swarland. Tel. 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 similarly make a donation.

Jones portable electric sewing machine with fittings, in carrying case. This was actually my mother-in-law's and is probably 1970s. It was working the last time I used it some years ago! It would no doubt benefit from servicing. **Free** to anyone interested – text or ring to arrange a viewing. 07484 347 181.

Deadline for items for the April Issue of The Column: Thursday 26th March 2026. Send items to maxitoby1@gmail.com or carolyn.letts@btinternet.com, or phone 01670 787916.

News from Newton and Swarland Action on Climate – SNAC

The Power of Ponds

Dr Mike Jeffries, freshwater ecologist at Northumbria University and a trustee of Northumberland Wildlife Trust, will be talking about **The Power of Ponds** at our meeting on **Tuesday March 17th at 6pm in Swarland Club**. Mike will explain why ponds provide such great habitats for wildlife, talk about their importance for storing carbon and answer all your pond-related questions!

The talk is FREE, and all are welcome.

Get hands-on in Swarland Wood

We're holding another volunteering event in conjunction with Forestry England on **March 21st** to continue clearing invasive species from around the former Boating Lake in Swarland Wood. To sign up, email **Talktosnac@gmail.com** with 'Boating Lake' as the subject, by the end of Wednesday 18th March. For registration purposes please indicate whether you participated in the last volunteer day in October, or are a newcomer.

The day will run from 10.00 to 3.00 but there is no requirement to stay for the whole period – just do what you can!

Bus Service

Last year, we were told by Northumberland County Council that they had plans to add an additional service to the 415 timetable. This has now been delayed, and their latest estimate is that this may happen in July.

We are also unfortunately no further forward with securing a service on a weekday. We're continuing to make the case with NCC about the need for the service and exploring alternative ways that rural bus services can be provided.

Get Involved

If you'd like to get involved, why not come along to one of our meetings. To find out more details, visit **www.snac.online** or email us at **Talktosnac@gmail.com**

Liz & Carolyn

Swarland Village Hall

The Hall is run as a community facility and is available for hire. Bookings can be made online using our Hallmaster Booking System. Please visit our website www.swarlandvillagehall.com to get further information on activities and facilities available and to make a booking enquiry, or contact Anne Raine, Booking Secretary at anne.raine.svh@gmail.com.

SVH Regular Activities

Monday:

Swarland Carpet Bowls: 1.30 to 3.30pm – All equipment provided, please contact Harold on 07713 097250 for further information.

Archery Practice: 7pm to 9pm. The Club can supply all equipment. Contact Steve on 01670 787883 for more information.

Tuesday:

Mindful Movement & Meditation: 12noon to 1pm. New classes have just started, for further details contact Aly by email: contact@theminddepartment.com

Pilates: 5.30pm to 6.15pm. For details contact Alix on 07940 009150 or email alixwestgarthtaylor@hotmail.com

Adult Ballet: 7pm to 8.15pm. Interested in giving it a go? Then contact Alison on 07703 154777 or email alison@allensunlimited.net

Wednesday:

Qigong for Health (Chinese Energy Exercise): 10am to 11am (Class full) and 11.15am to 12.15pm (waiting list for this class). For details contact Anne on 07934 425844

Swarland Craft Group: 1.30 to 3.30pm. New members welcome. All enquiries to Kathryn on 07718 201859.

Swarland Voices: 5pm to 6.30pm. Our local choir; for further details contact Donna on 07506 036255.

Coquet Concert Band: 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Band practice night, for more details contact Andy Taylor (Conductor) 07832 249699 or Derek (Band Secretary) 07891 245201 or email coquetconcertband@gmail.com

Thursday:

Yoga: 6pm to 6.45pm. For details contact Alix on 07940 009150 or email alixwestgarthtaylor@hotmail.com

Conversational French: 7pm to 8pm. Contact David on 07775 934847 for more details

Friday:

Irish Dance Class: Children 4.45pm to 5.45pm. Please contact Julie on 07838 535131 for further information.

Swarland Village Hall Monthly Quiz Nights: Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start & entry is £3 per person. Purchase your drinks from the SVH Bar, nibbles are provided. All welcome, make a team (Max size = 8) and come and test your knowledge against our various Quiz Masters! **Next dates are – Fri. 13th February & 11th April 2026. (No March quiz)**

Saturday:

Swarland Village Hall Coffee Mornings: 10am to 12noon every 4th Saturday of the month. Entry: £3.50 - Hot beverage & savoury or sweet treat or £4 – Hot beverage & a Bacon or Sausage bun. Raffle! All welcome, your support is very much appreciated. **Next 3 dates are – Saturday 28th February, 28th March & 25th April 2026.**

Crafty Friends: meets on the 4th Saturday of each month – 1.30pm to 3.30pm. For more information, please contact Linda on 07789 887424.

One-off SVH Events- Many thanks to all who came along to the December Christmas Quiz and Saturday 20th Coffee Morning, two very busy events and great to see everyone enjoying them. A special thanks to Swarland Voices for leading the carol singing.

If you would like to hear more of Swarland Voices they are holding their very own **Concert on Saturday 14th March from 3pm to 5.30pm** and invite you to come along. Tea/coffee and homemade cakes will also be served, no ticket price but donations would be greatly appreciated as all funds raised are for the Hall.

In the meantime if you're free on **Saturday 7th February, between 3pm and 7pm, SVH are holding their first 60's, 70's & 80's Disco!** Entry is £4 per person and it's adults only, many thanks. Reserve a table for you and your friends, email Linda at lindaoldroyd57@gmail.com

Further details on all SVH events can be found via the Village & SVH notice boards and Facebook pages, please keep a look-out. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Anne Raine (on behalf of the SVH Team)

From the Archive – The Column October 2003

Swarland Outdoor Scheme has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 2002 . . . and we will be able to start building Swarland Playground by Spring 2004.

So the Vynar Park playground outside Nelson's (which opened in 2016) is now 22 years old!
Suzanne Stanley

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.

Volunteers can provide:

Phone calls to check you are well, or just 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 & NotM Show 2026

'Save the date'

This year's Swarland & Newton on the Moor Show will be on Saturday 5th September 2026 and will be open to the public between 11am and 4pm.

There will be a full update on our plans in the next edition of The Column.

If you would like to get involved or have an idea please drop the show team an email at swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com

Show Team

Count-down to spring at the Jubilee Hall

Saturday 14th February 10am - noon
Coffee morning (with pancakes)

Thursday 26th February 12.30 - 4pm
Soup and games

Saturday 14th March 19am - noon
Irish themed coffee morning (in honour of St Patrick's Day!)

Tuesday 24th March 12.30 - 4pm
Soup and games

Saturday 11th April 10am - noon
Coffee morning and plant sale

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group (SMLHG)

The 2025/2026 season will recommence on the 10th February 2026 with a talk by Peter Reed, Chairman of the Alnwick Civic Society. Peter will talk about Alnwick's history and how it reflects the County's history, from the Norman invasion to the relentless battles with the Scots. The talk will be an opportunity to find out more about this 'typical' Northumbrian market town.

On the 10th March 2026 John Davidson, the chairman of the Northumbrian Language Society will talk about the Northumbrian language: its past, future and how to keep it.

On the 14th April 2025 Linda Bankier from the Northumberland Archives will talk about The Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords.

SMLHG 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 Selve / Phil Eastlake

Mobile Library dates

The NCC mobile library comes to our parish on some Wednesdays. The Library van can be hailed to stop at any safe point(s) along the route. The frequency of the visits is now every **three weeks, see below:**

Dates of Visits:

Mitford to Embleton Terrace	4 Feb, 25th Feb, 18th March and so forth..		
Week 3 Wednesday	Mitford - Fontside	NE61 3PS	10:10 10:30
Week 3 Wednesday	Burgham Park	NE65 9QP	11:00 11:20
<u>Week 3 Wednesday</u>	<u>Swarland, The Square</u>	<u>NE65 9JQ</u>	<u>11:35 11:55</u>
<u>Week 3 Wednesday</u>	<u>Swarland School</u>	<u>NE65 9JP</u>	<u>12:00 12:20</u>
<u>Week 3 Wednesday</u>	<u>Newton-On-The-Moor</u>	<u>NE65 9JY</u>	<u>12:30 12:50</u>
Week 3 Wednesday	Longfram, Church Street	NE65 8DL	14:20 14:40
Week 3 Wednesday	Longfram, Cheviot View	NE65 8BG	14:25 14:55
Week 3 Wednesday	Embleton Terrace	NE66 8JJ	15:30 15:50

You can check NCC's website for further new library information - <https://northumberland.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRNGEN/WPAC/MOBILELIBRARY> Select **West Mobile Library Route.**

SWARLAND VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

To join please complete the form on the Hall's Facebook page or contact lin88.svh@gmail.com.

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.

At the December draw the 3 lucky winners were:
No. 51, No.129 and No. 158.

At the January draw the 3 winners were:
No. 71, No. 73 and No. 182.

Congratulations to you all. Come and join us. 6
You never know - it could be your number next!!!

Solar Panels

Swarland Village Hall is looking into the possibility of having solar panels installed. They would be on the south side roof (facing the club). This would help in keeping the cost of electricity at a reduced rate for a number of years and reduce the carbon footprint of the hall.

Anyone with any concerns/comments please email lindaoldroyd57@gmail.com.

We will also be looking to set up a date for a meeting with any villagers who are interested or have any queries/concerns.

Deadline for items for the April Issue of The Column: Thursday 26th March 2026. Send items to maxitoby1@gmail.com or carolyn.lettis@btinternet.com, or phone 01670 787916.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

1. As you may know from the last Column article and the notices posted around the parish, the Regulation 16 consultation that is conducted by NCC with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan commenced on 10th December 2025 and closed on 28th January 2026.
2. NCC will now prepare a schedule of the comments received on the Plan right up to the close of the consultation. This schedule will then be sent to the Examiner.
3. The Examiner, who was appointed by NCC in December, has been given access to all documents both on the NCC website and the PC website. He may also have undertaken an unaccompanied site visit.
4. The Examiner now has to consider the comments received by NCC and whether any of them raises a challenge to the Plan complying with the Basic Conditions for neighbourhood plans ie., that policies in the Neighbourhood Plan do not conflict with local or national policies. As both our Planning Consultant and now NCC have certified that they are happy that our Neighbourhood Plan complies with the Basic Conditions, we very much hope that the Examiner will not find otherwise.
5. We are hopeful that the comments will be with the Examiner by the first or second week in February and this will likely mean that the Examiner's report will be made before the end of February.
6. NCC then has to share the report with us if there is anything contentious and we can make representations. NCC then decides whether to accept any changes to the Neighbourhood Plan that the Examiner has suggested and NCC then makes the changes. At this point NCC starts the process of setting up a referendum.
7. All residents of the parish who are registered to vote will be invited to vote at the referendum and there will be at least one if not two polling stations. There will be notices and advertising about this and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be encouraging people to vote and offering a lift to anyone who needs help getting to the polling station.
8. You may have noted that the Parish Council responses to planning applications, particularly that for Percy Wood Golf Course, have been able to refer to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. At the date of this publication the Plan has gained considerable strength and will be stronger still once the Examiner's report has been delivered. We have been able to use paragraph 51 of the National Planning Policy Framework to suggest that the application at Percy Wood has been made prematurely because of the provisions of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan with regard to, for example, the Percy Wood Golf Course and also Whittle Colliery.

It is heartening to see how much support there is for the Policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan both from the residents of Swarland and the wider parish. Thank you to all of you. It makes the hard work of the last two and a half years seem worthwhile.

We very much hope that the Neighbourhood Plan will pass the referendum stage with a resounding 'yes' vote from as many of you as possible so that the Plan is taken into consideration in all planning applications thereafter until 2036. Work will be ongoing for any changes that may be needed over time and a replacement to ensure that the parish continues to enable development whilst protecting that which is special beyond 2036.

Donna Corbin, Chair, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

NotM & Swarland Parish Council

After our Christmas break, I can now report on matters from our January Meeting.

I am pleased to announce our new Parish Councillor is Donna Corbin; Donna has headed up the Neighbourhood Plan team and will bring a wealth of knowledge to the PC. Welcome to the team Donna!

I can also give an update on the Swarland back roads: with help from Trevor Thorne we will be meeting Mark Mather from NCC, probably in March, in the hope that we can get closer to the adoption of some of the Swarland back roads. At the January PC meeting Trevor added that while progress has been slow there still has been movement and we have an agreement on 10 of the 12 roads. I would like to thank Councillor Thorne for the help he has given in this matter.

I would also like to thank Rob Simpson and the team of volunteers for the construction of the War Memorial / Garden of Remembrance in Vyner Park, which looks fantastic and is a job well done by the team.

There was further discussion about the PC precept for the years 2026/27 and we were all in agreement that it needs to be raised to cover planned expenditure. It pains me as I know the increase is significant but should only be for the next year. We should be able to reduce back to a more sustainable level after this.

We have requested a Precept of £40,000. This will allow us to give another £5,000 to Swarland Village Hall when they get the window grant. This will make £10,000 in total from the PC. The aim is to also restore the PC's banked reserve to £17-20,000 at the end of the year to cover for any emergency within the Parish.

Mark Whiteley

