

**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.

**Write it Down Now**

Please supply information to the Editor for  
inclusion in the December issue by  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**



The cost of production of this issue of  
The Column has been met by  
**Newton on the Moor  
& Swarland Parish Council**  
and  
**Swarland Club**

The Club provides a newspaper service for our area.  
All daily newspapers are catered for along with the sale  
of bread, eggs and milk.

**This service is currently open  
from 7.30 to 10am every day**

Newspapers and magazines may be ordered and reserved.

Call, Text or WhatsApp **Louise on 07502 477 734,**

Find us on Facebook (Swarland WMC Paper Shop),  
or phone SWM Club on 01670 787 825.

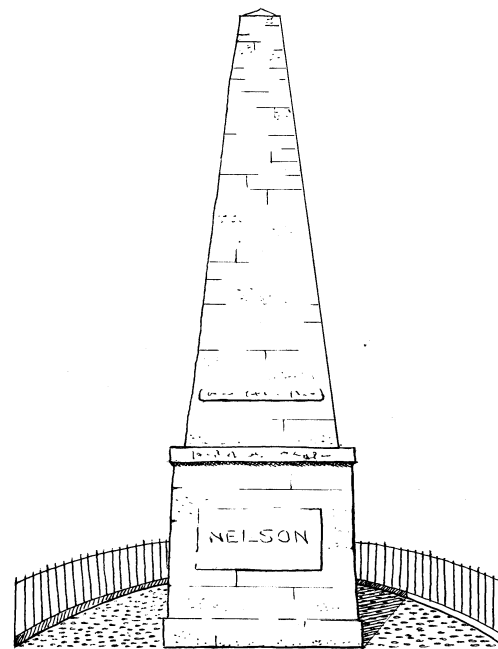
The Post Office is now providing its  
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Tel. 01670 787 825

Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

# The Column



**October 2022**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 121**

**Swarland & NotM Firework Display  
at Vyner Park – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.  
See inside for details.**

Welcome to your latest 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 26<sup>th</sup> November. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

We are no longer using the NCC Communities Together Scheme to arrange printing for us. Thanks for its help over the past 18 months.

### **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 are on **12<sup>th</sup> October, 16<sup>th</sup> November and 14<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) .

### **Swarland Village Hall**

The Hall, which is run as a community facility, is available for hire. **Please support this local amenity.** If you wish to check on whether you can book the Hall for a future event, please contact Bryan Stanley (contact details elsewhere in this issue) or Steve Woolfrey ([stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com](mailto:stevewoolfrey.PC@outlook.com) or 01670 787 883). **Please note that activities are now back to normal as the Hall refurbishment is almost complete.**

**Archery Practice: Mondays (indoors) at 7pm.** For information on extra outdoor sessions held throughout the summer contact **Steve** on [Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com](mailto:Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com) or **01670 787 883**. The Club can supply all equipment.

**Crafty Friends: meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning of each month.** For more information contact Anne on **07934 425 844**.

**Karate Classes: Tuesdays 5.30 - 8.30pm.** Contact **Ashleigh Davidson** on **07947 694 014** or **07930 838 872**.

**Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class: Wednesdays, 10 – 11 and 11.15 – 12.15.** Waiting lists are currently full – for details contact Anne Raine on **07934 425 844**.

**Swarland Craft Group: Wednesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm.** New members are welcome. All enquiries to: **Margaret on 01670 787 705**.

**Swarland Carpet Bowls: Thursdays, 7pm.** New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, contact **Malcolm or Joan Nesbit** on **01670 783 140**.

**Pilates Classes: Thursdays, 9.30 - 10.30am.** To join in contact [sandyturnbull6@gmail.com](mailto:sandyturnbull6@gmail.com) . Possible Monday class soon as well.

## **Neighbourhood Watch Update – September 2022**

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

Once again, I am happy to report that I have received no news from the police regarding any crime in our two villages.

There have however been numerous cases of poaching in other areas viz. Eglingham, Hexham and Shotley Bridge.

On the night of Wednesday 25/09/22, a rural crime operation took place focusing on mid to north Northumberland around Belsay, Stannington, the A697 corridor Longhorsley, Longframlington, Powburn and Rothbury. A total of 28 vehicles were stopped and checked. There was one arrest for Drug / Drive offences and one vehicle was uplifted for lack of insurance.

I have included the above to show the importance of cooperation between police and the public. Vigilance is important and community action does help to prevent crime.

### **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.01670 783 669 or Mob.07713 097 250*

## **BONFIRE NIGHT FUN IN VYNER PARK, SWARLAND**

The bonfire and fireworks are back as usual at Vyner Park, Swarland. Fireworks start 7pm.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**6pm-8pm**

Pay on the gate. Drinks, Food & Raffle available.  
£4 for adults and £1 for school-age children.

**Event sponsored by Harrison Leisure.**

**Deadline for items for the December issue of  
The Column: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

## Update from Vyner Park – September 2022

I would like to take the opportunity to update the community on Vyner Park since the last one was over a year ago. Improvements to the Park have continued into 2022. The machine for cleaning the Bowling Green has been updated and serviced, and replacement sand put underneath the matting, which has significantly improved the playing surface. In August a group of volunteers spent over 3 days replacing the east-side fence of the Children's Play Area. There are also plans to improve some of the children's play equipment. Small improvements have also been made to the Football Pitch, safety barriers put up to protect the east-side culvert and minor functional changes made to the Pavilion. The Park is being used by more and more residents, which is excellent. The Football Team regularly plays matches in the winter, and there are also Walking Netball and Walking Football groups that are using the MUGA regularly. The Tennis Courts and Bowling Green are used by both regular users and on a more casual ad hoc basis. A Boot Camp has just started on Tuesday evenings on the MUGA. **Currently no formal charges are made for the use of these facilities, but users are asked for a donation to help pay for maintenance and future improvements.**

The Platinum Jubilee event in June was a great success. Many people utilised the field for a picnic. Thanks to the small group who organised the event, particularly the entertainment, and the tree planting.

The Swarland and NotM Show was held in the Park in early September. This was an extremely well-attended and successful event – no doubt more details will be available from the Show Committee.

Unfortunately, some dog owners do not clear up after their dogs, in both the enclosed dog-run area and the surrounding walking areas; this continues to be not just a problem to all users, but potentially a dangerous health risk. The Committee really does not want to restrict the use of the Park for dog owners or have to fine those caught for not clearing up after their dog, but the actions of a few selfish individuals are affecting the enjoyment and enjoyment by the many. Reports of individual dog owners acting irresponsibly have been made to the Committee. If someone is caught, they will be named and shamed, in addition to receiving the mandatory £100 fine. Please do the right thing - clean up after your dog every time: there is no excuse for not doing so.

Don't forget, the Bonfire is back, taking place on Friday 4th November. Gates opening at 6:00 pm and fireworks start at 7:00 pm. Bar and food available. It's a great family event, please do come along! All proceeds go towards future Park improvements and next year's Bonfire Night.

*Steve Woolfrey, Chairman, Management Committee, Vyner Park Charity.  
01670 787883 and [steve.woolfrey@outlook.com](mailto:steve.woolfrey@outlook.com)*

## NotM & Swarland Parish Council - September 2022

### **Parish council budget 2023-24**

In November, we will be planning our expenditure and income for the next financial year, which starts in April 2023. The greatest part of our income comes from our precept, which is part of the Council Tax bill that every household in the parish pays. We do not receive any of the business rates. We will continue to make contributions towards the running costs of the three community asset charities in our area: Jubilee Hall, Swarland Village Hall, and Vyner Park. In addition, we are open to suggestions for any further projects or opportunities which may need our support: please let us know, preferably by mid-November.

### **Parish Council vacancies**

We were pleased to co-opt Mark Whitely, of Kenmore Road, into membership of our parish council at our September meeting. We still have one vacancy remaining. Written expressions of interest are invited (no more than 400 words) from anywhere in the parish. Please contact Jan, our clerk, if you would like to learn more about the role and the council.

### **Planning policy**

As we have previously reported, the County Council adopted the new Northumberland Local Plan in March 2022, after a 14-year partial 'policy vacuum' without detailed local policies. There are now detailed policies in place prescribing what will, and will not, be permitted within and outside the tightly-drawn settlement boundaries of Swarland and Newton on the Moor. At our September meeting, we received a presentation from NCC's planning team about neighbourhood plans (NPs). They cannot contradict or subvert existing planning policies, but NPs can in some circumstances add value to the available suite of national and county policies. Although the new county plan has largely overtaken the need for parish-level NPs, there is still scope to prepare a NP to guide, for example, social housing developments in the open countryside, and the design of new housing estates. The Parish Council needs to consider whether there would be any merit in preparing a NP for our parish area, if there are any aspects of current policy that could benefit from additional local detail. An NCC briefing about NPs is available on our parish council website.

**PC Clerk, Jan Anderson - [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) or 07775 060 430.**

**PC website: [newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk](http://newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk).**

### **SWARLAND CRAFT FAIR**

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Swarland Village Hall**

10.00 - 12.00

Local Arts and Crafts

£2.00 to include tea/coffee/juice & Biscuits (children free)

**Raffle for the Great North Air Ambulance**

## Jubilee Hall Newton on the Moor

Our next Coffee Morning is on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October** at the normal time of 10.00 – 12.00 when we shall have our usual splendid fare of Jen's scones, cakes & traybakes along with some gluten free options.

On **Saturday evening 8<sup>th</sup> October** we shall be hosting An Evening of Traditional Music with Alnwick Pipers, and guest Pauline Cato, the well-known Northumbrian piper. To book a table, contact Susan on 01665 711977. £5 at the door, bring your own snacks and a BAR will be provided by the Jubilee Hall.

Our November coffee morning will be on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November**.

In July we held our first Table Top Sale, along with refreshments of coffee/tea and biscuits. Although it was extremely well supported by sellers, unfortunately, there weren't many buyers. We hope to try another one in the Autumn/Winter when it isn't holiday time and we can advertise more widely.

We have our regular **Carpet Bowls** on Tuesday evenings from 7pm. New members are always welcome.

The **Hall Fiddle Group** meets twice a month. Contact Susan Clark 01665 711977. The Fiddlers are available for hire.

On the first Sunday of the month, 2.00pm - 3.30pm, the **Alnwick Pipers** meet. All welcome to play or listen. Contact Susan Clarke 01665 711977. Alnwick Pipers are also available for hire.

The Hall is available to hire at the following rates: Hourly charge for the use of the Main Hall including heating and the use of the kitchen for light refreshments £10.00. Hourly rate for the use of the Reading Room and kitchen for light refreshments £8.00. To book email [notmjubileehall@yahoo.com](mailto:notmjubileehall@yahoo.com) or call Judy Williams on 01665 581531.

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

## Support for Newton on the Moor & Swarland Residents

This is just a reminder that even though the Covid pandemic is hopefully nearly over, support is still available from the 45 residents in the parish who first volunteered to help their neighbours during the Coronavirus Emergency. The sort of support the volunteers can provide is as follows:

- Phone calls to check you are well and not needing help.
- Phone calls for a chat.
- Collection of prescriptions.
- Collection/delivery of food.

If you need help, email (if possible) [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) or telephone 07775 060 430 preferably during office hours.

*Best wishes, Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)*

## **The Winefest is back!**

To be held in Swarland Village Hall on  
**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm.**

A fun-filled evening for all!

Tickets, £6 each, available from Nelson's at the Park or Sheila (01670 787883).

Each participant has to submit one bottle of wine (maximum value £7) in the colour they wish to taste, labelled with their full name, to Nelson's, by **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022** at the latest.

Remember to bring a glass, plate and cutlery on the night!

There will also be a pooled supper and a raffle.

All proceeds in aid of Village Hall funds.

## Percy Wood Caravan Park – update on the Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate

Not really a lot to report as the appeal decision has not yet been made by the Planning Inspector but she did visit the site on the 6<sup>th</sup> September – she parked in the Springwood and spent time looking at the site from there, including taking photos and making notes. We then saw her standing in the middle of the driving range and wandering up the path, again taking photos and making notes. After the site visit, she will write her report and then make a decision. I have been told that this could take 5 to 6 weeks so we are looking at mid-October for the final result. Watch this space!

As you may know, we engaged a solicitor to write a response for the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the residents of Swarland – the document he submitted was excellent and well worth his fee! We could not have produced such a well written response ourselves. His invoice was for £1795.50 plus VAT £395.10 making a total of £2154.60. Some residents offered to contribute to the payment of the invoice and Richard and I were absolutely amazed by the number of people who offered to help – in total £1765 was raised. We are truly grateful for the contributions made by residents and would like to thank everyone! Whatever the outcome, Swarland has done its best to stop Harrison Leisure from spoiling our village with 60 or more unsightly caravans – well done everyone!

Fingers crossed that I have good news for the residents in the December edition of The Column!

*Jackie and Richard Stent*

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The Column: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

## Proposed new bus service for Swarland and NotM.

Following the public meeting with Neil Easton, NCC is proposing to commission a new twice-a-week service, to start early in 2023. There will be a return off-peak bus, running to Alnwick on one day and to Morpeth on the other. This will be in addition to the NEED bus, which currently runs to Alnwick on Wednesdays. We do not want the new service to be in competition with NEED, so would wish to avoid them both running on the same day. At this point, buses will run on weekdays, although a Saturday service may be possible at a later date.

Neil is very eager to develop this service in consultation with parish residents, so we need your help again! We would welcome your thoughts on the following questions:

- On which days should the bus run? Is it important that the bus runs on market days?
- How long would you like to spend in Alnwick and in Morpeth? The service will aim to provide a reasonable amount of time in the destination. Most people seem to find 2-3 hours best, to allow enough time to do things comfortably, but avoiding too much hanging about.
- The service will be off-peak, so the earliest outward bus would be around 9.30. It could be later in the day to give passengers time over lunch at their destination or could return around lunchtime. Would you like a morning trip, or across the lunch period?
- Are there any services (e.g. X14, X15) you would like to connect with?
- There will be a number of stops for people to get on and off. Minimally in Swarland these are likely to be at The Square and at Leamington Lane crossroads, just outside the school. In NotM, minimally the Jubilee Hall and outside the Cook & Barker. Would you like any further stops in or near the villages? Where would you like the bus to stop in Alnwick and Morpeth?
- What would be a fair return fare that you would be willing to pay? Note that caps in place in the North East will apply (£5.00 return for adults, £1 return for children), and that of course concessionary passes can be used.

We want a service that works for people, so if you would like to respond to all or any of these questions, please email [talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:talktosnac@gmail.com) or phone Jan Anderson on 07775 060 430.

Closing date for responses: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

*Carolyn Letts on behalf of SNAC*



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

Thanks to everyone who visited us at the Swarland Show – it was a great opportunity to share what the group has been doing and to find out some of the ways in which people are reducing their carbon footprint.

### **Campaigning for public transport**

Earlier this year, SNAC conducted a survey to find out about people's current and possible future bus use. We had a great response which enabled us to meet with the County Council to share the results and ask if it would be possible to provide a regular service once more. Such a service would help to reduce people's reliance on cars and reduce the Parish's overall carbon footprint.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September we held a public meeting with Neil Easton, NCC's Transport Manager – this was a chance for people to ask questions and share their views. Neil was also able to announce that NCC is willing to commission a new twice weekly service for Swarland and Newton which we're hoping will start early in 2023. For more details, see the article elsewhere in the Column.

### **Tree Planting Day**

We've also had some good news from the Woodland Trust who are going to supply us with over 100 saplings. We're going to plant these in Vyner Park and we will be holding a tree planting event on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 1pm – we're hoping that lots of people will come and give us a hand. All you need to do is come along with a spade and a small hand fork – full instructions will be provided.

### **Guided Walk in Swarland Wood**

We are hoping to organise a guided nature walk in Swarland Wood with Forestry England for half term week at the end of October. Look out for notices around the parish, on our website and on the Swarland Residents Facebook page.

### **Footpaths**

Following our survey of public rights of way earlier this year, you can now tell us about issues on any of the footpaths and bridleways in the Parish. We'll either get it fixed or liaise with NCC's Countryside Officer to get it sorted. Email any issues to [mgray@spirit.myzen.co.uk](mailto:mgray@spirit.myzen.co.uk) with details of the problem (plus a photo if you can) and the location.

### **And finally...**

We're always keen to welcome new members. SNAC meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Our next meeting will be on 18<sup>th</sup> October at Swarland Working Men's Club.

For more details visit [www.snac.online](http://www.snac.online) or contact us on [talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:talktosnac@gmail.com).

*Liz Clark, Chair of SNAC*

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## Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

The Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group (SMLHG) began its 2022-23 season in early September with a great talk from Colin Gough, entitled 'Some 18<sup>th</sup> Century Shilbottle 'goings on'; we had a great evening..

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, Nick Lewis, the House Steward for Lindisfarne Castle, will explain all about the restoration of the castle which took place between 2016 and 2018; I am sure you all saw the castle covered in scaffolding. Nick will share what took place during the restoration, the challenges faced, and the findings made which have further informed local history.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Chris Tipple will present a talk entitled 'Lord Armstrong of Cragside: hero or villain'. This will lead to some interesting discussion.

SMLHG meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in Swarland Village Club. New members and visitors are welcome, please come and join us. Further information and updates can be found on our Facebook site or email [swarlandmlhg@gmail.com](mailto:swarlandmlhg@gmail.com) . *Lesley Selfe*

### **GRAB YOURSELF A HEATING OIL BARGAIN.**

Johnstons Oils have donated 500 litres of Domestic Heating Oil to The Vyner Park Charity.

This will be delivered to the house of the person who bids the **HIGHEST amount PER LITRE** by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

To enter, put your **BID per litre** with your name and address, email/phone number into a sealed envelope and hand it in at Nelson's in Vyner Park. Mark the envelope 'OIL BID'.

The bids will be checked on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and if you are the highest bidder you will be notified asap.

Participation in this sealed bid auction is only open to people with a home within our parish, to which the oil will be delivered.

**Queries to Jan Anderson on 07775 060430 or [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) .**

## Coffee and Chat

The first 'Coffee and Chat' gathering took place at Nelson's on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. It was a small but perfectly formed group and we chatted about anything from 'less local' relatives and friends, to the possible new bus service and naughty pets and farm animals!

We received the usual very warm welcome from Lynn and the Nelson's team and they are looking forward to welcoming us back for next month's gathering on the **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm.**

If you fancy getting out and having a chat with a few folk, with a cup of tea or coffee, come along and join us. All are welcome. If you would need a lift, give Gill a call on 07557 882616 and we'll fix that up too.

## The answer does lie in the soil

Those of you old enough to remember the radio programme "Beyond Our Ken" can probably still hear gardener Arthur Fallowfield (Kenneth Williams) parodying Gardeners' Question Time. His response to any question was "Well oi think the answer loise in the soil". And he was almost certainly right, but that simple truth has been lost as the use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides has reached ever higher levels. Reassuringly, there's a (still tiny but) growing switch in British farming towards regenerative agriculture, and we were pleased to welcome Judy Fortescue of Glantlees Farm to our September SNAC meeting.

The family farms became organic many years ago, but now with an emphasis on the general principles of regenerative farming, which are:

- Avoiding the use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides.
- Recycling as much farm waste as possible by composting and returning it to the land to reduce erosion, improve soil health and increase water retention.
- Minimising soil disturbance by not tilling, and thereby protecting the vital micro-organisms, insects and aeration that increase its health and productivity.
- Capturing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by growing plants that help retain it in the soil.
- Finding ways to increase biodiversity above the soil.

All of these can be adapted to suit local conditions, and Judy, like any sound farmer, knows her land well. Her current practice and plans for the future include further tree planting (including restoring Storm Arwen damage), letting the grass and wild flowers grow (which increases insect life and therefore birds and small mammals), and increasing the hedges – not just the length but the width. The wider a hedge is, the more valuable to wildlife it is. None of this interferes with the family's livestock farming business, and in many ways improves it, as healthy soil leads to healthy leys which benefit grazing stock.

Judy briefly outlined the history of the family farms at the start of her talk, including her own time as a tree and hedging grower and supplier at Glantlees. But most interesting perhaps were her references to even her father's initial scepticism about organic methods, as he'd been brought up in the era of artificial fertilisers to maximise post-war food production. He came round!

Our gardens are tiny in comparison to our local agricultural land, but if we think collectively of Glantlees, Overgrass (also organic), and other local farms, we in Newton on the Moor and Swarland can add to that wildlife corridor by keeping our hedges, letting at least some of our grass grow, and avoiding peat and pesticide use. Thank you to Judy for taking such an interest in our SNAC programme. *Suzanne Stanley on behalf of SNAC*

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