

**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 April issue by  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.**



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  
Monday and Thursday service from 8 – 10.00am.**

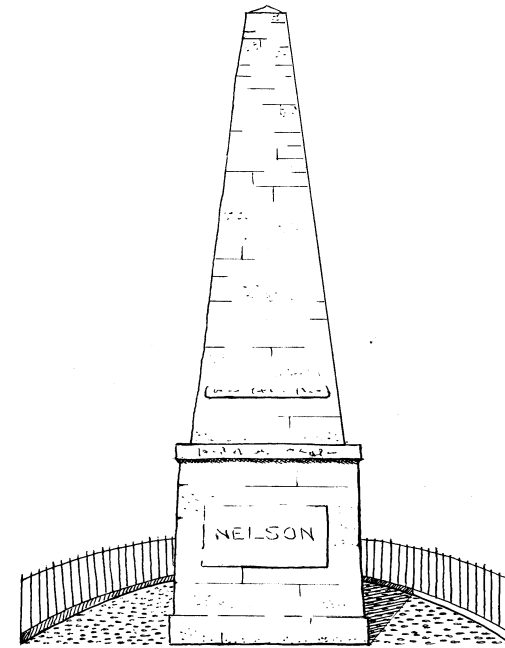
**SWARLAND VILLAGE WORKING MEN'S CLUB**

Tel. 01670 787 825

**Swarland Club** is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

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# The Column



**February 2023**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 123**

**See the Shining Stars insert for  
information on the new pre-school facility  
at Swarland Primary School.**

Welcome to the first issue of The Column in the year, and if you're new to the area, a special welcome to you. **Belated best wishes to everyone for 2023. To include something, however small, in the April issue, please supply it by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

### **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 **1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> March**.

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** or **01670 787 883**. The Club can supply all equipment.

**Bootcamp: meets on Wednesdays 5.30 – 6.30pm** till weather improves. Contact Jo on 07803 272785 for details.

**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. Temporarily on hold.** 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**.

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

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

Once again, I am happy to report that I have had no report from the police regarding any criminal activity in our two areas.

However, other places in Northumberland report continuing problems with regards to poaching and hare coursing.

It would appear that ATVs are still being targeted by thieves, and owners are encouraged to take the necessary precautions.

Please remain vigilant and safe.

#### **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*

### **Time to get walking again!**

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

The website - **Walking in Northumberland** - has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place, see **[www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland)** .

John Harris (who maintains the website) said '*There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you*'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris **[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk) / [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)** .

**Deadline for items for the April issue of  
The Column: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.**

## Jubilee Hall Newton on the Moor

Our next coffee morning will be on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February** when as ever there will be Jen's scones and our selection of cakes and traybakes. We shall also be offering our ever-popular bacon and sausage butties, gluten free and veggie options available.

At the end of November we held another excellent Wine Tasting given by Suzanne Lock of Advintage Wines. Everyone agreed it was the best yet. Also at the end of November the Jubilee Hall Fiddle Group along with Swarland Choir provided a very enjoyable evening of music. In December we held our last coffee morning of the year which was very well attended and along with our usual fayre we enjoyed mulled wine. The raffle was very popular with 3 beautiful hampers to be won and there was a festive craft fair in the Reading Room.

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 on 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 Clark 01665 711977. 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 please 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. You can also use it to research other village halls across the county and see what they have going on. Use the address below and then click on the icon for the Jubilee Hall, <https://northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/> . *Diane Williams*

## Coffee and Chat

The Coffee and Chat group goes from strength to strength regularly meeting at Nelsons at Vyner Park. We've recently had discussions as far ranging as the late Queen's Mother's visit to Swarland Hall, to the 'daft as a brush thing we did this week', to how delicious the fruit scones in Nelsons are!

Our next two get-togethers are **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm** and **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm** (the clocks will have sprung forward!). Everyone is welcome, and it has been lovely to have new faces as well as some more familiar ones! Thanks must continue to go to all the staff at Nelson's for their great hospitality for the group.

If you need any further information or need some transport to Nelson's, please contact Gill on 07557 882616.

## NotM & Swarland Parish Council - January 2023

### **Road Safety near the School**

We held a useful site meeting recently around the school crossroads, to discuss a number of road safety opportunities. Speed monitoring measurements will be undertaken on The Avenue and Leamington Lane, when the equipment becomes available (it is always in great demand, throughout the county). A traffic-calming chicane will be installed on the Avenue, and a second one may subsequently be installed further along the same road, depending on the outcome of the first.

Speed monitoring will also be undertaken on Leamington Lane, to evaluate the effectiveness of the new 40mph limit. Meanwhile, some parts of the 2022 road safety scheme at the school have still to be completed. These include the installation of four '**School 20 when lights show**' signs on each approach to the crossroads. These will feature flashing lights which can be switched on when the school is in use. Electrical connections are due to be installed imminently.

The new pedestrian barrier is to be replaced or modified, as it is impeding visibility for drivers on Leamington Lane who are unable to see vehicles approaching from the direction of Newton on the Moor.

### **Unadopted roads in Swarland**

We have heard that the County Council (NCC) is still pursuing the improvement of the unadopted roads, such as Nelson Drive and the lower part of Kenmore Road amongst others (although more slowly than we would like). Expert legal advice has now been sought on the status of the actions which NCC has taken over the past several decades, and to consider the most appropriate way forward.

### **Website**

The Parish Council is now reviewing its website to assess its content, ease of use and versatility for use on a variety of different equipment (laptops, phones etc). Column readers are welcome to send their opinions to our PC Clerk, Jan at [newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/](mailto:newtononthemoorandswarlandparishcouncil.org.uk/) .

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Following the article in the last Column, several people have volunteered to join a group to consider the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Consideration will be given at an early stage to the key question as to what sort of policies are likely to be needed in such a Plan which are not already provided for in the Northumberland Local Plan that was adopted in 2022. Examples of such policies which have been suggested by NCC for new Plans (in some circumstances) include: allocation of sites outside the settlement boundary on which to build affordable social housing; the provision of detailed design policies for new major housing estates for settlements which are subject to such site allocations; and limitations on the occupancy of new housing in villages with exceptionally high levels of holiday lets and second homes. The PC has not been made aware that there is an appetite for such policies in our parish area, but there could be scope for other detailed policies so long as they do not conflict with the Northumberland Local Plan. *[pto]*

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### **New Bus Services**

We have learnt that there has been a delay in the Government's provision of the cash for public transport improvements in the North-east, which has meant that NCC is not yet in a position to commission the planned new weekly services to Alnwick and to Morpeth. We hope to be able to report good news very soon 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).**

### **Support for Newton on the Moor & Swarland Residents**

This is just a 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.

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 060430 preferably during office hours.

*Best wishes, Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)*

### **Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group**

It seems a long time ago now but, on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 20 members of the Heritage Group enjoyed a delicious traditional Christmas Lunch at Nelson's. A good time was had by all and our thanks go to Kelly, Lynn and all the staff who prepared, cooked and served. You are an asset to Swarland; thank you very much.

2023 gets underway on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February with a talk from Sue Rogers on the evolution of the Rights of Way network and how missing routes can be found and retrieved for future use. This is important as from 2026 all unrecorded ancient Public Rights of Access along old lanes may be extinguished, unless a member of the public has identified them and made an application to NCC, supported by evidence from old maps and documents.

On **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Ellie Waddington** will talk about **The Chillingham Cattle**. These are undomesticated cattle, which have lived for more than 800 years in an enclosed space at Chillingham and they are under the protection of the Wild Cattle Association.

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We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Concert Room of Swarland Village Club. If you enjoy History and Heritage topics and maybe are new to the village, please come along and join us, either as a guest or by becoming a member; you will very welcome. Further information can be found on our Facebook page or by emailing [swarlandmlhg@gmail.com](mailto:swarlandmlhg@gmail.com).

*Lesley Selfe*

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

It's the start of a new year and at SNAC we're thinking about our priorities for the coming 12 months. Some of our projects will continue from last year – promoting public transport, encouraging more recycling and looking at ways to give nature a helping hand – and we're hoping to start some new ones too.

We're also arranging a visit to the SUEZ Recycling Plant in West Sleekburn to see exactly what happens to our recycling once it's been collected and to a house in Gateshead that uses hydrogen to provide heating and run appliances. We're also hoping to visit a local estate that is changing to encourage much greater 'wildness'.

At present we don't have any further news about when the **new bus service** to Alnwick and Morpeth will start. NCC are waiting for the funding to arrive and as soon as it does, they will commission the new service. We're still looking forward to being on the first bus!

**Take a snap for SNAC!** We're introducing a **photography competition** which will be open to everyone. It will run every couple of months, and the only proviso is that photos must be taken within the Parish and be on the theme of climate action, nature or 'green' issues. The winning photo will appear on the SNAC website at [www.snac.online](http://www.snac.online). Photos should preferably be landscape rather than portrait. Please send your entries to [talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:talktosnac@gmail.com) by 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Next Meeting** - Our next meeting is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7pm in Swarland Club – everyone is welcome to come along. You can also find out more about SNAC at [www.snac.online](http://www.snac.online) or by emailing [talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:talktosnac@gmail.com).

*Liz Clark, on behalf of SNAC*

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