

**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 October issue by **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**



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**

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

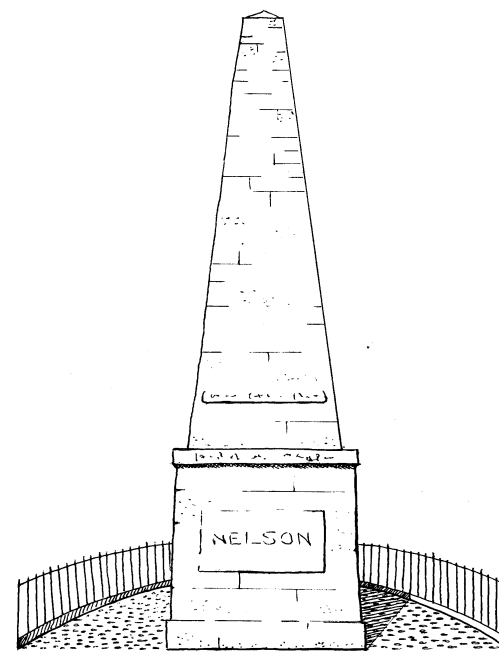
**This service is currently open  
from 8.00 to 10am every day**

Newspapers and magazines may be ordered and reserved.

Find us on Facebook (Swarland Club Paper Shop), or phone John on 07751 591192.

**The Post Office is now providing its  
Monday and Thursday service from 8 – 10.00am.**

# The Column



**August 2023**

Produced by

**Swarland Village Action**

**Newsletter 126**

**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
request for topics for inclusion in its  
submission. See 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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Send it 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 Bryan Stanley (contact details elsewhere in this issue) or Steve Woolfrey (on **01670 787 883** or **Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com**). **Please note that though activities are largely back to normal after the Hall's major refurbishment, various painting jobs have still to be done during August.**

**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 249699, or Derek Belshaw (Band Secretary) 07891 245201 or email **coquetconcertband@gmail.com** .

**Bootcamp: meets on Tuesdays 5.30 – 6.30pm at Vyner Park** and will probably return to the Hall in the autumn when the weather deteriorates. Contact Jo on **07803 272785** for further details.

**Crafty Friends: meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning of each month.** For more information contact Linda on 07789 887424.

**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.** No meetings in August, sessions recommence on 6<sup>th</sup> September. New members are welcome. All enquiries to: **Margaret on 01670 787 705.**

**Swarland Carpet Bowls: Thursdays, 7pm.** Re-starts late August until the end of March. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, contact **Malcolm or Joan Nesbit on 01670 783 140.**

### **Sale items from the Hall**

Brand new Notice boards for sale - green baize with silver coloured frame. Sizes:- 1 @ 1800mm x 1200mm, 1 @ 1500mm x 1200mm, 1 @ 1200mm x 1200mm. Looking for £10 each. Buyer to collect. Contact Bryan or Steve, details as above.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Update – July 2023**

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

Once again, I am happy to report that up to 20<sup>th</sup> July I have received no information from the police regarding any criminal activity in our two areas.

You may however be interested in the following information - at the beginning of July the police launched Operation Impact, when over 500 police officers and volunteers were involved in activity across all six local authority areas. Over £100,000-worth of drugs were seized from addresses including South Shields, Ashington and Elswick. Over 50 arrests were made for drug supplying, assault and burglary.

Operation Impact will continue over the next 12 months.

#### **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 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** or telephone 07775 060430 preferably during office hours.

*Best wishes, Jan Anderson (Parish Clerk)*



## **Jubilee Hall Newton on the Moor**

Our coffee mornings continue to be a great success with everyone enjoying all the scones, cakes and bakes on sale along with a convivial atmosphere. Our next one is on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August**, so please come along and enjoy our lovely village hall. These sessions continue to be held every second Saturday of the month.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June there was a hugely enjoyable evening of music and dance with our local fiddle group, Swarland singers and A La Carte, a French dance group.

Another music night is arranged for **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October** (one for your diaries) which is hosted by Alnwick Pipers (Northumberland pipes) along with other guest artists yet to be decided. As ever we will be providing a bar. It promises to be another fun event.

At present our regular user groups consist of the Fiddle Group, Northumbrian Pipers, Carpet Bowls and Pilates classes. 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*

## **Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels - July 2023**

We have had a few sightings (in real life and on camera) of Red Squirrels in Swarland Wood following the recent outbreak of Squirrel Pox. This is obviously very encouraging.

We have thought recently about trying to encourage a "garden trapping" scheme locally. This works well in other villages, and our group has had great success locally in Eshott, once a haven for Red Squirrels but now taken over by Greys.

If householders who have regular sightings of Grey Squirrels in their garden want to be involved, we will provide a trap and advice about where to site it in the garden. If a Grey Squirrel is trapped, the householder will have the phone numbers of several of our members who can be contacted, who will come and remove the squirrel for you. We hope that by using this involvement of the village we will be able to discourage the spread of grey squirrels and thereby encourage the survival of the reds.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact me on 07854 276 607.

*Wendy Fergie for LCRS*

**Deadline for items for the October issue of  
The Column: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

## **NotM & Swarland Parish Council - July 2023**

### **Website**

The Parish Council's new website has been up and running for a couple of months and we hope that many of you have taken a look – you can find it at **[www.newtonswarlandpc.org.uk](http://www.newtonswarlandpc.org.uk)** .

As well as finding out what the Parish Council is doing, you can keep up-to-date with local news, see what's going on in our Events Guide, find local clubs and groups and check out the photos in our Gallery.

If you have an event coming up or you'd like to publicise your club or group on the website, then please email the Parish Clerk on **[Clerk@newtonswarlandpc.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@newtonswarlandpc.org.uk)** to find out how.

### **School**

We are still receiving queries and hearing anxieties about the future of Swarland School, due to some false rumours coming from a neighbouring village. As a result, we have checked yet again with the County Council and we have been assured that there are no plans for, nor any prospect of, Swarland School being closed.

Further, there is no substance to the claim that the building has a limited life of only 15 years. Periodically, the Government commissions a nationwide survey of the condition of all local authority school buildings and their grounds, covering: structural; roofs; building fabric; windows and doors; mechanical and electrical; asbestos; utilities; sewage and drainage; fire safety and security; and site layout. The 2018 survey categorised the conditions as A (good) and B (satisfactory), with just the windows needing to be upgraded to double glazing (which have now been upgraded). The 2022 survey again categorised the school as A and B, with just the LED lighting upgrade project requiring completion.

So, the building is sound, the grounds are a marvellous resource, and the education is excellent, and we are pleased that our local school has a solid future.

### **Finance**

Our accounts and other end-of-year financial information can be accessed on our new website at **[newtonswarlandpc.org.uk/document-category/finance/finance-2022-23/](http://newtonswarlandpc.org.uk/document-category/finance/finance-2022-23/)** . If you have any queries, do please contact us.

**PC Clerk, Jan Anderson - [janandersonpc@gmail.com](mailto:janandersonpc@gmail.com) or 07775 060 430. PC website: [newtonswarlandpc.org.uk](http://newtonswarlandpc.org.uk).**

**Deadline for items for the October issue of  
The Column: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

## **NotM and Swarland Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Following our article in the last edition of The Column, we are delighted to say that volunteers have come forward to assist in the process of making the Neighbourhood Plan. There are now 12 members of the Steering Group - 3 Parish Councillors and 9 volunteers who have a good range of skills and experience to enable the Group to move forward.

**Our vision for Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish is that we maintain the beautiful rural and architectural environment and protect the rich history which we all enjoy whilst embracing changes that will enhance our communities and the lives of everyone in the Parish.**

In order to deliver that vision, the following areas have been identified as needing work to be undertaken prior to consultation with the residents and businesses in the Parish.

### **The natural environment**

How we conserve and enhance the peaceful, beautiful nature of the rural setting of the Parish and enable wildlife to continue to thrive in the open countryside.

### **The built environment**

How we maintain and enhance the many heritage assets of the Parish, whilst simultaneously ensuring that any new development conserves and respects the feel of the villages within the Parish, their buildings and places.

### **Vibrant and Thriving Communities**

How we build upon the strong sense of community across the Parish by retaining and enhancing important community facilities and services.

### **The Economy**

How we support existing businesses and new business ventures, recognising the importance of agriculture and leisure sectors as well as working from home.

### **Movement**

How we support improvements to access from within and outside the Parish by supporting safe road infrastructure.

**If you have any questions that you would like to ask the Steering Group, please contact Liz Simpson (Steering Group Secretary) either by email at [SNSG23@outlook.com](mailto:SNSG23@outlook.com), marked 'For the attention of Liz' or by phone at 07817 135 932.**

**SEE US AT SWARLAND & NotM SHOW on 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER and FIND OUT HOW EMPOWERING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CAN BE.**

Further updates from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will appear in future copies of The Column.

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

### **Bus Service**

It has now been nearly a year since the public meeting with Neil Easton, Director of Transport for NCC and we could be forgiven for thinking the service is never going to arrive! The whole process is taking much longer than expected with the transfer of funds from central government only happening at the end of March this year. However, the service has now gone out to tender with local bus providers and we expect to know something more concrete in early August. We will make sure details of the service are well publicised when we know more, so do look out for more information.

Meanwhile, a £1 go-anywhere single fare for under 21s is now in place for all buses across the region.

### **Photography Competition**

We're running a second SNAC Photography Competition over the summer holidays on the theme of Climate Change and the Environment. You can be as creative as you like and the photos can be taken anywhere. Entries should be sent to [Talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:Talktosnac@gmail.com) by 26<sup>th</sup> August and the winner will be announced at Swarland & NotM Show on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Swarland Show**

SNAC will be running a stall at Swarland & NotM Show on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and we hope that you'll come along and see us. We'll be sharing ideas for how you can be 'greener' and finding out from you what *you* need to make that happen.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in Swarland Club** and everyone is welcome to come along. Go to [www.snac.online](http://www.snac.online) or follow us on Facebook for all the latest local climate news and information about events, or email [talktosnac@gmail.com](mailto:talktosnac@gmail.com) for more details.

*Liz Clark (on behalf of SNAC)*

### **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 **2<sup>nd</sup> August, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 27<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> October**.

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).

**Deadline for items for the October issue of  
The Column: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

## **SWARLAND & NotM SHOW**

**Saturday 2nd September 2023**

11am - 4pm at Vyner Park

Admission £5 per person (under 4s free)

Children's main attractions included in admission fee.

Dog Show / Lazer Quest / Bouncy Vibe /  
Classic Vehicles / Bar & BBQ.

Market & Industrial Tents / Archery - plus much more!

### **Show Classes**

Light-hearted competitions for the whole family.

To request a copy of the schedule and entry form contact us.

Copies also available in Nelson's Cafe at Vyner Park.

### **Show Day Volunteers Required**

1 – 2-hour shifts. Full training given. Over-18s only please.

### **Please Donate Tombola Prizes**

Small toys, fidget spinners, colouring books etc.

Bottles of booze. Please drop off at Nelson's Cafe.

### **We Need Your Bakes!**

All makes of cake, scones and cupcakes will be gratefully accepted.

**For further details about any of the above,  
please contact: [swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com](mailto:swarlandvillageshow@gmail.com) .**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO OUR  
SMALL BUT MIGHTY VILLAGE SHOW!**

## **Coffee and Chat**

**Coffee and Chat** at Nelsons at the Park in Swarland continues to go from strength to strength, with 18 - 20 people coming along now - fabulous as compared to the early days when 2 of us met for a cuppa! We are all ages, from 50s to 90s and love a good natter and a catch up. At recent get-togethers we've had a fun Coronation Quiz, talked about Swarland Tweed, and seen photos of the Queen Mother's visit to Swarland, as well as the obligatory coffee or tea and a lovely sweet treat from the Nelson's Team.

Our next meetings are on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August & Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**, both at 2.00pm. We've introduced a very small charge of £2.00 for drinks. If you'd like to come along, but need help with transport call Gill on 07557 882616. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## **Alnwick Foodbank**

Our recent move to new premises has been successful! We are now in a unit in The Lindisfarne Centre on Lindisfarne Road, a newly refurbished council building, along with Citizens Advice Bureau and other community organisations. There's also an excellent cafe in the building, open 9-3 weekdays, open to anyone.

In an effort to stop using plastic packing bags and give people some dignity of choice, we no longer hand out pre-packed parcels. Our clients, who have all been referred from CAB, Job Centre, or another designated agency, now choose their own items from a set list. Most of the food we provide is non-perishable, but we also give fresh meat and fruit / veg, eggs, butter and cheese. We buy most of the perishables from small local suppliers. We are grateful that financial donations from the public allow us to continue to buy these staple products, topped up with donations from shoppers in our local supermarkets. 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). Pets at Home has a donation box for us for dog/cat food. 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) .

You will find a list of especially needed items on the supermarket donation boxes, or on our website: [www.alnwickdistrictfoodbank.co.uk](http://www.alnwickdistrictfoodbank.co.uk). If you belong to a group that wants to donate a quantity of food, our volunteers are on site 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. We are entirely volunteer-led & funded, so all public money goes towards needed purchases. Thank you!



## **Arthur's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**

Dad will be 100 in October, so we would like to invite those of you that know him to his birthday celebration.

Please pop in to see him and have a bite to eat at Swarland Club, anytime between **1 – 5pm on 7<sup>th</sup> October**.

We are sure he will be delighted to see you.

No gifts please just bring yourselves.

Susan and Janet.



## **Harrison Leisure Planning Application – an Update**

In May 2023, Harrison Leisure submitted a Reserved Matters application for the Bari Bar site on Coast View (23/01695/REM). This is for 14 dwellings based on the approved outline application (19/04108/OUT) granted in January 2021.

The Planning Officer, James Hudson, was contacted as clarification was needed as to the exact ownership of the dwellings – it was not clear whether they would be permanent residential homes or holiday homes. The majority of the submitted objections to this application referred to the same lack of clarity of ownership.

The closing date for public comments was the 4<sup>th</sup> July – 28 were received, none of which supported the application. Furthermore, Highways Development Management, the Local Lead Flood Authority and the NCC Ecologist have also expressed objections to various aspects of the application.

Harrison Leisure has now submitted amended plans and other information to the planning portal (as of the 25<sup>th</sup> July) but no amended or updated S106 agreement (submitted for the outline application).

Watch this space for further updates.

*Jackie Stent*

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

Having had a short break for the summer we will recommence on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September with a talk by Michael Thompson who will share with us The Battle of Otterburn, Harry Hotspur's 'big night out'. Michael is an artist and historian who has explored at length the history of the North. Many of you may know Michael as he is a resident of the village.

We will have a stand at the Swarland & NotM Show - please come and say hello.

The 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](mailto:swarlandmlhg@gmail.com).

*Lesley Selfe*

## **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.



## **News from Swarland Primary School**

Wow! What a busy Summer Term it has been at our local School.

We are delighted to announce we have been awarded an Artsmark Gold Award, for our determination to raise the profile of the Arts within the school and the School Games Gold Award for promoting participation and competition in sports in the School and for the clubs we provide. We have also been awarded a Lightbulb Mental Health Award, for fostering a culture of positive mental health and well-being throughout the school.

We were fortunately blessed with sunshine (and for once, no showers!) for our Sports Day, and the children enjoyed an afternoon of sports and races, followed by a BBQ with their parents. It was lovely to see the school community socialising and enjoying each other's company, in the sunshine, on the school grounds.

The children have taken part on many school trips: year 6 had the opportunity to go to London, there were visits to Brinkburn Priory for Lifepath, a Key Stage Two trip to Newcastle Climbing Wall (where the staff observed the pupils and teachers to be the best school trip they had ever experienced - what a compliment!) and many trips to Alnwick for various sporting events.

The school cultural topic this term has been the Caribbean, and the students have explored all aspects of this part of the world: they have indulged in a themed lunch, created spectacular carnival-themed artwork with visiting artists and even learnt to play the Steel drums!

We hope all the pupils and parents (and staff!) have a wonderful summer break, and sadly say goodbye to some of our pupils (both year 4 and year 6). We wish them luck in their pastures new, and look forward to welcoming the other pupils, and our newcomers, in September for another fun-filled, jam-packed year.

*Louise Fletcher, Head Teacher*

## **Winefest 2023**

This year's Winefest will take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. This fun night, for those who've not attended before, is an excellent opportunity to meet friends and neighbours in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. You will sample a number of wines, red, white or rose, depending upon the colour of the wine you've submitted (you can hand it in when you buy your ticket). You will be asked to mark each wine sampled but we don't take the evening too seriously. The emphasis is on fun. Looking forward to seeing you there.

There will be a raffle and a pooled supper. Tickets (£6 per person) will be on sale at Nelson's at the Park and from Steve & Sheila on 01670 787 883. All proceeds go to Swarland Village Hall Charity.

**for the October issue of  
The Column: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**



