

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Dancing girls off
to Disneyland

Newsagent blames landlord
for closure decision

Headteacher gives end
of first year verdict

All smiles at Music in the Park

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Produced by Cian creative pr



Girls off to dance at Disneyland

More than 30 girls from a Ponteland dance and drama school are off to perform at Disneyland Paris.

The 32 dancers from the Jill Errington School of Dance and Drama in Ponteland, along with 30 from Benton, Newcastle, will take part in a theatre show and a parade at the world famous theme park.

The girls, aged from five to 21 years, have been practising weekly since January and will do six dances between them, to include Footloose, Candy, Shine, Ladies Choice, Pencil Full of Lead and Firework.

The invitation to attend came after a DVD audition tape of the girls dancing was sent to park bosses. There will be about 100 family members in the audience cheering on the dance school and all staying in the same hotel, making the trip a true dance school holiday.

Dancer Juliette Taylor, 11, said: "This is the third time I have been and I think this show will be the best one yet. I can't wait to get on stage and show an international audience how hard we have worked learning dances and how much we all love to perform."

Photo by Alan Errington





FAMILY FUN ON THE MENU

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Mrs Brown and her team are moving their nursery to “Henry’s Hut”

Two familiar faces to families all over Ponteland are behind a new children’s nursery ‘Henry’s Hut’ which is set to open its doors to 2-4 year olds in September in the grounds of Ponteland Middle and High School on Callerton Lane.

Sandra Brown and Julie Cowey, who have run the popular Broadway Nursery in the United Reformed Church in Darras Hall for 13 years, are moving to a purposely designed building nearby and will now be able to provide childcare for up to 30 children from 8am to 6pm.

Commenting on the new nursery, which is named after the much-loved nursery teddy bear ‘Henry’, Sandra Brown said: “It’s been our dream to open this nursery and this is the perfect location and setting for Henry’s Hut. We have completely refurbished the building to create an ideal space to care for young children that is safe, fun and practical. We plan to use the wonderful surroundings to enhance the learning opportunities for all of our children. Having our own building will enable us to host

family events and help us to strengthen our partnership with parents. We are looking forward to exploring the local environment including the pond area, the old railway line and the fire station.

She continued: “Henry’s Hut will offer more childcare sessions by opening between 8am and 6pm which provides more flexibility and choice for local families. We’re also very pleased that all of our staff will be coming with us to Henry’s Hut as this provides continuity for the children and I am sure we will recruit more staff in the coming months.”

Hilary Duffy, mother of three year old Robert at the nursery said: “As a parent you want the best for your children and when you look for childcare you want to find nurturing and caring people and a

stimulating but safe space in which they can play and learn. I’m more than satisfied that Henry’s Hut will provide this. Mrs Brown and her team are lovely people and everyone who knows them wishes them every success with the new nursery.”

Families wishing to find out more will be welcome at a Teddy Bears Picnic open day at Henry’s Hut on Saturday 17th August at 12 – 3pm. Henry’s Hut can be accessed via the parent’s car park at Ponteland Middle and High School on Callerton Lane.

For more information please contact: Sandra Brown or Julie Cowey on 07790 545 178.



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GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Council approved a grant of £200 towards the cost of providing two seats in front of the Ponteland United Reformed Church at Broadway to mark its 40th anniversary.

PROJECTS REPORT

River bank repairs

This work will be carried out in July.

Skate Park

The noise survey has been carried out and submitted to the County Council. It is hoped that progress can now be made on this project.

Report re tree works in the Park

The Council had commissioned a survey of trees in the Park in 2012 and after consideration of the report,

various recommendations were approved. Quotes had been sought for this work and the Council agreed that the works could be carried out. A quote for the next three years of the Ponteland Park Management Plan had also been sought and this was also agreed.

Public Toilets

A report was considered in relation to various problems being experienced at the public toilets on Thornhill Road which are owned and managed by the Town Council. Some painting works had already been carried out in view of the amount of obscene graffiti in the men's section of the toilets. Various repairs were necessary to the facilities and the Council agreed to give delegated authority to the Clerk to have these works carried out. The Police have the premises under

surveillance in an attempt to deal with anti social behaviour.

Town Council website

Councillors had submitted ideas for improvement of the website. A brief was to be prepared and prices sought from several companies following which a further report would be submitted to Council.

BUDGET 2014-15

Councillors were asked to give some thought to projects they would wish to see included in the budget for 2014-15 or for subsequent years. These suggestions would be considered as part of the budget exercise later in the year.

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Highways Working Party held on 26 June and agreed to support the proposal for the installation of a disabled bay outside of Taylors Pharmacy on Brewery Lane and convey this decision to the County Council's Highways Department.

ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

The Council considered the Minutes of the Environment Working Party held on 10 June. Various recommendations were considered and approved including:

- The introduction of courteous notices requesting dog owners to put their dogs on a leash in the picnic area of Ponteland Park from April to September.
- The location of a standard picnic bench at the top of the wild meadow was deferred pending representations from the Friends of Ponteland Park. It was agreed to replace the recently vandalised bench with

a one suitable for disabled users in the picnic area.

- The Council agreed to begin work on a comprehensive management plan as the first step towards seeking Green Flag status for the Park and Councillors Sue Johnson and Adam Shanley offered to assist with the process of pulling the submission together.
- Concerns had been expressed locally about vegetation on the banks of the Pont opposite the Diamond Inn. The Environment Agency had met with two former councillors on site but they did not feel the work was necessary except for cosmetic reasons therefore if this work was to be carried out it would have to be at the cost of the Town Council. Councillors agreed to obtain costs before making a decision.
- The Council agreed a recommendation to augment some existing daffodil displays at Dunsgreen, the roundabout at the end of Rotary Way with its junction with Callerton Lane, on Callerton Lane and at the Pele Tower area.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the idea of a proposed exhibition of wartime memorabilia to be held in November 2014. See article on page 15. A report was presented in relation to the Music in the Park event held on Sunday 30 June. Thanks were given to Andy Anderson, Stewart Blair, Jim Robertson and Richard Walker for their help in organising this event which was much appreciated. Thanks were also expressed to the Clerk to the Council.

This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on July 10.

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OPTOMETRISTS & CONTACT LENS PRACTITIONERS

Headteacher's end of first year verdict: "It's been brilliant!"



Kieran McGrane has just ended his first year as Headteacher of Ponteland Community High School. As he prepared for a well earned summer break he talked to Pont News & Views about his personal highlights and ambitions for the future.



If the question was job satisfaction, the answer would be 100 per cent. Kieran McGrane simply exudes enthusiasm.

He arrived last September from Bedlingtonshire Community High School, where he had been head for five years and had clearly left with a tinge of regret.

"I felt guilty in my first term here. Former colleagues were asking me what it was like and I felt disloyal how much I was enjoying myself.

"In 20 years of teaching I've never enjoyed a year as much as this. It's been brilliant. The students here are just delightful – so pleasant, polite, well behaved and motivated.

"The staff have been absolutely brilliant as well. They have worked incredibly hard to get behind me and have done everything I have asked of them. There are loads of extra-curricular classes, foreign trips, extra sessions after school for exam preparation – a lot of additional time put in.

"I think I've got a perfect job."

Since arriving, Kieran has presided over a full staffing restructure and the implementation of various new policies and procedures. Personal highlights include the first Christmas concert held for many years, an Easter production of Little Shop of Horrors and numerous sporting events and achievements.

An impending summer break promises a few weeks enjoying "family time" hill walking, camping and other sporting pursuits. But they will be followed very swiftly with his first set of GCSE and A Level results in mid-August. Kieran is characteristically confident.

"Expectations from parents and students are high. I have set targets way above/in excess of what the school has achieved before as I want it to be head and shoulders above every other school in the county.

"Last year we achieved 67 per cent of GCSE students achieving five or more A* to C grades including English and Maths. I have set a target for this year of 81 per

cent. But mid-70s would still be good."

A new national curriculum was announced earlier this month by Education Secretary Michael Gove with major rewrites of the history and design & technology syllabuses among other key changes, but teaching unions warned it was set to create "total chaos" in the education system.

It will mean rewriting schemes of work, removing levels, a new assessment process for Key Stage 3 and transitional arrangements between middle and high schools. Teachers only familiar with the GCSE modular exam system will also face a steep learning curve as they get to grips with a linear only exam model – a throwback to the O Level days.

But Kieran dismissed the "meltdown" fears of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers in his usual unflappable manner.

"The pace of reform is probably ill thought out. Change has been graduated in the past. With the new national curriculum in September 2014 everything is changed; in 2015 we have GCSE and A Level reform.

"The reality is it will work. You can't afford to allow it not to work because the casualties will be the students. The challenge to schools is to try and manage the process as smoothly as they can."

With such uncertain times, both in education and the wider economy, how will Ponteland prepare its students for the 'real world'?

"One of our key values is optimism. I always expect things to get better, whether it's the quality of teaching or exam results. We talk to students a lot about persistence and resilience. Things aren't going to happen to them overnight; there are going to be setbacks.

"Good exam results alone are not enough. We also focus on social skills such as good manners and politeness, and extra-curricular activities like volunteering, giving something back to the community."

It isn't just two decades in the classroom that Kieran can turn to for inspiration, though, when it comes to identifying

new ways to improve the educational experience for his students.

Some of his best ideas are home grown. He can compare notes with his wife Julie, an Ofsted inspector, and reflect on his experiences as a parent of three school aged children – Daniel, Elizabeth and Esther – when planning new initiatives at work.

For example, his latest drive to improve the relationship between teachers and pupils, and the school and parents, has its roots in his 12-year-old son Daniel's impending move to high school.

The parents of all 260 students joining Ponteland High in Year 9 this September have recently been written to and asked to supply a pen portrait of their children for their new class tutors.

Kieran explained the thinking behind this: "The pen portraits coming back are just so personal. Form tutors all now know things about the children they would have never found out in three years.

"I want this to be a school where every student is known as an individual and not just part of a crowd. The kind of school I would want Daniel, Elizabeth and Esther to attend and be happy at."

Ofsted inspectors rated Ponteland 'good' in a snap visit in March last year during the stewardship of former head Stephen Prandle, praising academic achievement as "well above average".

Looking ahead to next year, Kieran hopes to take the 1,100-pupil school to the next level and the coveted 'outstanding' grade. He is particularly excited about the appointment of a new director of music and performing arts.

He added: "I want the quality of teaching at the school to be really high – the challenge is to get a level of consistency where all lessons are good to outstanding. If you get that right, it takes care of exam results."

* See the September issue of Pont News for a report on Ponteland High School's GCSE and A Level results.

Pharmacy enjoys musical medicine after gift to band

Customers at a Ponteland pharmacy enjoyed some musical medicine from grateful members of a local band.

The Whistling Sheep Ceilidh band performed at Taylors Pharmacy in Brewery Lane as a thank you for the donation of a much needed new keyboard.

The young players are aged from 14 to 18 and their instruments include fiddles, flutes, keyboards and whistles. Over the last year they have played for three church events, two youth group fundraisers, a gap year student's event and two birthday parties, among others.

Based at Ponteland High School, they are available for hire and more information is available on their website at www.whistlingssheep.co.uk



Jim Grant, who has led the band for 17 years, thanked pharmacist Jessica Taylor on behalf of present and future players. He said: "It's so encouraging for us, who are

happy to play for local ceilidhs to support charities, church groups, school events and so on, that a local business is kind enough to help us out in return."



Families enjoy afternoon of music in the park

Families enjoyed an afternoon of free musical entertainment in Ponteland Park.

The Music in the Park event, held on Sunday June 30, was compered by BBC weatherman Paul Mooney, who kept the rain away as the audience of all ages was treated to performances by singer Sonia Michelle, Rendezvous Jazz Band, North Tyneside Steel Band and Ponteland Community Band.

Now in its fifth year, Music in the Park is one of a number of community events run as part of the Town Council's vision of giving residents a real sense of pride in Ponteland.

Town councillor Robin Ramsay, chair of the organising committee, said: "It was a splendid musical programme. It went with a zing from the beginning to the last. A lot of people who came stayed for the whole programme, even though the weather could have been better. All in all, an excellent afternoon."

Cover shot of North Tyneside Steel Band by Trevor Walker



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Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Concern at the sudden closure of a newsagents and a solution to school run congestion in this month's letters...

The 'Say No' boards need to stay

As co-ordinators of the 'Ponteland Residents Say No' boards and members of The Ponteland Green Belt Group we feel that it is important to respond to some of the concerns raised by John M Gill in his letter (July issue).

The boards, some of which have been sponsored by local people who live in a less visible area, have been effective in raising the awareness of residents, councillors and press - we have had national interest in our campaign.

Councillors and developers hopefully appreciate the opposition to large scale development in our community. The 'Say No' boards continue to be effective in reminding everyone who comes into the village that we have not gone away and will continue to fight huge scale development in Ponteland.

Northumberland County Council is currently processing an application for the site at Birney Hill; a site visit is imminent. Further consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Options for Green Belt is expected to commence in late September 2013. Our 'Say No' boards will remain in place during this next stage and will be erected with each and every threat to Ponteland green belt from developers.

We share Mr Gill's concerns for those attempting to sell their home. The threat of development on green belt land is detrimental to anyone trying to sell their property - this does not just affect Cheviot View homes.

The boards are a symptom and not a cause of the unfortunate situation we now find ourselves in.

Lesley & Tony Noble
Cheviot View, Ponteland

Deeply sorry to hear of newsagent closure

I am deeply sorry to hear that Ponteland News will be closed from the end of July. This will be the end of an era in Ponteland as far as I am concerned.

The newsagency was originally started by my Great Aunt sometime in the 1930s where she had the shop, the tea room and apparently ran a little library within the shop. It was always called 'The Little Gem tea room' as her initials were G. E. M. Hedley.

Apparently cyclists used to purchase thermos flasks of tea on their journey through Ponteland and they would return them on their journey back. My father ran the newsagency, apart from the war years, until she sold it to Reays in approximately 1957.

Horace Reay asked my dad to run it again for them in 1959 which he did until his death in 1968. I, and no doubt several other people who have been born and bred in Ponteland, remember the garden at the side of the building where the car park is now.

Susan Hope
Berwick Court, Ponteland

Newsagent closure another nail in the coffin for community life

I have lived in Ponteland since 1964 and grow increasingly concerned at the degradation of our local amenities.

Like many Ponteland residents, I was dismayed to receive a letter from Thomas Poad, who has been our newsagent, as he says, since 1998, announcing the closure of his business.

Is there nothing which we, as a community, can do to help him? This will be another nail in the coffin of our community life as yet another shop closes only to re-open, possibly, as an outlet we neither want nor need.

June Atkinson
Dunsgreen, Ponteland

School buses better idea than 500 car parking spaces

In response to Janet Dakers' letter regarding school run traffic in the July issue. While sympathising entirely with her concerns, I don't see why we should be looking to provide better parking for

500+ school run cars when there are far simpler solutions staring us in the face, one of which is to provide school buses.

I went to a school that was nearly 10 miles from home and, along with pupils from neighbouring towns and villages, I got there by school bus. Everyone who lived within a couple of miles of the school walked and hardly anyone travelled in by car.

I would much rather suffer a few buses in the streets around the schools than 500 cars trying to fit into the same space. It would cut down on fuel emissions and noise and make the streets safer for pedestrians.

Ideally the local authority and schools would subsidise such transport but, if they won't or can't, and the only other way is for parents to fund it entirely, it would probably cost less than the amount they spend on fuelling their cars for the school run. There are plenty of examples of this happening around the country.

I doubt it is only pupils from outside the area contributing to the congestion, so another part of the solution is to get more local kids walking or cycling to school rather than getting dropped off by car.

More parking spaces is not the answer to the school run traffic chaos.

Gavin Warrender
Collingwood Crescent, Ponteland

The Point of the Darras Hall Estates Committee

In the July edition John Worth questioned the value of the Darras Hall Estates Committee. If he refers to the deeds of his property he will see that he agreed to the terms of the Trust when he purchased his site.

The Committee is the guardian of the bye laws and rules of the estate and must therefore scrutinise all development proposals as well as reacting to complaints about non compliances which have been implemented without submission to the Committee. Given the size of the estate the annual cost per resident is very reasonable.

The fact that, in some cases, unscrupulous

individuals have ignored the rules is no reason to wind down the Committee as Mr Worth suggests. To do so would rapidly result in high density developments all over the estate and the destruction of its unique character.

The estate is already under attack. An article in the Newcastle Journal of June 15 described a major challenge to the rules of the estate by the proposal to build five properties on protected paddock land. The Estate Committee's refusal of this proposal demonstrates why they are badly needed.

The Darras Hall Committee deserves the full support of the residents in its efforts to preserve the nature of the estate which is widely admired and is the chosen place of residence for those seeking a special place to live.

David Hobson
Willow Way, Darras Hall

Better informed constructive criticism would be preferable

I write as a recently retired member of Ponteland Town Council to respond to a letter from Muriel Sobo in the July edition of PNV.

I would like to clarify some slightly misleading information given by Mrs Sobo about the Ponteland Local Plan process and the Easy Access entrance off West Road into Ponteland Park.

Areas such as Morpeth, Alnwick and Cramlington were selected to be involved in a Local Plan pilot scheme, well in advance of Local Plan deadlines and with financial backing and plan guidance. Not so with other areas including Ponteland and we ended up with much tighter deadlines.

The Town Council embarked on a Draft Town Plan with sections allocated to the

12 Council members. These were collated by two of my former colleagues and then placed in the public domain purely as a document of consultation.

The hostile public meeting was certainly not to 'approve the plan'. It was a document of consultation and not the definitive article. The expectation was for dialogue. In fairness however, perhaps a greater degree of clarity from the Council side may well have reduced the heat of the moment.

Mrs Sobo's assertion is that the Town Council 'blundered' in the creation of the Easy Access entrance. As one of the councillors who democratically approved the scheme, my own view was, and still is, that the Easy Access pathway had been beautifully designed and constructed.

The positioning has made a vast improvement to the park landscape at that point and, it will provide an 'easy access' into the park for residents of the Beeches, Ladywell Estate and the Lairage. Anyone who pushes a wheelchair or pushchair with an infant will find this access point much easier to negotiate than the two existing West Road entrances, one of which is currently out of commission.

We require just one dropped kerb and signs visible from both east and west indicating 'people crossing'. It is Northumberland County Council which is holding up the opening, and it is not, as has previously been suggested in such disparaging tones, a 'road to nowhere'.

Speaking as a resident and former councillor I have at least sampled the other side of local politics. I am also guilty of strongly worded letters in my pre-council days to the former Parish Council. I am now, very much of the opinion that constructive rather than destructive criticism is the much preferred option.

Finally, the Council members are residents of the community who have stepped up to the mark to serve Ponteland. They are also unpaid for their sterling efforts.

Alan Mee
North Road, Ponteland

No need to go potty about condition of roads

As a resident of Ponteland for over seven years now, I have always been aware that the condition of our roads has long been an issue that inspires great passion and, at times, concern.

Nor did it cause me any great surprise, having recently come onto the Town Council, that this issue was foremost on residents' minds. Whilst advising locals that this issue does not come under the jurisdiction of the Town Council, I am also quick to acknowledge that all residents should stand together in tackling this issue.

Like many, I have been delighted at the improvements to major roads in Ponteland such as those on Edge Hill and at the parking bays at Darras Hall shops. We must go further, however - the condition of our roads has for far too long now been a blight on our beautiful village.

The website fixmystreet.com proves to be a most effective tool; to date this has helped in resolving 664 roadside issues residents have raised and I would urge those who feel equally as passionate about this to join in confronting this issue.

Coun Adam Shanley
Ponteland Town Council

Letters on all issues are welcomed by Pont News & Views but the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher. The Editor reserves the right to amend any submitted letters for legal or other reasons. All letters submitted should include the writer's name and address.

September issue deadlines: The September issue will be delivered on Friday August 30. The deadline for all copy and adverts is Monday August 12. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the September issue.

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What's on...

County Council surgeries

Your local Northumberland County Councillors Richard Dodd, Peter Jackson, Veronica Jones and Eileen Armstrong are available to meet constituents on the first Saturday of every month from 10am-11am at Waitrose supermarket, Ponteland and Broadway, Darras Hall. Their next surgery is on Saturday August 3rd.

Ponteland U3A

Ponteland U3A's monthly meeting is on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm in St Mary's Church Hall. Our speaker on August 7th is Steve Lennon whose subject is 'The Ocean Youth Trust North'. Visitors are welcome to come along, no charge. On September 4 Ray Shirley's subject will be 'Sums aren't what they used to be'.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

Our speaker on Monday August 12th is Steve Cox who will talk on 'Air Traffic Control'. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday

of every month in the lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, at 2.30pm. Membership is open to gentlemen aged over 55. The annual subscription is £10. For further details contact Donald Lloyd at donaldfloyd@sky.com or on (01661) 872661.

Merton Hall

Merton Hall is a great place to meet new and old friends, read the papers and have a cuppa - Monday to Saturday from 9.30am to 11.30am. Only 30p per cup. Our thanks go to our dedicated volunteers who make this possible. Would you like to volunteer for two hours a month and help at one of our coffee mornings? If you can we would love to hear from you. There are two fully serviced wheelchairs available to loan. Keep fit and flexible with chair based exercise every Monday from 11am - 11.45am. Come and join the fun for only £1.50. For more info on all of the above please call (01661) 872917 or pop into Merton Hall on a coffee morning.

Carpet bowls restarts Friday September 6

The new session of carpet bowls commences 7.30pm on Friday September 6. New members would be most welcome, why not come along and give it a try - it's a good way of helping the winter along. Venue is Ponteland Methodist Church. Contact is Mrs Barbara Hogg on (01661) 824652.

Rotary Duck Races: Sunday September 8

This annual event takes place on Sunday September 8 in Ponteland Park and new this year are 'Boat Races for home-made boats, for children aged 5 - 11.' Boat building plans are available from duckrace@outlook.com. Local schools have been given all the information and are invited to take part.

Ponteland Netball Club

Do you play netball? Come and join us for a fun and sociable workout. All levels welcome. Every Monday from September 9 from 8.30pm to 9.30pm at the Sports Hall, (behind)

Ponteland Middle School. Contact pontnetball@gmail.com or 07867 483551.

RNLI Ponteland Ladies Luncheon Club

The Ponteland RNLI Ladies Luncheon Club is looking to attract new members. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Memorial Hall at 12noon for 12.30pm where we enjoy a two course lunch together with a guest speaker. The new season commences on Tuesday September 10. Why not give us a try? Contact the Secretary Janet Musson on (01661) 824880.

Ponteland Parish Flower Show: Saturday September 14

The 36th Annual Show will be held in Ponteland Memorial Hall on Saturday September 14th with the show open to the public from 1pm. The presentation of trophies will be at 4pm followed by the auction of produce and the raffle. See article on page 14.



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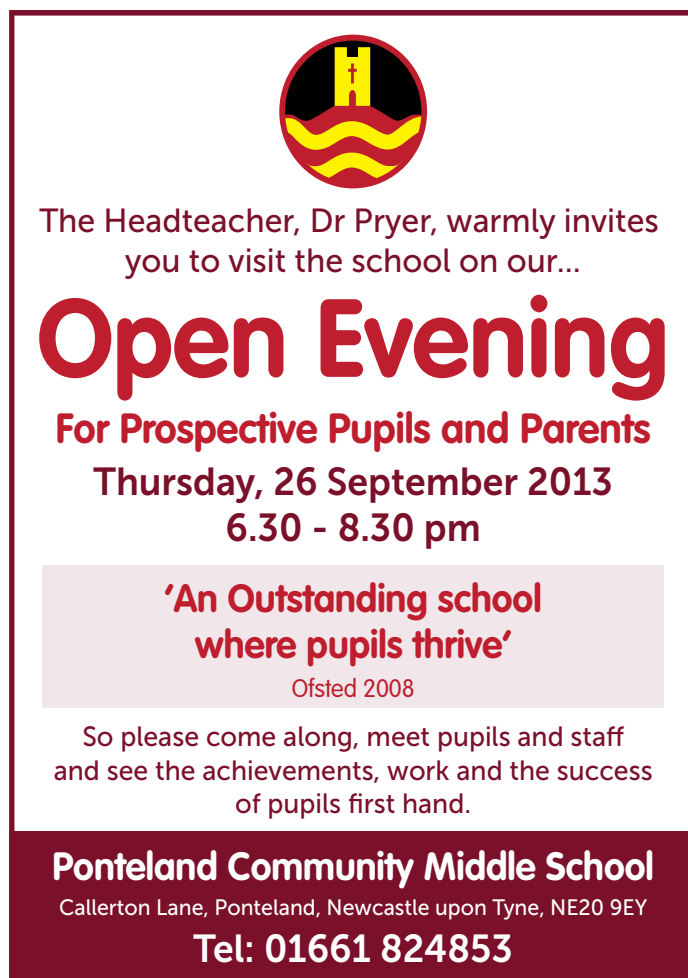
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** Please quote Pont News & Views when making the appointment.
No obligation consultation, further investigations may be necessary before any treatment commences.



Keep a look out for suspicious vehicles

By PC Rob Anderson
Ponteland Community Beat Manager



In the period between 12th June and 11th July we have had eight crimes recorded for the Ponteland area.

These break down to the following offences:

- One theft from a shop
- One theft
- One making off without paying a taxi fare
- One attempted burglary to a garage
- One theft from a motor vehicle
- One assault
- One burglary dwelling
- One burglary to a shed.

Enquiries are ongoing in relation to the offences and an arrest was made for the assault.

There has been an increase in the thefts around the rural area of Ponteland and as a result we would like to raise your awareness for any suspicious vehicles driving around our streets.

If you see any cars or vans acting in a manner which attracts your attention or looks out of the ordinary then please write down the make and registration number of the vehicle before calling the police. We rely on good information from yourselves to give us a head start when answering calls of this type so we know what to look for as we approach the area you have called from.

The good spell of weather we are having at the minute means there are a lot of residents spending more time outdoors and your assistance is always welcome.

We are holding another meeting to attract potential recruits for Community Speed Watch at Sure Start, Ponteland First School, Thornhill Road, Ponteland on Thursday 8th August at 6.30pm. If you have an interest in assisting the police with speeding issues in your local area then please come along to find out more.

If you would like some crime prevention advice please contact PC 613 Davison or

myself, PC 395 Anderson, on 101.

Local police surgeries will be held on the following dates:

- PC Rob Anderson 10th August 11.30am–12.30pm Co-op, Broadway
- CSO Jill Ruddick 24th August 9.30am–10.30am Merton Hall, Ponteland
- PC Lee Davison 31st August 11.30am–12.30pm at Belsay village shop

We also have engagement days at these venues and dates:

- 21st August 1pm–3pm Stamfordham/Belsay.
- 22nd August 10am–12noon Merton Way/1pm–3pm Broadway

Please come along and have a chat to get to know us.

Classes for all at Ponteland Parish Flower Show

By Syd Cowan

The 36th Annual Show will be held in Ponteland Memorial Hall on Saturday September 14th with the show open to the public from 1pm.

The presentation of trophies will be at 4pm followed by the auction of produce and the raffle. This year Ponteland Memorial Hall Leek Club is incorporated into the show, bringing with it additional perpetual trophies for leeks and onions.

Entering the 126 classes in the show is quite simple. Schedules are available at a number of outlets in Ponteland including the Library and Post Office and in the neighbouring parishes.

Staging of exhibits is from 7pm until 9pm on Friday September 13th and from 8am until 11am on Saturday 14th. There are classes for Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, Children, Cookery, Handicrafts, Wine, Art and Photography. From your many hobbies there

must be exhibits that you can enter.

If you are unable to locate a schedule please get in touch with me, Syd Cowan, on (01661) 824459.

The voluntary committee look forward to welcoming you to the show either as an exhibitor or a member of the public coming to enjoy a viewing and a cup of tea which, as usual, will be provided by the Ponteland Girl Guides.

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Both playing & social memberships are currently being offered at Ponteland Golf Club. Membership categories start from the age of 10 and there is a range of payment options currently available for both ladies and gentlemen. There is currently no waiting list for ANY category. The club is actively looking to recruit young adults and has recently introduced intermediate membership categories with no joining fee for 18 to 29 year olds.

For information contact:

Secretary Greg Waugh at:
secretary@thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk
Tel: 01661 822689

Village newsagent closes

By Muriel Sobo

Ponteland News has operated from Bell Villas in the heart of Ponteland for 15 years and closed at the end of July.

Newsagent Tom Poad has written to customers saying his lease was up for renewal and was increasing from £12,000 per year to £21,500 per year, which the business could not sustain.

Tom, sometimes assisted by his father Kevan, has run the business very well for all these years and his customers are full of praise for the effort he has put in through snow and ice to make sure papers were delivered to customers as far as Woollington, the police headquarters, Black and Little Callertons and of course through the village and Darras Hall.

This involved four vans, their drivers and at least 27 paper boys – our entrepreneurs of tomorrow! Indeed Tom started as a paper boy back in 1988. Josie, who served in the shop for seven years, is known to most and that small shop was the beating heart of the village.

Many loyal customers are not sure where they will go for their papers. The landlord is Mark Reay, son of Anna who ran the coffee shop for decades, and he lives now in Spain.

Pont News & Views was unable to contact Mr Reay for comment.

Exhibition to mark 100th Anniversary of the First World War

By Peter Cowey, Ponteland Town Mayor

For the week Monday November 3rd to Remembrance Sunday November 9th 2014 Ponteland Town Council has booked the downstairs lounge in the Memorial Hall. The intention is to hold an exhibition of memorabilia from all conflicts since 1914.

If anyone would like to express an interest in displaying items such as photos, hats/hat badges even uniforms, medals etc please contact the Mayor via email at peter.cowey@pontelandtowncouncil.co.uk or write your details and leave them at the Town Council Offices on Meadowfield Industrial Estate.

Please note at this time I am only collecting names/phone numbers/or emails and an indication of what there would be to go on display. Tables will be provided for heavy items and stands will be provided to display photos etc. Hours of opening are to be arranged, as are stewards.

Whether you have items to display or not but would be prepared to be a steward at some point over the course of the week, (probably 2 hour slots) please let me know.



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