## pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



125 jobs created as £30m airport hotel opens

Old friend returns to boost Ponteland policing

250ft wind turbine plan rejected

## Fight on to save Green Belt



# Looking for financial advice? Make sure it's independent. Independent financial advice is exactly that - independent and impartial. We research the whole market, recommending the most appropriate product or service that suits your individual needs. If you would like advice on: Your current circumstances and financial objectives

- Retirement planning
- Savings and investments

Give us a call on **(01661) 821110** 

or visit **www.cfs-ifa.co.uk** for more information

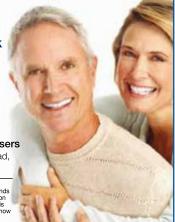


independent financial advisers

CFS Independent Financial Advisers

NatWest Bank Chambers, 2 Darras Road, Ponteland, NE20 9HA

CFS Independent Financial Advisers is a trading style of Connacht Financial Services. Pension and investment funds can go down in value. What you receive from your pension will depend on the performance of your fund. A pension is a long term commitment and there are detailed rules on how and when you can take your benefits.



Serving the Ponteland community since 1996.





68, Downend Road, Westerhope. NE5 5NH T: 0191 229 1915 M: 07801 789655 www.foxtaillilyflowers.co.uk E: info@foxtaillilyflowers.co.uk

Open 6 Days Monday to Saturday 9am – 5pm. All major Debit and Credit cards accepted.



(0191) 252 8222

Pont News and Views is published by Ponteland Town Council in conjunction with Ponteland Community Partnership. If you would like to submit an article, feature or advertise in the magazine, contact: **Tel:** (0191) 3408422 **Mob:** 07954 157939 **Email:** pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk **Write:** Cian creative pr, 5 East Boldon Road, Cleadon Village, SR6 7SH









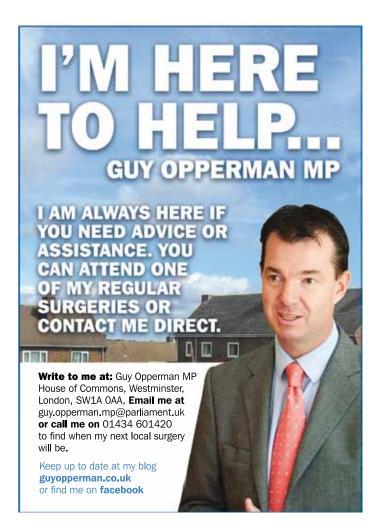
## Pupils and parents enjoy Christmas feast of entertainment

From a traditional Nativity to a Chocolate String Orchestra, pupils at Ponteland schools enjoyed a feast of entertainment in the run up to Christmas.

Darras Hall First School's Key Stage One children performed The Greatest Story Ever Told to three groups of parents, while for the Reception classes it was Our First Navity.

Meanwhile at Ponteland Community High School's Christmas concert, the festively-decorated dining hall saw performances by the Chocolate String Orchestra, led by ex-student Rebecca Powton, Ponteland Community Band led by Alastair Lord, and the I-Tones choir, led by Leah Goldie.

The Three Kings are Hugh Twelves, Finn O'Donnell and Beni Ayuk, all aged seven. Isla Cardno, six, is the main angel. Photos by Keith Robertson.







#### Who's for lunch?

Eagle owl pic wins photo competition

By Denise Weatherburn

There has been significant participation and success in Ponteland Photographic Club competitions over the autumn with some outstanding images being produced by members of the society.

More than 40 images were reviewed in a knockout voting evening before the best two were shortlisted. The eventual winner was Michael Balfour's image Who's for Lunch, a beautiful study of an eagle owl, with Frank Thomson's Rescue Mission coming second.

In November, members gave a presentation evening of images from the Pickering War Weekend which is held every October across all of the North Yorks Moors Railway stations and their associated towns and villages. The photo shown is from Pickering station, where everyone was in 1943 outfits.

Our print competition was held in October, where Jim Welch was our independent expert judge and Veronica Congleton won with All in a Row. The club also entered eight prints into the North Tyne Print Competition and our highest placed print was this one from Bill Norfolk entitled End of the Harvest.



New members are always welcome and more details can be found on the club website at **www pontelandphotographicsociety.co.uk** 



or even a demolition and re-build we'll be happy to help.









- Three Bedrooms
- Living/Dining Room Breakfasting Kitchen

- Family Bathroom Double Garage West Facing Rear Garden

Guide Price: £325,000



Shaftesbury House, Riding Mll

- Seven Bedrooms

- Four Reception Rooms
  Large Family Kitchen Room
  Billiard Room & Snug/Bar
  Laundry Room & Store Rooms
- En-Suite & Two Family Bathroom

P.O.A



Ridgely Drive, Ponteland

- Three Bedrooms
- Large Living Room
- Dining Kitchen Utility Room Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Guide Price: £319,995



- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms En-Suite & Family Bathroom Breakfasting Kitchen & Utility Room
- South Facing Garden
- Walking Distance to Local Schools & Amenities

Guide Price: £475,000



- Five Bedrooms
- Large Family Room
- Breakfasting Kitchen
- Living Room
- En-Suite & Family Bathroom

Guide Price: £649,000



- **Five Bedrooms**
- Living Room & Dining Room
- Kitchen/Dining/Family Room Two En-Suites & Luxury Family Bathroom Private Rear Garden
- Close to Local Schools & Amenities

Guide Price: £735,000









## t: 01661 872 111

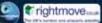
www.dobsonsestateagents.co.uk enquiries@dobsonsestateagents.co.uk

Number One Broadway, Darras Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9PW



















## Retain your independence with McCarthy & Stone

After working hard all your life, don't you think you deserve a little pampering? Wouldn't it be nice to have someone else to do all the hard work for a change; to know that there is always someone under the same roof, to call on if you need help?

McCarthy & Stone's Assisted Living development of retirement apartments in Ponteland could be the answer.

Everything is designed for your comfort and convenience. You are an independent home-owner, but without the worries and responsibilities of a house and garden and round-the clock support is available if you need it. Needless to say there is full wheelchair access throughout the building.



"Looking back it was the easiest move we ever made. McCarthy & Stone were so helpful.

"We had been thinking of downsizing but it had never crossed our minds to look at a purpose built retirement property. Then we found out that McCarthy & Stone were building a new development not far from our daughter. When their representative came to see us we decided there and then to move in and we've never looked back.



"I feel as if I've moved into a luxury hotel, I can eat in a restaurant every day.

It was a big decision to move but I just couldn't manage anymore on my own. I love the fact that I still own my own property but I've got the help and assistance on hand to call on as and when I need it.

Best of all I don't have to cook anymore!"

Mrs Bryant, an Assisted Living apartment owner

#### Flexible support services

Lunch is served every day in the waitress service restaurant and meals can even be brought to your apartment in the event of illness,

One hour's domestic assistance is included in the service charge but this service is totally flexible and extra assistance can be purchased to meet either long or short term needs. The same applies to personal care which is available from the appointed care agency.

#### **Tailor-made facilities**

The facilities at Henderson Court have been designed to ensure that you can do



everything that you would do in your own home, but far more easily.

The apartments have a fitted kitchen, a level access shower in addition to a bath and full wheelchair access. Facilities also include a laundry and residents' lounge where you can socialise with fellow residents, if you wish. For entertaining your visitors, there is a function room and a hotel style guest suite for putting up family and friends.

#### Security brings peace of mind

Security is often a particular concern for the older homebuyer. Henderson Court benefits from advanced security systems like a 24-hour emergency call service and CCTV at the main entrance.



Where else could you find such a balance of independence and convenience under one roof?

Henderson Court, North Road, Ponteland NE20 9GY.
Open by appointment only • Prices from £199,950

1661 872811 • www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk

	<b>,</b>			
For more news & information from the McCarthy & Stone Group send to: Freepost RSCB-BRLE-HYKJ, McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd, ALTRINCHAM WA14 5LX				
RSCB-BRLE-HYKJ, McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd, ALTRINCHAM WA14 5LX  You may be contacted via the methods of communication for which you have provided details. Where a mobile number has been provided, you may be contacted by SMS or other electronic means.				
Enquiring on behalf of? Yourself \( \) Other \( \) New properties \( \) Previously owned \( \)				
Title Name Address	Henderson			
Postcode	McCarthy & Stone			
Email				
Tel and/or Mob	ASSISTED LIVING			

6

## Gold award students enjoy date with the Duke

By Mark Harrison

Three Ponteland students were rewarded with a trip to St James' Palace in London for completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Rachel Briggs, Katherine Twelves and Mark Harrison successfully completed a series of sport and skill activities, expeditions and community service to attain their awards.

They all participated in the popular Duke of Edinburgh award scheme organised by Ponteland Scouts.

All three were invited to collect their awards in London in the presence of Prince Phillip. St James' Palace was a splendid setting, and the awards were presented in the same room in which Prince William and Kate Middleton announced their engagement publicly, which enhanced the occasion.

Rachel, Katherine and Mark, former pupils at Ponteland High School, all now attend university, but were happy to spare a day from their studies to receive their awards.

Richard Walker, Duke of Edinburgh scheme leader at Ponteland Scouts, said: "To complete the Gold Award the young people have to learn a range of skills which they will find useful all their lives. It is not an easy challenge and Rachel, Katherine and Mark are to be congratulated on their achievement."



Rachel Briggs, Mark Harrison and Katherine Twelves are pictured with their awards outside St James Palace.



Junior School Visiting Mornings – Tuesday 31 January and Thursday 2 February Senior School Entrance Examination for entry into Year 7 – Saturday 14 January Bursaries are available for Senior School.

Admissions tel: 0191 201 6511 email: j.howe@cnh.gdst.net www.newcastlehigh.gdst.net



## Ponteland sailor receives award from Princess Royal

A hard-working Ponteland sailor has been recognised by royalty for his outstanding dedication and achievements in boating.



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) North East Committee member David Darling was presented with an RYA Regional Award for his services to the North East.

Mr Darling, who has been an active and valued member of the sailing community in the area for more than 40 years, began the sport in the North East at Tynemouth Sailing Club in the 1960s and was a founder member of Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club in the 1970s.

He received his accolade from HRH the Princess Royal, President of the RYA.

Mr Darling said: "I am extremely pleased to have received the RYA Regional Award and yet there are many others whom I consider should also have such recognition.

"I have made lifetime friends all over the country and, while I have been amazed at the technical developments in the sport in recent years, the fact remains that sailing is still a sport that can be enjoyed by anyone who would like to take it up."

The RYA is the national body for all forms of recreational, competitive and professional boating.

#### Wind turbine bid for Ponteland farm thrown out

Plans to erect a 250ft wind turbine on farmland owned by a Ponteland county councillor have been rejected by his own authority.

The 250ft-high turbine – nearly four times the height of the Angel of the North – was proposed on land at East Coldcoats Farm near Ponteland owned by Coun Peter Jackson, leader of the opposition Conservative group on Northumberland County Council.

The nearest properties are about quarter of a mile away at Middle Coldcoats, West Coldcoats and East Coldcoats.

The application sparked 41 letters of objection from local people and was opposed by a number of groups and organisations, including Ponteland's town council and civic society, the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Northumbria Police.

The county council's planning and environment committee voted by nine votes to two to refuse the application for permission submitted by land agent George F White on behalf of renewables company Green Energy Ponteland Ltd at their meeting on December 6.

Planning officers had recommended approval, saying the turbine would help meet the growing demand for renewable energy and would not seriously harm the landscape, already altered by electricity pylons and the police headquarters.

However, committee members rejected the advice, claiming the size of the machine would have a damaging impact on the green belt and be too close to residential properties.







## Spring Term 2012

### Full Time, Part Time & Short Courses

#### **Bitesize Courses - exciting Spring taster courses**

Course Title	Start Date	Day N	umber of Weeks
First Aid for Pets	13.03.12	Tue, 6pm - 9pm	2
Backyard Poultry Keeping	09.05.12 or 11.05.12	Wed or Fri, 9am - 1pm	1
Vegetables from Pots to Plots	29.03.12	Thu, 9am - 12pm	4 BI
Gardening for the Young	24.05.12	Thu, 10am - 1pm	2 / <b>CC</b>
Floristry for Beginners	08.05.12	Tue, 9am - 4pm	2
Game Fishery Management	14.04.12, 28.04.12	Sat, 10am - 2pm	1
Caudan Marshinam Maintanan	or 12.05.12	Tra lana Cana	
Garden Machinery Maintenance	24.04.12	Tue, 1pm - 5pm	2
Introduction to Working as an Outdoor Activities Instructor	25.04.12	Wed, 9am - 12pm	2



#### Full Time Courses

It is not too late to enrol on to our Land Based and Renewable Energies courses for this year:

- Level 1 Certificate in Land Based Studies
- Level 2 Extended Certificate in Land Based Studies
- Level 3 Certificate in Land Based Studies
- Level 3 BZEE Wind Turbine Technician Studies
- Level 3 Diploma in Electrical Power Engineering -Wind Turbine Maintenance (Technical Knowledge)
- Level 2 Certificate in Sustainable Energies (Wind)

#### **Part Time and Short Courses**

- BHS Horse Knowledge, Care and Riding Stage 1
- City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate for Dog Grooming Assistants
- City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Floristry
- Sewing Courses
- Introduction to Beekeeping
- RHS Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth, Propagation and Development

Our Full Time, Part Time & Short Courses all have various start dates. Please call us to find out further details.



#### **National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) courses**

We offer a range of National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) courses, which develop skills and competence in the land based industries. Our NPTC courses have various start dates throughout the year. Please call us to find out further details.

#### Apprenticeships at Kirkley Hall

We offer a range of Land Based and Animal related Apprenticeships at our Kirkley Hall Campus. For further information please visit our website **northumberland.ac.uk** or call us on **01671 841 229** 

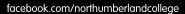


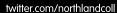
#### Our next open day at Kirkley Hall Campus is Tuesday 10th January 4.30pm - 7pm

For more information on any of the courses please visit the Kirkley Hall campus section on our website **northumberland.ac.uk**. For bookings please contact us on **01670 841 229** or email **advice.centre@northland.ac.uk** 









## Your letters

An alternative view on the regeneration scheme – and an official response, and criticism of motorists damaging grass verges in this month's letters....

## The Editor Pont News & Views

## Inadequate consultation for village regeneration scheme

Correspondence in your December issue gives the impression that the village redevelopment proposals being pursued by the Town Council have the support of the local populace.

The letters also imply that there has been a satisfactory process of consultation with the residents of Ponteland. We would contend that neither is the case. Discussions have been taking place behind closed doors for almost two years, about which the public knows virtually nothing.

There has to be an adequate process of public consultation before any moves are made to submit an outline planning application, otherwise such consultations will be meaningless.

The Civic Society has long opposed the inclusion of the library and other public services in the intended scheme, which in our opinion would prove to be impractical, uneconomic and dependant upon a process of compulsory purchase that could drag on for years and be unlikely to succeed.

We are pleased to read that the County Council has now decided to remove the library from these proposals and would suggest that similar action needs to be taken with regard to Merton Hall, where facilities for the elderly are currently housed.

This would open the way for the evolution of a decent local complex on the present library site which could incorporate a new and improved library together with replacement facilities for the elderly. To this might be added offices for the Town Council and more peripheral uses like citizen's advice, tourist information, space for local artists to display their work, a café, accommodation for the Registrar and so on.

This has been a very long running saga, one which commenced way back in May 2006 with the publication by Castle Morpeth Borough Council of the first regeneration brief for the village.

It is to be hoped that the removal of the library from these deliberations will mark a new beginning for what is a vitally important project, both for the Village and the wider Ponteland area.

John Hague for Ponteland Civic Society High View Ponteland

## We remain committed to new library in regeneration plans

In response to the letter from the Civic Society, the suggestion that no public consultation has taken place is wrong.

As will be seen from our letters in last month's Pont News, the community through Ponteland Community Partnership have been fully involved and supportive of the vision of this scheme.

Discussions have been ongoing with regard to the appointment of a developer which are confidential. Also, there has to be public consultation before any planning application is made. MKP have confirmed

that they will be holding a public exhibition when appointed.

The opportunity has been freely available for the Civic Society to make their views known at the regular PCP meeting. Hence we are surprised that they contemplate a regeneration scheme which excludes the library. Given the financial situation of local authorities, the construction of a new library on its own is considered to be impractical.

The interim decision to withdraw the library at this late stage was taken by the (County Council) officers without the endorsement of the councillors.

Current thinking has identified the importance of making town centres attractive by integrating as many facilities as practicable. This has always been the basis of the vision and design of this project.

#### Brian Prickett

Chairman of Ponteland Community Partnership

Peter Cowey
Mayor of Ponteland

#### Sunday match enthusiasts join parents in wrecking grass verge

The mindless behaviour of the parents of pupils attending schools on Callerton Lane have made a pretty good job of wrecking the grass verge along that stretch of road.

Now the Sunday match enthusiasts seem hell-bent on continuing the havoc down to the Sports Centre.

Some of them have the good sense to straddle the grass, but they are in the minority. Surely it

would make sense for them to come to some arrangement with the school to use their car park?

Apart from the sad state of the grass verges, it can be a little hazardous driving up Callerton Lane when a match is in progress.

**Mrs A Matthew**Dunsgreen
Ponteland

### Where did welcome sign spring from?

Do any readers know the reasoning behind a 'Welcome to Ponteland' sign which has recently appeared at the Western Way entrance to the Darras Hall estate?

Is it to do with Ponteland becoming a town, or was someone wanting to avoid using the name of the estate?

Ben Prior

## Thank you to all who supported the Bridge Drive

I am writing to thank all the shops, restaurants and businesses in Ponteland for their generous donations in support of the Bridge Drive held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday October 13th.

This proved to be a very successful event, with an attendance of over 100 people and raising £1,250 towards the Memorial Hall Renovation Fund.

I am grateful to all those who made any contribution to this success.

**John Murray** Chairman Ponteland Bridge Club

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.

February issue deadlines: The February issue will be delivered on February 1 and 2. Deadline for all copy and adverts is Monday January 16. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the February issue.

## What's on...

### Northumberland Fuchsia Society

Our next meeting is on Thursday January 5 from 7.30pm at St. Matthew's RC Church Hall, Ponteland.

### Ponteland History Society Help Desk

Are you doing a school project, researching family history, needing historical information on a date, building or person in the Ponteland area, or looking for an old local photograph? Then perhaps we can help. Our free help desk is open at Ponteland Library from 2.15pm to 5pm on Friday January 6, where we can give access to our own archives. For more information see www.ponthistsoc.freeuk.com/page12.html

### **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. Their next surgery is on January 7.

### Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

The next meeting is being held at Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, at 2.30pm on Monday January 9. Speaker Nigel McMurray will hold a talk entitled 'Images of Lawrence of Arabia'. 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 who are not in full time employment. The annual subscription is £10. For further details contact Donald Lloyd at donaldflloyd@sky.com or on (01661) 872661.

#### Ponteland Photographic Society

We welcome new participants at our meetings which are held every Monday at 7.30pm in Merton Hall. We return after the festivities on January 9 with a Monochrome workshop. For further information see www.pontelandphotographicsociety.co.uk

#### **Darras Hall WI**

Darras Hall WI invites you to their January meeting which will be held on Thursday January 11 at 2pm in the URC Hall. The topic this month is "Why Make A Will?" and the speaker is Mr T Waddleton. The competition is entitled "January Blues", something we all suffer from in the Christmas aftermath!

#### **Burns Night**

Newcastle Falcons are holding a Burns Night celebration on Friday January 27. It includes a drinks reception, four course meal, live entertainment, disco and dancing until late. The host is Scottish International and ex Falcons Player Doddie Weir. Cost is £25 and doors open at 7pm. See www.newcastlefalcons.co.uk for details or call 0191 214 5588.

#### Ponteland Civic Society

First meeting of 2012 is on January 30 at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall. Grace McCombie, past president of the Newcastle Society of Antiquities and author of the revision of the Pevsner Newcastle and Gateshead City Guide (which includes past and present architectural highlights), will speak on the compilation and content of this guide to our great conurbation. Visitors are welcome for a nominal charge.

#### Join our weekly netball session

Did you used to play netball? Or are you new to the game? Come and join us for a fun and sociable workout. All levels welcome. Every Monday from 8pm to 9pm at the Sports Hall, (behind) Ponteland Middle School. Contact pontnetball@gmail.com or 07715 607272 for more information.

#### **Ponteland Runners**

Ponteland Runners are a running group that meet to run around Ponteland/Darras Hall.

We'd like to invite anybody, of any running standard, to join this friendly group. We have separate Mens (Monday 8.10pm and Friday 7.05pm) and Ladies (Monday 7pm) runs. For further information, contact Chris or Sue Heppell by email PontelandRunners@talktalk.net or call (01661) 860327. We are an England Athletics Affiliated Club, with representatives at many local runs.

## Ponteland's weekly market

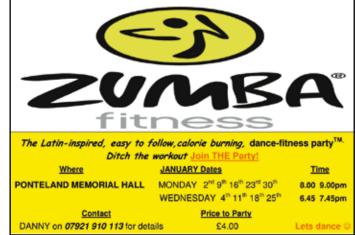
Ponteland's weekly market at Merton Way shopping centre is on between 9am and 4pm each Friday.

## Volunteering opportunities with Girlguides

Volunteer with Girlguiding. Right now we don't have enough adult volunteers. You can help with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Senior Section. You don't have to commit to helping on a regular basis; you can support us in other ways too. For more information please contact Lesley Hughes at lesleyhghs@yahoo.co.uk or (01661) 824843.







## Plans to build 6,500 homes on Green Belt land spark outrage

Plans to build 6,500 homes on Green Belt land surrounding Ponteland and Darras Hall have sparked huge protest. Pont News & Views looks at the issues.

Newcastle City Council has a problem. It says Government projections indicate that it will need to build 21,000 new homes in the city over the next two decades to cater for population growth.

Around 70 per cent of the homes needed are proposed to be built on brownfield sites and areas earmarked for regeneration.

But a 'Strategic Growth Area' named Callerton Park (shown on the map here) would see 350 hectares of Green Belt land developed for housing – a proposal which has sparked outrage.

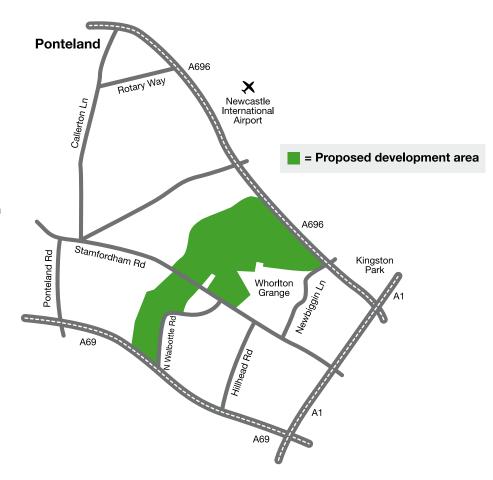
A group has been set up called Newcastle West Green Belt Protection Campaign to fight the plans for 6,500 new homes in the area between the A69 and A696 near Callerton, Woolsington, Walbottle and Throckley.

They are supported by Ponteland's MP Guy Opperman, Woolsington Parish Council and an online petition on the group's website has over 250 sign-ups.

The campaigners have generated significant regional media coverage, with an entire street of residents in Callerton erecting 'not for sale' protest billboards outside their homes. They also lobbied city councillors in a demo at Newcastle Civic Centre during a meeting of the full council on December 7.

One, Callerton village resident Adam Vaughan, said: "The council's proposals are fundamentally flawed. Green belt land is protected and the reasons for that are just as valid now as before."

The council has invited responses to a public consultation which ends on January 4 2012. A report which confirms which of the sites identified in the One Core Strategy, being jointly developed with Gateshead Council, will go forward for further consideration will be brought to the full council in February.





#### **FOR**

By Cllr Henri Murison
Cabinet Member for Quality
of Life, Newcastle City
Council

I would like to first say how saddened I am that you (Guy Opperman MP) have sought to make political capital out of the very serious issues presently being discussed in Newcastle around our plan for the future of the City.



You may not have taken the time to read the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, which through its "presumption in favour of sustainable development" leaves the door open to shopping centres, factories or incinerators wherever developers want if no up to date plan is in place.

By removing the priority given to brownfield sites the coalition have left places like Newcastle with tough choices.

We have identified that there are viable sites included the current plan out to consultation which would see over two thirds of development up till 2030 on brownfield sites. Your claim we have ignored Scotswood is simply wrong, with significant growth planned here despite regeneration money withdrawn by government.

We are listening to feedback on all the proposed sites being considered for development in our consultation.

In February we will say which sites are not suitable for development. There will then be a further two full consultations, the latter of which will be an examination in public by a planning inspector. In particular, I can assure residents that all their views, and evidence such as on the ecological soundness of developing on sites, will be evaluated.

The City Council in Newcastle is listening, and why don't you do the same Mr Opperman and join me and politicians on all sides in Newcastle who supported a motion against the National Planning Policy Framework and calling for significant changes.

#### **AGAINST**

By Guy Opperman MP

There is a serious threat to the greenbelt land between Ponteland and Newcastle upon Tyne.

Newcastle City Council has put forward plans to build on land on the western edge of Newcastle between the A69 and A696, right next to the Newcastle/ Northumberland Border. The



Council has named this area 'Callerton Park' and identified it as 'Strategic Growth Area' for 6,500 new houses.

They intend this to be the first place for their new One Core Strategy for house building in the whole of Newcastle and Gateshead.

I am urging Newcastle City Council to have a rethink and withdraw the Callerton Park proposals.

They are not intending to build on brownfield land first, nor are they intending to fill unused empty homes. You only have to drive towards the city centre to see a huge number of brownfield sites which could be developed and areas where regeneration has stalled for too long or even stopped. This is where they should build first. Their first action and first choice is building on the green belt.

This will significantly reduce the gap of green land between Newcastle and Ponteland. I think we can all agree that over the coming years Ponteland and Darras Hall will expand – after all it's a fantastic place to live. I live just near Stamfordham myself.

However, any future development must be led by our local communities and ideally by Parish and Town Councils.

Development that affects Ponteland should be done sensitively to local residents, not this bulldozer approach. What Newcastle needs, like many areas, is affordable sustainable development. What no one needs is the council and big developers looking to make a quick buck off the back of a cash crop housing estate in the greenbelt surrounding our area.

I am urging Ponteland residents to have their say on the plans, which are currently out for consultation via the Newcastle City Council website. You can have your say by emailing: planning&housingstrategy@newcastle.gov.uk or write to: Planning, Gateshead Council, FREEPOST NEA 3381, Gateshead, NE8 1BR

#### What do you think?

Email: pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk or write to Letters, Pont News & Views, 5 East Boldon Road, Cleadon Village, SR6 7SH.

## 125 jobs created as £30m airport hotel opens

A £30m hotel which has created 125 jobs has been officially opened at Newcastle Airport.

Former Foreign Secretary David Miliband and prominent business leaders from across the region attended for the launch

of DoubleTree by Hilton Newcastle International Airport on December 9.

The new hotel, operated by Newcastle's Cairn Hotel Group under a franchise license agreement with a subsidiary of Hilton Worldwide, boasts 179 rooms, 2,200sq ft of flexible meeting space and conference facilities, a restaurant and bar. It is one of 270 DoubleTree by Hilton hotels and resorts in 22 countries.

Dave Laws, chief executive of Newcastle International, said at the launch: "This iconic building is a gateway to our region delivering access to a global business network. With 4.5m people expected to travel through Newcastle International in 2012, we see further potential for increased visitor numbers in 2013 which will bring economic benefit, investment and employment to the region."

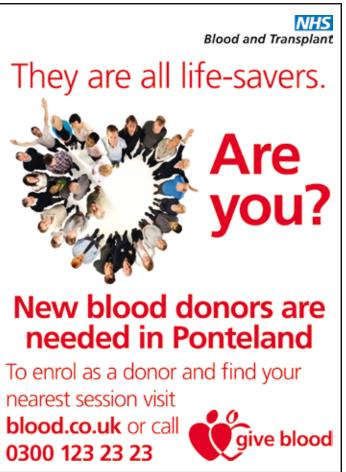
Mr Miliband, South Shields MP, added: "The continued expansion of Newcastle Airport is great news not just for Newcastle but for our whole region."





GARAGES, SHEDS, SUMMERHOUSES, LOG CABINS,

PLAYHOUSES plus ACCESSORIES & GLASS 24x18 (610 x457) = £3.25pp & 24x24 (610 x 610)= £3.75pp



## Do you need help at home?



At Home with... Helen McArdle Care can offer you a bespoke package in personal care to enhance your life and maintain your independence.

We provide reliable and flexible services in:

- Personal Care
- Carer Relief
- Companionship for Outings
- Shopping and Cleaning
- Meal Preparation



#### Did you know?

You can use your personal budget from Social Services to pay for Home Care services?

Call us today - we can offer you help and support to arrange this.

#### You can also access services in:

Hair and Beauty • DIY • Decoration • Gardening • Day Care • Short Breaks

For a free, no obligation consultation please call:

**2** 0191 461 8861

www.athomewithhelenmcardlecare.co.uk



## Ponteland hosts its first ever U13s girls rugby match

By Paul Clark

The first ever U13s girls' rugby match has been held at Ponteland Rugby Club as part of a drive to increase women's participation in the sport.

On November 27 we hosted under-15s, under-18s and for the first time under-13s girls matches at a festival where all the clubs in Northumberland entered players.

The U13s had a round robin match, with Ponteland lending players to both Alnwick and Whitley Bay Rockcliffe so that we had three full teams with substitutes.

Women and girls' rugby is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Ponteland RFC is aware of the enormous benefits a women's section can bring to a club and are fully committed to integrating women and girls.

Rugby is a great way to have fun, get fit and improve hand-eye coordination as part of a team and we try always to put the accent on players having fun while developing rugby skills.

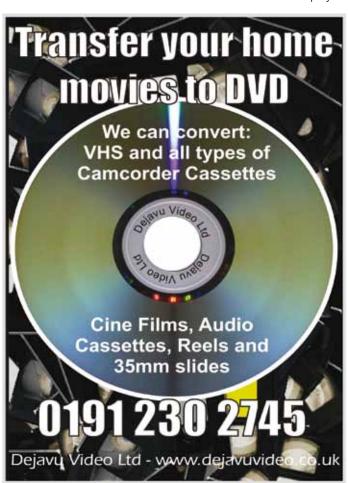
At Ponteland we have girls playing from U7s to U12s – the age range where mixed sex teams are allowed. Until this season, U13 girls could only play as part of a U15



team. The new age group is a perfect match for the Monday after school clubs we promote for Year 7 and Year 8 at both Ponteland and Richard Coates middle schools.

Our players train on Sundays from 10.30am to 12noon at Ponteland Leisure Centre. New players are welcome at all ages from under 7 to under 18 as well as to ladies who would like to start playing rugby.

If you are interested in being a part of Ponteland RFC or want more information visit www.pontelandjuniors.co.uk or email girlsrugby@pontelandrfc.co.uk





## A present from Nigeria to Ponteland

By Ann Cooper

In Nigeria, ladies who have been good members of Methodist Women's Fellowship for six years are allowed to wear a special blue skirt.

But when the ladies of Ponteland Women's Fellowship were presented with the precious skirt material they decided to use it as a beautiful tablecloth.

It was presented to them by Yomi Sobo on his return from a visit to the Nigeria Health Care Project of the Methodist Church. The project provides primary health care services in rural Nigeria and includes centres for the mentally ill, orphaned children and leprosy rehabilitation.

The Ponteland ladies have sent their picture to the Nigerian ladies, along with a thank you letter. Women's Fellowship meets at Ponteland Methodist Church at 2.30pm on Tuesdays and offers a warm welcome and a varied programme. Just turn up or phone Joyce on (01661) 823679 for more information.

## Celebrated historian visits high school

## Ponteland High School was delighted to welcome celebrated historian Ben Walsh for a history workshop.

Mr Walsh is a government adviser on history teaching in schools, Principal Examiner for the OCR History B (Modern World) source based paper, and the author of many electronic publications and multimedia resources.

His workshop primarily revolved around the concept of historical thinking and how thinking more and writing less in an exam situation almost universally results in improved exam performance. He focused on two of the three main areas the students study, the Vietnam War and *How was British society changed*, 1939-1975?

Ben Walsh's expertise and advice was certainly well received by the 82 Year 11 history students who participated in the 90 minute workshop. Feedback comments ranged from how the session was 'inspiring' and 'incredibly useful' to how apparent it was that he had 'obviously put an awful lot of work into preparing the session'.

Reciprocating, Mr Walsh commented on the obvious enthusiasm and intelligence of the students involved, which is very much to their credit.

Who said history education can't be fun?



Ponteland Lions would like to thank generous members of the public whose donations raised £660.41 at the Flag Day held on December 3 at Dobbies and Waitrose.

#### **NEW FACES AT MERTON HALL**

There are some new faces on the Management Committee of Merton Hall. Jean Finch (Chair), Carl Rawlings (Vice Chair) and Christine Greenwell (Treasurer) - but no Secretary as yet!

The new team is looking forward to building on the success and popularity of the Hall within our community. If you would like to help the team to achieve this we still need a Secretary and always need helpers for the morning coffee and tea rota. The Hall is open 9.30am to 11.15am Mon to Sat and is available at any time to groups wishing to hire the Hall. All are welcome.

Contact mertonhall123@gmail.com or call (01661) 872917, 07757 952771 or 07757 952759.



#### **Ponteland Golf Club**

"One of Northumberland's finest! Excellent catering & bar facilities."

Golf North East, 2008

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.

To discuss the available options and fees, or for further general information, please contact:

Secretary Greg Waugh at:

secretary@thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk

Tel: 01661 822689







## A new face – and an old face – boost policing in Ponteland



By PC Paul Henery Ponteland Community Beat Manager

There have been a total of 16 crimes reported in the Ponteland area in the period from November 15 to December 13.

They break down as follows:

- four burglary dwellings
- four burglary to non dwelling
- four thefts (including two shoplifting)
- one theft of a motor vehicle
- one assault
- · one criminal damage
- · one possession of cannabis.

There have been two arrests in relation to these offences and

further enquiries are ongoing which may lead to further arrests.

Beware thefts of oil or other fuels as fuel prices increase. We are committed to reducing this type of theft but would ask for the assistance of the public. Any information can be passed by ringing the Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Following reports of anti social behaviour involving young people playing football in inappropriate places, where damage may be caused or nuisance caused to residents, a number of acceptable behaviour agreements were drawn up between youths and their parents, Northumberland County Council, ISOS housing and the Police.

Whilst these ABAs have been effective, the agencies involved also want to provide a suitable football facility for young people, especially during the dark nights when grassed pitched are waterlogged and in darkness.

Neighbourhood Policing in Ponteland has increased with a new team member and the return of a retired officer on a part time basis.

Jon Gray, who retired from full time policing in 2008, has returned as a Special Constable in Ponteland. Jon regularly gives up his free time, voluntarily, to patrol the town centre assisting the team in dealing with crime and disorder.

PC 613 Lee Davison is the latest recruit to Neighbourhood Policing and will be the Neighbourhood Beat Manager for rural Ponteland. Lee grew up in the area and may already be a familiar face to many. He will be tackling rural crime as well as assisting me in Ponteland town centre.

The next Police surgery will be on Saturday January 14 at 10am at Belsay Shop with PC Davison, who will also hold a drop in surgery at Matfen Village Store in the New Year.

The next Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) meeting will be held on Tuesday January 24 at 9.30am at the Children's Centre, Thornhill Road, Ponteland.

## Greener Interiors

COMMERCIAL FLORIST

Established in Medburn over 25 years We deliver flowers anywhere, any time, 7 days a week.

Weddings • Chair covers • Plants
Funerals • Package deals

If it's just a simple single rose in a vase, a bouquet for your loved one, or one of our wedding packages, Greener Interiors can do it all.

We specialise in vase hire, bouquets delivered to your door, dressing of marquees for parties, weddings etc, tropical plant hire (day hire) and much much more.

Your local florist

01661 825238

www.greenerinteriors.co.uk



## Ponteland Golf Club Ladies' presentation night



Pictured are: (I-r standing) Val Crute, Linda Hoyle, Dorothy James, Joan Aisbitt, Josie Starling, Lesley Marsh, Margaret Hilley, Barbara Clayton and Elizabeth Makepeace. (I-r sitting) Margaret Sutherland, Marilyn Bint, Alex Robson-Crosby, Anne Noble and Helen Woodhouse.

## The Ladies at Ponteland Golf Club recently held their AGM and Presentation evening.

Retiring Captain Linda
Bower presented medals
and trophies to the delighted
winners and was pleased
to report on a successful
year for the distaff side of
the club.

The first team carried off the County Shield for a second year with a nominated team who all had single figure handicaps.

Winners of Trophies in 2011 posed for a photo after the presentation.



## TAYLORS PHARMACY

PONTELANDS INDEPENDENT PHARMACY Jessica Taylor MRPharmS

Bespoke Care
Delivery Service
Prescription Collection Service
Weekly Dosette
Medicine Use Review
Friendly Pharmaceutical Advice

BREWERY LANE · 25 MAIN STREET · PONTELAND · NE20 9NZ TEL: 01661 822055 · FAX: 01661 860705 LEXUS • LAND ROVER • JEEP • BMW • RENAULT • MERCEDES



## TRIPLE EIGHT

MOTOR COMPANY LTD

DARRAS HALL GARAGE



## FREE WINTER CHECK

ANTI-FREEZE, TYRES, LIGHTS ETC



1st class servicing and repairs needn't be expensive.
Contact Guy Lawson or John Gallagher for a quote today.
Tel: 05600 757769 / (01661) 822288

WE WILL BUY YOUR CAR, VAN, CARAVAN, MOTOR HOME OR MOTOR CYCLE FOR CASH.

CONTACT KEVIN NICHOL 01661 822288

Servicing • Repairs
Diagnostics • Pre-MOT's
Tyres • Exhausts
All makes and models

Here at **Triple Eight** we will repair, service and MOT your vehicle to the highest possible standard. Thanks to recent changes in EU legislation (block exemption) you can now get maximum value for money car servicing from ourselves on your new or nearly new vehicle **without the fear of invalidating the manufacturer's warranty**. Triple Eight has all the technology required to service your new vehicle from its first service onwards.

Easy Parking, Collection & Delivery Service Available
Call into our showroom at 37 Broadway, Darras Hall

John Gallagher, our service manager / head technician has been recommended in the

'Daily Telegraph good garage guide for over 12 years.'

CHEVROLET • NISSAN • JAGUAR • FIAT • AUDI • VW • PEUGEOT

MITSUBISHI • MINI • FORD • KIA • VAUXHALL • VOLVO • SKODA • TOYOTA • CHRYSLER • SEAT