

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Boundary Commission U-turn
on plans to 'split' Ponteland

Medburn triathlon champ
off to conquer Europe

New dial-a-ride service
launches next week

Budding designer Cora puts her best foot forward



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Children enchanted by new dance classes

Children are enjoying weekly dancing and drama sessions thanks to a new joint venture by two Ponteland businesswomen.

Jill Taylor, who runs the Jill Errington School of Dance and Drama, has launched the new classes at Enchanted Forest indoor play centre on Merton Way, which is run by Corrina Mulholland.

They run every Thursday afternoon for girls in reception class and boys from reception

to Year 2. As Jill teaches the children upstairs, mums have a coffee downstairs, the dancing children are allowed a free soft play and their siblings can play for free.

The boys' class is very quick paced, working on their fitness, strength, co-ordination and ball skills, and also includes imaginative dances and drama based activities, while the girls use props like hoola hoops and fairy wands.

There is a busy year ahead for the dance school, which runs classes in Darras Hall from pre-school age to 18. In December

it will provide the 'Babes' for the Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs panto at the People's Theatre in Heaton, and next summer around 40 talented dancers will perform to an international audience at Disneyland Paris.

Anyone who would like info on classes can contact Jill at jillyerrington@yahoo.co.uk or on (01661) 610028 or 07773 461790.

Photos by Deb Parker, ImogenKate Photography

Medburn's teenage triathlon champion off to conquer Europe

Medburn teenager Greg Chambers is off to compete in Europe after securing two runners up medals in national triathlon championships events.

Greg, 16, will be competing in the European Junior Cup next season after coming second in both the British Championships held at Blenheim Palace and the Super Series.

Triathlon involves an open water swim, followed by cycling then running. Greg competes throughout the spring and summer and trains around 22 hours per week all year round before and after school. He competes around Britain in the Elite Youth Super Series at weekends and attends triathlon camps every school holiday with the Olympic Talent Squad!

Greg swims at Newburn Swimming Club, runs at Gateshead Harriers and cycles with Ryton Triathlon Club, coached by Colin Gardner. In September he represented Great Britain in the European Youth Relay Championships in Spain, where his team of three finished in sixth place.

It isn't just sport in which Greg excels though; the Year 12 student at Ponteland Community High School attained all A*s and As in his GCSEs too!

And it appears the sporting prowess runs in the family – Greg's 14-year-old sister Philippa, also a student at Ponteland High School, finished third in the British Championships and Super Series in her age category.

Headteacher Kieran McGrane said: "Greg Chambers and his sister Philippa are truly inspirational students of whom Ponteland High School is so proud. It is superb that we have students of this calibre, who combine academic excellence with high-level athletic talent.

"Competing at a national level is a costly business; are there any business sponsors out there who would like to support these talented athletes as they progress? I'm sure we will be celebrating their successes for a long time to come!"



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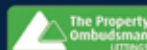
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PROJECTS REPORT

Memorial Hall

Pre application discussions with Northumberland County Council were favourable and a further meeting with Memorial Hall representatives in relation to costs was required.

Bridge redesign

Work has started on this bridge but has been delayed by the weather. The work will be completed as soon as possible.

River bank repairs

The engineers working on the Council's behalf have submitted an application to the Environment Agency for the proposed repairs on the river bank. It is anticipated this will take a number of weeks to progress.

Street information signs

Various photographs for the back of the map are available for comment prior to the details of the paper map being approved.

Skate Park

A planning application has been submitted to the County Council. The lease is still awaited.

Park path lighting project

The design is currently being worked on by NCC following which quotes will be sought for the proposed works.

War memorial

A revised design has been drawn up and Councillors and the Memorial Hall will be consulted on the amended proposal.

Repairs to brick wall at Waitrose

A specification has been sent out requesting quotes for this project.

Christmas lights

The Council agreed to renew the Christmas lights to provide LED lights which in the long run would save money and were more reliable and energy efficient.

HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

The Working Party met on September 19 and the Interim group met on September 27 with one of the Highways officers from NCC. The Council approved the recommendation in relation to the establishment of a footpath users group. It was envisaged this would meet up to three times per year and comprise of Councillors, interested members of the community and the NCC Countryside Rights of Way Officer. It was also agreed to make a submission to NCC to have some work carried out to rectify erosion and wear and tear on the Ponteland bridge (next to the Diamond Inn).

ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

The Working Party met on September 17. The Council endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party to carry out renovation and replacement of the seats in and around Ponteland. The new seats would be made of recycled plastic which would lengthen the period of time for replacement and also cut back on maintenance.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Jones reported that following a request made at a recent LMAPS meeting the County Councillors had agreed to fund a speed gun. Coun Jones referred to the recent letter sent out by NCC relating to e-planning

applications. This was causing major concerns to parish and town councils and this had been raised at a Scrutiny meeting held on October 10. They had recommended that paper copies be continued at the present time. It was reported that the Ponteland Hopper Bus would start on Friday 9 November. See article on page 8. Councillor Dodd reported on the agreement with ISOS to provide parking spaces for the older persons properties on Thornhill Road. He was making a contribution towards this from his Members' Allowance Scheme. He also made reference to the layby next to Merton Way shops on Thornhill Road. Problems were being experienced with parking tickets being issued on a regular basis and he hoped to be able to assist with a solution to this issue. In relation to the Local Development Framework he reported that NCC were currently going through the responses received. It appeared that the tier system would be changed in view of the comments received from respondents. The next period of consultation would run from February 8 to March 21.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that he had visited both Hexham and Prudhoe Town Councils to gather information as to how they ran their cemeteries. The Town Council would become responsible for Prestwick Cemetery from April 1 2013. A report would be considered at the November meeting. Councillor Cowey had also attended a Scrutiny meeting in Morpeth relating to minimum unit pricing for alcohol. The meeting had recommended using the method already adopted in Scotland for minimum unit pricing.

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

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Great effort as pupils raise over £2,000 for St Oswald's

By Graeme Hopper
PE Coordinator, Richard Coates Middle School

Pupils from Richard Coates Middle School raised more than £2,000 for St Oswald's Hospice after taking part in the Junior Great North Run.

Thirty boys and girls took part in the event on the Newcastle/Gateshead Quayside on Saturday September 15 as the sun shone. The total amount raised by our pupils, who also took part in sponsored walks and skipping events, was £2238.26.

This is the third year running we have raised money as a school for St Oswald's. We raised £1,200 last year but to get over £2,000 was an amazing feat.

The pupils who took part had a great time. Jamie Boynton said: "I did it last year and I think I ran a better time this year. I was really motivated by the thought of St Oswald's and inspired by the Olympics this summer."

Emma Noble, fundraiser at St Oswald's said: "We are completely blown away by the amount of money the students have raised! It's very impressive. It's fantastic that they are getting involved at such a young age and helping out a local charity."

"Their donation of £2,238 is the equivalent of 70 hours of care for a child at our Children's Service or an outing for 35 children with specialist needs, such as a trip to the seaside."

St Oswald's annual running costs are now £9.5m, of which £6.5m must be raised through voluntary giving. All proceeds from fundraising challenges will go towards helping local adults, young people and children receiving specialist care at the hospice.

For more information about St Oswald's, please visit www.stoswaldsuk.org or call (0191) 285 0063.



New dial-a-ride service launches next week

On Friday November 9 a new service starts which provides transport to and from your home to destinations within the Ponteland area.

This could be to:

- Meet or visit friends
- Shop
- Have a coffee or attend a club
- GP or dental appointment
- Visit the library.

Northumberland County Council, in partnership with Adapt (North East), Ponteland Town Council, Ponteland Community Partnership and Home Instead Senior Care, has funded the new minibus service operating around Ponteland every Friday between 10am and 2pm.

For only £2 return fare you can be collected from home and taken into the village for shopping or just meeting friends and then be taken home again.

All you need to do is to telephone Adapt (NE) on 01434 600599 no later than noon on Thursday to book your seat on the bus the following day.

To use this service you are required to be a member of Adapt (NE) at a cost of only £2 per year, and if you give Adapt a call on 01434 600599 they will send you an easy to complete application form.

Ponteland county councillors Peter Jackson and Veronica Jones with the 'Ponteland Hopper' at Ponteland Medical Centre. Photo by Trevor Walker.



Northumberland bus services could be threatened by Tyne & Wear proposals

By David Gambles

Ponteland bus users could be affected by proposals to take over North East bus routes.

Tyne & Wear Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) and Nexus are examining the idea of imposing a Quality Contract scheme which would allow them to put all routes out to tender.

They would take control of routes entering the Tyne & Wear boundary and as a result could cut back the Ponteland services and increase fares so that they don't compete with the Metro. Critics claim that up to a fifth of bus fares could rise in price as a result.

Councillors who are members of the Tyne & Wear ITA will soon have to choose between two schemes - either a Quality Contract or a Quality Partnership. Local bus operators are keen to adopt the

Partnership route, whereby they would agree to co-ordinated timetables and joint ticketing, and say that this is the quickest and most efficient way to improve services and what passengers want.

If the Contract scheme is adopted it is feared that services to and from Northumberland could become the poor relation to those operated within the Tyne & Wear area and that Northumberland could be prevented from receiving Better Bus Funding from the Government as a result.

Critics say there is considerable financial risk in adopting a Quality Contract and that any shortfalls would have to come from Tyne & Wear taxpayers, resulting in further cutbacks in Northumberland services.

Local bus companies say that financial risk should stay with themselves and that they offer a financially stable group

of services at no risk to the taxpayer. Customer satisfaction with UK bus services is the highest in the North East, with most services being run commercially and few subsidies required.

If the ITA and Nexus go for a Quality Contract bus companies are threatening to take the matter to a judicial review.

Representatives of Nexus and Stagecoach gave details of the two options to councillors during a recent meeting at the offices of Ponteland Town Council.

Nexus says it will be in a position to carry out a comparison between the two models during November, allowing the Director General to recommend a preferred approach to the ITA before the end of the year. For more information visit: nexus.org.uk/busstrategy



Be vigilant and security conscious

By PC Rob Anderson
Ponteland Community Beat Manager



Total Policing

In the period between September 13 and October 12 we had 14 crimes recorded for the Ponteland area.

These break down to the following offences:

- One Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
- Two Damages to Dwelling
- Two Taking Motor Vehicles without the Owner's Consent
- One Theft from a Dwelling
- Two Burglary Dwellings
- Three Theft from a shop
- Two Burglary other than dwellings
- One Damage to a motor vehicle
- One Possess Cannabis.

The Possession of Cannabis offence has been dealt with and other enquiries are ongoing in relation to the other offences.

Six of the offences occurred in the same evening and appear to be linked as they were all in one area of the town.

With the nights closing in this would seem a good time to remind everyone about their home security. If you're going to be late home or going out for the evening it's a

good idea to leave a light on or have them set on a timer.

Make sure you lock all of your doors to the house and garage and secure your vehicles. Last year we had a spate of crimes which involved property being left unlocked. Remember, you can prevent the loss of your own items by taking a little time to ensure they are secure in the first place.

Last month I mentioned noisy parties and requested you think of your neighbours when organising an event. I have recently been informed one of the parties which so many residents complained about managed to raise £4,000 for charity. I think congratulations should be passed on to those organisers but in addition if everyone can please remember to be considerate when arranging their celebrations in the future for the sake of everyone's peace.

If you would like some crime prevention advice please contact PC 613 Davison or myself, PC 395 Anderson, on 101.

Some of you will have noticed Jon Gray walking around the town. Jon retired four years ago but returned to assist us as a Special Constable and is a valuable part of our team.

The next Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving meetings will be held at The East Centre, Prudhoe on Tuesday 27th November 2012 at 9.30am.

Local police surgeries will be held on the following dates:

- CSO Jill Ruddick November 2
11am – 12noon Ponteland Library
- CSO Bev Branighan November 10
11.30am - 12.30pm Co-op, Broadway
- CSO Jill Ruddick November 17
9.30am - 10.30am Merton Hall, Ponteland
- PC Lee Davison November 24
11.30am - 12.30pm at Belsay Village shop.

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

We also have Engagement Days at these venues and dates:

- November 9 - Stamfordham and Belsay
- November 20 - Merton Way and Broadway.

Alpine show attracts visitors from abroad – but local butcher takes top prizes

Exhibitors may have travelled from as far afield as Holland, but it was local butcher Alan Newton who took the top prizes at the Alpine Garden Society's North East annual show.

Saturday October 13 saw yet another successful alpine plant show at Ponteland Memorial Hall organised by the North East England group of the Alpine Garden Society.

Coming at the end of a difficult year for gardeners, you would have been forgiven for thinking that we had experienced perfect growing conditions all year to bring forth the mass of colour on display, with both autumn foliage and also late-flowering



bulbs and other small plants brightening the hall.

Whilst the numbers of plants may have been slightly reduced by the inclement summer weather, visitor numbers were high, and people had travelled from southern England, Scotland and even from Holland to exhibit or just to admire the range of plants on display.

The major local winner was Alan Newton, whose butcher's shop window on Merton Way does much to publicise both the show and the monthly local group meetings held in St Mary's Church Hall.

This year he succeeded in winning more first prizes in the open section of the show than any other exhibitor, a magnificent effort which is a major challenge when you are also tasked with being joint organiser of the show.

The show also has to have a 'best plant', and the winners of this trophy had travelled a little farther. Bob and Rannveig Wallis had travelled from Carmarthen in South Wales. It was their pot of an unusual bulbous plant, a Biarum from Turkey, which was awarded the 'Best in Show' accolade and is pictured here.

Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Concerns about the flood risk to new homes built in the Green Belt, questions over the future of a popular watering hole and help for sufferers of a rare nervous system disorder in this month's letters...

Green Belt developers could have more than campaigners to worry about!

This is one of the fields on which Banks' is proposing to build 500 houses.

Not somewhere I would choose to live! Look how close the flooding is to Fairney Burn too on this photo taken on September 25.

Sylvia Rowlands
Cheviot View
Ponteland



Does anyone know what is happening with the Blackbird Inn?

The Blackbird Inn is in a very sorry state now and I wondered what is happening there?

K Ross
Eland Edge
Ponteland

Understanding Cerebellar ataxia

Some people may remember my letter last year regarding our cat being fatally attacked in the garden.

By chance, after this sad incident I was finally diagnosed with Cerebellar ataxia. I hasten to add this was not as a result of what had happened.

The most obvious symptoms of the condition include staggered gait, slurred speech and slowness. It's a natural reaction to observe behaviour I've just described as that of a drunk, particularly if the person is a stranger.

This was brought home to me when I made face to face enquiries after the cat incident, which brings me to my point - understanding Ataxia.

Ataxia is basically a neurological condition manifesting in physical symptoms, it is debilitating and is a disability. We are very fortunate to now have an accredited Ataxia Centre in Newcastle, run by clinicians with expertise specifically in Ataxia.

If anyone would like to contact me relating to this subject, I can be reached via Pont News.

Beryl Park
Runnymede Road
Darras Hall

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.

December issue deadlines: The December issue will be delivered on December 3. Deadline for all copy and adverts is Friday November 16. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the December issue.

CARE HOME CELEBRATES 15TH BIRTHDAY

Residents and staff were in the party spirit as a Ponteland care home celebrated its 15th anniversary.

Everyone at Ponteland Manor joined in tunes played by a visiting accordionist and the ukulele group The Silver Stars based at the Sage Gateshead, and there was a special surprise for someone who has been there from the start.

Irene Jacobs moved into the home when the doors opened in September 1997 and as part of the celebrations she was presented with a posy of flowers in her favourite colours.

Also in attendance at the Thornhill Road premises was operator Care UK's Regional Director Karen Morrison and representatives of the MacMillan Society, the Stroke Association and the Parkinson Society.

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What's on...

Northumberland Fuchsia Society

Our next meeting is being held at St Matthew's Church Hall, West Road, Ponteland, from 7.30pm on Thursday November 1.

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 November 2, where we can give access to our own archives. For more information see <http://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 and Broadway, Darras Hall. Their next surgery is on Saturday November 3.

All Souls'

Our annual service to remember those who have died, takes place in St Mary's Church on Sunday November 4 at 3pm. All are welcome.

Ponteland Photographic Society

We meet at 7.30pm every Monday evening through to April 15, 2013 in the large room at Merton Hall in Ponteland, with a short break over the Christmas/New Year holiday and again at Easter. Meetings usually last for two hours. If you are interested in photography, you're welcome to come along and see how we can develop your interest even further.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust - Ponteland Group

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust - Ponteland Group next meets on Tuesday November 6 in St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Frances Atterton, from the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, will be speaking about the Black Grouse Project. Entry £2 including refreshments. All are welcome.

Ponteland Rotary Club Domino Drive

Friday November 9, Memorial Hall. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £8. Raffle, mince pie, mash and peas, bar open.

Ponteland URC Christmas Fayre

Our annual Christmas Fayre is being held on Saturday November 10 at Ponteland United Reformed Church, Broadway, Darras Hall. Doors open at 11am and admission is free. All the usual attractions, including: Bric-a-Brac · Raffle · Gifts · Jewellery · Christmas Cards · Cake stall · Provision/ Sundry Stall · Café · Barbecue · Tuck Shop · Bottle Tombola · Floral Decorations · Books and CDs · Games to play · Toiletries · Face Painting · Games · Toys. Music from Sandy and Friends. Do join us for an enjoyable family day out. Contributions to all stalls welcomed. Contact: L. Donald on (01661) 872728 or F. Milligan on (01661) 823489. Bric-a-Brac sale: Part 2 of the Christmas Fayre takes place on Saturday November 24 at Ponteland URC from 10am until 12.30pm.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

Our speaker on Monday November 12 is Bruce McIntosh and his subject: Name Dropping. 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 donaldflloyd@sky.com or on (01661) 872661.

North East England Group of the Alpine Garden Society

We are pleased to welcome Darren Sleep on Monday November 12 to talk to us about 'Cape Bulbs'. He is a biologist by training but has worked for 20 years as an environmental chemist with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, currently at their Lancaster University site. He made a visit to the Cape in 1999 and since then he has grown all sorts of Cape plants from seed. 'Cape Bulbs' is intended as an introduction to the main families of bulbs in the Mediterranean climate area of South Africa, illustrated with

photographs of them both in habitat and in cultivation. It then offers cultivation advice arising from experience of growing a range of these in Northern England. Our meetings take place in St Marys Hall, Thornhill Road. The doors are open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The charge for visitors is £2.50 per meeting. Details from Terry Teal at t.teal@btinternet.com or on (0191) 413 2574.

Callerton Garden & Flower Club

We meet in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm. Open meeting at Ponteland Memorial Hall on Wednesday November 14 at 2pm where there will be a demonstration by Marilyn Bevan (AD) of Helensburgh 'Especially for You' plus raffle, wood turning items, tombola, admission £7 plus tea & cakes for visitors. Meeting December 12 - Jan Faulkner (AD) of Middlesbrough 'Christmas Time'. Visitors £4.

Ponteland Local History Society

As St Mary's Church Hall is in use for Election purposes on November 15 the venue for the programmed meeting 'Strategic Decisions at Flodden' to be presented by Archaeologist Chris Burgess has been changed to The Lounge, Ponteland Memorial Hall, and will start at 7.45pm.

Ponteland Floral Art Club

Our next meeting is at Ponteland Memorial Hall on Tuesday November 20 at 7.30pm: Hans Haverkamp of Glos (I) (Dutch Master Florist) 'All About Autumn (Nearly)' Christmas Stall.

Ponteland Civic Society

The next meeting of Ponteland Civic Society will be on Monday November 26 at 7.30pm in St

Mary's Church Hall when Jo Gooding will speak on 'Stormy Seas and Plain Sailing', concerning the journey to build a home to showcase the heritage of Newbiggin by the Sea. Visitors are most welcome, for whom there is a nominal charge of £2.

Peter Pan - the musical: Ponteland Repertory Society

Peter Pan the Musical is being staged by Ponteland Repertory Society with five evening performances from Tuesday November 27 until Saturday December 1, plus a matinee on the Saturday. Tickets are now on sale at £6 for under-16s and £8 for adults through members and from Alan Newton Butchers on Merton Way (01661) 822985.

Ponteland Methodist Church

Sunday services 10am & 6.30pm; Sunday 10am 'Stepping Stones' for children; Monday 'Open door' drop-in café, 2pm - 5pm, scones/cakes/friendship; House groups & Fellowship meetings; Walking & Art groups; Carpet Bowls & Luncheon Club; Prayer & Fairtrade groups; Youth Club & Pushchair Club & Messy Church; Girls Brigade & Boys Brigade & much more! Contact Ann on (01661) 824347.

Ponteland's weekly market

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

Pont Badminton Club

Pont Badminton Club meet every Friday evening from 8.30pm-10pm at Ponteland Leisure Centre, Callerton Lane. Adults of all ages will be assured of a warm welcome. Just come along or contact 07986 388 822 for more information.



Join a warm and friendly group near you today...

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Ponteland

Ponteland Club and Institute, Merton Way, 5.15pm and 7.15pm

For further details including Christmas/New Year opening times, please contact Alison Moon 01670 788661 or 07986 639864 alisonmoon@btinternet.com

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Cyclists asked to support 'Bike for Bobby' in Ponteland charity ride

Keen cyclists are being invited to support former Newcastle United player Robbie Elliott and fellow rider Phil Gray's 3,500-mile 'Bike for Bobby' challenge by taking part in a Cycle Sportive next weekend which starts and ends in Ponteland.

Robbie and Phil set off on October 17 on their epic journey from Lisbon to Newcastle which will take in Sir Bobby Robson's former clubs Porto, Eindhoven, Ipswich and Fulham, as well as Wembley – marking his eight year spell as England manager.

Robbie said: "The ambitious plan is to cover an average of 150 miles a day, finishing, of course, at Sir Bobby's spiritual home of Newcastle United."

The pair aim to complete the journey in less than four weeks to raise thousands of pounds for the Robbie Elliott Foundation's chosen charities the Sir Bobby Robson

Foundation and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

For the final leg of their epic two-wheel challenge the super-fit pair are appealing to 500 cyclists to give them a boost by joining a 33-mile Cycle Sportive around Northumberland on Saturday November 10.

The ride will start and finish at Ponteland High School, Callerton Lane. The entry fee is £20 per person, which includes a Bike for Bobby T-shirt as well as chip timing so entrants will know their exact finish time.

Tyne Bank Brewery has been asked to brew a celebration ale, which will be launched at The Diamond Inn, Ponteland, and the Twin Farms, Kenton Bank Foot, on November 10. The Bike for Bobby ale is available for free delivery to homes in Ponteland. See www.tynebankbrewery.co.uk

For more information on the Bike for Bobby ride or to take part in the Cycle Sportive go to www.therobbieelliottfoundation.com or www.bikeforbobby.com



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*Items offered may vary from those pictured and are subject to availability. Offer ends 30th November 2012.

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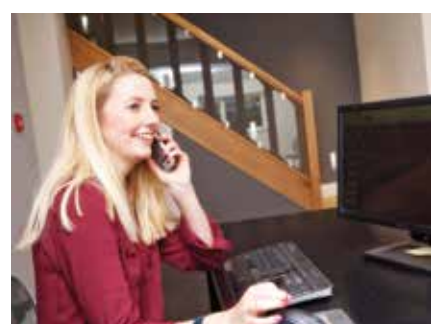
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NORTH AIRPORT FLIES HIGH IN PUNCTUALITY STAKES

Newcastle International Airport is flying high in the punctuality tables. New figures from the UK Civil Aviation Authority have shown that the airport is out-performing the national average.

Between April and June, 84 per cent of scheduled flights were on time – a one per cent increase on the same period last year – while the average at 10 UK airports monitored was 78 per cent. Newcastle International Airport Planning and Corporate Affairs Director Graeme Mason said: "We are proud of our punctuality record and continually work to offer a first-rate service for those flying to and from our airport. It goes to show what successes can be achieved when staff working for the airport, airlines and handling agents all pull together."



Dental practice transformed after complete refurbishment

State-of-the-art surgeries offer new treatments

Patients are benefiting from state-of-the-art facilities after the transformation of an expanding Ponteland dental practice.

The refurbishment of the practice on Bell Villas opposite the Sainsbury supermarket has created two new state-of-the-art surgeries, a bigger open plan waiting room, dedicated sterilisation room and an imaging suite, as well as a new front entrance.

The Higgins & Winter practice can now offer new treatments including high end restorative dentistry, implants and facial aesthetics, as well as a traditional family dental service for all ages.

A downstairs surgery and accessible toilet increase accessibility for patients with limited mobility, and late opening until 7.30pm every Tuesday offers convenient appointment times.

Experienced dental surgeons Kevin Higgins and Richard Winter, who took over the practice in January, are behind the expansion plans.

Richard, who has a special interest in restorative and implant dentistry, said: "Existing patients who we haven't seen since the building works started will hardly recognise the practice – it has been totally reconfigured. We wanted to increase accessibility, so have created a new front entrance with level access, a downstairs surgery and accessible toilet and a much bigger open plan waiting room."

Kevin, who has been a dentist for 20 years, leads on implant and cosmetic dentistry as well as dental sedation and cosmetic brace treatment.

He added: "The expansion of the practice has seen a new hygienist recruited and increased services and opening hours. We can now offer a full range of treatments including implants, cosmetic dentistry, and sedation for nervous patients. An exciting development has been the introduction of the 'All on 4' implant treatment, sometimes called 'Teeth in a Day', which allows the replacement of loose dentures or failing teeth with an immediate, fixed bridge on the same day."

You can find out more about the new Higgins and Winter Dental Practice or any of the above treatments at their website at higginsandwinterdental.com or call the surgery on (01661) 872979.

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Ponteland student wins national shoe design competition

Budding fashion designer Cora McLeod is putting her best foot forward – after winning a national competition run by a shoemaker.

The Year 10 student from Ponteland Community High School beat thousands of entrants to win the Daniel Footwear Design a Shoe competition, taking first prize position with her shoe design Cora's Wave wedge.

Cora was one of many hopefuls who designed a shoe for the firm's spring/summer collection for 2013. Abby Blain, 15 and also from Ponteland High School, was one of the five shortlisted finalists too.

The initiative was launched to encourage young, up-and-coming designers to invent and draw a shoe that would fit appropriately into Daniel collection. Children aged between six and 16, from

schools around the UK were asked to use their imaginative flair and create a shoe that would complement the Daniel brand.

The entrants were split into two age categories and both were judged accordingly. Cora, 15, of Kenton Bank Foot, won the 12-16 age group and her design is being mocked up and turned into a shoe that can be sold in Daniel stores and online.

A spokeswoman for Daniel Footwear, a boutique designer retail store which has more than 30 branches and was launched in 1993, said the competition received thousands of entries with an extremely high standard.

Daniel Buck, owner of Daniel Footwear, said: "We have been overwhelmed with the level of entries this time round and the talent amongst all young designers appears exceptionally good. However Cora's wedge design caught my attention as a sophisticated sandal with a twist."

Cora's winning design. Cover shot by Trevor Walker.



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Boundary Commission U-turn on plans to 'split' Ponteland

Controversial proposals to split Ponteland and move over 3,500 homes into a new Berwick parliamentary constituency have been axed amid major protest.

Under the plans, over 3,600 electors in Ponteland East would have been represented by a Berwick & Morpeth MP and over 10,000 in Ponteland North, Ponteland South with Heddon and Ponteland West still with a Hexham MP.

But the proposals by the Boundary Commission, announced last September, raised a storm of protest and 950 representations to the Commission, including objections from 21 of 22 parish councils.

The Commission's revised report, published on October 16, recommends the retention of Ponteland East in the Hexham constituency. It said: "There was overwhelming opposition to the... inclusion of the Ponteland East ward in a proposed Berwick and Morpeth constituency."

The report continues: "The evidence is that the town of Ponteland is a tight knit community with strong links which would be broken if part of the town were in one constituency and part in another."

MP Guy Opperman, who campaigned against the proposals, said: "The new revised proposals...keep Ponteland East in Hexham with the rest of Ponteland...I am now very comfortable the Commission have listened to local people and happy to vote for the revised changes to cut the cost of politics and bring about fair votes."

The Boundary Commission said it had been constrained in drawing up the changes by a need for every constituency to have an electorate between 72,810 and 80,473.

It is now consulting on the revised proposals until December 10. To comment, email northeast@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk or write to Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ.

To see the full report visit: consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk



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Ponteland care home goes for gold

By Muriel Sobo

The family run Grange Lea, out on the Kirkley Road, only has 20 residents but there is plenty of talent and activity to keep everyone on their toes.

The residents and their family members gathered for the Big Tea Party in aid of the Macmillan Nurses and donated all proceeds from the afternoon to the Nurses' cause.

They also took the opportunity to show off their diverse recent achievements. These included winning the trophy at the Parish Show for the most points in the Handicrafts

section, medals from the family worker at the Methodist church for knitting hundreds of squares which are stitched up to make blankets for refugees, and a variety of items from the knit and natter group such as hats for heroes and jackets for premature babies.

As if that wasn't enough the owner and manager of the home, Daniel Whaley and his two daughters, ran in the recent Great North Run for St Oswald's Hospice. Congratulations to all for their magnificent efforts!

Care worker Ruth Malone holds the trophy from the Parish Show and her doll, Mrs Stoker is wearing her exquisite scarf and Mrs Pears shows off a beautiful decoupage picture.



PCMS
HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY!



Opened in September 1972, Ponteland Community Middle School is proud to announce its 40th Birthday!

Please come and celebrate the School's **Ruby Anniversary** at our Christmas Fair on **Saturday 24th November (10.00 am-1.00 pm).**

There will be games, raffles, prizes, activities, archive display, food, drinks, Christmas shopping and Santa Claus!



We would love to see all pupils, staff, governors and parents (past, present and future), on this special occasion so please pass this invitation on!



Please check Ponteland Community Middle School's website for updates

Donations for raffle prizes gratefully received

E: pms@pontelandmiddle.northumberland.sch.uk

T: (01661)824853

Poster Design - PCMS's Pupil Council 2012

JOIN US IN SHAPING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PONTELAND

By Alma Dunigan

A group of six residents are looking to work with the Town Council to produce a replacement Local Plan which will link with the Northumberland Core Strategy and Local Development Plan.

This group working with the Town Council will be supported by a Principal Planner (project delivery) from Northumberland County Council.

This group would welcome feedback from interested residents and for this purpose we have set up a website www.ponteland.pcp.co.uk

PONTELAND GREENBELT GROUP

By Alma Dunigan

Ponteland residents are united in one common aim, that is, to preserve the existing greenbelt as is, not to build upon it, nor re define the area designated as Greenbelt by Northumberland County Council.

Last week the Town Council withdrew an agenda item, a scoping opinion for a large scale development, from its planning committee meeting.

Although supporters of the Greenbelt Group were notified in advance that this item would not be discussed and it was not a planning application, around 65 people including pushchairs and dogs still gathered outside the Town Council offices to give a clear message to local councillors, Northumberland County Council and developers of their feelings.

Thanks for helping us raise awareness of tragic cardiac condition

On Monday September 24 a gourmet banquet was held at The New Rendezvous Ponteland in aid of 'The Friends Of Mathew Thoppill'.

Mathew was a young doctor who went out to play a game of squash one evening, and dropped dead on the Squash Court. He did not show any signs of a heart defect whatsoever. He was a local lad educated at Ponteland High School and also played cricket for the county.

As a charitable group we have raised thousands of pounds locally towards medical research into cardiac arrest in the young.

Most recently part of our funds raised has been donated to building a school in South India in Mathew's name, which his father Philip instigated, and is still an ongoing project. On this occasion we raised in the region of £1,000 which will be donated to this school.

This event was the last fundraising on behalf of Mathew which we shall undertake, and the 'Friends of Mathew Thoppill' and on behalf of the family wish to thank most sincerely everyone who has supported us in highlighting cardiac arrest in the young.

Grateful thanks go to the many local businesses who have donated prizes for our events which have contributed enormously to the thousands of pounds we have raised.

CHARITY CONCERT RAISES £855 FOR HELP FOR HEROES

A charity concert held at Ponteland United Reformed Church has raised £855 for Help for Heroes. 'A Taste of Scotland' was held on Tuesday October 16.

Guests travelled from as far away as Yorkshire and were joined by Rev Joan Ross and the Deputy Mayor David Butler and his wife. In Sandy Christie, we had an excellent MC who controlled the proceedings throughout.

Those who had never heard the principal artiste Stephen Quigg will almost certainly make a point of hearing him again, and the evening would not have been complete without Donna and her talented young team of Highland Dancers with husband Gary as the excellent piper accompanying them.

SPECIAL WINTER RATES FOR PONTELAND MARKET

Ponteland market is offering special rates for new traders who want to take a stall between November and March – aimed at stimulating trade in the town during the quieter winter months.

The market is making a limited number of pitches available to new traders for £10 a day. Based at Merton Way every Friday, the market features a range of stalls selling items from jams to jewellery.

To discuss stall bookings contact the markets officer on 07966 568612 or 0845 600 6400. Please note traders must bring their own stalls to this market.



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 <p>"My greenhouse was purchased recently and I am totally delighted with it and I am sure I will spend many happy hours working in it." Mrs. Rennie, Vitavia 6x4 Greenhouse</p>	 <p>"Our Lugarde summerhouse is so comfortable and it is lovely to relax and take in the view over the pond and garden." Mr. & Mrs. Sloan Lugarde Prima Tessa 3mx3m</p>
 <p>"We are really pleased with our garage and it has definitely enhanced our property. We would recommend GCS all aspects of sales and service were excellent" Mr. & Mrs Paterson, Compton Apex Garage 10x20</p>	 <p>"We purchased the Snowdrop Cottage for our granddaughter Molly to celebrate her 3rd birthday and now she invites us for tea!" Mrs. Vickers, TGB 7x5 Snowdrop Cottage</p>

Our service includes sales, delivery, site preparation and installation of greenhouses, garages, sheds, summerhouses and log cabins. A large selection of each are on display.
GLASS 24x18 (610 x 457) = £3.25pp & 24x24 (610 x 610) = £3.75pp


Did you know?

132,000 children in the North East live below the official poverty line

There are no official records of how many poor children go without meals, live in houses their parents can't afford to heat, wear ill-fitting hand-me-down-shoes, or share a bed. But we do know 1 in 6 poor children and young people have considered suicide.

Can you help?

Your local contact is:
Bill Cuthbertson
01661 824121



Visit us at: www.children-ne.org.uk
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Christmas just keeps getting better.



With Christmas just around the corner it's time to tick those all important presents off your shopping list. From 19th November we will be open 9am - 10pm weekdays, 9am - 8pm Saturdays and 11am - 5pm Sundays, giving you even more time to shop at your convenience.

Why not solve those present problems by checking out our new stores and restaurants which have recently opened amongst our 330 shops. Our dining experience just keeps getting bigger and better so shopping and dining is a combination you simply must enjoy.

Our spectacular decorations also keep getting bigger and better and, guess what, our giant reindeer, Glitzen, got married and had a baby! But how difficult it is to choose the name of a new-born; there are just so many! Should it be modern or traditional? Well, we are leaving that choice up to you. Yes, one lucky shopper who enters our competition gets to name the new baby reindeer and win a £2,000 gift card! What an honour and what a fabulous Christmas present that would be!



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