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ISSUE 108 | **SEPT 14**

# pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



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new tearoom

Sadness as gran dies  
on 100th birthday

A level success for hard  
working Pont students

## Bloom bid for triple gold





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Produced by Cian creative pr



Pictured (l-r) are Colin Briggs, Guy Opperman MP, Hospice Retail Manager Carole Platts, Shop Manager Helen Underwood and Alison Ross, volunteer in charge of the tea room. Photo by Trevor Walker.

# BBC man joins MP for afternoon tea at charity shop opening

**BBC Newcastle presenter Colin Briggs and MP Guy Opperman enjoyed afternoon tea as they opened a new charity shop and tearoom in Ponteland.**

As well as offering sustenance and refreshments, the Tynedale Hospice premises at the former Nichol's Bakery in Merton Way will also serve as a drop-in centre for clients and a place where people can meet and talk with hospice staff and volunteers.

Together with the shop, which sells donated clothes, books and bric-a-brac, the tearoom will help raise much needed funds for the charity.

Now 20 years old, Tynedale Hospice provides palliative care, help and support for people with life limiting illnesses. The NHS provides less than a fifth of its required funding, so it relies heavily on donations and fundraising activities including its retail operations.

The Hospice is recruiting volunteers to help run and staff the shop. Anyone interested should contact volunteer coordinator Alison Hands at [alison@tynedalehospice.com](mailto:alison@tynedalehospice.com) or on (01434) 600388. For more information visit: [tynedalehospice.com/news-events/our-ponteland-shop/](http://tynedalehospice.com/news-events/our-ponteland-shop/)



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# Pont tennis tournament attracts young players from the south coast

A children's tennis tournament held in Ponteland attracted entries from as far afield as Hampshire. But winners included two local players Emily Allison and Alastair McLeod. Nick Clark reports.

The 11th Ponteland Junior Open Tennis Tournament, sponsored by Horton Grange Country House Hotel, was held at Ponteland Tennis Club and Ponteland Middle School.

The numbers were up on last year with 135 entries and attracted quite a few higher ranked visiting juniors from Yorkshire, Durham, Cumbria and as far afield as Hampshire. This tournament gives the local players a chance to pit their skills against good visiting players on their own doorstep and for some it was their first taste of competitive tennis.

The events ranged from U8s to U18s and most had a playback or consolation draw. The Ponteland players performed well and won two events - Emily Allison won the U10 Girls' and Alastair McLeod (pictured) won the U8 Boys' Singles.

James Dodd was the runner up in the U10 Boys' Singles, having beaten some higher seeded players, and Isabella Goodall was the runner up in the U9 Girls' Singles. Francesca Burrin was 3rd in the U14 Girls' Singles, which followed her recent form by winning the Club U14 Road to Wimbledon Final and playing in the County final.



## Road to Wimbledon

Meanwhile Gabriel Rodda, 13, won the Ponteland Tennis Club Final of the National U14 Road to Wimbledon competition against William Capps. He then went on to win the County Final, which meant he qualified to play at Wimbledon in the National Finals on August 11th - 16th.



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## WAR REMEMBRANCE WORKING PARTY

Details of the proposed exhibition being held at the Memorial Hall on November 3rd to 8th from 10am until 4pm were discussed at a meeting of the Working Party held on July 11th. An article appeared in the last edition of Pont News & Views asking for exhibits and for people to volunteer as stewards. For further details please contact the Town Council by email at [enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk) or call (01661) 825092.

## HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

Potential locations of Middle Drive, Callerton Lane and Thornhill Road for a vehicle activated speed sign to rotate with the new sign being purchased for use at Cheviot View were discussed at a meeting of the Working Party held on July 16th. Councillors agreed to seek further information from speed surveys before arriving at a decision on locations.

## GRANT TO MILBOURNE CHURCH

A grant of £300 was approved towards the cost of ground maintenance following an annual grant application from the Holy Saviour Church at Milbourne.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Coun Dodd reported that the West Area Committee

scheduled for October would host a meeting for parish and town councils in the West of the County. He is continuing to work with County Council officers to deal with the parking issues at the back of Merton Way.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

### Judging competition – Ponteland High School July 11th

The Deputy Mayor reported that she had attended the above event with Coun Greenwell and two volunteers and this had proved to be an enjoyable afternoon.

### Opening of Tynedale Hospice at Home shop in Merton Way

The Mayor and other Councillors attended the opening of the shop on Friday August 1st. See article on page 3.

### Service at St Mary's Church to mark the outbreak of World War I

The Mayor and other Councillors attended the service held on Sunday August 3rd. See article on page 18.

### Service of Commemoration at Hexham Abbey – August 3rd

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had been pleased to attend the above service on Sunday August 3rd.

### Laying of tribute at War Memorial

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor together with other Councillors and some members of the public laid a floral tribute at the War Memorial on Monday August 4th to mark the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. See article on page 18.

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Town Council has been asked to consider including some additional names onto the War Memorial located outside of the Memorial Hall. Costs have been sought for inclusion and the final decision rests with the Trustees of the Memorial Hall who are owners of the Memorial.

After carrying out some research, it was found two of the names were listed on other memorials locally and elsewhere, however one of the gentlemen concerned did not appear to be listed on any memorial.

There were often reasons for this, however the Council felt that it was right to include an article in Pont News & Views to see if anyone had any information regarding the following gentleman who had lost his life in WWI. Private Joseph Davison of the 1st/4th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers was killed in action on 15th September 1916. He was born in Newburn and was the son of John and Margaret Davison of Dalton, Northumberland. Before enlisting he was a farm worker before going to France in November 1915. He was only 20 when he died.

If anyone has any information about Joseph Davison or his family it would be appreciated if you could make contact with the Town Council as soon as possible so that a decision can be made regarding inclusion on the War Memorial. Please email: [enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk) or ring (01661) 825092.

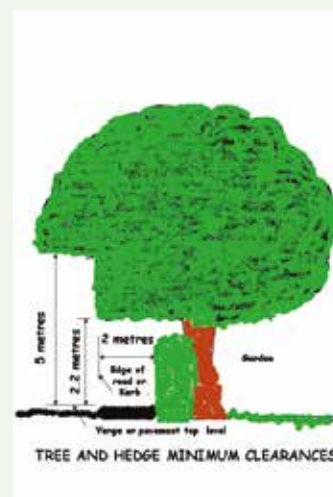
*This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on August 13th.*

## PLEASE MAINTAIN YOUR HEDGES AND TREES

Homeowners are again being encouraged to ensure they are properly maintaining hedges and trees which overhang footpaths, verges or roads.

Ponteland Town Council has issued this sketch showing the minimum clearance you should maintain.

The authority has also thanked all householders who go even further and cut the grass in front or adjacent to their house and plant flowers.







# Vehicle checks catch travelling criminals

By PC Rob Anderson,  
Ponteland Neighbourhood Beat Manager



**In the period between July 14th and August 14th we have had 12 crimes recorded for the Ponteland area.**

These break down to the following offences:

- Three shoplifting
- One public order offence
- Five thefts
- One possession of cannabis
- One assault
- One damage to motor vehicle.

The investigations into these crimes have been greatly assisted by prompt reporting by local residents, with five detected are ongoing in relation to the others.

Northumbria Police continue to use many tactics to prevent and disrupt rural crime.

In recent weeks, the local Neighbourhood Policing Team joined forces with partners from DVSA (Driver Vehicle Standards Agency) and HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) to check vehicles and make sure motorists had the correct paperwork.

The operation resulted in a number of prohibition and warning notices issued at the roadside. Also a number of vehicles were found to be using rebated fuel.

These operations are aimed at preventing criminals - such as thieves and burglars - travelling around the area, and ensuring those flouting road safety regulations and laws aren't putting other road users in danger.

As well as improving road safety, it helps us gather information about vehicles travelling into the area so we can prevent criminals

coming here to commit crime. Please continue to help us by reporting suspect vehicles and people.

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 Saturday September 13th 10am - 11am Waitrose, Ponteland
- PC Rob Anderson Saturday September 13th 11.30am - 12.30pm Co-op, Broadway
- PC Lee Davison Saturday September 20th 11.30am - 12.30pm at Belsay village shop.

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

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# What's on...

## Ponteland Wildlife Group of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Tuesday September 2nd sees the start of our new season of monthly meetings with an illustrated talk entitled 'My Favourite Weeds' by Andrew Sawyer, Conservation Officer for the National Trust at Craggside. All are welcome to attend at St. Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road in the village, starting at 7.30pm. £2 per person including refreshments.

## Ponteland U3A

Our speaker on Wednesday September 3rd is Muriel Sobo and her presentation is entitled 'Hidden Ponteland'. We meet in St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road at 2pm. Visitors welcome. No Charge. For details of our activities visit our website at [www.u3asites.org.uk/ponteland](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/ponteland) or ring the membership secretary on (01661) 822225.

## 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 September 6th.

## Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

Our speaker on Monday September 8th is Richard Knight OBE, whose talk is entitled 'Aviation and Airports'. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of every month in the lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, at 2.30pm.

## North East England Group of the Alpine Garden Society

Our guest speaker on Monday September 8th will be John Grimshaw, who will be talking about 'Snowdrops and other choice plants for the winter garden'. John has been interested in plants all his life, as both a

gardener and botanist. In his own garden he grows a wide range of plants; he has published many articles on plants and a variety of horticultural journals. He is a member of AGS and SRGS. Our meetings take place in St Marys Church Hall, Thornhill Rd, Ponteland. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Visitors welcome; the charge is £2 per meeting. Details from Terry Teal at [t.teal@btinternet.com](mailto:t.teal@btinternet.com) or (0191) 413 2574. Our Autumn Flower Show is on Saturday October 11th in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland.

## Ponteland Photographic Society's new season

Ponteland Photographic Society is pleased to announce the start of its new season which begins on Monday September 8th at 7.30pm in Merton Hall. Anyone interested in photography is always very welcome to join this friendly group; we offer a varied and interesting programme which will be summarised at our first meeting before seeing a selection of recent images by committee members. Come and see what we have to offer without any obligation to join, and do visit our website [pontelandphotographicsociety.co.uk](http://pontelandphotographicsociety.co.uk)

## Ponteland WI

Our speaker on Tuesday September 9th will be Annette Maddison and her subject is the history of the powder compact. The competition is a powder compact, so here is a chance to show your finest and perhaps entertain us with the history behind yours. The meetings begin at 7pm in the Memorial Hall Darras Road. New members and visitors are most welcome.

## Callerton Garden & Flower Club

Next meeting Wednesday September 10th. Demonstrator Ros Harrison of Dalton-in-Furness 'New Expressions' starting at 2pm in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland. Visitors £5. All welcome.

## Darras Hall WI

Visitors are welcome to attend our meeting on Thursday September 11th at 2pm in the URC Hall,

Broadway, Darras Hall. The speaker will be Alan Sidney Wilmot on the subject of Maling Pottery - the local firm which ran from 1762 until 1963. The competition is for an item of Maling Ware and should make interesting viewing.

## Ponteland Parish Flower Show

The 37th Annual Show will be held in Ponteland Memorial Hall on Saturday September 13th.

There are classes for flowers, fruit, vegetables, cookery, children, handicrafts, painting, wine, and photography. Schedules are available from the Library, Post Office, Hardware Shop, Taylors and other locations in Ponteland. Staging of exhibits is from 7pm till 9pm on Friday 12th and 8am till 11am on the Saturday. The Show is open to the public from 1pm on Saturday with the Presentation of Trophies at 4pm. Entries are open to residents of Ponteland and adjoining parishes, children attending all schools in the parishes and to members of organisations in Ponteland.

## Talk on nautical and railway artist

On Saturday September 13th at 3pm and 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road, The Reverend Peter Barham will give a talk on 'The paintings of John Wilson Carmichael' (nautical and railway artist) and there will be some film of railways and shipping. Admission free.

## Ponteland Ramblers

Ponteland Ramblers have organised walks on the following dates in September: Sunday 14th from Allendale and Sunday 28th from Rothbury. There will also be Wednesday walks on the 10th and 24th; details still to be finalised. People who are not Ramblers members are welcome to join us as guests for a few walks. For more information contact Steve Edwards on (01661) 886310.

## Searchlight

We are a group of Christians from the local churches who meet regularly to learn more about faith, and how it can help us live in today's world. Meeting on Thursday evenings in St. Mary's Church Hall from 7.30pm, until 9pm, we

enjoy fellowship and friendship in an informal atmosphere. On September 18th we start a new programme 'If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get out of the Boat'. This series is based on the award winning best seller 'You're One Step Away from the Adventure of your Life' by John Ortberg. Through the six sessions, which include video clips and group discussion, the group will learn more about trusting in God, deepening faith, and managing failure. Everyone is welcome; why not take the time to join us as we learn how we can apply Bible teachings to our daily lives. For more information, contact David Butler on (01661) 823664.

## Northumberland and Durham Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society Annual Show

The Northumberland and Durham Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society is holding its Annual Show on Saturday September 20th in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland, from 12noon to 5pm. The society is renowned for its high quality of exhibits and currently has several national champions. There will also be classes for non members including pot and blanch leeks, onions, vegetables and flowers. Schedules are available from Michael Robbie on (0191) 413 3773.

## Merton Hall's 50th anniversary celebration

Merton Hall 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday September 20th will start at 1pm with a buffet lunch, a display from various user groups, picture quiz and live music. Everyone is welcome. Happy Days afternoon drop in is every third Wednesday of the month from 1.30pm until 3pm. Come along and have cup of tea or coffee, share some of your memories, be inspired with a surprise package from Beamish Museum, where we also plan some visits this summer. Don't forget, Merton Hall is open for morning coffee, tea, and hot chocolate from Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 11.15am. You can read the papers or magazines and have a cuppa with a refill for only 30p.



## Embroiderers' Guild Ponteland branch AGM and awards ceremony: Monday September 22nd

Meetings are held in the Memorial Hall, Darras Road, on the 4th Monday of each month from 2pm to 4pm (on Bank Holidays the meeting is held the previous Monday). The programme is varied and can feature traditional techniques, contemporary approaches, machine and computer technology, fashion and accessories, patchwork, quilting and embroidery from other cultures. Everyone, whatever their level of experience, is very welcome at meetings and workshops. You can become a member or join us for a meeting as a visitor (£2) and never even pick up a needle! Contact the secretary at: eg\_ne\_ponteland@btinternet.com or on (01661) 881395.

## Harvest celebration at St Mary's

St Mary's Church celebrates Harvest over the weekend of September 27th/28th. On Saturday morning from 10am there is a Macmillan coffee morning in the church hall. The church will be open Saturday afternoon, looking lovely after the flower arrangers have been at work - please come and visit. In the evening we have a supper and a quiz night in the church hall (from 7 pm. All welcome - just turn up). On Sunday the main Harvest Festival is at 10am, with other services at 8am and 6.30pm. The church will be open on Sunday afternoon. Our gifts go to the West End Refugee Service.

## Ponteland Civic Society

Next meeting is at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm on Monday September 29th. Dr Ian Roberts will speak on

'World War II Secret Bases in Northumberland'. All welcome.

## Harvest Evensong at Holy Saviour, Milbourne

There will be a traditional Harvest Evensong at Holy Saviour, Milbourne, on Tuesday September 30th at 7pm followed by supper. All welcome.

## Ponteland Wildlife Group of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust

On Tuesday October 7th Tim Mason will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Wildlife in the Falklands' drawing on his 30 year experience working in the British Forces School on the islands. He retired as headmaster there in 2008. All are welcome to attend the meeting which starts at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church Hall in the village. £2 per person including refreshments.

## Pont Charity Group concert: October 11th

Pont Charity Group in keeping with their policy of presenting different style entertainment from concert to concert, have secured Rendezvous Jazz at the Britannia Hotel, Newcastle Airport on Saturday October 11th. If you were fortunate enough to attend the Military Wives Choir Concert earlier in the year, you can be assured that you will again have a most enjoyable evening and at the same time support the deserving charity, Children with Cancer.

## Bridge Drive

Prizes, raffle and afternoon tea at Ponteland Memorial Hall on Thursday October 16th - 1.30pm for 2pm in aid of Memorial Hall Funds. Tickets £8. Tel: (01661) 823398 or (01661) 822603.

# Get your entries in for parish flower show

September sees one of the most popular events in Ponteland's annual calendar – the parish flower show.

The 37th Annual Show will be held in Ponteland Memorial Hall on Saturday September 13th.

There are classes for flowers, fruit, vegetables, cookery, children, handicrafts, painting, wine, and photography.

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.

Entries are open to residents of Ponteland and adjoining parishes, children attending all schools in the parishes and to members of organisations in Ponteland.

Staging of exhibits is from 7pm till 9pm on Friday 12th and 8am till 11am on the Saturday. The Show is open to the public from 1pm on Saturday with the presentation of trophies at 4pm.

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



John Hinckley took the top three places with his marrows at last year's flower show. Photo by Trevor Walker.



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# Your letters

The Editor  
Pont News & Views



**Last month's letter about children playing football annoying some neighbours has sparked a mixed response...**

## **My shame at telling tourists we have no village centre any more**

**Several weeks ago I and two of my friends were walking through Merton Way when we were asked by three day visitors from Yorkshire where Ponteland town centre was.**

Can you imagine our embarrassment when we could not say that we have a town centre? We pointed out the park and the church but where is our centre?

I have belonged to Ponteland for most of my life, having visited here as a small child and cycled here from Hazlerigg as a teenager. Eventually through the Methodist Church I met my husband who came to live in Ponteland as a baby in 1931.

We married in 1955 and both of our daughters went to the village schools. As a child and as a young married woman I can remember a community. We had two sweet shops, a hardware shop, and a wool shop where you could buy your children's Ladybird clothes, wool and sewing equipment. There was a green grocers, a haberdashers, a butchers and a grocery shop on the main road.

Before going under the bridge across the Main Road we had a shop which sold electric goods and where you could have your equipment repaired. Where the park gates are now was a cobblers and a cycle repair shop. Also of course was the famous ice cream parlour belonging to Miss Smith.

Main Street was always busy and you could rely on hearing the latest gossip. The men met in either the Diamond or the Seven Stars and put their bets on at the barbers. It was a village.

This was all before Merton Way shops arrived.

Our family still say we are walking down into the village. But it is dead. Seven hairdressers, goodness knows how many places to eat, but no town or village centre. The riverside which used to attract parents with their children is overgrown; the play area is on a main road.

Please Town Council or whoever is responsible get your finger out and do something. You are allowing more and more dwellings for the better off elderly to be built but nothing here for them.

An elderly long time resident remarked to me recently 'I can't even buy a vest or a pair of knickers without going to Newcastle'. I hereby rest my case but even my family wonder at the enormous changes for the worse.

**Margaret Tipping**  
*Mayfair Gardens, Ponteland*

## **Friends worried about park vandalism**

**At Friends of Ponteland Park we are worried about the increasing amount of destruction and vandalism, including fires, which are happening in the Park.**

Would it be possible to ask that anyone witnessing anything of this nature to please contact 101 to help deter such activities?

**Alma Prickett**  
*Darras Road, Ponteland*

## **Parents of young footballers need to take responsibility**

**I'm writing in support of last month's letter 'Please play football elsewhere'.**

We too suffer the constant thud of the football outside our house. Our bedroom and living room are not a peaceful haven. The football has often thudded off our living room window and also our car outside.

It is very antagonistic and the parents of these youths need to take them in hand and teach them about consideration.

As for the time, it is correct it is after 11pm. Do these parents not realise that some people do hold down full time employment? I don't see anyone up and about at 6am when I leave for work, having suffered the noise and disruption of the football late into the evening when I am trying to sleep.

I don't care about them playing on the road where they are in danger of the cars as it is obvious their parents don't care either. I am constantly stopping or slowing down my car but one day an accident will happen.

So please can the parents of the youths take responsibility and make all of our lives happier? I will and have made enquiries to take this further.

**Thornhill Road resident**  
*(name and address supplied)*

## **Children playing football are doing no harm to anybody**

**I'm writing to complain about last month's letter 'Please play football elsewhere'.**

Can you please tell me who they are complaining about, saying our kids are playing football on the main road and outside of people's property up and down Thornhill Road?

Because they are not playing on the main road, they are only six to nine years old, and we don't let them play after 11pm. I will not stop our kids playing on that green because we all live there, so if someone wants to complain about it they can come to me.

They are doing no harm to anybody so as parents we are all going to continue let our kids play on that green in front of our houses - no one can stop them.

**Mrs Lai Spratt**  
*Elmwood Drive, Ponteland*

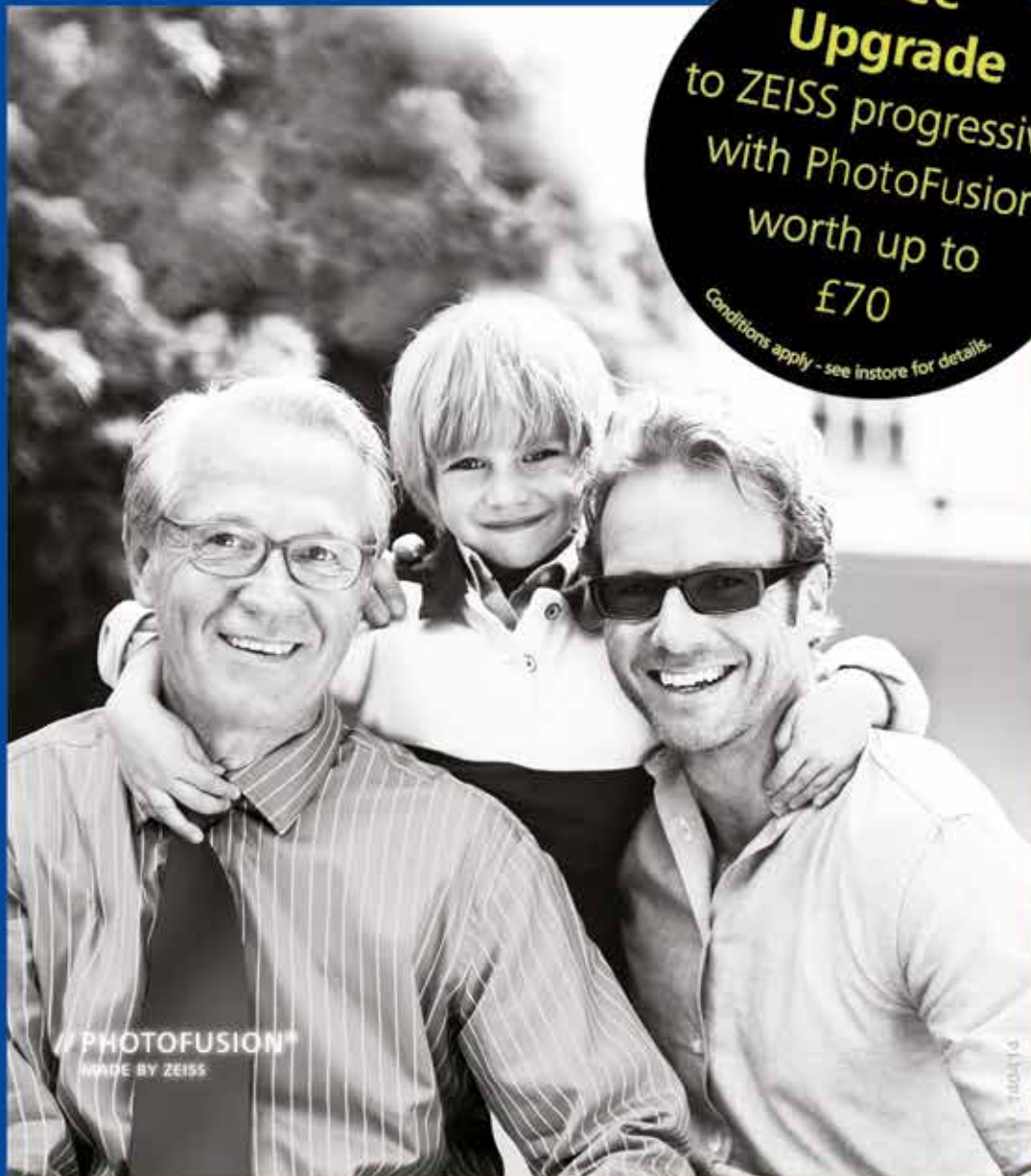
**Letters on all issues are welcomed by Pont News & Views but the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.**

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.

**October issue deadlines:** Delivery of the October issue will start on Monday September 29th. The deadline for all copy and adverts is Friday September 12th. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the October issue.



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# Events planned to help shape future of Ponteland

**Ponteland residents have the opportunity to help shape the future of the parish through a new Neighbourhood Plan being prepared by a group of seven volunteers and five councillors on behalf of the Town Council.**

The Neighbourhood Plan, if adopted in a local referendum, would have the power to influence local planning and the future needs of the community - in conjunction with national and countywide planning policies.

The local community was consulted in February and November 2013, with detailed questionnaires appearing in this publication and on our website to enable residents and businesses to express their preferences, views and priorities with regard to a wide range of planning related matters.

The data obtained from over 400 responses on each occasion has been used, along with other available evidence and more detailed analytical research, to establish a clear vision and objectives for the future of Ponteland. You now have the opportunity to tell us whether you endorse our vision and objectives or feel that we have got it wrong!

Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Group members will be available at the sessions to answer questions on the neighbourhood planning process.

There will also be displays and interactive sections for each of the eight topic groups:

- Conservation & Heritage
- Drainage & Flooding
- Housing & Affordable Housing
- Education & Youth Activities
- Natural Environment
- Transportation
- Healthcare & Care of the Elderly
- Retail Business & Employment.

**The drop-in sessions are being held at the Memorial Hall, Darras Road, on:**

**Friday September 19th - 10am to 7pm**

**Saturday September 20th - 9.30am to 1pm**

**Friday September 26th - 10am to 7pm**

**Saturday September 27th - 9.30am to 1pm.**

**Your views and feedback are crucial to the success of the Neighbourhood Plan and we encourage your attendance at one of the events.**

For more information visit the website at [pontelandneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://pontelandneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)

## What is neighbourhood planning?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the 2011 Localism Act and gives local communities the opportunity to influence and define how their area should grow and change. In Northumberland, neighbourhood planning must be led by town/parish councils.

## What can neighbourhood planning do?

Neighbourhood planning powers can be used by town/parish councils to guide and shape development in a defined 'neighbourhood area'. This includes influencing where new homes, shops and offices should be built and saying what those new buildings should look like, in line with national planning policy and the Northumberland Local Plan.

## Five stage process for developing a Neighbourhood Plan

**1. Area designation:** the application by Ponteland Town Council, which included a map of the proposed neighbourhood area and why it is appropriate for neighbourhood planning purposes, was approved by Northumberland County Council in June 2013.

**2. Preparing and publicising the plan:** this includes establishing community aspirations and priorities, identifying a vision and objectives, and publicising and consulting on the plan.

**3. Submission:** to include a map of the area, draft plan, statement on how it meets basic conditions, consultation statement. The plan will be publicised by NCC for at least six weeks.

**4. Independent examination:** Neighbourhood development plans must be examined to test whether they meet certain legal requirements before they may be put to local referendum and adopted by the council. An independent examiner will recommend whether the plan should be put to a local referendum.

**5. Referendum:** NCC, where recommended, will organise a local referendum. For the neighbourhood plan to be adopted it must receive majority support from the local community. If more than 50% of the Ponteland respondents vote in favour of the plan the council must adopt it as new planning policy.



# Great-grandmother dies peacefully on 100th birthday

By Julie Renwick (grand-daughter)

**Mary Aynsley Robson was born to Thomas and Agnes Storey in Ryal on 2nd August 1914, the eve of the Great War.**

Despite the war, the General Strike and the great depression, Mary told of an idyllic childhood on the farm with her brother and sister, Wilson and Ellen.

One in a long line of strong-minded women, she decided on her first day at school at the age of five that Harold Robson was the man for her. Sure enough, on 15th February 1936 when she was 21, they were married - proving that she did have some patience once upon a time!

They went on to have Hugh, Betty, David and Francis in their 14 years of marriage, before she was cruelly widowed in 1950 at the age of 35. Life was very hard for her then, but she had a will and a determination that few can match.

There may not be many people left who knew Harold, but she kept his memory alive with some wonderful stories, and he would have been so proud of the love she showed to their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all of their families.

On moving to Ponteland in 1970, she soon became a well-known figure in the village. She would walk for miles, never passing anyone without a friendly word. She joined the Townswomen's Guild and became a volunteer at the over-60s club in Merton Way, a role which she continued well into her 70s even though she was

always helping the old folks, never one of them!

She attended St Mary's Church, Ponteland and Holy Saviour, Milbourn for many years, and never turned down an invitation to a dance.

Mary lived a simple life and took her greatest pleasure in the simple things. All she ever wanted was the company of her family and friends, something she achieved with the greatest of ease.

She even made new friends in her final days at the Freeman Hospital. She was determined to reach her 100th birthday and she did it by the skin of her teeth, then slipped away peacefully surrounded by family. Mary will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her.



Mary celebrates her 98th birthday with family.

## New Care Advice Service launched



A new care advice service is to be offered by home care specialist Diagonal Alternatives

The Diagonal Alternatives team will be at Merton Hall on the second Thursday of every month.

We will be delighted to meet you, have a coffee, and discuss any aspect of home care, and how we may be able to assist you or your family.

Please do come along and meet us on  
**Thursday 11th September from 10am to 12noon**

Telephone **0191 467 0007** for a confidential home visit  
**[www.diagonalalternatives.com](http://www.diagonalalternatives.com)**



The Headteacher, Dr Pryer, warmly invites you to visit the school on our...

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**Thursday, 25 September 2014**

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Helen McArdle Care



# Rehabilitation at Helen McArdle Care

**Often an illness can mean that it is harder for older people to live at home independently, but that doesn't always have to be the case. After a little bit of time and rehabilitation many older people are strong enough to regain their independence.**

North East family-run business Helen McArdle Care knows how difficult it can be to get back on your feet after an illness, which is why they have put together a bespoke package to help to get you back home and living independently.

The recovery suites at Helen McArdle Care have been designed to help you rehabilitate and relax, in equal measure, to ensure a full recovery. Health professionals will spend time working with you, your consultants and your family to ensure you receive the very best possible care on your road to recovery.

A bespoke rehabilitation plan can include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, a home care package, nutritious meals, escorted private transport to and from the care home, ensuite bedrooms, a beauty salon and a gym. Care doesn't end at the care homes; they are also able to help you settle back into your own home.

Springfield House in Low Fell has recently opened a new suite specifically for recuperation and post-operative care. The new 11-bed suite is the perfect place to relax and receive the help you need.

"At Helen McArdle Care we are able to offer more than just a place to stay whilst you recuperate," says Care Home Manager Lisa Hall.

"We are able to offer a rehabilitation plan, complete with physiotherapy, that is personal to you and your needs. As part of our new service we are also able to continue the recovery process once you're back at home with the help of our Home Support Team. Our objective is to get you back home and living independently."

For further information about how rehabilitation could help you please call: **0191 478 2141**

Available at: Springfield House, Durham Road, Low Fell

Coming soon to: Eastbourne House, Whitley Bay

**[www.helenmcardlecare.co.uk](http://www.helenmcardlecare.co.uk)**



## WHEELY GOOD EFFORT BY PONTELAND CHARITY CYCLISTS

**Staff from Newcastle Building Society's Ponteland branch have successfully pedalled their way to the end of a long-distance charity bike ride without ever leaving home turf.**

The staff joined colleagues from 19 other branches and two head offices to try to cover the full distance of the Tour de France on exercise bikes.

The day-long ride took place at the society's Broadway office, with the local team covering an impressive 150km between them.

The total distance covered by all the NBS teams was 4,119km, well

in excess of their 3,656km target, and over £4,000 has been raised across the branch network.

The Newcastle's 'Tour De Branch' Challenge has been set up as part of its ongoing 'Cornerstone of the Community' campaign, through which individual branches provide support to organisations and good causes in their local areas, which include a range of community charities, hospices, schools and voluntary organisations.

The Ponteland branch team was cycling to raise money for the Tyneside Kidney Patients Association.

# Childhood meningitis scare inspires Kate to take on Kilimanjaro

**A university student who had a meningitis scare as a child is to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for research into the condition.**

Kate Fisher was just 11 when she was admitted to hospital for tests by doctors who feared she had the deadly disease. Fortunately the results were all negative and she made a full recovery from her symptoms.

Now 19, Kate is studying Neuroscience at the University of Nottingham and has decided to raise awareness into meningitis – an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord which can strike suddenly and kill in just hours.

She said: "I start the climb on September 4th and it will last approximately five to six days. It's not only going to be physically challenging due to the incline, but more so because of the altitude sickness that I will most likely experience. I'm aiming to raise £3,000.

"So far to raise money I've travelled to various cities across the UK and undertaken street collections. I've also held pub quizzes, car boot sales, a bake sale at Ponteland High School and meal events. Two events held at the Rendezvous in Ponteland were particularly well supported, with 50 to 60 local residents attending and raising £725.

"Raffle prizes were kindly donated by local companies, including Ponteland Leisure Centre, Hooker & Young, SPA Beauty Rooms, Q Hair Design & Beauty, Jan's Kitchen, Taylors Pharmacy, Plants Plus and Martins Newsagents.

"As well as donations from friends and family I've also received donations through collection boxes in Martins newsagents and Ponteland High School reception. Ponteland Rotary Club have also assisted me with my fundraising. The support I've received from the residents of Ponteland has been amazing."

The Tanzanian trek is not the first charity venture Kate has taken on; in 2012 she completed the Great North Run for 'Mind' and has done cancer runs for years including two during the past month. At university Kate is also a representative for Karnival, the largest student run charity organisation in Europe.

Recalling her own meningitis scare, Kate added: "The thought that I may have the disease was extremely frightening. Thankfully the test came back negative, but that day made me really appreciate the good health that so many of us take for granted. Also as young adults are at high risk of contracting meningitis I felt



it was relevant to help raise money for the MRF charity and raise awareness as I'm a young adult myself."

Kate, of Edge Hill, Darras Hall, had already raised £2,854 as we went to print. But if any readers would like to donate to her appeal than can do so via <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FisherKate1>

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BY THE FRIENDS OF KIRKLEY HALL

**The Friends of Kirkley Hall are looking for new, enthusiastic members to join in the events planned for the coming year.**

All monies raised at these events is used for the benefit of students and for site improvements.

Last year Friends of Kirkley Hall helped to fund:

- Level 2 animal care students who had an educational visit to South Lakes Wildlife Park
- Level 3 Animal Management and Veterinary Nurse students who went to South Africa to experience working with animals in that continent
- Outdoor Education students who had an expedition to Mount Toubkal in Morocco
- Agricultural students who had an educational trip to the Royal Highland Show. We have also provided information boards and a seat in the hide on the Red Squirrel walk and new Fagus trees to increase the collection and fittings for the Green Room used by horticultural students.

The subscription paid by members is an extremely important part of our fundraising, this year this has been augmented by gifts of raffle prizes, goods for sale at our auction held in Ponteland in May and attendances at our monthly talks held at Kirkley Hall as well as bric-a-brac donated for our Christmas stand at the Kirkley Hall Fair.

Members are actively engaged in propagation that assists the work in the horticultural unit and 27 members visited the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park in July as part of a three day visit to Cheshire.

Anyone interested in taking part in the various activities or becoming a member of Friends of Kirkley Hall should contact Brenda Parke on (01661) 853489 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

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# Choral requiem and memorial service to mark WWI centenary

**A special church service and ceremony at the war memorial were held to mark the centenary of the declaration of war in 1914.**

A Choral Requiem was held at St. Mary's on Sunday August 3rd led by the Vicar of Ponteland Peter Barham where the new standard of the Army cadets, partially funded by previous Mayor Peter Cowey from his allowance, was dedicated.

The service included the reading of those 40 names on the Memorial by the new Mayor Carl Rawlings. The prayers for the remembrance were led by Coun Robin Ramsay MBE.

At a separate ceremony at the war memorial, flowers were laid by the Mayor on behalf of Ponteland as a mark of remembrance of the fallen in WWI.



# 100 years of banking comes to an end at landmark branch

*By Muriel Sobo*

**The Nat West branch at the junction of Darras Road and Main Street closed its doors in July, ending 100 years of banking from the premises.**

The fine building was opened in 1914 for Barclay and Company Limited after a presence in the village since 1904 as a branch of Newcastle, perhaps operating from a couple of rooms.

The two storey bank was built on a plot of land costing £337 and included the manager's house which today houses offices. The manager not only had a free house but also free coal and gas!

One of the men commemorated on our War Memorial, Captain Andrew McCreath worked at Barclays at some period before the war.

It was necessary for the branch to relocate to a modern location; by 1970 a new concrete building was opened on Main Street and still serves customers today. Nat West took over the 'old' building in 1972.

Expansion by the banks at the beginning of the 20th century is being replaced by downsizing in the 21st century in the new post financial crash climate of increasing internet banking.



The former Barclays Bank. Picture by kind permission of Barclays Group Archives.

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# A class students head off to university after top exam results

**Hard working students made their parents and teachers proud as Ponteland High School achieved another set of top class A-level results.**

An impressive 25 per cent of all entries were awarded A\* to A grades and approximately 50 per cent of results ranged from A\* to B. There was an overall pass rate (A\* to E) of 98 per cent, with many successful students going straight off to university.

The teenagers are going on to study courses as varied as accountancy and finance, biomedical science, computer science, forensic psychology, mechanical engineering, occupational therapy, performing arts, law and medicine.

Jessica Keating will read Geography at Oxford University after getting three

A\*s and one A, and Maisie Ingram who received three A\* grades is planning to study Medicine following a gap year.

Andrew Bagnall achieved two A\*s and two As and will read Chemistry at Newcastle, Tom Oliver with two A\* and an A will take Computer Science at Birmingham, and Elizabeth MacGowan will read English Literature at Durham after also achieving two A\* and an A.

Vijay Mahal is off to Prague to read Medicine after receiving three As and a B grade, while Jack Heslop is staying closer to home to study Engineering at Durham after achieving an A\* and two A grades.

Other high fliers include Caroline Garner and Emma Scott who both gained A\* and A grades.

Ponteland High headteacher Kieran McGrane said: "We are very pleased with

this set of results, which are in line with what we accomplished last year. Our students, supported by their teachers and parents, have achieved very high standards and I hope this will spur them on to further success in years to come.

"What makes their achievements even more impressive is the change to the qualification system that eliminated the opportunity to sit exams in January. They only had one chance to take them, whereas students in previous years had the option to re-sit some of their exams in the summer."

Twins Jessica and Lewis Keating celebrate their A level results. Sam Herford, John Garner, Tom Oliver and Jack Heslop. Carys Ellis, Claudia Lee and Ellie Bell. Photos by Keith Robertson.



## THIS MONTH'S COVER SHOT

**The team behind Ponteland's Northumbria in Bloom bid are hoping for a hat-trick of gold medals when judges reveal the winners later this month.**

At the official visit, the judges looked at special entries including the Diamond Inn, the Seven Stars, Athol House and the bowling and tennis clubs. They also examined the privately-owned allotments behind the Diamond Inn.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Northumbria in Bloom, a special floral display has been created on Coates Green which was photographed by Brian Edlin of Ponteland Photographic Society.





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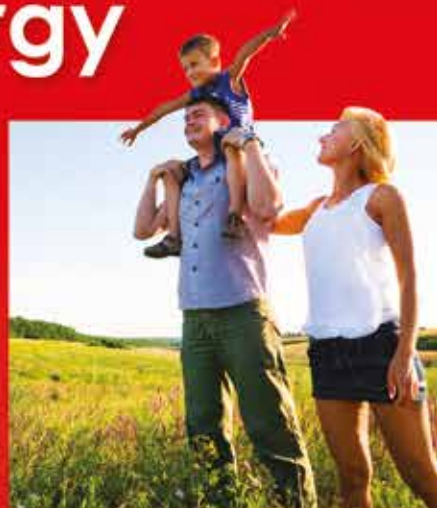
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